

# Convention Workbook - Part I



**“People of Hope ... IT’S TIME!”**

**103<sup>rd</sup> Michigan District Convention  
Concordia University Ann Arbor  
June 26–28, 2022**

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April 2022

Please read through the Workbook carefully. You will need this information in preparation for the Regional Gatherings which will be held on April 23 and April 30 (see below). Bring your printed or electronic copy of Workbook I with you to these meetings. Your Regional Vice President may send you more information for your Regional Gathering.

Floor Committees will meet on Saturday, May 14, at the District Office. They will be considering the overtures, found in Section 3, that have been submitted to the Convention.

Following the Regional Gatherings and the Floor Committee Meetings, you will be able to access Convention Workbook - Part II. It will contain: (1) general Convention information, (2) the agenda, (3) any additional reports and updates, (4) slate of candidates for offices and boards as well as biographical material, and (5) the Resolutions for the Floor Committees. If you have any questions, you may contact Laurie Brown at 734.665.3791 ext. 233.

Convention Workbook - Part II will be available to download the first full week in June at [michigandistrict.org/convention](http://michigandistrict.org/convention).

## **103rd Michigan District Convention Regional Gatherings**

**Saturday, April 23, 2022**

### **Metro East**

Bethany, Detroit ▪ 10 a.m. – Noon  
11475 E Outer Dr

### **Metro West**

Christ Our Savior, Livonia ▪ 10 a.m. – Noon  
14175 Farmington Rd

**Saturday, April 30, 2022**

### **North & East**

St. John, Pinconning ▪ 10 a.m. – Noon  
1633 E Pinconning Rd

### **West**

St. Matthew, Grand Rapids (Ada) ▪ 9:30 a.m. – Noon  
5125 Cascade Rd SE



**Michigan District**

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

*People of Hope...Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ*

# Section 1 - Organizational Matters

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# Congregations

## North and East Region

#1 – Mackinaw Straits Circuit – Charles B. Burhop, Visitor  
Cheboygan, St. John – Michael W. Schaedig  
DeTour Village, Redeemer – Donald P. Nemec  
Drummond Island, Drummond Island – Roger R. Kilponen  
Engadine, Bethlehem – Kyle I. Kuehl  
Germfask, Grace – Kyle I. Kuehl  
Hawks (Rogers City), Faith – Jack D. Ferguson  
Kinross, (Kincheloe) St. Paul –  
Moltke (Rogers City), Immanuel –  
Newberry, Trinity – Kyle I. Kuehl  
Onaway, Holy Cross – Trenton N. Wollberg  
Rogers City, Peace – J. Derek Riddle  
Rogers City, St. John –  
Rogers City, St. Michael – Paul M. Boerger  
Sault, St. Barnabas – Charles B. Burhop  
St. Ignace, Hope – Kyle I. Kuehl

#2 – Alpena-Gaylord Circuit – Jason L. Mandley, Visitor  
Alpena, Immanuel – James D. Erickson/Joshua M. Schultz/  
Alfred A. Kersten (SMP)  
Hubbard Lake, St. Paul – Joseph J. Llewellyn  
Hillman, St. John – Jason L. Mandley  
Lewiston, Bethlehem – John A. Bookshaw (IIM)  
Mio, Living Water – Glen Bromm (SMP)  
Ossineke, Good Shepherd – Barton Gray  
Posen, St. Paul – Jack D. Ferguson

#3 – Timberline Circuit – Frederick T. Cordts, Visitor  
AuGres, St. John – Frederick T. Cordts  
Glennie, Our Savior – Glen Bromm (SMP)  
Hale, St. Paul – Dean R. Muhle  
Oscoda, Trinity – Timothy P. Azzam  
Prescott, Faith – Theodore E. Voll (IIP)  
Tawas City, Zion – Gabriel J. Martin  
Whittemore, Good News Ministries –

#4 – Gladwin Circuit – William C. Winter, Visitor  
Clare, Prince of Peace –  
Gladwin, Our Savior – James M. Krach  
Harrison, St. Luke – Timothy J. Sheridan  
Houghton Lake, St. John – Paul Kruse  
St. Helen, Hope –  
Standish, Bethlehem – Matthew T. Dent  
West Branch, St. John –

#5 – Midland Circuit – Daniel A. Kempin, Visitor  
Alma, Peace – Thomas C. Messer  
Auburn, Grace – Aaron T. Schian  
Auburn, Zion – Andrew P. Menz/Seth R. Hemme  
Brant (Marion Springs) St. John –  
Midland, Lord of New Life –  
Midland, Messiah – Edward F. Doerner/Dennis Kreil (SMP)  
Midland, Our Savior – Gary D. Lyvere (SMP)  
Midland, St. John – Daniel A. Kempin/Joshua J. Parsons (SMP)  
Mt. Pleasant, Zion – Jonathon J. Bakker/Garrick S. Beckett  
Sanford, St. Paul – Christopher P. Vossler  
Wheeler, Immanuel – Michael A. Podeszwa  
\*\*\*Mt. Pleasant, CMU Chapel (Mt. Pleasant, Zion)

#6 – Bay City Circuit – Erwin M. Hutter, Visitor  
Bay City, Faith – Gary L. Bender (IIP)  
Bay City, Immanuel – Kevin C. Jones/A. Chris Garcia  
Bay City (Amelith), St. John –  
Bay City (Monitor), Trinity –  
Bay City, Zion – Phillip A. Baerwolf  
Essexville, Pilgrim – Erwin M. Hutter  
Bay City, St. Paul – Dennis W. Matyas  
Pinconning, St. John – David A. Jung

#7 – Thumb East Circuit – Kenneth D. Lueke, Visitor  
Bad Axe, Our Savior – Kenneth D. Lueke  
Forestville (Minden City), Trinity – Henry J. Hales  
Harbor Beach, Zion –  
Kinde, St. Peter – Larry K. Loree, Sr.  
Marlette, Our Savior – Timothy D. Kern  
Palms, St. John – Henry J. Hales  
Port Hope, St. John – David A. Dodge  
Port Sanilac, St. John – Randy D. Lett  
Sandusky, Peace – Bryan L. Hopfensperger/James C. Tino

#8 – Thumb West Circuit – G. Stevens Bagnall, Visitor  
Bach (Sebewaing), St. Peter – Thomas B. Garrison  
Caseville, Good Shepherd – Christopher S. Suggitt  
Cass City, Good Shepherd – G. Stevens Bagnall  
Fairgrove, Grace – Joshua T. Haller  
Kilmanagh (Sebewaing), St. John – Thomas B. Garrison  
Linkville (Pigeon), St. Paul – Christopher S. Suggitt  
Sebewaing, Immanuel – Michael D. Boyer  
Unionville, St. Paul – Steven M. Stolarczyk

#9 – Frankenmuth Circuit – Gary L. Bender, Visitor  
Caro, St. Paul – Cameron K. Steele  
Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz – Bradley B. Hubbard/Joel C. Kaiser/  
Shawn D. Fenske  
Millington, St. Paul – James R. Bruner/Timothy D. Martinal  
Munger, Trinity-St. James –  
Reese, Trinity – Daniel G. Burhop  
Richville, St. Michael's – Wesley S. Gillaspie/Lang Yang  
Saginaw, Immanuel – Mark A. Loest/Daniel A. Wojtowicz (SMP)  
\*Richville, Hmong Ministry

#10 – Saginaw Circuit – William W. Hessler, Visitor  
Bridgeport, Faith – Timothy T. Behnke  
Hemlock, St. Peter – William L. Morris  
Hemlock, Zion – Paul A. Hauser  
Owosso, St. Philip – Brian F. Heidt  
Saginaw, Bethlehem – Michael P. Korte  
Saginaw, Good Shepherd – Paul R. Biber  
Saginaw, Holy Cross – James F. Krueger  
Saginaw (Carrollton), Messiah – Phillip M. DeVries  
Saginaw, Peace – Erik R. Schmidt/Matthew J. Hauser (SMP)/  
Pahlkotter II, Henry G. (SMP)  
Saginaw, St. Mark – Kirk W. Abatelli  
St. Charles, Nativity – Mitchell R. Vogeli

#11 – Flint North Circuit – David H. Hensler, Visitor  
Birch Run, St. Martin – James D. Chinery  
Clio, Messiah – Erik K. Cloeter  
Flint, Christ the King – Brant A. Engel/Thomas W. Dunseth  
Flint, Our Savior –  
Flint, St. Paul – Brant A. Engel/Thomas W. Dunseth/Dean G. Dumbrille  
Flint, United In Christ –  
Flushing, Holy Cross – Robert V. Riggs (IIM)

**#12 – Flint South Circuit** – Todd A. Biermann, Visitor  
Fenton, Trinity – Peter C. Ahlersmeyer  
Flint, Lamb of God – Mark E. Pretznaw  
Flint (Burton), Pilgrim – Mark T. Matheny  
Goodrich, Christ – Kelly D. Todd  
Grand Blanc, Faith – Todd A. Biermann/Robert G. Scott (SMP)  
Linden, Hope – Paul K. Kollek (SMP)  
Swartz Creek, NewLife Community – Matthew C. Hein

**#13 – Lapeer Circuit** – Gary L. Beck, Visitor  
Davison, Trinity – Todd L. Frusti/Robert G. Geisler (SMP)  
Dryden, Holy Redeemer – Evan C. Veen  
Flint, St. Mark – Gary L. Beck/Ronald C. Nieman  
Imlay City, Family of Christ –  
Lapeer, St. Paul – Jared R. Nies  
North Branch, New Life in Christ – Joseph S. Schierlinger  
Otisville, St. Timothy – E. Enwood Nevis  
\*Flint, Franklin Avenue Mission – Christian Jones (Deployed)

\* Mission  
\*\* Satellite Site  
\*\*\* Campus Ministries

## Metro East Region

**#14 – Port Huron Circuit** – Gerhardt A. Doroh, Visitor  
Algonac, First –  
Armada, Our Saviour – M. Samuel Sherouse  
Fair Haven, St. Peter – Steven R. Hoerr  
Goodells, Hope –  
Lexington, St. Matthew – Jacob P. Buday  
Marine City, Living Faith – Paul E. Yanke  
Marysville, Light of Christ – Scott S. Magneson (SMP)  
Memphis, St. Andrew – Ronald B. Roland  
Port Huron, Faith – Mark L. Huff  
Port Huron, Trinity – Mark J. Madson  
Richmond, St. Peter – Mark J. Haller  
St. Clair, Immanuel – David W. DuBois (SMP)

**#15 – Macomb North Circuit** – E. Paul Burow, Visitor  
Chesterfield (New Baltimore), Good Shepherd – Timothy D. Storck  
Clinton Twp., St. Luke – Roderick Schultz  
Clinton Twp., Trinity – Kenneth M. Wise/Gary L. Richard  
Macomb, Immanuel – Charles Y. Foster/Michael L. Heiden/  
Nikolai J. Gibbons  
Macomb, St. Peter – Kurt R. Wenzelburger/Mark W. Arendell  
New Baltimore, Christ – Daniel Harrison  
Ray Twp (New Haven), St. John – Joshua T. Ball  
\*Cross Point Church, Clinton Twp. –

**#16 – Macomb Northwest Circuit** – Craig M. Meyer, Visitor  
Romeo, Grace Fellowship – Eric W. Majeski/Michael G. Phillips (SMP)  
Shelby Twp., Peace – David R. Klemm  
Shelby Twp, Shepherd's Gate – Timothy R. Bollinger  
Sterling Heights, St. Paul – Walter A. Keller  
Troy, All Nations – Khurram M. Khan/Amer M. Khan/Farrukh M. Khan  
Troy, Faith – Joseph A. Casiglia/Antonio C. Boos/  
Richard J. Grunewald (SMP)  
Troy, Faith Tamil – Arul J. Alexander  
Utica, Trinity – Justin A. Krupsky/Christopher D. Troxel/Lewis W. Stier/  
Chad E. Wright  
Washington, Our Redeemer – Jeffrey G. Draeger

**#17 – Oakland North Circuit** – Matthew G. Schuler, Visitor  
Clarkston, St. Trinity – Paul J. Undlin/Michael D. DeVries (SMP)  
Lake Orion, Good Shepherd – Benjamin G. D. Oelschlaeger  
Ortonville, Prince of Peace –  
Oxford, Journey – Matthew G. Schuler/Daniel C. Meckes  
Pontiac, St. Paul Community – Christopher Jung  
Rochester, St. John – Marc N. Schwichtenberg/Stephen D. Grafe/  
Jonathan B. Trinklein  
Rochester Hills, Crown of Life – Terry A. Baughman (SMP)  
Rochester Hills, GoodLife – Keith H. Lemley (IIP)/Gary E. Koltz  
(Missionary deployed to FL)  
Waterford, St. Stephen – Robert A. Hoffman

**#18 – Birmingham Circuit** – Peter S. Nickel, Visitor  
Birmingham, Our Savior Deaf – Tyler A. Walworth  
Birmingham, Our Shepherd – Evan P. Gaertner/Ray E. Scherbarth/  
Stephen W. Woodfin (SMP)/Michael S. Vieregge (SMP)  
Birmingham, Redeemer – Randall J. Schlak  
Bloomfield Hills, Cross of Christ –  
Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods – Mark R. Doede  
Royal Oak, St. Paul – Jakob A. Andrzejewski  
Troy, St. Augustine – Paul C. Monson/Franklin Dohanyos (SMP)  
Warren, Holy Cross – Alan P. Eisinger

**#19 – Macomb South Circuit** – Jeffrey D. Frechette, Visitor  
Eastpointe, St. Peter – Jeffrey E. Heimsoth (IIM)/Alexander C. Garber  
Eastpointe, St. Thomas – Mark W. Hetzner/Richard A. VanBriggle (SMP)  
Fraser, St. John – Bradley A. Smith/Peter W. Elliott  
Roseville, Bethlehem – Jeffrey D. Frechette  
Warren, Hope – Daniel C. Howard  
Warren, Peace – Richard C. Gizynski  
Warren, Trinity – Ryan D. Reese

**#20 – Detroit East Circuit** – Harold A. Avers, Visitor  
Detroit, Bethany – Christopher R. Bodley (Deployed)  
Detroit, Bethlehem East – Asaph A. James/Paul W. Arndt (MAL)  
Detroit, Charity – Dietrick A. Gladden (Deployed)  
Detroit, Historic Trinity – Darryl L. Andrzejewski  
Detroit, Mt. Calvary – Dietrick A. Gladden (Deployed)  
Detroit, Peace – Robert L. Mikkelsen

\* Mission  
\*\* Satellite Site  
\*\*\* Campus Ministries

## Metro West Region

#21 – Detroit West Circuit – Eddie Morales, Visitor  
Dearborn, Atonement – Steven E. Sparks (SMP)  
Detroit, Evergreen – William F. Danowski  
Detroit, Family of God – James Hill/Tyler R. Cronkright (SMP)/  
Timothy J. LeClair (SMP)  
Detroit, Iglesia Luterana (Pan De Vida) –  
Detroit, Nazareth –  
Detroit, St. John – Richard E. Robinson  
Detroit, St. Stephen – Tyler R. Cronkright (SMP)  
Detroit, Outer Drive Faith – Eddie Morales  
Detroit, St. Philip – Bertram G. Lewis, Sr

#23 – Down River Circuit – Greyson D. Grenz, Visitor  
Allen Park, Mt. Hope –  
Flat Rock, Community – Greyson D. Grenz  
Lincoln Park, Calvary – Michael W. Grannis  
Southgate, Christ the King – Jason D. Cashmer  
Taylor, Our Redeemer – Kenneth M. Spence  
Taylor, St. John – Richard A. Zeile  
Trenton, St. Paul – Richard J. Blythe  
Wyandotte, Trinity – Greyson D. Grenz

#24 – Monroe Circuit – Mark K. Witte, Visitor  
Lambertville, Christ the King – Timothy J. Loewe  
Monroe, Grace – Mark K. Witte/Robert C. Auxter (SMP)  
Monroe, Holy Ghost – D. Lee Cullen  
Monroe (Ida), Immanuel – Curtis D. Garland  
Monroe, Trinity – Daniel A. Potts  
Petersburg, St. Peter – Mark S. Flory  
Waltz, St. John – Jeffrey E. Wade/Kyle E. Jones

#25 – Dearborn Circuit – Andrew D. Gruenhagen, Visitor  
Dearborn, Emmanuel – Tyler A. Walworth/Joel R. Baseley/Paul A. Wolff  
Dearborn, Guardian – David M. Mews/Daniel W. Ramthun (SMP)  
Wayne, St. Michael – Andrew D. Gruenhagen  
Westland, St. Matthew – Bryce S. Rosche

#26 – Kensington Circuit – Terry A. Nelson, Visitor  
Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes – Benjamin Bruns/Timothy Kade  
Highland, Faith – Jonathan J. Moyer  
Milford, Christ – Andrew M. Johnson  
South Lyon, Cross of Christ – Terry A. Nelson  
West Bloomfield (Union Lake), St. Mark – Aaron H. Vergin  
Walled Lake, St. Matthew – Paul M. Moldenhauer/Michael A. Hansen/  
Austin M. Wellhousen  
Waterford, Peace – Russell S. Tkac (SMP)  
\*\*Wixom, St. Matthew (Walled Lake)

#27 – Livonia Circuit – Joel S. Eden, Visitor  
Canton, Grace – Steven M. Newton  
Dearborn Heights, Immanuel – David L. Prout (IIM)  
Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross – Brian C. Dupre  
Farmington Hills, Prince of Peace – Mark E. Schumm  
Livonia, Christ Our Savior – Dean M. Davenport/Joel S. Eden  
Northville, St. Paul – Christopher D. Fairbairn/James M. Frusti (SMP)  
Redford, Hosanna-Tabor –  
Westland, Salem – Steven M. Newton

#28 – Milan Circuit – Thomas L. Schroeder, Visitor  
Ann Arbor, St. Thomas – Coleman K. Geraci  
Belleville, Open Arms – Larry G. Courson  
Britton, Emmanuel – David J. McCarty  
Milan, St. Paul – Coleman K. Geraci  
New Boston, St. Paul – John W. Schwartz/Scott L. Blevins (SMP)  
Saline, Christ Our King – Joseph W. B. Polzin  
Ypsilanti, Faith – James A. Waddell

#29 – Ann Arbor Circuit – Donald O. Neuendorf, Visitor  
Ann Arbor, Peace – Andrew M. Pronsati  
Ann Arbor, St. Paul – Donald O. Neuendorf/Aaron W. Roggow  
Ann Arbor, St. Luke – John M. Sproul  
Ann Arbor, University Chapel – R. Gabriel Kasper/Marcus Lane  
Chelsea, Our Savior – Daniel W. Pezzica  
Hamburg, St. Paul – Jeffrey Burgess  
Pinckney, Trinity – Michael R. Ruhl  
Whitmore Lake, Living Water – Scott Sommerfeld (IIM)  
Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection – Bryan K. Schindel  
\*\*\*Ypsilanti, EMU Chapel (Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection)

#30 – Jackson Circuit – Joel H. Sarrault, Visitor  
Addison, Lutheran Church of the Lakes – Tyson V. Bentz  
Adrian, Hope – Paul W. Herter  
Adrian, St. John – Joel H. Sarrault  
Adrian, St. Matthew – Daryl H. Etheridge  
Blissfield, Blessed Savior – Daryl H. Etheridge  
Brooklyn (Irish Hills), St. Mark –  
Hudson, Our Saviour –  
Jackson, Redeemer – Zachary J. Holdorf  
Jackson, Trinity –

\* Mission  
\*\* Satellite Site  
\*\*\*Campus Ministries

## West Region

**#31 – Petoskey Circuit** – Matthew A. Peters, Visitor  
Boyne City, Christ – Charles R. Hoffman  
Charlevoix, Bethany – Paul H. Schneider (IIP)  
Gaylord, Trinity –  
Grayling, Mt. Hope –  
Kalkaska, St. Paul – Eric S. Black  
Mancelona, St. Matthew –  
Petoskey, Zion – Matthew A. Peters

**#32 – Traverse City Circuit** – Mark E. Berlin, Visitor  
Benzonia, Our Savior –  
Elk Rapids, Grace – James C. Redmann  
Good Harbor, St. Paul – Mark C. Reinsch  
Glen Arbor, Bethlehem –  
Interlochen, Redeemer – Mark E. Berlin/Jason C. Bauer (SMP)  
Leland, Immanuel – Joshua C. LaFeve  
Traverse City, St. Michael –  
Traverse City, Trinity – Michael M. Goers/Charles W. Webb/  
Bruce K. Lucas

**#33 – Manistee Circuit** – Dennis D. Rahn, Visitor  
Arcadia, Trinity – Ryan Tinnetti  
Cadillac, Emmanuel –  
Ludington, Peace – John G. Hansen (SMP)  
Ludington, St. John – David Goehmann/August P. Engblade (SMP)  
Manistee, Trinity – Dennis D. Rahn  
Mesick, Faith – Timothy C. Selim (SMP)  
Manistee, Norwalk –  
Onekama, Trinity –  
Pentwater, Lighthouse – John G. Hansen (SMP)  
Scottville, Our Saviour –  
Wellston, Beautiful Savior – Gale D. Richardson (SMP)

**#34 – Big Rapids Circuit** – Paul A. Tonn, Visitor  
Baldwin, Grace – Daniel H. Fienen  
Big Rapids, St. Peter – Roger L. Mackie (IIM)  
Fremont, Redeemer – Todd J. Brunworth (IIM)  
Mecosta, Chapel/Lakes – William J. Hooper  
Reed City, Trinity – Paul A. Tonn  
White Cloud, Christ –  
\*\*\*Big Rapids, Ferris State (Big Rapids, St. Peter)

**#35 – Capitol Circuit** – William R. Wangelin, Visitor  
Charlotte, First – Sean Esterline/Mark A. Gawura (SMP)/  
Daniel R. Longden (SMP)  
Holt, Messiah – Mark Werner  
Holt, St. Matthew – Dean R. Poellet  
Howell, Heart of the Shepherd – Galen E. Grulke  
Lansing, Good Shepherd – Robert F. Allmann (IIP)  
Lansing, Living Word –  
Lansing, Our Savior – William R. Wangelin/Christopher M. Deneen  
Lansing, Trinity – Robert G. Dowding (SMP)  
Leslie, Grace Fellowship – Dale M. Kleimola

**#36 – St. Johns Circuit** – Edward W. Filter, Visitor  
Carson City, Calvary – Roger K. Straub (IIP)  
DeWitt, Hope – E. Anthony Sikora  
East Lansing, Ascension – Sean Q. McCoy  
Fowler, St. Paul – Paul M. Clark/Lance D. Klamer  
Haslett, St. Luke – A. Trevor Sutton/David A. Davis/Zerehaimanot Z.  
Yohannes/Elamin Baggor  
Portland, St. Andrew – Edward W. Filter  
St. Johns, St. Johns – James M. Pearl  
St. Johns (Riley), St. Peter – Timothy A. Bayer  
\*\*Lansing, Christ (Haslett, St. Luke)

**#37 – Tri-River Circuit** – Jeffrey M. Wilhelm, Visitor  
Belding, Holy Cross – Robert V. Wagner  
Greenville, Mt. Calvary – Jeffrey M. Wilhelm  
Howard City, Bethel – Richard A. Townes, Jr.  
Ionia, St. John –  
Lowell, Good Shepherd –  
Sand Lake, Resurrection – Lee H. Zabrocki (IIP)  
Stanton, Hope – Alexander Sabol (EN)

**#38 – Muskegon Circuit** – Dennis L. Lassanske, Visitor  
Conklin, Trinity – Mark A. Oswald  
Montague, St. James – John W. Brooks  
Norton Shores (Muskegon), St. Mark –  
Muskegon, Trinity – Paul C. Appold  
Nunica, St. Luke – Brennan A. Woell  
Shelby, St. Stephen – Alexander J. Koppel  
Whitehall, Faith –

**#39 – Holland Circuit** – Ryan A. Winningham, Visitor  
Coopersville, Grace – Joel F. Hoyer  
Grand Haven, St. John –  
Holland, Christ Our Savior – Russell D. Johnson  
Holland, Zion – Ryan A. Winningham  
Spring Lake, Lakeshore Fellowship – Christopher M. Boehnke  
Spring Lake, St. Matthew – Simeon J. Cornwell  
West Olive, United –

**#40 – Grand Rapids N. Central Circuit** – Jason P. Peterson, Visitor  
Ada (Grand Rapids), St. Matthew – Robert B. Appold/Matthew L.  
Starnier (SMP)  
Grand Rapids, Immanuel – Craig L. Bickel/Mark A. Bowditch  
Grand Rapids, Messiah – Andrew R. Twietmeyer  
Grand Rapids, Mt. Olive –  
Grand Rapids, Our Savior – Jeremy M. Swem/North P. Sherrill/  
David C. Fleming  
Grand Rapids, St. James – Glenn E. Schaeffer  
Rockford, St. Peter – Jason P. Peterson  
\*Grand Rapids, The Vine Church – James F. Richter (Deployed)

**#41 – Grand Rapids SW Circuit** – Timothy J. Brand, Visitor  
Caledonia, St. Paul – Timothy J. Brand/David L. Miller  
Grandville, Bethel – Robert A. Gerke  
Hudsonville, New Hope – Adam P. Kosberg  
Jenison, Holy Cross – Brian D. West/Adam J. Peck  
Jenison (Allendale), St. John – Marin Cerchez  
Kentwood, St. Mark – Chris J. Rubino (SMP)  
Middleville, Good Shepherd – Peter M. Berg

**#42 – Battle Creek Circuit** – Karl N. Strenge, Visitor  
Albion, St. Paul – Paul R. Koehn  
Battle Creek, St. Mark – Jack E. Langfeldt (SMP)  
Battle Creek, Redemption – Karl Strenge  
Battle Creek, St. Paul – Larry R. Gorlitz  
Kalamazoo, Immanuel – David H. Sidwell  
Kalamazoo, Zion – Timothy W. Seeber/Mark T. Couch  
Marshall, Christ – David R. Moran (SMP)  
Paw Paw, Trinity – Phillip L. Phifer  
Portage, St. Michael – Paul R. Naumann/Daniel S. Maske/  
Jason D. Toman (SMP)  
Three Rivers, St. Peter –  
\*\*\*Kalamazoo, Solid Grounds (Kalamazoo, Zion)



#43 – St. Joseph Circuit – Michael J. Roth, Visitor  
Berrien Springs, Trinity – Douglas M. Adams  
Bridgman, Immanuel – Edward A. Meyer/Thomas F. Fischer  
Buchanan, St. Paul – Daniel S. Barz (SMP)  
Cassopolis, St. Paul – Paul M. Doellinger  
Coloma, Salem – Alex W. Hoffmeyer  
Glendora (Buchanan), Trinity – Jonathan Liebich  
Niles, St. Paul – Joseph T. Liss (SMP)  
St. Joseph, Trinity – Michael J. Roth  
Sawyer, Trinity – Brandon M. Wittig  
Stevensville, Christ – Martin P. Measel

#44 – South Central Circuit – Kurt P. Kuhlmann, Visitor  
Burr Oak, St. John – Kurt P. Kuhlmann  
Centreville, St. Paul –  
Centreville (Sturgis), Salem –  
Coldwater, St. Paul – Aaron B. Chittick  
Colon, St. Paul –  
Hillsdale, St. Paul – Sean A. Willman  
Sturgis, Trinity – Lawrence K. Matro/Calvin J. Kolzow, Jr.  
Union City, Our Savior –  
\*Leonidas, Creator's Praise Ministry –

\* Mission

\*\* Satellite Site

\*\*\* Campus Ministries

# Ministers of Religion - Ordained

## Sole/Senior Pastors

Abatelli, Kirk W. – St. Mark, Saginaw  
Adams, Douglas M. – Trinity, Berrien Springs  
Ahlersmeyer, Peter C. – Trinity, Fenton  
Alexander, Arul J. – Faith Tamil, Troy  
Andrzejewski, Darryl L. – Historic Trinity, Detroit  
Andrzejewski, Jakob A. – St. Paul, Royal Oak  
Appold, Paul C. – Trinity, Muskegon  
Appold, Robert B. – St. Matthew, Grand Rapids  
Azzam, Timothy P. – Trinity, Oscoda  
Baerwolf, Phillip A. – Zion, Bay City  
Bagnall, G. Stevens – Good Shepherd, Cass City  
Bakker, Jonathon J. – Zion, Mount Pleasant  
Ball, Joshua T. – St. John, Ray  
Bayer, Timothy A. – St. Peter, Saint Johns  
Beck, Gary L. – St. Mark, Flint  
Behnke, Timothy J. – Faith, Bridgeport  
Bentz, Tyson V. – Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison  
Berg, Peter M. – Good Shepherd, Middleville  
Berlin, Mark E. – Redeemer, Interlochen  
Biber, Paul R. – Good Shepherd, Saginaw  
Bickel, Craig L. – Immanuel, Grand Rapids  
Biermann, Todd A. – Faith, Grand Blanc  
Black, Eric S. – St. Paul, Kalkaska  
Blythe, Richard J. – St. Paul, Trenton  
Boehnke, Christopher M. – Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship, Spring Lake  
Boerger, Paul M. – St. Michael, Rogers City  
Bollinger, Timothy R. – Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township  
Boyer, Michael D. – Immanuel, Sebewaing  
Brand, Timothy J. – St. Paul, Caledonia  
Brooks, John W. – St. James, Montague  
Bruner, James R. – St. Paul, Millington  
Bruns, Benjamin R. – Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton  
Buday, Jacob P. – St. Matthew, Lexington  
Burgess, Jeffrey S. – St. Paul, Hamburg  
Burhop, Charles B. – St. Barnabas, Sault Ste. Marie  
Burhop, Daniel G. O. – Trinity, Reese  
Cashmer, Jason D. – Christ the King, Southgate  
Casiglia, Joseph A. – Faith, Troy  
Cerchez, Marin – St. John, Jenison  
Chinery, James D. – St. Martin, Birch Run  
Chittick, Aaron B. – St. Paul, Coldwater  
Clark, Paul M. – St. Paul, Fowler  
Cloeter, Erik K. – Messiah, Clio  
Cordts, Frederick T. – St. John, Au Gres  
Cornwell, Simeon J. – St. Matthew, Spring Lake  
Courson, Larry G. – Open Arms, Belleville  
Cullen, D. Lee, Jr. – Holy Ghost, Monroe  
Danowski, William F. – Evergreen, Detroit  
Davenport, Dean M. – Christ Our Savior, Livonia  
Dent, Matthew T. – Bethlehem, Standish  
DeVries, Phillip M. – Messiah, Saginaw  
Dodge, David A. – St. John, Port Hope  
Doede, Mark R. – Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods  
Doellinger, Paul M. – St. Paul, Cassopolis  
Doerner, Edward F. – Messiah, Midland  
Draeger, Jeffrey G. – Our Redeemer, Washington  
Dupre, Brian C. – Shadow of the Cross, Farmington Hills  
Eisinger, Alan P. – Holy Cross, Warren  
Engel, Brant A. – Christ the King/St. Paul, Flint  
Erickson, James D. – Immanuel, Alpena  
Esterline, Sean M. – First, Charlotte  
Etheridge, Daryl H., Jr. – St. Matthew's, Adrian/Blessed Savior, Blissfield  
Fairbairn, Christopher D. – St. Paul, Northville  
Ferguson, Jack D. – Faith, Hawks  
Fienen, Daniel H. – Grace, Baldwin  
Filter, Edward W. – St. Andrew, Portland  
Flory, Mark S. – St. Peter, Petersburg  
Foster, Charles S. Y. – Immanuel, Macomb

Frechette, Jeffrey D. – Bethlehem, Roseville  
Frusti, Todd I. – Trinity, Davison  
Gaertner, Evan P. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham  
Garland, Curtis D. – Immanuel, Monroe  
Garrison, Thomas B. – St. Peter/St. John's, Sebewaing  
Geraci, Coleman K. – St. Paul/St. Thomas, Milan/Ann Arbor  
Gerke, Robert A. – Bethel, Grandville  
Gizynski, Richard G. – Peace, Warren  
Goehmann, David P. – St. John's, Ludington  
Goers, Michael M. – Trinity, Traverse City  
Gorlitz, Larry R. – St. Paul, Battle Creek  
Grannis, Michael J. – Calvary, Lincoln Park  
Grenz, Greyson D. – Trinity/Community, Wyandotte/Flat Rock  
Gruenhagen, Andrew D. – St. Michael, Wayne  
Hales, Henry J. – St. John, Palms/Trinity, Minden City  
Haller, Joshua T. – Grace, Fairgrove  
Haller, Mark J. – St. Peter's, Richmond  
Harrison, Daniel H. – Christ, New Baltimore  
Hauser, Paul A. – Zion, Hemlock  
Heidt, Brian F. – St. Philip, Owosso  
Hein, Matthew C. – New Life Community, Swartz Creek  
Herter, Paul W. – Hope, Adrian  
Hetzner, Mark W. – St. Thomas, Eastpointe  
Hill, James M. – Family of God, Detroit  
Hoerr, Steven R. – St. Peter, Fair Haven  
Hoffman, Charles R. – Christ, Boyne City  
Hoffman, Robert A. – St. Stephen, Waterford  
Hoffmeyer, Alex W. – Salem, Coloma  
Holdorf, Zachary J. – Redeemer, Jackson  
Hooper, William J. – Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta  
Hopfensperger, Bryan L. – Peace, Sandusky  
Howard, Daniel C. – Hope, Warren  
Hoyer, Joel F. – Grace, Coopersville  
Hubbard, Bradley B. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth  
Huff, Mark L. – Faith, Port Huron  
Hutter, Erwin M. – Pilgrim, Essexville  
James, Asaph A. – East Bethlehem, Detroit  
Johnson, Andrew M. – Christ, Milford  
Johnson, Russell D. – Christ Our Savior, Holland  
Jones, Kevin C. – Immanuel, Bay City  
Jung, Christopher D. – St. Paul Community, Pontiac  
Jung, David A. – St. John, Pinconning  
Kasper, R. Gabriel – University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor  
Keller, Walter A. – St. Paul, Sterling Heights  
Kempin, Daniel A. – St. John's, Midland  
Kern, Timothy D. – Our Savior, Marlette  
Khan, Khurram M. – All Nations, Clinton Township  
Kilponen, Roger R. – Drummond Island, Drummond Island  
Kleimola, Dale M. – Grace, Leslie  
Klemm, David R. – Peace, Shelby Township  
Koehn, Paul R. – St. Paul, Albion  
Koppel, Alexander J. – St. Stephen's, Shelby  
Korte, Michael R. – Bethlehem, Saginaw  
Kosberg, Adam P. – New Hope, Hudsonville  
Krach, James M. – Our Savior, Gladwin  
Krueger, James F. – Holy Cross, Saginaw  
Krupsky, Justin A. – Trinity, Utica  
Kruse, Paul G. – St. John, Houghton Lake  
Kuehl, Kyle I. – Trinity/Grace/Bethlehem, Newberry/Germfask/Engadine  
Kuhlmann, Kurt P. – St. John, Burr Oak  
LaFave, Joshua C. – Immanuel, Leland  
Lett, Randy D. – St. John, Port Sanilac  
Lewis, Bertram B., Sr. – St. Philip, Detroit  
Liebich, Jonathan A. – Trinity, Buchanan  
Loest, Mark A. – Immanuel, Saginaw  
Llewellyn, Joseph J. – St. Paul, Hubbard Lake  
Loewe, Timothy J. – Christ the King, Lambertville  
Loree, Larry K., Sr. – St. Peter, Kinde

Lueke, Kenneth D. – Our Savior, Bad Axe  
 Madson, Mark J. – Trinity, Port Huron  
 Majeski, Eric W. – Grace, Romeo  
 Mandley, Jason L. – St. John, Hillman  
 Martin, Gabriel J. – Zion, Tawas City  
 Matherly, Mark T. – Pilgrim, Burton  
 Matro, Lawrence K. – Trinity, Sturgis  
 Matyas, Dennis W. – St. Paul, Bay City  
 McCarty, David J. – Emmanuel, Britton  
 McCoy, Sean Q. – Ascension, East Lansing  
 Measel, Martin P. – Christ, Stevensville  
 Menz, Andrew P. – Zion, Auburn  
 Messer, Thomas C. – Peace, Alma  
 Meyer, Edward A. – Immanuel, Bridgman  
 Mikkelsen, Robert L. – Peace, Detroit  
 Moldenhauer, Paul M. – St. Matthew, Walled Lake  
 Monson, Paul C. – St. Augustine, Troy  
 Morales, Eddie – Outer Drive Faith, Detroit  
 Morris, William L. – St. Peter, Hemlock  
 Moyer, Jonathan J. – Faith, Highland  
 Muhle, Dean R. – St. Paul, Hale  
 Naumann, Paul R. – St. Michael, Portage  
 Nelson, Terry A. – Cross Of Christ, South Lyon  
 Neuendorf, Donald O. – St. Paul, Ann Arbor  
 Nevis, E. Enwood – St. Timothy, Otisville  
 Newton, Steven M. – Grace, Canton/Salem, Westland  
 Nies, Jared R. – St. Paul, Lapeer  
 Oelschlaeger, Benjamin G. D. – Good Shepherd, Lake Orion  
 Oswald, Mark A. – Trinity, Conklin  
 Pearl, James M. – St. John's, Saint Johns  
 Peters, Matthew A. – Zion, Petoskey  
 Peterson, Jason P. – St. Peter's, Rockford  
 Pezzica, Daniel W. – Our Savior, Chelsea  
 Phifer, Phillip L. – Trinity, Paw Paw  
 Podeszwa, Michael A. – Immanuel, Wheeler  
 Poellet, Dean R. – St. Matthew, Holt  
 Polzin, Joseph W. B. – Christ Our King, Saline  
 Potts, Daniel A. – Trinity, Monroe  
 Pretznaw, Mark E. – Lamb of God, Flint  
 Pronsati, Andrew M. – Peace, Ann Arbor  
 Rahn, Dennis D. – Trinity, Manistee  
 Redmann, James C. – Grace, Elk Rapids  
 Reese, Ryan D. – Trinity, Warren  
 Reinsch, Mark C. – St. Pauls, Cedar  
 Riddle, J. Derek – Peace, Rogers City  
 Robinson, Richard E. – St. John, Detroit  
 Roland, Ronald B. – St. Andrew, Memphis  
 Rosche, Bryce S. – St. Matthew, Westland  
 Roth, Michael J. – Trinity, Saint Joseph  
 Ruhl, Michael R. – Trinity, Pinckney  
 Sarrault, Joel H. – St. John's, Adrian  
 Schaedig, Michael W. – St. John, Cheboygan  
 Schaeffer, Glenn E. – St. James, Grand Rapids  
 Schian, Aaron T. – Grace, Auburn  
 Schierlinger, Joseph S. – New Life in Christ, North Branch  
 Schindel, Bryan K. – Cross & Resurrection, Ypsilanti  
 Schlak, Randall J. – Redeemer, Birmingham  
 Schmidt, Erik R. – Peace, Saginaw  
 Schuler, Matthew G. – Journey, Oxford  
 Schultz, Roderick D. – St. Luke, Clinton Township  
 Schumm, Mark E. – Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills  
 Schwartz, John W. – St. Paul's, New Boston  
 Schwichtenberg, Marc N. – St. John, Rochester  
 Seeber, Timothy W. – Zion, Kalamazoo  
 Sheridan, Timothy J. – St. Luke, Harrison  
 Sherouse, M. Samuel, Jr. – Our Saviour, Armada  
 Sherry, Jacob T. – Trinity, Onkama  
 Sidwell, David H. – Immanuel, Kalamazoo  
 Sikora, E. Anthony – Hope, DeWitt  
 Smith, Bradley A. – St. John, Fraser  
 Spence, Kenneth M. – Our Redeemer, Taylor  
 Sproul, John M. – St. Luke, Ann Arbor  
 Steele, Cameron K. – St. Paul, Caro  
 Stolarczyk, Steven M. – St. Paul, Unionville  
 Storck, Timothy D. – Good Shepherd, Chesterfield  
 Strenge, Karl N. – Redemption, Battle Creek  
 Suggitt, Christopher S. – St. Paul/Good Shepherd, Caseville/Pigeon  
 Sutton, A. Trevor – St. Luke, Haslett  
 Swem, Jeremy M. – Our Savior, Grand Rapids  
 Tinetti, Ryan P. – Trinity, Arcadia  
 Todd, Kelly D. – Christ, Goodrich  
 Tonn, Paul A. – Trinity, Reed City  
 Townes, Richard A., Jr. – Bethel, Howard City  
 Twietmeyer, Andrew R. – Messiah, Grand Rapids  
 Undlin, Paul J. – St. Trinity, Clarkston  
 Veen, Evan C. – Holy Redeemer, Dryden  
 Vergin, Aaron H. – St. Mark's, West Bloomfield  
 Vogeli, Mitchell R. – Nativity, Saint Charles  
 Vossler, Christopher P. – St. Paul, Sanford  
 Waddell, James A. – Faith, Ypsilanti  
 Wade, Jeffrey E. – St. John's, New Boston  
 Wagner, Robert V. – Holy Cross, Belding  
 Walworth, Tyler A. – Our Savior Deaf, Beverly Hills/Emmanuel, Dearborn  
 Wangelin, William R. – Our Savior, Lansing  
 Wenzelburger, Kurt R. – St. Peter, Macomb  
 Werner, Mark A. – Messiah, Holt  
 West, Brian D. – Holy Cross, Jenison  
 Wilhelm, Jeffrey M. – Mount Calvary, Greenville  
 Williamson, Kenneth L. – Our Savior, Scottville  
 Willman, Sean A. – St. Paul's, Hillsdale  
 Winningham, Ryan A. – Zion, Holland  
 Wise, Kenneth M. – Trinity, Clinton Township  
 Witte, Mark K. – Grace, Monroe  
 Wittig, Brandon M. – Trinity, Sawyer  
 Woell, Brennan A. – St. Luke, Nunica  
 Wollberg, Trenton N. – Holy Cross, Onaway  
 Yanke, Paul E. – Living Faith, Marine City  
 Zeile, Richard A. – St. John's, Taylor

## Associate Pastors

Arendell, Mark W. – St. Peter, Macomb  
Arndt, Paul W. – East Bethlehem, Detroit  
Baggor, Elamin M. – St. Luke, Haslett  
Baseley, Joel R. – Emmanuel, Dearborn  
Beckett, Garrick S. – Zion, Mt. Pleasant  
Boos, Antonio C. – Faith, Troy  
Bowditch, Mark A. – Immanuel, Grand Rapids  
Couch, Mark T. – Zion, Kalamazoo  
Davis, David A. – St. Luke, Haslett  
Deneen, Christopher M. – Our Savior, Lansing  
Dumbrille, Dean G. – St. Paul, Flint  
Dunseth, Thomas W. – St. Paul/Christ the King, Flint  
Eden, Joel S. – Christ Our Savior, Livonia  
Elliott, Peter W. – St. John, Fraser  
Fenske, Shawn D. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth  
Fischer, Thomas F. – Immanuel, Bridgman  
Fleming, David C. – Our Savior, Grand Rapids  
Garber, Alexander C., IV – St. Peter's, Eastpointe  
Garcia, Adan C. – Immanuel, Bay City  
Gibbons, Nikolai J. – Immanuel, Macomb  
Gillaspie, Wesley S. – St. Michael's, Richville  
Grafe, Stephen D. – St. John, Rochester  
Grulke, Galen E. – Heart of the Shepherd, Howell  
Hansen, Michael A. – St. Matthew, Walled Lake  
Heiden, Michael L. – Immanuel, Macomb  
Hemme, Seth R. – Zion, Auburn  
Jones, Kyle E. – St. John's, New Boston  
Kade, Timothy P. – Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton  
Kaiser, Joel C. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Khan, Farrukh M. – All Nations, Clinton Township  
Klamer, Lance D. – St. Paul, Fowler  
Koltz, Gary E. – GoodLife, Rochester Hills  
Kolzow, Calvin J., Jr. – Trinity, Sturgis  
Lane, Marcus J. – University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor  
Lucas, Bruce K. – Trinity, Traverse City  
Lytikainen, Matthew S. – Messiah, Midland  
Martinal, Timothy D. – St. Paul, Millington  
Maske, Daniel S. – St. Michael, Portage  
Meckes, Daniel C. – Journey, Oxford  
Mehdi-Khan, Amer – All Nations, Clinton Township  
Mews, David M. – Guardian, Dearborn  
Nieman, Ronald C. – St. Mark, Flint  
Peck, Adam J. – Holy Cross, Jenison  
Richard, Gary L. – Trinity, Clinton Township  
Roggow, Aaron W. – St. Paul, Ann Arbor  
Scherbarth, Ray E. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham  
Schultz, Joshua M. – Immanuel, Alpena  
Sherrill, North P. – Our Savior, Grand Rapids  
Stier, Lewis W. – Trinity, Utica  
Tino, James C. – Peace, Sandusky  
Trinklein, Jonathan B. – St. John, Rochester  
Troxel, Christopher D. – Trinity, Utica  
Webb, Charles W. – Trinity, Traverse City  
Wellhousen, Austin M. – St. Matthew, Walled Lake  
Wolff, Paul A. – Emmanuel, Dearborn  
Wright, Chad E. – Trinity, Utica  
Yang, Lang – St. Michael's, Richville  
Yohannes, Z. Zerit – St. Luke, Haslett

## SMP Pastors

Auxter, Robert C. – Grace, Monroe  
Barz, Daniel S. – St. Paul, Buchanan  
Bauer, Jason C. – Redeemer, Interlochen  
Baughman, Terry A. – Crown of Life, Rochester Hills  
Blevins, Scott L. – St. Paul's, New Boston  
Bromm, Glen W. – Living Water/Our Savior, Mio/Glennie  
Cronkright, Tyler R. – Family of God/St. Stephen, Detroit  
DeVries, Michael D. – St. Trinity, Clarkston  
Dohanyos, Franklin J. – St. Augustine, Troy  
Dowding, Robert G. – Trinity, Lansing  
DuBois, David W. – Immanuel, Saint Clair  
Engblade, August P. – St. John's, Ludington  
Faith, Scott M. – St. Mark, Muskegon  
Frusti, James M. – St. Paul, Northville  
Gawura, Mark A. – First, Charlotte  
Geisler, Robert G. – Trinity, Davison  
Grunewald, Richard J. – Faith, Troy  
Hansen, John G. – Peace/Lighthouse, Ludington/Pentwater  
Hauser, Matthew J. – Peace, Saginaw  
Kersten, Alfred A. – Immanuel, Alpena  
Kollek, Paul K. – Hope, Linden  
Kreil, Dennis J. – Messiah, Midland  
Langfeldt, Jack E. – St. Mark, Battle Creek

LeClair, Timothy J. – Family of God, Detroit  
Liss, Joseph T. – St. Paul's, Niles  
Longden, Daniel R. – First, Charlotte  
Lyvere, Gary D. – Our Savior, Midland  
Magneson, Scott S. – Light of Christ, Marysville  
Miller, David L. – St. Paul, Caledonia  
Moran, David R. – Christ, Marshall  
Pahlkotter II, Henry G. – Peace, Saginaw  
Parsons, Joshua J. – St. John's, Midland  
Phillips, Michael G. – Grace, Romeo  
Ramthun, Daniel W. – Guardian, Dearborn  
Richardson, Gale D. – Beautiful Savior, Wellston  
Rubino, Chris J. – St. Mark, Kentwood  
Scott, Robert G. – Faith, Grand Blanc  
Selim, Timothy C. – Faith, Mesick  
Sparks, Steven E. – Atonement, Dearborn  
Starnier, Matthew L. – St. Matthew, Grand Rapids  
Tkac, Russell S. – Peace, Waterford  
Toman, Jason D. – St. Michael, Portage  
VanBriggle, Richard A. – St. Thomas, Eastpointe  
Vieregge, Michael S. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham  
Wojtowicz, Daniel A. – Immanuel, Saginaw  
Woodfin, Stephen W. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham

## Intentional Interim Pastors

Allmann, Robert F. – Good Shepherd, Lansing  
Bender, Gary L. – Faith, Bay City  
Bookshaw, John A. – Bethlehem, Lewiston  
Brunworth, Todd J. – Redeemer, Fremont  
Heimsoth, Jeffrey E. – St. Peter's, Eastpointe  
Lemley, Keith H. – GoodLife, Rochester Hills  
Mackie, Roger L. – St. Peter's, Big Rapids

Prout, David L. – Immanuel, Dearborn Heights  
Riggs, Robert V. – Holy Cross, Flushing  
Sommerfeld, Scott G. – Living Water, Whitmore Lake  
Straub, Roger K. – Calvary, Carson City  
Voll, Theodore E. – Faith, Prescott  
Zabrocki, Lee H. – Resurrection, Sand Lake

## District Administration

Johnson, Randy L. – Congregation Ministry Facilitator  
Jones, Todd A. – Mission Education and Support

Kasper, Robert E. – Congregation Ministry Facilitator  
Maier, David P. E. – District President

## Other

Bodley, Christopher R. – MAL in Detroit for A2E  
Bato, Dinku L. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb  
Gladden, Dietrick A. – MAL in Detroit at Charity/Mt. Calvary  
Heise, Matthew W. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb  
Jones, Christian M. – MAL in Flint at Franklin Avenue Mission  
Nelson, Robert J. – LCMS Board of International Missions, Chaplain,  
US Air Force

Philp, Paul A. – Concordia University System (Director of  
Institutional Research and Integrity), deployed to Michigan  
Rahn, Robert L. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb  
Richter, James F. – MAL in Grand Rapids

## Foreign Missionaries

Erber, David M. – Nigeria  
Mahlburg, Steven C. – Sri Lanka  
Neuendorf, James A. – Puerto Rico

## Lutheran High Schools

Stahl, Michael G. – Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw

## Concordia University Ann Arbor

Duncan, Randall S.  
Hopkins, Theodore J.  
Peterson, Ryan R.

Rathje, John R.  
Schulz, Charles R.  
Yakimow, Scott E.

## Chaplains

Bowditch, Mark A. – U.S. Air Force  
Mueller, Peter L. – U.S. Army  
Schinkel, John A. – Monroe

Townes, Richard A. – U.S. Navy  
Wollberg, Jeffrey N. – Battle Creek

## Candidates

Ajak, Simon A. – Lansing  
Carter, Tyler D. – Grand Rapids  
Chaffee, Phillip W. – Rockford  
Corbett, Gerald H. – Eastpointe  
Dykstra, Kevin J. – Ann Arbor  
Gilson, Mark E. – Fruitport  
Grimm, David A. – Leonidas  
Hall, Matthew A. – Essexville  
Heiney, Timothy M. – Big Rapids  
Iqbal, Vincent – Battle Creek

Lambart, Kurt E. – Garden City  
Latham, Mark E. – Traverse City  
Maas, Korey – Hillsdale  
Masih, Afzal – Byron Center  
Parker, Harrison S. C. – Whitmore Lake  
Rossow, Justin P. – Brighton  
Talsma, Dale – Oakland Park, FL  
Weirauch, David M. – Fort Wayne, IN  
Weist, James D. – Traverse City  
Wentzel, Michael W. – Grand Rapids

## Emeriti

Ahlschwede, Dale C. – Birch Run  
Allan, Kenneth H. – Portage  
Allen, Michael S. – Essexville  
Arndt, Warren B. – Troy  
AuBuchon, Stanley R. – Monroe  
Aumann, Roger F. – Canton  
Auernhamer, Mark E. – Bridgeport  
Avers, Harold A. – Detroit  
Balzer, James G. – Sturgis  
Bartz, Robert O. – Three Rivers  
Bassett, Carl W. – Niles  
Batsky, Thomas E. – St. Joseph  
Beiderwieden, Theodore W. – Arcadia  
Bendewald, Jon D. – St. Joseph  
Benjamin, Scott E. – Clinton Twp.  
Bernthal, Kenneth G. – Gaylord  
Beyer, Charles E. – Bay City  
Bickel, Timothy A. – Shelby Twp.  
Bira, Clifford F. – Flushing  
Blain, James H. – Grand Rapids

Boecler, Paul A. – Grand Rapids  
Bogda, David W. – Three Rivers  
Brammeier, Arnold H. – Detroit  
Brandt, Mark D. – Frankenmuth  
Brazinsky, Thomas R. – Baroda  
Brelje, Larry E. – Kalamazoo  
Brinley, George W. – St. Johns  
Brueckner, Peter R. – St. Clair Shores  
Buckhahn, Charles F. – Saginaw  
Burgess, David F. – Sterling Heights  
Burow, E. Paul – Macomb  
Carey, Ralph W. – Grandville  
Carrier, John S. – Fort Gratiot  
Cashmer, Terry L. – Southgate  
Cate, William C. – Spring Lake  
Claus, Terry A. – Milford  
Clemons, Daniel F. – Alto  
Collin, Richard W. – Ewart  
Conrad, Robert J. – Norton Shores  
Cordes, Darowin E. – Manistee

Cottam, Bertrand J. – Grand Blanc  
 DeMeritt, Carl F., Jr. – Ypsilanti  
 Dodge, Christopher R. – Lansing  
 Doroh, Gerhardt A. – Columbus  
 Duerr, John M. – New Baltimore  
 Dufon, Dennis L. – Holland  
 Edenfield, Harry N. – Brownstown  
 Eggers, Robert M. – Saginaw  
 Eggert, James F. – Holt  
 Eichberger, Timothy M. – Port Huron  
 Eichinger, Kurt W. – Bay City  
 Elowsky, Earl W. – Hillman  
 Evanson, E. Dale – Waterford  
 Farah, Ronald R. – Bloomfield  
 Fitzgerald, Michael N. – Frankenmuth  
 Fleming, James E. – Rochester Hills  
 Flynn, Daniel J. – Whitmore Lake  
 Fremer, Joseph – Saranac  
 Fritz, Jeffrey M. – Roseville  
 Fulmer, Daniel R. – Charlevoix  
 Gaertner, Mark H. – Chesterfield  
 Garrison, Bradley G. – Fenton  
 Gatz, William A. – Jackson  
 Gerberding, Kieth A. – Southgate  
 Graves, K. Frank – Grand Rapids  
 Gray, Barton C. – Alpena  
 Greunke, Martin R. – Lansing  
 Griffin, Marvin A. – Allen Park  
 Grimm, Dale A. – Chelsea  
 Grimm, Gerald E. – Warren  
 Gruetzner, James M. – West Bloomfield  
 Guettler, Ronald H. – Royal Oak  
 Hackett, Thomas S. – Holland  
 Hagenow, Martin J. – Hemlock  
 Hamilton, George O. – Zeeland  
 Haupt, Dieter E. – Holland  
 Hauser, Larry A. – Bay City  
 Heins, John L. – Saline  
 Helms, Steven C. – Lapeer  
 Hensler, David H. – Clio  
 Hessler, William W. – Saginaw  
 Hill, Mark J. – Grand Blanc  
 Hillenbrand, Richard P. – Frankenmuth  
 Hinz, Clarence R. – Clinton Twp.  
 Hinz, Paul R. – Saginaw  
 Hinze, Dennis A. – Clinton Twp.  
 Hoese, Terry E. – Grand Rapids  
 Hoesman, C. William – Frankenmuth  
 Hollender, David E. – Caro  
 Hoogerhyde, Richard S. – Newaygo  
 Hubbard, Roger R. – Frankenmuth  
 Huber, David G. – Plymouth  
 Huner, Kenneth A. – Milan  
 Janetzke, Douglas K. – Midland  
 Johnson, David C. – Jackson  
 Johnson, L. Daniel – Hillsdale  
 Kaiser, John C. – Columbiaville  
 Kassen, John E. – Oxford  
 Kast, Edward L. – Saginaw  
 Keat, James D. – Leslie  
 Kilmer, Eric S. – Marlette  
 Kirchhoff, Donald G. – Ann Arbor  
 Kirschke, Gary A. – Wyoming  
 Koehler, Charles J. – Traverse City  
 Koeppen, Robert D. – Midland  
 Koessel, Eugene H. – Roseville  
 Kopper, Glenn P. – Hudsonville  
 Kostizen, Erwin – Highland  
 Koy, Norman A. – Sterling Heights  
 Krause, Daniel L. – Lake Ann  
 Krause, Fred C. – Trufant  
 Kroll, Micheal D. – East Lansing

Krueger, Dale B. – Kalamazoo  
 Kuhl, Charles W. – Sebewaing  
 Laeder, Richard P. – Lansing  
 Lahrman, William C. – Muskegon  
 Larsen, Peter E. – Wyoming  
 Lassanske, Dennis L. – Muskegon  
 Loeschke, David R. – Honor  
 Loesel, Andrew E. – Pinconning  
 Low, M. Robert – Mesick  
 Lutz, Michael J. – Shelby Twp.  
 McDonald, Gilbert K. – Clarkston  
 Maier, Paul L. – Kalamazoo  
 Mann, Dennis C. – Monroe  
 Mann, Robert H. – Port Huron  
 Marshall, Robert H. – Riverview  
 Martin, Frank H. – Carleton  
 Martin, Michael R. – East Lansing  
 McVey, Daniel J. – Howell  
 Melinat, Theodore C. – Pinconning  
 Metcalf, James E. – Allendale  
 Meyer, Craig M. – Sterling Heights  
 Monson, John R. – Troy  
 Moritz, Ronald C. – Marcellus  
 Morrison, Rodney L. – Saint Helen  
 Muck, Alan D. – Manitou Beach  
 Mueller, Barry L. – Richmond  
 Mundt, Richard E. – Hemlock  
 Nehring, Gary L. – Albion  
 Neigh, Dennis J. – Greenbush  
 Nemec, Donald P. – Drummond Island  
 Nickel, Peter S. – Huntington Woods  
 Nihiser, James L. – Traverse City  
 Nuffer, Richard T. – Williamsburg  
 Otten, William H. – Rochester Hills  
 Otto, Rodney D. – Grand Rapids  
 Pflug, Mark R. – Greenville  
 Plump, John T. – Cedar Crest, NM  
 Pohanka, John C. – Midland  
 Pollatz, Paul A. – Garden City  
 Pollatz, Raymond R., Jr. – Stanwood  
 Quardokus, Philip G. – St. Joseph  
 Ramthun, Marvin W. – Lapeer  
 Rauh, John W. – Wentzville, MO  
 Reed, David H. – Sebewaing  
 Reich, Arthur W. – Flint  
 Reith, Samuel B. – Sanford  
 Reusch, Jon W. – West Bloomfield  
 Richert, Cary M. – Caledonia  
 Roberts, Robert R. – Bay City  
 Rolf, James E. – Rochester  
 Roper, R. William – Jackson  
 Rossow, David E. – Swartz Creek  
 Ruediger, Paul G. – Rose City  
 Rynearson, Rodney R. – Frankenmuth  
 Sattelmeyer, Glenn O. – Rochester Hills  
 Schilke, Stephen E. – Bay City  
 Schinkel, John A. – Monroe  
 Schmitt, Frederick A. – Sterling Heights  
 Schneider, Paul H. – Gaylord  
 Schouweiler, James A. – Fremont  
 Schreiber, John R. – Coopersville  
 Schroeder, James E. – Scottville  
 Schroeder, Kenneth O. – Frankenmuth  
 Schroeder, Thomas L. – Milan  
 Schultz, Randall P. – Burton  
 Schultz, Robert J. – Freeland  
 Schultz, Ronald C. – Harbor Beach  
 Schwieger, Alan J. – East China  
 Seng, Dan L. – Battle Creek  
 Sheldon, Barry C. – Lexington  
 Sherry, David F. – Saginaw  
 Shuta, Richard J. – Ann Arbor

Smith, Robert W. – Frankenmuth  
Snider, Merelyn R. – Stockbridge  
Stahlhut, Stephen C. – Linden  
Starke, Stephen P. – Bay City  
Staufer, W. Roger - Sanford  
Steeh, Edward J. – Macomb  
Straub, John A. – Southgate  
Streufert, Daniel A. – St. Joseph  
Teske, Walter W. – Mesick  
Teuscher, Michael L. – Charlevoix  
Thiel, Steven E. – Freeland  
Thoms, Leo G. – Port Hope  
Traugott, Frederick W. – Macomb  
Travis, Howard S. – West Branch  
Trosien, Carl F. – Hemlock  
Turanski, Ted N. – Lake City  
Turner, James W. – Farmington Hills  
Van Dellen, James H. – Lake Orion  
Veitengruber, Donald P. – Greenville  
Verity, Timothy M. – Grand Rapids  
Wachholz, Dean C. – Saline  
Walsh, Jeffrey B. – Flint  
Walther, Galan D. – Waukesha, WI  
Wargo, Paul E. – Harsens Island  
Warsinski, Larry A. – Clyde  
Watters, Samuel P. – Canton  
Weber, James E. – Frankenmuth  
Weldon, John H. – Saginaw  
Wendt, Ernest C. – Fenton  
Wenskay, Lee C. – Pigeon  
Wentzel, Wayne H. – Clarkston  
Wernecke, John W. – Bay City  
Wilson, Richard G. – Minden City  
Winningham, David C. – Bay City  
Winter, William C. – Prudenville  
Witto, Lawrence E. – Fenton  
Wolfram, Richard J. – Howell  
Wollberg, Jeffrey N. – Bellevue  
Wurst, John F. – Lake Ann  
Yops, Bradley J. – Ann Arbor  
Young, Paul V. – Midland  
Zimmerman, Mark E. – Muskegon  
Zimmerman, Russell E. – Bay City



# Ministers of Religion - Ordained Roster Changes

March 2018 - February 2022

## Pastors Who Entered the District

Abatelli, Kirk W. (Mid-South District) to Sole Pastor, St. Mark, Saginaw  
Ahlersmeyer, Peter C. (Fort Wayne) to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Fenton  
Andrzejewski, Jakob A. (Fort Wayne) to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Royal Oak  
Auernahamer, Mark E. (Eastern District) as Candidate  
Auxter, Robert C. (Colloquy) to SMP, Grace, Monroe  
Bassett, Carl W. (Indiana District) as Emeritus  
Bato, Dinku L. (Minnesota South District) to Translation Project Coordinator, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb  
Baughman, Terry A. (St. Louis) to SMP, Crown of Life, Rochester Hills  
Bayer, Timothy A. (Fort Wayne) to St. Peter, St. Johns  
Beckett, Garrick S. (St. Louis) to Associate Pastor, Zion, Mt. Pleasant  
Benkendorf, Rodney A. (Missouri District) to Development Associate, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb  
Bentz, Tyson V. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison  
Berg, Peter M. (Northern Illinois District) to Pastor, Good Shepherd, Middleville  
Bickel, Timothy A. (Eastern District) as Emeritus  
Blevins, Scott L. (Colloquy) to SMP, St. Pauls, New Boston  
Bowditch, Mark A. (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) to Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Grand Rapids  
Bromm, Glen W. (Colloquy) to SMP, Living Water/Our Savior, Mio/Glennie  
Buday, Jacob P. (St. Louis) to Pastor, St. Matthew, Lexington  
Cate, William C. (Rocky Mountain District) as Emeritus  
Cerchez, Marin (Ft. Wayne) to Pastor, St. John, Jenison  
Corbett, Gerald (Colloquy) to SMP, Redemption, Sterling Heights  
Cornwell, Simeon (Ft. Wayne) to Pastor, St. Matthew, Spring Lake  
Cronkright, Tyler R. (St. Louis) to SMP, Family of God, Detroit  
Deneen, Christopher M. (St. Louis) to Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Lansing  
DeVries, Michael D. (Colloquy) to SMP, St. Trinity, Clarkston  
Dodge, Christopher R. (Minnesota South) as Candidate  
Dohanyos, Franklin J. (Colloquy) to SMP, St. Augustine, Troy  
Dowding, Robert G. (Colloquy) to SMP, Trinity, Lansing  
DuBois, David W. (Colloquy) to SMP, Immanuel, St. Clair  
Dykstra, Kevin J. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Open Arms, Belleville  
Engblade, August P. (Fort Wayne) to SMP, St. John's, Ludington  
Esterline, Sean (Indiana District) to Sole Pastor, First, Charlotte  
Foster, Charles Y. (Indiana District) to Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Macomb  
Frusti, James M. (Colloquy) to SMP, St. Paul, Northville  
Gaertner, Mark H. (Indiana District) as Emeritus  
Garcia, Adan C. (St. Louis) to Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Bay City  
Gawura, Mark A. (Colloquy) to SMP, First Lutheran, Charlotte  
Geisler, Robert G. (Colloquy) to SMP, Trinity Lutheran, Davison  
Geraci, Coleman K. (St. Louis) to St. Paul/St. Thomas, Milan/Ann Arbor  
Gladden, Dietrick A. (Pacific Southwest District) to Michigan District, LCMS deployed to Charity/Mt. Calvary, Detroit  
Goehmann, David P. (Nebraska District) to Senior Pastor, St. John's Evangelical, Ludington  
Greunke, Martin R. (Nebraska District) as Emeritus  
Hansen, Michael A. (St. Louis) to Assoc. Pastor, St. Matthew, Walled Lake  
Harrison, Daniel H. (Fort Wayne) to Sole Pastor, Christ, New Baltimore  
Hill, Mark J. (Ohio District) to IIP, St. Mark, Saginaw  
Hoffman, Charles R. (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) to Pastor, Christ, Boyne City  
Hoffman, Robert A. (Northern Illinois District) to St. Stephen, Waterford  
Holdorf, Zachary J. (North Wisconsin District) to Redeemer, Jackson  
Hopfensperger, Bryan L. (Minnesota North District) to Senior, Peace, Sandusky  
Huner, Kenneth A. (Reinstatement) to Emeritus  
Jones, Christian M. (St. Louis) to Michigan District, LCMS deployed to Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint  
Jones, Kyle E. (North Wisconsin) to Assoc. Pastor, St. John, Waltz  
Jung, Christopher D. (Northern Illinois) to St. Paul Community, Pontiac  
Kade, Timothy F. (English) to Assoc. Pastor, Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton  
Kern, Timothy D. (Fort Wayne) to Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Marlette  
Kersten, Alfred A. (Colloquy) to SMP, Immanuel, Alpena  
Koehn, Paul R. (Atlantic District) to St. Paul, Albion  
Kollek, Paul K. (Colloquy) to SMP, Hope, Linden  
Koppel, Alexander J. (Colloquy), Our Redeemer, Muskegon  
Kosberg, Adam P. (Southeastern District) to Sole Pastor, New Hope, Hudsonville  
Kreil, Dennis J. (Colloquy) to SMP, Messiah, Midland  
Lahrman, William C. (Indiana District) as Emeritus  
Lane, Marcus J. (Northwest District) to Assoc. Pastor, University Lutheran Chapel  
Langfeldt, Jack E. (Colloquy) to SMP, St. Mark, Battle Creek  
Latham, Mark E. (Northwest District) as Candidate  
LeClair, Timothy J. (Colloquy) to SMP, Family of God, Detroit



Loeschke, David R. (Rocky Mountain District) as Emeritus  
 Longden, Daniel R. (St. Louis) to SMP, First, Charlotte  
 Lyvere, Gary D. (Colloquy) to SMP, Our Savior, Midland  
 Mackie, Roger Lee (Kansas District) to IIP, Hosanna-Tabor, Redford  
 Mackowiak, John E. (Central Illinois District) as Emeritus  
 Magnuson, Scott S. (St. Louis) to SMP, Light of Christ, Marysville  
 Martinal, Timothy D. (Nebraska District) to Assoc. Pastor, St. Paul, Millington  
 Maske, Daniel S. (Missouri District) to Assoc. Pastor, St. Michael, Portage  
 Matheny, Mark T. (Fort Wayne) to Pastor, Pilgrim, Burton  
 Matro, Lawrence K. (Missouri District) to Board for International Missions – Area Facilitator  
 McCoy, Sean Q. (Oklahoma District) to Ascension, East Lansing  
 Miller, David L. (Colloquy) to SMP, St. Paul, Caledonia  
 Moore, Jeffery C. (Florida-Georgia District) to IIP, St. Matthew, Westland  
 Moran, David R. (Colloquy) to SMP, Christ, Marshall  
 Moritz, Ronald C. (Pacific Southwest District) to IIP, Trinity, Sturgis  
 Nelson, Robert J. (Missouri District) to LCMS Board of International Mission, Chaplain, US Air Force  
 Neuendorf, James A. (Missouri District) – LCMS Office of International Mission  
 Nevis, E. Enwood (Florida-Georgia District) to Pastor, St. Timothy, Otisville  
 Nieman, Ronald C. (Colloquy) to Assoc. Pastor, St. Mark, Flint  
 Nies, Jared R. (Minnesota North District) to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Lapeer  
 Nuffer, Richard T. (Indiana District) as Emeritus  
 Oelschlaeger, Benjamin G D (St. Louis) to Pastor, Good Shepherd, Lake Orion  
 Pahlkotter II, Henry G. (St. Louis) to SMP, Peace, Saginaw  
 Pearl, James M. (Colloquy) to St. Johns, St. Johns  
 Pezzica, Daniel W. (English District) to Pastor, Our Savior, Chelsea  
 Phifer, Phillip L. (Southern District) to Candidate  
 Philp, Paul A. (Missouri District) to Concordia University System deployed to Michigan  
 Plump, John T. (Rocky Mountain District) as Emeritus  
 Podeszwa, Michael A. (Eastern District) to Pastor, Immanuel, Wheeler  
 Pretznaw, Mark E. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Lamb of God, Flint  
 Reinsch, Mark C. (North Wisconsin District) as Emeritus  
 Richardson, Gale D. (Colloquy) to SMP, Beautiful Savior, Wellston  
 Richter, James F. (Northern Illinois District) to Michigan District, LCMS deployed to Grand Rapids as MAL  
 Rosche, Bryce S. (St. Louis) to Sole Pastor, St. Matthew, Westland  
 Rubino, Chris J. (Colloquy) to SMP, St. Mark, Kentwood  
 Schaeffer, Glenn E. (Alberta-British Columbia District of Lutheran Church) to St. James, Grand Rapids  
 Schierlinger, Joseph S. (Colloquy) to New Life in Christ, North Branch  
 Schumm, Mark E. (North Wisconsin District) to Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills  
 Sheridan, Timothy J. (Fort Wayne) to St. Luke, Harrison  
 Sherry, Jacob T. (Kansas District) to Trinity, Onkama  
 Sparks, Steven E. (Colloquy) to SMP, Atonement, Dearborn  
 Sproul, John M. (Missouri District) to IIP, Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills  
 Storck, Timothy D. (Rocky Mountain District) to Good Shepherd, Chesterfield  
 Streufert, Daniel A. (Indiana District) to Emeritus  
 Tinetti, Ryan (Northwest District) to Trinity, Arcadia  
 Trinklein, Jonathan B. (New Jersey District) to Associate Pastor, St. John, Rochester  
 Twietmeyer, Andrew R. (Fort Wayne) to Sole Pastor, Messiah, Grand Rapids  
 Veen, Evan C. (St. Louis) to Sole Pastor, Holy Redeemer, Dryden  
 Vossler, Christopher P. (Kansas District) to St. Paul, Sanford  
 Weirauch, David M. (Ohio District) to St. John/Immanuel, Rogers City  
 Wellhousen, Austin M. (St. Louis) to Assoc. Pastor, St. Matthew, Walled Lake  
 Werner, Mark A. (North Wisconsin District) to Sole Pastor, Messiah, Holt  
 Willman, Sean A. (South Wisconsin District) to Assoc. Pastor, St. Paul, Hillsdale  
 Witt, Lucas D. (Minnesota South District) as Candidate  
 Wittig, Brandon M. (St. Louis) to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Sawyer  
 Wojtowicz, Daniel A. (Fort Wayne) to SMP, Immanuel, Saginaw  
 Wright, Chad E. (Nebraska District) to Assoc. Pastor, Trinity, Utica  
 Yanke, Paul E. (English District) to Living Faith, Marine City

## Changes Within the District

Allmann, Robert F. (Emeritus) to IIP, Good Shepherd, Lansing  
 Arndt, Paul W. (Assoc. Pastor, Faith, Troy) to Missionary at Large, East Bethlehem, Detroit  
 Bassett, Carl W. (Emeritus) to IIP, Redeemer, Jackson  
 Behnke, Timothy J. (Pastor, St. John, Marion Springs) to Pastor, Faith, Bridgeport  
 Bender, Gary L. (IIP, Immanuel, Wheeler) to IIP, Trinity, Bay City  
 Bender, Gary L. (IIP, Trinity, Bay City) to IIP, Faith, Bay City  
 Boerger, Paul M. (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, St. Michael, Rogers City  
 Bookshaw, John A. (Emeritus) to IIP, Bethlehem, Lewiston  
 Bookshaw, John A. (Emeritus) to IIP, Our Savior, Scottville  
 Bruns, Benjamin R. (Associate Pastor, Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton) to Senior Pastor, Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton  
 Brunworth, Todd J. (Emeritus) to IIP, Redeemer, Fremont  
 Burgess, Jeffrey S. (Sole Pastor, St. Matthew, Mancelona) to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Hamburg

Clark, Paul M. (Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Fowler) to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Fowler

Collin, Richard W. (Emeritus) to IIP, St. Johns, Ludington

Courson, Larry G. (IIP, St. Michael's, Richville) to Sole Pastor, Open Arms, Belleville

Courson, Larry G. (Emeritus) to IIP, St. Michael's, Richville

Cronkright, Tyler R. (SMP, Family of God, Detroit) to Dual Parish of Family of God/St. Stephen, Detroit

Davis, David A. (Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett) to Associate Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett

Doede, Mark R. (SMP, Our Shepherd, Birmingham) to Pastor, Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods

Dumbrille, Dean G. (Sole Pastor, Trinity, Fenton) to Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Flint

Dunseth, Thomas W. (Candidate) to Associate Pastor, St. Paul/Christ Our Savior, Flint

Dupre, Brian C. (Berea, Detroit/Greenfield Peace, Detroit) to Faith, Detroit

Dupre, Brian C. (Faith, Detroit/St. Paul, Farmington Hills) to Shadow of the Cross, Farmington Hills

Eggert, James F. (IIP, Holy Cross, Jenison) to IIP, First, Charlotte

Engel, Brant A. (Sole Pastor, Christ the King, Flint) to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Flint dual parish with Christ the King, Flint

Fischer, Thomas F. (Emeritus) to Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Bridgman

Fleming, David C. (Senior Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids) to Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids

Fleming, David C. (Senior Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids) to Associate Pastor of Spiritual Care, Doxology, Brookfield, WI

Flynn, Daniel J. (Associate Pastor, St. Luke, Ann Arbor) to IIP, Stephen, Waterford

Gaertner, Evan P. (Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Hamburg) to Senior Pastor, Our Shepherd, Birmingham

Gizynski, Richard C. (Candidate) to Peace, Warren

Goers, Michael M. (Sole Pastor, St. Matthew, Spring Lake) to Senior Pastor, Trinity, Traverse City

Grannis, Michael J. (Associate Pastor, Open Arms, Belleville) to Pastor, Calvary, Lincoln Park

Graves, K. Frank (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, Mt. Olive, Grand Rapids

Grenz, Greyson D. (Sole Pastor, Trinity, Wyandotte) to Dual Parish of Trinity/Community, Wyandotte/Flat Rock

Hales, Henry J. (Sole Pastor, St. John, Palms) to Sole Pastor, St. John/Trinity, Palms/Minden City

Hansen, John G. (SMP, Peace, Ludington) to Peace/Lighthouse, Ludington/Pentwater

Heimsoth, Jeffrey E. (Senior Pastor, Trinity, Monroe) to IIM, St. Peter's, Eastpointe

Hein, Matthew C. (Assoc. Pastor, St. Luke, Ann Arbor) to Senior Pastor, New Life, Swartz Creek

Hill, James M. (Assoc. Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Livonia) to Senior Pastor, Family of God, Detroit

Hooper, William J. (Pastor, Christ, White Cloud) to Pastor, Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta

Howard, Daniel C. (SMP, Hope, Warren) to Senior Pastor, Hope, Warren

Hubbard, Bradley H. (Senior Pastor, St. Mark, Battle Creek) to Senior Pastor, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Johnson, Randy L. (Sole Pastor, St. John, Cheboygan) to CMMF, Michigan District, Ann Arbor

Johnson, Russell D. (Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Clinton Twp.) to Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Holland

Kilponen, Roger R. (Emeritus) to Pastor, Drummond Island, Drummond Island

Kilponen, Roger R. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, St. John, Cheboygan

Kleimola, Dale M. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, Grace, Leslie

Koltz, Gary E. (Good Shepherd, Lake Orion) to Missionary, Gethsemane, Rochester Hills (deployed to FL)

Koppel, Alexander J. (Candidate) to Sole Pastor, Saint Stephens, Shelby

Koy, Norman A. (Emeritus) to IIP, Living Word, Plymouth

Krupsky, Justin A. (Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica) to Senior Pastor, Trinity, Utica

Kruse, Paul G. (Candidate) to Pastor, St. John, Houghton Lake

Kuehl, Kyle I (Pastor, Trinity, Newberry) to Pastor of multi-congregation Trinity/Grace/Bethlehem, Newberry/Germfask/Engadine

Laeder, Richard P. (Emeritus) to IIP, Grace, Leslie

Lemley, Keith H. (IIP, Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills) to IIP, St. Luke, Harrison

Lemley, Keith H. (IIP, St. Luke, Harrison) to IIP, Holy Redeemer, Dryden

Lemley, Keith H. (IIP, Holy Redeemer, Dryden) to IIP, GoodLife, Rochester Hills

Lett, Randy D. (Emeritus) to St. John, Port Sanilac

Lewis Sr., Bertram B. (Tabernacle of Praise, Canton) to St. Philip, Detroit

Mackie, Roger L. (Emeritus) to IIP, St. Peter's, Big Rapids

Matro, Lawrence K. (Candidate) to Trinity, Sturgis

Mau, Gerhard (Emeritus) to Hosanna-Tabor, Redford

Meckes, Daniel C. (Living Word, Rochester) to Assoc. Pastor, Journey, Oxford

Meyer, Edward A. (Pastor, St. Mark, Saginaw) to Pastor, Immanuel, Bridgman

Neigh, Dennis J. (Pastor, Good Shepherd, Ossineke/Faith, Harrisville) to Pastor, Faith, Harrisville

