

February 2021

michigan

IN TOUCH

A publication of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
The Lutheran Witness Michigan District, LCMS Supplement



GREAT COMMISSION

Who is Our Savior? by Paul. R. Naumann

As we approached the end of a rather horrendous year, many people were looking forward to 2021. It is natural to hope that somehow a new year, a new number, will bring better days. But the calendar will never be our savior. No, our Savior is the One who is beyond time and space and is eternal. So with the Psalmist David we pray: “I trust in You, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand” (Psalm 31:14–15).

With the presidential election, many are hoping a new administration will be our savior (while others fear that it

continued on page 2

© Gino SM/Lightstock, LLC

michigan

IN TOUCH

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President
Debby Fall, Editorial Manager

Official Periodical of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
February 2021, Volume 20, No. 2
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

Linda Ekong, Art Director
Elisa Schulz, Staff Writer/Copy Editor

©2021 Michigan District, LCMS, Ann Arbor, Michigan. *Michigan In Touch* is published monthly by the Michigan District and inserted into *The Lutheran Witness* and distributed to subscribers 11 times a year. It is also available online at www.michiganintouch.com. Reproduction of articles is permissible with written permission of the Michigan District Communications Department and should give credit to *Michigan In Touch*. References to resources and websites for further information are included in *Michigan In Touch* for the potential use by individuals and congregations. Resources not associated with or published by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or Concordia Publishing House® may contain helpful programmatic information but may vary in doctrine from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Please use discretion or consult your pastor on doctrinal issues. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the English Standard Version (ESV).



Michigan District, LCMS
3773 Geddes Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

888.225.2111
intouch@michigandistrict.org
michigandistrict.org

Table of Contents

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Great Commission |
| 3 | Healthy Workers |
| 4 | Healthy Congregations |
| 6 | Church Extension Fund |
| 8 | Here We Stand |
| 9 | LLL / LWML |
| 10 | News & Events / Special Recognition |
| 12 | Calls and Roster Update |
| 12 | Calendar of Events |

continued from page 1

will be our demise). But government is not our savior—God is. Government is God’s servant which He can and does use for our good. *“There is no authority except that which is from God. The authorities that exist have been appointed by God. . . he is God’s servant for your good”* (Romans 13:1–4). We are to *“honor the king”* (1 Peter 2:17) and at the same time realize that Jesus is the *“King of kings, and Lord of lords”* (1 Timothy 6:15) and that as the Prince of peace *“the government shall be upon His shoulder”* (Isaiah 9:6).

Now that vaccines are available to combat COVID-19 (including one made right here in Portage, Mich.), many are hoping that this will be the great panacea against the pandemic, and finally bring our lives back to some sense of normalcy. But science is not our savior—God is. God is the One who makes possible scientific discoveries and technology. *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight”* (Proverbs 9:10). God desires that we keep our human achievement and developments in perspective, and not try to *“make a name for ourselves”* (Genesis 11:4) like those who built the tower of Babel, or take all the credit ourselves for our achievements like Nebuchadnezzar did (Daniel 4:3) or Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:21–23), both of whom God severely humbled.

Physicians and modern medicines per se are not our savior, but God can use them as His servants for our good. Yes, God was displeased with King Asa who, when suffering disease, did not seek help from the Lord but turned only to physicians (2 Chronicles 16:12). Likewise, the woman with chronic bleeding who *“suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse”* (Mark 5:26) was healed only when she personally encountered the Great Physician, Jesus Christ. But in Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan, the hero treated the wounded man with what they had in those days as medicine (*“oil and wine”* – Luke 10:34) and basically took him to the hospital. Likewise, James tells us in addition to praying for the sick to *“anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord”* (James 5:14).

We’ve all been under a whole lot of stress for various reasons over a rather long period of time. It’s very understandable that we would be looking for someone or something to come to our rescue, bring an end to our suffering, and be our savior. But as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, we know who our Savior is, and we need not look for another (or doubt in any way the One we have). May you and I, by the power of the Holy Spirit, give glory to God and trust in Him to come to our aid through whatever means He chooses to use. Be it direct intervention, or indirect invention, all the while we praise God and with the psalmist say: *“You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth”* (Psalm 65:5). ■

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann currently serves as Senior Pastor at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage, Mich. During his over twenty-five years of ministry, Naumann has been active in positions in the Circuit, District, and Synod, working especially in the areas of Youth Ministry, Outreach, Worship, Campus Ministry, and Small Group Ministry. He has been published in various periodicals and has been a speaker at a number of seminars and workshops.