Newton, Steven M. (Pastor, Grace, Canton) to Pastor, Grace, Canton/Salem, Westland

Phifer, Phillip L. (Candidate) to Pastor, Trinity, Paw Paw

Polzin, Joseph W.B. (Mt. Hope/Trinity, Grayling/Gaylord) to Senior Pastor, Christ Our King, Saline

Potts, Daniel A. (Associate, Trinity, Monroe) to Senior Pastor, Trinity, Monroe

Pronsati, Andrew M. (Assoc., St. Paul, Trenton) to Peace, Ann Arbor

Prout, David L. (Candidate) to IIM, Immanuel, Dearborn Heights

Prout, David L. (IIM, Peace, Warren) to IIM, Cedar Crest, White Lake

Reinsch, Mark C. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Cedar

Riggs, Robert V. (IIM, Christ, Marshall) to IIM, Holy Cross, Flushing

Riggs, Robert V. (IIM, St. Paul, Hamburg) to IIM, Christ, Marshall

Riggs, Robert V. (Sole Pastor, Calvary, Carson City) to IIM, St. Paul, Hamburg

Roland, Ronald B. (Candidate) to Sole Pastor, St. Andrew, Memphis

Ruhl, Michael R. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Pinckney

Schaedig, Michael W. (St. Luke, Harrison) to St. John, Cheboygan

Schilke, Stephen E. (IIP, Hope, Linden) to IIP, Zion, Bay City

Schmidt, Erik R. (Community, Flat Rock) to Senior Pastor, Peace, Saginaw

Schneider, Paul H. (Emeritus) to IIP, Bethany, Charlevoix

Schuler, Matthew G. (Holy Cross, Oxford) to Senior Pastor, Journey, Oxford

Schultz, Roderick D. (Candidate) to Sole Pastor, St. Luke, Clinton Twp.  
 Selim, Timothy C. (SMP, Emmanuel, Cadillac) to SMP, Faith, Mesick  
 Snider, Merelyn R. (IIP, Trinity, Pinckney) to Emeritus  
 Sommerfeld, Scott G. (IIP, Trinity, Utica) to IIP, Trinity, Jackson  
 Sommerfeld, Scott G. (IIP, Trinity, Jackson) to IIP, Community, Flat Rock  
 Sproul, John M. (IIP, Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills) to Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Ann Arbor  
 Starner, Matthew L. (SMP Journey of Faith, Byron Center) to SMP, St. Matthew, Grand Rapids  
 Stauffer, W. Roger (Chaplain, MidMichigan Medical Center, Saginaw) to Associate Pastor, Peace, Saginaw  
 Stahl, Michael G. (Pastor, Trinity-St. James, Munger) to Religion Instructor, Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw  
 Straub, Roger K. (Pastor Good Shepherd, Lansing) to IIP, Calvary, Carson City  
 Sutton, A. Trevor (Associate Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett) to Senior Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett  
 Swem, Jeremy M. (Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids) to Senior Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids  
 Townes Jr., Richard A. (Chaplain) to Bethel, Howard City  
 Undlin, Paul J. (Senior Pastor, Hosanna-Tabor, Redford) to St. Trinity, Clarkston  
 Voll, Theodore E. (Emeritus) to IIP, Faith, Prescott  
 Walworth, Tyler A. (Associate Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham) to Dual Parish as Associate Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham and Sole Pastor, Our Savior of the Deaf, Birmingham  
 Walworth, Tyler A. (Associate Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham) to Dual Parish as Associate Pastor, Emmanuel, Dearborn and Sole Pastor, Our Savior of the Deaf, Birmingham)  
 Warsinski, Larry A. (Emeritus) to IIP, Pilgrim, Burton  
 Weldon, John H. (IIP, Faith, Bridgeport) to IIP, Trinity, St. James, Munger  
 Wentzel, Wayne H. (Emeritus) to IIP, Good Shepherd, Lake Orion  
 Wenzelburger, Kurt R. (Senior Pastor, St. Johns, Grand Haven) to Senior Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb  
 West, Brian D. (Assoc. Pastor, Trinity, Clinton Twp.) to Senior Pastor, Holy Cross, Jenison

### **Transferred to Other Districts**

Adams, Caleb M. (Assoc. Pastor, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth) to California-Nevada-Hawaii District  
 Allwardt, William H. (Emeritus) to Missouri District  
 Bartzsch, Thomas (Emeritus) to Mid-South District  
 Bassett, Carl W. (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
 Bayer, Robert F. (Emeritus) to Nebraska District  
 Belinsky, Michael G. (Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Benzonia) to Nebraska District  
 Boedecker, David E. (Emeritus) to Missouri District  
 Bowditch, Mark A. (Board for International Missions, USAF) to CNH District  
 Bushuiakovish, Mark R. (Associate Pastor, Christ the King, Southgate) to Mid-South District  
 Cook, Joshua H. (Candidate) to Indiana District  
 Culbertston, Tige A.C. (Assoc., Messiah, Midland) to SELC District  
 Duchene, Michael (Candidate) to Florida-Georgia District  
 Eickmann, Robert E. (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
 Gadeken, Robert G. (Emeritus) to Missouri District  
 Gemi, Michael A. (Redeemer, Jackson) to Southeastern District  
 Gledhill, Eric A. (Trinity, Paw Paw) to Missouri District  
 Griffith, Greg S. (Senior Pastor, Immanuel, Macomb) to Nebraska District  
 Herrod, J. Robert (First, Algonac) to Southeastern District  
 Hess, Joel A. (Pastor, Emmanuel, Cadillac) to Northern Illinois District  
 Hile, John A. (Pastor, Heart of the Shepherd, Howell) to English District  
 Holls, Joel M. (Emeritus) to English District  
 James, Roger B. (LCMS OIM) to Indiana District  
 Jansen, Daniel L. (Candidate) to English District  
 Johnson, Scott E. (Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Hillsdale) to North Wisconsin District  
 Lee, Martin E. (IIP, St. Johns, St. John) to Eastern District  
 Lunneberg, Allen D. (Emeritus) to English District  
 Mackowiak, John E. (Emeritus) to Ohio District  
 Massey, Steven M. (Candidate) to Northern Illinois District  
 Mau, Gerhard (Emeritus) to Pacific Southwest District  
 Merrill, John E. (Emeritus) to South Dakota District  
 Miller, Randy J. (Pastor, Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills) to Texas District  
 Moore, Jeffery C. (IIP, St. Matthew, Westland) to Kansas District  
 Mueller, Howard W. (Emeritus) to Texas District  
 Mueller, John F. (Teacher, Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw) to Northern Illinois District  
 Mueller, Peter L. (Emeritus) to Southeastern District  
 Nelson, Robert J. (Associate Pastor, St. Matthew, Walled Lake) to Missouri District  
 Nuttmann, Quentin T. (St. Peter, St. John) to Kansas District  
 Ouellette, Dennis E. (LAMP Ministry) to Indiana District  
 Parent, Raymond D. (Redford, Detroit) to Southern District  
 Penhallegon, Philip W. (Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Missouri District  
 Rockemann, Larry W. (Sevierville, TN) to Mid-South District  
 Rohwer, Gary (Atonement, Dearborn) to Oklahoma District  
 Rossow, Richard H. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District  
 Rufner, David J. (Candidate) to Pacific Southwest District  
 Schmidt, David P. (St. Paul, Royal Oak) to Mid-South District

Seaver, Wade M. (Hope, Bellaire) to English District  
 Siefert, Gary L. (IIP, St. Paul's, Farmington Hills) to Northwest District  
 Sutton, David J. (Pastor, Our Savior, Marlette) to North Wisconsin District  
 Thompson, Bert A. (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District  
 Trinklein, Jonathan B. (Candidate) to New Jersey District  
 Ulledalen, Benjamin J. (Associate, Zion, Mt. Pleasant) to Northwest District  
 Vanderbilt, Thomas W. (Messiah, Holt) to Iowa West District  
 Voigt, Eric W. (Rogers City) to Minnesota South District  
 Washington, Oliver C. (Candidate) to English District  
 Weiss, David E. (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District  
 Witt, Lucas D. (Auburn Hills) to Southeastern District  
 Wonderly, Daniel A. - (Grand Blanc) to North Wisconsin District  
 Wuggazer, Mark T. - (Macomb) to Texas District  
 Wurst, Robert W. - (Maple City) to Missouri District  
 Yeager, Christopher J. (Associate Pastor, Christ, Stevensville) to Southern District  
 Zagore, Robert M. (Traverse City) to Missouri District

## INACTIVE

### Inactive – Candidate Status

Carter, Tyler D. (4/15/2021)	Kral, John T. (6/30/2020)
Chaffee, Phillip W. (8/6/2018)	Kruse, Paul G. (6/5/2018)
Cook, Joshua H. (2/25/2018)	Lambart, Kurt E. (1/31/2018)
Corbett, Gerald H. (6/28/2021)	Lett, Randy D. (10/1/2020)
Duchene, Michael G. (5/6/2019)	Masih, Afzal (10/18/2021)
Dunseth, Thomas W. (4/1/2020)	Parker, Harrison (10/26/2020)
Dykstra, Kevin J. (12/31/2021)	Prout, David L. (2/1/2020)
Eberlein, Scott P. (1/26/2019)	Rossow, Justin P. (7/1/2019)
Gilson, Mark E. (8/2/2021)	Schultz, Roderick D. (1/1/2020)
Grimm, David A. (7/1/2020)	Trinklein, Jonathan (1/1/2020)
Hall, Matthew A. (9/1/2021)	Weirauch, David M. (2/28/2022)
Jansen, Daniel (8/31/2020)	Wentzel, Michael W. (7/1/2020)
Koppel, Alexander J. (9/13/2021)	

### Inactive – Emeritus

Auernhamer, Mark E. (7/26/2021)	Griffin, Marvin A. (8/16/2019)
Bartz, Robert O. (5/1/2020)	Grimm, Dale A. (7/1/2018)
Bartzsck, Thomas (12/31/2018)	Helms, Steven C. (7/6/2020)
Bassett, Carl W. (9/16/2021)	Herrod, J. Robert (9/9/2019)
Bayer, Robert F. (1/14/2019)	Hill, Mark J. (1/1/2022)
Benjamin, Scott E. (4/22/2019)	Hinz, Paul R. (1/5/2017) **
Bira, Clifford F. (7/15/2021)	Johnson, L. Daniel (7/1/2021)
Bode, Arthur J. (4/4/2021)	Kaiser, John C. (5/10/2019)
Boedecker, David E. (5/1/2020)	Kassen, John E. (2/15/2021)
Boerger, Paul M. (6/4/2018)	Kilponen, Roger R. (4/28/2019)
Bogda, David W. (12/31/2017)	Koy, Norman A. (11/15/2021)
Bookshaw, John A. (7/1/2018)	Koy, Norman A. (12/30/2019)
Bookshaw, John A. (10/12/2020)	Laeder, Richard P. (7/1/2018)
Brandt, Mark D. (1/1/2021)	Laeder, Richard P. (2/29/2020)
Brunworth, Todd J. (3/16/2020)	Low, M. Robert (8/31/2019)
Buckhahn, Charles F. (6/30/2018)	Lunneberg, Allen D. (2/1/2019)
Bye, Thomas W. (8/29/2021)	Martin, Frank H. (3/21/2018)
Carrier, John S. (7/1/2021)	Martin, Michael R. (4/22/2019)
Cashmer, Terry L. (11/19/2018)	Masih, Afzal (9/1/2021)
Collin, Richard W. (7/16/2018)	Mau, Gerhard (8/2/2021)
Collin, Richard W. (2/1/2020)	Metcalf, James E. (10/30/2018)
Conradt, Robert J. (7/1/2018)	Moritz, Ronald C. (6/1/2019)
Courson, Larry G. (6/28/2020)	Morrison, Rodney L. (10/3/2021)
DeMeritt, Carl F. (6/1/2018)	Muck, Alan D. (1/1/2020)
Dockery, Daniel L. (8/1/2021)	Mueller, Barry L. (7/5/2021)
Dodge, Christopher R. (8/7/2021)	Mueller, Peter L. (1/31/2018)
Duerr, John M. (4/1/2020)	Neigh, Dennis J. (12/28/2020)
Eggert, James F. (1/31/2022)	Nemec, Donald P. (6/1/2020)
Eichinger, Kurt W. (6/1/2018)	Nickel, Peter S. (8/1/2018)
Eickmann, Robert E. (3/4/2018)	Nihiser, James L. (1/11/2021)
Farah, Ronald R. (6/1/2018)	Ouellette, Dennis E. (2/1/2020)
Fischer, Thomas F. (9/1/2021)	Reith, Samuel R. (6/1/2020)
Flynn, Daniel J. (9/1/2019)	Rockemann, Larry W. (1/1/2020)
Fremer, Joseph (3/1/2022)	Roper, R. William (6/22/2020)
Gadeken, Robert G. (7/1/2020)	Rossow, David E. (7/12/2021)
Graves, K. Frank (1/1/2019)	Schilke, Stephen E. (2/7/2022)

Schinkel, John A. (8/30/2019)  
Schneider, Paul H. (5/27/2019)  
Schroeder, James E. (4/29/2019)  
Schroeder, Thomas L. (1/1/2021)  
Schultz, Randall (10/1/2021)  
Schultz, Ronald C. (1/27/2020)  
Schwieger, Alan J. (9/1/2021)  
Sheldon, Barry C. (1/1/2020)  
Sherry, David F. (10/1/2019)  
Starke, Stephen P. (1/1/2021)  
Stauffer, W. Roger (9/1/2020)  
Thiel, Steven E. (11/1/2021)  
Travis, Howard (11/3/2021)  
Ulm, David M. (1/1/2020)

Voll, Theodore E. (4/29/2019)  
Walsh, Jeffrey B. (4/27/2020)  
Walther, Galan D. (1/1/2022)  
Warsinski, Larry A. (8/24/2020)  
Watters, Samuel P. (1/1/2021)  
Weldon, John H. (10/9/2021)  
Wentzel, Wayne H. (6/6/2021)  
Wilson, Richard G. (1/1/2019)  
Winningham, David C. (7/1/2018)  
Wolfram, Richard J. (7/1/2018)  
Wollberg, Jeffrey N. (9/29/2018)  
Wurst, John F. (4/29/2018)  
Yops, Bradley J. (12/1/2019)  
Young, Paul V. (10/28/2018)

### **Resigned From Roster**

Eberlein, Scott P. (2/24/2022)  
Ekong, Eric I. (4/18/2018)  
Kral, John T. (8/24/2020)  
Milatz, Mark D. (12/2/2018)  
Williams, Jonathan V. (1/21/2021)

### **Reinstated To Roster**

Huner, Kenneth (9/20/2021)

### **Removed From Roster**

Willenbrock, William K. (10/27/2021)

### **Called To Glory**

Ackerman, James L. (8/15/2020)  
Bahr, Albert W. (11/20/2021)  
Bode, Arthur J. (1/24/2022)  
Boehne, Thomas V. (10/25/2018)  
Brown, Robert E. (9/29/2018)  
Cantele, John A. (11/26/2018)  
Dockery, Daniel (2/19/2022)  
Douglas, Venice C. (7/5/2018)  
Downs, G. Travis (1/24/2021)  
Essenburg, Steven J. (1/23/2020)  
Filbert, Bernhard W. (11/23/2019)  
Fluegge, Wilton H. (3/10/2019)  
Hakes, David E. (9/20/2019)  
Headapohl, Gary D. (6/21/2021)  
Henneman, Harry C. (8/25/2020)  
Hoft, Thees C. (1/12/2019)  
Kaarre, David M. (7/22/2021)  
Kenitz, Terry W. (4/25/2018)  
Kinne, Lawrence A. (5/25/2018)  
Kromer, John C. (6/25/2019)

Krugler, Richard A. (9/2/2019)  
Merrell, William D. (4/6/2021)  
Neisch, Waldemar O. (6/29/2020)  
Olson, Timothy W. (5/30/2018)  
Pankratz, Adolph W. (11/7/2020)  
Paulson, Warren L. (10/13/2020)  
Schemm, Milton R. (2/13/2021)  
Schneider, Keith A. (7/22/2018)  
Schoof, Armond D. (2/12/2019)  
Schroeder, Roy P. (1/20/2021)  
Schudlich, Gerald E. (10/27/2021)  
Shackell, Maurice G. (4/2/2018)  
Thomas, Raymond K. (4/22/2018)  
Ulm, David M. (5/26/2020)  
Waidelich, Carl W. (5/7/2019)  
Weis, C. William (5/30/2018)  
Westphal, Leroy R. (4/18/2020)  
White, Harry W. (10/7/2021)  
Williams, Rodger L. (4/3/2019)  
Zielke, Kenneth E. (4/26/2021)

### **New Missions Added**

Grand Rapids, The Vine (10/13/2019)  
Leonidas, Creator's Praise (7/5/2020)  
Clinton Township, Cross Point Church (8/11/2021)

### **New Missions Disbanded**

Rehoboth Evangelical Lutheran Church (4/29/2019)  
\*\*Trinity Sudanese Lutheran Ministry (12/31/2017)  
Manistique, Victory (1/29/2021)

### **Congregations Added**

Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross (3/10/2019)  
Oxford, Journey (1/24/2021)

\*\*Occurred during 2015-2018 Triennium but not reported.

## **Congregations Disbanded**

Byron Center, Journey of Faith (6/30/2019)  
Cedar Crest, White Lake (1/13/2020)  
Comstock Park, Family of Christ (8/5/2018)  
Detroit, Redford (6/14/2020)  
Harrisville, Faith (12/27/2020)  
Muskegon, Our Redeemer (9/13/2021)  
Newport, Christ Our Shepherd (2/28/2022)  
Plymouth, Living Word (11/15/2021)  
Quincy, Prince of Peace (7/15/2018)  
Ray, Living Hope of the Bay (6/30/2019)  
Rochester Hills, Incarnate Word (11/24/2018)  
Romulus, Tabernacle of Praise (9/15/2019)  
Sterling Heights, Redemption (6/27/2021)  
Westland, Our Saviour (7/13/2021)

## **Congregations Merged**

Detroit, Faith and Farmington Hills, St. Paul to form Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross (3/3/2019)  
Muskegon, Our Redeemer to Muskegon, Trinity (9/13/2021)  
Oxford, Holy Cross and Rochester, Living Word to form Oxford, Journey (1/24/2021)

## **Congregations Transferred to Another District**

Bellaire, Hope (2/13/2020)

## **Satellites Removed**

Brownstown, Connections from St. Paul, Trenton (9/15/2020)

## Ministers of Religion - Ordained Anniversaries

### In 2018

#### 60 Years

Boecler, Paul  
Heins, John  
Krueger, Dale  
Maier, Paul  
Paulson, Warren  
Westphal, Leroy

#### 50 Years

Avers, Harold  
Fritz, Jeffrey  
Kirchhoff, Donald  
Koeppen, Robert  
Krause, Fred  
Mann, Robert  
Seng, Dan  
Waidelich, Carl

#### 40 Years

Buckhahn, Charles  
Kilponen, Roger  
Metcalf, James  
Rockemann, Larry W.  
Trosien, Carl  
Warsinski, Larry

#### 25 Years

Andrzejewski, Darryl  
Brueckner, Peter  
Cashmer, Jason  
Cullen, D. Lee  
Duncan, Randall  
Dunseth, Thomas  
Frusti, Todd  
Heidt, Brian  
Kaiser, Joel  
Loewe, Timothy  
Majeski, Eric  
Prout, David  
Steele, Cameron  
Weiss, David

### In 2019

#### 60 Years

Rynearson, Rodney  
Schudlich, Gerald

#### 50 Years

Greunke, Martin  
Grimm, Gerald  
Loesel, Andrew  
Otto, Rodney  
Pollatz, Paul  
Ramthun, Marvin  
Schroeder, Kenneth  
Traugott, Frederick

#### 40 Years

Boedecker, David  
Boerger, Paul  
Conradt, Robert  
Courson, Larry  
Fienen, Daniel  
Herzog, John  
Hinze, Dennis  
Hoese, Terry  
Kassen, John  
Kleimola, Dale  
Lunneberg, Allen  
Martin, Michael  
Schinkel, John  
Schultz, Randall  
Schwieger, Alan  
Sherrill, North  
Zimmerman, Russell

#### 25 Years

Fitzgerald, Michael  
Robinson, Richard  
Schindel, Bryan  
Townes Jr., Richard

### In 2020

#### 60 Years

Earl Elowsky  
E. Dale Evanson  
Harry White

#### 50 Years

Kenneth Bernthal  
Robert Eggers  
Barton Gray  
C. William Hoesman  
Gary Kirschke  
James Van Dellen  
Lee Zabrocki

#### 40 Years

Roger Aumann  
Mark Brandt  
Charles Burhop  
Dale Grimm  
Martin Hagenow  
Mark Hill  
John Kaiser  
Terry Nelson  
Robert Wagner  
Galan Walther  
Paul Wargo

#### 25 Years

Mark Auernhamer  
Mark Couch  
Christopher Fairbairn  
Kurt Kuhlmann  
Steven Mahlburg  
James Richter  
Paul Schneider  
Edward Steeh

## **In 2021**

### **70 Years**

Albert Bahr

### **60 Years**

Larry Brelje

Darowin Cordes

William Gatz

Keith Gerberding

John Monson

Robert Rahn

### **50 Years**

Terry Cashmer

Terry Claus

Richard Collin

Gerhardt Doroh

Mark Gaertner

Larry Hauser

Michael Ruhl

John Weldon

### **40 Years**

Robert Bartz

Thomas Batsky

Clifford Bira

David Burgess

Thomas Bye

Marvin Griffin

Lee Daniel Johnson

Walter Keller

Kenneth Lueke

Paul Moldenhauer

Jon Reusch

### **25 Years**

Arul Alexander

Timothy Brand

Timothy Kade

Daniel Kempin

Kurt Lambart

Bruce Lucas

Jason Mandley

Robert Mikkelson

Dennis Rahn

Gary Siefert

Paul Wolff



## Officers

### The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President (2023)  
1st Vice-President: Rev. Peter K. Lange (2023)  
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr. (2023)  
3rd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Scott Murray (2023)  
4th Vice-President: Rev. Nabil S. Nour (2023)  
5th Vice-President: Rev. Christopher S. Esget (2023)

6th Vice-President: Rev. Benjamin T. Ball (2023)  
Secretary: Rev. Dr. John W. Sias (2023)  
Chief Administrative Officer: Mr. Frank Simek (Appointed)  
Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Nathan Hawk (Appointed)  
Chief Mission Officer: Rev. Kevin D. Robson (Appointed)

### Michigan District

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President (2022)

1st Vice-President: Rev. Mark D. Brandt (2022)  
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Dean M. Davenport (2022)  
Secretary: Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski (Appointed)

3rd Vice-President: Rev. David A. Davis (2022)  
4th Vice-President: Rev. John M. Duerr (2022)  
Treasurer: Mrs. Bonnie L. Mann (Appointed)

### Michigan District Circuit Visitors

(2022)

1. Charles B. Burhop  
2. Jason L. Mandley  
3. Frederick T. Cordts  
4. William C. Winter  
5. Daniel A. Kempin  
6. Erwin M. Hutter  
7. Kenneth D. Lueke  
8. G. Stevens Bagnall  
9. Gary L. Bender  
10. William W. Hessler  
11. David H. Hensler  
12. Todd A. Biermann  
13. Gary L. Beck  
14. Gerhard A. Doroh  
15. E. Paul Burow

16. Craig M. Meyer  
17. Matthew G. Schuler  
18. Peter S. Nickel  
19. Jeffrey D. Frechette  
20. Harold A. Avers  
21. Eddie Morales  
22. Greyson D. Grenz  
23. Mark K. Witte  
24. Andrew D. Gruenhagen  
25. Terry A. Nelson  
26. Joel S. Eden  
27. Thomas L. Schroeder  
28. Donald O. Neuendorf  
29. Joel H. Sarrault

31. Matthew A. Peters  
32. Mark E. Berlin  
33. Dennis D. Rahn  
34. Paul A. Tonn  
35. William R. Wangelin  
36. Edward W. Filter  
37. Jeffrey M. Wilhelm  
38. Dennis L. Lassanske  
39. Ryan A. Winningham  
40. Jason P. Peterson  
41. Timothy J. Brand  
42. Karl N. Streng  
43. Michael J. Roth  
44. Kurt P. Kuhlmann

## Boards and Committees

### Board of Directors

#### Region

Metro East: (2025)  
West: (2025)  
Metro West: (2022)  
North & East: (2022)

#### Ordained

Timothy R. Bollinger  
Craig L. Bickel  
Paul M. Moldenhauer  
J. Derek Riddle

#### Commissioned

Natalie A. Haupt  
Lori S. Wieneke  
Daniel R. Burk  
Eric M. Hagenow

#### Laypersons

Stephen R. Boergert  
Cheri McConomy  
Scott Beam  
Dale D. Gust  
Alicia Winget  
O. Dennis Sohn  
Robert V. Brooks, Jr.  
Jeffrey Reinbold

Advisory Members: Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, Rev. Mark D. Brandt, Rev. Dean M. Davenport, Rev. David A. Davis, Rev. John M. Duerr, Mrs. Bonnie Mann, Rev. Michael J. Roth, Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski

### Church Extension Fund Board of Trustees

#### Rosters

Robert B. Appold (2022)  
Julian Petzold (2022)  
Erik K. Cloeter (2025)

#### Laypersons

Julie C. Hoegeman (2022)  
Kurt C. Kuck (2022)  
Timothy H. Haberling (2025)  
Jeffrey T. Roscoe (2025)  
Eric Prisby (2022)  
David C. C. Eberhard (2025)

District President Representative: John M. Duerr

Staff: James R. Saalfeld, CEO; John Bates, President; Andrew Sohn, VP – Marketing and Relations

### 2022 Convention Nomination Committee

#### Region

Metro East:  
Metro West:  
North & East:  
West:

#### Ordained

Thomas F. Fischer  
Andrew D. Gruenhagen  
J. Derek Riddle  
Robert B. Appold

#### Commissioned

Matthew Tschudy  
Matthew D. M. Dummann  
Stephanie L. Baarck  
Luke M. Esselman

#### Laypersons

Laura J. Davis  
Philip M. Krauss II  
John W. Nutzmann  
William L. Boice

## Commission on Church Worker Care

### Ordained

Daniel W. Ramthun  
John R. Rathje  
Robert E. Kasper

### Commissioned

Eric D. Steinke  
Andrea E. Johnson  
Dawn M. Rupe  
Jennifer M. Smith

### Laypersons

Christie Hansard  
Kathy A. Krause

### Ex-Officio

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

## Commission on Deacon Qualification

### Ordained

Rev. Todd I. Frusti  
Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper, Advisory  
Rev. Dr. Todd Jones, Advisory  
Rev. Kenneth A. Huner

### Laypersons

Mrs. Christine Brown  
Mr. Christopher Townley

### Commissioned

Mrs. Kathy A. Schurig

## District Reconcilers

Mr. George M. McCain  
Mr. Duane F. Nagel  
Mrs. Ruth Martin

Rev. Michael J. Roth  
Rev. Joseph Polzin  
Rev. Joel Hoyer

## New/Revised Constitution Committee

Rev. Theodore E. Voll, Chairman  
Rev. Arnold H. Brammeier  
Mr. Aaron J. Baylis  
Mr. Keith Altenburg

## District Legal Council

Mr. Mark W. Doran

## District Standing Committees

### **Stewardship Committee:**

Rev. Douglas M. Adams, Rev. Eric S. Black, Mr. Ronald J. Chewning, Rev. John M. Duerr,  
Rev. Daniel C. Meckes, Mrs. Laura Thomas, Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram

## District Committees

### **Endowment Advisory Council:**

Mr. Steve Eyerman, Mr. Jeremy Frank, Mr. Greg Hildebrand, Mrs. Peggy Korzen, Mr. Stephen List, Mrs. Bonnie L. Mann, Mr. Daniel Nickodemus. Non-Voting Members: Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, Mr. Chad R. Woltemath, Mr. Raymond J. Zavada

### **Junior High Gathering Planning Committee:**

Rev. Jason C. Bauer, Mrs. Kathy Duvendeck, Mr. Luke Esselman, Mrs. Janelle Meckes, Mrs. Stephanie Rummel

### **Senior High Gathering Planning Committee:**

Mr. James Anderson, Rev. James Bruner, Mrs. Kristin Hardy, Ms. Natalie Haupt, Mrs. Mary Koboldt, Mrs. Jennifer Rossi, Mrs. Stephanie Rummel

### **Lutheran Adult Gathering Planning Committee:**

Pastor Bill & Kristin Wangelin (Lansing), Keith & Kim Waller (Detroit), Patti & Don Bogama (Muskegon), Chad Woltemath (MI District office), Dennis & Kristi Sohn (Lansing), Katrina & Daren Kaschinske (Frankenmuth), Katie & Chris May (Macomb)

### **School Accreditation Committee:**

Mr. Levi Bringold, Mrs. Cynthia Brown, Mr. Robert Burgess, Mr. Kyle Chuhran, Mr. Travis Grulke, Ms. Janet LaRocque, Mr. Todd Pehlke, Dr. Julian Petzold, Mr. David Waltz

### **Early Childhood Cabinet:**

Mrs. Greta Bower, Mrs. Kelley J. Fehn, Mrs. Krisi Hill, Mrs. Courni Holst, Mrs. Kathryn Pearson, Ms. Jennifer Welch

### **State Basketball Committee:**

Mr. James O. Bunkelmann, Mr. Justin Garcia, Mr. Travis Grulke, Mr. Eric Hagenow, Mr. David King, Mr. Matthew Korte, Mr. Joel Neumeyer, Mr. Scott Neumeyer, Mr. Timothy Siekmann, Mr. Jeffrey Young

### **State Track Committee:**

Mr. John P. Boldt, Mr. Travis Grulke, Mr. David King, Mrs. Jennifer Krause, Mr. Timothy Siekmann, Mr. Eric Smith

### **Finance Committee:**

Mr. Scott Beam, Mr. Stephen R. Boergert, Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, Rev. Paul M. Moldenhauer, Mr. Eric M. Hagenow, Mr. Chad R. Woltemath, Mrs. Bonnie L. Mann, Mrs. Alicia Winget

# Staff

## **Office of the President**

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President  
Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper, Assistant to the President – Congregation Ministries / Ministry Support  
Rev. Dr. Todd A. Jones, Assistant to the President – Mission and Education Support  
Rev. Norman A. Koy – Call List Support  
Laurie A. Brown – Executive Assistant to the President  
Martha F. Wohlfeil – Administrative Assistant President's Office  
Rev. John R. Rathje – Church Worker Mental Health Support Coordinator  
Christie L. Hansard – Mental Health Case Manager / Parish Nurse Ministries  
Rev. Kenneth A. Huner – Dean of Instruction - Michigan School of Missional Formation  
Kathy A. Schurig – Ministry Assistant Program Director  
Julie A. Nielsen-Schmidt – Chaplain – University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor  
Barbara J. Laughlin Adler – Archivist – Michigan District Office  
Kathleen A. Graham, Assistant Archivist – Michigan District Office

## **Missionaries at Large**

Rev. Christopher R. Bodley, Missionary-at-Large in Detroit for A2E  
Rev. Dietrick A. Gladden, Missionary-at-Large in Detroit for A2E  
Rev. Christian M. Jones, Missionary at Large in Flint for A2E  
Rev. James F. Richter, Missionary at Large, Grand Rapids  
Ms. Megan B. Schultz, Family Life Minister at Large in Detroit for A2E

## **Congregation Ministries**

Rev. Randy L. Johnson, Assistant to the President – Congregation Mission and Ministries, North Zone / Chaplaincy  
Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram, Assistant to the President – Stewardship Ministries  
Hannah M. MacAfee, Administrative Assistant – Congregation Mission and Ministries / Receptionist

## **Lutheran Day Schools**

Travis G. Grulke, Assistant to the President – Superintendent of Schools  
Kyle B. Chuhran, NLSA Coordinator  
Kelley J. Fehn, Early Childhood Consultant  
Jennifer A. Rumberger, Administrative Assistant – Education / Stewardship / Database

## **Communications**

Debby S. Fall, Assistant to the President – Communications  
Jeffrey T. Heisner, Video Journalist/Digital Media Director  
Elisa L. Schulz, Staff Writer / Copy Editor / Photographer

## **Development**

Raymond J. Zavada, Assistant to the President – Development  
Linda M. Ekong, Administrative Assistant – Development / Art Director / Web Director

## **Business/Finance**

Chad R. Woltemath, Assistant to the President – Business / Finance  
Donna J. Conrad, Administrative Assistant – Business / Finance  
Debra R. Hughes, Event Coordinator / Accountant  
Chad E. Moyer, Properties Manager

# Ministers of Religion - Commissioned

February 24, 2018 to February 28, 2022

## District Administration

Grukke, Travis G. – Ann Arbor, Assistant to the President – Superintendent of Schools

## Principals

- Alexander, Jason L. – Grand Rapids, ISJ Academy
- \* Baerwolf, Paul R. – Dearborn, Emmanuel
- Bird, Terry L. Smith – Saint Joseph, Trinity
- \* Brenner, Mark D. – Saginaw, Immanuel
- \* Briggs, Cynthia M. Teschendorf – Reese, Trinity
- Bringold, Levi R. – Fraser, St. John
- \* Brown, Cynthia A. Haller – Harbor Beach, Zion
- \* Brown, Erika P. Heimsoth – Saint Johns, St. Peter
- Brown, Mark A. – Clinton Township, Trinity
- \* Buck, Mary Lynn McNally – Flint, St. Paul
- Burgess, Robert M. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
- Burk, Daniel R. – Westland, St. Matthew
- Chaveriat, Charles A. – Richville, St. Michael's
- Dummann, Matthew D. M. – Dearborn, Guardian
- Eifert, Mary M. Webb – Sebewaing, Immanuel
- \* Feenstra, Bradley D. – Muskegon, Trinity
- \* Glumm, Julie K. Boes – Bay City, Zion
- \* Gurney, Adrienne A. Thompson – New Boston, St. John's
- \* Hagenow, Eric M. – Hemlock, St. Peter
- \* Hambaum, Patricia S. Stange – Bay City, St. John
- \* Harbaugh, Kara E. Garvelink – Grand Rapids, Our Savior
- \* Heck, Zonna L. King – Big Rapids, St. Peter's
- Johnson, Gregory K. – Portage, St. Michael
- Klauer, Susan E. Goebel – Shelby Township, Peace
- Kosman, Paul K. – Sturgis, Trinity
- \* Langlois, Tonya M. Fleming – Rogers City, St. John
- LaRocque, Janet E. – Bay City, Immanuel
- Leinberger, Timothy D. – Macomb, St. Peter
- Lucas, Cindy L. Doede – Monroe, Trinity
- Lustila, Gerald J. Jr. – Bay City, St. Paul
- Massey, Bradley R. – Midland, St. John's
- McLoughlin, Janet M. Wooden – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
- Neumeyer, Joel K. – Macomb, Immanuel
- Palka, Susan E. McCreddie – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
- Pehlke, Todd M. – Rochester, St. John
- Pifer, Christine A. Gentz – Northville, St. Paul
- \* Rachow, Joel W. – Lapeer, St. Paul
- \* Schoenknecht, Paul R. – Millington, St. Paul
- Singleton, Lisa A. – Jackson, Trinity
- \* Speers, Chelsea M. Heap – Holt, St. Matthew
- Swartz, Joshua D. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Swazey, Angela N. Kelly – Wayne, St. Michael
- \* Trent, Keith – Saginaw, Peace
- Volkert, Bruce R. – Utica, Trinity
- \* Webb, Neil F. – Stevensville, Christ
- Wilson, Brenda S. Frank – Saginaw, Bethlehem
- \* Wolter, Roger W. – Saginaw, Holy Cross

## Assistant Principals

- Belongia, Nathan J. – Dearborn, Guardian
- \* Davis, Leanne S. Schlaefke – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- \* Lucas, John K. – Utica, Trinity
- \* Pichan, Thomas A. – Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
- Prisby, Kelly R. Knight – Macomb, Immanuel
- \* Schwaegerle, Judy L. – Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
- \* Smith, Kyle J. – Traverse City, Trinity
- \* Spanos, Esther M. Giese – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
- \* Wascher, Charridan A. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz

\* Indicates principal/teacher or assistant principal/teacher

## Educators in Lutheran Elementary Schools and Early Childhood Centers

- Abraham, Jennifer L. Marter – Saginaw, Immanuel
- Abraham, Rachel M. – Bay City, St. Paul
- Alderson, John – Dearborn, Guardian
- Anders, Brian L. – Clinton Township, Trinity
- Angott, Donna L. Renkert – Utica, Trinity
- Armbrecht, Louis W. – Macomb, St. Peter
- Auxter, Annalyse M. – Northville, St. Paul
- Baarck, Stephanie L. Kroeger – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Ball, Rebecca L. Bierlein – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Balzer, JoAnn Grote – Sturgis, Trinity
- Barnes, Susan M. – Macomb, Immanuel
- Bartels, Elizabeth R. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Bartlett, Krista A. – Macomb, Immanuel
- Bauer, Todd D. – Rochester, St. John
- Becker, Kimberle L. Wright – Lansing, Our Savior
- Belli, Mark J. – Dearborn, Guardian
- Bender, Emilie R. Howe – Clinton Township, Trinity
- Benter, Cassandra L. Irwin – Rochester, St. John
- Bierlein, Heather M. Shirley – Richville, St. Michael's
- Bierlein, Mary B. Bauer – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Blackwell, Judith J. Radthke – Dearborn, Emmanuel
- Blickensdorf, Jennifer L. – Macomb, Immanuel
- Block, Michelle R. Nielsen – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Boldt, John P. – Monroe, Trinity
- Bower, Greta L. Cutter – Belleville, Open Arms
- Boyer, Stephanie A. Riggs – Sebewaing, Immanuel
- Brandt, Alayna J. – Grand Rapids, Our Savior
- Briggs, Jessica A. Hecht – Utica, Trinity
- Brink, Yvette M. Healy – Sebewaing, Immanuel
- Bronner, Jill J. Stamm – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Brooks, Jacquelin R. Walsh – Southgate, Christ The King
- Bunkelman, James O. – Monroe, Trinity
- Burhop, Heather G. Schmelz – Saginaw, Immanuel
- Carlton, Ruth M. Kell – Milford, Christ
- Chaplin, Heidi U. Klemm – Shelby Township, Peace
- Childers, Frances M. Cashmer – Southgate, Christ the King
- Contreras, Andrew J. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
- Conway, Samantha M. Poet – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
- Cramer, Courtney P. Daniel – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Croucher, Sarah R. Steffe – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
- Cruz, Melissa K. Waldie – Bay City, Trinity
- Daenzer, Bethany A. – Richville, St. Michael's
- Daniell, Sheri L. Gross – Utica, Trinity
- Darling, Renae A. Kragenbrink – Saginaw, Peace
- Davenport, Chandler A. – Monroe, Trinity
- Degg, Pamela J. Drzyzga – Bay City, Zion
- Delmotte, Karen M. Reichenbach – Utica, Trinity
- Deneen, Matthew W. – Unionville, St. Paul
- Dent, Andrea J. Guse' – Bay City, St. Paul
- DeVoy, Tanya M. Walsh – Macomb, Immanuel

DeYarmond, Sara M. Benington – Lansing, Our Savior  
 Dickinson, Matthew T. – Traverse City, Trinity  
 Diroff, Jayne K. Kregel – Monroe, Holy Ghost  
 Donal, Karyn M. – Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross  
 Dressler, Kelly L. – Hemlock, St. Peter  
 Drinan, Lori J. Weir – Saginaw, Peace  
 Drinan, MacKenzie W. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Dunsmore, Sharon K. Bruns – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Eberhard, Charlotte J. Mueller – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Efird, Rebecca L. Difatta – Southgate, Christ the King  
 Eising, Christina E. Guettler – Royal Oak, St. Paul  
 Eising, Emma C. – Reed City, Trinity  
 Engelbrecht, Rachael A. Paterick – Lansing, Our Savior  
 Engelhard, Cynthia M. Elston – Unionville, St. Paul  
 Erfourth, Lee E. – Jackson, Trinity  
 Etheridge, Kimberly D. – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes  
 Eyster, Carol M. Simmons – Reese, Trinity  
 Eyster, Timothy K. – Richville, St. Michael's  
 Faerber, Janise M. Lehl – New Boston, St. John's  
 Faszholz, Mark A. – Utica, Trinity  
 Fehn, Kelley J. Werdeman – Hemlock, St. Peter  
 Fehn, Lynn A. Knoll – Saginaw, Good Shepherd  
 Felten, Daniel L. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Fisk, Katrina A. Blackwell – Manistee, Trinity  
 Foiles, Lisa M. Stange – Bay City, Faith  
 Fobel, David P. – Rochester, St. John  
 Gakstatter, Kari S. Streeter – Bay City, Immanuel  
 Gallagher, Megan J. – Bay City, Trinity  
 Garcia, Justin N. – Bay City, St. Paul  
 Genthner, Clinton F. – Jackson, Trinity  
 Genthner, Richard G. – Reed City, Trinity  
 Gilson, Grace P. – Rochester, St. John  
 Godbold, Ellen E. Stamm – Kentwood, St. Mark  
 Goers, Bethany L. Ketcher – Traverse City, Trinity  
 Gorney, Stephanie D. Weiss – Harbor Beach, Zion  
 Grams, Susan E. Ripke – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Grimm, Ellen K. Dedert – Montague, St. James  
 Gross, Nancy D. Waldrop – Monroe, Trinity  
 Grothaus, Timothy A. – Rochester, St. John  
 Gruber, Mary M. Janssens – Monroe, Holy Ghost  
 Gruenhagen, Heather S. Thomson – Wayne, St. Michael  
 Grupe, Michele S. Rebant – Utica, Trinity  
 Guenther, Amy L. – Saginaw, Peace  
 Guse', Paul B. – Bay City, St. John  
 Gust, Clara F. Gaffke – Harbor Beach, Zion  
 Hackbarth, Tracey J. Norenberg – Monroe, Trinity  
 Hagenow, Margaret A. Schroeder – Hemlock, St. Peter  
 Hansell, Christopher G. – Jackson, Trinity  
 Harris, Valerie J. – Utica, Trinity  
 Havrilcsak, Laura A. Hart – Bay City, Faith  
 Hawkins, Wendy A. Knox – Utica, Trinity  
 Hecht, Annie R. Buchanan – Portage, St. Michael  
 Hegenauer, Diane L. Heyl – Wayne, St. Michael  
 Heinert, Karla S. – Dearborn, Guardian  
 Heins, Dawn R. Landmesser – Royal Oak, St. Paul  
 Heins, Joseph M. – Sebewaing, Immanuel  
 Heissenbuettel, Monica M. Frank – Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
 Hiddings, Michael – Midland, St. John's  
 Hildebrand, Laura A. Giger – Stevensville, Christ  
 Hinck, Barbara A. List – Westland, St. Matthew  
 Hindenach, Deanna J. Brill – Paw Paw, Trinity  
 Hinrichs, Thomas P. – Macomb, St. Peter  
 Hoeft, James M. – Redford, Hosanna-Tabor  
 Hoepfner, Carrie E. Severin – Richville, St. Michael's  
 Hoerner, Miriam J. Stock – Utica, Trinity  
 Holtzen, Richard O. – Monroe, Trinity  
 Holzer, Katie A. Hermann – Southgate, Christ the King  
 Hoskey, Brenda L. Otto – Millington, St. Paul  
 Jackson, Kristen M. Nagy Heyniger – New Boston, St. John's  
 Jahnke, Lisa K. Turner – Saginaw, Holy Cross  
 Jakubs, Alison J. Schmidt – Saint Joseph, Trinity  
 Jammer, Bonnie M. – Auburn, Zion

Janetzke, Kristen S. Billig – Rochester, St. John  
 Johnson, Andrea E. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Kaschube, Elizabeth M. Ueckert – Muskegon, Trinity  
 Keller, Michael T. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Kelly, Kimberly A. – Saint Joseph, Trinity  
 Kern, Kimberly L. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Keuning, Hannah R. – Utica, Trinity  
 Keup, Aaron W. – Reed City, Trinity  
 Keup, Joel A. – Saginaw, Peace  
 Kirchenberg, Mark R. – Manistee, Trinity  
 Kitzman, Laura A. Benson – Wayne, St. Michael  
 Knoll, Leah M. Schiefer – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Koboldt, Mary E. Dietzel – Saginaw, Peace  
 Kolusk, Diane L. Priskorn – Wayne, St. Michael  
 Konkel, Lynnette S. Jensen – Southgate, Christ the King  
 Kopper, Jill M. – Clinton Township, Trinity  
 Kosciuk, Sarah D. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Kowalke, Julie A. – Macomb, St. Peter  
 Krause, Jennifer L. Dietrich – Richville, St. Michael's  
 Kressbach, Frederick M. – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Krieger, Ruth A. Dubke – Berrien Springs, Trinity  
 Kunderling, Debra J. Bach – Sebewaing, Immanuel  
 Kurien, Rebekah L. Bullock – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
 LaFontaine, Cindy R. Havemeier – Grand Blanc, Faith  
 Lahrman, Sherri L. – Sturgis, Trinity  
 Lanning, Chantal M. Kulczycki – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Laubsch, Jennifer M. – Rochester, St. John  
 Lauterbach, Emily M. Manack – Portage, St. Michael  
 Laux, Elizabeth A. Krenz – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Leidecker, Karla J. Thanepohn – Eastpointe, St. Peter's  
 Lindenfelser, Lynn M. Duhl – Dearborn, Guardian  
 Lindhurst, Katryne M. Adas – Utica, Trinity  
 List, Jessica R. Helwig – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 List, Katherine A. Miller – Lansing, Our Savior  
 Loucks, Autumn M. Hyder – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Lucas, Krista M. Kuhl – Traverse City, Trinity  
 Lyon, David R. – China, Shanghai, Concordia International  
 Machemer, Susan M. Teske – Fraser, St. John  
 Mackie, Ruth E. Garchow – Conklin, Trinity  
 MacKinnon, Kasey R. Gugel – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Major, Cynthia C. Schluckebier – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Makowski, Rebecca L. – Saginaw, Peace  
 Manthei, Gregory W. – New Boston, St. John's  
 Massey, Elaine L. Holmes – Midland, St. John's  
 Matasovsky, Dina C. Cristante – Wayne, St. Michael  
 Matyas, Valerie E. Irion – Saginaw, Immanuel  
 May, Karlie A. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
 Mazur, Tammy E. M. – Lansing, Our Savior  
 McCollister, Allison M. Drake – Northville, St. Paul  
 McDonald, Andrea M. Armstrong – Bay City, Faith  
 McGrath, Janis M. Movsesian – Macomb, St. Peter  
 Mead, Katherine A. Tucker – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Meier, Jessica L. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
 Meier, William F. – Wayne, St. Michael  
 Mick, Beth A. Kah – Rochester, St. John  
 Milz, Carolyn E. – Monroe, Trinity  
 Monroe, Kelly M. Muehlbrandt – Fraser, St. John  
 Moon, Kathryn J. Schlieger – Flint, St. Paul  
 Morden, Karen T. Walleman – Saginaw, Holy Cross  
 Morris, Cheryl J. Gruenhagen – Hemlock, St. Peter  
 Mort, Sarah B. – Berrien Springs, Trinity  
 Mueller, Dawn M. Klein – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Myers, Paula M. Heddle – Utica, Trinity  
 Nelson, Gary R. – Rochester, St. John  
 Nett, Alyssa R. Gipp – Midland, St. John's  
 Neumeyer, Karen B. Koenig – Rochester, St. John  
 Neumeyer, Paul L. – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Neumeyer, Scott R. – Hemlock, St. Peter  
 Newton, LaRayne S. Stanek – Richville, St. Michael's  
 Nimtz, Wendy E. Blus – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Novak, Julie M. Spurgat – Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
 O'Boyle, Sharilyn M. Specht – Utica, Trinity

O'Meara, Elizabeth E. Plaehn – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Palmreuter, David W. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Parks, Trevor A. – Reese, Trinity  
 Pearson, Kathryn L. Kraai – Saginaw, Peace  
 Pelltier, Carol A. Rivera – Macomb, St. Peter  
 Pett, Ellen C. Helmreich – Bay City, Immanuel  
 Pett, Royden D. – Saginaw, Peace  
 Pettibone, Katherine L. – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Petzold, Christina C. Schoenknecht – Millington, St. Paul  
 Pfund, Susan E. Grush – Rochester, St. John  
 Phifer, Jennifer J. Millerwise – Paw Paw, Trinity  
 Piasecki, Allison J. Leach – Rochester Hills, Crown of Life  
 Pierce, Deborah A. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Pike, Kamie L. Reinbold – Reese, Trinity  
 Pittman, Janel D. Weisenbach – Saginaw, Peace  
 Plopper, Sydney A. – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Pomroy, Courtney L. Wahl – Southgate, Christ The King  
 Pomroy, Paige K. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
 Priem, Sadie N. McDaniel – Bay City, Zion  
 Reck, Jennifer D. Glahn – Muskegon, Trinity  
 Reinert, Daniel M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Rich, Mary B. Aufdemberge – Rochester, St. John  
 Richardson, Brenda C. Koglin – Fraser, St. John  
 Riley, Melinda L. Geer – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Riske, Angela C. – Auburn, Zion  
 Roberts, Gerald M. – Grand Rapids, Our Savior  
 Rohde, Molly J. Helmreich – Richmond, St. Peter's  
 Rossi, Jennifer S. Haglund – Saginaw, Peace  
 Ryneerson, Abigail G. – Westland, St. Matthew  
 Samsell, Christopher N. – Bay City, Immanuel  
 Sarkkinen, Amy A. – Sturgis, Trinity  
 Schaffer, Joel P. – New Boston, St. John's  
 Scheeres, Maribeth – Fraser, St. John  
 Scheiwe, Wendy A. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
 Schettenhelm, Karla J. Witt – Livonia, Christ Our Savior  
 Schilling, Rebecca A. Massel – Eastpointe, St. Peter's  
 Schmit, Steven P. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
 Schultz, Amy J. Schinkel – Alpena, Immanuel  
 Schurig, Kathy A. Fritz – Shelby Township, Peace  
 Sellers, Tammy L. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Sharman, Ian M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Sheppard, Loren K. Popke – Utica, Trinity  
 Siebarth, Pamela A. Hahn – Monroe, Holy Ghost  
 Siekmann, Timothy C. – Utica, Trinity  
 Sievert, Benjamin D. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Singer, Connie L. Ziegler – Millington, St. Paul  
 Smith, Gail H. Graham – Westland, St. Matthew  
 Smith, Jennifer M. – Utica, Trinity  
 Smith, Jennifer M. Schaedig – Traverse City, Trinity  
 Smith, Rebecca E. – Saginaw, Bethlehem  
 Smith-Hubbell, Mary-Bethany A. Atkins – Saginaw, Peace

Snyder, Brigid A. – Utica, Trinity  
 Sohn, Kristine K. Reimann – Lansing, Our Savior  
 Spear, Alexandra R. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
 Spiehs, Shawna L. Voelker – Utica, Trinity  
 Stanley, Lisa S. – Bay City, St. Paul  
 Stathakis, Carol B. Schnake – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Steffens, Heather A. Dorn – Saint Joseph, Trinity  
 Stockmeyer, Heidi M. – Clinton Township, Trinity  
 Stoelting, Lara D. Birnstein – Traverse City, Trinity  
 Streeter, Amber E. – Grand Rapids, ISJ Academy  
 Strieter, Rachel M. Westendorf – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Sturgess, Jacqueline M. Montabeau – Eastpointe, St. Peter's  
 Swartz, Dawn L. Gilmore – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Theimer, Jessica L. Strefling – Midland, St. John's  
 Thomas, Julie R. – Royal Oak, St. Paul  
 Toman, Laura K. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
 Tomashevsky, Suzanne B. Birkholz – Bay City, Trinity  
 Topel, Matthew – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
 Topel, Samantha J. Schroeder – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
 Topel, Wendy S.C. VanBreda – Fraser, St. John  
 Trinklein, Susan M. Blattner – Shelby Township, Peace  
 Valente, Elizabeth A. Mooney – Jackson, Trinity  
 VanTol, Rebecca S. Reed – Bay City, St. John  
 Voelz, Robert T. – Southgate, Christ the King  
 Wagner, Erin R. St. Bernard – Fraser, St. John  
 Wallace, Jeffery L. – Stevensville, Christ  
 Walter, Teresa I. Holle – Millington, St. Paul  
 Walters, Paulette E. – Sturgis, Trinity  
 Wargo, Nicole N. Hurttgam – Macomb, St. Peter  
 Wascher, Erin M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Washburn, Debra S. Kohler – Macomb, St. Peter  
 Weber, Carol A. Kamasis – Millington, St. Paul  
 Wedde, Deborah D. Keller – Berrien Springs, Trinity  
 Weidner, Christina M. Hile – Reese, Trinity  
 Weiss, Andrea M. – Macomb, Immanuel  
 Weiss, Jeffery D. – Saint Joseph, Trinity  
 Welch, Jennifer J. – Grand Rapids, Immanuel  
 Wentzel, Katrina A. – Stevensville, Christ  
 Werling, Anna C. – Sebewaing, Immanuel  
 Werner, Courtney M. Dykema – New Boston, St. John's  
 Weston, Amy J. Osborne – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
 Weston, Ashlea J. – Manistee, Trinity  
 Wheeler, Julie A. Bittner – Reese, Trinity  
 Williamson, Katie L. Widstrand – Fraser, St. John  
 Wilson, Elizabeth E. Nimitz – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Wolter, Anthony V. – Hemlock, St. Peter  
 Worm, Maralyse K. Bedroske – Portage, St. Michael  
 Wyman, Kelly A. Blomstrom – Bay City, St. Paul  
 Yoder, Jennifer A. Gremel – Unionville, St. Paul  
 Zeddies, Michael F. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz

## Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit

Looker, Paul J. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit

### Principals in Lutheran High Schools

\* Angers, Kristine A. Martz – Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High  
 \* Backus, Traci L. Fulghum – Lansing, Martin Luther High  
 Lorenzen, Micah J. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland

Petzold, Julian H. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
 Reincke, John M. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
 Tschudy, Matthew D. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest

\* Indicates Principal/Teacher

### Assistant Principals in Lutheran High Schools

\* Hardy, Timothy D. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
 Meyers, Lisa H. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
 \* Nelson, Michael A. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
 \* Vincent, Heath D. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High

\* Indicates Assistant Principal/Teacher



## Educators in Lutheran High Schools

Abraham, Caleb J. G. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Baglow, Ryan T. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland  
Baughman, Kristina L. Schulenburg – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Blake, Jennifer L. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Brandt, John E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Brauer, Jennifer L. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest / Westland, Lutheran High Westland  
Braun, Douglas J. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland  
Brown, David C. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland  
Brown, Jared S. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Cashmer, Leah F. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Cooper, Benjamin P. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Davis, Jeffrey M. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Diroff, Savannah J. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland  
Doyle, Barbara E. Stoll – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Dumar, John E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Ebel, Anne M. Frank – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Ebel, William H. Jr. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Eschmann, Paul D. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Felten, Mark G. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Ferguson, Steven J. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Fink, Kelly L. Wiegand – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Greve, Timothy M. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Grobelny, Cheryl A. Hoscheit – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Guenther, Douglas D. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Gutenkunst, Gary A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Haupt, Natalie A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Horvath, Brian R. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Jagoda, Pamela J. Mendieta – Macomb, Lutheran High North

Klausmeier, Jacob A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Kleine, Racheal A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Kosmatka, Amy B. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Kusch, David S. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Lower, Joseph W. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Mandziara, Nicole L. Schlessman – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Meyer, David J. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Montney, Matthew R. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland  
Mueller, Lindsay E. Meyer – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Phillips, Anne M. Hoft – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Pollatz, Brian M. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Preuss, Micah D. – Lansing, Martin Luther High  
Rahn, Kalera – Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High  
Ruth, David G. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland  
Schaidt, Lauren A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Smith, Eric R. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Stahlecker, Karla M. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Stange, Jessica A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Sugden, Rebecca J. Eifert – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Thompson, Steven L. – Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High  
Topel, Timothy L. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Unger, Daniel E. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland  
von der Lage, Ruth A. Meseke – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Weber, Karlton R. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest  
Weilnau, Jeanette N. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Wenzelburger, Garrett – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Wesley, Ryan E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North  
Winningham, Patrick A. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
Winter, Elizabeth A. Turanski – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High

## Directors of Christian Education

Auger, Robert G. – Bad Axe, Our Savior  
Avery, Ryan J. – Macomb, Immanuel  
Brown, David E. – Clinton Township, Trinity  
Brown, Samantha M. – Saginaw, Good Shepherd  
Busse, Donald R. – Trenton, St. Paul  
Cmeyla, William P. – Saginaw, Peace  
Esselman, Luke M. – Coopersville, Grace  
Grage, Glenn G. – Bay City, Faith  
Grenz, Melinda S. Scott – Wyandotte, Trinity  
Grube, Aaron E. – Kalamazoo, Zion  
Hollman, Linda M. Kirchner – Livonia, Christ Our Savior  
Hueseman, James I. – Jenison, Holy Cross  
Jung, Scott L. – Holland, Zion  
Kempin, Karen L. Chance – Midland, St. John's  
Loren, John M. – Paw Paw, Trinity

Marsh, Benjamin D. – Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate  
Martinal, Rebekah E. Wrase – Adrian, Hope  
Nelson, David A. – Ann Arbor, St. Luke  
Nelson, Holly M. Smith – Shelby Township, Peace  
Oldenburg, Craig S. – Gowen, Camp Concordia  
Oldenburg, Mary K. Brown – Gowen, Camp Concordia  
Revard, Stephanie R. Weldon – Birch Run, St. Martin  
Rupe, Dawn M. Ruelle – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
Schultz, David M. – Bay City, St. Paul  
Schutt, Kim D. – Trenton, St. Paul  
Steinke, Eric D. – Adrian, St. John's  
Welte, John A. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
Wilson, Steven R. – Rochester, St. John  
Zander, Joel R. – Grand Blanc, Faith

## Deaconesses

Bakker, Anne E. K. – Mount Pleasant, Zion  
Kayser, Doris A. – Grand Rapids, Messiah  
King, Carole R. – Clinton Township, St. Luke  
Musa, Rahel – Haslett, St. Luke  
Neuendorf, Christel A. – Saint Louis, LCMS Board for International Mission

Nuffer, Patricia Squibb – Williamsburg, Hands of Mercy  
Patron, Mika – Auburn, Grace  
Rice, Diana Lei – Hartland, Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society  
Schultz, Sarah M. – Traverse City, Trinity  
Wert, Emilyann P. Pool – Grand Rapids, Our Savior

## Directors of Family Life

Brazeal, Andrew J. – Utica, Trinity  
Britton, Joshua D. – Utica, Trinity  
Brown, Alexandra R. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
Carr, Allison J. Guse – Utica, Trinity  
Felten, Michael J. – Oxford, Journey  
Ferguson, Rose E. Meinert – Flint, St. Mark  
Graham, Melissa – Saint Joseph, Trinity  
Horning, Brian C. – Petoskey, Zion  
Kruger, Anna C. – Midland, St. John's

Osborne, Matthew D. – Bloomfield Hills, Cross of Christ  
Ressler, Amanda F. – Trenton, St. Paul  
Ribar, Vicki L. Booker – Fenton, Trinity  
Schultz, Megan B. – Ann Arbor, Michigan District, LCMS  
Simon, Zane A. – Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate  
Smith, Mallorie M. – Saginaw, Peace  
Walsh, Hannah R. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
Walsh, Kimber L. Richard – Jackson, Redeemer  
Wright, David M. – Lansing, Our Savior

## Directors of Parish Music

Beethe, Nathan A. – Auburn, Grace  
Bowdish, Grant A. – Battle Creek, St. Mark  
Dexter, Johanna L. Hilfiker – Jenison, Holy Cross  
Duncan, Amy J. Miles – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes  
Eifert, Jonathan D. – Richville, St. Michael's

Heinlein, Brian J. – Hemlock, St. Peter  
McManus, Austin J. – Dearborn, Guardian  
Peters, Mark G. – Leland, Immanuel  
Pfeil, Nathanael J. – Saginaw, Holy Cross  
Weaver, Hannah F. Bjornstad – Reese, Trinity

## Parish Assistants

Krueger, Richard C. – Grand Rapids, Messiah  
Tedesco, Kimberly J. Richalt – Lapeer, St. Paul

## Director of Church Ministries

Baumann, Russell G. – Montague, St. James  
Plourde, Randall J. – Big Rapids, St. Peter's  
Shirley, Tessa J. Bidingier – Albion, St. Paul

## Special Ministries

Anderson, Lisa M. Klute – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
Ashley, Jeremy R. – Clinton Township, Trinity  
Aughe, Kent J. – Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods  
Bickel, Randall J. – Birch Run, St. Martin  
Bode, Timothy A. – Southgate, Christ the King  
Carter, Autumn M. – Fenton, Trinity  
Cody, Robert D. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
Fanta, Amy L. Carrier – Detroit, Camp RD, Inc.  
Geikas, Sarah M. Kaufman – Bay City, Immanuel  
Hooper, Susan L. Repp – Grand Blanc, Faith  
Horak, John B. – Lansing, Our Savior  
Johnson, Christine A. Eberhard – Eastpointe, St. Peter's

Krupsky, Harold K. – Troy, Faith  
Kwapis, Nicholas A. – Rochester, St. John  
Machemer, Melvin A. – Fraser, St. John  
Matthias, John W. – Detroit, Peace  
Miller, Tammy L. Wendland – Waterford, St. Stephen  
Mueller, Scott R. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
Nimtz, Mark A. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
Paul, Gregory L. – Royal Oak, St. Paul  
Schimm, Peter A. – Bay City, St. John  
Schultz, Mark A. – Dearborn, Emmanuel  
Wieneke, Lori S. MacKay – Grand Rapids, St. Matthew

## Lutheran Special Education Ministries

Hoeft, Stacy J. McGhee  
Moro, Martin L. III  
Schumacher, Linda L. Laux

Schumacher, Richard W. Jr.  
Thomas, Terri M. Smith  
Witchger, Ann G. Gerstacker

## Concordia University Ann Arbor

Barger, Anna C. Nielsen  
Chuhuran, Kyle B.  
Kittleman, Joshua B.

Refenes, James L.  
Schumacher, Joshua S.  
Weisenbach, Janice L. Dove

## Candidates

Arrick, Mary S. Petzold  
Berry, Jenna R. Lipinski  
Biermann, Heather L.  
Ceplecha, Paula I. North  
Clark, Lori D. Pettiford  
Clements, Taylor N. Kaniuk  
Cody, Katelyn G. Sievert  
Cooper, Amy M. Morton  
Corker, Lynn N.  
Davis, Elizabeth MacKenzie  
Demo, Maida R. Sevon  
DeSimpelare, Susan M. Nobis  
Drinane, Nicole R. Lovasz  
Enge, Heidi A. Seiter  
Felten, Jolyn R. Daenzler  
Geraci, Rachel C. Fickenschier  
Gerken, Terri N. Neer  
Goehmann, Heidi L. Weirich  
Haines, Renee L. Schoenknecht  
Hardy, Kristin E. Hirt  
Hartfield, Kathryn J. Sattler  
Heissenbuettel, Brenda M.  
Hessler, Lindsey S. Raney  
Hinz, LeRae I. Mossner  
Hire, Matthew J.  
Huth, Daniel R.  
Johnson, Emily D. Chapman

Johnson, Paul M.  
Jones, Amanda R. Kaijala  
Keinath, Julie L. Hooper  
Kern, Heidi S. Loesel  
Koch, Matthew P.  
Lagalo, Ruth J. Heinlein  
Lepley, Wendi M. Rittersdorf  
Lovett, Jillian K. McNally  
Massey, Elizabeth K.  
McMahon, Petrea L. Schwahn  
Mehlretter, Andrew W.  
Merz, Jessica L. Stoltenberg  
Meyer, Kelly M. Grabarczyk  
Newell, Johanna F. Eschmann  
Noelker, James E.  
Parrish, Elizabeth S.  
Philp, Sharon D. Meier  
Polk, Norma P.  
Reiser, Sandra K.  
Riske, Elizabeth J. Primeau  
Ristow, Beth A. Aufdemberge  
Roth, Sarah C.  
Rush II, James G.  
Saleska, Candice O. Noelker  
Schaedig, Kelli R.  
Scheske, Melissa M.  
Schian, Ruth E. Eichinger

Schimm, Alisha D. Bohnert  
Schmidt, Kurt E.  
Schmit, Abigail R. Werner  
Seehafer, Tyler N.  
Seymour, Kathryn L. Schwecke  
Siemen, Rachel K. Gehm  
Stoelting, Daniel D.  
Tomashewsky, Andrew C.  
Tschudy, Joy N. Doerr  
Unger, Allison M. Meineke  
Vecsernyes, Evelyn L.  
Vincent, Rebecca C. Timm  
Wade, Christine L. Koenig  
Wangelin, Kristin J.  
Weiss, Rebecca A. Lehenbauer  
Wyly, Jeaneen T.  
Zimmerman, Anna L. Reincke



## Emeriti

Allen, Ronald M.	Draves, Thomas J.	Himmeler, Marvin M.
Altevogt, Lester L.	Dressler, Ronald L.	Hinck, John T.
Anderson, James C.	Dunklau, Edward H.	Hiske, Beverly G.
Annas, Michelle L. Platts	Dunklau, Linda J. Bork	Hoch, Arthur G.
Argue, Joanne R. Prudek	Eckert, Lorraine R. Kissau	Hoch, Judith L. Bohl
Arnett, Gregory S.	Edenfield, Marilyn J. Kluck	Hoch, Robert M.
Attenberger, David F.	Earley, Karen L. Gross Wolgast	Hofmeister, Kurt R.
Aubuchon, Barbara A. Hoeft	Eisenman, Barbara M. Kade	Hoerauf, Karen F. Strickert
Aufdemberge, Erwin J.	Eisman, Kathleen S. Ott	Hollrah, Deanna S.
Aufdemberge, Theodore P.	Ernst, Timothy L.	Hopp, Jerry L.
Barrie, Pamela M. A. Wilson	Faszholz, Gary W.	Hurd, James A.
Bauer, Nancy K. Kiel	Fechik, Carol A. Voss	Hurd, Loraine K. Einspahr
Beckman, Katherine S. Krieger	Finkel, Linda L. Callender	Jacques, Krista E. Pfeiffer
Behm, Constance R. Rengstorf	Fischer, Karen E. Murphy	Jansen, Mari-Beth Ingalls
Bender, Edgar L.	Fish, Dale W.	Jaremba, Marcia S. Sonnenberg
Bender, Michael H.	Fischer, Dennis H.	Jones, Karen B. Peterson
Bergant, Virginia A. Albers	Florip, Eunice E. Merz	Jones, Katherine A. Schafer
Bergkoetter, Molly A. Schechte	Foerster, Robert C.	Kacmar, Dawn S. Gerike
Beringer, Daniel W.	Frank, George C.	Kalmes, Michael W.
Beringer, Gloria L. Gehner	Fredrich, Peter D.	Kaschinske, Kenneth A.
Berns, Nancy E. Jung	Freudenburg, Benjamin F.	Kasper, Deborah L. Brandt
Berthold, Ann L. Williams	Fricke, John M.	Kell, Delmar A.
Bickel, Elaine C. Petzold	Fritz, Beverly A. Knuth	Kell, Mary L. Brubaker
Bira, Carolyn I. Spatz	Frusti, Kathleen H. Robertson	Keller, Connie J. Witt
Bishop, Mary J. Lutz	Frusti, Timothy M.	Kempff, Elna M.
Blake, Sharon E. Rachow	Fuller, Lynne E. Erikson	Kern, Bonnie L. Leidel
Block, Marajean A. Palmreuter	Gallagher, John J.	Kern, Dennis L.
Blomquist, Barry E.	Gallert, Frederick D.	Kern, Loretta L. Gehrke
Brand, Susan L. Gibson	Gast, Carolyn R. Fischer	Kern, Stuart C.
Brandon, Katherine J. Schneider	Gast, Frederick J.	Keup, Karen L. Von Behren
Brandon, Kevin J.	Gehrs, Kathleen A. Sandfort	Keup, Ronald W.
Brandt, John M.	Geil, Jean R. Hendrich Sundell	Klausmeier, Caroline L. Hartwig
Brandt, Susan R.	Gengler, Constance C. Koester	Klug, David H.
Braun, Bruce N.	Genig, Dennis K.	Knuth, Fred F.
Brautnick, Janice M. McGorman	Gerds, Fredrick A.	Koch, Beverly J.
Bremer, David A.	Gerlach, Eileen K. Altenburg	Kohtz, Roger O.
Bresemann, Linda G. Houren	Gerlach, John W.	Kolb, Arlene C.
Bresemann, Perry A.	Geyer, Stephen H.	Kolberg, Deborah L. Ziebart
Brunk, Donna J.	Gibson, Lisette L. Lueker	Kooi, Patti J. Walter
Buchinger, Lori A. Haines	Gierach, Raymond C.	Korbely, Marie A. Engelhardt
Buchinger, Steven L.	Gioe, Christopher M.	Koschmann, Mark E.
Buescher, Barbara A. Wiltenburg	Gioe, Louise E. Scheueman	Kosmatka, Bruce J.
Bunke, James E.	Goehmann, Rodney P.	Kovtun, George G.
Campbell, Gary H.	Goetz, Lois A. Mortensen	Kratz, Dean E.
Carlton, Joann M. Wiesehan	Grays, Jean M. Overgaard	Krause, Alan C.
Carrier, Lori J. Grimshaw	Green, Sheila M. Patchett	Krause, Beth E. Appold
Carroll, Dorothy M. Bartusch	Gremel, Bruce A.	Krause, Sandra L. Grousnick
Case, Susan G. Grau	Grese, Susan J. Turner	Krone, James R.
Choroba, Katherine J. Kuhl	Greve, Karen L. Faszholz	Krone, Shirley M. Miller
Christian, Robert J.	Greve, Wendy F. Fischer	Krone, Walter K.
Clark, Dennis W.	Griffin, Shirley A. Grayson	Kruger, Nancy E.
Clark, Mary E. Williams	Grimpo, R. Dwain	Kruse, Lavern R.
Claus, Donna M. Oppermann	Groll, David H.	Kugler, Colleen J. Klahn
Colley, Ann M. Fisher	Grupe, Larry R.	Kurth, Ruth J.
Conger, Norene J. Hass	Gugel, Ruth E. Krengel	Kurtz, Nancy C. Bromund
Covell, Mary A. Hein	Gulliver, Holly A.	Kuschmann, Margie A. Linder
Cowan, Beth A.	Hackbarth, Richard O.E.	Kuschmann, Helmut P.
Daenzer, Katherine L. Hoops	Hall, Carl G.	Kuske, Mary E. Moll
Davis, Kathryn R. Koenig	Hanke, Elsie C. Hesemann	Kutz, Cathy A. Gerdts
Davis, Terry M.	Hass, Kenneth E.	Kutz, John C.
Dean, Karen A. Werth	Hausch, Michael F.	Lanning, Joyce A. Owen
Decheim, Sandra E. Niemi	Hauser, Janet L. Johnson Stoll	Laubsch, Terry J.
DeLage, Deborah L. Knight	Havers, Brenda E. Krzyske	Laughlin-Adler, Barbara J.
Dembeck, David E.	Headapohl, Virginia A. Randall	Leatzow, Edward A.
Dickhudt, Robert J.	Heck, David P.	Leidecker, Shirley A. Hantak
Dickinson, Melinda S. Bathke	Heine, Mary L. Nielsen	Leidich, Roy E.
Dietrich, Clifford A.	Helmreich, Harry J.	Leinberger, David W.
Difatta, David C.	Hermann, Randi S. Rush	Lemke, George F.
Doebler, Lynda M.	Hilken, John C.	Lemke, Jane E.
Dohrmann, Jane M. Bergman	Hilsabeck, Janet E. Roberts	Lenghart, Susan M. Mitchell

Lienau, Jane E. Mund  
 List, Vicky L. Schreiner  
 Livo, Gilbert R.  
 Locke, George M.  
 Lockhart, Carol E. Jennejahn  
 Lockhart, Susan J. Smith  
 Looker, Mark S.  
 Louden, Sandra J. Hyatt  
 Mahler, William A.  
 Marino, Quentin M.  
 Martin, Kathy A.  
 Marton, Kenneth R.  
 Masengarb, Virginia R. Ungrodt  
 Matzke, Sally L. Ebert  
 McCain, Jean A. Geipel  
 McClatchey, Rita I. Simanis  
 McNally, Brian D.  
 McNeil, David A.  
 McQueen, Carla J. Wardin  
 Meseke, Steven D.  
 Meyer, David J.  
 Meyers, Anita G. Steufert  
 Miles, Robert G.  
 Milnikel, Jenifer J. Engel  
 Milroy, Lori J. Pless  
 Minda, Keith A.  
 Moehring, David P.  
 Moehring, Mary M. Bahr  
 Moerer, Lucille P.  
 Mohlenhoff, Richard W.  
 Moilanen, Karen K. Hemming  
 Moldenhauer, Herbert C.  
 Moritz, Lorelle R. Baumgart  
 Muck, Susan K. Thumm  
 Mueller, Robert K.  
 Mueller, Walter O.  
 Muhl, Carol M. Anderson  
 Nelson, Geraldine E. Menth  
 Nemec, Carol A. Stabler  
 Neuhart, Norma D.  
 Neumann, Gary J.  
 Neumeyer, Dennis K.  
 Neumeyer, Marsha J. Jastram  
 Nieman, Anna E. Kanning  
 Nieman, Lenore K. Kelly  
 Nihiser, Jane A. Wollenburg  
 Nobis, Judy A. Hospodar  
 Nobis, Lloyd B.  
 Noel, Marie A. Fetterer  
 Olsen, Matthew W.  
 Olson, John R.  
 Opel, Robert Warren  
 Ott, Donna J. Paris  
 Otto, Jane M.  
 Otto, Phyllis F. Foreman  
 Packard, Trudy G. Stafne  
 Pagano, MaryAnn Sembach  
 Pagels, Doris E. Meyermann  
 Pagels, James D.  
 Pakkala, Deborah L. Falck  
 Palmer, Rachel M.  
 Paselk, Renate E. Erhardt  
 Pauli, Elaine E.  
 Pawlitz, Carol J. McCollum  
 Pawlitz, Gary L.  
 Pedersen, Fred R.  
 Pfannkuch, Darrell L.  
 Pfeiffer, Ann M. Kaiser  
 Pickelman, Maureen R.  
 Pidsosny, Mary L. Fenske  
 Pittman, Eric G.  
 Prechel, Dennis O.

Precht, Kenneth P.  
 Priehs, Karen L. Kvorka  
 Priehs, Warren W.  
 Primeau, Douglas A.  
 Priskorn, Gary J.  
 Prusak, Kathleen A. Hollman  
 Quade, Gene W.  
 Quade, Karen J.  
 Rademacher, JoAnn A. Zimmerman  
 Randall, Sally A. Barry  
 Rankin, Patricia A. Alderman  
 Rapson, Andrea K. Beck  
 Rashid, Janet M. Schott  
 Rathje, Lynda L. Scarr  
 Rauschert, Cynthia K. Appold  
 Rawson, Kathleen N. Glade  
 Reinhardt, Karen S. Krohe  
 Riske, Ralph H.  
 Ritz, Wanda L.  
 Rochlitz, David W.  
 Rockensuess, Larry H., Sr.  
 Rolf, Cheryl J. Hahn  
 Rolf, Elda C. Elbert  
 Rosentreter, Kathy E.  
 Roth, Carlyn J. Hodde  
 Roth, James A.  
 Roth, Leslie D.  
 Rudick, Annette K.  
 Rudick, Barbara A. Klug  
 Rudy, Sally L.  
 Samsell, Alva L.  
 Sasse, Linda K. Maitland  
 Schalk, Linda S. Hopp  
 Schamber, Bonnie L. Struck  
 Scheiwe, Jean R. Rodammer  
 Scheiwe, Warren A.  
 Schiefer, Mark T.  
 Schiemann, Kathleen R. Wardin  
 Schilling, Timothy R.  
 Schimm, Naomi R. Rush  
 Schley, Margaret J. Trautman  
 Schmidt, Dennis M.  
 Schmidt, Paul M.  
 Schmidt, Sandra J. Toennies  
 Schmit, Harvey M.  
 Schmucker, Calvin F.  
 Schneider, Janis E.  
 Schnueller-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale  
 Schoenherr, Barbara I. Jammer  
 Schollmeyer, Robert C.  
 Schroeder, Dorothy J. Succop  
 Schroeder, Kenneth W.  
 Schuck, Kathleen A. Alatalo  
 Schultz, Patricia A. Nagel  
 Schumacher, James L.  
 Schwecke, Shirley D. Stuewe  
 Schwecke, Steven A.  
 Sebold, Marcia L. Mueller  
 Sheldon, David A.  
 Siefker, Roy D.  
 Skov, Neil M.  
 Smith, Alice E. Kratt  
 Smith, James F. Jr  
 Sonntag, Connie L. Kunderling  
 Sorgatz, James F.  
 Sorgatz, Marian A. Helmreich  
 Sprow, Keith R.  
 Stark, Debora A. Willing  
 Steffens, Mark C.  
 Stevenson, Betty J. Potts  
 Stordahl, Jean A. Weigt  
 Strang, Donna J. Reidenbach

Strang, William J.  
 Streeter, Kim E.  
 Stresman, Kenneth C.  
 Stresman, Kevin D.  
 Stresman, Shirley M. Koeppen  
 Strohacker, Charles J.  
 Sturm, Raymond T.  
 Sundermann, Dianne S.  
 Taggart, Linda J. Lapinsky  
 Taylor, Marcia D.  
 Thunder-Haab, Keturah A.  
 Topel, Stanley R.  
 Trinklein, Rebecca M.  
 Truog, David J.  
 Truog, Susan L. Carroll  
 Tucker, Lori D. Hegler  
 Twork, Clara J.  
 Ulmer, Laurie L. Bonzchowski  
 Unger, Andrea L. Walters  
 Unger, Michael E.  
 Van Dellen, Carol A. Harriman  
 Vanick, Edward W.  
 Verseman, Dennis H.  
 Vogtmann, Janet L. Roth  
 Volz, Karen R. Nitz  
 von Fange, Susan D.  
 Vorwerk, Dale H.  
 Voss, Sharon L.  
 Waak, Vera C. Lovercamp  
 Wallace, Shirley M. Eggerding  
 Waltz, David E.  
 Walz, Christine J.  
 Ward, Donna J. Feltner  
 Warnick, Harriet H. Lange  
 Warnick, Howard J.  
 Watson, Marie C. Buvelot  
 Weier, Kent G.  
 Wegener, LuAnne S.  
 Wegener, Thomas L.  
 Weismantel, Paul O.  
 Weiss, Jared L.  
 Weiss, Muriel J. Pingel  
 Wellander, Ronald E.  
 Werderman, Amy L. Rohde  
 Werschky, Sharon L. Schnitker  
 Wesenberg, Deborah L.  
 Westendorf, Karen S. Renkert  
 White, Pamela K. Ochs  
 Wiersig, Christine C. AuBuchon  
 Wiersig, W. Dan  
 Wilke, Nancy E.  
 Wilks, Myril A.  
 Williams, Allan A.  
 Williams, Elizabeth V.  
 Williams, Janice L. Spates  
 Wills, Paul R.  
 Wisnieski, Rebecca R. Rosso  
 Witte, Lucie E. Stelter  
 Wittig, Evelyn D. Sell  
 Wittrock, John H.  
 Wolf, Charles H.  
 Wood, Janice M.  
 Wrase, William R.  
 Wroblewski, Richard E.  
 Wuertz, Duane W.  
 Yelden, Susan I.  
 Young, Brian A.  
 Zappitell, Kathleen M. Gerber  
 Zehnder, James W.  
 Zehnder, W. Sherrill Moeckei  
 Zill, Steven E.  
 Zink, Charlene J. Little

# Ministers of Religion - Commissioned Roster Changes

February 24, 2018 to February 28, 2022

## Entered the District Through Graduation or Colloquy

Abraham, Jennifer L. Marter (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Immanuel  
Alexander, Jacon L. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Grand Rapids, ISJ Academy  
Auxter, Annalyse M. (Ann Arbor) to Northville, St. Paul  
Bartlett, Krista A. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Macomb, Immanuel  
Belongia, Nathan (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Dearborn, Guardian  
Boyer, Stephanie A. Riggs (Ann Arbor) to Sebewaing, Immanuel  
Brown, Alicia M. Seltz (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
Brown, Jared S. (River Forest) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Burhop, Heather G. Schmelz (Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Immanuel  
Carter, Autumn M. (Ann Arbor) to Fenton, Trinity  
Cramer, Courtney P. Daniel (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
Daenzer, Bethany A. (Bronxville) to Richville, St. Michael's  
Darling, Renae A. Kragenbrink (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Peace  
Diroff, Savannah J. (Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Eising, Emma C. (Ann Arbor) to Reed City, Trinity  
Farney, Hillary M. Rife (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes  
Gilson, Grace P. (Ann Arbor) to Big Rapids, St. Peter's  
Guenther, Amy L. (Seward) to Saginaw, Peace  
Haines, Renee L. Schoenkecht (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Richville, St. Michael's  
Hecht, Jessica A. (Ann Arbor) to Utica, Trinity  
Johnson, Michael R. (Mequon) to Saint Joseph, Trinity  
Klausmeier, Jacob (Mequon) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Kolusk, Diane L. Priskorn (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Wayne, St. Michael  
List, Katherine A. Miller (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Lansing, Our Savior  
Mandziara, Nicole L. Schlessman (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Matyas, Valerie E. Irlon (Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Immanuel  
Mead, Katherine A. Tucker (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Macomb, Immanuel  
Montney, Matthew R. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Mort, Sarah B. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Berrien Springs, Trinity  
Nett, Alyssa R. Gipp (Mequon) to Midland, St. John's  
Pett, Ellen C. Helmreich (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Bay City, Immanuel  
Pett, Royden D. (Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Peace  
Plopper, Sydney A. (River Forest) to Macomb, Immanuel  
Pomroy, Paige K. (Ann Arbor) to Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
Priem, Sadie N. McDaniel (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Bay City, Zion  
Rahn, Kalera (Ann Arbor) to Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High  
Riske, Angela C. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Auburn, Zion  
Rosin, Aaron R. (Ann Arbor) to Shelby Township, Peace  
Smith, Jennifer M. (Ann Arbor) to Utica, Trinity  
Smith, Rebecca E. (Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Bethlehem  
Spear, Alexandra R. (Ann Arbor) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
Stange, Jessica A. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Streeter, Amber E. (Ann Arbor) to Grand Rapids, ISJ Academy  
Strieter, Rachel M. Westendorf (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
Thomas, Julie R. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Royal Oak, St. Paul  
Wentzel, Katrina A. (Mequon) to Stevensville, Christ  
Werling, Anna C. (River Forest) to Sebewaing, Immanuel  
Werner, Courtney M. Dykema (Ann Arbor) to New Boston, St. John's  
Wilson, Elizabeth E. Nimitz (River Forest) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
Wolter, Anthony V. (Seward) to Hemlock, St. Peter

## Newly Rostered Directors of Christian Education

Loren, John M. (Austin) to Paw Paw, Trinity

## Newly Rostered Directors of Christian Outreach

Parrish, Elizabeth S. (Saint Paul) to Detroit, Mount Calvary

## Newly Rostered Deaconesses

Barger, Anna C. Nielsen (Fort Wayne) to Flint, St. Paul  
Patron, Mika (Fort Wayne) to Auburn, Grace  
Rice, Diana Lei (River Forest) to Mill Neck, NY, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf  
Wert, Emilyann P. Pool (Fort Wayne) to Grand Rapids, Our Savior

## Newly Rostered Directors of Family Life

Berry, Jenna R. (Ann Arbor) to Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate  
Brown, Alexandra R. (Ann Arbor) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
Felten, Michael J. (Ann Arbor) to Oxford, Journey  
Gorka, Katherine A. (Ann Arbor) to Belleville, Open Arms  
Graham, Melissa (Ann Arbor) to Saint Joseph, Trinity  
Hettig, Sarah (Ann Arbor) to Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes  
Koch, Matthew P. (Ann Arbor) to Pontiac, St. Paul Community

Osborne, Matthew D. (Ann Arbor) to Bloomfield Hills, Cross of Christ  
Ressler, Amanda F. (Ann Arbor) to Trenton, St. Paul  
Roth, Sarah C. (Ann Arbor) to Battle Creek, St. Mark  
Schultz, Megan B. (Ann Arbor) to Ann Arbor, Michigan District, LCMS  
Simon, Zane A. (Ann Arbor) to Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate  
Smith, Mallorie M. (Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Peace

## Newly Rostered Directors of Parish Music

Bjornstad, Hannah (St. Paul) to Reese, Trinity  
Bowdish, Grant A. (Ann Arbor) to Battle Creek, St. Mark  
Duncan, Amy J. Miles (Ann Arbor) to Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes

McManus, Austin J. (Ann Arbor) to Dearborn, Guardian  
Steuernagel, Paula J. (Cq. Seward) to Saint Joseph, Trinity

## Newly Rostered Directors of Church Ministries

Plourde, Randall J. (Mequon) to Big Rapids, St. Peter's  
Shirley, Tessa J. Bidinger (Mequon) to Albion, St. Paul

## Transferred from Other Districts

Avery, Ryan J. (North Dakota District) to Macomb, Immanuel  
Baglow, Ryan T. (Indiana District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Baumann, Russell G. (Iowa District West) to Montague, St. James  
Belli, Mark (Southern Illinois District) to Dearborn, Guardian  
Benter, Cassandra L. Irwin (Nebraska District) to Rochester, St. John  
Brandon, Katherine (Northern Illinois District) as Emeritus  
Brandon, Kevin J. (Northern Illinois District) as Emeritus  
Brauer, Jennifer L. (Missouri District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Braun, Douglas J. (Pacific Southwest District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Buescher, Barbara A. Wiltenburg (Iowa District East) as Emeritus  
Carr, Allison J. Guse (Northern Illinois District) to Utica, Trinity  
Carlton, Joann M. Wiesehan (Northern Illinois District) as Emeritus  
Cashmer, Leah F. (Indiana District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Claus, Donna M. Oppermann (Indiana District) as Emeritus  
Claus, Kenneth F. (Indiana District) as Emeritus  
Cody, Katelyn G. Sievert (South Wisconsin District) as Candidate  
Cody, Robert D. (South Wisconsin District) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
Corker, Lynn N. (Northern Illinois District) as Candidate  
Cruz, Melissa K. Waldie (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) as Candidate  
Davenport, Chandler A. (Northern Illinois District) to Monroe, Trinity  
DeSimpelare, Susan M. Nobis (Ohio District) as Candidate  
Dressler, Kelly L. (Kansas District) to Hemlock, St. Peter  
Eberhard, Charlotte J. Mueller (Indiana District) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
Eifert, Jonathan D. (Indiana District) to Richville, St. Michael's  
Eifert, Mary M. Webb (Indiana District) to Sebewaing, Immanuel  
Foerster, Robert C. (Eastern District) as Emeritus  
Foiles, Lisa M. Stange (Southern Illinois District) as Candidate  
Geraci, Rachel C. Fickenscher (Iowa District West) as Candidate  
Goehmann, Heidi L. Weirich (Nebraska District) as Candidate  
Greve, Timothy M. (Rocky Mountain District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Heine, Mary L. (Minnesota South District) to Paw Paw, Trinity  
Heinlein, Brian J. (South Wisconsin District) to Hemlock, St. Peter  
Heins, Joseph M. (Pacific Southwest District) to Sebewaing, Immanuel  
Hinrichs, Thomas P. (Rocky Mountain District) to Macomb, St. Peter  
Horning, Brian C. (Indiana District) to Petoskey, Zion  
Jung, Scott L. (Indiana District) to Holland, Zion  
Kayser, Doris A. (Eastern District) as Candidate  
Keuning, Hannah R. (Iowa District East) to Utica, Trinity  
King, Carole R. (Eastern District) to Clinton Township, St. Luke  
Kudray, Andrew L. (Kansas District) as Candidate  
Lepley, Wendi M. Rittersdorf (Indiana District) as Candidate  
Livo, Gilbert R. (Southeastern District) as Emeritus  
Lorenzen, Micah J. (Texas District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
Lucas, Krista M. Kuhl (Northern Illinois District) to Traverse City, Trinity  
Marsh, Benjamin D. (Texas District) to Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate  
May, Karlie A. (Texas District) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
Mayhew, Patricia Hamilton (Texas District) to Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate  
McMahon, Petrea L. Schwahn (English District) as Candidate  
Nelson, David A. (Ohio District) to Ann Arbor, St. Luke  
Nelson, Holly M. Smith (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) to Shelby Township, Peace  
Nelson, Michael A. (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit

Nuffer, Patricia Squibb (Indiana District) to Williamsburg, Hands of Mercy  
 Packard, Trudy G. Stafne (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) as Emeritus  
 Peltier, Carol A. Rivera (Ohio District) as Candidate  
 Pfeil, Nathanael J. (Northern Illinois District) to Saginaw, Holy Cross  
 Phifer, Jennifer J. Millerwise (Indiana District) as Candidate  
 Philp, Sharon D. Meier (Southern Illinois District) as Candidate  
 Riske, Elizabeth J. Primeau (Pacific Southwest District) as Candidate  
 Sasse, Linda K. Maitland (Florida-Georgia District) to Shelby Township, Peace  
 Schimm, Alisha D. Bohnert (Oklahoma District) to Muskegon, St. Mark  
 Schimm, Peter A. (Pacific Southwest District) to Bay City, St. John  
 Schnuell-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale (Iowa District East) as Candidate  
 Schultz, Mark A. (North Wisconsin District) to Dearborn, Emmanuel  
 Seehafer, Tyler N. (North Wisconsin District) to Ann Arbor, MOST Ministries  
 Siebarth, Pamela A. Hahn (Rocky Mountain District) to Monroe, Holy Ghost  
 Sievert, Benjamin D. (Northern Illinois District) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Spiehs, Shawna L. Voelker (Kansas District) to Utica, Trinity  
 Stoelting, Lara D. Birnstein (Eastern District) as Candidate  
 Swartz, Dawn L. Gilmore (Southern District) as Candidate  
 Swartz, Joshua D. (Southern District) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Tschudy, Joy N. Doerr (Southern Illinois District) as Candidate  
 Verseman, Dennis H. (Pacific Southwest District) as Emeritus  
 Voss, Sharon L. (Northwest District) as Emeritus  
 Wallace, Jeffery L. (Central Illinois District) to Stevensville, Christ  
 Weiss, Andrea M. (Missouri District) to Macomb, Immanuel  
 Weiss, Jeffery D. (Indiana District) as Candidate  
 Weston, Ashlea J. (Indiana District) to Manistee, Trinity  
 Winningham, Patrick A. (Indiana District) to Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
 Witt, Sylvia E. White (Minnesota South District) to Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries  
 Wolfe, Morgan T. Brandt (Missouri District) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Worm, Maralyse K. Bedroske (North Wisconsin District) as Candidate  
 Wright, Blake A. (SELC District) to Clinton Township, Trinity  
 Zimmerman, Anna L. Reincke (Minnesota South District) to Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate

### **Transferred Within the District**

Ball, Rebecca L. Bierlein (Bay City, Immanuel) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Barger, Anna C. Nielsen (Flint, St. Paul) to Ann Arbor, Concordia University  
 Baughman, Kristina L. Schulenburg (Reinstated) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
 Baughman, Terry A. (Candidate) to Rochester, Crown of Life (Ordained)  
 Bernau, Jonathan P. (Bay City, St. John) to Bay City, Zion  
 Braun, Bruce N. (Emeritus) to Wayne, St. Michael  
 Brenner, Mark D. (Saginaw, Holy Cross) to Saginaw, Immanuel  
 Bringold, Levi R. (Reese, Trinity) to Fraser, St. John  
 Britton, Joshua D. (Grand Rapids, St. Matthew) to Utica, Trinity  
 Brooks, Jacquelin R. Walsh (Royal Oak, St. Paul) to Southgate, Christ The King  
 Brown, Erika P. Heimsoth (Lansing, Martin Luther High) to Saint Johns, St. Peter  
 Brown, Mark A. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) to Clinton Township, Trinity  
 Burgess, Julia A. Haertling (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) to Saint Louis, LCMS Foundation  
 Burk, Daniel R. (Southgate, Christ the King) to Westland, St. Matthew  
 Chaveriat, Charles A. (Richville, St. Michael's) to Richville, St. Michael's  
 Cruz, Melissa K. Waldie (Candidate) to Bay City, Trinity  
 Dent, Andrea J. Guse' (Jackson, Trinity) to Bay City, St. Paul  
 Donal, Karyn M. (Farmington Hills, St. Paul's) to Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross  
 Drinan, MacKenzie W. (Lansing, Our Savior) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Drinane, Nicole R. Lovasz (Southgate, Christ the King) to Dearborn, Guardian  
 Eyster, Carol M. Simmons (Candidate) to Reese, Trinity  
 Faith, Scott M. (Muskegon, St. Mark) to Muskegon, St. Mark (Ordained)  
 Fanta, Amy L. Carrier (Lexington, Octane Ministry) to Detroit, Mount Calvary  
 Fanta, Amy L. Carrier (Detroit, Mount Calvary) to Detroit, Camp RD, Inc.  
 Foiles, Lisa M. Stange (Candidate) to Bay City, Faith  
 Garcia, Adan C. (Candidate) to Bay City, Immanuel (Ordained)  
 Genthner, Richard G. (New Boston, St. John's) to Reed City, Trinity  
 Gilson, Grace P. (Big Rapids, St. Peter's) to Rochester, St. John  
 Glumm, Julie K. Boes (Bay City, Zion) to Bay City, Zion  
 Goers, Bethany L. Ketcher (Candidate) to Traverse City, Trinity  
 Grams, Susan E. Ripke (Fraser, St. John) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Greve, Wendy F. Fischer (Emeritus) to Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries  
 Gruber, Mary M. Janssens (Rochester Hills, Crown of Life) to Fraser, St. John  
 Gruber, Mary M. Janssens (Emeritus) to Monroe, Holy Ghost  
 Guse', Paul B. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) to Bay City, St. John  
 Hansell, Christopher G. (New Boston, St. John's) to Jackson, Trinity  
 Harbaugh, Kara E. Garvelink (Grand Rapids, Our Savior) to Grand Rapids, Our Savior  
 Heins, Dawn R. Landmesser (Candidate) to Royal Oak, St. Paul



Hinck, Barbara A. List (Candidate) to Westland, St. Matthew  
 Hohnstadt, Rebecca S. (Warren, Holy Cross) to Adrian, St. John's  
 Kamin, Jonathan M. (Candidate) to Bay City, Zion  
 Kayser, Doris A. (Candidate) to Grand Rapids, Messiah  
 Kempin, Karen L. Chance (Candidate) to Midland, St. John's  
 Klauer, Susan E. Goebel (Bay City, Trinity) to Shelby Township, Peace  
 Kitzman, Laura A. Benson (Northville, St. Paul) to Wayne, St. Michael  
 Kopper, Jill M. (Shelby Township, Peace) to Clinton Township, Trinity  
 Kosmatka, Amy B. (Macomb, St. Peter) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
 Krueger, Julie M. Jacobsen (Candidate) to Dearborn, Guardian  
 Kruger, Anna C. (Bay City, Zion) to Midland, St. John's  
 Langlois, Tonya M. Fleming (Candidate) to Rogers City, St. John  
 Lanning, Chantal M. Kulczycki (Shelby Township, Peace) to Immanuel, Macomb  
 LaRocque, Janet E. (Bay City, Zion) to Bay City, Immanuel  
 Longden, Daniel R. (Charlotte, First) to Charlotte, First (Ordained)  
 Major, Cynthia C. Schluckebier (Candidate) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Massey, Elaine L. Holmes (Big Rapids, St. Peter's) to Midland, St. John's  
 Massey, Bradley R. (Big Rapids, St. Peter's) to Midland, St. John's  
 Mazur, Tammy E. M. (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) to Lansing, Our Savior  
 McGrath, Janis M. Movsesian (Fraser, St. John) to Macomb, St. Peter  
 Meier, Jessica L. (Walled Lake, St. Matthew) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
 Meyer, David J. (Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
 Mick, Beth A. Kah (Flint, St. Paul) to Rochester, St. John  
 Mueller, Dawn M. Olson (Saginaw, Immanuel) to Hemlock, St. Peter  
 Neumeyer, Dennis K. (Emeritus) to Saginaw, Immanuel  
 Neumeyer, Paul L. (Reinstated) to Macomb, Immanuel  
 Neumeyer, Scott R. (Candidate) to Hemlock, St. Peter  
 Noel, Marie A. Fetterer (Candidate) to Royal Oak, St. Paul  
 Pahlkotter, Henry G. II (Saginaw, Peace) to Saginaw, Peace (Ordained)  
 Parks, Trevor A. (Saginaw, Bethlehem) to Reese, Trinity  
 Parrish, Elizabeth S. (Detroit, Mount Calvary) to Detroit, Camp RD, Inc.  
 Peltier, Carol A. Rivera (Candidate) to Macomb, St. Peter  
 Petzold, Julian H. (Clinton Township, Trinity) to Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High  
 Pfund, Susan E. Grush (Candidate) to Rochester, St. John  
 Phillips, Anne M. Hoft (Candidate) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit  
 Piasecki, Allison J. Leach (Macomb, Immanuel) to Rochester Hills, Crown of Life  
 Phifer, Jennifer J. Millerwise (Candidate) to Paw Paw, Trinity  
 Pomroy, Courtney L. Wahl (Royal Oak, St. Paul) to Southgate, Christ The King  
 Rachow, Joel W. (Marlette, Our Savior) to Lapeer, St. Paul  
 Rice, Diana Lei (Mill Neck, NY, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf) to Hartland, Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society  
 Rich, Mary B. Aufdemberge (Eastpointe, St. Peter's) to Rochester, St. John  
 Richardson, Brenda C. Koglin (Clinton Township, St. Luke) to Fraser, St. John  
 Rohde, Molly J. Helmreich (Candidate) to Richmond, St. Peter's  
 Rupe, Dawn M. Ruelle (Saline, Christ Our King) to Walled Lake, St. Matthew  
 Sankey, Brent T. (Candidate) to Sturgis, Trinity  
 Scheeres, Maribeth (Candidate) to Fraser, St. John  
 Scheske, Melissa M. (Candidate) to Sturgis, Trinity  
 Schultz, Amy J. Schinkel (Candidate) to Alpena, Immanuel  
 Schmit, Steven P. (Fraser, St. John) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul  
 Schnack, Deborah G. Nelson (Emeritus) to Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries  
 Schurig, Kathy A. Fritz (Candidate) to Shelby Township, Peace  
 Sharman, Ian M. (Saginaw, Bethlehem) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Smith-Hubbell, Mary-Bethany A. Atkins (Bay City, St. John) to Saginaw, Peace  
 Smith, Jennifer M. Schaedig (Candidate) to Traverse City, Trinity  
 Smith, Kyle J. (Saginaw, Immanuel) to Traverse City, Trinity  
 Stathakis, Carol B. Schnake (Shelby Township, Peace) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Stoelting, Lara D. Birnstein (Candidate) to Traverse City, Trinity  
 Swartz, Dawn L. Gilmore (Candidate) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz  
 Swazey, Angela N. Kelly (Fraser, St. John) Wayne, St. Michael  
 Thomas, Terri M. Smith (Candidate) to Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries  
 Tomashewsky, Suzanne B. Birkholz (Candidate) to Bay City, Trinity  
 Unger, Allison M. Meineke (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) to Ann Arbor, Concordia University  
 VanTol, Rebecca S. Reed (Reinstated) to Bay City, St. John  
 Walsh, Hannah R. (Port Huron, Faith) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd  
 Wagner, Erin R. St. Bernard (Candidate) to Fraser, St. John  
 Weiss, Jeffery D. (Candidate) to Saint Joseph, Trinity  
 Witchger, Ann G. Gerstacker (Saginaw, Peace) to Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries  
 Worm, Maralyse K. Bedroske (Candidate) to Portage, St. Michael  
 Zander, Joel R. (Muskegon, Trinity) to Grand Blanc, Faith

## Transferred to Other Districts

Abresch, Vera K. Fowler (Bay City, St. John) to Indiana District  
Bailey, Bonnie L. Banash (Emeritus) to Mid-South District  
Bartok, Kimberly J. Reimann (Candidate) to Missouri District  
Bernau, Jonathan P. (Candidate) to Central Illinois District  
Brandimore, Layna M. Schneider (Candidate) to Indiana District  
Brown, Alicia M. Seltz (Walled Lake, St. Matthew) to English District  
Case, Kimberly A. Snyder (Candidate) to Missouri District  
Celmer, Katrina L. (Fraser, St. John) to Kansas District  
Chapman, Darius M. (Macomb, St. Peter) to Pacific Southwest District  
Dunn, Christine A. Gansberg (Candidate) to Southern District  
Eckstorm, Kay E. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District  
Fahlsing, Gloria D. (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
Farrand, Thomas J. (Emeritus) to Texas District  
Frisco, Alexandra N. Fisher (Candidate) to Indiana District  
Frisco, Eric R. (Alpena, Immanuel) to Indiana District  
Gorka, Katherine A. (Belleville, Open Arms) to Pacific Southwest District  
Grothman, Darci A. Durham (Candidate) to Rocky Mountain District  
Haegele, Dennis F. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District  
Hinz, Rachel G. Cousino (Candidate) to Missouri District  
Hohnstadt, Rebecca S. (Adrian, St. John's) to North Wisconsin District  
Hyslop, Dora J. Pingel (Candidate) to Texas District  
Hyslop, Scott M. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) to Texas District  
Johnson, Michael R. (Saint Joseph, Trinity) to North Wisconsin District  
Johnson, Rebecca E. Rockrohr (Candidate) to North Wisconsin District  
Kaiser, David A. (Sebewaing, Immanuel) to North Wisconsin District  
Kaiser, Erika J. Goebel (Sebewaing, Immanuel) to North Wisconsin District  
Kamin, Jonathan M. (Bay City, Zion) to Central Illinois District  
Kelso, Corey L. (Candidate) to Pacific Southwest District  
Kelso, Nicole J. Zehnder (Candidate) to Pacific Southwest District  
Klausmeier, Veronica M. Danne (Candidate) to Southeastern District  
Krueger, Julie M. Jacobsen (Candidate) to Texas District  
Krueger, Steven R. (Flat Rock, Community) to Texas District  
Longmire, Sarah A. (Traverse City, Trinity) to Missouri District  
Lynch, Andrea M. (Candidate) to North Wisconsin District  
Mayhew, Patricia Hamilton (Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate) to Minnesota South District  
McDonald, Deborah M. Crosby (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
McDonald, Ian K. (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
McMahon, Petrea L. Schwahn (Clinton Township, St. Luke) to English District  
Meckes, Hannah K. Maske (Candidate) to Ohio District  
Merrill, Kenlyn S. Weller (Emeritus) to South Dakota District  
Millen, Jai D. (Candidate) to Iowa District West  
Miller, Jennifer A. (Candidate) to Texas District  
Mol, James M. (Emeritus) to Nebraska District  
Mueller, Dawn M. Olson (Candidate) to Texas District  
Neumeyer, Amanda J. (Stevensville, Christ) to Pacific Southwest District  
Nobili, Linda D. Davidson (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District  
Opel, Edgar L. (Emeritus) to Rocky Mountain District  
Paluch, Beth A. Hesterman (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
Rasmussen, Sarah E. (Candidate) to Indiana District  
Roedel, Karen R. Wessel (Candidate) to South Wisconsin District  
Rosin, Aaron R. (Shelby Township, Peace) to Indiana District  
Sandor, Donald R. (Emeritus) to Southeastern District  
Sankey, Brent T. (Candidate) to Nebraska District  
Sankey, Margaret A. Orman (Candidate) to Nebraska District  
Sankey, Thad J. (Candidate) to North Dakota District  
Schafer, Joyce L. Unverfehrt (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
Schmid, Erna I. Baehr (Emeritus) to Pacific Southwest District  
Schmidt, Nathan E. (New Haven, LAMP Ministry Inc.) to Northwest District  
Schnack, Deborah G. Nelson (Emeritus) to Missouri District  
Schnack, John C. (Emeritus) to Missouri District  
Schnuell-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale (Candidate) to Iowa District East  
Shirk, Cassandra E. (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) to English District  
Sitas, Rebecca L. Hackbarth (Candidate) to Iowa District East  
Stephens, Elizabeth A. (Battle Creek, St. Mark) to Kansas District  
Steuernagel, Paula J. (Saint Joseph, Trinity) to Missouri District  
Topham, Jill N. (Bridgeport, Faith) to Indiana District  
Vierегge, Keith L. (Candidate) to English District  
von Kampen, Paul M. (Candidate) to Nebraska District  
Weishaar, Sarah E. Hettig (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) to Rocky Mountain District  
Weiss, Jeffery D. (Candidate) to Indiana District

Wilke, Christian T. (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) to Texas District  
 Williams, Judy E. Harmoning (Emeritus) to Southeastern District  
 Winterstein, Charles A. (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
 Witt, Sylvia E. White (Candidate) to Southeastern District  
 Wolfe, Emily C. Gau (Candidate) to Southeastern District  
 Wolfe, Morgan T. Brandt (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) to Missouri District  
 Wright, Blake A. (Clinton Township, Trinity) to SELC District  
 Zielke, Adolph E. (Emeritus) to Northern Illinois District  
 Zieschang, Zachary M. (Livonia, Christ Our Savior) to Nebraska District

## INACTIVE

### Inactive – Candidate Status

Baughman, Terry A. (Waterford, St. Stephen) 12/31/2018  
 Bernau, Jonathan P. (Bay City, Zion) 06/04/2021  
 Berry, Jenna R. Lipinski (Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate) 02/28/2021  
 Clements, Taylor N. Kaniuk (Macomb, Immanuel) 06/15/2021  
 DeVries, Kristi K. (Hemlock, St. Peter) 06/15/2018  
 Drinane, Nicole R. Lovasz (Dearborn, Guardian) 01/17/2020  
 Dunn, Christine A. Gansberg (Grand Rapids, Our Savior) 02/19/2021  
 Enge, Jennifer A. Keefer (Bay City, St. John) 05/07/2020  
 Farney, Hillary M. Rife (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) 09/04/2020  
 Frisco, Alexandra N. Fisher (Alpena, Immanuel) 12/21/2018  
 Gehm, Rachel K. (Utica, Trinity) 04/12/2019  
 Grannis, Kristy M. Abel (Belleville, Open Arms) 06/01/2018  
 Grimm, Timothy A. (Centerville, St. Paul's & Colon, St. Paul's) 02/16/2020  
 Haines, Renee L. Schoenknecht (Richville, St. Michael's) 06/30/2021  
 Hartfield, Kathryn J. Sattler (Saint Joseph, Trinity) 08/15/2021  
 Heine, Mary L. Nielsen (Paw Paw, Trinity) 10/16/2020  
 Hire, Matthew J. (Flat Rock, Community) 08/01/2021  
 Huth, Daniel R. (Davison, Trinity) 12/31/2020  
 Hyslop, Dora J. Pingel (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 12/31/2021  
 Johnson, Rebecca E. Rockrohr (Hillsdale, St. Paul's) 09/16/2018  
 Johnson, Paul M. (Trenton, St. Paul) 08/31/2019  
 Jones, Amanda R. Kaijala (Flint, St. Paul) 08/15/2018  
 Kelso, Corey L. (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) 08/01/2020  
 Kelso, Nicole J. Zehnder (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) 08/01/2020  
 Kern, Heidi S. Loesel (Saginaw, Holy Cross) 06/01/2021  
 Klausmeier, Veronica M. Danne (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 06/15/2020  
 Koch, Matthew P. (Pontiac, St. Paul Community) 12/13/2018  
 Krueger, Julie M. Jacobsen (Dearborn, Guardian) 10/27/2021  
 Lagalo, Ruth J. Heinlein (Saginaw, Immanuel) 07/01/2019  
 Leeds, Ashleigh N. (Birmingham, Redeemer) 10/01/2018  
 Massey, Elizabeth K. (Auburn, Zion) 03/20/2019  
 Millen, Jai D. (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) 07/30/2018  
 Miller, Adrienne G. (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) 07/28/2021  
 Milroy, Lori J. Pless (Hemlock, St. Peter) 06/15/2018  
 Mueller, Dawn M. Olson (Hemlock, St. Peter) 06/15/2019  
 Noelker, James E. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 08/07/2020  
 Olsen, Matthew W. (Walled Lake, St. Matthew) 06/15/2018  
 Parrish, Elizabeth S. (Detroit, Camp RD, Inc.) 07/23/2021  
 Polk, Norma P. (Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection) 10/31/2019  
 Rasmussen, Sarah E. (Bay City, Zion) 10/31/2018  
 Roth, Sarah C. (Battle Creek, St. Mark) 03/05/2021  
 Saleska, Candice O. Noelker (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/31/2018  
 Sankey, Brent T. (Sturgis, Trinity) 07/31/2021  
 Sankey, Margaret A. Orman (Sturgis, Trinity) 08/14/2019  
 Sankey, Thad J. (Concordia, Ann Arbor) 07/31/2018  
 Schank, Hannah M. Kaltz (Marlette, Our Savior) 07/31/2019  
 Scheeres, Maribeth (Farmington Hills, St. Paul's) 06/15/2018  
 Scheske, Melissa M. (Sturgis, Trinity) 06/30/2020  
 Schimm, Alisha D. Bohnert (Muskegon, St. Mark) 05/10/2021  
 Seehafer, Tyler N. (Ann Arbor, MOST Ministries) 04/06/2020  
 Seevers, Devin L. Butler (Clinton Township, Trinity) 08/01/2020  
 Stoelting, Daniel D. (Richville, St. Michael's) 11/20/2018  
 Unger, Allison M. Meineke (Concordia, Ann Arbor) 12/02/2021  
 Vieregge, Keith L. (Clinton Township, St. Luke) 07/31/2019  
 von Kampen, Paul M. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 07/30/2019  
 Weiss, Jeffery D. (Paw Paw, Trinity) 06/30/2019  
 Witt, Sylvia E. White (Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries) 11/13/2019  
 Wyly, Jeaneen T. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 08/17/2021  
 Zimmerman, Anna L. Reincke (Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate) 12/13/2019



## Inactive – Emeriti Status

Anderson, James C. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 10/31/2021  
 Annas, Michelle L. Platts (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) 06/15/2021  
 Arnett, Gregory S. (Caro, St. Paul) 12/10/2021  
 Bender, Michael H. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/31/2018  
 Bickel, Elaine C. Petzold (Saginaw, Immanuel) 05/31/2020  
 Bira, Carolyn I. Spatz (Flushing, Holy Cross) 05/31/2021  
 Brand, Susan L. Gibson (Traverse City, Trinity) 06/15/2021  
 Brandt, John M. (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) 07/31/2020  
 Brandt, Susan R. (Saginaw, Bethlehem) 07/30/2020  
 Braun, Bruce N. (Wayne, St. Michael) 06/30/2020  
 Bunke, James E. (Sebewaing, Immanuel) 06/30/2021  
 Case, Susan G. Grau (Saint Joseph, Trinity) 08/15/2018  
 Choroba, Katherine J. Kuhl (Candidate) 08/22/2018  
 Clark, Mary E. Williams (Candidate) 09/28/2018  
 Colley, Ann M. Fisher (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) 09/01/2018  
 Cowan, Beth A. (Muskegon, Our Redeemer) 07/31/2019  
 Davis, Kathryn R. Koenig (New Boston, St. John's) 06/15/2019  
 Dembeck, David E. (Macomb, St. Peter) 06/15/2019  
 Dickinson, Melinda S. Bathke (Traverse City, Trinity) 06/10/2019  
 Draves, Thomas J. (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 06/15/2020  
 Earley, Karen L. Gross Wolgast (Hemlock, St. Peter) 07/01/2019  
 Eckstorm, Kay E. (Bay City, St. John) 06/30/2021  
 Eisenman, Barbara M. Kade (Dearborn, Guardian) 06/15/2018  
 Fahlsing, Gloria D. (Richville, St. Michael's) 07/31/2019  
 Faszholz, Gary W. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 06/30/2020  
 Freudenburg, Benjamin F. (Concordia, Ann Arbor) 12/31/2018  
 Frusti, Kathleen H. Robertson (Jackson, Trinity) 07/21/2021  
 Genig, Dennis K. (Candidate) 03/01/2020  
 Geyer, Stephen H. (Flint, St. Paul) 06/15/2018  
 Grays, Jean M. Overgaard (Candidate) 08/20/2018  
 Greve, Wendy F. Fischer (Lansing, Our Savior) 06/30/2018  
 Greve, Wendy F. Fischer (Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries) 06/09/2021  
 Gruber, Mary M. Janssens (Fraser, St. John) 06/05/2020  
 Gulliver, Holly A. (Saginaw, Peace) 06/30/2021  
 Hausch, Michael F. (Hamburg, St. Paul) 10/15/2020  
 Havers, Brenda E. Krzyske (Utica, Trinity) 06/30/2021  
 Heine, Mary L. Nielsen (Candidate) 01/31/2022  
 Helmreich, Harry J. (Traverse City, Trinity) 06/10/2020  
 Hermann, Randi S. Rush (Southgate, Christ the King) 06/15/2019  
 Hilsabeck, Janet E. Roberts (Macomb, Immanuel) 06/30/2020  
 Hinck, John T. (Westland, St. Matthew) 06/30/2020  
 Hoch, Robert M. (Macomb, St. Peter) 06/15/2020  
 Jacques, Krista E. Pfeiffer (Macomb, Immanuel) 07/31/2021  
 Jansen, Mari-Beth Ingalls (Grand Rapids, Immanuel) 06/15/2018  
 Jones, Karen B. Peterson (Concordia, Ann Arbor) 06/30/2019  
 Klages, Kenneth J. (Saginaw, Peace) 06/30/2020  
 Koch, Beverly J. (Rochester, St. John) 02/28/2021  
 Kolberg, Deborah L. Ziebart (Grand Haven, St. John's) 06/08/2019  
 Kooi, Patti J. Walter (Grand Haven, St. John's) 06/04/2021  
 Koschmann, Mark E. (Midland, St. John's) 08/01/2020  
 Kratz, Dean E. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 08/15/2018  
 Krone, James R. (Candidate) 12/15/2021  
 List, Vicky L. Schreiner (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/31/2020  
 Lockhart, Susan J. Smith (Utica, Trinity) 11/13/2020  
 Looker, Mark S. (Ann Arbor, Concordia University) 06/30/2020  
 McCain, Jean A. Geipel (Auburn, Grace) 07/19/2020  
 McClatchey, Rita I. Simanis (Royal Oak, St. Paul) 06/30/2019  
 McDonald, Deborah M. Crosby (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) 06/30/2018  
 McDonald, Ian K. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 07/31/2018  
 McQueen, Carla J. Wardin (Hemlock, St. Peter) 08/15/2018  
 Meseke, Steven D. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 06/30/2019  
 Milroy, Lori J. Pless (Candidate) 1/1/2021  
 Moehring, David P. (Manistee, Trinity) 06/15/2019  
 Moehring, Mary M. Bahr (Manistee, Trinity) 06/30/2019  
 Mol, James M. (Flint, St. Mark) 06/30/2020  
 Mueller, Walter O. (Candidate) 08/12/2018  
 Neumeyer, Dennis K. (Saginaw, Immanuel) 06/15/2021  
 Noel, Marie A. Fetterer (Royal Oak, St. Paul) 11/15/2019  
 Olsen, Matthew W. (Candidate) 01/07/2022  
 Otto, Jane M. (Macomb, St. Peter) 06/15/2021

Paluch, Beth A. Hesterman (Muskegon, Trinity) 06/28/2019  
 Pawlitz, Gary L. (Macomb, Immanuel) 12/30/2018  
 Pidosny, Mary L. Fenske (Candidate) 03/13/2020  
 Reinhardt, Karen S. Krohe (New Boston, St. John's) 06/15/2018  
 Rapson, Andrea K. Beck (Harbor Beach, Zion) 06/30/2018  
 Ritz, Wanda L. (Macomb, St. Peter) 06/15/2019  
 Rochlitz, David W. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 07/31/2021  
 Rolf, Cheryl J. Hahn (Troy, St. Augustine) 06/01/2018  
 Rosentreter, Kathy E. (Richville, St. Michael's) 07/10/2020  
 Rudick, Annette K. (Candidate) 01/26/2022  
 Sasse, Linda K. Maitland (Shelby Township, Peace) 06/05/2020  
 Scheiwe, Warren A. (Bay City, St. John) 12/31/2019  
 Schnack, Deborah G. Nelson (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 06/15/2019  
 Schnack, Deborah G. Nelson (Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries) 6/30/2020  
 Schneider, Janis E. (Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries) 06/15/2020  
 Schnuell-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale (Candidate) 03/20/2021  
 Schwecke, Shirley D. Stuewe (Candidate) 06/30/2019  
 Schwecke, Steven A. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 06/30/2021  
 Skov, Neil M. (Ann Arbor, Concordia) 06/30/2013  
 Stark, Debora A. Willing (Midland, St. John's) 02/28/2018  
 Streeter, Kim E. (Macomb, St. Peter) 06/15/2020  
 Stresman, Kevin D. (Richville, St. Michael's) 07/31/2021  
 Sturm, Raymond T. (Lapeer, St. Paul) 08/31/2018  
 Tucker, Lori D. Hegler (Saginaw, Bethlehem) 06/07/2018  
 Twork, Clara J. (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 06/30/2019  
 Ulmer, Laurie L. Bonzchowski (Stevensville, Christ) 08/31/2021  
 Unger, Andrea L. Walters (Westland, St. Matthew) 06/30/2018  
 von Fange, Susan D. (Clinton Township, Trinity) 11/30/2020  
 Waltz, David E. (Fraser, St. John) 07/31/2020  
 Weismantel, Paul O. (Saint Johns, St. Peter) 06/28/2021  
 Werschky, Sharon L. Schnitker (Sebewaing, Immanuel) 06/30/2019  
 Williams, Allan A. (Macomb, Immanuel) 06/30/2018  
 Wills, Paul R. (Candidate) 10/01/2018  
 Wisnieski, Rebecca R. Rosso (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 06/15/2018  
 Wolf, Charles H. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 06/30/2019

### Reinstated to the Roster

Baughman, Kristina L. Schulenburg 09/16/2019	Neumeyer, Paul L. 11/21/2019
Case, Kimberly A. Snyder 11/21/2019	Pfund, Susan E. Grush 02/15/2019
Clark, Lori D. Pettiford 02/24/2022	Priebs, Karen L. Kvorka 11/17/2021
Eisman, Kathleen S. Ott 11/17/2021	Ristow, Beth A. Aufdemberge 02/24/2022
Heins, Dawn R. Landmesser 02/15/2019	Rush II, James G. 4/30/2019
Hinck, Barbara A. List 02/11/2021	Schwecke, Shirley D. Stuewe 09/17/2018
Kempin, Karen L. Chance 09/17/2018	Sitas, Rebecca L. Hackbarth 02/15/2019
Knuth, Fred F. 02/24/2022	Stier, Janel L. Rousselo 11/17/2021
Kudray, Andrew L. 11/30/2020	VanTol, Rebecca S. Reed 09/10/2021
Lemke, George F. 09/10/2021	Williams, Janice L. Spates 09/16/2019

### Resigned from Roster

Abraham, Emily J. DeBoer 02/28/2022	Meyer, Katherine M. Davis 01/31/2022
Armstrong-Dieselberg, Kathryn P. 02/28/2018	Neumeyer, Paul L. 08/27/2018
Burgess, Julia A. Haertling 02/05/2021	Neumeyer, Sarah C. Coleman 08/1/2019
Creeden, Ashleigh N. Leeds 02/01/2021	Rathje, Kristin L. Kolb 02/05/2021
DeVries, Kristi K. Frazee 01/08/2020	Schmerheim, Roxanne M. 07/05/2019
Erlenbeck, Jill A. Sherman 08/09/2019	Seevers, Devin L. Butler 05/24/2021
Forster, Jonathan D. 02/28/2021	Shaffer, John O. 03/17/2021
Gledhill, Kristin A. Artherton 03/07/2018	Stier, Janel L. Rousselo 01/06/2022
Gross, Lisabeth K. Moehring 09/11/2020	Swem, Katherine E. Brinkley 02/10/2022
Hardies, Michael A. 07/31/2021	Toth, Annalisa J. Winget 08/15/2019
Harris, Dawn M. 03/13/2019	von Kampen, Kathleen E. Garner 02/26/2018
Lewis, Lori J. Kell 06/15/2018	Webb, Angela D. Eisman 01/07/2019
Marshall, Lisa M. Gilchrist 03/31/2018	Young, Kathryn J. Grush 09/30/2020
Marshall, Margaret I. E. 06/06/2018	

## Removed from Roster

Bean, Christina L. Silvey 04/02/2019  
Carlson, Sandra L. Gresham 06/25/2021  
Carver, Logan J. 10/22/2021  
Chaiser, Elizabeth A. 10/07/2019  
Chester, Thomas B. 01/18/2022  
Eisman, Kathleen S. Ott 06/25/2021  
Evola, Julia C. Jankauskas 03/15/2019  
Farney, Hillary M. Rife 02/07/2022  
Feustel, Stefanie E. Davey 03/02/2018  
Fish, Sarah E. 02/26/2018  
Enge, Jennifer A. Keefer 02/18/2021  
Gleim, Laura M. 03/04/2019  
Grannis, Kristy M. Abel 02/07/2022  
Grim, Katie L. Walter 12/07/2020  
Grimm, Timothy A. 02/07/2022  
Jordan, Sharon B. Berry 03/01/2020  
Karsten, Beverly M. Wegner 06/25/2021  
Klamer, Melissa J. Gunlock 03/01/2020  
Knopf, Jamie L. 10/22/2021  
Knuth, Fred F. 06/25/2021  
Kudray, Andrew L. 03/15/2019

Kudray, Andrew L. 02/07/2022  
Lemke, George F. 06/25/2021  
McNeeley, Mark E. 04/30/2019  
Meinert, Robert W. 02/14/2020  
Miller, Adrienne G. 02/07/2022  
Myers, Michael J. 03/15/2019  
Neu, Coral L. 09/13/2021  
Niska, Heidi A. Bowman 03/02/2018  
Ostrander, Christy L. Clark 12/06/2021  
Otrhalik, Kevin D. 05/25/2018  
Pfund, Jonathan D. 06/25/2021  
Rodriguez, Teresita Pedmaja 01/12/2021  
Schank, Hannah M. Kaltz 03/08/2021  
Schumaker, Stephanie J. Emington 11/25/2019  
Seguin, Kathleen J. Auch 03/21/2019  
Standiford, Nancy L. Fahl 01/12/2021  
Stevenson, Jennifer R. O'Connell 11/28/2018  
Wade, Kevin A. 11/06/2018  
Mohlenhoff, William H. 09/13/2021  
Wright, Jonathan K. 03/02/2018

## Called to Glory

Beyer, Marilyn A. 07/20/2020  
Block, Richard A. 11/06/2021  
Boldt, H. James 09/19/2019  
Brauer, Ethan R. 01/24/2021  
Claus, Kenneth F. 10/27/2020  
Danz, Shirley M. Walenter 11/30/2021  
Erber, Glenn R. 01/28/2022  
Fisceri, Darlene N. Behling 03/14/2018  
Freudenburg, Curtis C. 02/25/2019  
Germeroth, Paul L. 01/31/2020  
Glotzhober, Alyce K. Kraepel 12/08/2018  
Gresens, Walter F. 05/30/2020  
Grigg, Pauline E. Schoenfeld 04/22/2021  
Grupe, Elizabeth F. Reinboth 03/17/2021  
Guenther, Vernon C. 06/27/2019  
Heins, Eric J. 06/08/2018  
Kaiser, Roy G. 11/24/2020  
Keinath, Kay A. VanPetten 09/13/2019  
Kell, Luther P. 01/08/2021  
Klages, Kenneth J. 12/31/2020  
Knopp, Allen M. 12/06/2020  
Laeder, Leroy D. 06/10/2020  
List, Rose M. Sachtleben 05/17/2021

Lockhart, John W. 08/03/2019  
Loomans, Lowell A. 12/12/2021  
Marxhausen, Gary P. 10/18/2021  
Mills, Ellen K. Baker 03/09/2020  
Milz, G. David 06/19/2021  
Nightlinger, Cathy J. 10/27/2021  
Palm, Lori A. Montney 01/09/2022  
Pankow, Shirley M. Masch 01/14/2020  
Pfefferle, Kathie M. 06/19/2021  
Priehs, Warren F. 12/27/2020  
Roggatz, George R. 02/20/2019  
Schempf, Richard H. 10/06/2021  
Schilling, Raymond L. 05/05/2018  
Schultz, Robert L. 07/10/2019  
Siefker, Dorothy I. Lemke 01/23/2022  
Sievert, David R. 12/01/2019  
Storck, Charles L. 04/10/2021  
Sutter, Irene T. 05/07/2020  
Todt, John H. 10/14/2018  
von Behren, Erich W. 05/12/2020  
Weiss, Lori A. 04/21/2020  
Wenzel, Pamela B. 01/28/2019

## School Openings

Jenison, Daily Shepherd Child Care Center (2/2022)

## School Closings

Armada, Noah's Ark Preschool (6/2020)  
Clinton Township, St. Luke Lutheran School and Preschool (7/2019)  
Essexville, Pilgrim Lutheran Preschool (5/2018)  
Marlette, Our Savior Lutheran School (8/2019)  
Sand Lake, Resurrection Lutheran Preschool (6/2021)  
White Cloud, Christ Lutheran Preschool (8/2019)

# Ministers of Religion - Commissioned Anniversaries

## In 2018

### 50 Years

Altevogt, Lester L.  
Bishop, Mary J. Lutz  
Davis, Terry M.  
Gerlach, John W.  
Hackbarth, Richard O.E.  
Hollrah, Deanna S.  
Kern, Loretta L. Gehrke  
Kuschmann, Margie A. Linder  
Laubsch, Terry J.  
Leidich, Roy E.  
McNeeley, Mark E.  
Neumeyer, Dennis K.  
Priskorn, Gary J.  
Sundermann, Dianne S.  
Vorwerk, Dale H.

### 40 Years

Bauer, Nancy K. Kiel  
Boldt, John P.  
Braun, Bruce N.  
Bunke, James E.  
Fischer, Karen E. Murphy  
Gehrs, Kathleen A. Sandfort  
Gibson, Lisette L. Lueker  
Grupe, Elizabeth F. Reinboth  
Hausch, Michael F.  
Hilken, John C.  
Hofmeister, Kurt R.  
Kooi, Patti J. Walter  
LaRocque, Janet E.  
Prusak, Kathleen A. Hollman  
Scheiwe, Jean R. Rodammer  
Stordahl, Jean A. Weigt  
Streeter, Kim E.  
Unger, Andrea L. Walters  
Waltz, David E.  
Weiss, Jared L.  
Yelden, Susan I.

### 25 Years

Argue, Joanne R. Prudek  
Bergkoetter, Molly A. Schechte  
Daniell, Sheri L. Gross  
DeBoer, Kristine K. Reimann  
Gloe, Louise E. Scheueman  
Hambaum, Patricia S. Stange  
LaFontaine, Cindy R. Havemeier  
Lanning, Chantal M. Kulczycki  
McCollister, Allison M. Drake  
Petzold, Julian H.  
Pfund, Susan E. Grush  
Rockensuess, Sr., Larry H.  
Schmid, Erna I. Baehr  
Singer, Connie L. Ziegler  
Van Dellen, Carol A. Harriman

## In 2019

### 50 Years

Block, Richard A.  
Keup, Ronald W.  
Kolb, Arlene C.  
Kuschmann, Helmut P.  
Palmer, Rachel M.  
Pawlit, Gary L.  
Rudick, Barbara A. Klug  
Samsell, Alva L.  
Skov, Neil M.  
Standiford, Nancy L. Fahl  
Vanick, Edward W.  
Wrase, William R.

### 40 Years

Anderson, James C.  
Anderson, Lisa M. Klute  
Brandon, Kevin J.  
Carlson, Sandra L. Gresham  
Dickinson, Melinda S. Bathke  
Erfourth, Lee E.  
Gerlach, Eileen K. Altenburg  
Hoch, Robert M.  
Jammer, Bonnie M.  
Klug, David H.  
Koch, Beverly J.  
Krause, Beth E. Appold  
Marton, Kenneth R.  
Matzke, Sally L. Ebert  
McClatchey, Rita I. Simanis  
Neu, Coral L.  
Packard, Trudy G. Stafne

### 25 Years

Bierlein, Mary B. Bauer  
Bira, Carolyn I. Spatz  
Chuhtran, Kyle B.  
Davis, Jeffrey M.  
Fehn, Kelley J. Werdeman  
Gust, Clara F. Gaffke  
Hagenow, Margaret A. Schroeder  
Hegenauer, Diane L. Heyl  
Hoskey, Brenda L. Otto  
Jaremba, Marcia S. Sonnenberg  
Jones, Karen B. Peterson  
List, Vicky L. Schreiner  
Schumacher, Richard W. Jr.  
Schwaegerle, Judy L.  
Tucker, Lori D. Hegler  
Welch, Jennifer J.

## In 2020

### 50 Years

Bresemann, Perry A.  
Dunklau, Edward H.  
Fischer, Dennis H.  
Gast, Carolyn R. Fischer  
Hurd, James A.  
Kutz, John C.  
Masengarb, Virginia R. Ungrodt  
Moerer, Lucille P.  
Schultz, Patricia A. Nagel

### 40 Years

Draves, Thomas J.  
Grothaus, Timothy A.  
Helmreich, Harry J.  
Kirchenberg, Mark R.  
McNally, Brian D.  
Pfeiffer, Ann M. Kaiser  
Schalk, Linda S. Hopp  
Schultz, Mark A.  
Schutt, Kim D.  
Schwecke, Steven A.  
von Fange, Susan D.  
Voss, Sharon L.  
Weber, Karlton R

### 25 Years

Donal, Karyn M.  
Eschmann, Paul D.  
Faith, Scott M.  
Fehn, Lynn A. Knoll  
Hardy, Timothy D.  
Hawkins, Wendy A. Knox  
Kovtun, George G.  
Mol, James M.  
Nieman, Lenore K. Kelly  
Rauschert, Cynthia K. Appold  
Samsell, Christopher N.  
Schumacher, Linda L. Laux  
Spanos, Esther M. Giese

## **In 2021**

### **50 Years**

Beringer, Daniel W.  
Blomquist, Barry E.  
Difatta, David C.  
Dressler, Ronald L.  
Eckert, Lorraine R. Kissau  
Foerster, Robert C.  
Gioe, Christopher M.  
Hoch, Arthur G.  
Hurd, Loraine K. Einspahr  
Kalmes, Michael W.  
Kell, Mary L. Brubaker  
Kempff, Elna M.  
Krupsky, Harold K.  
Lemke, Jane E.  
Marxhausen, Gary P.  
Nelson, Geraldine E. Menth  
Olson, John R.  
Pedersen, Fred R.  
Pittman, Eric G.  
Prechel, Dennis O.  
Rudy, Sally L.  
Schamber, Bonnie L. Struck  
Schmidt, Dennis M.  
Sheldon, David A.  
Sprow, Keith R.  
Truog, David J.  
Truog, Susan L. Carroll  
Weier, Kent G.  
Wills, Paul R.

### **40 Years**

Blake, Sharon E. Rachow  
Brown, Cynthia A. Haller  
Brown, David C.  
Clark, Mary E. Williams  
Edenfield, Marilyn J. Kluck  
Fritz, Beverly A. Knuth  
Grage, Glenn G.  
Green, Sheila M. Patchett  
Grobelyny, Cheryl A. Hoscheit  
Gutenkunst, Gary A.  
Hinck, Barbara A. List  
Leidecker, Shirley A. Hantak  
Lenghart, Susan M. Mitchell  
Machemer, Melvin A.  
Nimtz, Mark A.  
Pawlit, Carol J. McCollum  
Randall, Sally A. Barry  
Rathje, Lynda L. Scarr  
Rochlitz, David W.  
Schuck, Kathleen A. Alatalo  
Stresman, Kevin D.  
Weiss, Muriel J. Pingel  
Wiersig, Christine C. AuBuchon  
Williams, Elizabeth V.  
Zeddies, Michael F.

### **25 Years**

Bauer, Todd D.  
Brandon, Katherine J. Schneider  
Braun, Douglas J.  
Carlton, Ruth M. Kell  
Diroff, Jayne K. Kregel  
Felten, Mark G.  
Gallagher, John J.  
Genthner, Clinton F.  
Hackbarth, Tracey J. Norenberg  
Hagenow, Eric M.  
Hardies, Michael A.  
Hoch, Judith L. Bohl  
Hoeft, Stacy J. McGhee  
Leinberger, Timothy D.  
Lucas, Krista M. Kuhl  
Mueller, Dawn M. Klein  
Neumeyer, Joel K.  
O'Boyle, Sharilyn M. Specht  
Piasecki, Allison J. Leach  
Pichan, Thomas A.  
Reinert, Daniel M.  
Revard, Stephanie R. Weldon  
Sarkkinen, Amy A.  
Stark, Debora A. Willing



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## Circuit Visitors' Reports

### **Circuit #1 – Mackinaw Straits Circuit** **Rev. Charles B. Burhop – Circuit Visitor**

Since the last Convention, two new pastors were called to the Mackinaw Straits Circuit. Rev. Mike Schaedig was called to St. John, Cheboygan and Rev. David Weirauch was called to Immanuel, Rogers City (Moltke)/St. John, Rogers City. Hope, Saint Ignace is currently vacant.

The brothers of Circuit #1 meet together with our brothers in Circuit #2 on the first Tuesday of most months. TAMSAC (The Alpena-Mackinac Straits Mission Action Council) meets three times a year to report on, foster, and support mission work in the two circuits. The pastor and a lay representative of each congregation are invited to attend as voting members while others are always welcome to the gathering. Each congregation has the opportunity to contribute funds that are distributed to various mission projects.

#### Faith, Hawks – Rev. Dr. Jack Ferguson

At Faith Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

*“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2*

#### St. Michael, Rogers City – Rev. Paul Boerger

At St. Michael, which is about 5 miles south of Rogers City, the Word of God is continuing to be proclaimed and the Sacraments are administered. Following the death of Vacancy Pastor Rev. Keith Schneider on July 22, 2018, Rev. Paul Boerger was called to be Vacancy Pastor. During the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, worship services were recorded and put on the internet beginning March 25 through May 24, 2020. We resumed in-house worship on Pentecost, May 31, 2020. The Sunday worship services continue to be recorded and put online each week for those who cannot attend in person due to illness or other restrictions. This year, 2022, St. Michael is utilizing the technology grant from CEF to install high-speed satellite internet service so we will be able to reach more people. The services will be livestreamed on YouTube. Along with St. John, Rogers City and Immanuel, Rogers City (Moltke), St. Michael will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding in 2023. Special services are being planned.

#### Immanuel, Moltke (Rogers City) –

At Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

*“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2*

#### St. John, Rogers City –

At St. John Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

*“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it*

*pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2*

#### Peace, Rogers City – Rev. J. Derek Riddle

During the last triennium, the Lord has continued to richly and graciously bless our congregation's ministry in the Rogers City community. While we have said goodbye to a number of beloved members of our congregational family who have gone on to the Church Triumphant, the Lord has also blessed us with a number of new faces who have become valuable members of our family. The pandemic has challenged us to adapt and adjust, and as a result some new opportunities for ministry have presented themselves. During the same time frame, our congregation established and adopted a new long-range plan, which is largely focused upon becoming more outwardly oriented. One component of that plan is the addition of a second Sunday morning service, designed to be more “contemporary” in nature, which is scheduled to begin during the early part of 2022. This will be a significant change for our congregation, which has operated with a single Sunday service for almost 30 years, and we are praying that it will help us both to better serve our members and to expand our reach into our community. Our congregation's desire to be a caring, reaching, sharing, and teaching presence in our community in the name of Jesus is expressed in our recently-revised vision statement: “Equipping our members to take the message of Jesus where they live, work, and play.”

#### Holy Cross, Onaway – Rev. Trenton Wollberg

At Holy Cross Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

*“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2*

#### St. John, Cheboygan – Rev. Mike Schaedig

St. John is touching the lives of old and young alike with the love of Christ Jesus in Word and Sacrament.

The congregation is small but active in ministry. During the COVID scare, St. John continued to worship her Lord. St. John is blessed with dedicated Elders and Church Council, who saw to it that we continued to gather around and receive the gifts of our Lord. Celebrating the Lord's Supper weekly is our practice. St. John is also mission-minded. In the past years, we have seen involvement with the Cheboygan Right to Life, various local missions, and helping out those who have been struck with disaster. We are also involved in mission beyond the local area such as LERT, support for future Church Workers, and various missionaries. We are planning to host a VBS this coming July.

#### Redeemer, DeTour Village – Rev. Donald P. Nemec

At Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

Redeemer serves the people of the small community of De-Tour Village. A midweek Bible study is offered and almost all of the members attend regularly.

Drummond Island, Drummond Island – Rev. Roger Kilponen

At Drummond Island Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

*“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2*

Trinity, Newberry/Bethlehem, Engadine/Grace, Germfask – Rev. Kyle Kuehl

Trinity, Newberry; Bethlehem, Engadine; and Grace, Germfask have merged into a triple parish. Rev. Kyle Kuehl was installed as Pastor on January 16, 2022. Sadly, Rev. Arthur Bode, who participated in the installation of Rev. Kuehl, was taken into the Lord’s gracious arms two weeks after Rev. Kuehl’s installation. Pastor Bode had served Bethlehem, Engadine and Grace, Germfask for many years. Pastor Bode also served at Hope Lutheran Church in Saint Ignace.

Saint Paul, Kincheloe (Kinross) – Vacant

*God With Us; and through us with others.* St. Paul is a very small but active gathering of God’s people. 7–10 people attend the Sunday morning service, of which 6–7 attend the Wednesday morning Bible study. Nice ratio! An LWML group meets regularly, and the ladies of the congregation provide Mother’s Day Baskets for women staying at the Diane Pepler House (a domestic violence shelter) in Sault Ste. Marie.

Saint Barnabas, Sault Sainte Marie – Rev. Charles Burhop  
Lake Superior State University is “up the Easterday Hill” from St. Barnabas in Sault Ste. Marie. At the very first worship service, back in 1994, an LSSU Student attended and they’ve been with us ever since.

St. Barnabas hosts a weekly “PotLuck, Plus” for the students so that they get at least one home-cooked meal a week. One family provides the “Plus” and the rest of us ‘potluck’ around that theme. St. Barnabas is not just a Campus Ministry. Members from age 1 to 95 hear the Word and receive the Sacraments each and every Sunday morning and Monday evening. Members of St. Barnabas serve the community by volunteering with Friends of the Library, Road to Recovery, War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Sugar Island Fire Dept., and Relay For Life. 2–9 members attend Bible Study and/or the daily Matins service in the Chapel downstairs.

So, that’s the 15 congregations, one mission (Hope, St. Ignace), and 10 pastors of Circuit #1. The Mackinaw Straits Circuit extends from Manistique to Germfask and Sault Ste. Marie, then across the Mackinac Straits on down the east coast of the Lower Peninsula to Rogers City, then back across to I-75.

**Circuit #2 – Alpena Circuit**  
**Rev. Jason L. Mandley, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit Two consists of Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties in Lower Michigan. Circuit Two has a wide variety of congregations. Some are rural while others are in small

towns and small cities. Some are well over 100 years old and others are missions started in the last 30 years. Circuit Two works with Circuit One in meeting together for circuit pastors’ gatherings and in The Alpena-Mackinac Straits Mission Action Council (TAMSMAC). The work of TAMSMAC is to start mission congregations in the two circuits and to provide prayer and financial support for the congregations in the circuits, especially the new mission starts.

Bethlehem, Lewiston

Bethlehem is currently going through a transition period. Rev. Steven Thiel, who served Bethlehem faithfully for over ten years, retired in October 2021. Currently, Bethlehem is being served by an Intentional Interim Pastor, Rev. John Bookshaw. Bethlehem has appointed a Transition Task Force of seven members. They are currently working with Pastor Bookshaw to gather information from the congregation and develop a ministry plan that will assist the congregation in calling a new pastor to serve Bethlehem. The task force, in meeting with the membership of Bethlehem, will discuss the following:

- Have each member come to terms with their personal history with Bethlehem;
- Discover a new identity for Bethlehem;
- Develop new leadership for Bethlehem;
- Renew their working relationship with District and Synod;
- Commit to a new direction in ministry for Bethlehem.

The members of Bethlehem Lutheran are excited about future ministry. Please keep the congregation in prayer as they work through this transition period.

Living Water, Mio

Living Water, Mio is served by Pastor Glen D. Bromm, SMP. Like so many other churches, they were challenged by the time they were shut down by the pandemic. The members for the most part do not have internet capability. However, they remained faithful in supporting the ministry. They continue to add new members and focus on sharing the Gospel to those outside the walls of their little church. They have a vibrant Sunday School program along with a Share Group. Multiple Bible studies are held throughout the week. They will soon start a Centershot ministry which teaches archery to children and offers Gospel lessons with each session. They remain faithful to love and serve others.

Faith, Harrisville

Rev. Dennis Neigh retired from Faith on December 31, 2020 after twenty years of faithful service to the congregation as a deacon, vicar, and pastor. Sadly, with the retirement of Pastor Neigh, the congregation closed. While there was a strong desire to continue Word and Sacrament ministry in Harrisville, maintaining the physical plant was beginning to be a challenge due to the age of the membership. This reality led to the painful decision to close the congregation. We thank God for the work done in Harrisville and lift up the members of Faith as they connect with a new fellowship of believers in Christ.

Good Shepherd, Ossineke

Rev. Jack Fergusson concluded his time as vacancy pastor at the end of January 2022. Good Shepherd is currently being served by the Rev. Al Kersten who has been deployed

to Good Shepherd by Immanuel, Alpena. Good Shepherd is looking at its ministry and its role in the community of Ossineke and finding ways to reach out to the southern part of Alpena county and the northern part of Alcona county.

#### Immanuel, Alpena

Immanuel is one the largest Lutheran congregations in Northern Michigan. It is served by Rev. James Erickson, Rev. Joshua Schultz, and Rev. Al Kersten, SMP. Pastor Kersten will be retiring from Immanuel in June of 2022. They continue to operate a parochial school with enrollment increasing, especially in the older grades. They continue to reach out to the community with a television broadcast of their services.

#### St. Paul, Hubbard Lake

St. Paul is currently served by the Rev. Joseph Llewellyn. They continue to meet the challenges of a rural congregation and are experiencing growth and stability. They enjoy the working relationship they have with the other congregations in Circuit Two and hope that the relationships can continue.

#### St. John's, Hillman

St. John's is served by Rev. Jason Mandley. COVID has been a challenge for the congregation as well as a declining and aging population for the area. Yet, they remain financially stable. The preschool is concluding its 18th year of operation and the school is filled. Once again, they were able to have their fall school fundraiser after cancelling last year due to size restrictions. They know that the days ahead are challenging but they trust in God's power to sustain His church.

### **Circuit #3 – Timberline Circuit**

#### **Rev. Frederick T. Cordts, Circuit Visitor**

#### Faith, Prescott – Rev. Ted Voll, Intentional Interim Pastor

Our Lord has been faithful in keeping His promise to bless and guide the people of Faith Lutheran Church. The onset of the pandemic in 2019 brought many challenges. For several months, the congregation gathered for worship in the parking lot. Pastor Jansen's departure in 2020 also brought sadness, but the congregation has remained safe and strong in the Savior's care as He blesses them with His gifts of Word and Sacrament. Currently, the congregation is preparing for its new resident Pastor as it works through an interim time with Pastor Ted Voll.

#### Good News Ministries, Whittemore – Vacant

Good News Ministries, established as an outreach ministry, continues to serve the people of Whittemore and surrounding area. A lay ministry served by LCMS Deacons, the church's current goal is to join with a sister church in a dual-parish setting. The congregation continues to extend the compassion of Christ to individual and families of the area, organizing periodic mobile food pantries, an in-house food pantry available to residents upon request, and its long-held tradition of three weeks of VBS during July and August, both mornings and evenings. This report was submitted by Mrs. Joanne Rohn.

#### St. John, Au Gres – Rev. Fred Cordts

Although weekly attendance and church activities have been affected by persistent health concerns, God's Word

and Sacrament, by the grace of God, continue to be offered to the community. Ministries made possible by our faithful members and aimed as outreach to the community include:

Children's Church

Weekly Mailing (pastor's sermon, prayers, and words of encouragement to shut-ins)

VBS-In-A-Box (a week of lessons, crafts and theme-based snacks mailed to families when gathering in-person was not possible)

Mission of the Month (supporting evangelistic, pro-life and disaster relief missions)

Weekend Backpack Program (take-home food assistance to local school children)

Red Cross Blood Drive sponsorship

Hymns, Sermon Message and Prayer (mission to local assisted living center)

Newly established Christ for Kids Saturday afternoons

#### Our Savior, Glennie – Rev. Glen Bromm, SMP

The past few years have been a rollercoaster of trials and blessings. The necessity to halt in-person worship was a time of great difficulty. Compounding the difficulty was the lack of internet to a great many in the community of Glennie, eliminating online worship as a viable option. However, because of the faithfulness of Our Savior members, financial support remains strong and the congregations stands ready for the future. Of special significance was the ordination of Pastor Glen Bromm in February, 2021. Pastor Bromm currently serves both Living Water, Mio and Our Savior in a dual parish setting. By the grace of God, members of Our Savior continue to spread the Gospel and love in service to their neighbors as they continue to look for new opportunities to increase the Kingdom.

#### St. Paul, Hale – Rev. Dean Muhle

During these last four years, God's Word has continued to be proclaimed and the Holy Sacraments faithfully administered. During the initial phase of the pandemic, in-house services were discontinued but we were able to offer our services online. It was with much joy that we were able to gather once again with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Although health issues remain a concern, we give praise and thanks to God for preserving His faithful here in Hale.

#### Trinity, Oscoda – Rev. Timothy Azzam

Trinity has done its best to embrace the challenges of the pandemic by posting worship services on social media. Bible studies have been held on the Zoom platform and others have continued in-person study whenever possible. After in-person worship resumed, members of Trinity tackled the challenges of when and when not to mask. We continue to miss being in-person with many of our own members and summer guests due to persistent health concerns. We look forward to the day we can gather free of restrictions and enjoy worship and fellowship together.

#### Zion, Tawas City – Rev. Gabriel Martin

Over these most recent years, Zion has sought to overcome several hurdles/challenges we are still, in part, facing. Like many others, our week-to-week attendance is down due to the pandemic. While we do stream services for those who do not yet feel comfortable to return, we fear access to



streamed services has minimized the incentive for some to return. Our after-school program, offered on Wednesdays, has been challenged significantly, with half of the number of children prior to the pandemic. Our grieving group, open to the community, is currently disbanded. We are currently taking advantage of the Concordia Organist Program and the Hymnal Project as musical supplements to our worship services, in anticipation of our organists retiring. Despite these challenges, we look forward with hope to the future in service to our Lord and Savior.

#### **Circuit #4 – Gladwin**

##### **Rev. William C. Winter, Circuit Visitor**

###### Prince Of Peace, Clare – Vacant

Baptized Membership – 85

Communicant Membership – 56

Average Worship Attendance – 32

###### Our Savior, Gladwin – Rev. James M. Krach

Baptized Membership – 179

Communicant Membership – 178

Average Worship Attendance – 123

###### St. Luke, Harrison – Rev. Timothy J. Sheridan

Baptized Membership – 161

Communicant Membership – 152

Average Worship Attendance – 66

###### St. John, Houghton Lake – Rev. Paul G. Kruse

Baptized Membership – 487

Communicant Membership – 42

Average Worship Attendance – 125

###### Hope, Saint Helen – Vacant

Baptized Membership – 70

Communicant Membership – 70

Average Worship Attendance – 28

###### St. John, West Branch – Vacant

Baptized Membership – 172

Communicant Membership – 143

Average Worship Attendance – 62

###### Bethlehem, Standish – Rev. Matthew T. Dent

Baptized Membership – 246

Communicant Membership – 176

Average Worship Attendance – 32

#### **Circuit #5 – Midland**

##### **Rev. Daniel A. Kempin, Circuit Visitor**

###### Peace, Alma

Under the stable and capable leadership of Pastor Tom Messer, Peace continues to provide biblically faithful and liturgically sound Word and Sacrament ministry to the community of Alma. The congregation will be celebrating its 60th anniversary this November.

###### Grace, Auburn

Grace continues to be served by Pastor Aaron Schian and Kantor Nathan Beethe. They welcomed Deaconess Mika Patron as an intern in August of 2019 and called her to serve as Deaconess in August of 2020. In 2019, Grace completed

a renovation of its pipe organ and hosted area-wide hymn festivals, including a festival Ascension Eve Service. Grace continues to move in a new direction following the closing of the school in 2014 by expanding Sunday School, adding a Children's Choir, Youth Service Corps for 5th–12th graders, attending the Higher Things conference, Youth and Adult Confirmation instruction, 4 weekly Bible studies, a monthly Young Adult Bible Study, a monthly area-wide study of the Lutheran Confessions, an annual February Seminar with a guest Pastor, and hosting summer Continuing Education classes through Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. It continues to reach out to the community through Grace Your Closet, hosting biannual GriefShare groups, serving meals at Food of Faith in Bay City, monthly services at Plainview Assisted Living in Auburn, and assisting at Orphan Grain Train by making quilts and packing shipments. It produces and ships Large Print Bibles all around the world through Lutheran Braille Workers. In 2021, it started opportunities for fellowship among members with a support group for young moms—Moms of Grace—and a women's group, Grace Sisters. All of this flows out of receiving our Lord's gifts in words, water, bread, and wine every Sunday and Wednesday.

###### Zion, Auburn

Zion is served by Pastor Andrew Menz and Pastor Seth Hemme. The congregation was blessed to pay down their long-standing mortgage in November of 2019. They continue striving to better know and show Christ's love in both the church and school. The leadership of the congregation has been working through a strategic planning process and is excited about what the future holds for God's Kingdom among them.

###### Lord of New Life, Midland

Lord of New Life continues to worship in their new building (2014), reaching out to the community under the leadership of Pastor Carl Trosien, who serves part-time in his retirement.

###### St. John's, Marion Springs

Deacon Richard Lewis began his service to St. John on September 13, 2020, under the supervision of Rev. Tim Behnke of Faith, Bridgeport. Richard is now a vicar, enrolled in the SMP Program through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. The congregation is supportive of local mission opportunities in the community.

###### Messiah, Midland

Messiah continues to be very active in community outreach through its community care ministries – His Hands Auto Care; Pivot Point Job Creation; Used Appliance Repair and Sales; The Bridge Community Food Center; Restoration Fellowship Recovery Ministry; Kid's Creek Early Care and Education Preschool and Childcare; and a variety of flood recovery and restoration ministries. Messiah has returned to three regular Sunday morning worship services—two of which are livestreamed to an online audience which exceeds pre-COVID levels. They have expanded Sunday morning kids' programs to include both in-person programs and an online kids' program to reach families not yet attending in person. Messiah continues to be served by Pastor Ed Doerner

and Pastor Dennis Kreil, SMP. Most recently, Messiah has been excited to welcome Pastor Matt Lytikainen to their ministry team and they celebrate with long-time staff member, Steve Lampi, who recently began studies for the SMP program. Messiah is blessed with many dedicated staff members and they thank God for each of them.

#### Our Savior, Midland

Our Savior was blessed to host the ordination of Pastor Gary Lyvere. They are actively pursuing ways in which they might be of service to the Midland community.

#### St. John's, Midland

St. John's continues to be served by Pastor Dan Kempin and Pastor Josh Parsons. In the past triennium, St. John's was blessed to add Family Life Director Anna Kruger and Principal Brad Massey. St. John's, along with other circuit churches and support from the Michigan District, was drawn into ministry in the aftermath of the Midland flood of 2020. God continues to graciously bless the ministry there with peace and health.

#### Zion, Mt. Pleasant & Christ the King Chapel

Zion and Christ the King are being served by Senior Pastor Jon Bakker and Deaconess Anne Bakker. The congregation was also blessed to celebrate the ordination of seminary graduate Ricky Beckett as their Associate Pastor. Together they serve the needs of the town and campus communities through Divine Worship, a Christian preschool, and very active International and Campus Ministries.

#### St. Paul, Sanford

St. Paul has gone through a period of transition over the previous triennium, with the retirement of Rev. Sam Reith in 2020 and calling of Rev. Chris Vossler in 2021. During the vacancy, the congregation was blessed with the ministry of Rev. Larry Wright, and continues to be served by Deacon Don Barnard. The congregation's ministry was hit hard by the quarantines in 2020, but we are steadily growing back and restarting ministries that had suffered due to COVID. During 2020, many of our members were also affected by the collapse of the Sanford Dam, though the church building itself escaped unscathed. Our congregation has helped our members to rebuild, and we are working to make connections into the community during this rebuilding process. Our members participate in weekly Bible studies and Sunday School, and our deacon is leading monthly services at nursing and retirement homes in the area. St. Paul celebrates its 75th anniversary in May, 2022.

#### Immanuel, Wheeler

Immanuel has rejoiced to transition their ministry after the retirement of long-time Pastor Larry Warsinski and welcomed Pastor Michael Podeszwa and his family. Immanuel is still dealing with the aftermath of the pandemic as members slowly return to in-person worship. For those who cannot come, both Bible study and worship are streamed live on Facebook. This enables those who miss a service for any reason the opportunity to catch up. They are looking forward to the time when they can gather together free from the worries of the pandemic and celebrate the fellowship of all believers.

### **Circuit #6 – Bay City Circuit** **Rev. William H. Allwardt, Circuit Visitor**

Faith, Bay City – Rev. Gary Bender (IIP)  
Baptized Membership – 688  
Communicant Membership – 600  
Average Worship Attendance – 168

Immanuel, Bay City – Rev. Kevin Jones, Rev. Chris A. Garcia  
Baptized Membership – 1796  
Communicant Membership – 1039  
Average Worship Attendance – 320

St. John, Bay City (Amelith) –  
Baptized Membership – 639  
Communicant Membership – 507  
Average Worship Attendance – 118

Trinity, Bay City (Monitor) –  
Baptized Membership – 478  
Communicant Membership – 408  
Average Worship Attendance – 157

Zion, Bay City – Rev. Phillip A. Baerwolf  
Baptized Membership – 823  
Communicant Membership – 700  
Average Worship Attendance – 95

Pilgrim, Essexville – Rev. Erwin Hutter  
Baptized Membership – 361  
Communicant Membership – 271  
Average Worship Attendance – 39

St. Paul, Bay City (Frankenlust) – Rev. Dennis Matyas  
Baptized Membership – 888  
Communicant Membership – 725  
Average Worship Attendance – 281

St. John, Pinconning – Rev. David Jung  
Baptized Membership – 388  
Communicant Membership – 339  
Average Worship Attendance – 84

### **Circuit #7 - Thumb East Circuit** **Rev. Kenneth D. Lueke, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 7 covers the eastern half of Huron and Sanilac Counties, with M-53 as its western border. It is comprised of nine congregations. Its pastors meet in monthly Winkels with the pastors of Thumb West Circuit 8. This Circuit is largely agricultural, with some light industry mixed in. Since the last Convention, Thumb East experienced several vacancies which have been or are in the process of being filled, as well as the creation of a dual parish arrangement.