“... as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, we know who our Savior is, and we need not look for another ...”

© Gino SIM/Lightstock, LLC



Pastoral Care, 2020 Style

by Mark W. Hetzner

In 2020, pastors found ways to care for their members responsively, creatively, and faithfully. The following is one way a Michigan District pastor found to do just that during Holy Week and beyond.

Rev. Mark Hetzner has been a pastor at St. Thomas, Eastpointe for 25 years. One of the blessings of his longevity is that he is fairly familiar with the congregation's constituency. The following is an account of St. Thomas' journey in 2020.

The pandemic hit just in time for St. Thomas, Eastpointe (STL) to scrap many of its plans for Lent and Holy Week and scramble to develop new ones. And, wow, was God ever at work! He ended up touching more people than ever expected.

For the past five-plus years on Maundy Thursday, instead of a worship service, throughout the day STL offered a "Journey to the Cross" where people walk through the church stopping at eight or more 'stations' that take them from Gethsemane through Good Friday. Included are stations offering private confession/absolution and private Communion. For 2020, the team was able to quickly produce a "Virtual Journey to the Cross" that people could attend through STL's website (stl-eastpointe.org). Not only did the number of participants more than double, but it is a tool that we intend to continue to use in the years ahead.

And then, knowing that people were hungering and thirsting for the Body and Blood of Jesus—and that STL would not be able to host a normal Good Friday

noon service—it was decided to host a drive-in Holy Communion outdoors from noon until 3 p.m. This event was publicized through STL's usual publications to people with whom we had regular contact and on STL's Facebook page. A line started forming at 11:30 a.m.; we started serving 15 minutes later, and did not stop until the last car came through the line around 5 p.m. Everyone who came was either a member of STL or a friend of STL. Many cars stood in line for a half-hour waiting to be served, but only one or two left because the wait was too long.

As cars entered the church driveway, they were immediately met by an elder who provided them with an explanation of the process and gave them a registration card with some additional information. The reverse side of the registration card contained a prayer of preparation from the inside cover of the Lutheran Service Book and an explanation of what was taking place. Most cars ended

continued on page 11

Lay Leaders are a *Blessing* to Detroit Churches

by Megan B. Schultz

On March 9, 2020, the Lutheran Layperson's Council of Detroit gathered for its monthly meeting. Pastor Richard Robinson began with a devotion in which he said, *"The church moves as the Holy Spirit pushes it forward in new ways never seen before."* Little did he know just how far the Holy Spirit would be pushing the church forward in the weeks and months that followed his statement!

In my role working with Detroit churches, I have seen lay people and pastors stepping forward to advance the Kingdom and spread the Gospel despite many challenges. Pastors transitioned from preaching in pulpits to recording their sermons and streaming in living rooms. This is being done at churches across the world; however, our city churches do not have "media coordinators" or "tech crews" on their staff. But God in His grace raised up lay leaders and equipped pastors with dedication and adaptability to ride the technology learning curve. God's Word is going out in new ways!

"In these uncertain times," churches have worked hard to creatively support and connect with their community. Here's a snapshot of how God is blessing Detroit through the lay leaders He has called and equipped at LCMS city churches.

At St. Philip, dedicated lay leaders worked with Pastor Lewis to transform their Saturday youth ministry into an entire month of daily Zoom programming. What a commitment to the next generation! Their purpose was to provide a holistic ministry that incorporated spiritual, emotional, and intellectual development as the youth were experiencing a big shift in their lives due to the virus. This occurred in the month of June. Since then, the lay leadership created weekly zoom forums to teach youth valuable insights on financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

The lay leaders at St. John were incredibly creative when it came to their annual Children's Christmas Eve Service. Dedicated members worked to include their youth in this service by assigning them portions of the Christmas story to recite. The lay leaders visited homes,

decorated the front porches, and filmed the children reciting their lines, all while maintaining social distancing. What an inspired idea! These video clips were combined with musical selections from their Music Director, as well as Christmas hymns of praise sung by various churches, to create an entirely virtual service. The lay leadership partnered with Pastor Robinson to ensure that the true message of Christmas was proclaimed to their community!