#### Our Savior, Bad Axe

Our Savior is a congregation that uses the classic liturgies and hymns of the Lutheran Church and, bucking the trend, has seen an influx of younger families active in the church. Its preschool continues to operate at maximum capacity with an ongoing waiting list and has expanded its program to three full days a week and two half days. The congregation celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2021 and will be publishing a book about its history later this year. Our

Savior's Radio Ministry continues to be popular and widely listened to throughout Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac Counties. The congregation is active in Human Care projects in the community, such as the sponsoring of food drive trucks and the distribution of food to the needy of the community.

#### Peace, Sandusky

Peace experienced a vacancy in 2019 and began the calling process. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the congregation elected to remain open through the entire time and, in August of 2020, installed Rev. Bryan Hopfensperger as its new pastor. Peace continues to operate a successful preschool and daycare program.

#### St. John, Port Sanilac

In 2021, after a lengthy vacancy, St. John called the Rev. Randy Lett as its pastor on a part-time basis. As a representative for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, this enables him to visit other congregations once a month on behalf of LHF while providing pastoral services to St. John.

#### St. John, Port Hope

Since July 2016, Rev. David Dodge has been the pastor at St. John. In 2018, St. John's celebrated its 150th anniversary.

#### Zion, Harbor Beach

Zion continues to operate a successful and high-quality day school, preschool, and daycare programs. Vacant since 2019, the congregation rejoices that Rev. Matthew Durance has accepted its call as pastor, with his installation tentatively set (at the time of this writing) for May 22, 2022.

#### Our Savior, Marlette

Due to their pastor accepting a call to Wisconsin in 2020, Our Savior was blessed to have a short vacancy that came to an end with the Ordination and Installation of their new pastor, Rev. Timothy Kern, in July 2021. Like Peace, Sandusky, Our Savior elected to remain open during the entire pandemic time. Our Savior continues to provide Christian education to its members and the community through their day school.

#### St. Peter, Kinde

With Rev. Larry Loree as its pastor, St. Peter continues to reach out to the community in a variety of ways, especially through VBS during the Kinde Polkafest each year and also in outreach to Veterans of the Armed Forces living in Huron County.

#### Trinity, Forestville and St. John, Palms

These two congregations entered into a dual parish arrangement in 2019 with Rev. Henry Hales serving as their pastor.

Though our Circuit has suffered through the COVID-19 pandemic, economic hardships and the exodus of many people to other areas of the state and country, the congregations of Thumb East are firmly committed to carrying on Word and Sacrament ministry to the residents of Huron and Sanilac Counties. Our congregations remain committed to orthodox Lutheran doctrine and liturgies, and in mission work to bring the Gospel of Christ to all.

### **Circuit #8 - Thumb West Circuit** **Rev. G. Stevens Bagnall, Circuit Visitor**

#### Grace Lutheran Church, Fairgrove

At Grace, the Lord remains faithful to us, as He nourishes and strengthens His people through His Word and Sacrament. Catechesis for our children and teenagers continues to thrive as they study both Luther's Small and Large Catechisms. Thanks to our Lord's generosity, we are able to support many missionaries both at home and afar, including a local pregnancy resource center, a local homeless shelter, Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society for the Deaf, Wellspring Lutheran Services, and two seminary students. Our sanctuary has received a few updates, including a new hard floor for improved acoustics and our Lord's corpus, carved by Mr. Ed Riojas, was placed on the cross hanging above the altar. We are blessed to have a very young and talented organist, Chelsea Worden, and a faithful choir to sing for us every Sunday. We enjoy our fellowship with many local parishes, especially as we host the circuit-wide Easter Vigil service every year. We look forward to the future, as our congregation will soon celebrate its 75th Anniversary in a couple of years. But most especially, we look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

#### St. Paul, Unionville

Over the past four years, God has used events in our world and our community to teach, to know, and to trust Him better and what it means to truly love our neighbors as ourselves. We have been exceptionally blessed through these past four years. In September, 2021, St. Paul celebrated its 145th anniversary with a celebration service and luncheon celebrating the rich history of God's work in their community. They look forward to God's continued blessings through joy and trial, both now and into eternity.

#### St. Paul, Pigeon (Linkville)

By God's grace and mercy, St. Paul celebrated its 125th Anniversary in the summer of 2019. The congregation gathered for a special service and worked together afterward to assemble hygiene kits to be sent to those in need as a response to our Lord's gracious and loving care. In 2020, the seventy-five-year-old pipe organ of St. Paul underwent extensive repairs and upgrades. The balance of that large project was closed out in 2022 through the generous giving of God's people, who pray that beautiful church music and hymnody would bless generations of saints for years to come.

#### Good Shepherd, Pigeon (Caseville)

Good Shepherd continues to be anchored in the life-giving Word of God and sustained by the Body and Blood of Jesus given up for sinners. In 2020, Good Shepherd began offering the Lord's Supper each Sunday. They look forward with anticipation to the celebration of their 50th Anniversary, which is to take place in the summer of 2022. A special service, meal, and sharing of Good Shepherd's history are planned.

#### St. Peter, Bach (Sebewaing)

In our 110th year in 2022, our Lord, the Alpha and the Omega, has shown us He is greater than the delta and the omicron.



The Lord continues to bless the people of St. Peter, faithfully enabling them to continue His ministry in these recent, difficult times. In 2020, at the beginning of the pandemic, a small group would gather together for worship while others participated online. Some also received the Eucharist outside the building in the Lord's beautiful creation in our rural setting. The members also continue to be sacrificial in their stewardship. We are firmly grasped by Jesus Christ who holds us close to Him as we gather around Scripture, the Eucharist, and a life of prayer, service, and witness.

#### St. John's, Kilmanagh (Sebewaing)

For 146 years, St. John's has continued to serve the Lord by faithful worship and by reaching out into our surrounding communities to serve those in need. Currently, we have 14 students enrolled in area Lutheran schools and many others maturing in Christ as they attend three different public school districts. Our congregation has a rich heritage of worship and we are blessed by our skilled and faithful organists Jeanette Bach and Cindy Volz as they lead us in singing the Lord's songs.

#### Good Shepherd, Cass City

The four years since the last District Convention have included numerous challenges. As we all did, Good Shepherd faced the effects of COVID-19. While this brought much difficulty, God used this plague to teach us His love. We refocused our attention on the most important aspects of our life with Christ. At breakneck speed, we developed ways to communicate electronically and allow our members to continue to receive God's Word even while isolated. We also immediately implemented practices to allow members to come to the church to receive the Holy Sacrament, first in small services for each family group, and later in various services with distancing between family groups. We were reminded that Word and Sacrament are the core of our identity. Through outdoor gatherings and online contact, we were able also to continue our Christian education and fellowship with one another. As a result, God has given us a renewed focus and direction as we move into the next stage of life as His people. This step into the future will be strengthened by two upgrades to our facilities. The chancel area will be remodeled to enhance access to the communion rail for our older members. We are also preparing an overhaul and upgrade of our sound system. This will improve the clarity of the Word for those in our pews, and also for those following at home via our new livestream system. It is expected that both of these projects will be completed by the time the District meets this summer in Convention.

#### Immanuel, Sebewaing

Immanuel continues to celebrate receiving Jesus through His Word and Means of Grace. We have moved to serving communion during every service while in this time of pandemic. We have called a new principal, Mrs. Mary Eifert, to our school and a new fifth grade teacher, Mr. Joseph Heins. Our assisting pastor, Rev. Albert Bahr, was called home to glory after serving Immanuel faithfully since 1992. Our Collide youth group continues to remain active in congregation and community under the leadership of Chuck McGathy. We continue to seek to grow in the Word of God

daily and reach out effectively to those around us.

#### **Circuit #9 - Frankenmuth Circuit** **Rev. Gary L. Bender, Circuit Visitor**

The congregations of the Frankenmuth Circuit have been busy and active during the last triennium. Here is what has been happening:

#### St. Paul, Caro

Since our last Michigan District, LCMS Convention, St. Paul, Caro has experienced some changes. We have made improvements to buildings and facilities and implemented our livestream worship services. The congregation has taken an active part in helping to establish the Tuscola House of Hope—a homeless shelter for men in our county. Several volunteers from St. Paul have participated in the work of the shelter and the shelter building.

#### St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

By the grace and goodness of God, St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School are doing well and have weathered the pandemic with great faithfulness, thoughtfulness, generosity, and a deep desire to connect people to Jesus and reconnect with each other. Recently, St. Lorenz has distilled their congregational values and will be entering into a collaborative process this year to reframe their vision for the future. Filling key staff positions will be an opportunity for prayer and participation from the staff and leaders of the congregation. St. Lorenz continues to worship together and online, study God's Word, and come alongside each other to serve the Church and its greater community.

#### Immanuel, Frankentrost (Saginaw)

In 2022, Immanuel recalls 175 years of God's blessings with the theme "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God." In the past four years, we have especially known that comfort through challenge and opportunity. Our childcare program planned, built, and opened a wonderful center attached to our school. Upgrades in the school followed. A new parking lot, the restoration of our stained-glass windows and pipe organ, and a new park hall were completed. Our SMP pastor, Rev. Daniel Wojtowicz, was ordained and installed to assist with the school and families. Upgrades in technology have made sharing the Lord Jesus with others possible, and our Living Nativity had its twenty-fifth yearly presentation. God continues to bless and be with Immanuel.

#### St. Paul, Millington

We spent the year 2021 under the theme "202One – One in the Son." We promoted a "Passport" view for the year. Members were given a passport and encouraged to engage in the activities we suggested for: monthly missions (ex. donating items for Sanctity of Life Sunday, making Valentines cards, food drive, etc.), worship, spiritual growth, prayer, and service to others. They would get a stamp in their passport when they accomplished a task in any of these areas. Over the last few years, we found creative ways to encourage interaction despite the pandemic. Our online presence was enhanced and livestreaming the worship services became a regular option for those unable or not willing to attend in person just yet. During the summer we

hosted a weekly “Summer Recess” and invited the entire community to come to our campus. Children could play on the playground while adults could socialize. Each week there was a different emphasis. Some days there were treats provided and other times a specific game might be encouraged (ex. softball, ga-ga pit). This allowed us to meet new people and to invite them to learn more about our church and school. A few relationships were developed with families that ended up sending their children to our preschool. Summer Recess enabled us to share Jesus with others in a relaxed environment without adding something to our schedules. Most families already take time for play. We simply provided a time to get connected with others.

We also continued our “Hall – O – ween” event in the school hallways. Members decorated the doorways to our classrooms and gave out candy at these stations. The community was invited to a safe and warm environment prior to the community-wide observance of trick-or-treat on Halloween. This event enables the community to see our school campus and also the various Christian messages that are in our building (ex. student artwork in the hallways, murals, posters, and the architecture of our building that incorporates the Christian faith). As people became more willing to meet in person, we rebranded our Sunday School and adult Bible class time as “Faith on Fire.” We promoted it as a family time. The materials were from the CPH “Enduring Faith” series for all age groups, and this allowed for families to discuss the lesson later at home.

As we look forward, we are able to focus on building up the people of God. We are debt free! Our Lord has paid the debt for our sin, and He also enabled us to pay off our mortgage! Our 125th Anniversary is June 24, 2022. We are celebrating what God has done for us and through us for 125 years. To God be the glory!

#### Trinity-St. James, Munger

We spent most of the last triennium in vacancy working with Pastor John Weldon as our Interim Pastor. We are happy to report that Pastor Jimmy Riley has accepted our call and was installed on April 3. We look forward to moving forward in ministry with our new pastor.

#### Trinity, Reese

Over the last four years, Trinity has had the joy of receiving three vicars (Timothy Sheridan, Jess Heimer, and Joshua Brahmndmahl) and looks forward to continuing in the vicarage program in the future. It also has called and installed Kantor Hannah Weaver as its Church and School Music Director, called Mrs. Cindy Briggs as principal, and called two upper grade teachers (Mrs. Carol Eyster and Mr. Trevor Parks). Trinity continues to work towards its mission of Teaching about Christ, Leading to Christ, Caring like Christ, and Sharing Christ with our Community.

#### St. Michael's Richville

The last couple of years have been a time of major change for St. Michael's. Like everyone else, we had to deal with the COVID pandemic, suspending worship services for two months and going online during that time. Attendance has

gradually crept up since returning to in-person worship, but has still has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. In June of 2020, Pastor Robert Gadeken retired after 17 years of service. Shortly after his retirement, St. Michael's entered the Intentional Interim program and was served by Pastor Larry Courson for 15 months. In January of 2022, Pastor Lang Yang left for Army chaplaincy training. Because the Hmong population in our area has decreased, our Hmong ministry will officially end this spring. Through all these changes, St. Michael's remains faithful and committed to carrying out the Great Commission. Our school enrollment remains steady, our Child Care is close to full, and we are looking to call several new teachers to replace those who have retired or moved on to other teaching positions. We are currently in the calling process for our next administrative pastor.

May God continue to bless us as we serve Him in this new time of witnessing to our sin-filled world.

### **Circuit #10 – Saginaw Circuit** **Rev. William W. Hessler, Circuit Visitor**

The heavenly Father continues to bless the eleven congregations of Saginaw Circuit 10 with the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit as it continues the rich history of Lutheranism in the Saginaw Valley by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament ministry and Christ-centered, Lutheran education.

#### Bethlehem, Saginaw

Bethlehem is ably served by Rev. Michael Korte following the retirement of co-pastor Rev. Charles Buckhahn. Bethlehem's parochial day school continues to make a significant impact on the community, as does Bethlehem's traditional “Boars' Head Festival.” Following a break due to COVID-19, Bethlehem resumed the Boar's Head Festival in 2021, and it remains a staple of the Saginaw Christmas season.

#### Faith, Bridgeport

Rev. Timothy Behnke accepted Faith's call to be its shepherd under Christ, which brought Rev. John Weldon's Intentional Interim ministry to completion at Faith. Richard Lewis also assists at Faith in his role as a Deacon. Faith operates a dynamic Christ-centered Child Care program to help meet the needs of area families.

#### Good Shepherd, Saginaw

Good Shepherd is presently being served by Rev. Paul Biber with assistance from Deacon Jeff Rauschert. Pastor, deacon, and people together strive to “Follow the Shepherd, Nurture the Flock, and Seek the Lost.” Good Shepherd also operates an Early Childhood Center which provides a safe and secure haven for child care, along with a Christ-centered curriculum for three and four-year-old preschoolers, Kindergarten students, and young fives.

#### Holy Cross, Saginaw

Rev. James Krueger continues serving the mother church of Saginaw, Holy Cross. Located in the heart of “old town” Saginaw, Holy Cross, together with its parish day school, makes a concerted effort to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through outreach efforts and active participation in various

community events, thus bringing a Christ-centered witness to the area.

#### Messiah, Carrollton (Saginaw)

Messiah is capably served by Rev. Phillip DeVries. Messiah has worked closely with Bethlehem, Saginaw in the past by hosting a PICO (Practical Ideas for Community Outreach) workshop.

#### Nativity, St. Charles

Rev. Mitchell Vogeli ministers vigorously as Pastor of Nativity. The congregation's community involvement and making its presence visible in the village comprise a major focus of Nativity's Christ-centered ministry.

#### Peace, Saginaw

Peace is the largest congregation in the Circuit. Rev. Erik Schmidt, together with Specific Ministry Pastors Rev. Matthew Hauser and Rev. Henry Pahlkotter, serve Peace's members as their shepherds under Christ. Peace's state-of-the-art Christian Day School campus effectively pursues its Christ-centered ministry to families.

#### St. Mark, Saginaw (Shields)

Rev. Mark Hill completed his Intentional Interim Ministry at St. Mark when Rev. Kirk Abatelli was installed as its new Pastor on January 2, 2022. Pastor Abatelli will work in ministry alongside Rev. Robert Allman. St. Mark and its preschool are committed to experiencing God's love through one another's daily lives, as well as to express that love to the world in their relationships and through their worshiping community.

#### St. Philip, Owosso

Rev. Brian Heidt continues faithfully serving St. Philip. The congregation continues to work hard making its presence known in the community and truly sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### St. Peter, Hemlock

Rev. Dr. William Morris capably ministers to the good saints of St. Peter by continuing its rich heritage of Word and Sacrament ministry to rural Hemlock. As it has since 1881, the parochial day school provides a quality Christian education program for children ages preschool through eighth grade, plus an extended childcare program.

#### Zion, Hemlock

Rev. Paul Hauser continues to serve Zion as its shepherd under Christ. Based on Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19–20, the mission and vision of Zion is to share JESUS with all people by Joyfully worshiping, Educating all people, Sharing God's Word, Utilizing all gifts, and Serving all souls.

#### Valley Lutheran High School

Rev. Michael Stahl serves as the Pastor on staff at Saginaw's Valley Lutheran High School, and Mr. Julian Petzold accepted the call to be Valley's Executive Director following the retirement of Mr. John Brandt. VLHS continues its \$10 million "Growing Campaign" to provide the space and resources needed to continue being a top-notch secondary school on the leading edge of education.

The Saginaw Circuit is also blessed with the participation and

involvement of a number of emeriti: Rev. Charles Buckhahn, Rev. Bert Eggers, Rev. Martin Hagenow, Rev. William Hessler, Rev. Paul Hinz, Rev. Edward Kast, Rev. Robert Koeppen, Rev. Richard Mundt, Rev. Dr. Robert Schultz, Rev. David Sherry, Rev. Steve Thiel, Rev. Carl Trosien, and Rev. John Weldon. Their experience and expertise are valuable resources as the Circuit continues walking and working together for the Lord in the greater Saginaw area.

### **Circuit #11 – Flint North Circuit** **Rev. David H. Hensler, Circuit Visitor**

The congregations of Flint North Circuit continue under the Lord's care and service faithfully, with varied ministries of service.

Listed are the congregations in the circuit with a brief summary of the past three years:

#### St. Martin, Birch Run – Rev. James Chinery

After a brief shutdown due to the pandemic (3/20/20–6/14/20), St. Martin has continued to remain open for worship and other activities. St. Martin has made leaps and bounds with our online presence, offering livestream (on multiple platforms) for all worship services as well as daily devotions on the readings of the week (Monday–Thursday). Our worship attendance has grown modestly over the past couple of years, and our staffing has remained stable. In December 2021, St. Martin began what we hope to be our final capital campaign, titled "Legacy of Faith," to pay off the church mortgage. Our mission statement for the campaign reads: "In paying off our church mortgage, St. Martin hopes to increase our outreach to the community and provide a debt-free legacy for the next generation."

#### Our Savior, Flint – also known as York Avenue Mission – Vacant

Our Savior continues Word and Sacrament ministry to the people of North Flint, the Beecher District, and beyond. Our Savior loves ministry and provides church neighbors and friends with food, clothing of many colors given out of love, neighbor dinners, activities for children and youth, prayer, and devotional resources. The church also remains an active part of community efforts for improvement.

#### Messiah, Clio – Rev. Erik Cloeter

God is good! Difficult as it was, our congregation has been blessed through the many challenges of the last two years. Since our last report, we celebrated 49 baptisms, including individuals and households, with people ranging from newborn to 55 years of age. We also confirmed the faith of 75, ranging from 13 to 55 years. We remain committed to our mission to *Make More & Better Disciples*. One focus as of late has been the rebuilding and advancing of our teaching/equipping ministries, also lending considerable time and resources to our tech infrastructure for audio-visual improvements, online presence, and security. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

#### Christ the King - Deaf, Flint – Rev. Brant Engel & Rev. Thomas Dunseth

This congregation continues to serve the deaf community in



Metro Flint and the Michigan District. In July of 2020, Christ the King, Flint and St. Paul, Flint became a dual parish. VBS is conducted in both English and American Sign Language as they reach out to the hearing and deaf communities in the Flint area. Christ the King also held a Church Interpreters workshop to train future interpreters for service in the church. The pastors continue to be involved in training future workers in Deaf Ministry by supervising vicars and deaconesses and by teaching the deaf ministry classes at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

#### St. Paul, Flint – Rev. Brant Engel

In July of 2020, St. Paul, Flint and Christ the King (Deaf), Flint entered into a dual parish agreement. Rev. Jeffrey Walsh retired in December 2020 and was given the status of Pastor Emeritus. Pastor Engel was called as administrative pastor for the dual parish. Pastor Dean Dumbrille was called as visitation pastor and Pastor Thomas Dunseth was called as mission pastor. Deacon Bill Storm came back to St. Paul to serve in the area of parish education and catechesis. St. Paul has instituted a jail ministry and campus ministry as they continue to reach out to the people in the Flint community. St. Paul Lutheran School is in its 93rd year and continues to teach the students as the Lord sends them to us. Mary Lynn Buck is the Principal and Administrator over all child-related programs such as daycare, preschool GSRP program, and K-8 Lutheran day school. The pastoral staff continues to work diligently to bring the Word and Sacraments to the city of Flint.

#### United in Christ, Flint – Vacant

The pandemic did not help our congregation but there is a core group of about 50–60 members that remain very faithful. Part of this group also continues to assist at the Franklin Avenue Mission. For the most part, the spirit of the congregation remains high, for which we are always thankful.

#### Holy Cross, Flushing – Rev. Robert Riggs

Baptized Membership – 332

Communicant Membership – 271

Average Worship Attendance – 90

#### **Circuit #12 – Flint South Circuit**

**Rev. Todd A. Biermann, Circuit Visitor**

#### Pilgrim, Burton – Rev. Mark Matheny

Baptized Membership – 133

Communicant Membership – 123

Average Worship Attendance – 42 (one service each Sunday)

Our worship attendance numbers are gradually recovering, but we remain at only 75% of pre-COVID levels. Our mostly mature family of believers continues to slowly return from pandemic isolation, with many outreach opportunities still available. We are starting to engage in fellowship activities as people feel comfortable, including Bible study and book study events. We have restarted Sunday School activities for children. We're looking outside our family and our online presence continues to provide connections to new people, with a couple of visitors. We have started a new outreach group, which organizes family events targeted towards non-members in our community. We're developing a connection with a nearby elementary school to serve children

and engage their families. Thanks be to God, whose Spirit is stirring among us!

#### Trinity, Fenton – Rev. Peter Ahlersmeyer

Baptized Membership – 745

Communicant Membership – 480

Average Worship Attendance – 193

Trinity continues to be a place that proclaims the love of Christ to those in the Fenton and surrounding areas. Over the last four years, Trinity has been blessed with steady membership and finances despite the challenges faced with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic also helped Trinity increase its digital platform with livestreamed worship services. The biggest change at Trinity has been the retirement of Rev. Dean Dumbrille in 2020 (serving Trinity since '98) and the installation of Rev. Peter Ahlersmeyer in June of 2021. Various ministries have expanded with the addition of a part-time Director of Children's Ministries in 2019. Family-focused events such as community bonfires as well as local mission partnerships have allowed Trinity to become known in the community as a place where the Gospel is embraced and people belong!

#### Christ, Goodrich – Rev. Kelly Todd

Baptized Membership – 229

Communicant Membership – 189

Average Worship Attendance – 72

#### Faith, Grand Blanc – Rev. Todd Biermann/Rev. Robert Scott (SMP)

Baptized Membership – 1886

Communicant Membership – 1220

Average Worship Attendance – 274

While attendance numbers have been adversely affected over the past two years, activity has not been curbed. We continue to have vibrant worship, Bible study, and other growth activities. New members continue to join our family, including five adult baptisms in the past year. We are gradually expanding our fellowship opportunities. Outreach to the community is expanding in many ways as we are capitalizing on positive relationships with other community leaders and organizations. We thank the Lord for the recent acceptance of the call to Christie Hansard to be our Deaconess/Parish Nurse. Her involvement has greatly expanded our ability to care for the whole person of all whom we serve in our congregation and beyond.

#### Hope, Linden – Rev. Paul Kollek

Baptized Membership – 179

Communicant Membership – 166

Average Worship Attendance – 52

Prior to the pandemic, we were seeing a gradual increase in new members, confirmations, and baptisms. Since the spring of 2020 and COVID, we have struggled to regain our prior weekly worship attendance numbers which ranged from 80–110. Now it is between 40–70. Many of those who were inconsistent previously are even more so now, and some have not returned to in-person worship at all. A significant portion of our ministry was directed to in-reach in 2020 trying to keep those unwilling to come in person connected. In 2021, we balanced that focus with renewed outreach efforts into our community, especially our public schools. We have several

members of Hope serving as mentors at Hyatt elementary. We offer an after-school program called Oasis for middle school students (75+ 6–8 graders participate) on Thursdays with a devotion, games, crafts, and other activities. We hosted and will continue to provide the baccalaureate service for the graduating Linden class at Hope. We also provide a scholarship to a graduating senior every year. Once a month we have free coffee, donuts, and treats for all school staff and the Linden/Argentine community first responders (50+ come monthly). We are hosting a community chili cookoff. We have a monthly community craft night for women (10–20 attendees monthly). We have participated in all our community events such as the Holiday Happenings, Night of Hope, Anniversary Celebration, etc. generally with a game or craft table. We have been active in the local food bank, grow Linden (regional chamber of commerce), LMA, and Pay It Forward. We have built a strong relationship with the schools and local police and have been called for prayers to provide spiritual counsel during tragic events. Our women's guild is once again active in fellowship and planning fundraisers for missions and to help meet the church's needs. Our women's quilting group, while not meeting at the church, continues to provide items for Flint missions and clothes for children in Haiti. We have several dog ministry teams that are active in all of our schools, VA, Medical, and other facilities. Bible and Brews is a men's get-together during the summer. We have opened up the church to groups such as youth wrestling, driver's education, and others who have not been allowed back into the schools. We continue to have two weekly Bible studies and an education hour for all ages on Sunday mornings. We also started a new care/need-focused ministry for our shut-ins in 2020 that has continued. Our music director died in October 2021 and we are still seeking to fill that position. Even with lower weekly attendance numbers, we had 6 baptisms and welcomed 8 new members in 2021.

NewLife Community, Swartz Creek – Rev. Matthew Hein  
Baptized Membership – 233  
Communicant Membership – 201  
Average Worship Attendance – 114

The past four years brought both Jesus' continued faithfulness and significant opportunities for NewLife. We experienced 2 pastoral transitions, with Pastor Matt Hein being installed as Senior Pastor (May 2020) and Pastor Dave Rossow officially retiring from his associate pastor position (July 2021). The past two years have focused on deepening our dependence on Jesus as we intentionally build for our future. We are accelerating our discipleship and community engagement. We invested in our digital capacity in response to pandemic challenges and engagement opportunities. We began a building project, which will bring additional multipurpose and office space to our campus. And we have continued to be active in partnership with Franklin Avenue Mission and the new Flint Mission Network.

Lamb of God, Flint – Rev. Mark Pretznaw  
Baptized Membership – 201  
Communicant Membership – 183  
Average Worship Attendance – 66

In the past four years, Lamb of God has seen Pastor Paul Boerger retire and move up to Rogers City, where he has

found himself busy in a vacancy position. We have called and installed a new sole pastor: Rev. Mark Pretznaw, a second-career pastor called from the Seminary. Lamb of God grew in average attendance from worshipping an average of 75 in 2017 to our peak of 96 in 2019 before COVID-19 hit. In 2020, Lamb of God closed down corporate worship and did livestreaming only in March and April. In May we returned to corporate worship of the Word followed by a separate service of the Sacrament for those who wished to partake. We continued with that pattern through the rest of the year and into 2021 through Lent. On Palm Sunday, we returned to one combined Service of the Word and the Sacrament which continues today. Throughout these past four years, Lamb of God has developed and strengthened its relationship with the Michigan District's Franklin Avenue Mission (now Flint Mission Network) as well as LOVE I.N.C. of Flint, Carriage Town Ministries, Flint Crisis Pregnancy Center, and Heartbeat Crib. We have committed to tithe as a congregation in support of Michigan District's *Here We Stand* campaign. Currently, we are participating in the Michigan District's *Stewardship By God's Design* program as a pilot congregation. We are blessed by the Lord to see our average worship attendance beginning to grow again in early 2022.

### **Circuit #13 – Lapeer Circuit** **Rev. Gary L. Beck, Circuit Visitor**

#### St. Mark, Flint

We praise God for guiding and sustaining us through the pandemic. Though there were many struggles and challenges, God continued to strengthen His Kingdom here as He worked in the hearts and lives of His people through His Word and Sacraments. We at St. Mark try to remain mission-focused: We prayerfully and financially support one of our members who is serving Jesus in Uganda; many volunteers serve in various ways at Franklin Ave. Mission; some of our ladies make quilts for LCMS World Relief; some members volunteer at Habitat for Humanity and the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan; in past years we have sent members on short-term mission trips both in the U.S. and abroad (we hope to continue this in the future); some members individually support needy children in foreign countries; plus we financially contribute to various mission organizations. What a joy it is to partner with Jesus in reaching out with the Gospel. We are currently in the process of calling an associate pastor who will then be the sole pastor when Pastor Beck retires in the spring of 2023. Please include us in your prayers as we continue this process.

#### Holy Redeemer, Dryden

Through the blessings that the Lord provides, Holy Redeemer is able to share the Love of Jesus Christ within the community. With the Good News of Jesus Christ as our center, we are able to show that love to the community in numerous ways. The congregation operates a preschool for 3- & 4-year-old children 3 days a week. We have been actively supporting the community by the works of Linked Hearts, a food bank supported by the five churches in Dryden. Our congregation also supports the Refugee Homeless Shelter of Lapeer, the Pregnancy Center of Lapeer, and the Reach the Forgotten Prison Ministry. We provide the use of our

parking lot each day to the community schools of Oxford, Lapeer, and Imlay City to provide a safe place for parents and children to wait for the bus. Each year, Holy Redeemer hosts a Vacation Bible School to provide a chance to minister to the children in the community. We also host an annual corn roast for the community to come meet the members of the church and enjoy a bit of food and fellowship.

#### St. Timothy, Otisville

The Lord Jesus Christ continues to provide for St. Timothy. In addition to our ongoing ministry to our Lakeville community and beyond, the Lord used the pandemic to develop and add to our online presence through livestreaming worship services, allowing us to minister more effectively to our shut-ins and snowbirds, and to reach out into the world. We continue to support the Flint Mission Network by regularly serving food at the Franklin Avenue Mission. We are grateful to reach out to local shelters, crisis pregnancy centers, and schools. God has moved St. Timothy to impact our community for Christ through mobile food pantries, Family Promise and Red Cross blood drives. Some of the farther-reaching groups we support are the VA Hospital, World Vision, and Lutheran World Missions. Our heart for the next generation leads us to Coats for Kids, Trunk n Treat, and Angel Tree Ministries for our Lakeville school families. St. Timothy installed a new pastor, Rev. E. Enwood Nevis, in August 2018 and looks forward to celebrating its 50th Anniversary this coming October.

#### St. Paul, Lapeer

St. Paul is invested in the lives of God's children from birth to natural death. St. Paul operates a child care program that takes children from ages 0–4, a Preschool for 3–4 year-olds and an early-fives-through-eighth-grade day school. The total number of children served by St. Paul in 2021 was approximately 220. St. Paul has been blessed with a Food for Families program which feeds about 60 people every Friday. The congregation conducts a food distribution program that gives food to about 8 needy families every other week. The congregation is invested in the broader outreach of the Good News of Jesus into the World by sponsoring J.P. Cima, a LCMS missionary in Cambodia, through the TIM program. St. Paul shows the love of Christ to the least and last of the Lapeer Community through The Refuge community. This is a cooperative effort by the churches in Lapeer to provide food and shelter to the homeless people of the community during the cold months. In addition, St. Paul sponsors and operates a community garden. Garden plots are available on the church's land and are available to families of the community who want to grow their own garden food. There are 48 garden plots. It is a wonderful tool for creating goodwill in the community. Finally, during the coat distribution program over 400 coats were given to people in the area. In 2020, Mr. Rachow, Principal of St. Paul School, entered into the SMP Program at Ft. Wayne and is currently a Vicar at St. Paul. In January 2022, Rev. Jared R. Nies (CSL 2011) was installed as Senior Pastor. St. Paul looks forward to continuing to serve and care for the people in the Lapeer community and proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

#### New Life in Christ, North Branch

Just like many churches we have had a problem with attendance these last couple years due to COVID. We had been using Facebook to try to reach out to many of our people and hoping to reach out to non-members also. We have a small church to start with, so it is hard when just a few are not coming, but we do have a giving church. Many gifts have been given to the church and to local charities from our membership, even in hardship. Our people are a generous people and have responded well to the problems of the past 2 years. At this time, we are actually trying to get a new sound system, projection system, and cameras so we can go back online in order to spread the Word once again on Facebook. We feel that we just can't sit on our hands any longer. We have to do something a little different. We may be small, but the Lord has kept us strong in His Word and Sacrament. We have always said that God will provide, and He has and will.

#### Flint Mission Network (aka Franklin Avenue Mission), Flint

Flint Mission Network is a community ministry working together to love and serve the neighbors of Flint's East and North sides. The network is comprised of two congregations, Franklin Avenue Mission and York Avenue Mission, as well as two partnerships, one with Wellspring Lutheran Services, which assists in the operation of Mercy House (a transitional housing program for homeless mothers and children), and the other with The Luke Clinic, which facilitates a free prenatal clinic within Franklin Avenue Mission. The Michigan District has called and deployed Rev. Christian Jones as a Missionary-at-Large to serve as its executive director. Along with the Franklin Avenue Diner program, the Network also offers a food bank, clothes closet, job-preparedness training, a growing children's ministry, catechetical instruction, and Word and Sacrament ministry. Each of these are designed around Proclaiming the Gospel, Empowering Neighbors, and Lifting One Another Up.

#### Trinity, Davison

During the past triennium, amidst considerable change, Trinity has continued to receive our Lord's gracious blessings. In December 2020, we successfully held our first annual live nativity/Baby Jesus birthday party, including a petting zoo with camels. In the summer of 2021, we began inviting the local community to monthly events called Food Truck Wednesdays, which featured live bands under our pavilion and a number of food trucks. Both of these events provide us opportunities to meet and invite our neighbors. Like so many other congregations, we have begun to offer livestreaming services as a result of the pandemic. Our livestreams continue to have a healthy audience and will be part of our ministry indefinitely. Although our in-person services were suspended for several weeks in the Spring of 2020, we are thankful that worship was offered every week. As we look to the future, our plans are to continue the ministries that the Lord is blessing; seek new paths that He will bless; and improve/upgrade our facilities.

#### Family of Christ, Imlay City

Baptized Membership – 60

Communicant Membership – 60

Average Worship Attendance – 30



## **Circuit #14 - Port Huron Circuit**

### **Rev. Gerhardt A. Doroh, Circuit Visitor**

#### St. Matthew, Lexington – Rev. Jacob Buday

There have been several ministry highlights at St. Matthew since 2018. Pastor Buday graduated from the Seminary and was called to St. Matthew in 2020. Pastor Buday enjoys being called to a congregation where the people really want to help and serve. One recent highlight is an adult confirmation. It is exciting to invite someone into a greater understanding and more mature faith. Various baptisms and weddings have also been highlights at St. Matthew. While funerals are difficult, it is good knowing that a believer has been called home to be with the Lord. Visiting shut-ins is always a highlight, as we catch up and hear how they are doing since the last time we visited together. Finally, partly due to COVID, we have begun an online component to Sunday worship. Through this service, we have connected better than ever with people who can't regularly attend, and even doubled our worship size on major holidays. It is something we plan to keep doing for the time being. The people at St. Matthew are also happy they received a pastor so quickly after Pastor Mueller retired. They did not want to be vacant for too long. It has been a great start to the ministry.

#### Faith, Port Huron – Rev. Mark Huff

Like all other congregations in the district, the last couple of years presented us with some very unexpected challenges. Yet even in the face of a global pandemic, God was faithful. As we addressed the health and safety concerns presented by COVID-19, our congregation's leadership was unified in approach, and God spared our congregation from harmful divisions. While we had already been streaming the Sunday worship services prior to the pandemic, we used the same period to make upgrades to our equipment to improve sound and video quality. We also began livestreaming morning prayer and devotions, which continue to be viewed by members and non-members daily. Upon resuming in-person worship, several new individuals and families began attending and have since been welcomed into membership. In fact, due to an increase in young families with children and the diligent work of our teachers, our Sunday School ministry is as large as it has been in several years. As a result, we anticipate adding a second ministry position and calling an individual to fill it within the next year or so to work with youth and family life ministry. But the most important thing that occurred is what was already happening from the day our congregation was first founded: God's Word continued to be proclaimed and His Sacraments administered for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation of His people. For that and all His blessings, we give all the glory and our most heartfelt praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### Trinity, Port Huron – Rev. Mark Madson

During 2021, Trinity celebrated 150 years of ministry in Port Huron. It was a chance for the congregation to give thanks for the faithfulness of God and His work among us. It was a time to pause and remember faithful friends, teachers, pastors, and our Lord Who has walked with us. In preparation for the anniversary, the congregation completed several projects, including hanging an array of banners in our sanctuary,

consecrating two new altar paraments, installing a new sound system, and restoring our beloved pipe organ. In addition, we have continued to put the school campus facilities to good use, opening them to the 4-H robotics team, a girl's dance team, and an organization that works with young athletes on the court and in the classroom. During the pandemic, we closed the doors from March to June 2020 but offered online services, which continue today. We were blessed financially during this time and have worked to put the congregation on a more solid footing. This year, we are working to reinvigorate our work outside the church walls. One help in this regard will be the restoration of the 10th Street entrance and doors. We give thanks to the congregations of the Michigan District for their partnership in the Gospel.

#### Light of Christ, Marysville – Rev. Scott Magnuson

The year 2019 began with me being called as a Vicar at Light of Christ and ordained in 2020. This coming June, I will finish my four years at St. Louis Concordia Seminary, completing my SMP program. My wife, Sandy, and I have definitely felt blessed with the support of the congregation, our Synod, and my fellow brothers in Christ. We sent a mission team with Immanuel, St. Clair to Guatemala. We continue to give ministry support to Straight Path Ministries in Antigua (resources through Lutheran Heritage Foundation) and Harbor Impact, a local food pantry. We assist Flint Mission Network with a monthly service with Rev. Christian Jones. Through God's grace, financially Light of Christ has prospered these years during the pandemic, and we have added six couples to our membership.

#### Immanuel, St. Clair – Rev. Dave DuBois

Immanuel's mission statement is "Loving God, loving people, making disciples who make disciples." Immanuel is very thankful for the dedication and service from Pastor Alan Schwieger, who retired after 33 years at Immanuel. Immanuel has joined together through the time of COVID and has continued to worship in person as well as provide livestreaming. The congregation has cooperatively worked to grow its ministries and has continued to grow in disciple groups.

#### Living Faith, Marine City – Rev. Paul Yanke

Living Faith is a vibrant congregation of Christians who truly believe in the Great Commission and living their faith. We have a program for youth and children on Thursday evenings called Blast, which has more than doubled in size in less than 1.5 years. Our Sunday Worship attendance has tripled during the same time. We offer Bible study on Sunday mornings after the Worship service and after a fellowship time. Our Worship services are blended, with all the service being projected on a screen. Participation by members is welcomed. Sermons are recorded and posted to our YouTube and Facebook pages. We also have a Fall Harvest Carnival open to the whole community that is very successful. We're currently adding a midweek Bible study and a Potato Pancake Supper on Fat Tuesday. We all feel very blessed with our growth, especially during COVID. We made adaptations to keep people safe but never closed our doors, which we believe would have been against the Bible. Living Faith and Pastor Yanke thank and praise God for all His blessings!



First, Algonac – Rev. Steven Hoerr (Vacancy)

The family of faith at First Lutheran has been seeking to call a pastor since Pastor Herrod retired in 2019. Several calls have been extended, but each has been returned. We, as the congregation members, remain excited by the prospect of welcoming a new pastor into our midst while at the same time trusting in our Lord's timing in bringing this to pass. First Lutheran continues to host monthly dinners for the residents of the community. Bible study takes place weekly, and we continue to look for ways to serve our community's spiritual and physical needs. Our in-reach efforts allow our homebound members to be involved in the life of the church through visitation, online daily devotions, and sermon recordings.

St. Peter, Fair Haven – Rev. Steven Hoerr

St. Peter has been blessed by our Lord throughout these past many years. Our array of congregational support activities continue. We provide age-appropriate Sunday School instruction for our children, our Confirmation students are working through the Catechism, and our Adult Bible Classes provide opportunities to delve into the Word and apply it to daily living. Our seasonal outreach programs provide food for the food pantries in the neighboring towns and personal items for the veterans at the VA facility. Our in-reach efforts allow our homebound members to be involved in the life of the church through visitations, online daily devotions, sermon recordings, and personal correspondence. We continue to upgrade our use of technology to improve our ability to connect with our members and with our community.

St. Peter, Richmond – Rev. Mark Haller  
Principal Heather Haller

The past three years have caused our faith family to look deep into how we do things, which has created new growth in membership each year through adult confirmation by being engaging and inviting. We have been blessed over the past three years with over 100 new members who have come because of our faith family being out in the community and through other new ministries started. In addition to this, one of the areas that assisted in our growth has been our online ministry. Since 2017, our online ministry was important but today the importance of online presence has hit new levels. This has caused our members to step up by increasing awareness as well as by updating to higher quality cameras and computers. In addition, we added a low frequency FM transmitter that allows all our worship services to be broadcasted to the cars in the parking lot. During COVID, the FM transmitter enabled outdoor worship service nonstop for 1.5 years. This outdoor ministry became so important and needed by our church and community that a special enclosed unit was built on wheels called "THE GOSPELARK" for the pastor to preach and lead worship service while being able to see the flock. Today we still offer outdoor worship with communion for those who cannot make it into the church. In addition, we are blessed to reflect on another exciting area of ministry and that is our youth ministry. Since adding a now full-time youth minister, this area has seen growth every year in Sunday school, youth group, and HS youth. Another area of growth that has come under our youth leader the past three years was a focused ministry to our young adult group, ages 18–30. Another major focus for high school youth and the young adults was to go

on mission trips—both local and distant. Our day school has been another major part of St. Peter's for 150 years. The faith family continues to support the school, and through their support, the K-8 grade school has had growth every year with minimal tuition cost to families and full support to those who cannot afford tuition. Due to the ongoing growth in our school, we have been blessed with an additional called teacher. St. Peter also has a preschool ministry for 3- and 4-year-olds which has gone through a decline in enrollments during the past two years. The good news is that new enrollment in our preschool for the 2022–2023 school year is set to surpass our expectations. 2022 is a special year with many events for the faith family and community as we celebrate our 150th year of ministry "Rooted in the Faith by Living Out the Mission."

Our Saviour, Armada – Rev. Sam Sherouse

Over the last year, we have been slowly recovering from the results of the pandemic. We are still doing weekly services on video, which can be found on two of our Facebook sites and our website. We have been working on doing some fellowship events to get the congregation back together and enjoying one another's company. We have also been enhancing our worship area with ecclesiastical art decorations. The members have really enjoyed this. At this point, we are trying to get our small Sunday School up and going again. Our adult Bible study class has picked up in attendance. Our weekly worship attendance has slowly been going up. Like everyone else, we pray this pandemic will stop and we can once again get back to business.

St. Andrew, Memphis – Rev. Ron Roland

The congregation continues to serve the Memphis area with Word and Sacrament ministry. 2019 marked the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the congregation's beginning.

Hope, Goodells – Rev. William Otten, Deacon William Warsinski

Hope is a small congregation that has been blessed to serve our community in a variety of ways. With the help of our congregation and surrounding community, we have for several years provided a clothing drop-off at Hope and deliver these items to Harbor Impact. We provide monetary support each year to the local 4-H programs through paying for trophies and placing a banner of Hope Lutheran Church hung during the County 4-H Fair each year. Hope has also participated in Toys for Tots. We have been blessed in the past few years with weddings and baptisms at Hope. Hope continues to support our deacon, William Warsinski, through his journey of getting back to health after suffering a stroke. Deacon Warsinski, with the congregation's support, is pursuing the SMP program. He continues with his teachings and learning how to move forward with God's plans for his future here at Hope. Even though COVID continues to stress our lives, we continue to spread God's Word (and HOPE) through weekly services, with those services being recorded to be placed on Facebook for those unable to attend or cautious about attending church in person. It is the goal of Hope Lutheran to be an inviting place for people to hear God's Word, whether in person or at home. Deacon Warsinski continues to reach out to the older members of the congregation to support and encourage them with God's

Word through their struggles as well. He has continued with Catechism classes for the teens of our congregation as well as with any new members. We do, from time to time, see new faces at Hope from those in our surrounding area and are blessed that we can be a place of worship for them to come and hear the Word of the Lord. We may be small in number, but we are encouraged weekly by everyone's willingness to help others, spread the Word and love of the Lord, and be a light to those in our area. We have been blessed with a ministry led by Pastor William Otten and our deacon.

Our circuit continues to be blessed with the following servants who, though retired, are regularly covering vacations, vacancies, and the occasional emergency: Pastor Tim Eichberger, Pastor Larry Warsinski, Pastor Barry Sheldon, Pastor Bob Mann, Pastor Al Schwieger, Pastor Barry Mueller, Pastor Gerhardt Doroh, and Pastor John Carrier. During the last triennium, Living Hope of the Bay, New Haven closed. It has been a great blessing from the Holy Spirit to serve with and alongside the pastors and congregations of Circuit 14.

**Circuit #15 – Macomb North Circuit**  
**Rev. E. Paul Burow, Circuit Visitor**  
**Rev. Michael Lutz - Assistant**

Following Rev. Barry Mueller's retirement in June 2021, President Maier appointed Rev. Paul Burow as circuit visitor and Rev. Mike Lutz as the assistant. We are grateful to the Lord that all of the pastoral vacancies in our circuit are filled. The following new pastors were installed in our circuit during 2021: Rev. Dr. Chad Foster at Immanuel, Macomb; Rev. Daniel Harrison at Christ, New Baltimore; Rev. Roderick Schultz at St. Luke, Clinton Twp; Rev. Tim Storck at Good Shepherd, Chesterfield; and Rev. Kurt Wenzelburger at St. Peter, Macomb. In July, the Men's Club at Immanuel, Macomb hosted a cookout for the Pastors and their families. During the Fall Winkler, we discussed the book *The Great Sending* and were hosted by Rev. Matt Heise and Dr. Robert Rahn at the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Our pastors are to be commended that, in spite of the challenges posed by the pandemic and a growing secular culture, they have continued to faithfully proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to the church and the unchurched.

Good Shepherd, Chesterfield (New Baltimore) – Rev. Timothy Storck  
Baptized Membership – 61  
Communicant Membership – 58  
Average Worship Attendance – 32

St. Luke, Clinton Twp. – Rev. Roderick Schultz  
Baptized Membership – 567  
Communicant Membership – 469  
Average Worship Attendance – 81

Trinity, Clinton Twp. – Rev. Ken Wise, Rev. Gary Richard  
Baptized Membership – 1772  
Communicant Membership – 1396  
Average Worship Attendance – 741

Immanuel, Macomb – Rev. Dr. Chad Foster, Rev. Michael Heiden, Rev. Nikolai Gibbons  
Baptized Membership – 4940  
Communicant Membership – 3286  
Average Worship Attendance – 1221

St. Peter, Macomb – Rev. Mark Arendell, Rev. Kurt Wenzelburger  
Baptized Membership – 4163  
Communicant Membership – 3116  
Average Worship Attendance – 853

Christ, New Baltimore – Rev. Daniel Harrison  
Baptized Membership – 80  
Communicant Membership – 60  
Average Worship Attendance – 40

St. John, Ray Twp. – Rev. Joshua Ball  
Baptized Membership – 166  
Communicant Membership – 140  
Average Worship Attendance – 91

A sincere thank you to all the staff members and laity in our communities of faith who served their Savior both within and outside the walls of our churches.

**Circuit # 16 – Macomb Northwest Circuit**  
**Rev. Craig M. Meyer – Circuit Visitor**

The Pastors, SMP's and Deacons of Circuit 16 attend regularly scheduled breakfasts for prayer and fellowship.

All Nations, Sterling Heights – Rev. Khurram Khan  
All Nations continues to reach out to the community with the Gospel.

Faith, Troy – Rev. Joseph Casiglia  
We created an annual campaign for our congregation to help bless and support ministries and non-profits in our community. To date, we've given away over \$150,000. We helped to launch Elli's House in Detroit, an organization that provides shelter, counseling, and assistance to women being trafficked in Metro-Detroit. We led mission trips to Bangladesh, Haiti, Brazil, Mexico, and Africa. We sent construction teams to the Dominican Republic, Mexico, West Virginia, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula to build new homes for 20 families and renovate dozens of others. We began broadcasting live worship services online every week, as well as a worship service in Arabic every month. We began several new channels on YouTube. Our worship ministry began writing and publishing worship music. We baptized 37 adults and 82 children.

Faith Tamil, Troy – Rev. Arul John Alexander –  
Faith Tamil continues to reach out the community with the Gospel.

Grace Fellowship, Romeo – Rev. Eric Majeski  
Grace continues to live out its mission of "Bringing God's grace to life" as we engaged in three new mission ministries that include local, national, and global missions. We have been blessed by those partnerships. Grace celebrated the burning of its mortgage, thankful for the stewardship of God's people. Grace Preschool celebrated its 10th

Anniversary. God is faithful! We humbly rejoice in the revitalization of our Kid's Ministry as it is now a weeknight event that includes a meal.

Peace, Shelby Township – Rev. David Klemm

Peace has a new director of family life and a new principal. Members attended a mission trip to Haiti. Capital improvements at Peace included: cameras and equipment for livestreaming, parking lot, and a narthex refresh. Also, there has been an increased school enrollment and attendance at VBS. The congregation enjoyed an outdoor picnic, a worship and auction and Raise Craze event, nativity manger build, and pumpkin decorating event.

Our Redeemer, Washington – Rev. Jeffrey Draeger

The past 4 years have certainly been challenging as we continue to seek to share God's grace in a dramatically changing world! Our Redeemer has been blessed with a commitment to Be, Build, and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ no matter what the circumstances of our world might be. COVID has given us the opportunity to expand our ministry in terms of an online presence. We have begun livestreaming our services and offering opportunities to connect to the church beyond traditional forms. We have invested in technology to give a foundation for the future of the church with reduced costs. Our Little Lambs Preschool continues to reach out to an average of 100 families in our community with the hope that comes from faith in Jesus Christ. God is good and we are blessed to share His goodness in our community!

Redemption, Sterling Heights

Redemption held its closing service June 27, 2021.

St. Paul, Sterling Heights – Rev. Walter Keller

Baptized Membership – 237

Communicant Membership – 217

Average Worship Attendance – 91

Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township – Rev. Timothy Bollinger

The people of Shepherd's Gate have continued to see God's grace through these uncertain and difficult times. We started doing outdoor services in the summer of 2020 due to the pandemic. We found these services to be an incredible outreach to our community. They became our most attended services outside of Christmas and Easter. We also took our annual Step Out and Serve event weekend, and began offering serving opportunities for our members to serve into our community throughout the year. This has resulted in participating in over 30 serving projects each year.

Trinity, Utica – Rev. Justin Krupsky

Not just the past 4 years but certainly over the last 140 years, the Holy Spirit has continued to provide Trinity with both new and seasoned leadership both in the pastoral office and in all areas of ministries. We have been blessed to enlarge our pastoral team to four pastors along with an SMP student. Online ministry has taken off as we are reaching hundreds of houses every week through Bible studies, devotions, and worship. Our day school ministry has the largest enrollment it has had in over 12 years and through our social ministry we are able to serve over 1,500 meals every week to people

in need. Our family life team has continued to champion "Faith 5" for our families along with partnering with families through the youth confirmation program. In this next year, as the Lord sees fit, we will be completing our sanctuary renovations and begin a new ministry expansion campaign for off-site ministries. We are as committed as ever to fulfill God's mission of making disciples who share Christ's story with love. To God be the Glory.

**Circuit # 17 – Oakland North Circuit**  
**Rev. Matthew G. Schuler, Circuit Visitor**

Crown of Life, Rochester Hills

The preschool has had two years of tremendous growth. This year, the preschool was full with a waiting list for both 3's and 4's. We are in the process of starting a young 5's program for the next school year. The church has moved to two worship services with different worship styles. We have been working on upgrading our video and have added the means to livestream our worship services. We are also redoing our church website and revamped our church logo. We have been blessed with returning guests, new members, and baptisms over the past months and are currently in the midst of a productive mortgage reduction drive.

GoodLife, Rochester Hills

GoodLife members' average age is over sixty-five years. Approximately 35 gather each Sunday for worship and Bible study. In addition, we conduct worship services and Bible study twice each month at four senior residences in the area, averaging 45 in attendance. Leadership accepted an invitation to enter a partnership with Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township. We pray that by working together these congregations will revitalize mission and ministry at GoodLife to the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

Good Shepherd, Lake Orion

In the last four years, the prevailing theme at Good Shepherd has been reorganization. The Lutheran school closed at the end of the last triennium and, after a one-year hiatus, the school spaces were repurposed to create a greatly expanded preschool program serving children from 3–5 years old. Starting with approximately 15 students in one room the first year, the program has grown to currently include 4 rooms and 60 students per day, 80 students total. The congregation experienced steady decreases in membership and attendance during the early years of this report. In February of 2019, Pastor Gary Koltz left Good Shepherd. A pastoral vacancy followed with Good Shepherd relying on a rotation of pastors anchored by Pastor Dan Meckes (now of Journey). In November of 2019, Pastor Wayne Wentzel was brought in to serve as the IIM pastor, a role which he filled until June of 2021. Pastor Benjamin Oelschlaeger was called out of the seminary and was installed in July of 2021. Since the start of 2021, the church has begun to feel a sense of stability and hope for the future. COVID has been a driving theme of the ministry of Good Shepherd in the last two years, with significant efforts made to improve the accessibility of our online content. Services and Bible studies continue to be livestreamed whenever possible to serve the high-risk populations of the church who remain unable to return



to live worship. With the significant changes of the last decade, the church is looking critically at the many activities and organizations that have been features of the church community. Throughout this process, we remain committed to several ministries and partners. We continue to uplift our men's, women's, preschool, and quilting ministries here at Good Shepherd, while also participating in the work of our neighboring congregation, St. Paul Community Lutheran Church in Pontiac, and hosting a drop-off location for Operation Christmas Child. We also continue to seek ways to further engage and serve the Lake Orion community at large.

#### Journey, Oxford

There's an unofficial motto that's been shared since the creation of Journey Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Center on January 1, 2021: Better Together.

Created by a collaborative effort between Living Word Lutheran Church of Rochester and Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Oxford, God's people recognized that there was more our congregations could do together than each congregation could do alone. More than ever, partnership and collaboration has been needed as the Oxford community was shaken to its core by the deadly shooting at Oxford High School, which stole the lives of four students, physically wounded seven others, and altered the lives of thousands of students, teachers, and faculty at the high school and tens of thousands of mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and community members. Called to be compassionate and caring to those who surround us, Journey Lutheran has established a "Caring for Oxford" fund that will seek to provide financial resources for mental health care expenses to those who may be hurting emotionally, mentally, spiritually, or physically in the aftermath of the shooting. We are seeking to partner with other churches, ministries, businesses, and groups to make this a community effort to care for people in Oxford. If you have questions about Caring for Oxford or would like to support the ministry financially so that it can continue to serve the mental health needs of our community as we experience significant anniversary dates, please contact us at [caringforoxford@journeylutheran.church](mailto:caringforoxford@journeylutheran.church).

As a new ministry, Journey Lutheran has been rapidly working to innovate for the future of ministry and mission: creating new media designs for print and digital endeavors; renovating and overhauling our Oxford campus with technology upgrades and building refurbishments; seeking ministries and community groups aligned with our mission, and building relationships to expand the opportunities people have for connecting. Our preschool continues to maintain its excellent reputation in our community. We're looking to expand our classroom offerings to be able to share Jesus' love even more.

Journey Lutheran has partnered with Prince of Peace, Ortonville to provide pastoral care and support and to conduct worship and ministry on site. We added staff to support our new ministry initiatives. We're continuing to expand partnerships with Kingdom-minded churches, ministries, and community groups.

#### Prince of Peace, Ortonville

Prince of Peace is thankful for the service of Rev. John Kassen, who served as part-time Intentional Interim Pastor from 2016 until his retirement from the ministry in early 2021.

After Rev. Kassen's retirement, Prince of Peace partnered with Journey Lutheran to stream their services from Oxford to Ortonville. Pastors from Journey come regularly to Prince of Peace to lead worship.

Both congregations are excited about furthering their partnership and working together for the future with opportunities for multi-church men's, women's, and youth activities.

#### St. Paul Community, Pontiac

Rev. Christopher Jung was installed as Pastor in the beginning of 2020. Ministry went well until the pandemic. Since then, it has been slow and steady. However, we consistently see God's hand at work in the community in Pontiac. St. Paul added a Parish Nurse to its staff in 2020. Mary McColeman has been an excellent addition to God's ministry here at St. Paul. She has organized health fairs, flu vaccination clinics, and other health services for our members and others who have medical questions. She has been a great blessing to us. Our Father's Hands Food Pantry and Family Clothing Closet serve over 100 people a month. We are always looking for donations of non-perishable foods and harder to find clothes. If you would like to get your congregation involved with a clothing or food drive, please contact our church office. We serve a hot meal ever Wednesday nNight, which is sponsored by local LCMS congregations. Since the pandemic, we have seen a wide range of people that need help with hot meals. Our numbers range anywhere from 5–100 on any given Wednesday. Being in Pontiac provides us with a unique opportunity to serve the people in God's Kingdom. We are in a particularly high Latino community, and Pastor Jung preaches in Spanish in a complete bilingual service when they are in attendance at Sunday services. Some of our other programming includes: Bible studies on Wednesday nights, women's prayer group on Fridays at noon, fellowship activities once a month, and VBS programming in the summer. St. Paul is a congregation that has a lot of needs, to which we look to our sister congregations for help. Our main hurdle in ministry is updating our facilities to be able to minister to the community in a more hands-on way. There is a long list of "to-do" projects that would be perfect for a youth group mission team from a church or a men's/women's group or even family group retreat to complete in a weekend. Please contact the church office if you would be interested in furthering God's ministry in Pontiac in a very tangible way.

#### St. John, Rochester

As our St. John mission motto (based on Jesus' prayer in John 17:21–23) proclaims ONE IN JESUS ... REACHING MANY, we have continually seen Him having His way among us over the past three years, in ways we frankly never imagined going into a global pandemic! Like many congregations, the pandemic shutdowns quickly forced us to evaluate and improve our online worship presence.

The fruit of these efforts continues to reap a harvest of new people beyond our walls—many now coming to engage in biblical community on site. While overall attendance took a huge hit early on, through five ongoing on-site weekly opportunities to worship and celebrate our Savior's presence through Word and Sacrament via traditional praise and modern praise offered in two very different worship venues on our campus (both styles shared weekly online since the beginning of the pandemic), we are seeing steady attendance growth once again. The pandemic opened a door to a massive mobilization of hundreds of our people (more than ever before) to literally serve thousands in very tangible, compassionate ways in our community and beyond through ongoing acts of service, all aimed at sharing the love of Jesus in our community. Whether through new efforts of community food distribution and witness, care, and prayer ministry, or several *The Church Has Left The Building* multi-site serve days, the Gospel impact continues.

Ongoing tithes and offerings have never been stronger, enabling a beyond generous outpouring of financial support for local St. John mission and ministry, as well as mission partnerships in Pontiac, Detroit, and South Africa! By far the biggest unanticipated blessing of the pandemic has been the amazing surge in our school ministry (Pre-K–8th grade) enrollment! In fact, the Lord added over 60 new students this current school year alone—along with a resounding excitement for Christian education into the future! As a testimony of God's work through it, we recently celebrated our tenth new student baptism in school chapel, along with the largest influx of new member families we have ever experienced! Best part: they all want to know Jesus! As the pandemic hit, we were in the midst of a long-range campus expansion and renovation plan. Having just completed Phase 1, we were just weeks away from breaking ground on Phase 2 and the resulting lockdown was devastating ... at first. Yet, over the last two years the Lord has given an opportunity to pause construction and completely revise Phase 2 to better meet new priorities, specifically: school classroom expansion! These revised plans are coming together with anticipated ground breaking on a new early childhood ministry center in the coming year. All to say, we have so many reasons to give thanks for the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus, Who truly is at work having His way among us!

#### St. Stephen, Waterford

St. Stephen called and installed a new pastor, Rev. Robert Hoffman, in September 2019. The church closed for a total of eight (8) weeks due to the pandemic in 2020 and has since been doing very well. We continue to minister to broken sinners who are in need of forgiveness here at St. Stephen and the surrounding community by proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord in every way we can, in and out of season. We continue to support St. Paul, Pontiac through serving meals and donating time and money. Our VBS program did not pause during the pandemic and has continued to be well attended. Our Stephen ministers continue to collaborate with other Stephen ministry groups. St. Stephen is looking forward to hosting special speaker events beginning this spring and fall and inviting all area circuit churches to learn more about our wonderful Lord and His Word given to us

and how to live that out as Christians. All praise and glory to Jesus!

#### St. Trinity, Clarkston

There are many exciting ministries currently going on at St. Trinity as we continue to reach into the community with the love of our risen Lord Jesus. We have become more intentional in living the Great Commission by way of reaching out to the community and making our facility available to the area residents. We have a 20-acre property that outside groups of people in the community use such as a gym, kitchen, room rental for basketball, volleyball, and many family events. We also have a full-size baseball field that is utilized extensively in the warmer months by various teams and a multi-church softball league. Our land is also made available to the local Oakland County sheriff's department to train and run the K-9 units (Officer White overseeing). We built a walking trail around our land and are working to put benches and Bible passages on the trail for spiritual growth of those walking the paths. We continue to reach out through My Habitat Clarkston, Oxford Pregnancy Center, and Clarkston Lighthouse. We support the ministries of St. Paul, Pontiac and the Flint Mission Network and continue to sponsor a seminarian. Our congregation offers opportunities to various community sports teams, AA, and other community groups. Regular blood drives, serving as a voting precinct, and allowing AP Testing are cooperatives we have with community endeavors. In March of 2019, we called Pastor Paul Undlin to serve as our new Senior Pastor and he was installed that May. We also have an SMP, Pastor Mike DeVries, who serves not only St. Trinity but also does pulpit supply for the churches in our area. Our preschool program is also being revamped to go from a 2.5-hour day to offering full or half-day options up to 5 days a week, and we will be reopening a second classroom. Our worship attendance is recovering from the challenges many of us faced due to COVID. Utilizing screens/slides exclusively during the pandemic has been both a cost saver as well as eased our members fears of COVID transmission via close contact. We added the livestreaming of our services during the closures and have had the opportunity to reach even more people across the country. We continue to upload our worship services to the local public access TV station. St. Trinity is currently in the call process and waiting with great excitement to see whom our Lord sends here as our director of family life. By God's grace, our congregation has grown in so many ways as we serve God and community with His love.

#### **Circuit #18 - Birmingham Circuit** **Rev. Peter S. Nickel, Circuit Visitor**

##### Our Savior – Deaf, Birmingham – Rev. Tyler A. Walworth

After quite a number of years in Birmingham, Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church moved its meeting place from Redeemer Lutheran Church to Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church in Beverly Hills. The congregation considers itself blessed to be served by a faithful shepherd and to possess a dedicated core of members. They remain committed to ministering to the deaf throughout southeast Michigan.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham – Rev. Randy Schlak

Redeemer is in the midst of a major, 8-million-dollar “Sacred Space 2” building project. Their 77-year old sanctuary is being totally rebuilt to accommodate a larger seating capacity. A new pipe organ with 37 stops and 45 ranks of 2,634 pipes is also being built. The construction will include new office and storage space, 6 new Sunday School classrooms, a music room, and a bridal room. Occupancy is expected after Easter 2022. Through all this construction, ministry continues at an exciting pace as God continues to bless the congregation. In order to meet the pastoral needs of the growing congregation, an addition to the pastoral staff took place in 2021 in the person of SMP Vicar Jim Greenwalt.

Our Shepherd, Birmingham – Rev. Evan Gaertner, Rev. Steve Woodfin, Rev. Mike Vieregge

The people of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, School, and Childcare are thankful to God for providing them the gifts necessary to meet these unique moments of ministry. The school and childcare are blessed to nurture the faith of children and families. In 2019, a “Renewing Our Shepherd” capital campaign was begun. Incredibly, more funds were received than were pledged. Those funds will be used for facility upgrades in 2022. The congregation is thankful for new roofs, windows, renewal of the organ, updated lower lever, renovated bathrooms, and the rebuilding of the school and church parking lot. The congregation looks forward to meeting the days ahead with confidence that God will continue to provide the gifts necessary to fulfill His mission.

Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills – Rev. Dan Flynn, Vacancy Since their pastor, Rev. Randy Miller, accepted a call to Texas, the Bloomfield Hills congregation has been busy seeking a replacement resident pastor. Some initial insight and direction were provided with the help of an intentional interim pastor, Pastor John Sproul. With the completion of his work, long-term vacancy pastoral care is being provided by Pastor Dan Flynn. The congregation works and patiently waits for the Holy Spirit to lead a shepherd to them.

Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods – Rev. Mark Doede After 37 years of service to the Huntington Woods congregation, Pastor Peter Nickel retired in August 2018. Upon his retirement, Huntington Woods Church was blessed to make an incredibly smooth transition to their new pastor, Pastor Mark Doede. In 2020, “the only church in Huntington Woods” marked its 75th anniversary. COVID restrictions, however, postponed appropriate anniversary celebrations. Those celebrations will take place in the present year. The Huntington Woods Preschool continues strong, serving children in the congregation and community. The congregation is also now streaming its services online and has dramatically expanded its reach. In 2022, a fundraising drive will begin to revitalize the church campus.

St. Paul, Royal Oak – Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski

In July 2019, St. Paul Pastor David Schmidt accepted a call to Arkansas. After a brief vacancy, God blessed the congregation with a new pastor, Pastor Jakob Andrzejewski. With his arrival, a wave of new energy and renewed excitement swept over the congregation. The St. Paul school

is attracting new students. In 2022, they look forward to welcoming new school staff and a new school principal. The congregation is becoming more and more involved in the vibrant downtown Royal Oak community. In 2022 they will kick off a capital campaign to upgrade and improve church and school facilities.

St. Augustine (SALT), Troy – Rev. Paul Monson, Rev. Franklin Dohanyos

SALT Church seeks to be the kind of friendly, welcoming church “where everybody knows your name.” Each week the Troy congregation offers a contemporary liturgy as well as a traditional liturgy. The congregation is blessed with extraordinary, professional class musical talent. In 2021, Pastor Franklin Dohanyos was added to the staff as a specific ministry pastor.

Holy Cross, Warren – Rev. Alan Eisinger

Holy Cross, the only Birmingham Circuit congregation in Macomb County, continues its ministry to members and community alike. Three worship services are held each week. The COVID crisis forced the congregation to update its video capabilities, leading to a broader outreach. Holy Cross also enhanced its video technology, replacing their projection screens with 84-inch video monitors. The congregation was excited to add a new music minister, Mr. Michael Kutopodes, to their staff. With the announcement of Pastor Alan Eisinger’s upcoming retirement, the congregation is presently making plans for his replacement. For many years, Holy Cross has had a food pantry ministry that has been a rich blessing to the community. That ministry continues strong.

### **Circuit #19 - Macomb South** **Rev. Jeffrey D. Frechette, Circuit Visitor**

St. Thomas, Eastpointe

Our focus continues to be on identifying community needs and developing partnerships that use our resources and facilities to provide appropriate ministries. While the pandemic temporarily disrupted many of our community service ministries, we have adjusted and are back up to speed, including our clothing closet and food pantry, Soup and Sandwich Saturdays, MCREST, AA, AL-Anon, NA, Life Builders, and youth sports programs. We also were able to joyfully fulfill our commitment to the District’s *Here We Stand* campaign. Our emphasis throughout the pandemic has been on being a) Careful—that is, filled with care for those around us; b) Cautious—for information and situations are constantly changing; c) Courageous—rather than being filled with fear, we remain confident in our God; and d) Creative—seizing the time as an opportunity to pursue our same mission of “Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another” in new and previously unthought of ways. Capital projects over the past 4 years featured repaving the entire parking lot, replacing many sections of the roof, installation of an electronic lawn sign, improvements in security and sound systems (thank you CEF), and various smaller projects. Staffing changes found our congregation bringing in Tony Berkseth as Ministry Manager to coordinate activities for the Board of Community Service and the Board



of Mission Engagement; the ordination of Deacon Gerald Corbett as an SMP pastor; and the commissioning of Don Cooley as a deacon. St. Thomas continues to partner with the Crossbridge Action Network in hosting a G.S.R.P. preschool and has added a partnership with Ascension Health System in housing a community Wellness Center. The past couple years provided us with an opportunity to learn new and creative ways to minister to people in our changing world, including electronic ministries that now reach out to people five different days each week, and offering drive-up communion monthly. This continues to be our theme as we move forward with a four-fold emphasis in 2022: a) Improving and enhancing our work with St. Thomas' remote electronic community; b) promoting activities that bridge generations; c) (re)connecting with people in a post-pandemic world; and d) expanding our Faith Hope Love Small Group ministry. While our goal continues to be to draw people into face-face fellowship with one another, we recognize that there is a broad mission field that is available via the internet.

#### Peace, Warren

Rev. Rich Gizynski was installed as pastor on August 25, 2019.

Members lost: by death 6; by departure 5

New members: by transfer 3; walk-ins 7

Baptisms: 8

Confirmations: adults 4; youth 4

Peace added streamed worship services and daily devotions.

#### Bethlehem, Roseville

Since 2018, Bethlehem has seen a significant decline in membership. We now stand at 154 communicant members. We've seen 13 baptisms, no confirmations, and 25 deaths. We've welcomed five new members by transfer and saw one transfer out. Weekly in-person worship attendance has steeply declined due to the pandemic; we average 35 in attendance. The pandemic has also sharply affected attendance in our Early Learning Center with only 34 students currently enrolled. We have taken advantage of the many grants from the State of Michigan to support our center and staff through the 2.5-month lockdown, and are utilizing further grant funds from the State to improve and enhance our Early Learning Center program in the hopes that parents in our community will soon be seeking childcare and preschool for their young children as businesses bring workers back into the office. We have made some capital improvements and, despite the low attendance numbers, we are continuing to be financially sound thanks to the faithful stewardship of our members—God be praised! We continue to be thankful to God for His many blessings to us and we look forward to finding new and innovative ways to reach the community around us. We continue to support our current ministries through a small food pantry, regularly supporting a local pregnancy center, collecting gifts for local agencies that serve the poor and needy, and distributing grocery cards and bus tickets to those in need.

#### Hope, Warren

The last three years has been a time of transition for Hope Lutheran. We praise God for His blessings both in the

ministry of Pastor John Duerr, who retired in 2020, and for seeing us through the pandemic. We used the lockdown as an opportunity to give the campus a facelift, update our technology and online presence, and adapt our ministries to the new opportunities ahead. The newest ministry started in 2021 was a weekly food bank that has grown rapidly to serve over 600 individuals a month over the last year. We are currently looking to give this ministry staff support with the addition of a Director of Christian Community.

New Baptisms: 14 youth, 2 adults

Average Weekly Worship: 155 in person

#### St. Peter's, Eastpointe

Average Weekly Attendance: 114

Baptized Membership: 971

Confirmed Membership: 943

#### St. John, Fraser

Average Weekly Attendance: 427

Baptized Membership: 1255

Confirmed Membership: 989

#### Trinity, Warren

Average Weekly Attendance: 20

Baptized Membership: 88

Confirmed Membership: 60

### **Circuit #20 - Detroit East**

#### **Rev. Harold A. Avers, Circuit Visitor**

#### Historic Trinity, Detroit

Historic Trinity, through the generosity of God's people, continues to engage in out-of-the-box ways and means to connect people to the Lord. Historic Trinity is in the Eastern Market District of downtown Detroit (originally "Germantown") and now hosts the world's largest public display of Bavarian Hummels. Tour groups and guests hear the story of Sister Hummel's civil disobedience against Hitler and the connections to Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as well as the unusual characters that are found both in the Hummel collection and in the sanctuary's historic iconography. Additionally, Historic Trinity is now the final home for the long-traveled "Life of Christ" collection of Karl Graupner of Dresden, Germany. Inspired by a visit to Oberammergau in 1850, Graupner began carving figures of the Life of Christ for his children. This is now a priceless collection of over three hundred 5–7 inch hand-carved figures on permanent display at Historic Trinity with, of course, a great story to tell. Historic Trinity is working with Executive Producer Keith Famie in launching a 2-hour PBS special to be aired in December of 2022 called *Detroit: The City of Churches*. This will feature Historic Trinity, along with such historic Detroit churches as Basilica de St. Anne (second oldest church in America, 1701), Mariners, Second Baptist (Underground railroad), New Bethel (Aretha Franklin's church), Old St. Mary's, St. John Episcopal, Assumption Greek Orthodox, etc. The red-carpet premiere in November 2022 will bring together the clergy and members that still tie together God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come.

#### Peace, Detroit

Peace Lutheran started as a mission church in 1926. Today,



the worship is traditional but the congregation has not ceased its love for people or its zeal for missions. Pastor Robert Mikkelsen serves the congregation in an interim capacity. During the COVID pandemic, Peace continued to worship in church. Health screenings are given, masks are required, and social distancing is practiced. Attendance is commonly around twenty-five worshippers. There is Sunday School for children during the sermon. In addition, Peace has a weekly online worship service. Peace holds a once-per-week outreach family Bible class taught with the goal of Baptism and adult confirmation. Thus far, there were eight children and one adult baptized. Adult Bible class is held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12 p.m. Peace's clothing closet is open from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. the first and third Saturday. In addition, each Tuesday at 11 a.m. is food pantry outdoors. The pastor leads in prayer and is there to visit and counsel those present. Peace, as well as the members of the community, is blessed by donations and volunteers from many LCMS churches. Some help in teaching VBS, others work with the "Gifts For All God's Children" program, still others find special ways to give of their time, talents, treasures, and prayers for the missions and the hearts that can be reached for Christ. In giving and receiving, we thank the Lord and sing His praise.

#### Bethany, Detroit

Bethany engages in intentional holistic ministry. One of Bethany's partnership ministries is with Growing Minds Learning Center, which is housed on site and dedicated to early childhood development for children ages 2–4. Growing Minds Learning Center also includes a latchkey educational relationship with Ron Brown Academy, a Detroit Public School located across the street from Bethany. Bethany has provided computer literacy classes to the residents of the community through a partnership with a Detroit-based nonprofit organization. Bethany works in partnership with Acts 2 Enterprise to provide an annual week-long summer sports camps to students in the neighborhood. In 2019, the summer camp attracted 200-plus participants. Bethany's ministries are committed to the development of people and partnerships through the power of the Gospel. Bethany offered an 8-week soft skills training two times a year to the community. In conjunction with its soft skills training, it has initiated partnerships with local Detroit companies such as the DTE utility company in regard to training and hiring. Bethany was approved to receive a \$150K loan from Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District for the purpose of renovating its kitchen into a commercial kitchen in order to provide an affordable site for entrepreneurs who own food companies. The renovation was delayed due to the pandemic. Bethany is in partnership with Ron Brown Academy, a Detroit public school, as it provides character talks once a month to grades 5–8. Bethany has provided an online grief support group for community and church members during the pandemic. Bethany has also initiated an online entry-level orientation for aspiring entrepreneurs twice a year. Bethany's ministry also includes a food bank which is offered twice a month to the community. During 2020–2022, Bethany continued its food bank operations so that residents would not have a food burden along with the other challenges produced by the pandemic.

#### East Bethlehem, Detroit

East Bethlehem held services on Zoom for the first months in the year 2020 due to COVID-19, which affected not just the USA but practically the whole world. In early 2019, we called Pastor Paul Arndt as a Missionary at Large from East Bethlehem to the tri-counties. When the pandemic started, Pastor Paul facilitated the worship service on Zoom with both pastors officiating the services. Pastor Paul Arndt has developed a website ([paulwarndt.com](http://paulwarndt.com)) with over 360 portions of digital content about the person and work of Jesus made available through video and podcasts. When Gov. Whitmer announced in June 2020 that churches could open with 25–50 people and SOP's in place, we reopened our church and have remained open ever since. Our Connecting Kids to Christ tutoring and Sunday School shut down for a whole year. In September of 2020, we started our CKC Virtual Sunday School on Zoom with 20-25 children attending every Sunday. This is a great blessing, as parents have become part of these classes learning the Bible lessons with their children. We also began Virtual Tutoring, pairing one tutor with each student. Last summer, we had three weeks of in-person children's Bible camps and one week of sports camp with 55 to 60 children in attendance per day. Our Connecting Kids to Christ center held in-person fall events: Backpack Jamboree (distributing 109 backpacks, shoes, and uniforms) and a Harvest Fair. We restarted in-person tutoring classes for one day a week and continued to offer virtual tutoring. God in His grace has brought in new people who have been worshipping with us almost from the time we opened our doors in June 2020; some of them have even transferred their memberships. We continue to thank and praise our God for what He is doing and for the plans He has for the future.

#### Mt. Calvary, Detroit

Mt. Calvary is celebrating 100 years of ministry in 2022. During our 100th anniversary year, under the leadership of Pastor Dietrick Gladden, we are moving forward with new programs and resources for the community. We praise God for the support and assistance of many outside our small fellowship through whom God makes it happen. We have acquired property around our building with intentions of developing garden areas for vegetables and for quiet areas to retreat in prayer. We continue in our partnership with Gifts for All God's Children and with our suburban partner congregations to host our Easter Fair and Christmas gift celebrations, reaching out to the families of the Head Start preschool and our community. We hosted weekly community cookouts and a harvest party with the assistance of Hope, Warren, celebrating the use of the playground and encouraging dialog with our neighbors. We are looking forward to building stronger relationships with our neighborhood as we partner with others to rebuild our community utilizing Camp Restore Detroit, A2E, and other organizational efforts in East Detroit. We are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us as we move toward completing our first century of ministry!

#### Charity, Detroit

Charity is in the center of one of the poorest and most violent communities in the nation. Rev. Dietrick Gladden is blessed to serve this community and, together with

Charity members, continue programs of positive community engagement. iCan Achievement Program, in partnership with Lutheran Special Education Ministries, allows us to reach children with the love of Jesus as we help them develop their academic potential. Understanding the relationship between the health of a community and the health of the parish, Charity has partnered with its own nonprofit, Charity, Inc. to address the housing needs of young families and the blight that has infected Detroit neighborhoods; turning the “dealer’s dope house into the Healer’s Hope House,” as we follow the legacy of the late Rev. Steven Essenburg. We have been blessed with volunteer support from our sister congregations. Currently, there are 3 houses providing shelter to families, with hope of more in the near future.

### **Circuit #21 – Detroit West Circuit** **Rev. Eddie Morales – Circuit Visitor**

#### Atonement, Dearborn

Baptized Membership – 344  
Communicant Membership – 118  
Average Worship Attendance – 40

#### Evergreen, Detroit – Rev. William Danowski

Baptized Membership – 35  
Communicant Membership – 30  
Average Worship Attendance – 12

#### Nazareth, Detroit

Baptized Membership – 38  
Communicant Membership – 38  
Average Worship Attendance – 0  
*Has not worshipped since the onset of the pandemic*

#### Outer Drive Faith, Detroit – Rev. Eddie Morales

Baptized Membership – 135  
Communicant Membership – 110  
Average Worship – 95

#### Pan De Vida Iglesia Luterana, Detroit - Rev. Eddie Morales

Baptized Membership – 65  
Communicant Membership – 50  
Average Worship Attendance – 50

#### St. John, Detroit – Rev. Richard Robinson

Baptized Membership – 95  
Communicant Membership – 64  
Average Worship Attendance – 50

#### St. Philip, Detroit – Rev. Bertram Lewis

Baptized Membership – 150  
Communicant Membership – 140  
Average Worship Attendance – 55

#### St. Stephen, Detroit – Rev. James Hill, Rev. Tyler Cronkright

Baptized Membership – 90  
Communicant Membership – 70  
Average Worship Attendance – 35

Faith, Detroit became Shadow of the Cross, Farmington Hills

Redford Closed March 2021

### **Circuit #23 - Downriver Circuit** **Rev. Greyson D. Grenz, Circuit Visitor**

The congregations of the Downriver area of metro Detroit continue in their efforts to design, implement, and lead ministries that are faithful to the Great Commission as we seek to reach the lost, make disciples, and care for God’s people. Each Gospel outpost downriver has been blessed with unique resources and gifts, and we are working toward serving God’s Kingdom together as brothers and sisters with a common mission. To that end, our congregations have done more and more joint ministries with each other, building relationships and expanding the presence of Christ in our communities.

#### Calvary, Lincoln Park

In March of 2018, Pastor Michael James Grannis was installed as the Pastor of Calvary. Under his shepherding, there has been an intentional focus on Biblical literacy, baptismal identity, sound catechesis, and a fuller use of the resources found within the Lutheran Service Book for both congregational and home devotional life. This foundation of a broader and deeper knowledge of God’s Word, with a stronger and bolder confession and practice of the faith, are part of a long approach to healthy and sustained growth, God willing. In 2019, Calvary celebrated 95 years of ministry in Lincoln Park. The 95th celebration was framed as a kick-off to a five-year countdown leading the 100th anniversary (May of 2024). The opportunity to celebrate the past while looking to the future gave rise to a three-pronged financial goal of repairing and improving the property of Calvary, reducing the long-held debt of the congregation, and investing in mission and ministry both within and outside of our walls. These goals were set in the context of laying a secure financial and spiritual foundation for the next 100 years of ministry. In 2021, a partial answer to prayer was given as a few large contributions together with the continued faithful stewardship of the congregation provided the much-needed capital to do many big-ticket repairs and upgrades to the facilities (re-roofing, electrical, HVAC, and groundskeeping projects). This—and more—was done all while also paying down a significant fraction of Calvary’s debt. A second answer to prayer was provided through the successful renegotiation and five-year extension of a contract with the Guidance Center, leasing out Calvary’s school facilities to a Head Start program. Despite these answers to prayer, there have been significant ministry challenges. In March of 2020, with the rise of COVID-19, regular public services were put on pause and replaced with prescheduled, half-hour long, size-restricted services consisting of The Litany and the Service of Sacrament. At that time, Calvary began (and has continued) recording its weekly Divine Service, making it available via its website ([calvaryLpLCMS.org](http://calvaryLpLCMS.org)). Upon starting back to in-person public services, weekly attendance was around 90% of its pre-COVID numbers. When the second wave hit, in-person attendance dropped down to about 60% and has yet to recover. Especially hard hit was the attendance of young families with children. The previously small but growing Sunday school program was put on hold for nearly a year and a half, resuming in the fall of 2021. Numbers are currently floundering, with some weeks

having no children present at all. Vacation Bible School was not held for 2020 but had been scheduled to resume in 2021. However, due to low registration numbers, it too was canceled. Despite this setback, a new children's ministry was begun in the late spring of 2021; a monthly Saturday morning mini VBS of sorts has continued to be held each month since. It is our prayer that we can use this ministry as an opportunity to reengage and reach out to young families in our community. On a positive note, there has been a steady trickle of first-time visitors, many of them having no church home and/or being new to the Lutheran Church. A few new members have been added to our ranks, and currently there are three men (ages ranging from mid-20s to mid-40s) who are undergoing adult catechesis. A regular midweek Vespers Service was added to the worship schedule in January of 2022, followed by an adult study hour (currently doubling as adult catechesis). The Vespers service is placed between the youth catechism class and the midweek youth group. Please keep us in your prayers.

#### Christ The King, Southgate

Christ The King (CTK) was founded in 1951. We are a Bible-based family in Christ with an emphasis on education ministries, having a daycare, preschool, and K-8 elementary school. We are striving to be more involved in our community while at the same providing a worship home for our members with the goal of connecting people to Christ and bringing new Christians into the Kingdom of God. CTK is a dual campus ministry. The original campus is at 15600 Trenton Rd. in Southgate and is the location of CTK Lutheran School (Pre and K – 8th). The CTK Community Campus is at 16700 Pennsylvania Rd. While all CTK ministries occur at both campuses, the Community Campus provides for community outreach opportunities by virtue of its large size and setting.

#### Community, Flat Rock

Founded in 1980, Community has always been about seeking the lost and making disciples through new and innovative means while staying true to the biblical and confessional teachings of the LCMS. This guiding philosophy holds true today, as the people of Community live out our pledge to be a church where people “Come as you are... but don’t stay that way!” In the fall of 2015, our founding Pastor, Rev. David Gohn, returned home to be with the Lord. We continue to be active in our community, providing Christmas clothing and food to over 1,500 people per year through our Helping Hands food pantry, as well as providing free events like our Easter Egg Hunt and Hall-O-ween service. Our Creative Learning Campus preschool continues to grow as well, with enrollment increasing 50% over the past three years. In 2022, Community entered into a dual parish agreement with Trinity, Wyandotte. Pastor Greyson Grenz serves both congregations equally.

#### Mount Hope, Allen Park

Pastor Marvin Griffin, who became Vacancy Pastor in October of 2015, started having mini strokes in 2018, while serving Mt. Hope and St. Philips in Detroit. Pastor Paul Pollatz covered for him at both churches, until he came out of rehab during Christmas of 2018. Soon after, in 2019, Pastor Griffin had another stroke. The congregation of Mt.

Hope invited Pastor Pollatz to become Vacancy Pastor. Pastor Griffin is now in a Nursing Home/Rehab Center in Selma, Ala. He is improving slowly in small steps. As was written in our last report, Marie Brown’s God-given musical gifts continue to be demonstrated in our worship services as well as leading our church choir. The elders and pastor of Mt. Hope have increased visits to our shut-ins from a quarterly to a monthly basis. We have an adult Bible class which is held after our Sunday services. Attendance averages 25. This is led by one of our church leaders. Catechism is also taught by Pastor Pollatz to our confirmation class on Sunday mornings. At the present time we have 5 in the class. One of our elders also leads a midweek Bible class in which we study various books of the Bible. Attendance at the Bible class is 10–12 people. Some of our Mt. Hope women are part of a quilting club that meets two times a month to make quilts for needy people. These quilts are given to needy members and non-members as well. This has been an ongoing effort for a few years. Last year, they donated 80 quilts to homeless and abuse shelters. One of our Church Council members heads up a Saturday Kid’s Club, trunk or treat gathering, Easter egg hunt, and other youth activities. We have two preschools that are renting space at Mt. Hope. One of them is led by Jackie Fults and is called Mt. Hope preschool and is funded through tuition. They have been with us for about fifteen years. The other preschool is called CrossBridge at Mt. Hope and is led by Michele Jones. CrossBridge now uses a second classroom. This program is not funded through tuition. Both of these programs provide additional revenue to support our congregation. Pastor Pollatz is becoming more involved in the preschools, especially with connecting them to CPH’S *Faithfully Parenting Preschoolers*. Even though our Mt. Hope congregation is relatively small, the members are loyal and dedicated to the ongoing work of the Church through their God-given stewardship gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We have an attendance at Sunday morning worship of 44. Furthermore, we are in the process of adding members from the Lutheran Church of our Saviour, Westland which closed in 2020. It is our goal to make sure that none of its members are left behind but become members of other churches.

#### Our Redeemer, Taylor

Our Redeemer has 96 baptized souls. Its ministry began as a Slovak mission church in Del Rey (Detroit West) in 1904 and was recognized by constitution in 1906. In 2021, the congregation achieved 110 years of sharing the Gospel, 60 years at the Taylor location. We are a liturgical worshipping church using LSB Divine Services 1 and 3, with the Lord’s Supper offered 52 times in the year including holy days. In 2020, we did shut the Worship Center down for seven weeks, losing most Lenten services and Easter worship. During 2021, we closed the Worship Center down for four weeks but offered Lent and Easter, Advent and Christmas. In the first week of January 2022, the Worship Center was again closed for one week because of 8 COVID cases reported following Christmas weekend. Like most reports, our offerings were sufficient to sustain our facility and staff, but worship participation was cut in half through fear of the virus. Holy Communion was still offered during closures by



private request and group appointments. We did not offer recorded worship online. Instead, we recommended circuit churches that did. Our Redeemer has installed an electric sign presenting information to the public that passes by that we remain open. We have also purchased recording equipment for use beginning 2022.

#### St. John's, Taylor

The mission of St. John's is to conserve and promote the true faith of our Lord Jesus Christ in our members, our community, and our world. St. John's was founded in 1878 as a ministry of Trinity, Wyandotte to the German-speaking farmers that settled the Telreka area. In 1932, a Lutheran school was organized which closed in 2009. The 130-member congregation is served by Rev. Dr. Richard Zeile, who is in his 21st year of service to the congregation. He is assisted by Deacon David Valenti, trained by the Michigan District, and by Parish Administrator Stephanie Krueger. Joseph Bauer is also in the deacon training program. St. John's averages 50 worshipers at a 9 a.m. Sunday service. The 7 p.m. Saturday service has been suspended, along with choir, since COVID shut down all services in March 2020. Midweek services for Advent and Lent continue. Worship is traditional with strong emphasis on Word and Sacrament. About 20 attend Bible classes on Sunday with a midweek Zoom Bible class averaging 5 attendees. Sunday school has averaged 3 children in attendance the last two years despite efforts to invite neighborhood families. Occasional lock-ins, by contrast, have seen 20–25 participants. Two adult baptisms were performed last summer. Calls with elders were suspended with COVID but the deacon has resumed calls with the pastor. The 15-member Ladies Aid Society is active in LWML. Recent congregational projects include parking lot lighting and window repair. The congregation supports the local food bank "Fish & Loaves" and the Christnet organization which provides shelter to the homeless. Help for members facing financial difficulty has been an ongoing ministry for decades. St. John's has appreciated its partnership with other congregations in our circuit and district, sponsoring Vacation Bible School with neighboring Redeemer, Taylor this last Summer. In August, 2021, with financial support from circuit congregations, St. John's Radio/podcast ministry, *Martin Luther's Evening Prayer* began broadcasting internationally via WWRB of Morrison, Tenn. This broadcast which began in October of 2008, expanded to two stations locally and seven additional stations in Bakersfield, Calif., Omaha, Neb., Council Bluffs, Iowa, Scranton, Penn., Wilkes-Barre, Penn., and Richmond, Va., in the last three years. Other media outreach has included the congregation's YouTube channel which provides Sunday worship with captions for viewers to pray and sing along, and the pastor's blog *What Is Pastor Reading* which reviews books of all kinds from a Lutheran Christian perspective.

#### St. Paul, Trenton

The past four years at St. Paul have been a challenging, yet rewarding, time for Gospel-centered ministry. We give praise and honor to God for all the ministry He has done through our faith family. During the time of the pandemic, we were able to continue with many of our ministries and remain financially strong. We praise God for all of

the families that we have had the opportunity to serve in worship, both in person and online, and we are making an intentional effort to reach out, build relationships, and help connect these families to Jesus as we look forward to better days. Even during the most intense aspects of our pandemic experience, we were able to continue with our small group ministry. Whenever possible, we strive to meet in person, but are always open to non-traditional means of sharing the Gospel, especially those that use social media and video conferencing.

Beyond restarting our pre-pandemic ministries, we have made some more strategic changes. Our Family Life ministries continue to grow. While expanding our preschool, education, and youth ministries, we have also added a special needs ministry. Throughout the pandemic, we have sought to increase our Caring Ministries' support of our community, helping many in need during this difficult time. St. Paul has also taken this time to partner with many other organizations that are committed to cross-cultural ministry. We continue to be blessed with strong lay leadership and a deep sense of mission as we live out the Great Commission Downriver, in Michigan, and throughout the world. In all things, we seek to know Christ and make Christ known!

#### Trinity, Wyandotte

Trinity was founded in 1861. We were blessed to celebrate 160 years in 2021, as well as Pastor Grenz's 10th year here. We welcomed a new full-time organist, Carol Steiner, in 2019. Our focus is sharing the Gospel through events such as Vacation Bible School and an Easter Trunk Hunt, and being of service to our community. For a few years now, we have been running a kids' basketball camp, *Bitty Ballin*, and a reading program, *Raising Up Readers*, designed to help kids maintain their reading level through the summer or even raise it. To this we have added Science Nights and Jr. Detectives for 4th–6th grades. Especially throughout this pandemic, we have done all we can to continue our events and programs safely to keep us connected to our community and continue to help where we can. We have continued to run a Christmas Basket program which helps up to 25 families in the community providing them with plenty of food, a gift card to help purchase gifts, and a blanket made by a member. We have also been a host site for the Jo Brighton special needs school since 2018. Twice a week for an hour, students in a life skills course come and complete small jobs that can help them with future employment. We are looking forward to the National Youth Gathering this year in Houston, Texas. We have seven youth and three chaperones ready to go. Another exciting development that has already begun is the dual parish agreement that Trinity has with Community Lutheran Church in Flat Rock. We are hoping that this will give both parishes wonderful opportunities with getting to know one another, beginning new programs, new volunteers, and serving multiple communities. Pastor Grenz has been working hard and doing a wonderful job providing service to both congregations. Lastly, in 2021 Trinity's church bells—after being silent for a few years—have been repaired, upgraded, and are ringing once again.

## **Circuit # 24 – Monroe Circuit**

### **Rev. Mark K. Witte, Circuit Visitor**

Greetings to our sister congregations in the State of Michigan from the churches of the Monroe circuit! We rejoice in the partnership we share and the ministry God has entrusted to us. Please accept this brief report of ministry during the past triennium.

#### Christ Our Shepherd, Newport

On February 6, 2022, Christ Our Shepherd voted to dissolve as a congregation as they have faced many membership and attendance challenges over the past 15 years. The rationale for this decision was three-fold: 1) The closing of Lutheran High School South; 2) The purchase of the property by The Coptic Diocese of Detroit; and 3) The COVID-19 pandemic. It was realized the congregation's continued worship in this place would soon be unsustainable both financially and physically. The remaining members were assured there are many fine LCMS churches in the immediate area that will gladly assimilate them in order to help them with continued growth in their faith in Jesus. The Vacancy Pastor, Rev. John Schinke, retired from serving the congregation on February 27, 2022 and the congregation dissolved after the final worship service on February 27, 2022.

#### Christ the King, Lambertville

Praise be to our God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is good to His people of Christ the King, Lambertville. Throughout all the worldly and spiritual trials of 2021, God provided us with the ability to offer regular, public Divine Services with Holy Communion on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. We are active in service to our Bedford Twp. and Monroe Co. community through our donations of money, food, and other necessities to the Bedford Twp. Veterans organization, as well as Mercy House, which serves mothers and babies born and unborn. We are active with the Gospel online through Facebook and [ctkbedford.org](http://ctkbedford.org). We look forward to God's blessings and opportunities in this year of the Lord 2022 and into the future. SDG

#### Grace, Monroe

Grace congregation is served by Rev. Mark Witte and Rev. Bob Auxter. Rev. Auxter joined the ministry staff in 2019 as a Specific Ministry Pastor. Grace Lutheran thanks the Lord for His continued blessings through this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thankful that Word and Sacrament ministry by the grace of the Holy Spirit has continued with all its blessings for the people of God. Our ministry to our neighbors in the community continues as we support One Sheep Ministries, Oaks of Righteousness, A.A., Boy Scouts, Heartbeat of Monroe, and others.

#### Holy Ghost, Monroe

Holy Ghost Lutheran is served by Rev. D. Lee Cullen as it continues to serve the Lord and the community through its school and congregational ministries in its 178th year. Among the ministries in the community, Holy Ghost supports the Selah Center of Hope and Heartbeat of Monroe, along with the tri-parish Family Life Ministry of Grace, Trinity, and Holy Ghost, where the spiritual gifts of members of each

parish are in use to provide fellowship and encouragement for the families of each congregation. Holy Ghost continues to be a presence at the Monroe County Fair and served as its Grand Marshal in 2021. Holy Ghost Lutheran School continues to serve families and serves as a mission field as dedicated teachers and staff share the love of Christ with those families.

#### Immanuel, Monroe

Immanuel is served in Word and Sacrament ministry by Rev. Curtis Garland. The congregation continues to support multiple charitable and mercy ministries both locally and in the broader community, including: Heartbeat of Monroe, New Beginnings Mercy House, The Lord's Pantry, Lulu UMC Food Pantry, Food for the Poor, Family of God (Detroit), Haiti Lutheran Mission Society, Rev. James and Christel Neuendorf (Puerto Rico Missionaries), Rev. Steven and Martha Mahlburg, Oaks of Righteousness, and others. Our quilters continue to provide over 100 quilts annually to Lutheran World Relief and other mercy organizations. Over the interim between conventions, Immanuel supported three sons of the congregation attending Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., and we have provided team members for short-term mission trips to Hong Kong, Central America, and Haiti.

#### St. John's Church and School, New Boston

St. John's is served by Rev. Jeffrey Wade and Rev. Kyle Jones. We believe in faithfully gathering around the Word and Sacrament, equipping the saints to evangelize their community, and emphasizing the importance of lifelong catechesis. We LOVE by carrying the Great Commission to our everyday lives at work, serving our communities in Wayne and Monroe through missions and compassion, and fostering cohesion between our church and school. We TEACH by providing the richest and deepest education possible with the focus on Christ and His Work and finding new and creative approaches to pass on the faith intergenerationally. We are constantly looking forward to the wonderful opportunities God will provide us to show our faith.

#### St. Peter, Petersburg

St. Peter is served by Rev. Mark Flory. The congregation celebrated its 145th anniversary in 2021. They have raised funds several times to meet people's needs in the community. The church gives God thanks for the continued blessings that saw this congregation through the pandemic and prays for more wonderful years of God's grace ahead.

#### Trinity, Monroe

Trinity is served full-time by Rev. Dr. Daniel Potts and part-time by Rev. Dennis Mann. Trinity is committed to making Jesus known in all that we do. This applies to the ministry of the day school as well as all the other ministries taking place. These ministries include both local partnerships with other care ministries in Monroe and global ministries, as we continue in our relationship with the Lutheran congregation in Los Limones, Guatemala. Trinity is also completing a remodeling project of our fellowship hall, seeking to be good stewards of what God has given to us. We have also begun the process of calling a second full-time pastor to serve the family at Trinity.

Monroe Circuit 24 gives praise and honor to God for the privilege of leading ministry in Monroe County. The Circuit is blessed to have three Christian day schools and two other ministries with preschools. It is our prayer that the Kingdom of God would grow through our service. To God alone be all the glory!

**Circuit #25 – Dearborn Circuit**  
**Rev. Andrew D. Gruenhagen, Circuit Visitor**

Emmanuel, Dearborn – Rev. Tyler Walworth, Rev. Paul Wolff, Rev. Joel Baseley

Emmanuel is now a dual parish with Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Beverly Hills. Pastor Walworth joined Emmanuel last year and is currently serving both congregations, along with Pastor Baseley and Pastor Wolff. Emmanuel Lutheran School continues to serve the Dearborn community with an excellent education. Emmanuel also hosts St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf, which offers education to children in ASL. Mission work in the Deaf community and Dearborn community continues through events and other outreach by members. The Lord has blessed Emmanuel as He continues to build them up in Word and Sacrament.

Guardian, Dearborn – Rev. Daniel Ramthun, Rev. David Mews

Guardian is in the midst of their “Made for More” vision. They are using their six core values of Worship, Education, Prayer, Missions, Stewardship, and Fellowship to see how they can continue in their 75th Anniversary year to utilize God’s blessings to grow His kingdom. They hope to possibly build five rooms on a second story to enhance all their ministries and connect more with their preschool families. The 75th year theme is from Hebrews 13:8, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*”

St. Michael, Wayne – Rev. Andrew Gruenhagen

St. Michael is investing more of our ministry into our school and early childhood program. We will be adding a daycare component to our early childhood and take intentional steps to minister to our non-church families by offering God Connects classes and training member parents to be ambassadors to our unchurched families. We have been seeing growth in our school and are recommitted to using our school ministry to bridge our community.

St. Matthew, Westland – Rev. Bryce Rosche

St. Matthew launched a three-year capital campaign in October 2021 entitled “Above to Beyond,” under the directional guidance of Ray Zavada (Asst. to President - Development, Michigan District), to reach a target goal of \$550,000 and a stretch goal of \$700,000 with a threefold purpose: 1) The first 5% of funds raised will be directed to Intentional Outreach; 2) The bulk of funds raised will be directed toward roof and parking lot replacement; 3) Remaining funds will be directed toward reducing our mortgage debt. To date, St. Matthew has raised \$335,800 in net cash, and it is projected to reach its three-year stretch goal through pledge commitments and targeted fundraising events.

St. Matthew established an Endowment Fund with the LCMS Foundation to provide stable and long-term funding for its ministry.

St. Matthew devoted significant mission energy to grow its school’s Early Learning Center (ELC) to 56 enrolled children and its K-8 enrollment to 122 children, and has received grants to bolster its ELC.

St. Matthew and St. Michael, Wayne hosted the beginning of a Detroit West Suburbs strategic planning process in January 2022 involving lay leadership, pastoral leaders, and principals from Dearborn and Livonia Circuits toward the aim of revitalizing the ministries of our churches and building bridges into our communities through the advancement of our school ministries.

St. Matthew set new core values, a new vision, and four core strategies as part of a Michigan-District facilitated (Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper) strategic planning process. St. Matthew’s core values are CREDO: Compassion, Respect, Excellence, Discipleship, and Outreach. St. Matthew’s vision is “*Lead our communities in growing God’s Kingdom through intentional outreach, developing collaborative partnerships, and planting new ministries.*”

**Other Circuit News:**

Three congregations in the Dearborn Circuit closed their doors this past triennium: Our Redeemer, Dearborn; Living Word, Plymouth Township; and Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Westland.

**Circuit #26 – Kensington Circuit**  
**Rev. Terry A. Nelson - Circuit Visitor**

Faith, Highland – Rev. Jonathan Moyer

In 2022, Faith celebrates 60 years of following the Lord’s leading to welcome and unite people to hear the Word of the Lord, to nurture faith through the Gospel, and provide opportunities and commitment to serve Christ through our ministry within the congregation and community. Though the past 2 years have been especially challenging, God is good and faithful and has provided much blessing and opportunity to share the peace that goes beyond understanding. We are blessed to be part of such a vibrant circuit that continues to seek ways to partner in the Gospel in service to our neighbors.

Christ, Milford – Rev. Andrew Johnson

Christ Lutheran continues to serve the greater Milford area, striving to be a place for forgiveness and hope for all in our community. Following the command of our Lord, we have continued to find creative ways to serve our community and to proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord as we make and strengthen disciples through the Word and Sacraments. Our preschool and Kindergarten continue to serve many community families as a hub for a Christian worldview and an excellent first step in their education. *Our Journey with Jesus*, a free walkable live nativity, has seen attendance rise as more than 1,500 persons in the last 3 years have attended and heard the Good News of a Savior born for them. We have hosted a yearly truck-or-treat and have regularly seen over 100 community children enjoy



fellowship, fun, and have an opportunity to learn more about Jesus. We are looking forward to walking together in the service of the Kingdom in 2022 and beyond.

#### Cross of Christ, South Lyon – Rev. Terry Nelson

The Holy Spirit drew new members to the congregation these past three years. God has given our congregation opportunities for cross-cultural outreach through our Vacation Bible School and Christian preschool. Cross of Christ conducts ministries in assisted living and rehabilitation facilities: Abbey Park, Cambrian, South Lyon Senior Care and Rehabilitation Center, Sunrise, and Trillium. Jim Morrison serves as Congregation President, and Gary Albin serves as Vice President. Judy Nimer serves as Congregation Treasurer. God has blessed Cross of Christ Christian Preschool the past three years. Mrs. Janelle Rapson-Lach serves as our Preschool Teacher/Director.

Pastor Terry and Chris Nelson are retiring on July 1, 2022 after 34 years of service to our Lord and the congregation. Chris served as church and preschool secretary and as organist. Subject to congregation approval, the leadership is planning to participate in the District Intentional Interim Program starting July 1, 2022. Praise and thanks to God for the blessings He has given Cross of Christ congregation this past triennium.

#### St. Matthew, Walled Lake and Wixom – Rev. Paul

Moldenhauer, Rev. Michael Hansen, Rev. Austin Wellhousen In these past four years, God led St. Matthew in seeking to partner with God in fulfilling our 20/20 Vision, namely, “to develop vibrant, missional Christ-followers in a post-Christian America.” In replacement of that vision, Rev. Dr. Todd Jones led our leadership through a process for ministry alignment. Other strategic initiatives include the renewal of our school’s National Lutheran School Accreditation; ongoing mission support of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac and Pastor Daniel in India; and a worship schedule change. The pandemic had a significant impact on the ministry, notably with an increase in school enrollment and the start of online worship, but also a decline of in-person worship. Despite that, we experienced a significant increase in adult Bible class attendance. We are grateful to have over 110 children sponsored through World Vision. We are also grateful for a number of government grants that helped sustain our staff and ministry. God continues to bless our school, Hearts & Hands Child Development Center, other children’s and youth ministries, Bible studies, small groups, and International Ministry as we serve out of a campus in Walled Lake and another in Wixom. Regarding staff changes in this triennium, the congregation moved from being served by vicars at our Walled Lake campus to calling Seminarian Michael Hansen. Also, at our Wixom campus, Pastor Rob Nelson took a call to serve as an Air Force chaplain. As a replacement at the Wixom campus, Seminarian Austin Wellhousen was called. Dawn Rupe was called to serve as Minister of Children and Families. Though the school staff enjoyed significant stability, we welcomed teachers Emily Wagg, Paige Pomroy, and Angie Geary.

#### Peace, Waterford – Rev. Russell Tkac

Peace Lutheran has experienced the trials of the last four years

since our last Convention. The Lord has sustained us and blessed us through this time as well. We continue to look to the Lord for guidance and strength as we focus on the time at hand and ahead. The blessings of the Church Extension Fund grants and the support of our members have upgraded our online presence as well as provided greater security and safety for our members. In-person worship continues to grow while hospital and care facility visits pose challenges. With our sister congregations of the Kensington Circuit, we have worked to grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ by holding a joint worship service and elder’s conference, and hope to continue to build these relationships for the benefit of the Gospel and each congregation. Throughout it all, our Lord has faithfully provided and directed us and will continue to do so as we look to bring the Gospel to those in our care and around our community.

#### St. Mark’s, West Bloomfield – Rev. Aaron Vergin

St. Mark’s is being formed daily by the Holy Spirit, working through God’s Word and Sacraments to love the Word, the prayers, the fellowship, and the world. We continue to proclaim the saving work of Christ in our community as we rededicate ourselves to public worship and outreach. We are working to train our people to proclaim Jesus in their daily vocations through the *Every One His Witness* Program. We are building relationships with the other congregations in our circuit, and advancing our cooperation in the Gospel. We have gone caroling in our neighborhood, and continue to invite our neighbors to our Easter Service. We have begun supporting a Lutheran missionary who builds Lutheran schools in rural areas of Liberia. We rejoice continually in the blessings of the Lord, and stand confidently in His loving care through Christ.

#### Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton – Rev. Benjamin Bruns, Rev. Timothy Kade

Baptized Membership – 1457

Communicant Membership – 1160

Average Worship Attendance – 335

#### **Circuit #27 – Livonia Circuit**

##### **Rev. Joel S. Eden - Circuit Visitor**

The Livonia Circuit #27 of the Michigan District consists of eight congregations pastored by faithful undershepherds of our Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who has blessed the people of our circuit with his forgiveness, love, and joy even in the midst of many challenges and changes that have taken place since the 2018 Michigan District Convention. The congregations of our circuit in ministry together are as follows:

#### Christ Our Savior, Livonia – Rev. Dean Davenport, Rev. Joel Eden

Over the last four years, we have experienced the Lord’s abundant blessings as we continue to serve the people here in Livonia and beyond. God has remained faithful even as we have experienced staffing changes and dealt with all of the goings on of the pandemic. Our support of Lutheran education continues with our local Lutheran elementary schools and the Lutheran High School Association, partnering with them to help reinforce the faith learned in the children’s homes and here at church. Our preschool and the families that we

serve are blessed to have a loving and dedicated director and staff offering a consistent and loving environment where the children hear and learn of Jesus. Listening to the needs of our families, we added an infant room to our Early Childhood Center—thanks be to God! We strive to be intentional in partnering with other sister congregations, in our circuit and beyond, in sharing the love of Jesus with people and families everywhere. We continue to be supportive through people and resources to ministries outside of our walls, including Family of God in Southwest Detroit and the Luke Clinic in Detroit and now in Flint.

Grace, Canton – Rev. Steven Newton

Grace continues to worship and serve our Lord as they are able. Prior to the pandemic, this involved food drives for the needy as well as care for the aging and the sick. During the pandemic, food drives stopped (the food banks were afraid to accept food that the bank itself did not buy) and for several months Grace was closed. The congregation provided (and continues to provide) a recorded service to Facebook in response. Bible study and worship at the church, as well as care for those shut in, resumed in June of 2020 and has continued ever since. Grace provides a once-a-month worship service at a nearby senior living center and provides financial support to the District A2E mission effort. Worship attendance remains below pre-pandemic levels. Grace is a part of the dual parish with Salem National in Westland.

Hosanna-Tabor, Redford – Rev. Ronald Nieman, Vacancy Pastor

Hosanna-Tabor is located in South Redford and continues to serve and preach the Word of God to the surrounding community. Pastor Paul Undlin received a call to preach and serve the parishioners at St. Trinity in Clarkston. Pastor Undlin had served at Hosanna-Tabor for about 11 years after graduating from the seminary. After Pastor Undlin left, Hosanna-Tabor was assigned an Intentional Interim Minister (IIM), Pastor Roger Mackie. We also started the New Beginnings program (2019) in hopes of spreading God's Kingdom and His Word to the surrounding community. Pastor Mackie served from July 2019 through July 2020. Hosanna-Tabor reduced the Sunday services down to one service at 9:30 a.m. due to declining attendance. The COVID pandemic interrupted the Hosanna-Tabor life, including the Concordia Lutheran School and the ECC, from March 20 until June 19, 2020. The ECC was able to restart slowly in the fall of 2020. During the COVID shutdown, Pastor Mackie preached on recorded services that could be watched on YouTube. Pastor Mackie also started the curbside Communion for members that were concerned about getting COVID. Hosanna-Tabor then hired a part-time retired pastor, Rev. Gerhard Mau, who preached from July 2020 through July 2021. Pastor Mau also recorded his sermons on YouTube. Pastor Mau retired and moved to Nevada around July 2021. Hosanna-Tabor hired another part-time retired pastor who is our current pastor, Rev. Ron Nieman. Pastor Nieman preaches on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. followed by adult Bible study. Typical service attendance is between 40–50 members. Hosanna-Tabor was able to continue the adult Bible study on Sundays taught by all the pastors mentioned. The children's Sunday Bible classes were taught during the years from 2014 to 2018 by

the same Christian Ed. Director until she had to resign for health reasons. No children Sunday Bible study has been taught since 2018, but we are hoping to start again this fall. Men's Bible studies remain a strong fellowship get-together taught by the Elders' Chairman on the first Saturday of every month. We plan to soon have a Women's Bible study. The youth group was halted due to the COVID shutdown and has not been restarted. Hosanna-Tabor continues to be active in the community with the Food Pantry distribution once per month, charitable sponsors to the AAA Pregnancy Center in Livonia and the Christmas Angel Tree for the Salvation Army buying gifts for children in need. The congregation has also continued with the Ladies Quilters throughout the years making beautiful quilts that are distributed in other countries. Hosanna-Tabor currently also supports two missionaries, Rev. Ferry and the Holmes in the Philippines. Hosanna-Tabor has hosted trunk or treat and Easter egg hunt events for outreach to the surrounding community. The Concordia Lutheran School continues to provide excellent Christian education to about 50 students. The Concordia Lutheran School south campus resides at Hosanna-Tabor in Redford, Mich. and the north campus at Shadow of the Cross in Farmington Hills, Mich. The Early Childhood Center (ECC) at Hosanna-Tabor provides childcare to infants and young children and now has a preschool that was restarted last fall. The Word of Jesus is taught to all children. Hosanna-Tabor is now currently exploring other options in a dual parish with other potential churches in the area to grow our church.

Immanuel, Dearborn Heights – Rev. David Prout, IIM

The triennium now concluding saw changes in Immanuel's pastoral position. Following three years of service, Deacon Steve Sparks concluded his time with us in late 2020. We give thanks to God for his faithful service and rejoice with him that he was ordained early in 2021 and also called by Atonement, Dearborn. After several months in early 2021 utilizing the services of pulpit supply and our own laymen, Rev. David Prout was installed on Palm Sunday as an Intentional Interim Minister. We give praise to God for Rev. Prout's presence and service among us for the duration of his contract. Immanuel is blessed to have the operation of Hand 'n Hand Child Care Center providing childcare and also preschool programming. Both Miss Sara and Miss Taleese have proven to be effective managers and we thank God for their administration of the Center and offer praise to God for their recent acquisition of needed grant monies in support of Hand 'n Hand. The Center remains limited to current enrollment, despite inquiries, due to inability to hire additional employees to replace those recently lost. Immanuel, as a congregation, continues to seek alternative possibilities to call a minister and support congregational programs, specifically an arrangement as a dual parish sharing a called minister with a congregation in our area. Meanwhile, we praise God for our ongoing existence and ministry and seek God's plan and will for our future days.

Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills – Rev. Dr. Mark Schumm

Prince of Peace continues to live our mission of knowing Christ and making Him known. In July of 2020, Rev. Dr. Mark Schumm joined the Prince of Peace family. While our worship attendance has declined, our Bible study attendance has grown. We continue to seek ways to serve and bless

our community. We have continued to support Family of God financially and by serving meals there each month. We also support our neighbor, Another Way Pregnancy Center (AWPC). AWPC is a Christian-based center that offers emotional, practical, and spiritual assistance to both men and women facing unplanned pregnancies. We are thankful that we are able to continue our support of mission projects of the Michigan District through tithing of our member offerings. We continue to rejoice in all of God's gifts to us, especially forgiveness, life, and salvation.

#### Salem National, Westland – Rev. Steven Newton

Salem continues to worship and serve our Lord as we are able. Salem collects food for Salem's own as well as for the food bank of a sister congregation. The congregation collects clothing, diapers, and other materials in order to assist those who have newborns but limited resources. Salem also supports LCMS missionaries. Salem was closed for several months during the pandemic, provided catechism class via Zoom, and recorded worship services posted to Facebook. The congregation reopened for worship on Pentecost Sunday in 2020 but continues to provide recorded services to Facebook. Worship attendance remains below pre-pandemic levels. Salem National is a part of the dual parish with Grace, Canton.

#### Shadow of the Cross, Farmington Hills – Rev. Brian Dupre

Shadow of the Cross (SOTC) is a new congregation of the Michigan District, the result of a merger of St. Paul, Farmington Hills and Faith, Detroit (Faith, Detroit was the result of a merger between Berea and Greenfield Peace Detroit in December 2017). SOTC is located on the campus of what was St. Paul, Farmington Hills and chose this particular new name because we learned that many people in the community identify the church by the large cross shadow that is cast on the building façade at night. Pastor Brian Dupre, who was serving Faith and played a leading role in the merger, was installed as our first pastor in March 2019.

Here is what we are up to at SOTC:

- Worship services are Sundays 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with fellowship and Bible study in between.
- Youth Sunday School is at 10 a.m.
- Tuesday Adult Bible study is at 11:30 a.m., in person with lunch and via Zoom.
- Saturday morning Bible study for all ages is at 10 a.m. via Zoom only.
- Monday ESL Bible study is at 9 a.m.
- Monday ESL Workshops are at 10 a.m.
- We are doing Zach Zehnder's "Red Letter Challenge" during the 40 days of Lent.
- We are working on a sister-church relationship with Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills.
- Our youth group is working with Christ Our Savior in preparation for the NYG this summer.
- We are in the process of establishing a working relationship with Another Way pregnancy Center.
- We are trying to establish an agreement with local nursing homes to have them tune in to our worship services stream.

#### St. Paul, Northville – Rev. Christopher Fairbairn, Rev. James Frusti, SMP

The believers at St. Paul enjoy knowing Jesus and creatively making Him known to families of our day school and the surrounding communities. With a strong appreciation in God's Word to share our blessings and serve the needs of others, our ministries foster a passion to live beyond the pews. Realizing the various resources and talents we are given, the people of faith work at being a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus. This is reflected in our Stephen Ministry, Appalachian Servant Events, ongoing work with Family of God, Detroit and Another Way Pregnancy Center, and the blessing bags passed out weekly to the hungry, hurting, and the homeless. Our school has more than doubled in size and non-Lutherans continue to enroll their children in our Confirmation program. From all the COVID "lemons" we have seen recently, God has made some very good lemonade in our congregation.

We value and strive for collaborating in the ministry of the Gospel to the saints of our congregations as well as with other District congregations and ministry entities that serve the people of our communities. We join forces in a number of ways: during Lent and Advent when we provide joint noon-time worship services; as we prepare for various youth gatherings; in our various local Lutheran schools; and much more.

We are thankful that God has continued to do the work He loves to do in and through us that He will bring to completion on the day of Jesus' great and glorious return!

#### **Circuit #28 - Milan Circuit**

##### **Rev. Thomas L. Schroeder, Circuit Visitor**

#### Christ Our King, Saline

Christ Our King is richly blessed with a vibrant Word and Sacrament worship and Bible study ministry, with a large number of volunteers working in a variety of ministries and a mission-minded perspective in service to our Lord that reaches out into the community, witnessing with actions and words. We rejoice that Rev. Joseph Polzin, Jennie, and their four children are part of our congregation. He was installed as Senior Pastor on May 23, 2021. Some of the faith-building ministries for members include online as well as in-person worship and study groups, Sunday School, Wednesday activities, Vacation Bible School, Prayer Ministry Team that encourages all members in their prayer life, keeping contact with membership throughout the pandemic, property improvements for members, and community events. Community outreach activities include monthly worship services in 5 area senior facilities, a Memorial Day service, end of summer picnic, more than 100 quilts provided through the quilting ministry, school kits, flood buckets, recognition of Veterans and military personnel, praying at Planned Parenthood, the only church float in Saline's Christmas parade, Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas Sharing Tree, an Endowment Fund which supports church worker students and mission projects, support for the Saline Area Social Services, a Great Commission Season to encourage members in their daily witnessing, 10% of offerings sent to the Michigan District for missions, and an additional



\$94,000 designated for 16 mission projects over four years. Plans for 2022 include a Kid's Coalition Against Hunger event in February, and a M.O.S.T. mission trip in July. We thank God for the abundance of His blessings this past year as well as in years past, and are confident of His guidance for the future.

#### Open Arms, Belleville

Open Arms Church and Day Care continues to have a dynamic childcare ministry that serves families from the greater Belleville area. These include families from Open Arms, families from other Christian churches, and families that do not have a church home. Rev. Larry Courson began serving as vacancy pastor in January 2022 with the goal of helping the church regain its mission focus and grow strong enough with the Lord's help to be able to call its next full-time pastor.

#### Emmanuel, Britton

Emmanuel has been on the Ridge serving our Lord, and being greatly blessed by Him, for the past 160+ years. Pastor David McCarty has been serving as Emmanuel's Pastor since 2015. Emmanuel has continued a partnership with the American Red Cross by sponsoring Blood Mobiles. Pastor McCarty is presently serving as the Chaplain for the Ridgeway Township Fire/Rescue. The congregation is involved in ongoing Prison Ministry through the Pen Pal program and the Card Ministry program. The congregation is also actively involved in sponsoring Boy Scout/Cub Scout Programs.

#### St. Thomas, Ann Arbor

St. Thomas partnered with St. Paul's, Milan to call Rev. Coleman Geraci as a full-time pastor. Although COVID-19 had a devastating effect on Freedom Child Care, this ministry of St. Thomas continues to provide excellent childcare for the children who attend. In 2022, St. Thomas will celebrate its 180th Anniversary as a congregation.

#### St. Paul, Milan

In the past three years, God has blessed the congregation of St. Paul greatly. In 2019, St. Paul and St. Thomas, Ann Arbor joined efforts to call a full-time pastor, Rev. Coleman Geraci. Pastor Geraci arrived in August of 2019. Shortly thereafter, a new addition to the building was completed. This addition, known as the Learning Center, serves to host Bible studies, congregational classes, and congregational events. While the COVID-19 pandemic halted some of the momentum of the congregation, God has continued to sustain and strengthen the people of St. Paul, even bringing in several new families during that time. St. Paul is excited to continue the work God is calling them to perform in the community and is always grateful for His faithfulness in all circumstances.

#### St. Paul's, New Boston

The last several years have brought many changes to St. Paul's. First, calling Rev. John Schwartz and installing him on April 3, 2016. In the fall of 2017, St. Paul's requested that Scott Blevins serve as a Deacon to the congregation. With the supervision of Pastor Schwartz, Scott was called by St. Paul's and was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor

on January 17, 2020. Also in 2021, Pastor Schwartz became the Huron Township Police and Fire Department Chaplain serving the surrounding community. St. Paul's conducts Divine Services on Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. We also have Sunday Bible study at 9 a.m., Wednesday morning Bible study at 10 a.m. and Thursday evening Men's Bible Study at 7 p.m. There are many active groups at the church, which blesses our church and surrounding communities in many positive ways. Groups such as Ladies Aid, Men's Club, and "Feed My Sheep." These groups have served our communities in many positive ways through Christ Jesus. Other activities at St. Paul's include our Summer Fest / Car Show, Applefest Celebration, our Sauerkraut Dinner, and Country Christmas. We also have a spring and fall Rummage Sale. Groups that utilize our facility are Alcoholics Anonymous, Youth Baseball, and the Girl Scouts.

#### Faith, Ypsilanti

Baptized Membership – 79

Communicant Membership – 71

Average Worship Attendance – 45

#### **Circuit #29 - Ann Arbor Circuit**

##### **Rev. Donald O. Neuendorf, Circuit Visitor**

The Ann Arbor Circuit churches experienced a great deal of change. Seven new pastors were called into the circuit, who led their congregations with creativity and faithfulness during the pandemic. The Circuit pastors meet monthly at the District Office for worship, study, and fellowship.

#### Our Savior, Chelsea

After the retirement of their long-time pastor, Rev. Dale Grimm, the congregation was pleased to welcome Rev. Dan Pezzica in 2018. Since Pastor Pezzica's arrival, Our Savior has put a renewed emphasis on outreach to the community, beginning an annual Trunk-or-Treat, hosting monthly gatherings for homeschool families, and partnering with the Chelsea Retirement Community for "Grandma and Grandpa Days," in which our preschoolers and seniors work together on crafts and art projects.

#### Trinity, Pinckney

Trinity also saw the retirement of their pastor, Rev. Merelyn Snider. But they were blessed with a short vacancy and the arrival of Rev. Mike Ruhl. During the pandemic, the congregation continued faithfully serving their neighbors and sharing the Good News of Jesus.

#### St. Paul, Hamburg

St. Paul is the third congregation in our circuit to say farewell to a pastor in this triennium. Rev. Evan Gaertner accepted a call, and the congregation was blessed to receive Rev. Jeff Burgess as their new shepherd in 2020. In addition, Mike Hausch retired from his position as Director of Family Ministry and the congregation welcomed Miriam Yakimow. In spite of welcoming new staff during a global pandemic, the congregation has built a strong ministry team and actively served their community during the pandemic, especially meeting needs through the Daisy's Food Pantry.

#### St. Paul, Ann Arbor

St. Paul met the challenge of the pandemic like many others

with online worship and special opportunities to receive the Lord's Supper. In addition, the pastors began the practice of an online morning devotion that has continued without interruption for over 600 "episodes," leading viewers through several books of the Bible. A new expression of their ministry was adopted. "Gather - Grow - Go" summarizes our calling to bring people together around God's Word in order to grow in faith. They've seen significant gathering and growing in the school ministry as many Ann Arbor families found their Lutheran school to be a welcome alternative. In their ongoing efforts to reach the downtown population with the Gospel, St. Paul has committed to a partnership with University Lutheran Chapel to plant a new congregation that will meet in the St. Paul downtown site, alongside their normal worship. They have welcomed the addition of a new Director of Family Life, Lexie Brown, and are seeking a new Director of Youth Ministry.

#### Cross and Resurrection, Ypsilanti

The Chapel at Eastern Michigan University has weathered the last few years well. They continued to serve families and students throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. They provided food ministry to the needy and held multiple services to provide for social distancing. They continued to provide outreach to Eastern Michigan University through their Pancakes outreach from 9 p.m.-midnight every Friday and the use of the Chapel by many groups. They also just installed a pipe organ as a way to engage some of the music school students. They are a healthy and growing congregation: "Connecting families and students to Jesus!" Currently, they are entering into a parish arrangement with a rural congregation to continue their "sending" tradition. On Reformation Day, they burned their mortgage and they just finished paying for a new roof. The Chapel is indeed prepared for the next 3 years, or until the Lord returns, as each day they join Jesus on HIS mission in their area.

St. Luke, Ann Arbor – In the last three years, St. Luke experienced significant changes in ministry. Senior Pastor Justin Rossow left to pursue other ministry opportunities, and the congregation welcomed Rev. John Sproul in 2020. Associate Pastor Matthew Hein accepted a call, and the congregation has transitioned to a single pastor ministry. Nevertheless, during the pandemic St. Luke adopted a focus consonant with their namesake, Luke the physician. Being surrounded by medical facilities, they determined to serve the overwhelmed health care workers of their community. Sadly, Rev. Sproul has announced his retirement at the end of April of this year. The congregation will be seeking God's will for their next shepherd.

#### Living Water, Whitmore Lake

Living Water is the fifth congregation of the Ann Arbor Circuit to experience a change in pastoral leadership. Rev. Harrison Parker resigned his call during this triennium and Rev. Scott Sommerfeld accepted the post of Intentional Interim Pastor. Living Water continues to be the main support center for the Luke Clinic which serves women in crisis pregnancies in Southeast Detroit. During the pandemic, their ministry only continued to grow as public services became less and less available, but Christians like the members of Living Water stepped in to fill the gap.

#### University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor

University Lutheran Chapel continues its mission to *mobilize generations to join Jesus on His mission*. God has been faithful as we continue to minister to college students at the University of Michigan and serve the city of Ann Arbor. Through worship, Bible studies, social events, evangelistic events, mission trips, small groups, and our year-long internship program, we are seeing students come to faith and grow in their faith in Christ. Additionally, our coffee shop, *The Common Cup*, continues to open its doors to both residents of Ann Arbor and university students. As God continues to bless our ministry, we are seeking to extend the Gospel in our city through partnering with St. Paul, Ann Arbor to start a new church in their downtown campus. Despite the pandemic, God continues to use the staff, residents, and students that make up University Lutheran Chapel to proclaim this Gospel to all generations. ULC welcomed a new campus pastor during the triennium, Rev. Marcus Lane, as the ministry has expanded to meet the needs of both students and families.

#### Peace, Ann Arbor

Finally, Peace Lutheran Church is the sixth congregation to experience a change in pastoral leadership. Rev. Larry Courson retired (moving into Intentional Interim Ministry) and the congregation called Rev. Andy Pronsati in 2020. During the pandemic, the congregation's ministry of reaching their community through youth sports proved to be resilient in the face of unprecedented challenges, as did their ministry to area emergency response teams.

#### **Circuit #30 - Jackson Circuit** **Rev. Joel H. Sarrault, Circuit Visitor**

#### Redeemer, Jackson

In February 2020, Pastor Michael Geml took a call to another congregation leaving Redeemer. During our vacancy we had Pastor Carl Bassett serve as our Intentional Interim. We went through the call process and on September 19, 2021, we installed Pastor Zachary Holdorf as our new pastor. Our current baptized membership is 286 and confirmed membership is 249. On staff, we have Pastor Zachary Holdorf – Senior Pastor, Kimber Walsh – Youth and Family Facilitator, Craig Briton – Director of Ministries, Deb Fall – Director of Worship, and Heidi Gannon – Office Manager.

#### Trinity, Jackson

In April of 2018, the much-beloved Pastor of Trinity resigned from the ministry. As is the case with such things, Trinity was struggling with grief and uncertainty.

In July of 2018, Trinity contracted with Pastor Scott Sommerfeld to be their Intentional Interim Pastor. Pastor Sommerfeld stepped into a difficult situation with great compassion, skill, and energy, helping Trinity to heal and prepare for what the Lord has planned next.

In July of 2019, Trinity concluded its period of Intentional Interim Ministry and began the process of calling a settled pastor. While calling a pastor continues, Pastor Kurt Lambart serves Trinity as a vacancy pastor. While Trinity waits on the Lord's timing for its next shepherd, it is certainly not idle. Trinity Lutheran school continues to be a beacon of light,

hope, and grace to the Jackson community. Principal Lisa Singleton has done an outstanding job leading this ministry through resignations, interims, and pandemics. Lisa and the entire teaching (and support) staff routinely go above and beyond to maintain academic excellence while simultaneously proclaiming and living out the love of Christ to our students and families.

Trinity is blessed by a growing relationship and partnership with Redeemer Lutheran Church, our sister LCMS congregation in Jackson. In August of 2019, Trinity and Redeemer jointly hosted a Community Care Day on the campus of Trinity in downtown Jackson. Over 100 volunteers combined from both congregations served over 600 people by providing food, school supplies, hygiene kits, socks, underwear, and haircuts. In August of 2020, Trinity and Redeemer entered a relationship with Compassionate Ministries of Jackson to be a distribution site for a monthly food bank. Under the joint leadership of Donna Lake and Ann Holeso from Trinity and Kimber Walsh and Craig Britton from Redeemer, we are able to supplement the food we distribute from Compassionate Ministries with items we collect from congregation members (i.e. sleeping bags, dishwashing detergent, feminine hygiene products, and gift cards). In the early months of the COVID pandemic, Trinity and Redeemer were able to have some joint worship services which were a blessing to both congregations.

In January of 2021, Trinity began discipleship training using the book *Joining Jesus on His Mission* (Rev. Greg and Susan Finke - [dwelling114.org](http://dwelling114.org)). To date, we have over 30 members learning how to be neighborhood missionaries.

#### Our Savior, Hudson

The congregation completed its three-year consultation with 5/2 Ministry, a partnership with St. John's Lutheran congregation in Adrian, and the ministry of Pastor Al Muck.

The parsonage was renovated so that it might be used as a community center in Hudson.

We partnered with local congregations for a servant event that benefited the local elementary schools.

We began a MOPS group as an outreach to local area mothers. The congregation distributed community Thanksgiving baskets for those in need, hosted a community Easter Egg Hunt and provided Christmas gifts for area children.

Our Savior entered into a dual parish agreement with St. Mark, Brooklyn and both congregations are being served by vacancy pastors.

#### St. Mark, Brooklyn

The congregation is currently in a dual parish agreement with Our Savior, Hudson. At present they are being served by a vacancy pastor.

St. Matthew, Adrian and Blessed Savior, Blissfield congregations are being served by Rev. Daryl Etheridge.

#### Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison

Lutheran Church of the Lakes (LCOL) is served by Pastor Tyson Bentz and has focused on making disciples who then

make disciples by engaging youth and families in a new form of confirmation, raising up leaders, and encouraging members to engage their contexts and vocations. With a membership of 250, we survived COVID and, like many congregations, developed an online presence and also discovered we were keeping ourselves busy with events that didn't really promote discipleship. So we chose to pare down the events to focus time, energy, and finances on discipleship. We've put together special care packages of supplemental food for our local meals on wheels program. Through PLI, we have 11 members involved with discipleship training. We are investigating switching to a policy-based governance.

#### Hope, Adrian

The congregation is served by Pastor Paul Herter. Like many other congregations, we suffered a severe blow from the COVID-19 shutdowns and the fear of the virus still plagues us. We renewed in-person worship and Bible study as of the end of May, 2020. Thanks to a very electronically talented DCE, we were able from the beginning to stream our services online and still do now. Our in-person service attendance has recovered about 50–60 % of what was typical prior to 2020. Our staff, board members, and elders have served faithfully throughout this ordeal. Our congregation has also remained faithful in their financial support in the last two years. We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary at Hope in 2022! Hope's Founding Pastor, Tim Eichberger, is scheduled to preach at our Anniversary Service in September.

#### St. John's Lutheran Church and Learning Center, Adrian

St. John's is observing 175 years of Pointing People to Jesus! The congregation paid off their mortgage and is undergoing some building and property upkeep with a new parking lot, covered front portico, elevator, sanctuary projectors, and entrance sign. Because of COVID-19, the mission teams were not able to return to Nicaragua or Honduras, but we continued mission efforts in our community through Word and deeds with Caring Pregnancy Center, Literacy Center, Share the Warmth shelter, school scholarships, Daily Bread of Lenawee County, men's and women's ministries, and other opportunities. Currently with 587 baptized, 488 confirmed, and 275 households, the congregation continues to be served by Pastor Joel Sarrault.

#### **Circuit #31 - Petoskey Circuit**

##### **Rev. Matthew A. Peters, Circuit Visitor**

The congregations of Northwest Michigan constituting Circuit 31 have seen many changes and shifts in the last three years. Our communities ebb and flow with the movement of the seasons, as well as with the coming and going of industries and commerce. Of our circuit's seven churches, five have experienced a pastoral change or shift in this 4-year period, with four vacancies remaining as of this report. However, we are blessed to have a number of retired pastors in the area and they have been immeasurably helpful, assisting in vacancies and bolstering the fellowship among the brother-pastors.

#### Bethany, Charlevoix

The transition time continues; Bethany is currently being served on an interim basis by Rev. Mike Teuscher. Over



the last four years, membership has been relatively stable with a few new members joining and a few members leaving. Unfortunately, the numbers are still declining ever so slightly, with more members leaving due to economic changes, relocations, transfers, and deaths.

#### Christ, Boyne City

Christ Lutheran called and installed Pastor Chuck Hoffman in September, 2018. Like many congregations, we had to adapt during these COVID times introducing online giving and livestreamed services. Our prayers are that, as this pandemic finally fully recedes, we can build attendance and involvement back up to where it was in 2019. We are already seeing encouraging signs. The life of the Church continues no matter what.

#### Mt. Hope, Grayling

Rev. Joseph Polzin accepted a call downstate in May, 2021 after five years of service to the congregation. Since then, the dual parish partnership of Mt. Hope and Trinity, Gaylord are diligently pursuing the call process and have been faithfully served by Rev. Paul Schneider and Rev. Ken Bernthal. Despite COVID complexities, Mt. Hope has grown its weekly average attendance by 37% as of the latest records, and general fund giving has increased by two thirds. The church has been re-roofed and stained and the parking lot re-surfaced. In addition, members have contributed \$350,000 toward the establishment of an \$820,000 (including furnishings) purpose-built facility to house a daycare and preschool with capacity for 72 children to address the severe shortage of quality daycare in the community and to offer greater opportunities to interact with young families in a meaningful way. Mt. Hope continues to reach into the community to show the love of Christ through food distribution, interaction with the Shawono Center (a 60-bed facility housing male youth felons), and outreach to area elderly, among others. Services are now recorded weekly and distributed on YouTube to shut-ins and others unable to attend church in person. Mt. Hope remains focused on sharing the Word of God through Christian love in its community.

#### St. Matthew, Mancelona

St. Matthew has been vacant for much of the COVID era. Lay leadership and retired pastors have been serving faithfully, keeping the congregation and community in God's Word. Recently, there have been significant discussions regarding the possibility of becoming a dual parish with St. Paul, Kalkaska.

#### St. Paul, Kalkaska

St. Paul continues to navigate the difficult waters of COVID-19 and, with God's help, continues to share the certain truth of the Gospel in the midst of uncertain times. Gently encouraging members to resume attending in person, remaining a steadfast and dependable source of hope, and continuing to proclaim the importance of teaching the faith at home are goals for the next few years.

#### Trinity, Gaylord

Trinity and Mt. Hope, Grayling continue to be successful dual parishes. In 2019, Trinity continued to focus on worship with

Word and Sacraments with their members. The members are very active with the local food pantry, dispersion of food to the community with food trucks, after-school tutoring classes, the Cancer and Friends Support Group, an active LWML group, the Osborn Fund for financial help, and confirmation classes. We cannot ignore that the COVID virus in the beginning of 2020 caused major changes in the way we were conducting ministry. But thanks be to God, we were able to minimize its effect in continuing our work for the Lord. We were able to maintain a worship format with YouTube-recorded sermons from the end of March through June. Pastor Polzin also used the same format for children's messages. Many of the other activities listed above had to be curtailed as well. Bible studies, confirmation, and meetings were handled with live formats with Zoom and CommQ2. Starting in July, we opened the church for worship and gradually for meetings and events as the year went along. In 2021, attendance continued to grow once again. However, a major change occurred in April when Pastor Polzin received a Divine Call and accepted it. Indeed, we were blessed by God under his spiritual leadership and he will be missed. Thanks be to God, as He has provided pastoral leadership with the retired pastors in the area. Reverends Ken Bernthal and Paul Schneider have stepped in to help both Trinity and Mt. Hope continue their ministries with little disruption. To date, the dual parishes have extended one call which was returned. They have extended a second and are waiting for God's answer. God continues to bless His people abundantly.

#### Zion, Petoskey

Late in 2018, Zion called Mr. Brian Horning to serve as Director of Family and Youth Ministries. Along with reaching and educating those in our pews, Brian works to connect with those in our community. The 3- & 4-year-old preschool continues to be a blessing to our church and community, and has weathered the COVID years fairly well. Since 2018, there have been many improvements in our sanctuary: a renovation in 2019 included revamping the chancel, new carpet, and pew padding. Updates to the sound system, a new organ, and a new video system were installed in 2020 and 2021. As we come out of COVID restrictions, Zion is hosting a quarterly concert series, along with getting back to many of our usual events.

#### **Circuit #32 – Traverse City Circuit** **Rev. Mark E. Berlin, Circuit Visitor**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The eight congregations that make up the Traverse City Circuit serve the residents and visitors of Northern Michigan in Word and Sacrament ministry. We boldly proclaim the Gospel in a very beautiful but broken world. The effects of humanity's sin are ever present. The forgiveness of sins and the grace of God reign supreme as this present world is passing away.

While our priority is proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, we also serve our region in care ministries. While there are many wealthy people that live and vacation in our region, there are many working poor people here as well.

For this reason, the Northwest Food Coalition, in a five-county region, serves hundreds of thousands of meals each year. Many of our circuit churches have or participate in food banks.

#### Grace, Elk Rapids

The village of Elk Rapids is nestled along the banks of the Elk River as it flows into the Grand Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan. The opportunities are not only about the sun and the sand, however. The sharing of the Gospel of Christ with all who live, work, and vacation here in the Elk Rapids area is our primary task. As we love the Lord, we love our neighbors and want them to know Jesus as their Savior. Pastor James Redmann continues to share this Good News as he serves the brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace.

#### St. Michael's, Traverse City

For the past twelve years, St. Michael's has been served by Pastor Jim Nihiser. He retired in 2021. After several months of retirement, he has been faithfully serving Circuit #32 in pulpit supply. As a result of pastor Nihiser's retirement, the leaders of St. Michael's have done a congregational self-evaluation. They have determined that they are in a position to call a full time-pastor. They are waiting for a call list. They are looking forward to community outreach. Efforts have begun to move ahead as a congregation, and to be progressively more faithful to our Lord's Great Commission. While continuing their presence on social media, due to COVID-19 they also broadcast the worship service through YouTube. Another significant change is that Paul Gaudette retired from his Deacon ministry. He continues to serve the people of northern Michigan struggling with addiction. St. Michael's is currently being served by Pastor Paul Philp. We thank the Lord that He continues to provide all things needful. We stand on the promise of God's Word, especially focusing on Jeremiah 29: 11: "...I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

#### St. Paul's, Good Harbor (Cedar)

Good Harbor is located in the northern part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. St. Paul's observed 145 years of God's grace serving at Good Harbor through the Word and Sacrament ministry of Pastor Mark Reinsch. Several years ago, Pastor Reinsch retired to northern Michigan with his wife Peggy. When St. Paul's pastor, Rev. Robert Wurst, received and took a call at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, Pastor Reinsch served as vacancy pastor. After going through the call process, Pastor Reinsch received and took God's call to be their pastor. He was installed on March 31, 2021. We praise God for the work of God in and through St. Paul's.

#### Redeemer, Interlochen

Redeemer continues to be a vibrant church with an exciting ministry in the middle of God's vacation wonderland and near the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park. We are blessed to have many visitors and delight in sharing the Gospel of Jesus with people from all over the world. Redeemer continues to be a light on the hill in this small community whose main claim to fame is the Interlochen Center for the

Arts. Pastor Mark Berlin and Pastor Jason Bauer (SMP) serve Redeemer Lutheran Church. We are continually looking at new and creative ways we can serve the people of our community. As a result, the Interlochen Senior Center meets in our church on Mondays and Thursdays. In 2022, we are hosting a community homeschool group of 120 students and parents/teachers. Our outreach has become in-reach by bringing people into the church and serving our community. This includes hosting AA in addition to our food bank that feeds over 12,000 people per year. Redeemer is richly blessed by God's grace in Christ and our cup of blessing overflows.

#### Bethlehem, Glen Arbor

Bethlehem is located on the shores of Lake Michigan and serves a large seasonal tourist population. Bethlehem was being served by Pastor Daniel Dockery (SMP), who was ordained and installed in 2016. He retired in 2021. In August of 2021, Pastor David Loeschke began serving them as vacancy pastor during their call process. Bethlehem is actively involved in the area food pantry and many social outreach projects, including working with needy children in the local school. On a quarterly basis, Bethlehem is committed to tithing to local individuals or crisis situations in the area. We praise God for their service to the community of Glen Arbor.

#### Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Traverse City

The last 3 years have been a time of growth and transition for Trinity. Senior Pastor Robert Zagore, after serving Trinity since 2001, received and accepted a call to the LCMS as Executive Director of the Office of National Mission (ONM) and began serving in mid-May, 2018. During the call process, Rev. Bruce Lucas, Principal of the school and Associate Pastor, served the vacancy. Through the call process, Pastor Michael Goers was called to be Trinity's Senior pastor and was installed July 1, 2019. Their mercy work in the community has drawn the attention of local and national media. Trinity serves thousands of people on Thanksgiving and Christmas. They continue to be committed to supporting the work of missions and missionaries. They continue to proclaim the Gospel and serve the community of Traverse City with Word and Sacrament. We praise God for their work and ministry.

#### Immanuel, Leland

Immanuel is served by Rev. Joshua LaFave, who was installed as Pastor of Immanuel in 2015. In 2016, Immanuel dedicated a renovated pipe organ for use in the Divine Service. In 2019, Immanuel celebrated its 150th Anniversary. Mark Peters continues to be the Church Musician/Music Director. Pastor LaFave earned his STM and then began a Doctor of Ministry program at Duke Divinity School in the area of leadership in the Christian tradition and graduated in May of 2021. Immanuel continues to be a wonderful, faithful congregation and actively participates in the life of their community.

#### Our Savior, Benzonia

With the blue waters of Lake Michigan, the sparkling waters of Crystal Lake, and the busy resort community of Crystal Mountain nearby, Our Savior is in a great place and has many opportunities to serve in Word and Sacrament and

in service to their community. They were served by Rev. Michael Belinsky until 2021 when he received and took a call to rural Nebraska. As a result of his departure, the dual parish of Our Savior and Norwalk Lutheran Church in Manistee was terminated. Both congregations are praying and patiently waiting to see where the Lord directs them. These are both small congregations and they are struggling. Keep them in your prayers. The Michigan District is fully committed to maintaining, supporting and re-establishing these congregations.

We thank God for the faithful service of the pastors and deacon that served Circuit #32. Pray that the Lord would send us men to serve as pastors at our vacant churches, St. Michael's, Bethlehem, and Our Savior.

### **Circuit #33 – Manistee Circuit** **Rev. Dennis D. Rahn, Circuit Visitor**

Trinity, Arcadia – Rev. Ryan P. Tinetti  
Baptized Membership – 283  
Communicant Membership – 234  
Average Worship Attendance – 100

Emmanuel, Cadillac – Rev. Mark E. Latham, Vacancy Pastor  
Baptized Membership – 510  
Communicant Membership – 370  
Average Worship Attendance – 179

Peace, Ludington – Rev. John G. Hansen (SMP)  
Baptized Membership – 25  
Communicant Membership – 25  
Average Worship Attendance – 22

St. John, Ludington – Rev. David P. Goehmann  
Baptized Membership – 321  
Communicant Membership – 258  
Average Worship Attendance – 55

Norwalk, Manistee – Rev. Jacob T. Sherry, Vacancy Pastor  
Baptized Membership – 82  
Communicant Membership – 60  
Average Worship Attendance – 23

Trinity, Manistee – Rev. Dennis D. Rahn  
Baptized Membership – 816  
Communicant Membership – 539  
Average Worship Attendance – 72

Faith, Mesick – Rev. Timothy C. Selim (SMP)  
Baptized Membership – 24  
Communicant Membership – 21  
Average Worship Attendance – 15

Trinity, Onkama – Rev. Jacob T. Sherry  
Baptized Membership – 165  
Communicant Membership – 149  
Average Worship Attendance – 64

Lighthouse, Pentwater – Rev. John G. Hansen (SMP)  
Baptized Membership – 47  
Communicant Membership – 47  
Average Worship Attendance – 28

Our Savior, Scottville – Rev. Kenneth L. Williamson  
Baptized Membership – 689  
Communicant Membership – 470  
Average Worship Attendance – 76

Beautiful Savior, Wellston – Rev. Gale D. Richardson (SMP)  
Baptized Membership – 13  
Communicant Membership – 13  
Average Worship Attendance – 10

### **Circuit #34 - Big Rapids Circuit** **Rev. Paul A. Tonn, Circuit Visitor**

Grace, Baldwin – Rev. Daniel H. Fienen  
Baptized Membership – 43  
Communicant Membership – 43  
Average Worship Attendance – 16

St. Peter's, Big Rapids – Rev. Roger L. Mackie (IIM)  
Baptized Membership – 764  
Communicant Membership – 682  
Average Worship Attendance – 140

Redeemer, Fremont – Rev. Todd J. Brunworth (IIM)  
Baptized Membership – 91  
Communicant Membership – 76  
Average Worship Attendance – 32

Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta – Rev. William J. Hooper  
Baptized Membership – 170  
Communicant Membership – 166  
Average Worship Attendance – 70

Trinity, Reed City – Rev. Paul A. Tonn  
Baptized Membership – 480  
Communicant Membership – 373  
Average Worship Attendance – 109

Christ, White Cloud – Rev. Maurice R. Low and Rev. Terry E. Hoese (vacancy pastors)  
Baptized Membership – 145  
Communicant Membership – 139  
Average Worship Attendance – 40

### **Circuit #35 - Capitol Circuit** **Rev. William R. Wangelin, Circuit Visitor**

The Capitol Circuit is comprised of the following churches: First Lutheran, Charlotte; Good Shepherd, Lansing; Grace, Leslie; Heart of the Shepherd, Howell; Living Word, Lansing; Messiah, Holt; Our Savior, Lansing; St. Matthew, Holt; and Trinity, Lansing. Each church has a Word and Sacrament ministry to the communities in which they have been placed by God. All of these churches strive, by God's leading, to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ with the people in their neighborhoods (Mark 16:15). Here are some of the things that have happened recently:

First Lutheran, Charlotte – Rev. Sean Esterline, SMP Pastor Dan Longden, SMP Pastor Mark Gawura  
First Lutheran's goal as a church is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to love the town of Charlotte, and to serve its people. Former pastor Tim Olsen was taken suddenly to be with the Lord on May 30, 2018 as the result of an automobile



accident. The congregation was comforted by the Gospel of our Lord and His provision of an intentional interim pastor, Jim Eggert, who served until January, 2022.

Deacon Mark Gawura rolled over into the SMP program and was ordained on January 20, 2019. The church celebrated the ordination of their Family Life Minister, Dan Longden, on February 14, 2021. Rev. Sean Esterline was installed as senior pastor on January 30, 2022 and looks forward to serving the congregation as they continue to reach out to the Charlotte area with the love of Christ.

#### Good Shepherd, Lansing – Vacant

Good Shepherd is “a small church with a big heart for Christ.” Their activities to the community include the Lutheran Blind Mission, supporting the MSU Friendship House and their outreach to international students, and the community dinner that takes place each Tuesday evening with over 60 in attendance each week. After long-time pastor Roger Straub resigned to serve as an intentional interim pastor, the congregation has been served by vacancy pastor Bob Allman and is working with Trinity Lutheran, Lansing, in forming a dual parish.

#### Grace, Leslie – Rev. Dale Kleimola

Vacancy pastor Dale Kleimola has been serving the people of Grace since 2020 as they “love people to Christ” through worship, Bible studies, men’s and women’s Bible studies, and fellowship activities. They worship each week at 10 a.m.

#### Heart of the Shepherd, Howell – Vacant

Through worship, small groups, and children and youth ministry, the congregation seeks to grow in grace, give with joy, and go on a mission. This is also accomplished through their child development center.

Worship services are at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with video sermons posted online. In December 2021, Pastor John Hile accepted a call to an English district congregation. In February 2022, the congregation voted to go through the intentional interim ministry program, and is praying for God’s leading and guiding through that process.

#### Living Word, Lansing – Vicar Moses Dangba

This group of mainly Sudanese immigrants is reaching out to other African immigrants in the Lansing area, worshipping at 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansing. Their services are also cast on Facebook Live. Originally, their services were in Arabic with English translation, but with an influx of Congolese families, the services are now in English with Swahili translation. Vicar Moses Danbga leads the congregation as he continues the EIIT program through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. During the pandemic, Living Word was greatly assisted by Bishop Mandla Khumalo of Middelburg, South Africa, during his 2-year missionary stay in Lansing. In summer 2021, the congregation did a retreat weekend at a Christian camp north of Lansing with faith-building activities for youth and families.

#### Messiah, Holt – Rev. Mark Werner

Messiah’s new pastor, Mark Werner, was installed April 11, 2021, following the departure of Rev. Tom Vanderbilt to Iowa. Messiah operates the Messiah Child Development

Center and focuses on Word and Sacrament ministry to the people of Holt as they “seek the lost; grow the found.” Their services are at 8:30 a.m. (traditional) and 11 a.m. (contemporary), both available on livestream and with Holy Communion at each service.

#### Our Savior, Lansing – Rev. William Wangelin and Rev. Chris Deneen

The mission of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School is to learn, live, and share Christ. Both the K-8 grade school and the early childhood ministry saw an increase through the pandemic. After participating in the vicar program through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. for 6 years, the congregation called an associate pastor, Rev. Chris Deneen, who was installed on June 27, 2021. Worship services are at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and each is livestreamed. The congregation hosted Bishop Mandla Khumalo of Middelburg, South Africa, for his two-year missionary stay. The congregation is also served by Minister of Music John Horak, Family Life Minister Dave Wright, Hmong Pastor Lang Yang, Principal Matt Couser, EC Director Windy Carroll, and wonderful teachers and support staff.

#### St. Matthew, Holt – Rev. Dean Poellet

The mission of St. Matthew Lutheran Church is to know Jesus and to let Him be known by reflecting God’s love, teaching our children, and serving the community. The congregation operates Holt Lutheran School, led by Principal Chelsea Spears. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. Sundays including livestream. The worship service is interpreted into American Sign Language.

#### Trinity Lansing – Rev. Bob Dowding

Rev. Bob Dowding originally was a deacon who continued on to the SMP program and was ordained on April 28, 2019, serving under Rev. Travis Downs. Rev. Travis Downs was called home to the Lord after a battle with lung cancer on January 24, 2021. Since then, the congregation has been making arrangements with Good Shepherd, Lansing, to form a dual parish. They offer traditional Lutheran worship using TLH on Sundays and prayer services on Wednesday. In October 2021, Trinity celebrated its 150th anniversary.

### **Circuit #36, Saint Johns Circuit** **Rev. Edward W. Filter, Circuit Visitor**

#### St. Andrew, Portland

Baptized Membership – 322

Communicant Membership – 204

Average Worship Attendance – 25

St. Andrew, Portland continues to reach out into the community in as many ways as possible with God’s love in response to all that Christ has done for us. In addition to weekly Word and Sacrament ministry, it has supported local food banks, hosted the local coat drive each year (until that stopped due to COVID-19), and contributes to and supports the Compassion fund of the Portland Ministerial Association. In addition, it provides support to our local Right to Life chapter. St. Andrew is supportive of the Michigan District and our Missouri Synod and continues to contribute 10% of its offering to them despite the pandemic. St. Andrew’s preschool, Wee Grow Christian Preschool, continues to

thrive, despite the difficulties of holding in-person classes in the past 2 years, and reaches out to our community with Jesus' love to about 25 families a year. St. Andrew has begun the process of transitioning towards a new pastor as their pastor of 34 years, Pastor Edward Filter, will be retiring in June. Please join the congregation in praying that God would continue to bless him in this time of transition.

#### St. Paul, Fowler

Baptized Membership – 152

Communicant Membership – 115

Average Worship Attendance – 72

St. Paul, Fowler has continued to maintain a strong Lutheran presence in the community. Through the teaching and preaching of Christ's Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments, God has continued to add new members and families to our congregation over the past few years. We are blessed to be able to offer traditional worship services with a strong music ministry led by our Kantor, Pastor Lance Klamer. Committed to the work of Lutherans for Life and led by Rev. Paul Clark, we also maintain an unwavering pro-life commitment as we continue to proclaim the sanctity of human life.

#### St. John's, St. Johns

Baptized Membership – 380

Communicant Membership – 318

Average Worship Attendance – 95

St. John's Lutheran Church observed its 150th Anniversary in 2019 with the theme "Rise and Shine for What God Has Done!" based on Ephesians 5:14. Although the congregation was without a pastor at the time, they drew strength from Ps. 29:11, "*The Lord will give strength to His people,*" during the planning and implementation of the month-long commemoration. The celebration began with our beloved guest pastor, visiting missionary and evangelist Rev. Mandla Khumalo presiding over "Kick Off Sunday" services June 23. Several other events followed, including a Euchre Night fundraiser; an outdoor service with fellowship luncheon, special music, and activities; the church float, "Celebrating 150 years-Rise and Shine for What God has Done!" which entered into the Mint City Festival parade; and a Family Night Out event featuring an outing to the Lansing Lugnuts Faith Family Night baseball game with fireworks following. The celebration ended with "Celebration Sunday" on October 27, 2019. A special service was held at 2 p.m. with a fellowship luncheon following. Many historical items were on display and the event was attended by pastors and congregation members from the past and present. It was truly a day of thanks, love, and celebration. Praise God in all His glory! Rev. James Pearl was ordained and installed as the pastor of St. John's in St. Johns on February 9, 2020. St. John's began offering services in the church parking lot on Easter of 2020 using an FM transmitter. This provided people with the opportunity to safely worship together in the early stages of the pandemic when there was great uncertainty regarding the transmission of the virus. St. John's has provided four outdoor movie events each summer since 2020. These events include live music and local and regional food trucks. This has been an effective outreach method and has built community both within and outside

the church family. St. John's began serving as the host site for the St. Johns Community Lunch Program in October of 2021. An average of 75 people are provided with a delicious and nutritious lunch each Tuesday at no cost to them.

#### Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt

Baptized Membership – 227

Communicant Membership – 190

Average Worship Attendance – 89

Hope Lutheran Church continues to faithfully gather around Word and Sacrament, where Christ is proclaimed, and where He is present with His gifts for us sinners. Led by Pastor Tony Sikora, we remain committed to sharing the Gospel in the DeWitt community, as well as supporting the work of missions. We are also embracing a Sanctuary renovation in the coming year.

#### St. Peter Lutheran Church and School, St. Johns

Baptized Members – 405

Communicant Members – 280

Average Attendance – 80

With thanksgiving to God, St. Peter Lutheran Church celebrated 150 years in 2019, with guest preachers and events throughout the year. Also in 2019, St. Peter Lutheran Church called Rev. Timothy Bayer to be their pastor, and he was ordained and installed on June 30. St. Peter Lutheran School has increased its school enrollment from Pre-K–5th grade to Pre-K–7th grade. We anticipate adding 8th grade next school year. Our principal, Mr. Paul Weismantel, retired in 2021, and St. Peter Lutheran Church called Mrs. Erika Brown to be teacher and principal at our school. Mrs. Brown was installed on June 27, 2021.