Bethany's lay leadership has also taken a new approach to supporting youth and families in their community. Instead of hosting large events, they have taken it to the streets—handing out treat bags and family devotional materials at houses across the city. Bethany has also secured an exciting partnership with DTE, which allows it to provide critical training and connections for quality employment. Its existing Jobs for Life program will be utilized to provide a strong Christian foundation and soft skills needed in the workforce. The lay leadership and Pastor Bodley are truly working to meet their community's needs!

These churches were incredibly innovative in their approach to ministry in 2020. However, this is only a snapshot! Churches across the city including East Bethlehem (Pastor James), Peace (Pastor Mikkelson), Mt. Calvary (Pastor Carrier), Outer Drive Faith (Pastor Morales), and Charity (Deacon Thomas) are meeting the needs of their community and sharing the Gospel through food pantries, clothing closets, Zoom Bible studies, prayer calls, and countless other methods. I give thanks to God for the way He has blessed and equipped His church with lay leaders that are Christ-like in their generous serving hearts! ■

Megan B. Schultz is the Family Life Minister at Large for Acts 2 Enterprise in Detroit. Follow her on Facebook at Detroit Family Life Ministry.



“The church *moves* as the
Holy Spirit pushes it forward
in *new ways* never seen before.”

FEBRUARY 2021

Not Just Loans and Investments, CEF's Grant Program Helps Ministries



SECURITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT & LOAN PROGRAM

What could be more important than the safety of the faithful in our churches and schools? This grant helped ensure it.



“Our grants grew out of our financial success. We want to give back to the Lutheran ministries on the front lines of spreading the Gospel.”

Andy Sohn
Vice President of
Marketing and Relations
Church Extension Fund

Church Extension Fund is best known for providing loans to Lutheran ministries and investments to Lutheran church members. Yet our programs don't stop there.

When the needs are clear and the funds are available, CEF also offers valuable grants to churches, schools, and Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) in the Michigan District. Over the past 30 years, CEF has granted over \$15 million to help deserving ministries meet tough challenges.

This past year was no exception. CEF's **Security Enhancement Grant**, which wrapped up last month, aimed to help ministries

protect their most valuable assets – their people – from the nefarious acts of those who might invade their spaces and do them harm.

CEF offered up to \$2,500 for security improvements. Churches and schools that qualified for the grant most commonly invested in security cameras, locks and monitoring systems. Now they can rest assured that their buildings are more secure, and that their faithful members, students, staff and welcomed visitors are safer.

Blessings for Those Who Need

“Our grants grew out of our financial success,” says Andy Sohn, CEF's Vice President of

Marketing and Relations. “To put it simply, we want to give back. CEF provides extra help to the Lutheran ministries on the front lines of spreading the Gospel.”

CEF grants have become true blessings for those who need funds for projects they wouldn’t normally have the money to complete. “This is a testament,” Sohn says, “to the faithfulness and mission-mindedness of our thousands of investors, borrowers and partners over the past three decades.”

When designing a grant program, CEF relies on two main methods: conversation and observation.

“We have direct talks with pastors, church leaders and others who tell us how their ministries would be blessed by grants that would help them fund specific projects,” says Sohn. “We also apply best practices for ministries that we’ve gleaned over years of visiting churches and schools and seeing them in operation.”

How Schools Benefited

In 2017-18, CEF focused, grant-wise, on Michigan’s Lutheran Schools. The **Lutheran Student Grant** offered \$25 per student for a qualifying school to acquire new equipment, upgrade their curriculum libraries or enhance their technological capabilities. CEF allotted the grant to 71 schools. Grant monies totaled roughly \$220,000. Here’s a sampling of how schools benefited from the grant:



Educating our youth, with Christ-centered learning, has always been key to our faith’s renewal and growth. CEF’s Lutheran Schools Grant built on the tradition.

- St. Michael Lutheran School, in Wayne, purchased new desks for their classrooms.
- Trinity Lutheran School, in Utica, upgraded their signage for better visibility and clearer wayfinding.
- St. Matthew Lutheran School, in Walled Lake, bought new books for their kindergarten literacy programs.

School administrators, teachers, parents – and, of course, students – have greatly appreciated their schools’ improvements. And CEF has been honored to help.

A Big Boost to Curb Appeal

In 2016-2017, the **CEF Aesthetic Grant** helped churches spruce up their facilities and make them more welcoming to guests. This was partly to aid in welcoming potential new church members. Even more, it was an act of politeness – and even pride.

“We were pleased to help churches show off their beautiful grounds and use the buildings to their best advantage,” says Sohn. “Many churches had been finding that some of the most fundamental aspects of building maintenance, such as painting and landscaping, were easily overlooked. In their need to serve its members, budgeting for these projects was often delayed.”

This was precisely the experience at Christ Lutheran in Goodrich (Lapeer County). The church used the grant to plant new shrubs and flowers. The result: a big boost to curb appeal. “And this was just one example of the grant in action,” Sohn says. “CEF provided a total of over \$600,000 to Michigan ministries for improving their facilities.”

Have an idea for a new CEF grant? Please let us know! Email Andy Sohn at andrew.sohn@mi-cef.org.



Church Extension Fund

Church Extension Fund ■ Michigan District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-3098 ■ www.mi-cef.org
Offices: 800-242-3944

The information provided here is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy CEF securities. The offering of CEF securities is made solely by our Offering Circular. CEF will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The securities are subject to certain risk factors as described in our Offering Circular. CEF investments are not insured by the FDIC, SIPC, or any other governmental agency.

2021 *Here We Ride* Event Planning Begins

by Ray Zavada

Yes, it is cold. Cloudy days and gloom are almost everyday occurrences in Michigan. We are deep enough into the throws of winter that many of us are beginning to look for a sign—anything—that points to warmer days ahead, even though in reality we are still months away from the joys of wearing shorts and short sleeve shirts.

Just a few days ago I saw one of those indicators of warmer days ahead: As I was taking my daily walk late one afternoon, I was passed by a man riding his bicycle. Certainly not a common sight this time of year, there he was, dressed in full winter attire, speeding past me on the slushy street as the snow fell upon us. And as a positive reinforcement to what I saw that day, I saw him again the following day and continue to see him periodically.

He is certainly a serious bike rider. I am not a serious bike rider in the summer, let alone in the winter, but I am sure many of you are. Whether it is biking for exercise or taking leisurely family rides, riding a bike is something you enjoy.

If I have just described you and/or your family, I am asking you to mark your calendars for August 7 and 8, 2021, the first weekend in August. This is the weekend of our fifth *Here We Ride* bike event. We are early in the planning stages, but under the leadership of Pastor Chris Garcia from Immanuel in Bay City, the event will be held.

This year's ride may be an in-person event hosted by a Bay City area congregation, or it may be a virtual event like it was in 2020 (a very successful event, by the way). Our hope and prayer is that it will be both in-person and



Some riders in the 2020 *Here We Ride* participated in a bike decorating contest.

virtual, and riders may do one or both.

The event details will take shape in the months ahead as the COVID-19 pandemic situation allows. For now, please reserve the dates and put *Here We Ride* on your summer calendar of things to do. We will keep you informed as the plans develop.

Proceeds from the *Here We Ride* bike event support the initiatives of the **Here We Stand** campaign, and the congregation, school, or charity of choice of each participant.

For more information visit michigandistrict.org/hereweride or contact Linda Ekong at the Michigan District Office at linda.ekong@michigandistrict.org or 734.213.4265.

A "By the Numbers" look at the **Here We Stand** Campaign

(through January 4, 2021)

\$7,183,719.48
\$6,967,522.29
\$159,516.97

Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals
Cash received which includes \$600,000 CEF Matching Funds
Outstanding commitments (pledges)

\$1,366,203.67
\$3,100,411.30
\$1,038,776.11
\$1,621,548.17

Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships
Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry
Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment
Total given/pledged for International Ministries

Bible verse: **Psalm 71:17–18**

"O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come."

herewestand.michigandistrict.org



Here We Stand

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Resources for Households of Faith

Many Bible studies and witnessing programs are available to Michigan District, LCMS congregations via Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM).

Video Study

Utilizing Barna Group data, LHM has produced *Households of Faith*, a four-session video study to help families apply three core habits that foster a spiritually vibrant household. These are 1) applying spiritual disciplines; 2) extending hospitality; and 3) engaging in spiritual conversations. With Scripture verses, family testimonies, and research to reinforce these key objectives, this user-friendly resource can help make any household a place where God's love is shared and people are encouraged to learn more about Jesus.