#### Calvary, Carson City

Baptized Membership – 15

Communicant Membership – 77

Average Worship Attendance – 64

Calvary Lutheran Church has been a congregation in transition. Following an Intentional Interim Process from May 2019 through August 2020, Calvary is working on becoming a dual parish with a sister congregation. In transition and in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has maintained a viable Word and Sacrament ministry. Its quilting group has met once a month, 8 months of each year, producing an average of 250 quilts per year, forwarded to Lutheran World Relief every October. Prior to the pandemic, Calvary offered Spring and Fall Salad Luncheons to the community, proceeds from which went to support our seminaries and Montcalm County Youth for Christ.

#### St. Luke, Haslett and Lansing

Our congregation focuses on helping people in *Knowing the Peace and the Power of the Cross*. We have major emphases on involving people in worship, group life, and personal Bible reading. Through an ever-more informed and intimate relationship with Jesus, we want to raise up people who can't help but talk about what they have seen and heard. During the past three years, our congregation has continued to develop its two-campus ministry (Meridian Campus in Haslett and Christ Campus in downtown Lansing). St. Luke has recently welcomed a large number of newcomers from Africa (especially from the DR Congo). Major outreach ministries



include our Little Lambs Preschool, a community kitchen that serves neighbors weekly, and a coat bank that provides coats to over 1,200 people annually. We offer five services during the week in our two locations, including services in Arabic and Swahili. In addition to our financial support of the District and Synod, we support International Student Ministries at Michigan State University and international LCMS missionaries David Erber and Chuck Tessaro. Our called staff includes Senior Pastor Trevor Sutton, Executive Pastor David Davis, Associate Pastor Zerit Yohannes, Assistant Pastor Elamin Baggor, and Deaconess Rahel Musa. Our congregation includes 851 baptized members and 729 confirmed members. Our average attendance is 400.

#### Ascension, East Lansing

Ascension, East Lansing has been served by Pastor Sean McCoy since March of 2019. Also serving is Deacon James Phillips and Alix Jenkins as Music Director. Along with most churches during the pandemic, we added the capability to livestream our services. Ascension has been abundantly blessed through that. We managed to return to our previous pre-pandemic attendance levels and even see an uptick in visitors.

#### **Circuit #37 – Tri-River Circuit** **Rev. Jeffrey M. Wilhelm, Circuit Visitor**

The Tri-River Circuit is comprised of seven congregations in the rural communities of Montcalm and Ionia counties, northeast of the greater Grand Rapids metropolitan area. The pastors and emeriti of Circuit #37 meet monthly during the school year for the Divine Service, study of God's Word, lunch together, and ministry updates and discussions. Our monthly pastor's conference has always been a place of peace and mutual respect, marked by harmony and warm fellowship. We support each other as we deal with common challenges to our ministries in the region where we serve.

#### Holy Cross, Belding

Holy Cross, Belding continues to be served by Pastor Bob Wagner. Social distancing and gatherings of no more than 10 persons due to the COVID pandemic caused us to look at alternate ways to meet the needs of our congregation. Worship in the sanctuary was suspended for a few months, so we posted a devotional service on Facebook, rigging up a phone to an old fan. Our Sunday bulletins, which included a "Pastor's Ponderings" reflection for the upcoming service, were mailed to our members and friends early in the week. And we joyfully opened up for services in the sanctuary in June 2020, slowly regaining people in the pews. Our bi-annual dinners which were normally served in the church fellowship areas became drive-through meals, and have now become a viable option for our community to dine in or take home. We've had to be creative in serving, and we prayerfully look ahead to more challenges of ministry, as the Spirit leads us in faith, hope, and love.

#### Mount Calvary, Greenville

Mount Calvary, Greenville, served by the Rev. Jeff Wilhelm since 2005, is "POINT-ing the Way": Proclaiming Christ, Offering Hope, Inspiring Service, Nurturing All, and Teaching God's Word. Livestreaming of worship services

began just prior to the pandemic, allowing members and guests to stay connected to the Word and continue growing in faith without interruption. Communion is offered every Sunday and upon request, while encouraging healthy habits. Several Baptisms were celebrated, new members are being received, and worship attendance is rebounding. Jeanette Watts has served as Office Manager since 2018, and Frank Schmidt serves as Audio-Visual Coordinator. In 2020, the congregation hired Holly Wilhelm as Director of Youth & Family Ministry. Her background as a Christian school teacher has been an asset to the congregation, including the Preschool and Childcare center, as they continue doing their best to reach out to younger families who are often unchurched. Childcare staff, led by Jenny Neumann and Lori Kellogg, provided extensive assistance to elementary school students and families during the pandemic period of online learning. The congregation has been restarting and hosting a variety of activities amid the pandemic recovery, including the celebration of its 70th Anniversary on May 16, 2021. The youth group has held a few fun(d)-raising and fellowship events (i.e. Christmas Caroling), and is looking forward to organizing servant events and attending youth gatherings again. The Christian Growth Ministry Team coordinates an annual Trunk 'n Treat event, Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers, weekly fellowship, and a monthly Sunshine Club luncheon with a variety of speakers and topics. Older members (50+) meet weekly for LifeLight Bible Class, led by Retired Pastor Don Veitengruber. The congregation is blessed with an active group of trustees working on interior and exterior building repair, security, and beautification projects.

#### Bethel, Howard City

Bethel, Howard City extended a call in May 2019 to LCDR Richard A. Townes, Jr. USN to be their pastor. Chaplain Townes accepted the call and was installed into office on August 11. Utilizing Acts 2:42 as his guiding principles, Pastor Townes set about developing a four-fold approach to his ministry. The first principle was being dedicated to the apostles' teaching. Accordingly, the congregation's focus became one of proper worship and increased Bible study with an emphasis upon the confessions of the Church. The youth were incorporated into the Divine Service in an appropriate and active manner, frequently singing LSB hymns. The second focus was upon fellowship. Increased outreach and in-reach was conducted through community involvement (e. g. the local fall festival, a pancake breakfast, and parade) as well as social gatherings conducted at the newly refurbished parsonage. The youth also participated in the 2021 Higher Things conference at Calvin University in Grand Rapids. The third focus was upon the breaking of bread. Subsequently, and in keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, the congregation voted to celebrate the Lord's Supper every Sunday and other feast days. Though Bethel did not meet for a few Sundays early in the COVID-19 virus scare, it quickly decided that gathering together was the most important way to help people through that dire period and re-opened shortly after Easter 2020, worshiping in an unfettered manner. Almost 30 people joined the congregation during that time. The fourth focus was upon prayer. To that end, an unused office was turned into a prayer chapel and

the congregation also decided to conduct a midweek Matins service and held a prayer vigil on the National Day of Prayer. Bethel remains dedicated solely to God's inspired and mistake-free Word, the Lutheran Confessions, and approved liturgy of the Church. Soli Deo Gloria.

#### Good Shepherd, Lowell

Good Shepherd, Lowell provides traditional liturgical worship to a small congregation of mostly older adults from eastern Kent County and western Ionia County. Their ministry entered an interim phase February 28, 2022, with the retirement of Pastor Joe Fremer after 39 years of serving there at his first call. Good Shepherd held on through the pandemic and is experiencing small growth after a period of decline. With some help from the District, they moved to a new web site, [gslc.church](http://gslc.church) which, along with our Facebook page, [GoodShepherdLowellMI](https://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdLowellMI), maintains a presence in the digital world.

#### St. John, Ionia

St. John, Ionia, is also in an interim phase following the retirement of Pastor Joe Fremer, who served them for seven years on loan from their daughter congregation, Good Shepherd (Lowell). Deacon Peter Carr assists with visits and worship leadership in a traditional liturgical setting. St. John's preschool/daycare continues to share Jesus with area children; the Child Development Center is small, but well thought of in the community and by its client parents. The church website is [stjohnionia.org](http://stjohnionia.org), supplemented by a Facebook page, [StJohnLCMSIonia](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnLCMSIonia). The church hosts an annual "German-style Chop Suey Supper" that is highly anticipated by people in Ionia, and once a month they serve a community breakfast that has many repeat customers. A small but energetic group of quilting ladies are superstars in service, partnering with the Michigan Branch of Orphan Grain Train in Sebawaing: in 2021, they donated 800 "pillowcase dresses," for distribution to girls in developing nations. The same group also made 126 quilts and 30 baby quilts, delivered in two loads, including boxes of donated clothing. St. John owns two neighborhood houses, whose rooms it rents at low cost to students at the School of Missionary Aviation Technology, a local ministry which trains Christian missionary aviation technicians and pilots. St. John has for many years held an annual Lenten Breakfast that is well attended by Christians from a wide variety of local churches.

#### Resurrection, Sand Lake

Resurrection, Sand Lake is served by Intentional Interim Minister Rev. Lee Zabrocki since 2009. The winds of God's Holy Spirit continue to blow through the trees of Sand Lake, bringing people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. More people are being assured of Eternal Life as they are touched by the ministries of Resurrection. Worship attendance and Bible class involvement have remained relatively stable in the past triennium, with offerings increasing 11%. God used our 29 volunteers to minister to 73 community children during our most recent VBS. Each evening began with a dinner served to both children and parents to kick off our 6 p.m. Bible time. Many attendees committed their lives to Jesus, including several adults!

Our hand-crafted wooden Lenten Cross stood from floor to ceiling, serving as a visual aid throughout the Lenten season. Our Good Friday worshippers nailed their list of sins onto the cross, leaving them buried with Christ. Easter morning found the list of sins removed and replaced with hundreds of Easter Lilies covering the Cross from floor to ceiling. Following the worship hour, 170 people exited the church as each was given a dozen balloons and all took part in releasing more than 2,000 helium-filled balloons, reminding us that we too shall rise into heaven to be with Jesus forever. God's Spirit is working through the family of Resurrection, taking people off the road to hell and guiding them onto the highway to heaven.

#### Hope, Stanton

Hope, Stanton is part of a dual-parish partnership with the English District congregation Holy Trinity (Lakeview), under the care of the Rev. Alexander Sabol since December 10, 2017. They are a small rural church with a committed congregation. There is a midweek Bible study as well as midweek Advent and Lenten services. They also have a food bank which serves numerous families in the area each week. Hope and Holy Trinity enjoy their partnership and celebrate it by having joint services together throughout the course of the year.

The Tri-River Circuit is also blessed to have Camp Concordia in nearby Gowen. A children's camp that serves the Michigan District, Camp Concordia is staffed year-round by commissioned ministers and is a Registered Service Organization of the LCMS. Many of our circuit's congregations have been involved in this camp since its founding by local Lutherans in 1957. Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg (and wife, Mary) have been working hard with volunteers and an awesome college-aged summer staff to make Camp Concordia the best it can be in planting and nurturing life-long Christian values and faith! Children and youth depart Camp with a growing Christian faith, new-found friends, increased self-confidence and skills, lived-out values, and a suitcase full of lifelong memories!

### **Circuit # 38 – Muskegon Circuit Rev. Dennis L. Lassanske, Circuit Visitor**

#### Faith, Whitehall

The pastoral office is presently vacant and the congregation is prayerfully involved in the calling process. They have been served by Pastor Dennis Lassanske and Pastor William Lahrman and other retired pastors in the area during the vacancy since May of 2021. The congregation looks forward to continuing to host community events, including a movie night, bike decorating contest/parade, and an outdoor carnival game night. The congregation prays for new pastoral leadership to help them to carry the Gospel into their community. By God's grace, the future looks bright in Whitehall.

#### Our Redeemer, Muskegon

After 75 years of mission and ministry of the congregation on the east side of Muskegon, Our Redeemer came to a merger agreement with Trinity Lutheran Church in Muskegon and closed. The congregation was led by Rev.

Alexander Koppel until September of 2021 when the final service was held in the sanctuary. A service and banquet of celebration and thanksgiving for 75 years was held in the church building. Members were given opportunity to join other Lutheran congregations in the area.

#### St. James, Montague

By God's abundant grace and manifold blessings, St. James, Montague is blessed to celebrate its 135th year in existence. A year-long series of celebration services and guest speakers will highlight and celebrate the history and mission of God's people at St James. Because of the generosity of members past who set up a perpetuating Memorial Account designated solely for the children and youth of our congregational family, all 8th grade confirmands will have the opportunity to go on an all-expense paid weekend to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum every spring, every year! We want our young people to see and experience this incredible Genesis presentation before they go to High School and beyond. We continue to embark on a "Generational Men's Canoe Expedition" every summer to the beautiful wilderness of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area along the Canadian Border in northeast Minnesota! Participants must be 8th grade and above and able to portage packs and canoes over trails between the thousand-plus lakes that span the BWCA, as well as paddle through all kinds of water and weather conditions. It is an incredible experience that many men and youth of our congregation have enjoyed for over 20 years! The Boundary Waters is a true wilderness with no roads, no cell phone coverage, just woods and water and wildlife! Nothing like being out in the bush with your brothers in the faith for a week to enjoy and refresh! God is good and we seek to serve and follow Him always!

#### St. Luke, Nunica

St. Luke is joyfully continuing in Word and Sacrament ministry under the leadership of Rev. Brennan Woell. Bible study and worship continue to serve the congregation demonstrating a desire to delve into God's Word. Partnering with local organizations, St. Luke helps to provide for the physical needs of the community with multiple Feeding America food trucks throughout the year. Their annual Sauerkraut Supper is always a highlight in the area. With a thriving Sunday School program, Vacation Bible School ministry, and various community events, St. Luke is working to spread the Good News of Jesus to the next generation and the people around them.

#### St. Mark, Norton Shores

The congregation granted a peaceful release to Rev. Mark Gilson, who had served for six years as their pastor. The congregation voted to continue the ministry of the congregation under SMP Rev. Scott Faith, who was ordained upon completion of the second year of a four-year Specific Ministry Program. He serves under the supervision of a local pastor. The ministry continues to offer education opportunities for all age groups, expanding the reach of the Gospel into the hearts and lives of God's people. They seek to be God's representatives into their neighborhood and the community of Norton Shores and the Muskegon area.

#### St. Stephens, Shelby

This small rural congregation had been served part-time by Pastor Thomas Bye, whom God called home to heaven. The congregation called a new part-time pastor, the Rev. Alexander Koppel, to serve among them. They continue to offer service on Sunday morning with Bible study weekly. The congregation looks forward to resuming outdoor worship during the summer in the coming year. We are small but faithful and continue to serve the Lord.

#### Trinity, Muskegon

Trinity, Muskegon merged into its ministry the Our Redeemer congregation in Muskegon. Trinity continues to be committed to reaching out to our community as a "Spring of Living Water". Our ministry focuses on worship that reaches people with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, applying God's presence and Word to the lives of His people that care, and called to serve the Lord and others in need. We are telling and sharing our living relationship with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are educating children and adults through our West Shore Lutheran School ministry and digging deeper in God's Word and applying those truths to faith in Christ. We are committed to relating our living in Christ to one another, into our community and, with a missional ministry, into the world. COVID has restricted various programs over the past years. Every month, we also send a team of people to serve the poor and homeless at a place called MAP supper house. In addition, we have enjoyed hosting food trucks that serve to bring free food and hygiene items to the poor in our community. Trinity continues to support missionaries and ministries within and outside of our country. Trinity's great joy is to host for the 20th year a New Christmas Journey production in the school gym that tells the true story of Jesus' birth. This production reaches hundreds of people each year, many for the very first time. Trinity's thirst is being quenched by the Living Water of God's Word in Jesus Christ that drives our congregation to continually reach out with the Good News of God's love for all people in Jesus Christ.

#### Trinity, Conklin

Trinity celebrated last year the 150th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran School. The school program includes a preschool and an elementary school, grades K-5. At the present time, the school is in the midst of a five-year plan seeking to bring growth and stability to this important ministry which serves not only members of the congregation but numerous families in the surrounding communities who desire a Christ-centered education for their children. Trinity continues to be served by Rev. Mark Oswald. Trinity also continues to support a special mission project each year. The year ahead will bring new challenges in replacing school leadership personnel, but the congregation looks forward to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Circuit #39 – Holland Circuit**

#### **Rev. Ryan A. Winningham, Circuit Visitor**

Over the extended triennium many pastors and congregations were stretched to learn new skills and ways to connect the Gospel to people. The pastors and congregations of the Holland Circuit are thankful for God's faithfulness in this



time. They also look forward to the Holy Spirit using them to show others the Gospel of Jesus in the years to come.

#### Grace, Coopersville

Grace followed through on a three-year debt retirement in celebration of our 25th Anniversary. We retired our debt and began a substantial fund for building repair and remodeling. When COVID hit, we had just begun livestreaming and have since been grateful for CEF grants to help upgrade our audio-visual system. Our members took advantage of the livestream when we briefly canceled face-to-face worship, and have learned to invite their friends, neighbors, relatives, and coworkers to check us out by passing on a link to one of our past worship services or sermons that might be relevant to their water cooler conversation. The congregation honored Rev. Joel Hoyer this summer with a sabbatical, under the theme: "Testify to the Truth". Rev. Brennan Woell, at St. Luke, Nunica served both congregations in his absence, and together they developed worship themes and a Testify to the Truth journal for daily walks through the truth of God's Word. Extra journals were printed for both congregations to share with their friends. A total of five congregations used these materials and we are open to sharing them with others.

#### St. John's, Grand Haven

After a relatively short tenure as senior pastor, Rev. Kurt Wenzelburger accepted a Divine Call to St. Peter Lutheran Church in Macomb, Mich. Rev. Bill Cate (Emeritus) serves as vacancy pastor while the congregation engages in the call process and is assisted with preaching and teaching by Rev. Mark Gilson. Pastor Wenzelburger was very supportive of the newly established Life Team, a ministry of Lutherans for Life. Under the guidance of members Paula Cate and Tracy Wood, the Life Team is poised to initiate "Care Portal," a ministry designed to assist foster families with their unique needs. St. John's will be the first church in this area with such a program. Our Christian day school continues to be a strong ministry in the community, providing a Christ-centered learning experience through the 8th grade. Our early childhood program provides daycare and preschool for approximately 30 families.

#### Christ Our Savior, Holland

Christ Our Savior was served faithfully by IIM Rev. Todd Brunworth from January 2018 until March of 2020, when Pastor Russell Johnson accepted the permanent pastoral position. Christ Our Savior, like so many other congregations, learned much about streaming, social media, zoom, YouTube, etc., over the past two years. With the help of many volunteers and grant money, we have added not only livestreaming of our Sunday worship service to our YouTube channel and Facebook page, but also a weekly devotional look at the lectionary, daily prayers, and a reading through the Bible. These formats on YouTube and Facebook are serving not only our shut-in members but also many members who desire an ongoing devotional life. Contacts made through our streaming services, devotionals, and Bible reading have brought several individuals into the church. The congregation continues to be blessed with many volunteers and an active Stephen Ministry group. A Hand2Hand Ministry to a local grade school was taken on

full-time in 2020 and has prospered with an outpouring of gifts of food and money as well as willing workers. We are greatly blessed with many willing laborers in the Kingdom of God and a fervent desire to read, study, and meditate upon the Word of God with three ongoing weekly Bible studies. We also have a very active ladies' group that sews, quilts, and does many other projects. We have just recently switched our Sunday times to 9:15 a.m. for Sunday School and 10:15 a.m. for worship service to enable us to expand our active fellowship time after our worship, with regular potlucks after the service.

#### Zion, Holland

Having been fully staffed since mid-2018, Zion has enjoyed the fruits of good team ministry. The plans to install and utilize more technology in worship were jumpstarted in March 2020, and Zion has continued to stream worship since then. Pastor Ryan Winningham has served Zion since 2009 and was granted a Sabbatical originally planned for the Summer of 2020 but postponed until 2021, during which Zion was served by faithful retired pastors. Zion continues to serve the community in many ways, generously giving food, goods, and money to nearby ministries. Zion's facilities have been slowly but continuously experiencing some upgrading and remodeling. By the end of the summer of 2022, it will have transformed a smaller upstairs room into a larger Commons and Discipleship Room to aid in fellowship and gathering around God's Word.

#### Lakeshore Fellowship, Spring Lake

Pastor Chris Boehnke has served Lakeshore for over 11 years. In 2019 the church began to do video recordings of our worship services, so when the COVID pandemic hit, we were ready to livestream the services, and we have continued to this day. We did many Zoom meetings and Bible studies. Pastor Chris also did a long-running series of video podcast devotions and updates. We weathered the turbulent times fairly well. Our current worship attendance average is about 120, which is about 75% of our pre-COVID attendance, and is showing a slow steady growth. We are also now seeing an increase in visitors and people looking for a church home. The church's household necessities pantry was a key outreach during the pandemic to help those in the community who were in need. The church's finances have remained stable. Lakeshore has also been in the middle of a campaign that raised sufficient funds to pay for new technology (computer, cameras, projectors, and screens) in the sanctuary and to install a new parking lot. The GO Local team is looking for new ways to reach out to our community.

#### St. Matthew, Spring Lake

In July 2020, St. Matthew installed its eighth pastor – Simeon J. Cornwell. Despite trying times given the COVID pandemic, the Lord has richly blessed St. Matthew in manifold ways this past year and a half. The Lord put it into the heart of His people here to purchase new Communion vessels, new paraments and vestments, and He has even granted growth in membership during these difficult times. The Lord has indeed filled the heart of His people here with great love for Him and one another. We look forward to what our heavenly Father has planned for us in the future as He

continues to feed and nourish us, His Son's Body, with His Word and Sacraments.

#### United, West Olive

United continues to gather for worship at 10 a.m. at its location on M-45. LCMS clergy have provided pulpit supply in recent years. United's building and steeple are appreciated by many in the West Olive area. Though small in numbers, recently they have experienced both a baptism and a confirmation.

#### **Circuit #40 – Grand Rapids North Central Circuit** **Rev. Jason P. Peterson, Circuit Visitor**

2018-2022 has been a major time of transition for the congregations of the Grand Rapids North/Central Circuit, with the closure of Family of Christ in Comstock Park, as well as some variety of change in pastoral service at 6 of the 7 remaining congregations during this term, including 5 of the metro area's 17 congregations vacant or calling during the peak months of COVID-19 restrictions.

Circuits 40 and 41 continue to meet jointly, along with pastors of three area English District congregations. Pastors and laity from many of these 17 congregations and others throughout West Michigan also meet for a monthly Lutheran Confessions Study, and many of the pastors convene for a weekly exegetical study of the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

#### Immanuel, Grand Rapids

Immanuel saw the departure of Associate Pastor Tyler Carter and has celebrated the arrival of Pastor Mark Bowditch as Outreach Director. They are currently engaged in the process of calling their next Associate Pastor.

#### Messiah, Grand Rapids/Northview

Pastor Thomas Bartzsch retired from Messiah at the end of 2018. They were served by Pastor James Blain and Pastor Jason Peterson during their vacancy while attempting to call from the field. They then applied for a new graduate from the 2021 class and were assigned Pastor Andrew Twietmeyer from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. who was ordained and installed at Messiah on June 19, 2021. The Grand Rapids Area Lutheran Confessions Study has now returned to its home location at Messiah after briefly being hosted at St. Peter's, Rockford.

#### Mount Olive, Grand Rapids

Upon the departure of Pastor Ken Bomberger from Mount Olive, they entered a partnership with The Vine mission plant and mission planter, Pastor Jim Richter. Since the conclusion of that partnership, Mount Olive is continuing to discern the future direction of their congregation and how they will be served.

#### Our Savior, Grand Rapids

In 2019, Jeremy Swem was installed as Senior Pastor. As a part of his transition to serve primarily as the Executive Director for Spiritual Care with Doxology, Pastor David Fleming's role at Our Savior became that of Associate Pastor. Our Savior has become the host of the weekly Exegetical study for the Grand Rapids area pastors of both circuits and several English District congregations.

#### St. James, Grand Rapids

During 2018, St. James began seeking their next pastor after the retirement of Pastor James Blain. Pastor Glenn Schaeffer was called as their next pastor and installed in March of 2019.

#### St. Matthew, Grand Rapids/Ada

St. Matthew called Pastor Matthew Starnes as Pastor of Worship and Communications in the fall of 2019. They are presently seeking their next Senior Pastor in anticipation of the retirement of Pastor Robert Appold.

#### St. Peter's, Rockford

St. Peter's continues to be served by Pastor Jason Peterson. During much of 2020-2021, St. Peter's became the host location of the Grand Rapids Area Lutheran Confessions Study, along with assorted other circuit and regional gatherings, which have since resumed at their former locations.

#### **Circuit #41 – Grand Rapids Southwest Circuit** **Rev. Timothy J. Brand, Circuit Visitor**

St. Paul, Caledonia – Rev. Timothy Brand, Rev. David Miller  
Baptized Membership – 916

Communicant Membership – 688

Average Worship Attendance – 96

Bethel, Grandville – Rev. Robert Gerke

Baptized Membership – 71

Communicant Membership – 58

Average Worship Attendance – 30

New Hope, Hudsonville – Rev. Adam Kosberg

Baptized Membership – 219

Communicant Membership – 177

Average Worship Attendance – 56

Holy Cross, Jenison – Rev. Brian West, Rev. Adam Peck

Baptized Membership – 1589

Communicant Membership – 1313

Average Worship Attendance – 237

St. John, Jenison – Rev. Marin Cerchez

Baptized Membership – 122

Communicant Membership – 83

Average Worship Attendance – 34

St. Mark, Kentwood – Rev. Chris Rubino (SMP)

Baptized Membership – 331

Communicant Membership – 286

Average Worship Attendance – 140

Good Shepherd, Milledale – Rev. Peter Berg

Baptized Membership – 42

Communicant Membership – 41

Average Worship Attendance – 17

#### **Circuit #42 – Battle Creek Circuit** **Rev. Karl N. Strenge, Circuit Visitor**

#### St. Paul, Albion

St. Paul is served by Pastor Paul Koehn since 2019. Since 2021, they have added Mrs. Tessa Shirley to their staff. Their preschool continues to grow. St. Paul has a



liturgical, hymn-and-organ worship style based on LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church moving toward program-driven.

#### Redemption, Battle Creek

Redemption is at peace and led by Pastor Karl Streng. The congregation supports local and regional mission activities of the church faithfully. It has a liturgical, hymn, organ-and-piano worship based on LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

#### St. Mark, Battle Creek

This congregation is in transition. They are actively working towards calling a pastor and also served by Pastor Jack Langfeldt, Specific Ministry Pastor. It has multiple worship services and styles including hymn and organ, song and praise band. The congregation is a program-driven church and has a successful preschool.

#### St. Paul, Battle Creek

St. Paul is at peace and well served by Pastor Larry Gorlitz. St. Paul is a downtown congregation which has experienced transition but is working hard at reaching out to its neighbors and serving its community. It has a liturgical, hymn-and-organ worship style based on LW/LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

#### Immanuel, Kalamazoo

Immanuel is at peace and well served by Pastor David Sidwell. They have a service-oriented approach supporting local and regional mission activity. It has a liturgical, hymn, organ and piano worship style based on LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

#### Zion, Kalamazoo

Zion is at peace and well led by Pastor Tim Seeber. Also serving their satellite site is Rev. Mark Couch leading ministry at Solid Grounds Campus Ministry at Western Michigan University. They support many local missions and ministries of the Kalamazoo community. The congregation has a liturgical, hymn, organ-and-piano worship style based on the LBW. The congregation is a program-driven church and has a successful preschool.

#### Christ, Marshall

This congregation is in transition as they celebrated the retirement of a decades-long pastorate of David Boedecker and have begun looking for a new lead pastor. Christ is currently served by Pastor David Moran, SMP. It has a liturgical, hymn-and-organ worship style based on the LBW. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

#### Trinity, Paw Paw

Trinity has been served by Pastor Phillip Phifer since 2019. It is centered in the county seat and serves broadly and widely its community. It has multiple worship services and styles including hymn and organ and song and praise band. The congregation is a program-driven church and has a successful day school (K-8) and preschool.

#### St. Michael, Portage

St. Michael is at peace and is led by Pastor Paul Naumann, Senior Pastor. Pastor Daniel Maske joined the pastoral staff

in 2020. St. Michael is also served by Pastor Jason Toman, SMP. It has multiple worship services and styles including hymn and organ and song and praise band. The congregation is a program-driven church and has a successful day school (K-8) and preschool.

#### St. Peter, Three Rivers

The congregation is at peace and led by Pastor Ron Moritz as a vacancy pastor. St. Peter has a liturgical, hymn-and-organ worship style based on LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

### **Circuit #43 – St. Joseph Circuit** **Rev. Michael J. Roth, Circuit Visitor**

#### Trinity, Berrien Springs – Rev. Doug Adams

The Lord continues to bless Trinity and its members here in Berrien Springs. Over the last three years, the congregation has continued to grow in its faith towards the Lord, its love towards each other and our community. Throughout the last few years, the members of Trinity have come to see God's hand working in our congregation. Many things have changed; however, we have learned that the importance of our faith and family have not changed. In those divine-given gifts, we have found strength and encouragement, even in an uncertain future. The day school and daycare continue to grow as parents seek Christian education for their children. Trinity continues to work to encourage its members and those of the community to seek the Lord in Word and Sacrament. In doing so, we look to fulfill the Lord's instruction to become fishers of living men.

#### Immanuel, Bridgman – Rev. Edward Meyer

Immanuel is served by Rev. Ed Meyer, who is finishing his fourth year here and we have called Rev. Tom Fischer as Associate Pastor Emeritus as of September 2021. Our worship includes a traditional 9 a.m. service and a 11 a.m. praise service on Sunday mornings with a relaxed traditional service on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. Our childcare center continues to be led by Barb Ackerman and we have about 100 students in our preschool and childcare. God continues to bless our ministry as we continue to "Teach the Faithful, Reach the Lost, and Care for All."

#### St. Paul, Buchanan – Rev. Daniel Barz

St. Paul has been serving the Buchanan community for almost 90 years. Word and Sacrament are brought regularly, although like most there was a short break at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like most churches, the online presence grew with services and studies on Facebook beginning Holy Week of 2020. They continue to this day. It is our hope that the latest tech grant will enhance this presentation. Following Easter of 2020, Pastor Barz became "semi-retired." This arrangement has worked well for both the congregation and for him as regular services, studies and visits are still possible. Through the efforts of all church leaders and some of their spouses, a space for outdoor worship was created which includes a brick altar. An outdoor service followed by a car show and community picnic in August 2021 was well attended. Plans are being made for monthly outdoor services during the summer months. In all things, we seek to share Jesus with our family, friends, and community.

St. Paul, Cassopolis – Rev. Paul Doellinger

St. Paul remains a strong, healthy, vibrant communion of saints in the heart of Cass County. Weekly worship along with Bible study, Sunday School, and catechesis provide an environment for continued growth and nurture in the Christian faith. Open Arms Child Development Center serves the community with preschool and childcare in a Christian environment. St. Paul operates a food pantry that is open to the public on the third Saturday of each month. Food baskets are also delivered periodically to needy families in the area. A weekly service and Bible study is held at two local nursing home facilities. Community outreach and involvement remains an ongoing effort. Support for foreign and domestic missions includes seminary student adoption, foreign aid, and contributions to LCMS World Relief and Human Care. The Ladies Circle of St. Paul are active in the congregation, LWML zone, and community with works of mercy, financial donations, and quilting. The crucified, risen, and ascended Lord Jesus continues daily and richly to bless His people at St. Paul. Soli Deo Gloria.

Salem, Coloma – Rev. Alex Hoffmeyer

Salem has been steadily moving forward in the work of God's Kingdom. Like most congregations, we did not make it through the pandemic unscathed. During 2020 and 2021, our average attendance dropped greatly, and pastoral care became more difficult as concerns and isolation guidelines kept many members shut up in their homes for long periods of time. In spite of this, God has continued to do His work. While average weekly attendance is still down, we have continued to welcome new members from our community, and we have continued to serve our community through our preschool and our various outreach events. This year, we are equipped to continue growing in this service. We have been blessed with new leaders and a renewed vigor to serve God's will in every part of life. We also plan to renew our involvement in local events, including our local Glad-Peach Festival, the Soup Suppers at our local Senior Center, and the community Trunk or Treat that we now host in our field. In addition, we will be increasing our support of the local food pantry and other local missions. In everything, Salem strives to be a congregation that reflects Christ in everything we do.

Trinity, Glendora (Buchanan) – Rev. Jonathan Liebich

Trinity is a rural congregation and recently celebrated its 100th year of Word and Sacrament ministry (2019). A highlight every year at Trinity is the last Sunday in June, when we worship outside and encourage people to drive their tractor to church. A tractor parade follows the service. Also annually, the Ladies' League puts on a chicken supper and the proceeds support seminary student education and other mission initiatives. Many members of the congregation are key figures and volunteers at the Berrien County Youth Fair every August. The congregation is blessed with some thriving children's ministries including Sunday school, weekday school on Thursday evenings, and Vacation Bible School every summer. Trinity recently went through a strategic planning process and has a renewed focus in sharing Christ beyond our walls in our community in Southwest Michigan. God has richly blessed Trinity, Glendora and we rejoice to be part of cultivating the Lord's harvest.

St. Paul's, Niles – Rev. Joseph Liss

St. Paul's continues to joyfully gather around Word and Sacrament where we as God's children have the privilege of receiving His gifts of grace through weekly worship. Multiple opportunities are available for growth in the faith of its members and engagement of that faith with their neighbors. We are facing new challenges in a post-pandemic world that will test this 100-year-old congregation to look forward and not in the rearview mirror for the sake of the Gospel. We continue to seek and build relationships in our community. We support a local food pantry, The Christian Service Center, with a monthly food drive, volunteers, and financial support to help families and individuals with utilities and prescriptions in addition to food. We encourage and support the local pregnancy care center, Life Plan, through prayer, donations, and participation in activities. The Center for the Homeless in South Bend greatly appreciates our help to offer food baskets at Thanksgiving as well as our monthly support for clients who have graduated from their programs to sustain a home and a living in the community. A community-wide Trunk or Treat event in our Family Center provides a safe, warm, and fun environment for 1,000+ kids and their families. With seventy percent of the community unchurched, there is an abundance of opportunities for outreach, and we understand there is no room for complacency. Abroad, we support a Guatemalan Missionary through a short-term medical mission trip and monthly donations, and two missionary pilots (husband and wife) in Papua New Guinea and their family to aid in translating the Bible into local dialects. St. Paul's is very thankful for the fellowship of all its members and their service to the body of Christ and the community and prays for God to continue to bless our ministry together for another one hundred years. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Trinity, St. Joseph – Rev. Michael J. Roth

Trinity has been enjoying the blessings of God for 155 years. From the beginning, we have operated a Christian day school. Today we also have an early childhood center. We look forward to celebrating the centennial of our current church building in 2025. Pastor Roth has been serving at Trinity for 15 years and is in his 37th year of ministry. Trinity also is blessed by the membership of retired pastors who have served our congregation, Rev. Thomas Batsky and Rev. Daniel Streufert. Principal Terry Bird will be retiring at the end of this school year, after serving in ministry for over 40 years. Trinity has been in the vicarage program of Synod for the last 16 years. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have remained active in community outreach and ministry, assisting with food, clothing, and shelter for those in need. Our congregation has been active in supporting a church plant in Nuba Mountain, Sudan and assisting Pastor Roth in teaching at seminaries in South Sudan and South Africa. This past year, Trinity paid off a mortgage on its Main Street Ministry Center and is now completely debt free. The pandemic forced us into expanding our internet presence and adding livestreaming worship to our weekly offerings. We are looking forward to many blessings in the years ahead as we continue to proclaim Christ in word and deed.

Trinity, Sawyer – Rev. Brandon Wittig

Trinity called Pastor Wittig out of the seminary in April of 2021, and as of this writing he is just over half of a year into his time pastoring at Trinity. We have a single service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings with a Bible study afterwards. One of our stalwart continuing ministries is through our quilters, who faithfully make quilts each Tuesday that are sent out to various places all over the world with Lutheran World Relief, as well as several being auctioned off each year to raise funds for the continued work of the church. Our attendance has remained relatively stable since Pastor Wittig's arrival but has fluctuated like many other congregations during the pandemic. God continues to bless the people at Trinity week by week with His gifts! We are looking at ways to better serve and connect with the Sawyer community in the future. "Precious in His Sight," Trinity's early childhood center, has continued to be full to the brim with children, with wait lists for both our childcare and our preschool classes. Through several grants for employment, we are hoping to hire more childcare workers and expand our capacity to care for the children of the community and share with them the Word of God.

Christ, Stevensville – Rev. Martin Measel

At the onset of COVID we, like many others, struggled with our procedures and responses. One particular blessing we received, however, was through a couple of laymen who quickly got us broadcasting services online and have since upgraded our equipment and the quality of our broadcast. In the spring of 2021, our Associate Pastor, Chris Yeager, received and accepted a call to Louisiana. Given the state of things and the uncertainty, we are continuing the ministry with only one pastor at this time. Our school completed the re-accreditation process, and is now implementing an innovative outdoor education program, taking advantage of a ravine on the property. Along with this, as well as the trend of working remotely and the turmoil in some larger cities like Chicago, we have experienced a slight increase in new members and students who have moved into the area. Our church and school continue to focus on Jesus, growing stronger in our faith in Him, and living out that faith through fellowship, service, and ministry among ourselves and the surrounding community.

**Circuit #44 - South Central Circuit**

**Rev. Kurt P. Kuhlmann, Circuit Visitor**

St. John, Burr Oak – Rev. Kurt Kuhlmann

Baptized Membership – 164

Communicant Membership – 138

Average Worship Attendance – 52

St. Paul, Centreville – Vacant

Baptized Membership – 20

Communicant Membership – 15

Average Worship Attendance – 20

Salem, Centreville (Sturgis) – Vacant

Baptized Membership – 47

Communicant Membership – 40

Average Worship Attendance – 20

St. Paul, Coldwater – Rev. Aaron Chittick

Baptized Membership – 243

Communicant Membership – 201

Average Worship Attendance – 71

St. Paul, Colon – Vacant

Baptized Membership – 77

Communicant Membership – 77

Average Worship Attendance – 20

St. Paul, Hillsdale – Rev. Sean Willman

Baptized Membership – 412

Communicant Membership – 324

Average Worship Attendance – 175

Trinity, Sturgis – Rev. Lawrence Matro, Rev. Calvin Kolzow  
Mr. Paul Kosman, serving as a principal at Trinity, will retire at the end of the current school year

Baptized Membership – 536

Communicant Membership – 433

Average Worship Attendance – 132

Our Savior, Union City – Rev. Peter Burfeind

Our Savior is currently a dual congregation with Agnus Dei, Marshall

Baptized Membership – 157

Communicant Membership – 125

Average Worship Attendance – 62

Currently, there is a new mission start in Mendon called Creator's Praise Ministry. Rev. David Grimm is serving this mission.



## Acts 2 Enterprise (A2E) Ministry - Detroit

Rev. Christopher Bodley

Acts 2 Enterprise is a holistic strategy of outreach in the urban context. A2E mission encompasses 6 components: Kingdom activity, leadership development, facilitating resources, engaging communities, implementing transformative systems, and collaborating and partnering with community stakeholders.

Significant events which took place during the past 3 years (2019-2021):

- A2E hosted its annual week-long summer sports camp in Detroit in 2019 (the pandemic prevented the camp from happening in 2020 and 2021)
- A2E summer sports camp served as a short-term missionary event in Detroit
- A2E initiated free computer literacy classes for Detroit residents
- A2E provided an 8-week soft skills training to Detroit residents 2 times a year
- A2E churches were used as emergency warming sites during a severe winter storm
- A2E initiated an employment partnership with DTE utility company
- A2E provided AV training for Detroit congregations
- A2E initiated an after-school enrichment partnership with Detroit Public Schools
- A2E joined Detroit Public Schools in a partnership to conduct monthly character presentations
- A2E provided Mental Health Coach Training to Detroit churches in response to the global pandemic
- A2E initiated virtual Grief Support Group to Detroit churches during the pandemic
- A2E initiated virtual entrepreneur orientations to Detroit residents
- A2E initiated mentor partnership with a Detroit Aging Out Foster Care organization



Rev. Larry and Tina Matro – Asia (\$10,000)  
 James and Christel Neuendorf – Puerto Rico (\$60,625)  
 Cindy Pine – Latin America (\$18,750)  
 Caitlin Worden de Ramírez – Dominican Republic (\$43,750)

We thank and praise God for the men and women from Michigan who share Jesus with people around the world.

**Other ministries** supported through the generous giving of Michigan District congregations since the 2018 Convention report:

Christian Outreach for Africa – South Africa (\$300,000)  
 Other South Africa support (\$14,207)  
 LAMP (\$9,000)  
 Concordia Center for the Family – Ethiopia (\$50,000)  
 Lutheran Bible Translators – Living Water Project (\$16,000)

The Michigan District continued its support of the Confessional Lutheran Church of South Africa (CLCSA), through Christian Outreach for Africa, under the knowledge and encouragement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod International Center. The congregations and workers of the Michigan District celebrated with the sisters and brothers of CLCSA as it was admitted into altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the 2019 Synodical Convention.

As with the ministries within the Michigan District, the pandemic had a dramatic impact on the ministries and members of CLCSA. Having suddenly lost Acting Bishop Geoffrey Thonake Skosana to a heart condition and Bishop Mandla Khumalo to COVID-19, the CLCSA faced significant challenges in continuing its mission and developing new pastors and missionaries to meet the demand of a growing denomination. As soon as travel was permitted, several congregations in Michigan sent pastors to preach the Word and provide pastoral care. In November of 2021, President Maier led a team of pastors and lay leaders to South Africa to host a training conference for those interested in serving as lay evangelists or pastors in the CLCSA. To ensure the ongoing success of the work, President Maier enlisted the support of retired Bishop Tswaedi to fill the role of the interim bishop of CLCSA. The Michigan District provides financial resources to enable Bishop Tswaedi to serve in the role of interim bishop. In addition, the Michigan District provides training support for Bishop Tswaedi. We celebrate with the CLCSA that, even in the face of difficult losses of key leaders and much-loved members, the mission continues, new territories are being developed, and plans to expand ministries are underway.

As of March 2022, over \$2,188,896.72 has been given or pledged for the International emphasis of the campaign.

*“No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor heart of man imagined the things God has prepared for those who love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).*

## International Missions

During the 2015 Michigan District Convention, the **Here We Stand** initiative in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation was adopted. One of the areas of impact by this initiative is International Missions. As a result of the generous giving through the **Here We Stand** Campaign, gifts totaling \$300,000 were given to **LCMS World Missions** in support of the following **international missionaries** from 2018 to 2021:

Alyssa Anders – Russia (\$28,750)  
 Rev. David and Joyce Erber – Africa (\$65,625)  
 Rev. Roger and Amy James – Sri Lanka (\$28,750)  
 Rev. Steven & Martha Mahlburg – Sri Lanka (\$43,750)

## New Mission Starts

StartNew Michigan District  
Rev. Dr. Todd Jones

In the first chapter of Acts, Jesus described a church that would be scattered from Jerusalem to “Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” to rescue people through the Gospel message. In the six years that the Michigan District has been engaged in the StartNew process, the emphasis on starting new to reach new has led to the development of new ministries reaching new population segments with the Gospel message. Some New Starts have become worshipping congregations; many remain mission endeavors working in collaboration with existing congregations.

In the first four years of the program, FiveTwo worked with the Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators (CMMF) to support local efforts to launch new mission starts. In the Fall of 2019, the Michigan District expanded the program to include a StartNew Explorer initiative. The StartNew Explorer program of the Michigan District was developed to assist congregations in launching new mission and ministry initiatives. The program provides support in three ways. First, it includes training to help the project leader form a team, develop a working plan of action, and connect with potential ministry partners and donors. Second, the program includes monthly coaching to assist the team in processing the challenges and opportunities that may arise in implementing the plan. The coaching works to keep the initiative focused on its targets. Third, the program makes available, as needed, a grant of up to \$5,000.00 to launch their enterprise.

The StartNew initiative remains essentially the same as it has from its inception. A team of individuals receives a grant of up to \$250,000.00 to start a new Gospel-proclaiming ministry. The units are trained and coached through FiveTwo or a coach/training approved by the Michigan District.

The following bullet points provide a quick summary of StartNew and StartNew Explorer activity in the past triennium:

- Peace, Ann Arbor, Adaptive Sports Initiative – Peace Lutheran church received a StartNew Explorer grant to purchase equipment to develop an adaptive sports program in collaboration with C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital. The sports equipment has enabled the congregation to form relationships with families with special needs children and the Mott recreational therapy staff who work with them.
- The Vine, Walker Community – The Michigan District, in partnership with the congregation of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids, has established a new church plant. Pastor Jim Richter formed a launch team and began worship in 2020. In fall of 2021, the church moved its worship location to a rented space in a local gym. Pastor Richter has developed partnerships with the school and other community organizations to establish mission inroads to family members new to the

Walker community.

- Project 8:12 – A StartNew grant was awarded to Steve Gauss to support him in the launch of Project 8:12. Project 8:12 got its name from Zechariah 8:12:

*“For there shall be a sowing of peace. The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew. And I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.”*

The organization is dedicated to helping families reach their God-given potential—socially, economically, and spiritually. Project 8:12 serves the families of South Macomb. The initiative has three areas of focus to strengthen families:

- Access to affordable home ownership
- Vocational and life skills for gainful employment and successful parenting
- Access to affordable childcare

The first project launched by 8:12 has been a job skills training program. The training is intended to help individuals develop specific skills that may enable them to qualify for better-paying positions. Steve Gauss continues to establish relationships with businesses to assist with the job placement of the program’s participants. Hope Lutheran Church, Warren, Mich. is a partner with Project 8:12.

- Refuge for Nations – Refuge For Nations is a women empowerment enterprise of the “International Friendship Center” to empower refugee and immigrant women in the Metro Detroit area by teaching and creating sewing jobs for them in Dearborn and Detroit. The program director stated:

“Refuge For Nations has carved out a unique market segment for preserving and reviving the age-old art of embroidery, needlework, quilting, applique, and sewing to create women’s apparel by uniting the rich heritage of the East with the Western trends, thus creating more opportunities for refugee and immigrant women, and impacting the lives of these women who have chosen to make America their new home. It is the goal of Refuge for Nations to train, empower, equip, and engage women from all cultures with the education, skills, and ability to work and establish themselves.”

A StartNew Explorer grant was awarded so that Refuge for Nations could purchase ten industrial sewing machines. Five machines are located at Atonement, Dearborn, and five at Bethany, Detroit. The sewing training includes a discipleship path. The sewing instructors start with prayer; faith testimonies are shared twice a month. The participants are asked to share the testimonies in the form of blessings (in their culture, they are more used to complaining than thanking). Coaches share the Gospel and give resource material to the seeker. Mentors from within the partner congregations are matched to those interested in growing in the faith.



- Faith, Troy – Faith Lutheran Church was awarded a StartNew grant to launch a new web-based campus site. While Faith was actively working to livestream their Sunday worship experience before the COVID-19 crisis, it has needed to accelerate its timetable to address the mission opportunity of in-home worship. Their goal was to create an interactive worship experience for people online, not merely broadcast a worship service via the internet. The nature of the pandemic expanded their vision for online ministry beyond only a Sunday experience to an all-encompassing ministry strategy to provide both care and content that fully utilizes technology.

- Trinity, Utica – Trinity Lutheran Church was awarded a StartNew Grant to launch a new web-based campus. Before March and the COVID-19 shelter-at-home order, the congregation had had plans to launch a one-year initiative to engage 20,000 lives with an online ministry. The shelter-at-home order required the church to accelerate its timetable and establish an internet-mediated congregation. More than broadcasting a worship service, the initiative included online Bible studies, discipleship groups, and service projects. They have reached over 2,200 unique devices each week with their online worship, over 1,000 each week with online studies; they communicate ministry opportunities with over 2,000 households and effectively do remote ministry for their day school families.

- Mount Hope, Grayling – Mount Hope Lutheran Church has formed a partnership with a private daycare provider to expand childcare options for the families in their community. The partnership will enable the congregation to develop mission activities for the families being served by the childcare facility. A StartNew Explorer grant was awarded to Mount Hope to assist in the finishing requirements of the new facility. In the application, pastor Polzin wrote:

“Building on the principles of ‘Pier Ministry,’ we must be permanently and consistently engaged in the community in a relevant way to make a difference for good in the lives of those around us. Everyone needs compassion, and by displaying our Christian love, opportunities will present themselves to share our faith in many natural and comfortable ways. The new school building will bring fifty young families daily to our property and open up many opportunities to engage.”

- Creator’s Praise, Mendon – Pastor David Grimm formed a launch team and started a new church plant. Creator’s Praise began worshipping as a congregation in the summer of 2020. In late fall of 2021, the church plant purchased a building on Main Street in Mendon. The building will be converted into a gathering space for worship and community outreach events. Pastor Grimm has formed strategic partnerships with the township’s governing board. The church plant team focuses on raising mission-focused disciples and releasing them

to serve their community.

### **Future Directions**

The Michigan District will continue to focus on developing new Great Commission and Great Compassion ministries. Starting new ministries is an essential part of our identity. However, we believe that many new starts could look different than in the past. The rising cost of buildings, the scarcity of trained and ordained church planters, and the shifts in culture require exploring new models. We have done some exploration in this area already. The partnership with Mount Olive and The Vine was one such example. While we do not know what the new models will look like, we know that they will continue to be confessional, sound, and focused on outreach.

## Chaplaincy

Michigan District Chaplaincy flows from the Good News in Christ Jesus and Christian compassion to those who are hurting. In most instances, our chaplains are on staff and serve as directors of pastoral care at the institutions where they are serving, with endorsement and ecclesiastical supervision through the District and the LCMS.

During this past triennium we have made no additions to the full-time chaplains.

Chaplains currently serving full time are:

Julie Nielsen-Schmidt – University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor

The Michigan District Chaplain's Roundtable, a joint chaplaincy and congregational ministry support group, was established to provide information and training referral for those interested in serving as chaplains for FBI, Police, Fire, EMS, Civil Air Patrol and Disaster Relief. Those serving on the roundtable are: Roger Stauffer, Julie Nielsen-Schmidt, David McNeil, and Peter Nickel.

A grant through the St. Lorenz Family Advisory Committee from the Leona M. Geyer Trust provides tuition for the first quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education for those considering chaplaincy, as well as for pastors, deaconesses, and others who would like to increase their pastoral care skills.

If your congregation is interested in this important ministry or needs more information, please contact Rev. Randy Johnson at [randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org](mailto:randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org) or 313.522.6424.

## Deaf Ministries

### Full- and part-time workers and volunteer workers for Deaf Ministry in the Michigan District

- Rev. Brant Engel: Pastor at St. Paul, Flint/Christ the King Deaf
- Rev. Thomas Dunseth: Michigan District Missionary at Large to the Deaf and pastor at St. Paul, Flint/Christ the King Deaf
- Rev. Tyler Walworth: Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf/Birmingham
- Deaconess Diana Rice: Lead teacher at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf
- Deaconess Anna Barger: St. Paul Flint/Christ the King Deaf and Ephphatha
- Lutheran Mission Society for the Deaf
- Deaconess Rebecca Catchpole; Deaf woman from St. Louis seminary DIT program who volunteers for events and at mission sites.
- Kelli Rakozzy: Teaching aide at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf
- Rebekah Rice: Teaching aide at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf
- Kaye Wolfe: LWML advocacy

## Changes/ Challenges

- The Michigan District lost a partner with Lutheran Friends for the Deaf (LFD) which provided substantial funding and mission opportunities globally.
- Deaf Ministry had a great decline in financial support to ELMS in 2020 and 2021 brought on by the COVID virus.
- International Deaf mission was brought to a standstill as a result of the COVID travel restrictions as well as civil war in Ethiopia (one of our mission sites).

## Advances

- St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf established in Dearborn inside Emmanuel Lutheran School. Currently, St. Martin has 5 students.
- Online Lutheran resources for the Deaf now being produced.
- Online worship and Bible study now being offered for the Deaf.
- The Church Interpreter Training Academy (CITA) was founded and trademarked in 2021 to recruit and teach church interpreting for Michigan District church interpreters and beyond.
- The Michigan District has built a team of volunteers and workers for Deaf ministry within the District that works together to advance our Lutheran Gospel mission. No other district in the LCMS has such a focused group of talent to serve the Lord's Deaf children.
- Two of our Deaf ministry workers have been made Flint jail volunteers and Deaf advocates for the sheriff.
- In 2019, the Michigan District Deaf ministry began a presence at Concordia University Ann Arbor by interpreting in chapel monthly and meeting with students interested in sign language and Deaf ministry.
- A relationship with the Michigan District LWML was forged with a Deaf Lutheran LWML liaison being set up. Now Deaf Lutheran women have a place and a 'voice' with the LWML in Michigan.

## Opportunities

- As a result of no longer working with LFD, work within the Michigan District has expanded.
- New partnerships have arisen with the Indiana District, Ohio District, English District, and the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (an LCMS RSO).
- A Deaf advocacy network in Flint requested St. Paul in Flint to set up a Deaf addictions program. This opportunity could be far-reaching, including partnerships with local Flint area non-profits that provide food, clothing, and temporary housing.
- The sky is the limit with St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf, including students from other states and countries. There is just no other school like St. Martin, where Deaf children have individualized, Christ-centered education. We hope to expand our advertising and outreach.

## Deaf Ministry Events

- Annual Deaf Mission Festival with St. Lorenz in Frankenmuth, 4th Sunday of August (attendance: 25–55).
- Valentine's Day mission outreach at Trinity, Traverse City.
- Holy week seder meal/service. 15 local Deaf people joined St. Paul, Flint members.
- Ethiopia Mission Trip with Most Ministries and Deaf and hearing Lutherans from Michigan; November 2019 (12-member team).
- Church Interpreter Training Institute (CITI) signing workshop held at Concordia University; February 2020 (15 interpreter participants).
- ASL Bible Camp held at St. Paul in Flint; Summer 2021 (55 participants).
- Deaf Christmas in Frankenmuth and Traverse City; December 2021. This event included dinner at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth and evening prayer and St. Lorenz; wine tasting and food pairing with Soul Squeeze Cellars in Traverse City and Sunday worship and Bible study with Trinity, Traverse City Deaf ministry.

institutions in the Upper Peninsula and may be contacted directly if a particular inmate needs to be visited.

- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids has a joint chaplaincy and congregational ministry to a nearby correctional facility.
- Other LCMS pastors who have a working relationship with a local correctional facility are encouraged to list contact information on the District website. Please contact Rev. Randy Johnson at [randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org](mailto:randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org).
- Currently there are no congregations involved in prison ministry. There are specific procedures as anyone begins this ministry, and some training is needed. For more information, you may contact Rev. Randy Johnson at [randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org](mailto:randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org).

## Disaster Response

The District Disaster Relief Coordinator, Travis Grulke, works closely with a few of our congregations that have organized

# LERT

LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams) ministries. Trinity, Utica; Trinity, Clinton Township; and Peace, Saginaw have taken on a large portion of our LERT efforts with the District. We have provided trainings at these locations, and these congregations have an active group of lay leaders that assist in providing direction for future trainings and initiatives when it comes to LERT and disaster relief. There will be future LERT trainings in the months/years to come. The District website maintains links to other disaster response sites that provide information for individual and congregational involvement, including financial support, personal involvement, and other aspects of meeting the needs of those affected by disasters.

We have created a couple storage locations for Flood Buckets and Hygiene Kits if/when your congregation assembles them. We use these resources to share with volunteers and those working in the clean-up and support of those affected by natural disasters. Feel free to reach out to Travis if you have any questions or desire for your congregation to get involved in Disaster Response.

## Prison Ministry

Michigan District congregations are encouraged to initiate Christ-centered, caring ministry to inmates and their families utilizing existing programs and training or developing their own. Over the past triennium, the following ministries have continued:

- Rev. Charles Burhop serves as a visitor to correctional

## Church Extension Fund

Greetings from the Management and Board of the Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District (“CEF”). We are pleased to provide this update since the last Michigan District Convention in 2018.

**Background:** CEF is one of five “extension funds” that serve the LCMS in the United States. An extension fund allows individuals and congregations to invest their funds, which are then used to make loans to congregations, schools, church workers, and ministries to help them operate and expand. With total assets of \$275 million, CEF is the largest of the four extension funds that are “District Based” (i.e., serving the needs of one District). CEF currently holds investor funds totaling \$210 million, and has loans outstanding in excess of \$136 million. CEF has been blessed to serve the Michigan District in this manner for 121 years!

**Management:** CEF is served by an outstanding workforce of 11 employees who faithfully serve the mission of CEF and help build the Kingdom right here in Michigan. CEF is led by its Chief Executive Officer, Jim Saalfeld, who has served in this role for more than 5 years and previously served on the CEF Board of Trustees for 12 years. John Bates, a 38-year CEF veteran, serves as CEF’s President and Chief Financial Officer. Andy Sohn, who serves as CEF’s Vice President - Marketing & Relations, rounds out CEF’s Executive Management Team. Jim, John, and Andy will be present during the convention to answer any questions you may have.

**Board of Trustees:** The CEF Board of Trustees consists of nine members: three rostered church workers and six laypersons. During the convention, five CEF Board seats will be voted on. There are two open rostered seats, and three lay seats with one incumbent (Mr. Kurt Kuck) running for re-election. Mr. Kuck has faithfully served the CEF Board during the past 6 years and is willing to serve for an additional term. Two seats are being vacated due to term limits: Rev. Robert Appold (Senior Pastor, St. Matthew, Ada) and Dr. Julian Petzold (Ex. Dir., Valley Lutheran High School) who have served 13 years and 15 years respectively. Retiring at the end of their terms are two lay members: Mr. Eric Prisby (Immanuel, Macomb) and Ms. Julie Hoegeman (St. Peter, Macomb). CEF has been richly blessed to have these Lutheran leaders provide a combined 40 years of leadership and service to CEF! They will be greatly missed. This Convention will play a big role in shaping the future of the CEF Board with this year’s elections.

**Key Metrics:** CEF is blessed to have more than 13,000 investors that provide the resources used to assist Michigan churches, schools, and ministries so that they can buy, build, and expand their facilities. The following is a snapshot of CEF’s key financial metrics for the past three fiscal years:

	2021	2020	2019
Total Assets	\$275,785,130	\$268,586,258	\$255,088,924
Net Loans Receivable	\$136,471,810	\$150,397,934	\$146,984,758
Investor Notes Payable	\$210,033,801	\$203,854,068	\$194,044,667
Deposits & Investments (Reserves)	\$134,954,586	\$113,067,963	\$102,830,777
Net Assets (Equity)	\$ 65,340,369	\$ 64,274,644	\$ 59,756,992
Capital Ratio	23.69%	23.93%	23.43%

Two takeaways from these highlights. First, CEF is financially sound. Second, while new church starts in Michigan are not at the level they once were, CEF continues to serve an important role in helping our ministry partners improve



## Church Extension Fund

and enhance their facilities. Currently, CEF has over 425 loans outstanding in the District.

The final metric noted above is CEF’s capital ratio. The overall strength of a financial institution is often measured by assessing its capital ratio (i.e., dividing net assets by total assets). Many banks and credit unions commonly operate with a capital ratio in the range of 10-12%. CEF’s total net assets stand in excess of \$65 million, providing it with a very strong capital ratio of 23.7%. This metric should provide investors with a high level of confidence as they place their savings and investments with CEF.

**Grants & Services:** While CEF’s core business is to receive investments and fund loans, CEF has been blessed with solid fiscal results that allows it to do even more. CEF often uses its positive results to make grants and provide services to our Lutheran partners in Michigan. This is a unique benefit of a District-based extension fund.

On the grant side, in the past two years, CEF has provided more than \$2.9 million in grants and sponsorships to benefit the churches, schools, and ministries of the Michigan District, as well as the Michigan District itself. Here are some examples of CEF’s Grant Programs:

- Equip+Connect Grant & Loan Program: This program, which ended in March 2022, helped EQUIP our churches, schools, and ministries with technology, and helped our pastors, teachers and church workers CONNECT people to Jesus through its use. The grant was unveiled on the heels of the pandemic which demonstrated a great need for technology enhancements to allow members to stay connected to their church. The program provided a technology grant of up to \$2,500 plus another \$500 to



help educate workers on using technology. A low interest rate loan was also available.

- **Security Enhancement Grant & Loan Program:** This program, which ended in 2021, helped enhance security and provide peace of mind that churches and schools are protected from physical danger carried out by others. The program provided a grant of up to \$2,500 plus low interest rate loans to enhance facility security. \$450,000 in grants were awarded to more than 200 churches, schools, and ministries.
- **Here We Stand Grant:** CEF provided matching grants of \$100,000 for every \$1 million raised by the Michigan District in the ***Here We Stand*** campaign. CEF also paid for administrative support to carry out the campaign. Grants totaling \$1.2 million were awarded over the course of the campaign.

On the service side, CEF underwrites services that we know are needed by our partners in the Michigan District. A few examples are listed below:

- **Excel In Giving** is an electronic funds transfer service that allows automatic contributions and tuition payments directly from bank accounts or credit cards to a church, school, or other organization. Hundreds of congregations in the District are utilizing this service—provided at no cost thanks to CEF’s underwriting. The service became a necessity for many churches during the pandemic. Statistics show that churches using electronic giving experience both increased and more consistent giving.
- **Gift Planning Services** are provided free of charge to the churches of the Michigan District and their members. CEF partners with the LCMS Foundation to deploy a full-time Gift Planning Counselor (Ms. Julie Burgess) to help families, churches, and other LCMS ministries with gift planning and legacy giving. In addition, proper gift planning results in more dollars going to Lutheran families and charities as opposed to probate taxes.

**CEF - Moving Forward:** CEF celebrated its 120th anniversary in 2021. We celebrate the foresight of the Spirit-filled church leaders who created a fund that would eventually help build hundreds of Lutheran churches and schools in Michigan! Moving forward, CEF is aware that the world is constantly changing and there may be new and different ways to do things. While we explore improvements, know that CEF’s primary mission will not change. And with God’s blessing, CEF will endure—having now faced two pandemics, two world wars, and the Great Depression and Great Recession. God is surely good! The ‘Parable of the Talents’ applies when it comes to CEF. God entrusted CEF with many talents that have been multiplied into even more talents over the years to bless Lutheran ministries throughout Michigan.

We are thankful for the great support for CEF’s ministry from our investors, congregations, schools, ministries, and professional church workers in the Michigan District!

James R. Saalfeld  
Chief Executive Officer

## Commission on Deacon Qualifications

The Commission on Deacon Qualification (CDQ) carries out its duties under the supervision of the Office of the President. We give thanks to God for His hand of favor upon the church and the congregations served by more than 40 trained deacons. The mission of the CDQ is to oversee the instruction of deacons and Pre-SMP students and offer recommendation of candidates to the District President, who then issues a license so that candidates may serve a congregation.

A deacon is a well-trained layman who serves only under a supervising pastor and through the support of a sponsoring congregation. Over the course of more than two decades, the CDQ has outlined and designed a program of study for the training of deacons in the Michigan District. Since 2020, each of the 13 seminars has been recorded with approximately 15 hours of content by a qualified instructor. Courses in Lutheran doctrine, Old and New Testament, Christian care-giving, evangelism, education, church history, Lutheran worship, leadership, office of the ministry, Greek, and homiletics are offered, along with other learning events and an internship. (While these seminars are designed to prepare deacons and Pre-SMP students, anyone may audit a course.)

In 2020, the CDQ launched the asynchronous learning platform for the Michigan District School of Missions on the Sioux Falls Seminary KAIROS Platform. This enables lay men and women to access the learning material from across the District or around the world to engage with the program of study. This association with an accredited seminary also provides the successful student with a Master of Arts degree upon completion. Although we use the seminary’s online platform, all instructors are LCMS trained and therefore all content is uniquely biblical and confessional. Special recognition to the late Rev. Dr. John Herzog for his tireless efforts as Dean of Instruction during this last triennium to make this online education a reality.

The policies of the CDQ, as well as seminar information, are available on the District website. Contact information for Chris Brown, registrar, is also available there.

The members of the CDQ are Rev. Todd Frusti (Ordained), Mrs. Kathy Schurig (Commissioned), Mrs. Chris Brown (Lay), Mr. Chris Townley (Deacon), and Rev. Ken Huner (Faculty and Dean of Instruction). Ex-officio members are Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper (District President’s Office), and other faculty members.

**Since the passage of R13-02A at the 2016 Synodical Convention,** “To Regularize the Service of Licensed Lay Deacons,” requiring Deacons who are “publicly” serving in Word and Sacrament Ministry to seek ordination through SMP Colloquy, or through a residential route at one of our seminaries, we have formalized two additional categories of well-trained servants for the Lord’s Church:

- **Credentialed Deacons:** These are men who have completed the course of study, have a supervising

pastor and a sponsoring congregation but do not serve “publicly” (Sunday morning worship) in Word and Sacrament ministry, yet they serve in a variety of other capacities to expand the reach of their pastor among the membership and the community.

- **Ministry Assistant Program:** These are women who have gone through the core of our training and then select specific additional courses to focus their training to best suit their respective interests or needs for ministry leadership in their congregations.

**Again, in compliance to R13-02A**, some 26 of Michigan District’s Deacons applied for their SMP Colloquy process toward ordination. 22 of the 26 passed their colloquy and are now ordained on the roster of Synod as SMP. This is a testimony to the excellent training they have received through our Michigan District School of Mission.

At present there are 17 students enrolled in our asynchronous Michigan School of Mission (Deacon/MAP training). In addition, the CDQ plans to initiate a non-degreed program of study that will be a hybrid of online and face-to-face instruction. This is scheduled to launch in fall of 2022. Our tireless effort will be to provide a growing number of capable Credentialed Lay Deacons, along with Ministry Assistants. Whenever the need of the congregation requires that a man be licensed for Word and Sacrament (public) Ministry, we will do so; and should the need of the congregation persist and no ordained pastor found to serve, that Licensed Lay Deacon will be directed to seek ordination through SMP colloquy. **Please pray for more and more men and women to participate in this training!**

## Communications Department

Over the past four years, the Communications Team has undergone several changes, all geared to fit our common goal of effecting change in the culture by sharing the Gospel as God’s hope-filled community of church workers, laity, auxiliaries, and organizations.

Centered on the District’s Critical Targets, the team focused its attention and efforts on telling the story of God’s work in Michigan District congregations and in the various ministries supported by the ***Here We Stand*** Campaign Initiatives. One of the ways the team accomplished this was by establishing a new position of Video Journalist/Digital Media Director (Jeff Heisner). The Communication team also includes the Assistant to the President-Communications (Debby Fall), a part-time Art Director/Web Director (Linda Ekong), and a part-time Copyeditor/Staff Writer/Photographer (Elisa Schulz). Working together allowed expansion of the narrative through special projects, the launch of a new website, social media outlets, videos, podcasts, and a printed magazine.

### Special Projects

In March of 2020, pandemic resources and hands-on assistance by the team were quickly put in motion or pulled together with other staff to address urgent topics such as: employment, financial and legal issues, tools and guidelines

for online worship, resources for education, marketing, online giving, health and wellness, facility reopening, and liability and risk management.

Over 30 10–15-minute *Hope is Here* videos, hosted by President Maier, were produced for evening viewing on the District’s Facebook page during the lockdown in Michigan.

The team worked on and supported the 2020 Digital Memorial Weekend Prayer Vigil. People from all over the Michigan District signed up online and gave thanks to the Lord while petitioning His support for our schools, congregations, church workers, country, state, and flood victims in Michigan. Prayers for the end of the pandemic and thanks for the military personnel who died while serving the country were also lifted.

To speak into the brewing racial injustice issue that surfaced in the summer of 2020, the team worked together with staff, District pastors, and teachers to host the livestreamed *Heart Issues are Hard Issues* Conference and produced a subsequent Bible study that replaced the usual in-person Theological Conference in the winter of 2021.

([michigandistrict.org/resources](http://michigandistrict.org/resources))

The Hymnal Project ([thehymnalproject.com](http://thehymnalproject.com)) began in 2017 with a group of artists and arrangers commissioned by the Michigan District, LCMS and underwritten by generous donors Carl and Patsy Fabry. The team assisted the efforts of the District’s Hymnal Project by producing a showcase of 163 videos of hymns ([vimeo.com/milcms](https://vimeo.com/milcms)) that to this day are used all over the world. The Hymnal Project was instrumental during the pandemic by supporting the online worship efforts of Michigan District congregations and beyond.

The Communications team was instrumental in several District projects including the creation of a children’s video-based Stewardship Curriculum, *God’s Children are God’s Disciples*. The team also produced over 80 course videos for the new Michigan School of Missional Formation (formerly the Deacon Program, [michigandistrict.org/missional](http://michigandistrict.org/missional)).

The team assisted Dr. Todd Jones in the formation of, and provides continued support to, the District’s Digital Footprint Initiative, which assists congregations and ministries to create a new website or to update an outdated website ([michigandistrict.org/dfi](http://michigandistrict.org/dfi)).

### New Website

In the fall of 2018, the team launched a new website which continues to house information and resources for our church workers. New functions such as *Find a Ministry* for directories and volunteering purposes and a searchable *Resource Library* have proved to be an asset to District constituents.

### Social Media Outlets

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram continue to grow and engage followers (*miLCMS*). The District YouTube Channel now holds over 800 videos comprising dedicated conference playlists and stories of People of Hope who are in the field working in many

ministries throughout the state. The blog continues to share these stories as well. (Share yours through *michigandistrict.org/storybucket*). In May of 2019, the first District Podcast episode was aired on its Thought Leader Podcast and later episodes appeared in the Innovative Missional Ministry Podcast. Both are available on iTunes and Spotify.

### Print Resources

Forty-one issues of *Michigan In Touch* were produced over the course of the past 4 years. Online PDFs are posted on our website and circulated to over 8,000 individuals each month. The printed version is only available to those who subscribe through the District at a discounted rate to *The Lutheran Witness* (*michigandistrict.org/michiganintouch*).

As 2022 unfolds and beyond, the Communication team looks forward to supporting, with excellence through special projects and communication avenues, the Critical Targets put forth by the District Board of Directors. The team will continually celebrate God's work in the District and explore new opportunities to tell the story of congregations and ministries filled with *People of Hope ... Vigorously making known the love of Christ*.

## Continuing Education

The support of continuing education for professional church workers is a significant priority for the Michigan District. Research results have indicated that workers increase effectiveness and demonstrate a greater capacity to lead thriving ministries when they are engaged in a regular process of continuing education. Professional development conferences, such as the annual conferences for pastors and educators, have been the Michigan district's primary tools for continuing education. In the past three years, the District has developed two other learning processes designed to build ministry capacity for our congregations, schools, and mission agencies: the Deacon Training Program and the Quest Program.

### Deacon Training Program

The Deacon training program of the Michigan District, LCMS is one of the top programs in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Through a series of courses taught by faculty serving parishes in our District, the participants grow in their knowledge of Scripture. The Lutheran Confessions equip them to better serve congregations and mission starts. The Deacon leadership team committed to improve the focus, the availability, and the value of the deacon program by formalizing the coursework into an accredited, master's level program with content to be available as on-demand learning modules. To accomplish the first goal, the Deacon committee has formed a partnership with Sioux Fall Seminary in South Dakota to offer a Masters of Missions as a degree program that is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and the Association of Theological Schools.

The second goal required our teaching faculty to rework the existing courses to focus on specific learning outcomes and be delivered in microlearning units through an on-demand platform. Creating the video content, building

the courses, and developing online assessments required a time-consuming collaboration between the instructors, the District's curriculum design team, and the Committee for Deacon Qualification (CDQ.) The goal was established to have most of the courses available in the on-demand learning environment by January 2021 and the remaining courses available by the fall of 2021.

The Michigan District and the CDQ have pursued other avenues of continuing education for professional church workers and lay leaders, including piloting an urban missions training program. The program's goal was to equip professional church workers and lay leaders with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in the urban mission environment. In addition, the lecture content and coursework of the Deacon program are being translated into the Swahili language. The courses are being used by Congolese men to prepare to support the ministry work of their pastor and by Congolese pastors to prepare for the Colloquy process or entrance into Synod's Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology program.

### Quest

In the Fall of 2019, the Michigan District launched Quest, the successor to the PALS program. PALS is a synodical program designed to support seminary graduates who had been newly placed in parish ministry. Though a much-appreciated program, PALS focused its efforts on the pastor and his family. We recognized that the program's goals would be more effectively accomplished by including the parish context in the support process. The Quest program, with its emphasis on cross-collaboration between partners, coaching through a gathering facilitator, and the regional CMMF, has offered a holistic approach to support newly ordained pastors, their families, and the congregations that called them. In the Fall of 2020, the Quest program was expanded to include newly ordained or newly commissioned workers installed into ministry positions in our District. The teachers have a mentoring program for newly commissioned workers, so they have not been included in the program. In addition to extending the same benefits of the Quest program to commissioned workers, the program has been designed to strengthen the working relationship between the ordained and the commissioned ministers by developing more robust collaboration opportunities between pastors and commissioned ministers. The All Workers Quest events include large group gatherings and smaller cluster gatherings geared explicitly for pastors, DCE's, deaconesses, church musicians, and Family Life ministers. In addition, Quest helps workers form coaching and mentoring relationships for more significant support with specific ministry challenges.

### Skills Training

The Michigan District has focused on adding specific skills training resources to assist congregations and schools with their online presence in the last two years. The need for the training was most acutely felt during the initial days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several training videos and tutorials were produced that guided congregations through the process of live streaming their services, hosting Zoom Bible study groups, and recording sermons for distribution. In



addition to the recorded material, the District staff provided one-on-one training for pastors and lay leaders, enabling the content to be tailored to each specific situation's needs and available tools.

A second skills training initiative was connected to the Digital Footprint Initiative (DFI). The DFI was designed to support a ministry's connection with potential guests through an engaging website. In addition to the technology and expertise of the District's communications team, the DFI has a vital training component. Over 15 hours of training videos have been produced so that the local volunteer can maintain the website. Over 60 hours of one-on-one training have occurred in the last two years.

The Michigan District is committed to supporting the ministries and workers of the District by investing in continuing education experiences. We are convinced that opportunities to reach our communities with the Gospel and serve God's people expand as workers grow in their knowledge and skills. We look forward to developing additional training resources for strengthening the capacity of those who serve in leadership and ministry roles within the ministries of the District.

Rev. Dr. Todd Jones

Assistant to the President Mission Education and Support

## Deployed Staff

**The Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators (CMMFs)** work to provide support, encouragement, resources, and networking for congregations and other ministries throughout the Michigan District. Working with ordained and commissioned workers, along with elected lay leaders in congregations, they offer specific training or workshop events tailored to the unique needs and ministry opportunities of the congregation. These deployed staff members are also constantly on the lookout for new ministry start opportunities, and work with existing ministries to initiate new starts to more effectively reach new people with the Gospel.

Our 349 congregations are divided into three geographic zones:

- The North Zone: CMMF Rev. Randy Johnson
- The Southwest and Thumb Zone: Vacant (Rev. Galan Walther retired December, 2021)
- The Metro Zone: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper

**Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper** serves as the team leader for the deployed staff which also includes **Mr. Travis Grulke**, Superintendent of Schools (His report can be found on page 106) and **Rev. Dr. Todd Jones**, who works to coordinate and support new ministry starts, and also provides exceptional leadership for continuing education creating an environment of continuing growth among our ordained and commissioned workers. (Dr. Jones is also presently filling a portion of the Zone vacancy after Rev. Walther's retirement.)

We bid farewell to **Rev. Galan Walther** and wish him well in his retirement (12/31/21). We thank God for his faithful

service and also pray the Lord of the Church to direct his replacement.

Over the past triennium (plus one year), our CMMF's have had regular and faithful contact with their assigned congregations. COVID-19 put restrictions on our ability to meet face to face for several months during 2020-21. However, telephone conference calls, Zoom meetings and hundreds of emails and file attachments enabled us to be responsive, encouraging, and helpful even during a pandemic. **Assessment** of congregational health, vision and **mission planning**, governance and organizational discussions, **staffing issues** (including some conflict resolution) and resourcing with training or ongoing education in the areas of stewardship, elder leadership, community engagement, etc. all were provided to encourage and support the work of congregations and church workers.

Numerous **webinars and podcasts** (Thought Leader Podcasts) have been produced by our Michigan District staff and are archived and available for use. These resources provide a wide array of training and learning modules or encouragement and "equipping the saints."

Special attention and intentional support is provided for congregations that are going through a time of transition as they experience a **pastoral vacancy**. Perhaps their pastor has accepted a call to another congregation, or their pastor has retired from active ministry. In any case, the CMMF, working with the local Circuit Visitor, takes the time and energy required to help the congregation assess their ministry and clarify the gifts needed in their next pastor.

In addition, our District CMMF's seek to connect similar ministries in similar ministry contexts in order to share **best practices** as well as resources. Therefore, networking of pastors and congregation leaders is an ongoing process. In some cases, larger congregations have intentionally partnered with a smaller congregation serving in a different community in order to resource and support the reach and impact of the smaller congregation in its community. Other times, it is working to connect sister congregations in a particular geographic area to intentionally work together in order to share pastoral leadership, other staff and programs, and thereby be **better able to do more together** than separately.

As always, we encourage congregations to be students of their communities in order to more effectively serve them in the name of Jesus and gain a hearing for the Good News of salvation in Him. Therefore, we frequently offer, or are invited, to compile and share a community **demographic study**. Information about the community's population, cultural trends, economics, etc. can serve the congregation in planning more effective ministry to address the felt needs of the community. Such information is used to develop new ministries as well as refocus existing efforts to share the saving Gospel.

Other areas of Congregation Mission and Ministry Department are highlighted in other reports: Lutheran Schools, Family



Life, Intentional Interim Ministry, Deacon Training, Parish Nurse, Committee on Church Worker Care, etc.

What a joy to work together in God's Kingdom here in the Michigan District, LCMS, focusing on our four targets: Great Commission Ministry, Great Compassion Ministry, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Church Workers!