Workshops

Spiritual Conversations in the Digital Age, a 2018 monograph based on Barna Group research, revealed that people talk less about spiritual matters than they used to. Two LHM workshops address the data and offer ways for us to be better spiritual conversationalists: the first, *Eager Conversationalists: A Hopeful Look at What Prepares Christians for Spiritual Conversations*, offers

insights to help us become more intentional—more eager—to engage in spiritual conversations with others. The second, *The Spiritual Conversation Curve: A Practical Tool for Reluctant Witnesses*, offers help in getting past conversational hurdles such as “What should I talk about?” “How will I respond to their questions?” “What if I don't know the answer?” The workshop shows it is possible to overcome these hurdles when we focus on someone's “spiritual posture,” so as not to impose a conversation that's forced or ill-timed.

Starter kit

Explore the ways you can nurture the faith of your household with a convenient starter kit. Each kit includes one Barna *Households of Faith* monograph, *The Spiritually Vibrant Home* book, *Households of Faith Small Group Study* DVD, six selected *Project Connect* booklets, The Household Magnet, *Vibrant Conversations* deck (a 25-count pack of Spiritual Conversation Curve Cards), a copy of *The Reluctant Witness*; and more. You can go to lhm.org/conversations to find out more about this great resource. To order a starter, go to www.lhmgift.org/storefront/.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Grab your Derby Hat and see you in Lexington!

39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Thursday, June 24 - Sunday, June 27, 2021

Rupp Arena • Lexington, Kentucky



Looking to Jesus, we
run the race set before
us and proclaim the
joy of the Lord.

Find us on Facebook @lwml.mi



Michigan Pastor Creates Song to Incite Change

In the story *Trying Times for Franklin Avenue Mission* (michigandistrict.org/blog), we told you about 3-year-old Messiah Williams, who was shot and killed in a drive-by shooting in Flint, near the Franklin Avenue Mission. Sixty-seven bullets fired into the Williams' home and one of those bullets struck Messiah in the head, killing the young boy. Messiah's family is looking to put a new law on the books in Michigan, calling it Messiah's Law, which would give mandatory life sentences for anyone convicted of shooting into a home and killing a child.

Rev. Christian Jones has seen things like this happen far too often in the Franklin Ave community and has thrown his support behind the family and their proposed legislation. Rev. Jones has created a song to not only honor Messiah's legacy but to encourage state lawmakers to act.

Rev. Jones is hoping his efforts will make a difference, as he doesn't want to see anything like this ever happen again. Rev. Jones said, "When we talk about little kids



Photo courtesy of Franklin Avenue Mission

getting shot and killed in gang crime and gunfire, this is demonic oppression."

But Rev. Jones still has hope and sees the good in his community and the Franklin Avenue Mission. "We are the hope," Rev. Jones said. "As things are falling apart, as everything is crumbling around in this sinful and broken world, we share the Gospel of Jesus, which is the light that no darkness can overcome."

Special Recognition

Brandt Retires



Photo courtesy of St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Rev. Mark Brandt reached yet another milestone in his life of service to our Lord and His kingdom. On December 31, 2020 Pastor Brandt officially retired from full-time pastoral ministry at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth.

A pastor's son, Rev. Brandt followed in his father's footsteps

and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in 1980.

His first call was to St. John Lutheran Church in Beemer, Nebraska (1980–83). He then served Trinity, Glendora. While there, Pastor Brandt was elected Circuit Counselor for the St. Joseph Circuit, serving in that capacity for five years.

In 1990, the Brandts moved to Frankenmuth when he accepted the position of Associate Pastor at St. Lorenz. He has served as Administrative Pastor since 1998. Pastor Brandt also serves as the First Vice President

of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Certainly, our Lord has blessed Pastor Brandt during his four decades of ministry! Pastor and Mrs. Brandt intend to do some traveling in retirement and spend time with family and friends.

The members and staff of St. Lorenz are grateful for Rev. Brandt's ministry and pray for God's richest blessings upon him and Karen in retirement.

Pastoral Care, 2020 Style continued from page 3

up sitting in line for at least a half-hour, so there was plenty of time for them to prepare their hearts to receive the Lord's Supper.

At the end of the line, we had another elder. He would receive their registration card, visit with them, and answer their questions. He also gave each car at least one copy of Portals of Prayer.