## Development Department

### *Here We Stand* Campaign Overview, Highlights, and Progress

#### *The Here We Stand (HWS)*

Campaign will reach its closing date at the conclusion of the Michigan District Convention. What began as an initiative approved at the 2015 Convention, with approximately 93% voting in favor, **HWS** has become a very successful undertaking of the Michigan District as will be evident in the following information.

**HWS** was planned to coincide with the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in the fall of 2017. The actual campaign began sooner than the fall of 2017 with a "quiet phase" in which individual donors were asked to make their gifts and commitments prior to the beginning of the "congregational phase" in October 2017.

The congregational phase began with a Michigan District-wide worship service held at the Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University on October 15, 2017. This magnificent Worship Service, held to commemorate the historic 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Church, was attended by just over 13,000 people of all ages. The vast majority of those in attendance were from Michigan District, LCMS congregations, although several other regional districts were also represented as their members joined us in worship.

The **HWS** campaign was originally scheduled to close at the end of 2021; however, it was extended an additional six months when the Michigan District Convention was postponed to June 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions on gatherings.

The pandemic certainly has had an impact on the campaign's financial results, particularly in the first year, as congregations and individuals alike were learning to live within many restrictions as we attempted to remain safe from the virus. Truthfully, it is impossible to know the exact level of financial impact the pandemic has caused, but it is safe to acknowledge there has been some level of negative impact.

Thus, when the Convention was postponed until June 2022, the campaign ending date was extended six months to prayerfully have some additional time to help compensate for some of the lost time caused by the pandemic. We will

know more about the extent of the impact this decision has had on the campaign when Convention takes place in June.

### **Campaign Financial Results Through February 1, 2022**

The **HWS** campaign has been a very successful initiative. Approximately 92% of the campaign goal of \$10 million has been reached even as we acknowledge the negative impact the pandemic has had on the total amount raised. The Board of Directors and staff of the Michigan District praise God and thank the congregations and members of the Michigan District for making this campaign such a success.

#### **HWS Update Through March 3, 2022**

\$9,177,016.83	Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals
\$8,988,225.14	Cash received which includes \$800,000 CEF Matching Funds
\$132,111.47	Outstanding commitments (pledges)
1,652	Total Contributors
1,472	Individual Contributors
180	Congregations Contributing
51.1%	% of Michigan District Congregations currently participating
19,577	Participants in the "Crafted By Truth" Bible Reading Program
3,228	Participants who have completed the Bible Reading Program
13,300	Attendees at the 500th Anniversary Worship Service at the Breslin Center
\$1,653,734.51	Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships
\$3,976,533.69	Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry
\$1,300,837.38	Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment
\$2,189,231.02	Total given/pledged for International Ministries

#### **Campaign Initiatives Goals**

Professional Church Worker Scholarships	\$3,000,000
Innovative Missional Ministry	\$3,000,000
Michigan District Endowment	\$3,000,000
International Ministries	\$1,000,000

#### **Michigan District Church Extension Fund (CEF) Partnership**

CEF has stood alongside the Michigan District as a faithful and generous partner since the beginning of the **HWS** campaign. Because of the ongoing generosity of CEF, the campaign did not incur any operating expenses. CEF provided a grant in the amount of \$350,000 to cover any such costs, thus allowing every donation to the campaign to go to its intended purpose. CEF also provided a donation of \$100,000 to pay the costs of having the 500th Anniversary Worship Service at the Breslin Center. In addition, CEF provided a \$100,000 match for every \$1,000,000 cash received by the campaign. To date, their matching amount totals \$800,000. CEF has truly been an amazing partner in the **HWS** campaign. Our deepest appreciation is extended



**Here We Stand**

to Jim Saalfeld, CEO and John Bates, President, as well as previous president Ron Steinke, for their longstanding commitment to help **HWS** be the successful campaign that it is.

### ***HWS* Concluding Comments**

As the campaign has progressed over the past five years, it has had the opportunity to impact ministry in the Michigan District through multiple ways. For these opportunities to make a difference, we are grateful. In addition to what has already been supported and accomplished, it is anticipated that **HWS** will continue to have an impact for at least another five years as monies that have already been received continue to be allocated for future ministry purposes. To date, individual donors have given approximately \$6.9 million, and congregations of the Michigan District have surpassed \$2.2 million. Our prayer is that even as **HWS** comes to its formal close, individuals and congregations alike will continue to see the value of the four campaign initiatives and sense the significant impact they are having on ministry in the Michigan District and far beyond, for we collectively work and serve to grow the Kingdom of God. Thank you to all who have been so supportive in making **HWS** the great success it has been.

At the very top of the list of those I must thank are Rev. Rob Appold from St. Matthew, Grand Rapids (Ada) who served as campaign Chairman, Mr. Jack Kidwell who served as campaign Vice Chairman, and the entire Campaign Steering Committee who committed over two years of their time and talents, as well as their treasure, in providing leadership, guidance, and insight to help make the campaign a success.

I would also like to thank the Michigan District Board of Directors, who have been so very supportive of the campaign since its beginning, and President David Maier, for always being willing to lend a hand whenever he was asked.

### **Reformation 500 Challenge and *Here We Ride* Bike Events**

Both of the above-named events were created to assist **HWS** involve more people in a less traditional way. During each year of the campaign, these events allowed for participation from individuals and families who may not have participated if such opportunities were not made available.

Five *Here We Ride* Bike Events were held: two in Charlevoix, under the leadership of Rev. Matthew Peters from Zion, Petoskey; two at Zion, Bay City under the leadership of Rev. Chris Garcia from Immanuel, Bay City; and the fifth one was held as a virtual-only event during year one of the pandemic. Collected pledges and donations were encouraged to be split evenly between the participants' congregation or school, and the campaign.

*The Reformation 500* Event allowed congregations to participate in the campaign in a fun way by either individually or collectively striving to complete 500 miles of exercise by running, walking, or biking during the summer months, collecting pledges for miles accomplished. We asked that 50% of the pledges collected be kept at each individual congregation or school and 50% be given to the **HWS**

campaign. Multiple congregations participated during each of the five years of the campaign.

### **Student Aid Report**

For information on Student Aid, see page 126.

### **International Ministry Support**

For information on International Support, see page 92.

### **District Budget Report**

The **HWS** campaign utilized the vast majority of the Development Department time since the past Convention. However, the following provides additional information about some of the other responsibilities of the department.

### **Acts2Enterprise (A2E)**

This highly effective urban ministry of the Michigan District receives significant financial support from the Development Department. **HWS** Innovative Missional Ministry monies are annually directed to the operating budget of A2E. The annual Spring Appeal funds summer Sports Camp/VBS programs (Please note that in 2020 and 2021 the Sports Camp/VBS programs were not held due to the pandemic). In addition, an LWML grant is prepared by the Development Department and submitted bi-annually requesting a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to aid in meeting A2E operating fund expenditures. Since the last Convention, this grant has been funded twice, and another grant has been submitted for consideration at the LWML convention in July 2022.

### **Spring and Christmas Appeals**

The Michigan District sends an appeal by mail each May (Spring Appeal) and late November (Christmas Appeal) to our potential list of donors, requesting their support of an identified area of district ministry. The last four Spring Appeals have raised a total of \$95,318, and the last four Christmas appeals have received \$79,920 for a total of \$175,237 for Michigan District ministry support.

### **Special Events Funding**

The Development Department annually assists in funding several Michigan District events. These events include the Junior High Youth Gathering, the Senior High Youth Gathering, the Lutheran Adult Gathering, the Katie Conference, and any other events as asked.

### **Congregational Capital/Debt Reduction Campaigns**

Since the 2018 Convention, the Development Department has provided capital campaign consultation to six congregations. Each campaign was designed and implemented around the specific needs and interests of the requesting congregation. Several congregations who were considering doing capital campaigns during the past two years have decided to wait until the pandemic environment has improved. The following are the six that were assisted since the last Convention:

Christ, Milford  
St. Paul, Royal Oak  
Faith, Grand Blanc

St. Matthew, Westland  
Our Savior, Lansing  
Immanuel, Grand Rapids

## Michigan District Endowment

Fulfilling the broad mission and vision of the Michigan District requires funding from multiple sources of revenue. One of those key sources of revenue is the Michigan District Endowment Fund, authorized by the Michigan District Board of Directors to receive gifts which will support multiple aspects of District ministry. The Endowment Fund may receive gifts that are restricted for specific purposes, as well as unrestricted gifts which the Michigan District may designate for other purposes that support District outcomes.

When a gift is given to the Michigan District Endowment Fund, whether to an existing fund or one that the donor establishes, the initial gift never goes away. It is a perpetual gift because the principal is never used. Only the earnings, or a designated portion of the earnings, are used for current or future ministry purposes in the Michigan District. As the Endowment Fund increases over time from investment growth and/or new funds being added, the likelihood of additional funds being available for ministry purposes also increases.

The result of a well-funded Endowment is more, and better funded, Michigan District ministry. An Endowment Advisory Council (EAC) appointed by the Michigan District Board of Directors monitors the Endowment Fund. The EAC watches over the investment of the Endowment funds to ensure the investment strategy is being adhered to, resulting in acceptable levels of growth, or loss, within the current market capability. The EAC meets four times each year to review the fund status and make any necessary adjustments to continue to stay in line with the approved investment strategy. The EAC oversees an Endowment that is currently valued at approximately \$4.5 million.

Endowment funds allocations are currently set at 39% for student aid, 36% for missions, 19% for special purposes, and 6% unrestricted.

The Michigan District Endowment is a perpetual Fund which is prepared to receive gifts during a person's lifetime or as part of a legacy gift. These gifts include, but are not limited to:

Bequests from wills or trusts	Gifts of real estate
Charitable lead trusts	Retirement Plan gifts
Beneficiary designations	Gifts of stock
Charitable Remainder Trusts	Gifts of Life Insurance
Cash gifts	Gift annuities

Anyone wishing to learn more about the Michigan District Endowment Fund, or considering making an immediate or planned gift, is encouraged to contact the Development Department at the Michigan District Office.

Ray Zavada, MA  
Assistant to the President - Development

## Family Life Ministry

Reflecting on the past four years since the last Michigan District convention, the opening words of Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* come to mind: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Living in a culture and society moving further and further away from God's values, the onset and continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing challenges of health or finances or stress or communication within families can easily give the impression of "the worst of times." Families—the individuals within them: husbands and wives, parents and children, younger and older, single and divorced, widow and widower—are looking for hope. Not just a wishful desire for improvement, but solid, firm, sure hope—the hope that "does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5). It is that hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, that does not disappoint, that makes this time—and all times—"the best of times" for the Church, to proclaim and live and share the hope that is within us. The gathering of families of all shapes and sizes around Word and Sacrament where they receive the tremendous blessings God has for His people in His Son, Jesus Christ, continues to be the goal toward which the Michigan District strives in the area of family life, that District congregations may be resourced for ministry so that the lives of many—both young and old—are blessed both now and in eternity.

Ministry opportunities and resources with individual congregations seeking to give support for families have been provided by the Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators as they have worked with their assigned congregations. In addition, several task forces, committees, and volunteers at events—though limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic as gatherings and events were cancelled or postponed in 2020 and 2021—involving over 80 professional church workers and laity, have provided more formal opportunities for professional church workers, congregation leaders, and members to be better equipped to carry out ministry to children, youth, adults, and families in their local congregations.

In the past four years, several opportunities under the broad heading of "Family Life" were sponsored or supported by the Michigan District:

In the area of **Family Ministry**, the *Special Friends Camp* is held in the summer, with the exception of 2020 due to COVID. What a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults with developmental disabilities to enjoy the beauty of God's creation as they learn of Him who created them and loves them in Jesus. Also, *opportunities for interaction* between CUAA students in the Family Life study program and professional church workers from Michigan District congregations were provided in on-campus class and meetings, as well as off-campus retreats and conference settings.

In the area of **Children's Ministry**, print and web-based resources for those involved in children's ministry, as well as personal consultations, were provided to the congregations of the District as requested.



In the area of **Youth Ministry**, both the *Junior High* and *Senior High Youth Gatherings* felt the impact of COVID-19 cancellations in 2020, and 2021. These opportunities for youth to grow in their faith through study and worship times and live their faith in service activities and fellowship can be impactful in their journey of faith. We are thankful that 773 youth and adults from 39 congregations did participate in the Junior High gathering in Frankenmuth in 2018 and 2019. We anticipate the restart of the Junior High Youth Gathering in June 2022. Attempts were made to reschedule the High School Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island, but due to limitations and restrictions in scheduling, this could not be done. The next High School gathering will be June 25–28, 2023. These gatherings for youth also include training opportunities for adults working with youth. Also, *retreats* were held for Directors of Christian Education and Directors of Family Life in the Michigan and Ohio Districts. Michigan District congregations also participated in the *LCMS National Youth Gathering* July 11–15, 2019, in Minneapolis, Minn., under the theme, “*Real. Present. God.*” The next national gathering will be held in Houston, Texas in July 2022. Youth and adults representing the District received leadership training at the annual *Council of Lutheran Youth Fellowship Representatives (CLYFR)* and are available to participate in youth events in congregations or circuits. This resource has been revised and is now open to congregations desiring to provide leadership training for youth in their congregations.

In the area of **Adult Ministry**, the *Lutheran Adult Gathering* has transitioned from gathering every three years to gathering every two years. Thus, there have been two gatherings in this Convention cycle: October 12–14, 2018, under the theme, “*Proclaiming the Caring Creator*,” and October 9–11, 2020, a limited gathering due to COVID, under the theme: “*Together in His Presence.*”

Also in the past four years, the District partnered with *Camp Arcadia* to provide *Pre-Confirmation Retreats* in the month of October for congregations to include as part of their confirmation ministry.

Families, as they always have, come in all sizes, shapes, and configurations. The Church, God’s Family, gathered around Word and Sacrament, has the unique opportunity to provide support for all families. In the next triennium, the Michigan District will continue to provide resources for congregational use and encouragement for professional and lay leaders providing support for families within congregations, as well as opportunities for celebrating support for families, through...

- ... The ongoing service of Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators
- ... Resources and links on the Michigan District website
- ... Consultants equipped to assist congregations in the areas of Children’s Ministry and Youth Ministry
- ... “*In All Things*” – LCMS National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, July 9–13, 2022, and in 2025 (dates and location to be announced during the Gathering in Houston).
- ... The Lutheran Adult Gathering on Mackinac Island

October 14–16, 2022 (theme: *Through All Generations*) and, tentatively, October 11–13, 2024 (theme TBD)  
 ... District Junior High Youth Gatherings annually in Frankenmuth  
 ... District High School Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island in 2023

In Ephesians 3:14–21, St. Paul prays for the Ephesians that they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. That is the desired outcome of family ministry: to connect people with Jesus Christ. *The purpose of Family Ministry in the Michigan District is “Building homes and relationships where faith in Christ is nurtured and shared in congregations and beyond—encouraging and resourcing ministry to, by, and with children, youth, and adults.”* Each congregation is different. But all people are in need of the hope that is ours in Jesus. May God bless our efforts to minister to families—and the children, youth, and adults who comprise those families—in the name of Jesus, that they may be a blessing to each other, to those around them, and to the next generation.

*“I pray that out of his (the Father’s) glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:16–19 NIV).*

## Intentional Interim Ministry

Interim refers to a time between. It is the time between what has been and what will be. In congregations, it is the time between resident pastors. It is a time following saying good-bye to a pastor who no longer serves the congregation, letting go of his ministry, and getting ready to say hello to another pastor. It is a time of uncertainty between the past and an unknown future. It is a time of anxiety, anticipation, and hope.

The good news for the congregation is that, rather than just maintaining itself and urgently seeking a new pastor, this in-between time provides an opportunity for renewal, congregational development, and spiritual growth. It is a period when the congregation can come to a better understanding of its ministry, grow in effectiveness, and commit to faithfulness in mission with the new pastor it calls under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Further, when a congregation becomes vacant, the entire church rises to assist it. The circuit visitor coordinates ministry, the congregation ministries/ministry support facilitator assists with the self-study, and the District President prepares the call list. All are available for consultation. Dozens of congregations, during the past three years, have chosen the option of an intentional interim pastor for the time between resident pastors.

More than 50 pastors have received District-sponsored



introductory training for serving congregations with intentionality during an interim and are involved in continuing education events twice a year. More than 25 men have been newly trained in the last triennium. In addition, 12 of them have taken 60 hours of education currently conducted by the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors through the Continuing Education Department at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. or similar recognized education. In addition, they completed six months of monitored field work, being recognized as having completed basic education according to national standards. This is in accordance with the guidelines of Synod's Council of Presidents.

The Michigan District and Ohio District jointly conduct training of Intentional Interim Pastors, and Continuing Education Contact Hours are given to participants by Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Because of the recognized need for providing greater assistance to congregations during vacancies, and seeing that it is a prime time for renewal, there is an increasing use of specially trained intentional interim ministers throughout Synod.

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper serves as the Michigan District Director of Intentional Interim Ministry. Retired pastors and other pastors of the Michigan District who may be available and who would like to know more about this ministry or participate in it should contact Rev. Kasper at the District office. Congregations that would like to know more about this ministry or would like to consider it when they face an interim, should also contact him at 888.225.2111 ext. 230 or [robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org](mailto:robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org).

## Lutheran Schools

### School Statistics 2021/22

Freestanding EC Centers – 67 (3,175 Students)  
EC Centers in our Elementary Schools – 65 (3,846 Students)  
K-8 Elementary Schools – 67 (7,925 Students)  
High Schools – 6 (1,349 Students)

We are blessed with the opportunity to share the Gospel on a daily basis and serve 16,295 students and families!

### State of Our Michigan District Schools

As you know, COVID has had a significant impact on our Lutheran schools and early childhood centers throughout the state. Despite the uncertainty of the past two years, the Good Lord has continued to work through our dedicated educators to share His love and grace with thousands of students and their families. We are grateful for His sustaining hand supporting and lifting all of us up during the pandemic.

Our early childhood numbers took a massive hit in the fall of 2020. We were down over 2,500 kids from the fall of 2019. Even though the numbers haven't completely rebounded, we are getting closer to our pre-pandemic numbers. Our K-12 numbers increased by about 400 students since our convention in 2018. The vast majority of new students during the pandemic are not from our Lutheran congregations; many have no church home. This has been an amazing

opportunity for our ministries to share the Gospel with students and families who have no relationship with Christ. Some individuals lament over the fact that our schools/centers aren't filled with Lutherans... I always smile and say, what a privilege and significant responsibility God has given to our ministries that we get to be the one place where they hear about our risen Savior. What a blessing!

Our schools/centers have adjusted and adapted in many ways. Although the flexibility of our educators is something we marvel at on a daily basis, the uncertainty for two consecutive school years has taken a toll on our teachers, support staff, and administrators. They are humble and sometimes too reluctant to ask for your prayers. I encourage you to continue to be steadfast in your prayers, lifting up our educators as much as possible as we turn the corner in this pandemic and move into a more 'normal' school year in the fall.

*You can learn more about our Lutheran schools on our District Website: [michigandistrict.org/schools](http://michigandistrict.org/schools).*

*You can also follow some of the fun things taking place in our schools on our Michigan Lutheran schools Facebook Page: [facebook.com/lutheranschools](https://facebook.com/lutheranschools).*

### NLSA

National  
Lutheran Schools  
Accreditation  
(NLSA) is the  
greatest tool we  
have to improve



our schools and create positive change. To have a team of educators spend several days at your facility using the self-study process that has been completed to evaluate every area of your program is incredibly valuable and rewarding. We strongly encourage all of our schools to go through the NLSA process. Our District commission meets to evaluate the progress of each school towards completing their School Action Plan. Kyle Chuhran is our NLSA Commissioner and does an excellent job supporting our schools during the accreditation process. Beginning in the 23/24 school year, Synod will be moving NLSA to an online portal which will be a blessing and make the documentation much easier to share and organize.

### Early Childhood Cabinet

We have a gifted and talented group of ladies serving on our Early Childhood Cabinet. We are grateful for this group who keeps us on our toes! They organize our annual workshops, directors' conference, answer licensing questions, and are always ready to answer Travis's questions when it comes to the fun world of early childhood ministry. Kelley Fehn is our Michigan District Early Childhood Consultant who also serves as the director at St. Peter, Hemlock. She is a tremendous blessing to the directors and early childhood centers throughout our District.

## Hearts for Jesus

Hearts for Jesus is our annual project to support missions throughout the District, Synod, and beyond. This school year, we are supporting the work of the Garuna Foundation which is building classrooms for students in Cambodia. All schools and congregations are encouraged to participate. Since 1972, we have blessed ministries sharing the Gospel with more than 1.7 million dollars!



## Principal Meetings / Principal/Director Conferences

Meetings with our high school and elementary school administrators are held several times throughout the year in the many regions throughout the state. This gives our principals a chance to collaborate and work together on issues they all face as school leaders. We also hold a summer conference at Higgins Lake for our principals to work on professional development opportunities. EC directors gather with the principals in the winter for our annual Snow Tire Conference for PD, fellowship, and sharing of best practices. We also started a conference just for our EC directors in August. That takes place the day before our annual early childhood conference, which gathers all our early childhood educators from around the District.

## Partnering with Neighboring Districts

In 2017, the Future Lutheran Administrators - Midwest Educators (FLAME) initiative held their first gathering of 30 educators on the campus of CUAA. FLAME is a partnership with the Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, South Wisconsin, North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and Central Illinois Districts to identify and encourage future administrators in our Lutheran schools. This has continued to be a great collaboration, and our fifth group of educators is meeting in June 2022. We also had our first Connections Conference with the Indiana and Ohio Districts which turned out to be a huge success. 1,300+ educators met in Fort Wayne this past November for a combined conference. We plan to host this again in 2024.



## Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools (MANS)

We are blessed with a strong partnership with the nonpublic schools throughout the state. MANS is an organization that we are a part of to continue the efforts of supporting initiatives at the state congressional level. We rely heavily on MANS to be our advocate at the state level and for the many ways they support nonpublic schools. Travis and Kelley Fehn both serve on the MANS Board of Directors; Travis is also on the executive team serving as treasurer.



## Moving Forward

Our Lutheran schools are a significant part of the ministry taking place here in the Michigan District. Below are a few

areas of focus where we are looking for the Lord's guidance on moving forward to expand His kingdom.

- We are in need of gifted/talented administrators. Our schools will thrive when we have leaders who take risks, influence change, empower their staff to do great things, build relationships with the families in their church/school/community, and have a servant heart. We need to continue to find ways to support our school leaders, provide ways for them to learn and grow, and recruit the next generation to lead our schools.
- We are in need of gifted/talented educators. There is a significant teacher shortage here in Michigan. Both public and nonpublic schools are lacking highly effective teachers for our classrooms. Unfortunately, looking at the stats in all the education programs throughout the universities in the state, this shortage will only grow in the years to come. We not only need to focus on supporting and retaining our current educators, we also need to identify teachers in our communities that could serve in our Lutheran schools. *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"* (Matthew 9:37-38).
- Many of our schools have a large number of families that are not a part of our Lutheran congregations. The number of students/parents in our schools who are unchurched or 'de-churched' is growing. It has grown even more during the pandemic. How do we get families actively engaged in the life of our congregations? How do we reach out to the next generation? We are aging as a District and as a Synod. We need to find ways to use our schools as they were intended... to share the Gospel, not only with the little ones they serve but with their families. Collaborating, sharing best practices, and taking risks by trying new ideas should be a focus of our church/school ministries when it comes to making disciples.
- There is an increasing tension over our religious liberties and where our ministries may be affected through future legislation. It is vital that our voice is heard. Working with our state legislature is going to be top priority in the coming years. We will be walking alongside MANS to build relationships with congressional leaders to further policy that supports our nonpublic schools. Much can also be done to expand School of Choice initiatives in our state. We will be actively involved in making that happen.

Serving Him,  
Travis Grulke  
Superintendent of Schools

## Michigan District Archives

### Archival Mission Statement

Our archival mission is to collect, preserve, and make available institutional records about the history, administration, and congregations of the Michigan District, LCMS. The Lutheran church in Michigan has a rich history

to preserve. What a blessing that our District finds its maintenance an important task.

To accomplish our mission, the archive manages a collection of historical materials of the Michigan District for future reference and research. This collection includes proceedings from past district conventions, minutes of district board meetings, personal papers and correspondence, past issues of the Michigan Lutheran & Michigan in Touch, photographs, congregational scrapbooks, and files from Michigan congregations. These materials are continually updated, catalogued, and properly stored.

### Archive Location, Access, and Use

In 2021, the archive was relocated and is now housed in the Michigan District Office building on Geddes Road in Ann Arbor. Access is by appointment only.

The District Office sometimes obtains information from the archive, and congregational historians sometimes use the archive to find information for anniversary booklets or celebrations.

The Michigan District Archive does not maintain genealogies, family history records, or congregational records of official acts. These records may be found in other locations:

- Baptismal, marriage, or burial records can usually be found at the appropriate congregation or, in the case of disbanded congregations, at the Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis ([concordiahistoricalinstitute.org](http://concordiahistoricalinstitute.org)). For congregations that have merged, records should be available at the continuing parish.
- Michigan District school records, including transcripts from Lutheran High East, can be found at Lutheran High Northwest. Their phone number is 248.852.6677.

Use of the archive for historical research about Michigan District history is welcomed. For an appointment, please contact district archivist, Barbara Laughlin Adler, at the archive's email: [archives@michigandistrict.org](mailto:archives@michigandistrict.org). She can help with planning a congregational archive, or with planning to celebrate a major anniversary.

The archive staff regularly corresponds with Concordia Historical Institute staff, as well as the public who are researching historic records. We reply to approximately 3–4 inquiries per month. Typical requests are for baptism, marriage, and burial records, parish constitutions or construction plans, parish anniversary questions, and donations of possible archival materials (old hymnals, pastors' sermons, Michigan Lutheran collections, etc.).

In 2019 and 2020, along with our Business Manager, we formed an advisory committee for the archive. Several qualified people met via Zoom at the beginning of the pandemic. We look forward to meeting again at the archive when all COVID fears have subsided.

More information can be found at [michigandistrict.org/](http://michigandistrict.org/)

[about-us/presidents-office/district-archives/](http://about-us/presidents-office/district-archives/). We ask that each congregation designate an archivist/historian who will be responsible for maintaining the proper environment for congregational records.

Please complete the form at the end of this report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Laughlin Adler, LTD, PhD  
Archivist, Michigan District-LCMS  
Kathleen Anne Graham, BS-Library Science  
Assistant Archivist

### Your Congregational Archive

Congregations are asked to submit to the District Archive the following types of materials: congregational histories, special installations, dedications, anniversary booklets, pastoral biographies, and any significant press clippings. These materials may be sent directly to the Michigan District Archive at the District Office (3773 Geddes Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105).

Congregations that permanently disband are required by Synodical Bylaws (Handbook, 3.207j) to transfer all records (registers of official acts, minutes, and other historical materials) to the District Office. From there, essential records will be transferred to Concordia Historical Institute. If you know of any such records, please contact us with the information.

We recommend that each congregation of the District have its own archivist/historian who is charged with preserving the history of the congregation.

We would like to maintain a listing of all congregational archivists and historians throughout the District so that we can assist them whenever possible. If this individual is just getting started, we can provide them with some initial training and resources.

Please send contact information (by post or email) for your parish:

Name and location of your Congregation:

Your Congregational Archivist/Historian

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:

Send to: Barbara Laughlin Adler, Archivist  
Michigan District, LCMS  
3773 Geddes Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Or email this information to:  
[archives@michigandistrict.org](mailto:archives@michigandistrict.org)



# Ministry in the Midst of a Pandemic

A Study of the Impact of COVID-19 on the Congregations of the Michigan District

August 2021

by Rev. Dr. Todd Jones

## Introduction

In April 2021, the congregations and members of the Michigan District were invited to participate in a multi-phase research project exploring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on parish ministry. The research project was undertaken to understand parish ministries' health better as the State of Michigan eased out of its restrictions on in-person gatherings. However, the researcher believed that the pandemic provided a unique opportunity to explore what parish life in the U.S. might look like should our congregations no longer have buildings in which to meet. The idea of a church without buildings is not new, but it essentially has existed only among the fringe of mission-focused churches or advocates of missional communities. However, a push by the state of Wisconsin in 2019 to remove the property tax exemption on religious institutions serves as a reminder that a future in which congregations must pay property tax may not be far. If congregations were to be asked to pay property taxes, many congregations would no longer afford their buildings and would be forced into ministry outside the building. The pandemic offered us an opportunity to identify areas for further research and discussion so that our congregations might be better prepared should their parish ministry need to move away from a building, large-group gathering model.

This report is a condensed report generated by the study and presented to the Board of Directors of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. I am grateful for President Maier's leadership and foresight to see the need for the research project and the Board of Directors for encouraging the report. Due to the study's exploratory nature, the participants were asked to provide copious amounts of information. I am grateful to the congregations, church workers, and lay leaders who took the time to participate in the study.

## Historical View of the pandemic: A Look at Congregational Responses in Michigan

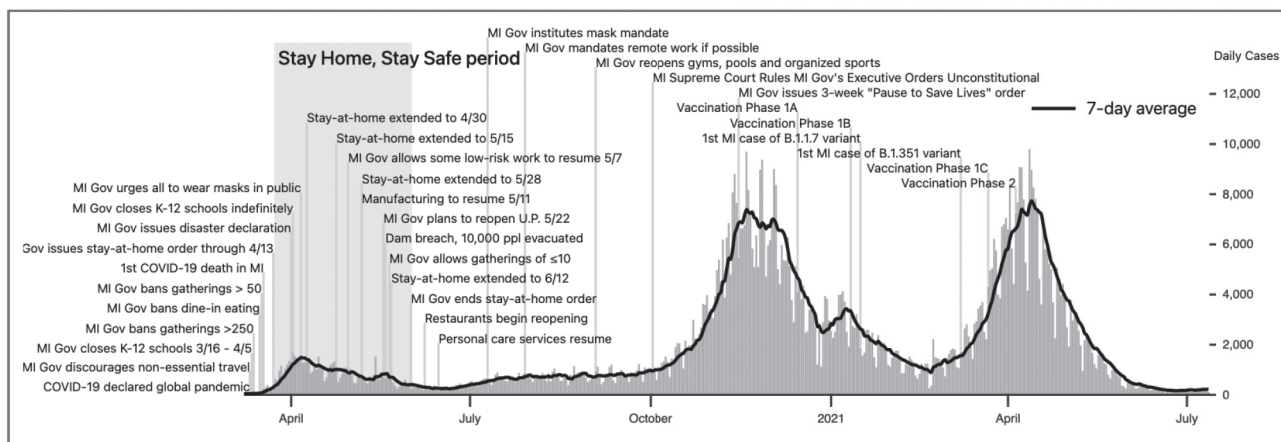
To best understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on ministry, it is crucial to frame the congregation's response within the broader context of the government's response to COVID-19. The data collected in Illustration 1

provides a focused timeline of crucial actions taken by the government in response to the COVID-19 infection rates.

The Governor of the State of Michigan ordered a ban on gatherings larger than 50 people by March 17, 2020. Religious institutions were not exempted from the mandate. Most congregations in the Michigan District honored the order by suspending in-person worship gatherings. On March 21, 2020, the Governor announced that the gathering limitations applied to churches, but they would not be prosecuted should they choose to disobey the executive order on public gatherings. By April 13, 2020, the Governor had issued a stay-at-home order banning all activity that was not essential. The stay-at-home order further increased the number of congregations that suspended in-person worship. On October 12, 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court struck down the Governor's orders regarding public gatherings for places of worship.

The rate of infections and the Governor's restrictions on in-person gatherings formed the center of the data collection timeline. The study collection began

Illustration 1: COVID-19 Key Events and Infection Rates



COVIDmapping.org<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The illustration was downloaded from <https://COVIDmapping.org/timeline.html>.



in January 2020 and ended in April 2021. While the Delta Variant has extended the COVID-19 pandemic longer than anticipated, this study's focus was ministry during the ban on public gatherings and the stay-at-home orders.

### Study Methodology

Qualitative and Quantitative data were gathered using survey instruments. One instrument was completed by representatives of congregations and included worship, attendance, and offering trends for each month from January 2020 to April 2021. A second instrument was a qualitative survey in which church workers and lay leaders shared their impressions and experiences in ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic. The congregation's annual reports completed for Synod formed the third data source analyzed in this report. The data was triangulated across the three instruments using the congregation's name and city as unique identifiers. Ninety-three communities were represented in all three instruments. The sample represented 26% of the congregations in the District.

### Study Findings

The findings from the data collected were organized using the themes of COVID-19 and the Congregation and COVID-19 and the Members of the Michigan District. An analysis of the data for the theme COVID-19 and the Congregation focused on the following two questions:

1. How did the congregation respond to the pandemic and government mandates?
2. What was the impact of the pandemic on their organizational health?

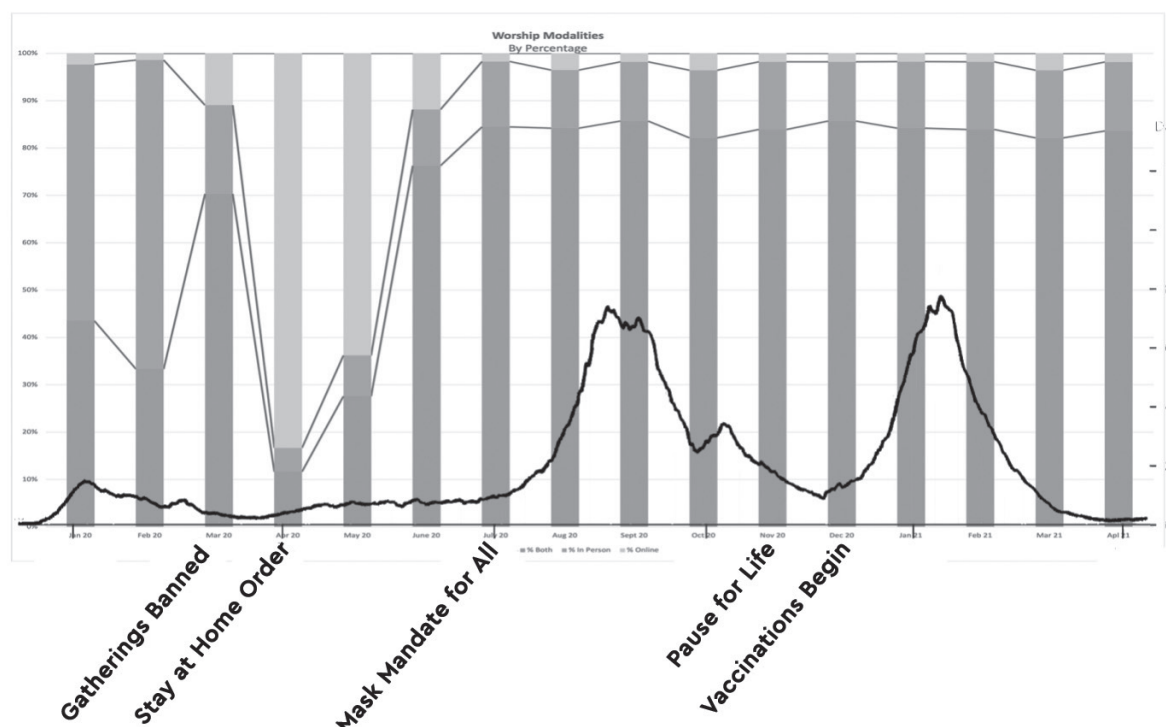
## I. Section 1 - How did the congregation respond to the pandemic and government mandates?

The survey data indicated that congregations offering only in-person worship decreased to less than 20% by March 2020, down significantly from 65% in-person worship only in January and February of that same year. The congregations offering only in-person worship reported less than 10% for the remainder of the research window. As would be expected, congregations offering only online worship expanded dramatically to 83% in April of 2020 but decreased rapidly to 64% in May, 12% in June, and remained around 2% for the remaining study window. The responses indicated that 44% of congregations were livestreaming services in January of 2020. By March 2020, 70% of the congregations were livestreaming services. From July 2020 to April 2021, approximately 84% of congregations were offering worship both in-person and online. Graph One provides an overview of the increased use of online tools for worship and the increased reported cases of COVID-19 infections in Michigan. Of the congregations that provide online worship services and indicated the platform for video distribution, 37% used the Facebook live platform only, 12% used YouTube only, 47% used both platforms, and 4% used other platforms.

### A. Worship Modalities by Context

Except for a few notable trends, an analysis of the data indicated that the adjustments in worship modalities were comparable whether the congregation was in a rural, suburban, or urban setting. The congregations in an urban context responded dramatically to the pandemic a month earlier than the congregations in other contexts, jumping from 13% online-only worship in February 2020 to 38% in March 2020. In that same period, suburban congregations increased livestreaming of their live

Graph 1: Worship Modalities



worship by 37%. By July of 2020, only 4% of rural and urban congregations offered worship only online. In that same month, only 4% of suburban congregations offered only in-person worship. The responses indicated that by April of 2021, 4% of urban congregations were only offering in-person worship, and 23% of rural congregations were only offering in-person worship.

### B. Worship Modalities by Average Worship Size

An analysis of the data collected from the congregations revealed that congregations with more than 125 people in average worship attendance were 38% more likely to offer online worship as an option before January 2020. Other than April, May, and June 2020, they were less likely to offer only in-person worship than smaller congregations. In April 2020, 100% of the participating congregations with worshipping attendance of 86–125 and 100% of those with worshipping attendance over 1,000 offered only online worship. By July of 2020, none of the congregations with attendance over 400 offered online worship exclusively.

### C. What was the impact of the pandemic on their organizational health?

The impact of the congregations' responses to the pandemic was analyzed using attendance and contribution trends. Seventy-six percent of the participants provided worship attendance statistics for each month during the 16-month study window of January 2020 to April 2021. The percentage enabled a statistically valid sample for comparison attendance trends across the District during the COVID-19 study period. However, in most cases, the sample became too small for valid results when using co-factors like worship style within specific organizational vitality or ministry context segments. Two factors impacted the quality of data collected for online worship. First, online platforms for streaming do not have a consistent method of measuring views.<sup>2</sup> Second, many congregations utilized multipliers in factoring worship attendance. They assume that more than one person would be viewing the service online.<sup>3</sup>

Forty-eight participants provided information about their congregation's monthly offerings during the study period. While the number of responses was sufficient for general trends across the District, only the first five months received adequate data to make valid assertions about finances within context. The survey asked the participants only to record offerings for each month in the study period. However, it could be possible that some congregations

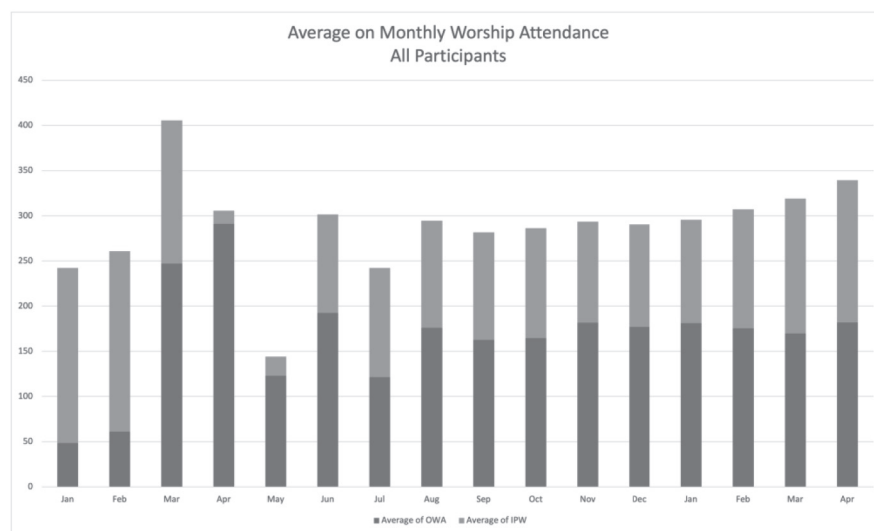
processed their PPP loans through their offerings, resulting in skewed numbers.

### 1. Attendance Trends

Graph 2 contains the monthly total average attendance as a black and grey bar combined to represent the total attendance average for the month. The black bar is the average of the reported online worship attendance (OWA), and the grey bar is the average in-person worship attendance (IPW). While no data could explain the significantly higher combined attendance figures for March, it is most likely the result of the chaos of the transition during March, when people were more likely to be in both services. It is possible that people from congregations not offering livestreaming of worship services inflated attendance numbers for March and April by attending worship services at congregations that did offer online worship.

Online worship numbers continued to remain strong through April 2021. At that same time, in-person worship attendance

Graph 2: Attendance Trends During the Study Period



<sup>2</sup> The measure of views can be adjusted in many platforms by setting a base level of a certain number of minutes playing the video before counting a viewer as an attendee. Seventy-eight percent of participants indicated that they rely on the technology platform's count of "number of views" to determine online worship attendance.

<sup>3</sup> Twenty-four percent of participants that rely on the platform indicated that they used a multiplier factor to estimate the total number of people watching the service online. Few participants provided the multiplier; however, of the handful that did more than half doubled the viewership to arrive at their attendance figures.

The second most common method of measuring online attendance was counting the people who interacted with the platform's chat or discussion tool. Some congregations count people who posted a message in the chat tool; others asked members to indicate the number of people watching the service with them. A distant third option was to count the people who went to the congregation's website to use an online tool to "check-in" to the service. Due to a lack of standardized measuring strategy, the online attendance numbers should be understood to be rough estimates, at best.

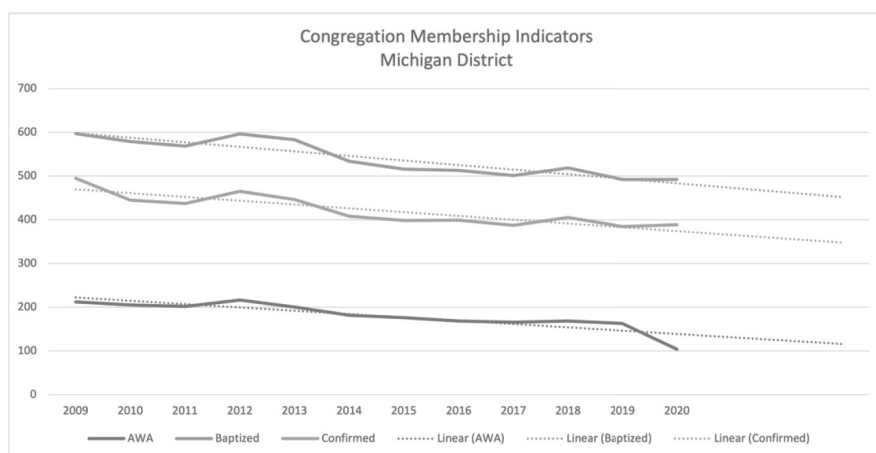
showed a slow but steady recovery from the low-point of April and May. During November 2020 and December 2020, Michigan experienced a significant increase in COVID-19 cases. In-person worship decreased slightly during that time, while online worship remained unchanged.

## 2. Congregation Membership Indicators

**About the data:** This portion of the study used data submitted by congregations as part of the annual report to Synod. The data is self-reported and not independently verified. It is not uncommon for data points to be missing when the District receives the reports from congregations. In keeping with Synod's practice, the missing data were replaced with a duplicate of the previous year's reported number. The adjustment was a strategy to prevent the skewing of the analysis caused by the under-reporting from smaller congregations.

During the study period, the average worship attendance numbers indicated a decline of 37%. The median weekly worship attendance of the congregations in our District went from 133 in 2009 to 91 in 2019, a 32% decline. The statistics indicate that the worship attendance decreased significantly during the study period and that the typical number of participants in each service went down in attendance counts. The trendline in graph 3 indicates the potential trend in attendance numbers over the next three years. The projected trendline was plotted using the least of square method.

Graph 3: Congregation Membership Indicators



## 3. Financial Trends

### a. Average Contribution Trends

The participants generally indicated that finances were not considered a significant concern. Many reported that their receipts exceeded expenses during the study period. Table 1 below provides the average pre-COVID-19 weekly attendance numbers used to divide the participating congregations into six groups.

Table 1: Attendance Factors for Clustering of Congregations

Category	AWA <sup>4</sup>
1	2 - 40
2	41 - 85
3	86 - 125
4	126 - 400
5	401 - 1000
6	1000 and up

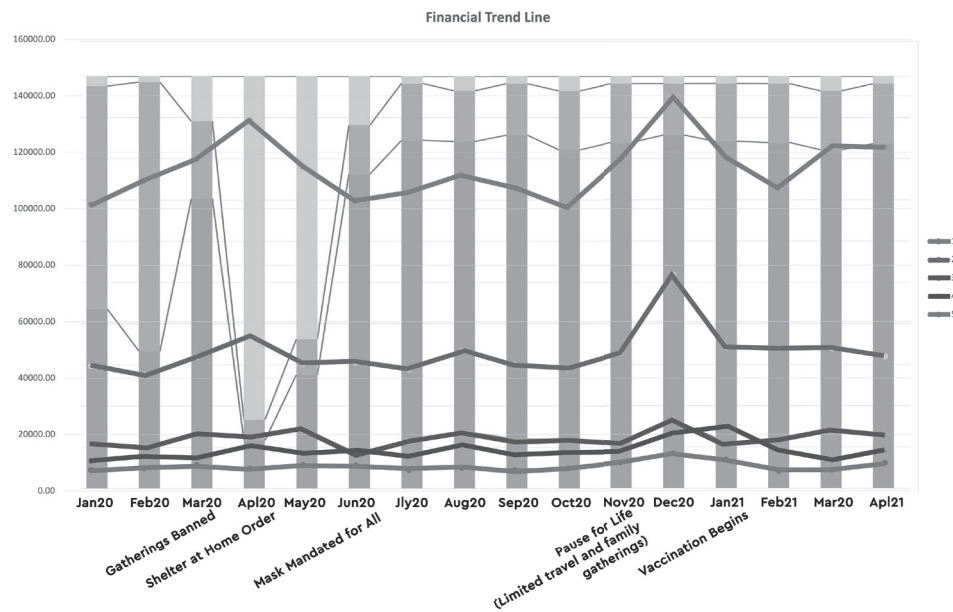
<sup>4</sup>Average weekly Attendance

Graph 4 (next page) contains an overview of the financial trends of the congregations within each attendance category. The graph was developed from an average of the monthly contributions for each congregation based on the congregation's average attendance as reported through the annual statistics submitted to the national office of the LCMS. The data points were overlayed to the worship modalities to reflect the inter-play between modality type and monthly averages. A regression analysis between the two factors of modality and contributions on the congregational level did not indicate a relationship. While finances were not a significant concern shared in either the worker survey responses or the congregational survey responses, many congregations experienced a moderate to a substantial decrease in offerings during the study period. The regression analysis did support the observation that the larger the congregation's attendance numbers, the larger the swings in contributions. The collected financial data indicated that smaller congregations did not experience the significant boost of Christmas and Easter festivals contributions.

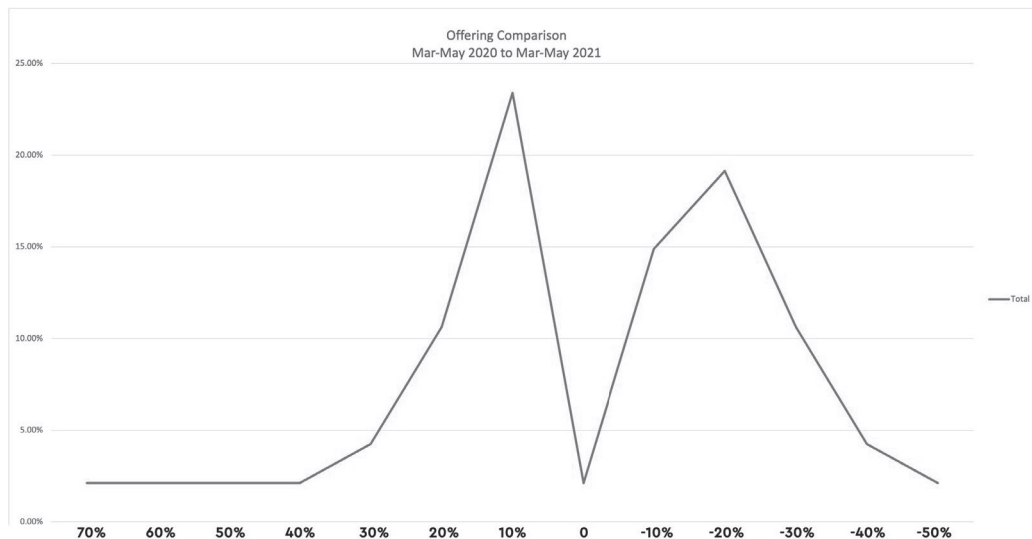
### b. Year-over-Year Comparison

Graph 5 (next page) was developed using a year-over-year comparison of February, March, April 2020 and 2021. Congregations were placed in categories based on the difference between the two years. Each category represented one 10% difference in contributions between the two years. Category 1 had the most significant gain of a 71% increase in offerings. Category 9 represented a zero difference between contributions received in the three months between 2020 and 2021. Category 14 represented those congregations that had a negative difference between the three months in 2020 and 2021 of 40 to 49 percent. An examination of the graph reveals that 23% of congregations experienced a moderate increase of less than 10% in donations for the year-over-year comparisons on March, February, and April. In contrast, 15% of congregations experienced a 10% or minor decrease in offerings, and 15% experienced between 10% and 20% decrease in offerings.

Graph 4: Financial Trends



Graph 5: Financial Trends



## II. Section 2 - COVID-19 Pandemic: Members of the Michigan District

The second section of the report contains an analysis of the qualitative data collected from the survey responses completed by called workers, ministry staff, and lay leaders. Key themes related to the pandemic's impact on ministry leaders within the Michigan District were identified by analyzing the data. Table 2 contains a summary of the participants of the online survey.

Table 2: Worker Categories for Members Survey Participants

Category	Count	Percentage of Total Participants
Called Commissioned Minister	57	25%
Called Ordained Minister	90	40%
Lay Leader	32	14%
Paid Ministry Staff Member	47	21%
Grand Total	226	100%



## A. Challenges Presented by the Pandemic

### 1. Personal Challenges

The participants were asked to identify challenges in their ministry that they faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. The responses were placed into three categories: personal, internal weaknesses, and external threats. Few participants (15 in total) provided answers which were personal in nature. However, 1/3 of those that did mention personal challenges expressed difficulty in maintaining a proper work-life balance. They often described feeling exhausted and overworked. The sentiment would be reinforced with subsequent responses to the survey. Isolation and depression were tied for the position of second most commonly voiced experience during the pandemic.

#### a. Internal Weaknesses

The survey responses were filtered using the SWOT (Strengths – Weaknesses – Opportunities – Threats) analysis framework. In this framework, “Weaknesses” are internal weaknesses within the system. Graph 6 contains a summary of the top weaknesses identified through a coding of the responses. To provide clarity, answers that had fewer than five references were removed from the list.

The most frequently mentioned internal weaknesses during the pandemic were “Maintaining Relationships” and “Connecting with People.” Generally, the participants referenced the inability to have in-person worship or host fellowship events during the pandemic when they spoke of the difficulty of “Maintaining Relationships.” Many expressed a sense of personal loss at not being able to have one-on-one conversations. While the increased use of technology such as Zoom helped, it wasn’t the same. Some expressed the feeling of exhaustion from Zoom fatigue. One participant indicated the following paraphrased statement: “I am calling more people in a single week than perhaps any time before in my ministry, yet feeling more disconnected than ever before.”

While they may not seem related on the face value, the third concern, “Decision Fatigue,” and the fourth concern, “Divisions,” are related. Decision fatigue resulted from being forced to make big decisions quickly without having a reasonable opportunity to get congregational feedback. The highly divisive atmosphere of many congregations increased the stress of decision-making due to the lack of trust. Decisions related to COVID-19 protocols were often assumed to be politically motivated.

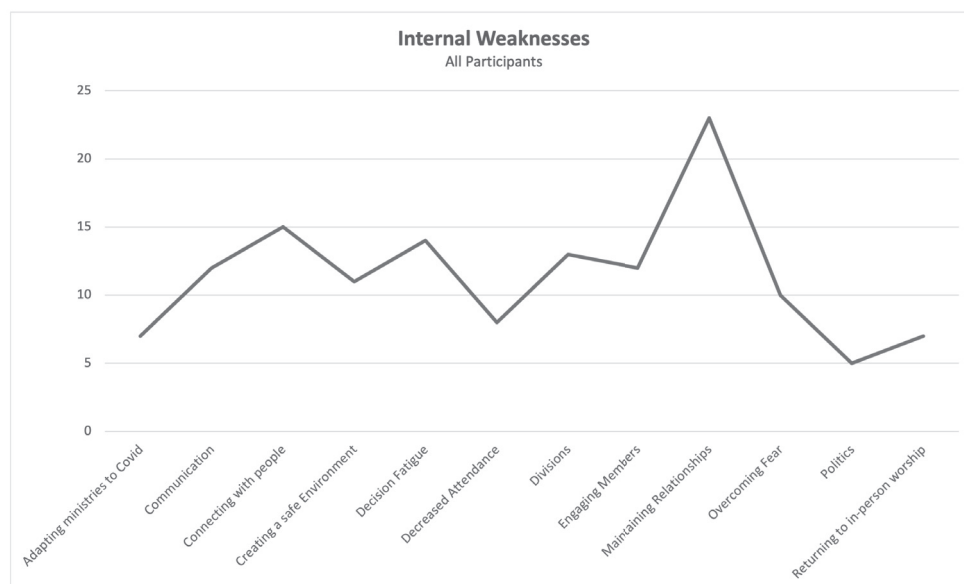
### b. External Threats

The “T” in the SWOT analysis are the external threats to the organization. Certainly, the pandemic was the most significant external threat. However, the participants were asked to identify the challenges they faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the following was their top list of external threats to their ministry. Graph 7 (next page) contains a summary of coded responses. The initial list was smaller than in the previous category, so only those items that received a single mention were removed.

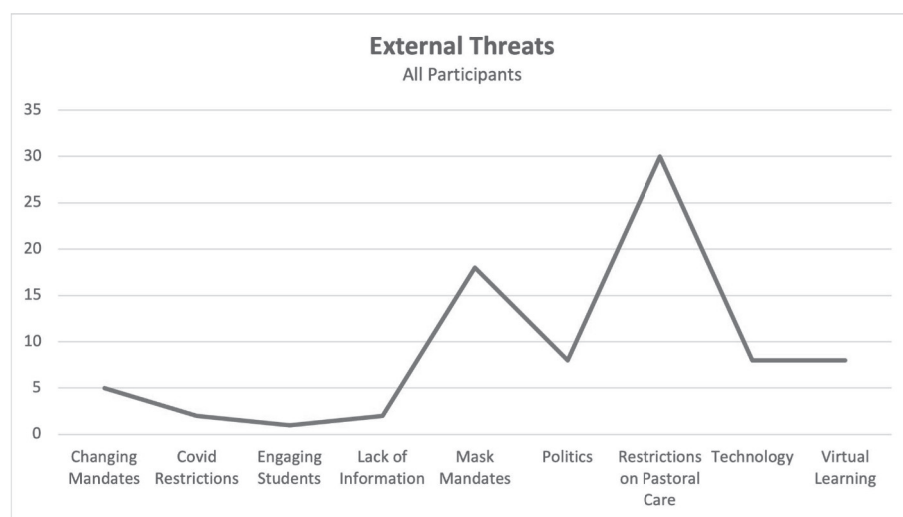
The single item that caused the most significant concern was the government’s restrictions on pastoral care during the height of the pandemic. Many pastors were denied access during their members’ final hours of their life. Restrictions prevented pastors from visiting members in nursing homes. Many pastors felt restricted from visiting homebound members out of concern for the health of the member of the pastor’s family. Several pastors indicated that they sought ways to minister to those in institutional settings while being sensitive to the individual’s fears and obedient to the state mandates.

While pastors and lay leaders were united on their perception that restrictions on pastoral care were the most significant external threat, mask mandates were the second

Graph 6: Worker Responses: Internal Weaknesses



Graph 7: Worker Responses: External Threats

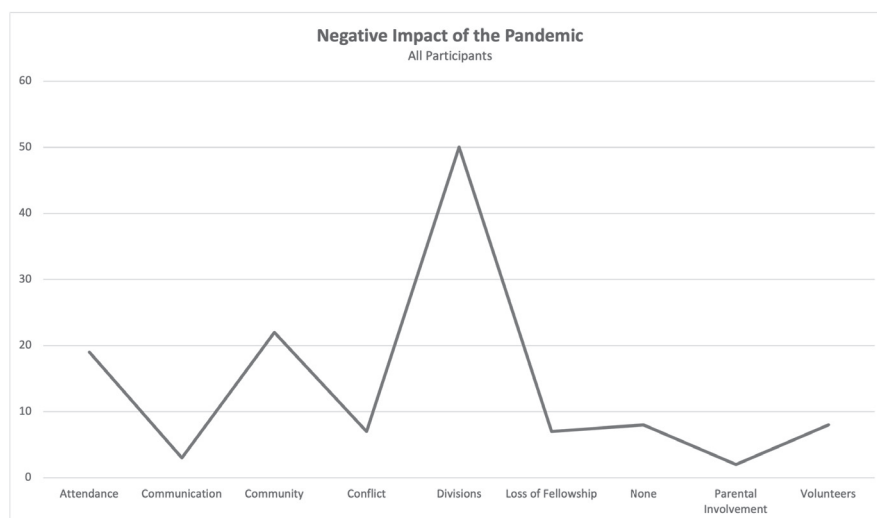


most common external threat to ministry. Thirty-eight percent of the participants expressed frustrations with the changing mandates; others pointed to the deep divisions created around masks. The divisions closely aligned with the political ideologies of our nation. Sadly, the division language is present in the survey responses themselves as one participant refers to the “other side” as people refer to those with whom they disagree as “the far right that resists the reality of COVID.” Another participant expressed disdain for congregations that require masks or suspended services as a compromise to the true Christian faith.

## B. Ministry Impact

The participants were asked to share their impressions of the impact of COVID-19 on their ministry. The responses were placed into two impact categories: positive and negative. One hundred and twenty-six respondents shared a negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Graph 8 contains an overview of all the impacts that received two or more mentions from the respondents. Those topics that received only one mention were burnout, consumerism, fear, inward focus, loss of members, conflict between pastor and members, and lack of volunteers.

Graph 8: Worker Responses: Negative Impact of the Pandemic



### 1. Negative Impact on Ministry

Division within the congregation was the item that was mentioned most frequently as a negative impact. Political divisions involving the mask mandate were most commonly cited as an impact. However, physical separation due to social distancing and fear of the virus were mentioned frequently. Less common, but expressed by more than one person, was a perceived division between those who maintained pure doctrine and did not suspend services or Holy Communion and those who were perceived to have chosen man’s law over God’s law. One individual suggested that the decline in attendance in many congregations indicated God’s punishment for compromise.

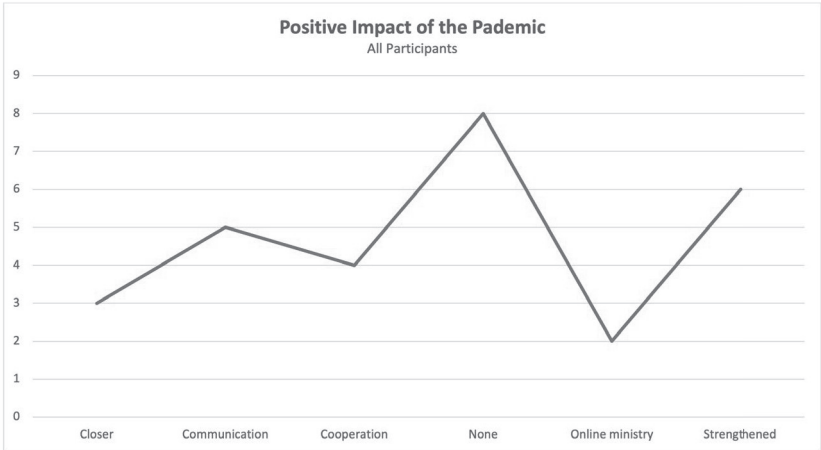
Loss of community was the second most common response. The participants referenced the elimination or reduction of in-person worship during quarantine periods and the inability to gather for community dinners and events. Attendance was the third most significant concern shared by the participants. While most congregations that offered in-person worship also provided livestreaming of their worship service, most desired their membership to return to in-person worship as the pandemic threat diminished. The participants shared a vital concern that most people who had transitioned to in-home worship would not return to in-person worship. They believed that convenience, flexibility, and the lack of accountability were more powerful motivators for in-home worship than the benefits of in-person worship. Three participants expressed concern that perhaps the move to introduce in-home worship had been a mistake.

### 2. Positive Impact on Ministry

Thirty-six participants reported positive impacts of COVID-19 upon their ministries. Of the total positive impacts shared, only five received more than one mention. While the most significant number of responses asserted that the pandemic had no positive effect on the church, six participants stated that the pandemic strengthened their congregational ministry. Some participants shared that the pandemic had strengthened their focus on Jesus and brought

clarity of purpose. Some shared that the pandemic forced them to eliminate failing programs to put resources toward the proclamation of the Gospel. The third highest response was communication. The participants shared that the pandemic opened up new avenues of communication. Through the redundant use of phone calls, Zoom meetings, and livestreaming with announcements, those homebound members experienced a new level of connection to the church's work. Graph 9 contains an overview of the positive impacts of the pandemic on the life of the church.

Graph 9: Worker Responses: Positive Impact of the Pandemic



C. Mission Impact

The participants were asked to share their perceptions of the impact of the pandemic on the mission of their ministries. One hundred and twenty-one of the 218 responses received were classified as negative based on the participants' descriptions of the impact. Graph 10 contains an overview of the negative responses identified from the survey data.

1. Negative Mission Impact

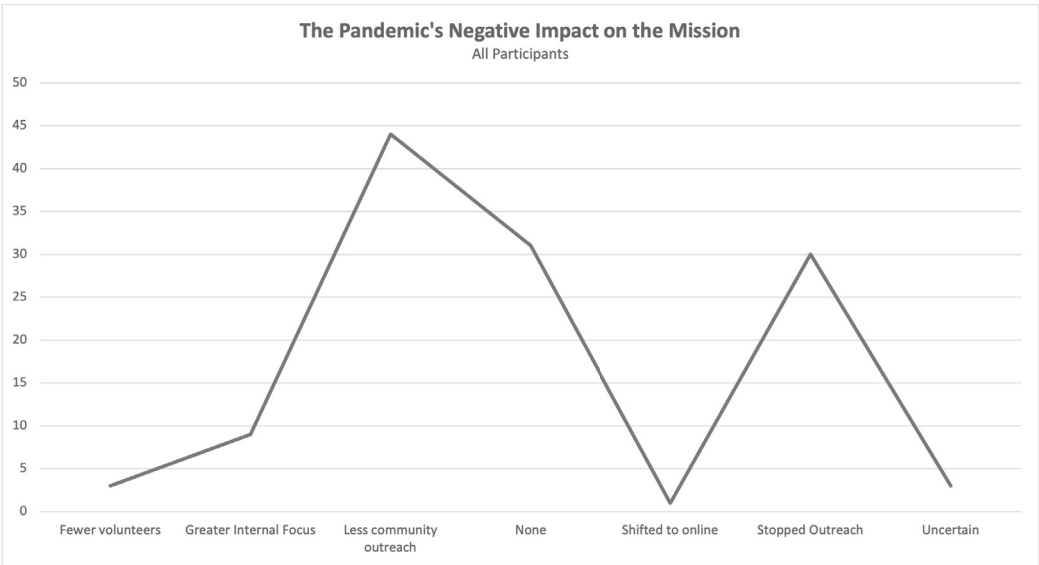
As noted from the graph, most of the respondents believed that the pandemic reduced or eliminated outreach. Some shared that the reduction in outreach directly resulted from social distancing policies and shelter at home orders. Some shared that the reduction or elimination resulted from the congregation lacking the technology or skills to reach out to the community through social media or the internet. Others asserted that the elimination of outreach was the necessary result of reduced staff capacity and the elimination of in-person worship. Thirty-one of the responses reported that the pandemic did not have any impact on the mission

of the local congregation. Ninety-seven of the 218 responses were classified as positive based on the participants' descriptions of the impact. Graph 11 (next page) presents the positive impacts expressed in the survey and the impact's frequency. As indicated in the graph, the most common response was that the pandemic did not positively impact the church's mission.

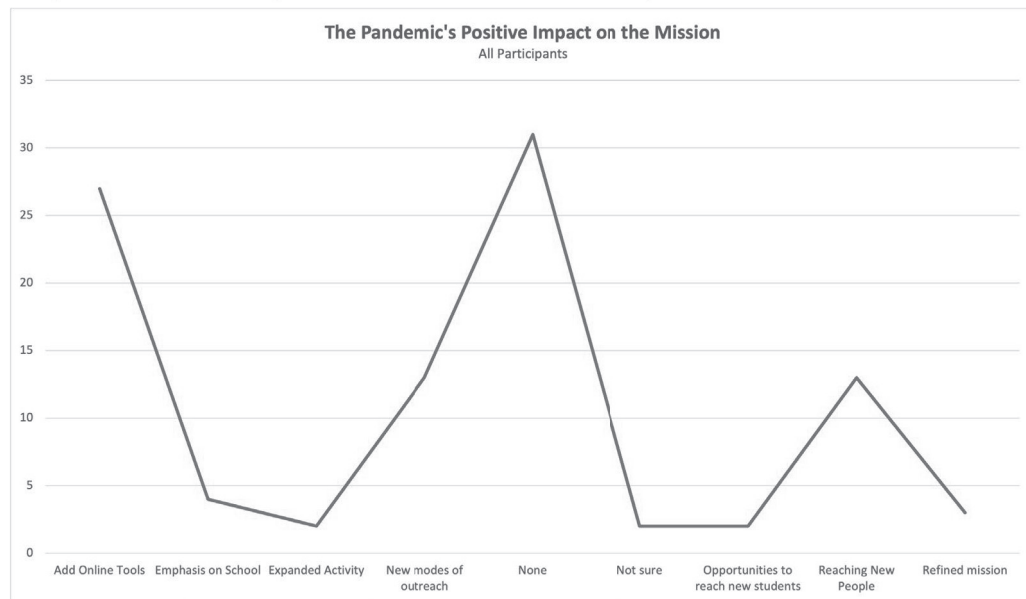
2. Positive Mission Impact

The second most common response regarding the positive impact of the pandemic on the mission of the ministries was the addition of online tools for worship and community engagement. Several participants shared experiences of individuals from around the country and the world who became regular participants in worship and Bible study through technology. Some of the ministries with increased participation by geographically dispersed guests indicated that many contributed to community discussion and online financial contributions. While only mentioned by one person specifically in this question, two other participants in answering previous questions supported the assertion that the pandemic placed a greater emphasis on our schools as a potential outreach tool. Traditional "public school only" families enrolled their children in Lutheran schools to avoid virtual public education. The increase in non-church member enrollments provides excellent opportunities to share the Gospel and help new families connect to the church.

Graph 10: Worker Responses: Pandemic's Negative Impact on the Mission



Graph 11: Worker Responses: Pandemic's Positive Impact on the Mission



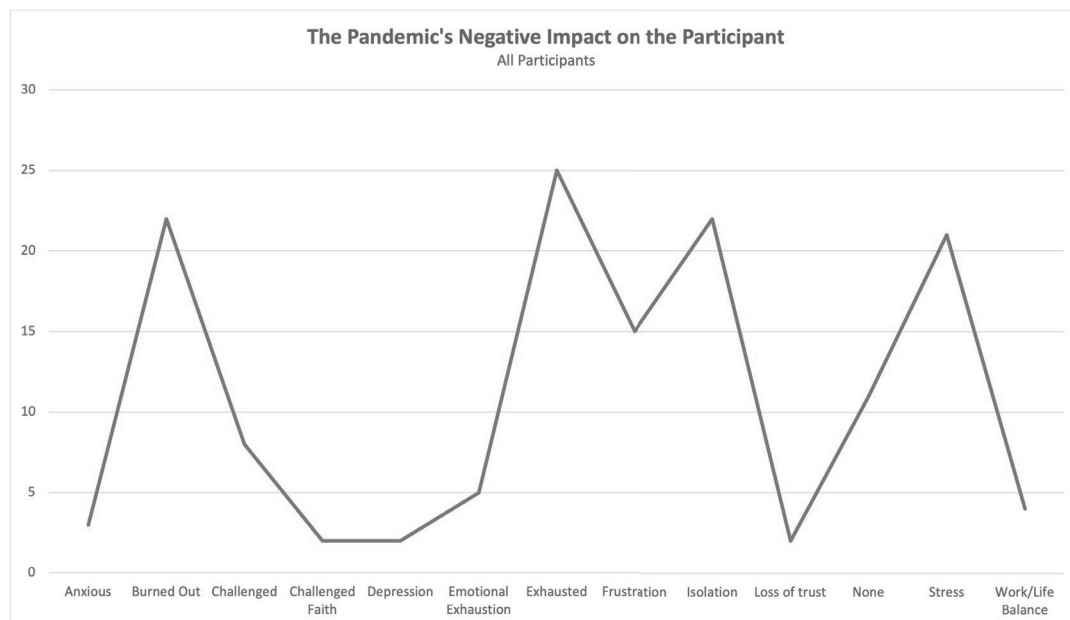
## D. The Pandemic's Negative Impact on the Participants

### 1. Negative Impact on Participants

The participants were asked to share the ways the pandemic had personally impacted them. One hundred and forty-nine of the participants shared the ways the pandemic had negatively impacted their lives. Twenty-five participants shared that they were exhausted from the constant need to make decisions, implement changes, and develop new skills. Another five participants specified that they were emotionally exhausted from online meetings and dealing with conflict and division. Twenty-two participants described the isolation that they felt as a result of the pandemic. The isolation included the inability to visit distant family, the inability to visit friends and fellow members, the loss of fellowship gathering events at the church. Many of those who expressed feelings of isolation also shared an increase

in depression, stress, and anxiety. Twenty-two of the participants shared that they were struggling with burnout. Seven ordained workers indicated that they had moved up retirement plans because of the pandemic and the stress related to ministry during the pandemic. Eleven of the participants expressed the feeling of exhaustion with ministry in the midst of the pandemic.

Graph 12: Worker Responses: Pandemic's Negative Impact on the Participant

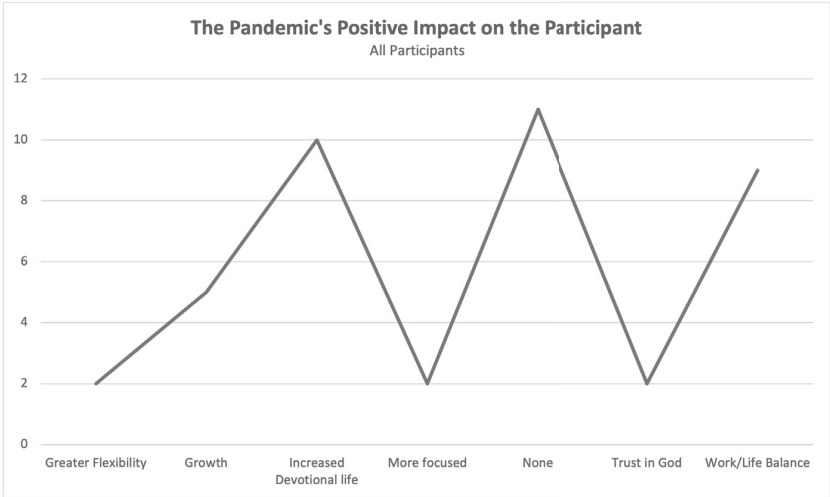




2. Positive Impact on the Participants

While most of the responses to the survey regarding the personal impact of the pandemic experienced by the participants were negative, 50 participants experienced positive impacts due to the pandemic. Ten out of the fifty positive responses indicated that their devotional life and their faith life had increased. In part, this renewed devotional life rose from the recognition that God’s strength was needed to deal with the fear and isolation of the pandemic. However, some reported that reduction in activity at the church contributed to a renewed devotional life and an increased amount of time for personal development. Work/life balance appeared as a positive and a negative among the participants’ responses. The negative perception was the lack of work/life balance because the participants were working at home. The positive perception of work/life balance was due to a reduction of activities and meetings in the ministry, which allowed for more family time. One participant noted that he was spending more evenings free with his wife than at any other time in his more than thirty years of ministry. Two of the individuals who were grateful for the improved work/ life balance indicated their fear that, as the church returned to pre-pandemic activity, they would not want to lose the time they have gained with their family during the pandemic.

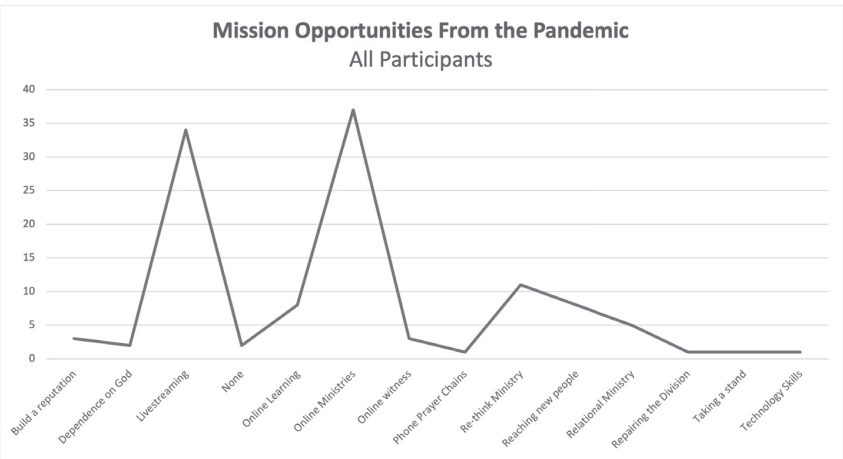
Graph 13: Worker Responses: Pandemic’s Positive Impact on the Participant



E. Mission Opportunities from the Pandemic

The participants shared mission opportunities they believed were possible due to the pandemic. One hundred and seventeen of the original 229 participants responded to the question about mission opportunities. The response rate was low; however, a review of the response rate indicates a linear decline in response

Graph 14: Worker Responses: Opportunities from the Pandemic



rates from the fourth question to the last. Graph 14 contains an overview of the coded responses.

The two most commonly expressed responses are closely related: Online Ministries and Livestreaming. The online ministries code was used when the participant referred to internet-mediated interaction to build community or teach the faith. The livestreaming code was used when the participant referenced online worship. In a proper sense, livestreaming is a subset of online ministry. However, many congregations seem to focus on livestreaming their services and have not considered programming to strengthen community ties online or grow the faith through specialized offerings. As congregations move out of the immediate threat of COVID-19, they will likely retain the livestreaming of their services. However, the livestreaming would be retained for devotional purposes. The life of the church will, most likely, shift back to the in-person programming of the pre-pandemic church. However, most of the participants who recognized the opportunity for an online ministry presence viewed themselves as serving two, likely distinct, congregations, one online and the other in person. They have expressed a commitment to grow a congregation without borders among the online community formed during the pandemic. Some participants believe that the development of online ministries would provide them opportunities to reach new people.

F. Long-Term Impact

The final question of the survey of workers in the Michigan District asked them to theorize about the long-term impact the pandemic might have on ministry in the U.S. One hundred and twenty-two participants responded to the question. The responses generated 28 topic codes. When the list was distilled down to topics receiving more than one response, the list was reduced to eleven codes. Graph 15 contains an overview of the responses and their frequency.

The participant responses offered two contrasting views of the post-pandemic church. Twenty-four of the 122 participants believe that the church of

the future will have a more significant online presence. In contrast, 17 of the participants believe that the pandemic will have little lasting impact on the church and that the church's life will remain essentially unchanged. Twenty-three of the respondents believe that, regardless of the church having an online presence or returning to pre-COVID-19 ministry, the future church will be much smaller. The fourth highest-rated response indicated that the church in the future would have greater focus. The belief that the post-pandemic church will have greater focus is complex. For some participants, the

greater focus is a spiritual renewal emphasizing the Word and Sacraments. For others, the increased focus will be a more substantial alignment between the mission objectives of the church and the mission activities of the church. For a third group, the object of a greater focus is the congregation's mission to the lost. For a fourth group, the greater focus is on doing online ministry effectively. In most versions of the greater focus, the participants expressed a desire to move from self-serving ministry to ministry that benefits those outside the church.

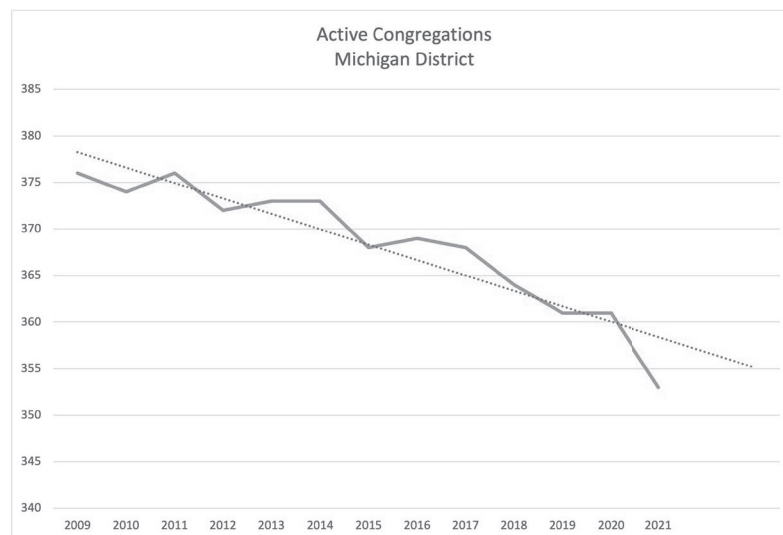
### III. Section 3: Effects of the Pandemic: Active Congregation and Schools

About the data: The data for this portion of the report came from the official records of the Michigan District, which tracks active congregations and attendance numbers. An active congregation is a congregation in which the membership has not voted to disband or close. It is important to note that the attendance figures do not include online worship attendance. Table 7 contains the number of active congregations from 2009 to 2020. Graph 17 consists of a trendline view of the changes in the number of active congregations since 2009. The trendline on Graph 17 was developed using the least of squares method and contained a three-year projection of congregations.