At the appropriate time, he would then direct them to and inform me of how many in the car were communing. I would then place the appropriate host (prepackaged in snack bags) and pre-filled cups at their end of an 8-foot table. They would get out of their car and gather at that end of the table while I stood at the opposite end. We would visit for a minute or so before beginning our service that included an invocation, confession and absolution, the Lord's Prayer, and the words of institution. If I did not recognize the family, I would take the time to get to know them.

After their receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, I would dismiss them with a sharing of the peace. They would dispose of their used cup and bag ... and every single family expressed great gratitude for the opportunity—many stating how they were concerned about how



© Neely Wang/Lightstock, LLC

they might receive Communion under the current circumstances. The station was then sanitized and prepared for the next car.

St. Thomas has found this process to be such a blessing that they plan to continue doing it on a monthly basis. ■

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner is the pastor at St. Thomas, Eastpointe.

Your Investment Builds Churches

When you invest with Church Extension Fund your investment helps to renovate and build churches and schools, just like St. John, Fraser (pictured). Pastor Smith of St. John says about their recent renovation, "CEF is very supportive of the work. They don't simply supply the money, they have worked with our staff for years to make it all come together."



Church Extension Fund

Office:

800-242-3944

24/7 Interest Rates:

800-232-7313

Website:

www.mi-cef.org



The information provided here is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy CEF securities. The offering of CEF securities is made solely by our Offering Circular. CEF will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The securities are subject to certain risk factors as described in our Offering Circular. CEF investments are not insured by the FDIC, SIPC, or any other governmental agency.

Calls and Roster Update

ORDAINED

Calls Accepted

Rev. Dean Dumbrielle (Fenton) to St. Paul, Flint
Mr. A. Peter Engblade (Ludington) to SMP, St. John's, Ludington
Rev. Roger James (Fort Wayne) to Indiana District
Mr. Daniel Longden (Charlotte) to SMP, First, Charlotte
Rev. Roger Mackie (Emeritus) to IIM, St. Peter's, Big Rapids
Mr. Scott Magnuson (Port Huron) to SMP, Light of Christ, Marysville

Change of Status

Rev. John Duerr (New Baltimore) to Emeritus
Rev. David Grimm (Leonidas) to Candidate
Rev. Daniel Jansen (Alger) to Candidate
Rev. Randy Lett (Sawyer) to Emeritus
Rev. Dennis Neigh (Greenbush) to Emeritus
Rev. James Schouweiler (Fremont) to Emeritus
Rev. Stephen Starke (Bay City) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Rev. Roger Hubbard (Emeritus) from Indiana District

Transferred Out of District

Rev. Roger James (Fort Wayne) to Indiana District
Rev. Mark Wuggazer (Macomb) to Texas District

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Montney, Matthew (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (Westland)
Rice, Diana (Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, Mill Neck, NY) to Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, Hartland

Change of Status

Heine, Mary (Trinity, Paw Paw) to Candidate

Transferred Out of District

Mol, James (Emeritus) to Nebraska District
Schmid, Erna (Emeritus) to Pacific Southwest District

Reinstated to the Roster

Kudray, Andrew

Removed From Roster

Grim, Katie

Called Home

Claus, Kenneth
Klages, Kenneth
Priehs, Warren F.

A complete up-to-date listing of Calls and Vacancies can be found at michigandistrict.org.

Calendar of Events

Please check the District website for the latest updates and detailed information as COVID-19 concerns continue.
michigandistrict.org/events.

FEBRUARY 2021

- 15 Deadline for Congregational Vote on Convention Delay
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 27 Deadline for Convention nominations, reports, and overtures

MARCH 2021

- 16 Board of Directors' Meeting
Camp Restore Detroit

APRIL 2021

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
District Office Closed
- 4 Easter Sunday
- 16–17 The Katie - Virtual Conference

MAY 2021

- 5 North & East Pastors' Virtual Conference
- 8 Michigan District Convention Floor Committees
District Office, Ann Arbor
- TBD South & East Pastors' Virtual Conference
- 12–13 Circuit Visitors' Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 18 West Pastors' Virtual Conference
- 25 Board of Directors' Meeting
Location TBD
- 26–27 Intentional Interim Spring Conference
Michindoh Conference Center, Hillsdale
- 31 Memorial Day
District Office Closed



District Office Notice

The District Office remains appointment-only due to the pandemic. Please call if you need to set up an appointment.

michigandistrict.org | 888.225.2111