Table 7: Active Congregations

Active Congregations		
Year	Congregations	Rate of Growth
2009	376	
2010	374	-0.01
2011	376	0.01
2012	372	-0.01
2013	373	0.00
2014	373	0.00
2015	368	-0.01
2016	369	0.00
2017	368	0.00
2018	364	-0.01
2019	361	-0.01
2020	361	0.00
2021	353	-0.02

Graph 17: Trendline of Active Congregations



\*The trendline was projected using the least of squares method.

## A. Congregation Membership Indicators

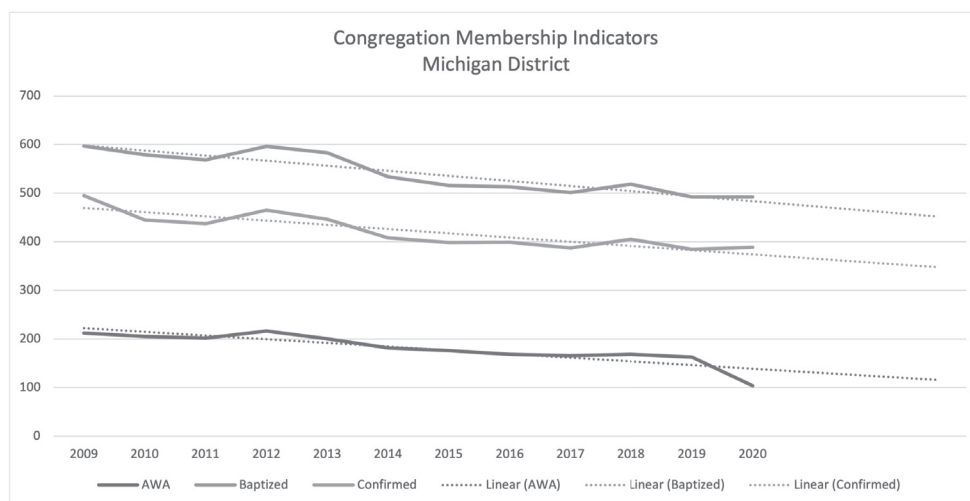
About the data: This portion of the study used data submitted by congregations as part of the annual report to Synod. The data is self-reported and not independently verified. It is not uncommon for data points to be missing when the District receives the reports from congregations. In keeping with Synod's practice, the missing data was replaced with a duplicate of the previous year's reported number. The adjustment was needed to prevent the skewing of the analysis caused by the under-reporting from smaller congregations.

Table 8: Congregation Membership Indicators Data

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
AWA	212	205	202	216	201	182	176	168	166	168	162	104
Baptized	597	579	569	596	583	534	516	513	501	518	492	492
Confirmed	595	445	437	465	447	408	399	399	387	405	385	389

Observations: Due to the impact of the Pandemic on worship attendance, a summary of data will be limited to 2019. An examination of average worship attendance and membership statistics indicated that the Michigan District had an average decline of 23% in weekly worship attendance from 2009 to 2019. While 2013 appears to have been a growth year for baptized membership, the trendline indicates an adjustment to a decline in 2012. The median weekly worship attendance of the congregations in the District went from 133 in 2009 to 91 in 2019, a 32% decline.

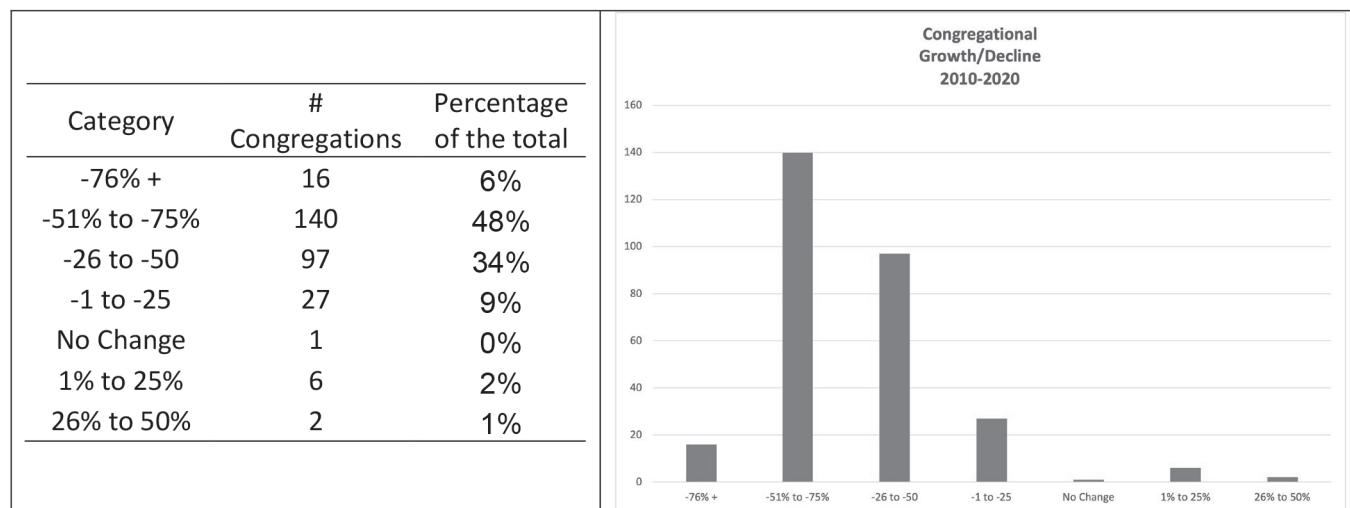
Graph 18: Congregation Membership Indicators



## B. Congregation Growth and Decline

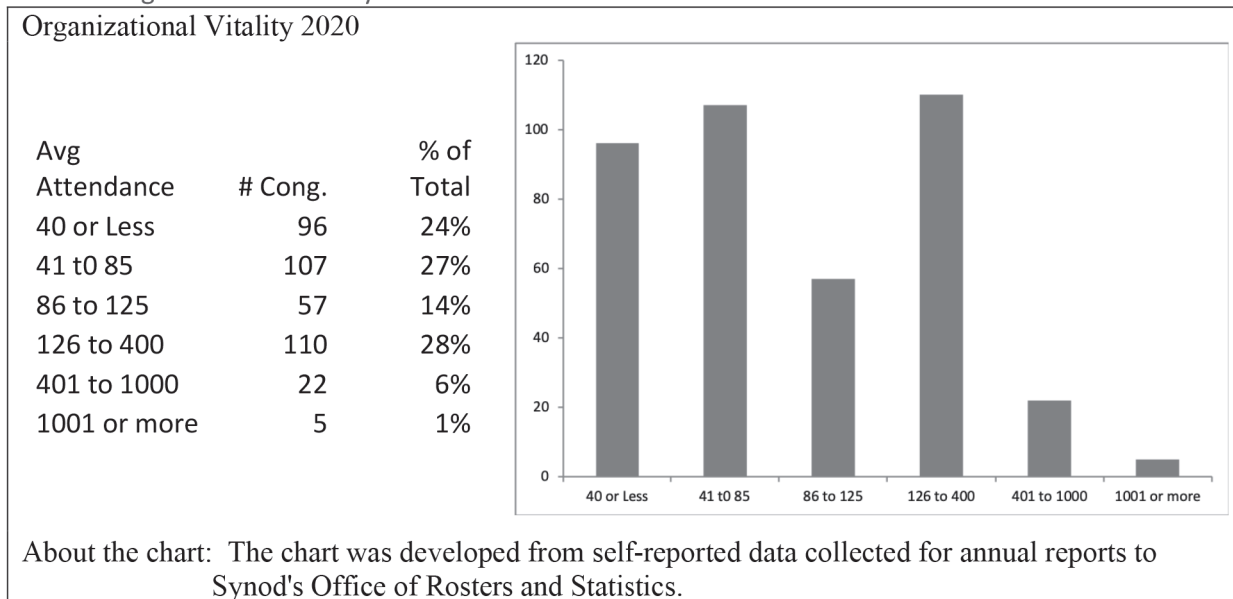
About the data: A comparison of the average worship attendance in 2010 with 2020 was used to determine congregations' growth/decline rate. Congregations that were not in existence for the ten years were excluded from the analysis. Three congregations failed to supply an average worship attendance number for 2018. In such cases, a number was provided based on an average for the previous three years.

Chart 1: Changes in Average Worship Attendance from 2009-2018



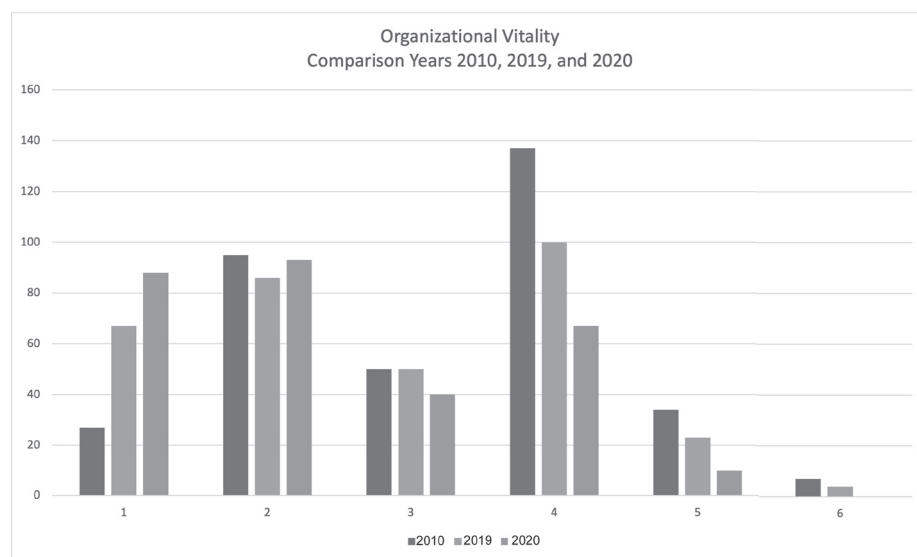
## C. Organizational Vitality

Chart 2: Organizational Vitality



Observations: From a statistical perspective, a significant number of ministries in the Michigan District are operating in financial distress due to the reduced number of people in weekly attendance. Almost a quarter of our congregations have a worship attendance below 40. While a church plant often grows when it averages 40 people in worship, it is infrequent for an existing church that has been plateaued at 40 or has declined to that number to begin a new life cycle and begin to grow. If revitalization happens, it is almost always the result of an external event rather than planning on the part of the ministry.

Graph 19: Comparison of Organizational Vitality



## IV. Section Four: General Discussion

This research project had two objectives. The first objective was to assess the impact of the pandemic on the ministries of the Michigan District in order to identify potential areas of District support. The second objective was to identify learning points that could help develop resources to strengthen ministries in advance of potential future threats. The collection of data for this study ended in the early days of the pandemic recovery. It could be justifiably argued that the nation has not yet entered the period of recovery. Therefore, the data and themes are early indicators rather than dependable way-points to fully understand the pandemic's impact. Nonetheless, three themes appear to have the consistency that will withstand the test of time.

### A. Relationships Matter

The church is strongest when the church is relational. God works through His people to strengthen, comfort, and encourage the members of His body.

While there is a place for an evangelistic proclamation in a large gathering, much of the church's mission work happens one on one as God's people interact with those who still live in the world. Social distancing, the suspension of public gatherings, and the prohibition on pastoral care in the institutional setting have dramatically impacted the vitality of the congregation and the emotional well-being of God's people.

We can celebrate the hard work, the long hours, and the sacrifices made by



congregational members, ministry staff, pastors, teachers, and administrators as they scrambled to develop new channels of communication so that God's work through the church and school could continue. At the same time, it must be acknowledged that the relational aspects of technology-mediated interactions are not sufficient for the vibrant ministry. The steady decline of online worship in favor of in-person worship supports this claim. The number of workers and members that expressed an overwhelming sense of isolation and loneliness during the pandemic support the claim. Finally, the data collected from outside sources<sup>5</sup> found that, at the height of the pandemic, the number of worshippers who participated in online worship decreased significantly<sup>6</sup> within the first 18 minutes. Further research and exploration may determine the factors that contribute to social disconnectedness from the technology-mediated community.

### **B. The Rise of Consumerism**

Most congregations in the Michigan District suspended in-person worship for an average of four weeks, sometime during March and April. Many congregations suspended worship for several months starting in the second or third week of March. The action was not taken lightly. It was viewed as an acceptable way to honor God and keep others safe and healthy. However, many have suggested that the unintended consequence of online worship may be a decrease in worship attendance and volunteerism among congregational membership. As of April 2021, most of the participating congregations were experiencing at least a 30% decline in their in-person worship when compared to their attendance figures from January 2020. Almost half of the congregations that participated in the survey had less than 30% of their former number of worshippers in their Sunday services. Some have speculated that many continued to worship online because of the consumer values of convenience and the variety of choices. Others have speculated that the decline was being driven by the ongoing concern about the COVID-19 infection rates. The number of respondents was too low to identify, with a high level of certainty, the co-variables that might indicate a strong correlation between suspending services and low in-person attendance figures. The survey had only 24 participating congregations that did not suspend in-person worship. Most of these congregations were in rural contexts. Many of the 24 congregations from rural areas experienced a similar decrease in their worship attendance to rural congregations that had suspended in-person worship. Unfortunately, the data collected contained too many environmental factors to conduct an accurate regression analysis. Therefore, the concern of consumerism was not substantiated or disproved by the study.

### **C. Divisiveness**

A strong threat of concern shared in the report was

divisiveness. It has been said that a crisis will bring a family closer together or drive them apart. Such seems to be the case with the pandemic. Several workers expressed exhaustion from dealing with divisive individuals who have attempted to attribute political agendas to congregational decisions. While the threat is real and troubling, the more disturbing reality is the divisive language that the participants use to refer to others. For example, some participants spoke of the "radical right," and others referred to "woke-ism of the left." Most troubling was the minority of the participants who expressed the belief that suspending in-person worship was compromising the faith to "please men." The pandemic has further eroded trust between ministries and between ministries and the District. The issue of divisiveness is at its roots an attack on the Body of Christ and a deterrent to healthy congregational life and effective outreach. The District can assist congregations and pastors as they seek to address political divisions within the church by providing resources. Too often, the pastor's words are marginalized by those who assign a political agenda to his message. Words spoken by outside "experts" might help diffuse the situation. There is a need to create a proactive, affirming culture within our congregations. On a different level, there is a need for theological discussion among professional church workers that speaks plainly about the sin of divisive language and the reality of our freedom in the Gospel.

### **D. Theological Foundations for "Online Ministry."**

The lack of theological discussion and study related to "online ministry" or "online worship" has contributed to the divisive activity of the pandemic. As noted from the worker responses, some pastors believe a worship gathering is only valid when people and pastors physically gather in a shared space around the Word and Sacraments. Other pastors believe that a technology-mediated community is as valid as a physically gathered community. These pastors assert that the elevation of in-person worship over online worship is sacerdotalism. This second group of pastors often argued that in-home worship was the church of the future. The largest segment of our pastors have viewed online worship as a pragmatic decision and do not attribute theological intent with choice. Like many issues in our church, we believe that ignoring the differences will diminish their power to divide our churches. In reality, it is the lack of discussion that empowers the two extremes.

### **E. Finances**

Finances were rarely mentioned in the survey responses. The most common response was that of surprise that God was providing the needed resources. We certainly can give thanks to God; when the pandemic was at its most confusing, most congregations experienced a spike in giving. However, the fact that congregations generally experienced a greater than 15% decline in their offerings through the study period cannot be ignored. Perhaps finances were not perceived to

<sup>5</sup> 2021, The New Sunday Morning, The Barna Group, <https://www.barna.com/research/new-sunday-morning/>

<sup>6</sup> MacDonald, A., Stetzer, E., and Wilson, T., (2020). How church leaders are responding to the challenges of COVID-19. Exponential Webinar, <https://exponential.org/resource-ebooks/response-to-COVID-19/>

be a big issue because congregations had a positive cash flow, mainly due to decreased expenses. It is possible that, as a congregational ministry begins to ramp up and offerings remain at their current level, many congregations will find themselves in a cash flow crunch by late fall. Congregations are accustomed to the fall crunch in offerings and count on the Christmas season to buoy the congregation through most of the winter. However, last year the offerings did not show a noticeable increase for most ministries. With a significantly greater number of ministries in the at-risk category, the District should review or develop resources to assist congregations facing closure. Strategies to reduce expenses with minimal impact on the mission activity of the congregation could be the difference between a ministry remaining open or a ministry closing.

### **F. Mission Opportunities**

Most of the participants that expressed optimism for mission opportunities in the post-pandemic world believed that the opportunities would occur through online ministry or online activity. However, as mentioned earlier, our faith's strength has historically been in our relationships and person-to-person interactions. If congregations go down the path of online ministry, research needs to be conducted to determine if healthy relationships can be formed, sustained, and grown through technology-mediated social interactions. Models of successful online or in-home ministries need to be developed or identified.

A second option for mission would be the use of an asset-mapping process to determine how the local congregation could leverage its strength—relational ministry—to extend its mission reach in the community it serves. For example, a congregation could fill the void of safe in-person gatherings by hosting small gatherings around a shared interest. A congregation could provide study pods and mentors for small groups of students to interact socially while engaged in online learning.

### **G. Breaking Institutional Barriers**

One of the greatest frustrations expressed by pastors in the survey was not being able to provide pastoral care to members in care facilities and hospitals. Institutions of health originated within the church. Valid studies have demonstrated that spiritual care positively impacts health care treatments. It was tragic that many people of faith perished without a pastoral visit due to policies developed contrary to those research studies. It would be easy to point the finger at the government or the institutions themselves. However, much of the blame might lie with our clergy who have neglected to form a collaborative partnership with hospitals and health care providers. The church historically has had many fruitful opportunities to share the Gospel through the health care system. In smaller locations, rebuilding the connection between patients' spiritual and physical care might be simply a matter of developing a relationship with the hospital administrator and offering to serve as a volunteer chaplain. In larger, corporate hospitals, it may require more formal work to identify and mitigate

their concerns. We might gain credibility with larger institutions by developing a version of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), which has been abbreviated to focus on patient privacy issues, working in the hospital environment, and contagion mitigation procedures.

### **Conclusion**

Some people might wonder at the value of a report on the pandemic. It would be easy to categorize the study as "interesting but useless." However, the pandemic has had an impact on our congregations and schools. Church leaders would do well to determine how to assist congregations and church leaders in a healthy response for the short-term future. More importantly, the pandemic may serve as a wake-up call for a future pandemic that could dwarf COVID-19. Congregations and schools would be more successful during the pandemic if resources and policies were put in place based on what has been learned through this study and subsequent studies. Finally, a second pandemic may seem like a very remote possibility. However, the loss of in-person worship in our church buildings may not be so far off for many. A review of the financial condition of our congregations would indicate that many may not be able to retain their buildings ten years into the future. If the government determined that congregations could be required to pay property taxes on their facilities, many congregations might be forced to close their doors<sup>7</sup>. Does the congregation cease to exist if they no longer have a building? The pandemic has given us a few potential paths and pitfalls to a future where few congregations have buildings. Perhaps through greater analysis and more profound theological reflection, models of healthy ministries that are not dependent on the building-centric ministry of many of our congregations may be identified.

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<sup>7</sup> Miller, J. (2015). Is it time for nonprofits to pay property taxes., Badger Institute

## Stewardship Committee

**Stewardship Committee Mission Statement** *The purpose of the Michigan District Stewardship Committee is to serve the Church by researching, developing, and promoting biblical stewardship resources.* (This statement was revised in 2020 to better describe the activities of the committee in relationship to the needs of the Church and our District congregations.)

### Stewardship Education in our Michigan District Congregations

Believing that stewardship is more than a one-Sunday-a-year, or one-emphasis-a-year part of a congregation's ministry, and in order that our members may experience the full counsel of God's Word regarding being God's stewards, the following is a list of things that have been provided by your stewardship committee over the past four years:

- The committee has made available yearly stewardship education and training via presentations and workshops around the District. Unfortunately, COVID has not allowed for these to be offered recently, but we look forward to restarting this resource in the near future. We thank many congregations who hosted these events and invite others to let us know if you are interested in being a presentation site.
- A list of stewardship Bible verses appropriate to each Sunday in the Church Year is available for your congregation's bulletin, projection, and teaching use. This resource is available on the District website.
- In cooperation with Stewardship Advisors, a new, yearly stewardship emphasis is made available free of charge to every Michigan District congregation on the District website.
- A four-session curriculum, "God's Children are God's Disciples," was produced to assist our congregations and schools in teaching basic stewardship principles to our children and the next generation. This resource is available on the District website.
- Available for use in the Fall of 2022 is "Leading Through Chaos." This is a one-year, monthly devotional for use at Church Council, Board of Directors, and other leadership meetings to engage your congregation's leaders in stewardship education and motivate them to share this aspect of Christian response with their membership.

### John E. Herrmann Award

This award is given annually by the Michigan District Stewardship Committee in memory of Rev. John E. Herrmann, one of Synod's most dynamic stewardship leaders, to an individual, church, or school in the Michigan District that has exemplified daily stewardship principles and teaching in ministry and their community. Since the 2018 District Convention, awards have been made to the following:

- 2018 – Special recognition to Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram
- 2018 – St. Lorenz Lutheran Church, Frankenmuth
- 2019 – Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lewiston

- 2021 – Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Birmingham
- 2021 – Special recognition to Church Extension Fund

### District Stewardship Leaders Conference (DSLCL)

The Michigan District participates in the annual District Stewardship Leaders Conference held in Tempe, Ariz. each February. The conference is attended by the stewardship leaders of LCMS Districts, along with Synodical and Seminary personnel, to create and implement stewardship strategies for the LCMS. Each year, a member of the committee and Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram, the Michigan District Stewardship Executive, attend the conference.

### Stewardship Committee Members

Rev. Douglas M. Adams	Rev. Daniel C. Meckes
Rev. Eric S. Black	Mrs. Laura Thomas
Mr. Ronald Chewning	Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram
Rev. John M. Duerr	

The committee would also like to thank Rev. R. William Roper and Rev. Stephen E. Schilke for their many years of service on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Daniel C. Meckes,  
Michigan District Stewardship Committee

## Commission for Church Worker Care

The mission of the **Commission for Church Worker Care** is to enrich the whole person's health (emotional, spiritual, physical, financial, and relational) of professional church workers through promotion, education, referral assistance, and advocacy. Our continuing efforts include the sponsoring of parish nursing and conducting pre-seminary interviews. We also host conferences and webinars such as the one featuring Rev. Dr. Bruce Hartung on the need for congregations to consider forming "Worker Support Teams" as a way to encourage and support our professional church workers. Our Commission is always open to new ideas and ways to keep our church workers healthy and involved in God-pleasing ministry! Do let us know! Current projects of the Commission include:

- Hosting pre-retirement planning workshops for all professional church workers every other year.
- Offering discounts to church workers attending a Financial Peace University seminar.
- Continuing to work on a program to help with the needs of our seasoned servants.
- Collaborating with Grace Place Lutheran Retreats to help support holistic health retreats in Michigan, as well as encouraging and supporting our workers to participate in the retreats.
- Providing resources, potential counselor contacts, and counseling for professional church workers through the District website.
- Providing resources for congregations to use as they support the ministries of professional church workers.
- The addition of a Mental Health Case Manager, Christie Hansard (734.845.2972).

## Parish Nurse/Health Ministry

Parish Nursing/Health Ministry is committed to promoting and supporting physical, emotional, and spiritual health as part of the Christian stewardship of the whole person. The Michigan District Parish Nurse Committee has been established to promote congregational health ministry and parish nursing among congregations within the District.

Even though during the pandemic most of the parish nurses in our Synod were in a high-risk group, they continued to demonstrate the nursing process by assessing, diagnosing, planning, implementing, and evaluating. They adapted to new ways of communication, visiting, and became an informational liaison with the CDC, the state of Michigan, and our churches. Michigan District parish nurses continue to provide and respond to the basic human needs of their parishioners and their community, ever so remembering that we care for the whole person: body, mind, and soul.

### Functions of parish nurse/health ministry

- **Integrator of faith and health.** Health is not the absence of disease. Health is a holistic way of living that includes healthy spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational life. The parish nurse seeks to promote an understanding of

the relationship between faith and health by lifting up a lifestyle that practices a matter of stewardship and faith.

- **Health educator.** Provides opportunities for individuals and groups to learn about health issues.
- **Health counselor.** Discusses health concerns, answers questions, and encourages a healthy lifestyle.
- **Referral advisor/liaison.** Provides referrals to health care and social services resources in the community and helps navigate through and with those referrals.
- **Health advocate.** Helps members of the congregation or community obtain needed health-related services. Empowers people with information/resources to make wise healthcare decisions.
- **Home health visitation.** Provides home health visitation upon request to offer support and encourage safety and adherence to healthy lifestyle behaviors. Does not replace home health care services which are ordered by a physician.
- **Developer of support groups.** Facilitates the development of support groups for the church and community.
- **Volunteer coordinator.** Recruits, prepares, and oversees congregational volunteers who help those in need.

### Qualifications for a parish nurse

- Registered nurse, licensed in Michigan, functioning under the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Practice for Parish Nursing;
- Member in good standing of the congregation;
- Spiritual maturity;
- Two or more years of nursing experience;
- Completion of a recognized parish nurse preparation program, which consists of 35 contact hours. A certificate in Faith Community Nursing.

### Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse Preparation Courses

- Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon

Distance Learning format available

Contact: Carol A. Lueders Bolwerk, Program Director

Parish Nurse Ministries

Email: [carol.luedersbolwerk@cuw.edu](mailto:carol.luedersbolwerk@cuw.edu)

Phone: 262.243.4233

### Website Resources

- <http://www.lcms.org/health/parishnursing>
- <http://www.michigandistrict.org/parishnursing>

### Meetings

- Annual gathering of Parish Nurses with professional presentations. The 30th Annual Parish Nurse and Congregational Health Ministries Conference is May 18–19, 2022 at Concordia University Wisconsin.

### District Contact

- Deaconess Christie Hansard, Parish Nurse  
Synodical District Representative and Chair  
Email: [parishnurse@faithgb.org](mailto:parishnurse@faithgb.org)



## Sower's Fund

The Sower's Fund of the Michigan District, LCMS was initially established in February 1992. The fund was created out of love and care to support professional church workers with needs that developed from time to time. The Sower's Fund was established as there were no budget funds available/set aside for such a need.

This fund is used for the immediate assistance of health care or shelter issues, to provide counseling services, etc. Requests for funds come to the President's Office usually through the Circuit Visitor, Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitator, or the Superintendent of Schools. They are made aware of special emergency needs where there is no immediate assistance to be found from the local congregation, city, state, federal, etc.

This assistance has been a tremendous blessing in providing help for the needs of our church workers in times of crisis in their lives or ministry, helping to relieve the stress and difficulty that our workers face in such times. Aid is offered confidentially. We thank and praise God for the continued dedicated support for the Sower's Fund and for the kindness of all who contribute.

## Student Aid

The Michigan District LCMS Student Aid program is designed to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships to

- members of Michigan District, LCMS congregations,
- preparing for and intending to enter full-time church work (as defined as any position available through the Board of Assignments of the Synod),
- at one of the seminaries of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or one of the colleges or universities of the Concordia University System.

Annual distributions are based on the available funds for the year and the number of eligible students. A three-tier system is used. Students attending one of the two seminaries receive aid at the highest rate; students attending Concordia University Ann Arbor or Concordia University Mequon receive aid at the middle rate, and students attending one of the other CUS schools receive aid at the base rate.

More detailed guidelines and the required forms can be found at [www.michigandistrict.org/studentaid](http://www.michigandistrict.org/studentaid).

The charts below show the student aid amounts and number of students for the past four school years.

Student Aid Distribution

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Seminary Students	\$3,300	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
CUAA	\$2,640	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,800
9 CUS Schools	\$1,980	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100
<b>Total Given</b>	<b>\$260,040</b>	<b>\$253,050</b>	<b>\$234,850</b>	<b>\$155,050</b>

Students Receiving Aid

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Seminary Students	41	38	40	26
CUAA/Mequon	42	36	34	20
8 CUS Schools	18	18	8	10
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>56</b>

## Student Loan Payment Assistance

The Michigan District acknowledges that many of its church workers are entering the work force with significant student loans. In 2019, it began partnering with Ministry Focus, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Ministry Focus is a grassroots volunteer organization that strives to help alleviate the burdensome educational debt of pastors and other called workers. The Michigan District provided \$40,000 each year to assist in making needs-based grants to Michigan District workers in January of 2020 and 2021. Fifteen \$2,500 grants were awarded each year to ordained and commissioned workers in the Michigan District. The Michigan District is continuing funding for 2022 and 2023 grants and hopes the program will continue as needed into the future. Applications are generally due December 31 of each year and can be found at <https://ministryfocus.org/>.

Workers with student loans should note that the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program recently dropped requirements that were hindering church workers from qualifying from this program, which can forgive debt after 10 years of payments. Church workers (ordained, commissioned, and lay) that have student loans can find more information on the program at <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>. Concordia Plan Services recently provided a webinar on the topic – search PSLP at <https://concordiaplans.org>.

Through 2025, congregations can also help employees pay down student debt through an Education Assistance Program (EAP). Up to \$5,250 annually can be paid by the employer, tax free to the worker, as payments towards student loans. A proper EAP plan needs to be established for the payment to be tax free.

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1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-01  
4 SUBJECT: To Focus on Spiritual Disciplines  
5  
6  
7 **WHEREAS**, Scripture calls Christ’s followers to focus on being trained in godliness (1 Timothy 4:8); and  
8  
9 **WHEREAS**, The use of Scripture itself leads to an accent on training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16);  
10 and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Scripture highlights assorted spiritual disciplines like memorization, fasting, prayer,  
13 celebration, confession, Sabbath keeping, tithing and so on; and  
14  
15 **WHEREAS**, Scripture enjoins us to grow in faith and faithfulness (Philippians 2:12, 2 Timothy 1:6); and  
16  
17 **WHEREAS**, We live in a time that calls for greater strength and fortitude from Christians; therefore be it  
18  
19 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention call, encourage, and challenge each District  
20 congregation to provide Bible studies on spiritual disciplines; and be it further  
21  
22 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention call, encourage, and challenge each District  
23 congregation to maintain or implement programs that will encourage and enable its members to  
24 practice the various spiritual disciplines; and be it finally  
25  
26 **Resolved**, that the District provide continued encouragement, tools and programs that will promote the  
27 practice of spiritual disciplines.  
28  
29 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District



1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-02  
4 SUBJECT: A Culture of Bible Reading  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, God reveals Himself through His Word and invites us to find Him in it (John 5:39–40); and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God to draw us to and build us up in Jesus; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, The Word of God is recorded in the 66 books of the Bible; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, We are invited through the Scriptures to be diligent in the reading and study of them (Psalm  
14 119:105, 2 Timothy 3:16–17, Acts 17:10–14, Colossians 3:16); and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Article V of the Augsburg Confession encourages regular use of God’s Word; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Having the Bible available for reading by lay people was a central driver of the Reformation;  
19 and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, The Bible has never been more accessible for people; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, The District has provided an electronic Bible reading plan—the Reformation Reading Plan on  
24 YouVersion—that has had over 18,000 users and 3,000 completions since the last Convention; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, The Church needs the power of the Word now as much as ever; therefore be it  
27

28 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention call, encourage, and challenge each District  
29 congregation to maintain or implement programs that will encourage and enable its members to read  
30 their Bible every day; and be it further  
31

32 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention call, encourage, and challenge each District  
33 congregation to maintain or implement programs that will encourage and enable its members to read  
34 through their entire Bible annually; and be it finally  
35

36 **Resolved**, That the District provide continued encouragement, tools, and programs that will build a  
37 culture of Bible reading in our congregations.  
38

39 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-03  
4 SUBJECT: To Encourage the Regular Study of Luther's Small and  
5 Large Catechisms  
6  
7  
8 **WHEREAS**, The 2021 *Ministry in the Midst of a Pandemic* survey revealed that many congregations  
9 experienced some degree of internal conflict due to differences of opinion regarding the congregation's  
10 response to the pandemic; and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, The 2021 *Ministry in the Midst of a Pandemic* survey revealed that the conflict from the  
13 congregation's response to the pandemic was often intensified by confusion of our identity in Christ in  
14 the politically charged environment of the 2020 presidential election; and  
15  
16 **WHEREAS**, Paul reminds us to hold fast to our identity as citizens of God's Kingdom (Philippians 3:20)  
17 and encourages God's people to avoid division when he writes: "*That all of you agree, and that there be*  
18 *no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment*" (1 Corinthians  
19 1:10); and  
20  
21 **WHEREAS**, Luther's Small and Large Catechisms were written to strengthen the Church around God's  
22 gracious actions toward us as expressed in the six chief parts of the Catechism; therefore be it  
23  
24 **Resolved**, That we strengthen the bonds of peace and unity we have with one another through daily  
25 reading of God's Word and regular reading of Luther's Small and Large Catechisms; and be it further  
26  
27 **Resolved**, That we encourage congregations and pastors to encourage meaningful discussion and study  
28 of Luther's Small and Large Catechisms to strengthen the bonds of unity given to us by the Holy Spirit;  
29 and be it further  
30  
31 **Resolved**, That congregations be encouraged to assist families in the faith development of their children  
32 by providing resources, training, and support so that the Catechism might be a regular influence on the  
33 lives of their children; and be it finally  
34  
35 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District support congregations in the promotion of Luther's Small and Large  
36 Catechisms through the identification of existing resources or the development of new resources.  
37  
38 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-04  
4 SUBJECT: To Encourage In-Person Worship  
5  
6 **WHEREAS**, During the pandemic many individuals suspended their participation in in-person worship at  
7 their local congregation; and  
8  
9 **WHEREAS**, It has been asserted that participation in online worship services is synonymous with  
10 participation in in-person worship services; and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, In-person worship services differ from the experiences of online worship services for most  
13 individuals through the inclusion of formal and informal service opportunities, community interactions,  
14 public witness, and reception of the Sacraments; therefore be it  
15  
16 **Resolved**, That all people be encouraged to weekly attend the in-person worship services of their local  
17 church when possible; and be it finally  
18  
19 **Resolved**, That the District identifies or develops resources to assist congregations as they encourage  
20 their members to return to in-person worship gatherings.  
21  
22 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-05  
4 SUBJECT: To Address Online Worship as a Response to the  
5 Pandemic  
6  
7 **WHEREAS**, Many congregations ceased in-person worship in the early part of 2020 in response to  
8 government mandates and pastoral concern for the membership; and  
9  
10 **WHEREAS**, Most of the congregations in the District offered an online version of worship to engage their  
11 memberships in confession and absolution and the public reading of the Word; and  
12  
13 **WHEREAS**, According to the 2021 Ministry in the Time of the Pandemic survey, approximately 85% of  
14 the pastors, church workers, and laity participants celebrated their congregation's response to the  
15 pandemic, including compliance with the government mandates issued early in the pandemic and the  
16 development of an online worship presence; and  
17  
18 **WHEREAS**, There was historical precedent, including Martin Luther's wisdom from the Black Plague (*"I*  
19 *shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine, and*  
20 *take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become*  
21 *contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my*  
22 *negligence"*) and the Spanish flu of 1918, for the suspension of in-person worship in the time of  
23 pandemic; and  
24  
25 **WHEREAS**, There was little theological guidance prior to or following the pandemic; and  
26  
27 **WHEREAS**, The 2021 *Ministry in the Midst of a Pandemic* survey did not find a statistical relationship  
28 between online worship in the congregation and a decline in worship attendance; therefore be it  
29  
30 **Resolved**, That congregational members and members of Synod are encouraged to refrain from judging  
31 other members and ministries of Synod and *"interpret everything they do in the best possible light"*  
32 (Luther's Explanation of the Eighth commandment, *The Book of Concord*, p. 353, Kolb, Robert and  
33 Wengert, Timothy, 2000); and be it further  
34  
35 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District identify or develop resources that will provide a biblical framework  
36 to guide pastors and congregations in making decisions regarding in-person and online worship; and be  
37 it finally  
38  
39 **Resolved**, That circuits be encouraged to utilize the resources for discussion and study in their circuit  
40 pastor gatherings, circuit forums, and other venues for discussion and study.  
41  
42 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District



COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-06  
SUBJECT: To Encourage the Use of the Resource Heart Issues are  
Hard Issues

**WHEREAS**, Christ prayed to His heavenly Father for the unity of the Church, *“That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me”* (John 17:21); and

**WHEREAS**, St. Paul pointed out that in Christ there are no races or divisions among God’s children saying, *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus”* (Galatians 3:28); and

**WHEREAS**, *“God shows no partiality, but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him”* (Acts 10:34–35); and

**WHEREAS**, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations document titled *Racism and the Church* (Feb. 1994) states: “We in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have before us a wonderful opportunity to commit ourselves to strive toward making racism a thing of the past, and to demonstrate before a watching world how people of all cultures and groups can become one in Christ, who has made of many one body for the edification of all”; and

**WHEREAS**, Racism has no basis in Scripture or the Confessions; and

**WHEREAS**, We continue to see racism among those who call themselves Christian and in society-at-large; and

**WHEREAS**, The Rev. Dr. Bradley Yops wrote a Bible study based on presentations by the Rev. Christopher Bodley, Rev. Dr. Victor Belton, Rev. Keith Haney, and Dr. Ed Stetzer at the Michigan District’s conference on racism and the Church, and that resource has been downloaded 235 times; and

**WHEREAS**, This Bible study challenges the participant to struggle with maladies (biases and prejudices) that one may or may not harbor; therefore be it

**Resolved**, That the delegates to the convention of the Michigan District, LCMS meeting in Ann Arbor, Mich. in June of 2022 decry every form of racism as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

**Resolved**, That we prioritize working toward racial reconciliation and equality within the Church; and be it finally

**Resolved**, That we encourage all congregations to utilize the resource *Heart Issues are Hard Issues* over the next 12 months in Bible study or as a sermon series to identify and implement strategies that will unify us around our common mission of seeking and saving those who have been lost.

Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-07  
4 SUBJECT: To Encourage the Use of The Great Sending  
5  
6 **WHEREAS**, Jesus was sent into the world as the fulfillment of God’s promise of deliverance from sin and  
7 death spoken of throughout the Old Testament; and  
8  
9 **WHEREAS**, Jesus Himself testified, “*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost*” (Luke 19:10);  
10 and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Jesus invites us to join Him in His mission, saying, “*Peace be with you! As the Father has sent*  
13 *me, I am sending you*” (John 20:21); and  
14  
15 **WHEREAS**, The birth of congregations across the world occurred as believers faithfully shared the  
16 Gospel wherever the circumstances of life took them and often to people who were hostile to their  
17 message; and  
18  
19 **WHEREAS**, The zeal to take the Gospel message to all nations led many of the early American Lutherans  
20 to settle in our area in order that they might proclaim the Gospel to the Native Americans; and  
21  
22 **WHEREAS**, We are living in an increasingly secular and hostile environment with more and more people  
23 disconnected from God’s message of salvation; and  
24  
25 **WHEREAS**, The book *The Great Sending* contains 42 devotions designed to encourage us for missional  
26 living; and  
27  
28 **WHEREAS**, *The Great Sending* website (<http://www.thegreatsending.org>) contains many resources that  
29 can be used to encourage and challenge God’s people to embrace a missionary mentality as they live  
30 out their day-to-day lives; therefore be it  
31  
32 **Resolved**, That we commend the contributors of *The Great Sending* book and resources for the  
33 development of these missionary formation tools; and be it further  
34  
35 **Resolved**, That we encourage congregations and circuits to use *The Great Sending* in Bible studies and  
36 small groups as they explore new strategies for engaging their communities with the Gospel; and be it  
37 finally  
38  
39 **Resolved**, That, because the need for a mission focus and mission activity is so significant in the  
40 congregations of the Michigan District and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Michigan District  
41 memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to commend the use of the *Great Sending* resources as  
42 congregations, circuits, and districts plan mission outreach.  
43  
44 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-08  
SUBJECT: To Encourage Circuits and Congregations to Work  
Together to Extend and Advance the Gospel Through  
New Ministry Endeavors

**WHEREAS,** Many congregations in our Michigan District are hindered in their efforts to initiate new ministries to reach new people with the Gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ because they are challenged by decreased membership and/or financial restraints, and therefore may not have the capacity to engage their communities effectively as they would wish; and

**WHEREAS,** Distance, declining population density, and other factors heighten difficulties in conducting ministry in rural and small towns; and

**WHEREAS,** Urban and inner-city congregations face significant challenges due to changing demographics and declining membership; and

**WHEREAS,** Studies and experience have demonstrated that new ministry starts are more effective in reaching new people with the Gospel; and

**WHEREAS,** There is a present and ongoing shortage of pastors and other ministry leaders equipped and motivated to initiate new ministries to reach new people with the saving message of God's love in Christ; and

**WHEREAS,** Several such efforts have been initiated and/or realized in recent years by circuits, neighboring circuits, and partner congregations (ex. Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint; Shadow of the Cross Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills; and Journey, Oxford); and

**WHEREAS,** Regardless of what region or county a congregation or circuit may be located, the opportunity to reach the unchurched, de-churched, and non-Christian population is real and actionable; and

**WHEREAS,** Monies from the *Here We Stand* Campaign / Innovative Missional Ministries and other sources could be made available for such efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** The Holy Spirit can be trusted to work through His Word, by our witness of Christ, to transform the unbelieving heart; therefore be it

**Resolved,** That the congregations of the Michigan District be encouraged to intentionally seek to initiate new ministries in their respective communities through partnerships with sister congregations, such as mergers, multi-site parishes, or church plants; and be it further

**Resolved,** That congregations and circuits be encouraged to invite and engage the services of District Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators to assist with the new ministry efforts and that the District President shall communicate to the congregations of the District a plan to move this effort forward during the next triennium; and be it finally

- 1    **Resolved,** That a formal report of such collaborative efforts and new ministry starts be given at the 2025
- 2    Michigan District convention.
- 3
- 4    Submitted by:   Board of Directors, Michigan District



COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-09  
SUBJECT: To Commend the Concordia Market Resource Sharing  
Site

**WHEREAS,** God has blessed the church with a great diversity both in the people who gather and serve and the means of service; and

**WHEREAS,** We celebrate variety in ministry styles knowing that variety strengthens the church, as St. Paul said, *“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body...”* (1 Corinthians 12:12–14); and

**WHEREAS,** Locating quality, theologically sound resources for use in a specific context can be difficult; and

**WHEREAS,** Individuals and ministries that create quality Lutheran resources find it difficult to share their work with those who serve in God’s mission due to the complex algorithms used by modern search engines; and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia Market was created by members of the LCMS to serve as a resource collection and distribution point so that congregations and leaders may find theologically sound, culturally appropriate resources; and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia Market does not charge for resource creators to share their resources or for shoppers to purchase the resources, thereby enabling ministry to put more financial resources into their mission and ministry; therefore be it

**Resolved,** That we give thanks to God for the opportunity to fulfill our constitutional mandate of supporting one another as we walk together in a common confession; and be it further

**Resolved,** That we commend the developers of the resource sharing site, Concordia Market, for developing an online market to serve the church and Christ’s mission; and be it further

**Resolved,** That we encourage those who have created resources in service to the church and Christ’s mission to make their work available on Concordia Market. The resources to be shared are to include, but not be limited to, children’s ministry curricula, youth materials, worship resources, stewardship materials, and leadership development tools; and be it finally

**Resolved,** That we encourage congregations, schools, church workers, and congregational leaders to make use of the resources of Concordia Market as the opportunity arises.

Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-10  
4 SUBJECT: To Recognize the Historic Liturgy as Essential to the  
5 Missio Dei  
6  
7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), the foundation of the Missio Dei states: And  
9 Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go  
10 therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and  
11 of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with  
12 you always, to the end of the age."; and  
13  
14 **WHEREAS**, this Commission requires bringing all people into the Kingdom of God, or Church, by means  
15 of Word and Sacrament; and  
16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the Historic liturgy is the Word and Sacrament received by the people of God, as the LCMS  
18 Commission on Worship states ("What is Liturgy" p. 5) "[Liturgy] is the design or pattern through which  
19 the congregation gathers to hear and receive anew the Gospel promise in Word and Sacrament, and  
20 then respond collectively to the abundant gifts and gracious presence of the Triune God."; and  
21  
22 **WHEREAS**, this design or pattern is historically traceable and characterized by the Word and Sacrament,  
23 the use of Biblical language which teaches us how to pray, the transcendent quality putting the  
24 participant in a solemn rather than relaxed or light mood, and apprehended by the intellect (what  
25 humanity has in common with angels) rather than the affect (which humanity has in common with  
26 animals), and hierarchy in role and function as the Body of Christ St. Paul describes (I Cor.12:12-28); and  
27  
28 **WHEREAS**, elements of this liturgy are exhibited in the Revelation of St. John (amens, antiphonal singing,  
29 doxologies, offering placed before the throne, hymns, incense, maranathas, palm branches, prayers,  
30 prostration, robes, sacred meals, shouts of celebration, silence, thanksgiving, trumpet-blowing, victory  
31 songs); and  
32  
33 **WHEREAS**, liturgical forms and styles are attested by Patristic writers (Didache, Justin Martyr, Cyril of  
34 Jerusalem, St. Augustine, etc.); and  
35  
36 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy was practiced by successful missionaries from Patrick (Ireland), Cyril &  
37 Methodius (Slavs), Frumentius (Ethiopia), Boniface (Germany), Xavier (India & China), Marquette  
38 (American Indians), Muehlenberg (Colonial Americans), Loehe (19th Century Americans); and  
39  
40 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy is endorsed by the Lutheran Confessions (AC XXIV; FCSD VII); and  
41  
42 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy has shown its power as embodiment of the powerful Word of God in its  
43 effect on the emissaries of Vladimir of Kiev A.D. 988 who returned from Constantinople and they told  
44 him that when they stood in the church of Hagia Sophia (Holy Wisdom), they did not know "whether  
45 they were on earth or in heaven,"whereupon the conversion of Russia ensued; and  
46

1 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy was endorsed in LCMS first Constitution which stated as an object of  
2 Synod the "Greatest possible uniformity in worship and practice," still echoed in Art.III,7 of the present  
3 Constitution); and  
4  
5 **WHEREAS**, this this historic liturgy has characterized growing churches throughout the world (in order of  
6 size)- Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, conservative Anglican, and confessional Lutheran; and  
7  
8 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy has enabled the Russian Church to survive 70 years of atheistic  
9 totalitarianism so that 20% of the people identified as Christian even after decades of persecution; and  
10  
11 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy has characterized the Christian revival in the past generation in Russia  
12 from 20% Orthodox in 1998, to 70% in 2020 in one generation (it is reported that 200 church buildings  
13 were built in Moscow in 2021 alone); and  
14  
15 **WHEREAS**, Michigan District has emphasized outreach and missions characterized by indifference to  
16 the historic liturgy and our growth has actually reversed over the years of this indifference as witnessed  
17 by statistics even before Covid as our overall numbers have have shown a decline of 173,781 confirmed  
18 and 233,996 baptized members in 2000 to 128,280 confirmed (a 26% decline) and 161,557 baptized (a  
19 31% decline) in 2020 while the state population declined 2% and Roman Catholic numbers declined by  
20 about 5%; and  
21  
22 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy, by emphasizing the transcendent, is useful in ministering to persons  
23 present in spirit but unable to comprehend or feel, i.e., those with dementia, coma, developmental  
24 challenges; and  
25  
26 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy, by emphasizing the repetitive and predictable is useful to ministering to  
27 persons who cannot read --- small children, illiterate, the blind --- allowing them to participate with the  
28 Church's song; and  
29  
30 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy can provide many at the end of life comfort with things "familiar"; and  
31  
32 **WHEREAS**, this historic liturgy as authorized the LCMS is time-tested, culture-tested, theologically  
33 tested/correct/pure as certified by our own doctrinal reviewers; therefore be it  
34  
35 **Resolved**, that we of the Michigan District LCMS recognize the historic liturgy is an essential part of the  
36 Missio Dei; and be it further  
37  
38 **Resolved**, [That we use the historic Liturgy in teaching the faith to catechumens, inquirers, seekers, and  
39 missions of all kinds; and be it finally  
40  
41 **Resolved**, that we recognize that a variety of outreach methods may be appropriate to address felt  
42 needs of prospective believers, but these may not displace the historic liturgy as normative in the life of  
43 faith and practice of piety which is the goal for every convert to Christian faith.  
44  
45 Submitted by: St. John's Lutheran Church, Taylor, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-11  
4 SUBJECT: Christian Education  
5  
6  
7 **WHEREAS**, God directs us to take special care in training children (Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 19:14;  
8 Ephesians 6:4); and  
9  
10 **WHEREAS**, We have been blessed in the Michigan District to have 17,000+ infants through young adults  
11 in early childhood centers, parochial day schools, and parochial high schools throughout the state; and  
12  
13 **WHEREAS**, Our Church has had a strong heritage in education of children, specifically with Christian  
14 education along with strong catechetical instruction; and  
15  
16 **WHEREAS**, Our cultural forces both through social media and also within local school settings are  
17 promoting a world view at variance to the Christian faith with increasing stridency that only highlights  
18 the need for Christian education; and  
19  
20 **WHEREAS**, We have great resources at hand through existing Lutheran schools and early childhood  
21 centers, online resources, and other technological tools; therefore be it  
22  
23 **Resolved**, That congregations in our District should seek to expand or enhance current educational  
24 ministry opportunities to continue in the training of children through any of the following: supporting  
25 and strengthening existing Lutheran schools and early childhood centers, developing school  
26 associations, researching and instituting technology-aided one-room schools, looking for ways to  
27 provide online resources to homeschool parents or public school parents, and utilizing other creative  
28 avenues for extending the reach of Christian education; and be it further  
29  
30 **Resolved**, That the District staff focus on expanding the reach of Christian education resources into  
31 more congregations; and be it finally  
32  
33 **Resolved**, That the Convention acknowledges and thanks our Lutheran school educators for their  
34 dedication to sharing the love of Christ as well as Christians who are faithfully serving children and their  
35 families in local public schools.  
36  
37 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District



1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-12  
4 SUBJECT: To Encourage Congregations to Raise up New  
5 Commissioned and Ordained Church Workers  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS,** The number of both Commissioned and Ordained Candidates from our LCMS universities and  
9 seminaries continues to decline, causing a severe shortage of teachers in our Lutheran schools, pastors  
10 in our pulpits, and youth workers, education, family life and music specialists for our congregations; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS,** Not only is the supply of new church workers failing to keep up with the number of  
13 retirements of faithful long-time servants in the Church in existing ministries, but also new ministry  
14 opportunities are not being realized for lack of leadership; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS,** Our congregations are the primary places for nurturing the Christian faith among God's  
17 people as we live in communities shaped and informed by the Word of God and the Sacraments, and  
18 therefore can have the greatest influence to call one another into lives of Christian service; therefore be  
19 it  
20

21 **Resolved,** That each congregation of the Michigan District be encouraged to identify and raise up at  
22 least two students to be trained as a commissioned minister and at least one student to be trained as an  
23 ordained pastor in the next three years; and be it further  
24

25 **Resolved,** That congregations be encouraged to establish, or continue, programs to provide direct  
26 financial support to church work students from their respective congregations to assist students with  
27 education costs; and be it finally  
28

29 **Resolved,** That a method of reporting be developed by the Michigan District staff so that a report of  
30 progress may be provided to the 2025 District Convention.  
31

32 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-13  
4 SUBJECT: To Encourage Development of More Qualified Lay and  
5 Ordained Servant Leaders for the Care and Growth of  
6 Christ's Church  
7  
8  
9 **WHEREAS**, historical and biblical precedence for the diaconal office is plainly established in Scripture  
10 (Acts 6: 1-7; 1 Tim. 3: 1-8; and Phil. 1:1) to assist the Apostolic ministry of the Word; and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the Apostle Paul writing in 62AD refers to the office of Deacon as if it were a common and  
13 well-known reality (Phil. 1: 1); and  
14  
15 **WHEREAS**, specific qualifications for the diaconal office are established in 1 Timothy 3; and  
16  
17 **WHEREAS**, deacons are required to exhibit comparable ethics and deportment to that of elders and  
18 overseers (Tim. 3: 1-13); and  
19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the deacon Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch after articulating the Gospel (Acts 8:26-40)  
21 on the road to Gaza; and  
22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the deacon Stephen became the first martyr of the church after exhibiting exemplary  
24 knowledge and elocution of the Scriptures (Acts 7: 1-60); and  
25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the LCMS has acknowledged (1989) the need to create lay training programs in various  
27 districts to assist congregations "in exceptional circumstances or in emergencies" as shortages in  
28 available ordained pastors have left many congregations with out pastoral care and ministration (R-3-  
29 05b, 1989); and  
30  
31 **WHEREAS**, since 1989 quite a number of Districts have developed their own training programs to equip  
32 laymen to serve as deacons supervised by an ordained LCMS pastor; and  
33  
34 **WHEREAS**, the Council of Presidents specifically established requirements for the licensing and  
35 supervision of lay deacons to serve in the public ministry of Word and Sacrament; and  
36  
37 **WHEREAS**, an alarming number of congregations have declined in membership and can no longer afford  
38 a full-time pastor, but are still in need of regular ministration of Word and Sacrament; and  
39  
40 **WHEREAS**, our seminaries are also declining in the number of men training for the office of full-time  
41 pastors to fill the vacancies resulting from attrition and cultural insouciance towards the Gospel; and  
42  
43 **WHEREAS**, all ministry needs will increase in greater number as current spiritual, societal, and cultural  
44 malaise continues; and  
45  
46 **WHEREAS**, strictures are in place to provide guidance and oversight to congregations and lay deacons by  
47 District Presidents as representatives of the Synod; therefore be it  
48

1 **Resolved**, that lay training programs be encourage, enhanced and expanded; and efforts be made to  
2 identify and recruit qualified men to serve in this extraordinary and much needed ministry under the  
3 supervision and oversight of the respective District President; and be it further  
4

5 **Resolved**, that the respective district provide training and support in evangelism and church planting  
6 efforts included in the coursework of theological and ministry preparation already in use; and be it  
7 further  
8

9 **Resolved**, that the Council of Presidents continue to grant licensure for select deacons for Word and  
10 Sacrament Ministry pursuant to Resolution 13-02A (2016) the respective District President who is keenly  
11 aware of the need for licensure in a particular parish; and be it further  
12

13 **Resolved**, that the respective District President will advise that both the deacon, with the approval of  
14 the congregation, be required to enter an SMP or AR program of study to obtain ordination; and be it  
15 further  
16

17 **Resolved**, that our seminaries take into consideration theological knowledge and ministry experience as  
18 deacons make application for ordination to their seminary bestowing academic credit toward the  
19 student's degree; and be it finally  
20

21 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District formally commend this resolution for consideration and adoption at  
22 the 2023 Synodical Convention.  
23

24 Submitted by: St. Mark's Lutheran Church of the Irish Hills, Brooklyn

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-14  
4 SUBJECT: To Encourage and Support Existing Learning-In-  
5 Ministry, Non-Residential, Distance Programs Leading  
6 to Ordination  
7  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Jesus said, “The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the  
10 Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Jesus set an example of what a robust theological education looks like by teaching his  
13 disciples theology while they were, at the exact same time, engaged in real-world, real-time, hands-on  
14 ministry with him; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Apostle Paul educated and raised up new pastors and leaders by inviting them to join  
17 him and assist him and work alongside him in real-world, real-time, hands-on ministry; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, God is bringing thousands of new immigrants to our communities and thereby providing our  
20 congregations with new and vast harvest fields; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, our Michigan District pastors and congregations are identifying new potential pastoral  
23 leaders in and among these immigrant, non-Anglo communities; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the pool of men who are interested in and gifted for pastoral ministry and who are, at the  
26 same time, able to give up jobs, sell homes, and relocate their spouse and children to either St. Louis,  
27 Missouri or Ft. Wayne, Indiana continues to get smaller; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, our synodical seminaries have established a successful track record of providing distance  
30 theological education through the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP), Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology  
31 (EIIT), Cross-Cultural Ministry Center (CMC) and Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) programs; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, these non-residential, learning-in-ministry seminary programs support our district and its  
34 congregations in our joint efforts to cultivate leaders who are intentionally engaged in the mission of  
35 God; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, an unintended consequence of synod promoting residential seminary education as the  
38 preferred option for the preparation of men for pastoral ministry (2019 LCMS Resolution 6-02) is that  
39 non-residential, immigrant students receive, proportionally, a lower percentage of tuition aid from the  
40 seminary to cover the costs of their academic programs than do residential students; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, the demographics of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reveal a reduced pool of men to  
43 recruit for the ministry, which is estimated to result in a 50 percent reduction in the number of active  
44 pastors by 2032; therefore be it  
45

46 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention give thanks for the new pastors and leaders that God  
47 has been, and still is, raising up among us from our immigrant, non-Anglo communities, and be it further  
48



1 **Resolved,** That the District in convention encourage its pastors, leaders, and congregations to continue  
2 to cultivate, from our immigrant, non-Anglo communities, new leaders who are intentionally engaged in  
3 the mission of God, and be it further  
4

5 **Resolved,** That the District in convention encourage the seminaries to maintain and strengthen their  
6 non-residential, learning-in-ministry, distance programs, and be it further  
7

8 **Resolved,** That the District in convention encourage the seminaries to award financial aid more  
9 equitably to their non-residential, learning-in-ministry students, and be it finally  
10

11 **Resolved,** That the District hereby memorializes The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to adopt this, or  
12 similar resolutions, at its next convention.  
13

14 Submitted by: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Walled Lake and Wixom

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-15  
4 SUBJECT: To Create a Third Pathway for General Pastoral  
5 Colloquy for Members of LCMS Congregations Who  
6 Have Graduated With an Accredited Masters of Divinity  
7 Degree From a Non-LCMS Seminary  
8  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, God’s Word reminds us that it was Christ who gave the pastoral office to the church  
11 (Ephesians 4), and Jesus calls us to pray for additional workers in the harvest: *“When he (Jesus) saw the*  
12 *crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a*  
13 *shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray*  
14 *earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest’”* (Matthew 9:36–38, ESV); and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, According to the R66 report (2019 CW, 375-384) submitted to the 2019 convention, “The  
17 demographics of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reveal a reduced pool of men to recruit for the  
18 ministry, which is estimated to result in a 50 percent reduction in the number of active pastors by  
19 2032”; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, An analysis of demographics of pastors currently serving in the Michigan District revealed  
22 that 49% of those active in pastoral ministry in the Michigan District were over the age of 60, and the  
23 information collected for the 2021 *Ministry in the Midst of a Pandemic* survey indicated that, due to the  
24 pandemic, 8% of pastors near retirement age were considering retiring earlier than previously planned;  
25 and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has developed multiple paths to ordination as a  
28 general ordination pastor, including the creation of Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Ill., often called  
29 the ‘practical seminary,’ which was developed to meet the immediate need for ordained pastors in the  
30 growing LCMS; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, The current, non-residential route to ordination, the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) route,  
33 produces an ordained pastor whose service to District and Synod is restricted, including not being able  
34 to receive divine calls from congregations without restriction, to supervise other rostered church  
35 workers or vicars, to hold elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level such as a  
36 Circuit Visitor, or to be able to vote as delegates at the Synodical conventions of the church; and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, There are pathways by which pastors from church bodies outside The Lutheran Church—  
39 Missouri Synod who meet specific criteria may secure admission to the ministerium of the LCMS as  
40 general ordination pastors through Colloquy. This admission may be provided through a “colloquy”  
41 (discussion, interview) with the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry; and  
42

43 **WHEREAS**, The Policy Manual for Admission to the Pastoral Ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri  
44 Synod by Colloquy: Bylaws and Policies states that applicants for Colloquy must fit into one of two  
45 categories (the Colloquy Committee for the Pastoral Ministry is responsible for the final determination  
46 of the category in each individual situation):

1. Active pastors from other Christian church bodies: Men who at the time of application are in good standing and in active service as pastors in another Christian Church body / denomination may apply for colloquy.
2. Men who have prepared for pastoral ministry but, at the time of application, are not in active service as pastors: Such applicants must be graduates of a program of study that leads to ordination, from an accredited institution, with no fewer than 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of required academic credit. Applicants with prior pastoral service must provide the date (month and year) and the reason (e.g., retirement, resignation, dismissal) their active service ended. Such an applicant also must have been a communicant member in good standing in a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for at least two years immediately prior to the time of application. This category does not apply to LCMS members who, while members of LCMS congregations, have obtained Master of Divinity degrees outside the LCMS; and

**WHEREAS,** Men who have been long-time members in good standing in a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod but are graduates of programs of study leading to ordination from an accredited institution outside The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (meeting all the necessary academic credit requirements) are not afforded the same opportunity to apply for Colloquy, but must enroll in the Residential Alternative Route Program (requiring a two-year residential academic program at one of our two seminaries and a one-year vicarage) before becoming a general ordination pastor in the LCMS; therefore be it

**Resolved,** That because the need for additional pastors is so significant for the present and future mission and ministry of the congregations of the Michigan District and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Michigan District memorialize the 2023 LCMS Convention to create a third pathway for general pastoral colloquy that provides the opportunity for long-time members of LCMS congregations who have graduated from programs of study leading to ordination from outside the seminaries of the LCMS (satisfying all the necessary academic credit requirements) to become general ordination pastors by way of the Colloquy process, without enrolling in the Residential Alternative Route Program.

Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-16  
4 SUBJECT: To Commend the Asynchronous Deacon and Ministry  
5 Assistant Training Through the Michigan School of  
6 Missional Formation and to Encourage Greater  
7 Enrollment in Order to Train Additional Qualified  
8 Deacons and Ministry Assistants  
9  
10  
11 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has been a leader in training deacons since 1989 and has continued to  
12 expand and improve the quality and effectiveness of the training through the ongoing work of the  
13 Commission on Deacon Qualifications; and  
14  
15 **WHEREAS**, The 2016 national convention Resolution 13-02A encourages ongoing district training  
16 programs; and  
17  
18 **WHEREAS**, Many Michigan District congregations have and do benefit from the servant leadership of  
19 well-trained credentialed and licensed deacons; and  
20  
21 **WHEREAS**, Time and travel has often been cited as a major reason for a potential deacon student not to  
22 engage with the face-to-face course of study; and  
23  
24 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District Commission on Deacon Qualification (CDQ) was challenged to provide  
25 effective training opportunities for a large geographic district; and  
26  
27 **WHEREAS**, God, in His mercy, working through the COVID pandemic, pressed the CDQ and its faculty to  
28 find a new way to effectively train deacon students in the Bible, Lutheran Doctrine, and ministry  
29 disciplines of Christian Outreach, education, etc.; and  
30  
31 **WHEREAS**, Such an asynchronous method of training has been established, using our Michigan District,  
32 LCMS terminal-degreed faculty who are faithful to the inspired Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions  
33 drawn from them; and that method was found to qualify as a master's degree program on the Sioux  
34 Falls Seminary platform; and  
35  
36 **WHEREAS**, The opportunity now exists for lay men and women from across the Synod and around the  
37 world to be trained through our Michigan School of Missional Formation for greater service in their  
38 respective congregations; therefore be it  
39  
40 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention thank God for the ongoing work of the Commission  
41 on Deacon Qualification and the faculty of said school; and be it further  
42  
43 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention give thanks to God for the expertise, experience, and  
44 tireless efforts of the late Rev. Dr. John Herzog while serving as the CDQ's Dean of Instruction during this  
45 transition to asynchronous learning model, and be it further  
46  
47 **Resolved**, That the training provided through the Michigan School of Missional Formation be  
48 commended to the congregations of the District and each congregation be encouraged to prayerfully



1 identify one or more men from among their membership to be raised up and trained as deacons and  
2 one or more women from among their membership be raised up and trained as ministry assistants  
3 through said school; and be it finally  
4  
5 **Resolved,** That the ongoing services of well-trained deacons and ministry assistants, under the  
6 supervision of ordained pastors, continue to be encouraged and celebrated in the Michigan District.  
7  
8 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-17  
4 SUBJECT: To Encourage Development of Additional Qualified Lay  
5 and Ordained Servant Leaders for the Care and Growth  
6 of Christ's Church  
7  
8  
9 **WHEREAS,** There is a clear biblical foundation for the role of deacon as a support to the Apostolic  
10 ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:1–7); and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS,** The deacon Stephen, before his being stoned to death as the first Christian martyr,  
13 demonstrated that he was well-versed in the Scriptures as he bore testimony to the Christ of God and  
14 God's purpose and will in sending His Son for the salvation of mankind by His cross and resurrection  
15 (Acts 7); and  
16  
17 **WHEREAS,** The deacon Philip was used by God in both Word and Sacrament ministry as he exegeted the  
18 Isaiah passage for the Ethiopian eunuch on the Gaza Road, thereby pointing him to the Christ, and then  
19 baptized him into Christ (Acts 8:26–40); and  
20  
21 **WHEREAS,** Deacons are to have similar personal, spiritual, moral, and relational requirements as those  
22 who hold the office of Bishops or "Overseer" (Compare 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and 1 Timothy 3:8–13); and  
23  
24 **WHEREAS,** All of God's chosen people have been called to be a "kingdom of priests" (Exodus 19:5) or a  
25 "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9) in service to our God as we serve and give witness to His saving work  
26 among the "nations"; and  
27  
28 **WHEREAS,** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod already in 1989 recognized the need to develop  
29 intentional lay training programs in synodical Districts to equip men as deacons to help meet the needs  
30 of existing congregations "in exceptional circumstances or in emergencies" as the Synod faced the  
31 looming shortage of seminary-trained men for the Office of the Holy Ministry (Resolution 3-05B, 1989);  
32 and  
33  
34 **WHEREAS,** The same resolution was passed for the expressed purpose of guarding Article XIV of our  
35 Lutheran Confessions, as Dr. Samuel H. Nafziger stated in his address to the 1989 delegates, "The  
36 adoption of Resolution 3-05B does not initiate a single new practice in the doctrine of the ministry of the  
37 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It will, however, initiate proper supervision of those practices we  
38 have long recognized as being consistent with our understanding of the doctrine of the ministry" (1989  
39 Convention Proceedings, p. 114), even as the resolution also expressed our common understanding of  
40 the Office of the Ministry as framed by C.F.W. Walther; and  
41  
42 **WHEREAS,** Since 1989 several Districts have indeed developed formal and consistent training programs  
43 to properly equip laymen to serve as deacons as requested by their respective congregations and  
44 supervised by an ordained LCMS pastor; and  
45  
46 **WHEREAS,** Subsequent faithful efforts by the Council of Presidents have clearly framed the  
47 requirements for the licensing and supervision of lay deacons asked, or required by needs of a  
48 congregation, to serve in the public proclamation of the Word and administration of the Sacraments,

1 and such requirements also clearly direct the district president who exercises conscientious  
2 ecclesiastical supervision over all the congregations and workers in his respective district, to particularly  
3 review each ministry context where a deacon is asked to serve, along with reviewing the deacon himself  
4 (if not directly, then through the supervising pastor or other appropriate means); and  
5

6 **WHEREAS,** A growing number of Synod congregations have significantly declined and are not able to  
7 financially support a full-time pastor, and many of these same congregations are geographically distant  
8 or culturally distinct from a sister congregation, but are still in need of consistent Word and Sacrament  
9 ministry; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS,** Only a small percentage of the required pastors needed to replace those pastors who resign,  
12 die, retire, or otherwise no longer serve as ordained workers in our congregations are entering and  
13 matriculating through our seminaries; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS,** New mission starts are also hampered by the lack of manpower produced by our seminaries;  
16 and  
17

18 **WHEREAS,** Synod Resolution 13-02A (2016) encouraged the continuation of District deacon training  
19 programs; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS,** Synod Resolution 3-05B (1989) has not been rescinded and therefore is still an active resolve  
22 of the Synod enabling district presidents to train and “license” qualified deacons for Word and  
23 Sacrament ministry “in exceptional circumstances or in emergencies” under the supervision of an  
24 ordained pastor; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS,** Synod Resolution 13-02A (2016) sought to “Regularize Status of Licensed Lay Deacons  
27 Involved in Word and Sacrament Ministry” by providing a process toward ordination through regional  
28 colloquy for licensed deacons to be rostered as Specialized Ministry Pastors; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS,** It has been reported by members of the Regional Colloquy Committees that the deacons  
31 consistently performed well in the colloquy process, demonstrating their biblical, confessional and  
32 ministry acumen; and  
33

34 **WHEREAS,** All the ministry needs and opportunities noted above will persist and become even more  
35 acute as enrollment in our seminary residential M.Div. programs languishes numerically; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS,** We have every reason to trust those who have been elected to serve as district presidents,  
38 and have charged them with appropriate ecclesiastical oversight for their congregations and workers to  
39 provide such oversight as agents of Synod; therefore be it  
40

41 **Resolved,** That such district lay training endeavors be celebrated, encouraged to continue, and  
42 expanded in an effort to develop more and more capable, well-trained, and qualified deacons to serve in  
43 unique ministry settings under the supervision of ordained pastors of the LCMS, along with the faithful  
44 ecclesiastical oversight of the respective district president; and be it further  
45

46 **Resolved,** That such district training endeavors provide training for, and encouragement in, evangelism  
47 and church planting along with the course of theological and ministry preparation already outlined and  
48 in use; and be it further

1 **Resolved,** That with respect to Resolution 13-02A (2016), the Council of Presidents continue to grant  
2 licensure for select deacons for Word and Sacrament Ministry as recommended by the immediate  
3 district president, who is best positioned to recognize the need for such licensure in a particular ministry  
4 context; and be it further  
5  
6 **Resolved,** That with respect to Resolution 13-02A (2016), in such cases as mentioned in the previous  
7 resolve, the respective district president will direct the deacon, with the support of the congregation, to  
8 enter into one of our seminaries' Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) or Alternate Route (AR) programs of  
9 study toward ordination; and be it further  
10  
11 **Resolved,** That our seminaries, recognizing the value of such district training, intentionally take into  
12 account both theological and ministry acumen that recognized deacons have acquired through their  
13 district training and ministry experience as said deacons make application for any formal route to  
14 ordination through their institutions, and thereby give appropriate academic credit toward the student's  
15 degree or certification; and be it further  
16  
17 **Resolved,** That, with respect to Resolution 13-02A (2016), the "door" remain open for deacons, licensed  
18 or credentialed, who have served for two or more years and are 55 years of age or older to seek  
19 ordination through colloquy, and thereby, roster status as a Specialized Ministry Pastor (SMP), and as  
20 such will remain under the supervision of an (general) ordained pastor of the LCMS; and be it finally  
21  
22 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District formally memorialize this resolution for consideration and adoption  
23 at the 2023 Synodical Convention.  
24  
25 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN MISSION, MINISTRY, AND FUTURE  
2 KINGDOM ENDEAVORS  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-18  
4 SUBJECT: Distance Learning for Training of Pastors and Deacons  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Christ's command to evangelism (MT 28) requires training and placement of Church Workers  
8 to administer Word and Sacrament; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Church Workers, particularly from minority groups are under-represented in our churches;  
11 and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Mission fields, particularly in Urban and Inner-City environments are not adequately being  
14 reached; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Minority candidates for both the Deacon program and for our seminaries are dissuaded by  
17 the arduous time, family and financial burdens of the current seminary system; therefore be it  
18

19 **Resolved**, That the Michigan School of Missional Formation Program be commended for its innovative  
20 and flexible approach to educating and deploying deacons; and be it further  
21

22 **Resolved**, That our seminaries develop a pastoral development curriculum leading to an MDiv  
23 employing two years of distance learning, one year of on campus pastoral formation, and one year of  
24 vicarage; and be it finally  
25

26 **Resolved**, That our seminaries develop a curriculum to educate and train SMP pastors with a goal of  
27 earning an MDiv involving no more than a year of on campus training.  
28



1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-01  
4 SUBJECT: To Strengthen the Nonvoting Advisory Delegate  
5 Participation at (District) Conventions  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Currently, there are 12,010 Ministers of Religion – Commissioned (Church Worker Update  
9 System, March 2021) who serve the mission and ministry of congregations, schools, child development  
10 centers, camps, compassion centers, and mission work throughout the national and global mission  
11 fields; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The current structure of the Synod does not allow Ministers of Religion – Commissioned to  
14 serve as voting delegates for their congregations or electoral circuits at District and Synod conventions  
15 (Synod Handbook: Article IX, Article XII.10.b); and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The Synod highly values commissioned ministers for their eagerness to serve the Lord and  
18 His Church (2019 Resolution 9-17, “To Study Voting Privilege in the LCMS” p.201 of 2019 LCMS  
19 Convention Proceedings); and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Ministers of Religion – Commissioned are considered Advisory Members with  
22 representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of districts and are represented by advisory delegates  
23 (Bylaw 3.1.3) with representation, voice, but no vote at conventions of the Synod; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, The limited time of debate and a quick call of the question on many resolutions doesn’t allow  
26 the advisory delegates to actually advise the convention; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, At least one other district (Northern Illinois) utilizes the voice and guidance of their  
29 commissioned workers in district convention through an advisory vote; and  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, This honors the bylaw and structure of the convention while allowing the Nonvoting Advisory  
32 Delegate voice to be heard and their vote recognized; therefore, be it  
33

34 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District enable advisory delegates to provide an advisory vote during its  
35 regular convention; and be it further  
36

37 **Resolved**, That the results of the advisory vote be published prior to the vote of the voting delegates;  
38 and be it finally  
39

40 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to pass a like-  
41 minded resolution.  
42

43 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-02  
4 SUBJECT: To Thank God for Church Extension Fund's 120 Years of  
5 Service to the Church  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS,** For 120 years, Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District has faithfully served the  
9 Michigan District by providing financial expertise and wisdom with ministry-driven funding for the  
10 churches, schools, and ministries of the District; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS,** Church Extension Fund has consistently blended its financial responsibilities with ministering  
13 care and concern for the individual congregations of the District; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS,** God has provided outstanding leadership to guide Church Extension Fund through the years,  
16 and has continued that leadership through the work of Jim Saalfeld, John Bates, Andy Sohn, and all of  
17 the Church Extension Fund staff; therefore be it  
18

19 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in Convention thank the Lord of the Church for the work of Church  
20 Extension Fund, and further thank God for those who have led and currently lead Church Extension Fund  
21 in its service to the Lord and Church.  
22

23 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-03  
4 SUBJECT: To Affirm Church Extension Fund as the Preferred  
5 Provider of Ministry Loans, and to Encourage Continued  
6 Investment With CEF  
7  
8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
10 (“CEF”) has been in existence since 1901, serving the needs of Michigan District congregations, schools  
11 and other ministries by accepting investments and providing loans to help build the Kingdom in  
12 Michigan; and  
13  
14 **WHEREAS**, congregations of the Michigan District and their members have invested more than One  
15 Billion Dollars (\$1,000,000,000) with CEF over this 120 year period, with CEF proving competitive rates  
16 of return and meeting all withdrawal requests; and  
17  
18 **WHEREAS**, congregations, schools and other ministries of the Michigan District have borrowed more  
19 than Five Hundred Million Dollars (\$500,000,000) during this 120 year period to help acquire, build and  
20 improve thousands of buildings and to help support operations which are used to proclaim the Gospel of  
21 Christ; and  
22  
23 **WHEREAS**, CEF has awarded the Michigan District and its congregations, schools and other ministries  
24 more than Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) in grants over this 120 year period to encourage,  
25 promote and enhance ministry and mission within the Michigan District; and  
26  
27 **WHEREAS**, CEF has offered and paid for various services provided to the congregations, schools and  
28 other ministries of the Michigan District during this 120 year period, including Excel in Giving, Gift  
29 Planning Services, and Investment Rebate - all designed to help enhance ministry and connect more  
30 people to Jesus; therefore be it  
31  
32 **Resolved**, that the congregations, schools and other ministries of the Michigan District celebrate with  
33 CEF on the occasion of its 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its existence; and be it further  
34  
35 **Resolved**, that the congregations, schools and other ministries of the Michigan District affirm that CEF is  
36 the preferred provider of ministry loans within the Michigan District, and encourage its members and  
37 organizations to invest with CEF to help continue this long history whereby CEF is helping to build the  
38 Kingdom in Michigan.  
39  
40 Submitted by: Board of Trustees – Church Extension Fund

COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-04  
SUBJECT: To Initiate a Student Debt Assistance Program for  
LCMS Commissioned Minister – Teacher

**WHEREAS,** Our Lutheran schools struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the classrooms of our high schools, elementary schools, and child development centers; and

**WHEREAS,** Concordia Plan Services reported in 2021 that 27% of LCMS workers have student debt that averages \$46,000 per student; and

**WHEREAS,** The reality of student loan debt within our Lutheran school system, on top of already lower Lutheran school teacher salaries as compared to public school teachers, is an important part of the decision to seek employment outside our Lutheran schools; and

**WHEREAS,** It is a value that we fill our Lutheran schools with rostered workers; therefore be it

**Resolved,** That the Michigan District memorialize the Synod in Convention with the above WHEREAS statements and the following Resolves:

**Resolved,** That a National Lutheran Teacher Student Debt Assistance Program be developed that recognizes the service of Lutheran teachers through student loan payment assistance; and be it further

**Resolved,** That a committee comprised of members of the Education Department of the Concordia University System, LCMS School Ministry, Concordia Plan Services, The LCMS Foundation, and the Council of Presidents develops the assistance program; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the established committee look into the Federal Student Loan Forgiveness Program as current and future Lutheran educators are eligible to participate in this program; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the established committee also encourage and promote Financial Peace University or other related financial literacy classes for current and future educators; and be it further

**Resolved,** That a special, designated offering to establish this program be taken during the National Lutheran Schools Weeks of 2024, 2025, and 2026; and be it finally

**Resolved,** That reports of this work be provided through regular communications of the Synod.

Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-05  
4 SUBJECT: Regarding the Future of Our Concordias  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities have long been beloved and treasured by the members and  
8 member congregations of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and a vital part of the communities in  
9 which they are located; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities have historically been at the very heart of our Synod’s stated  
12 identity and purpose (Synodical Constitution, Article III Objectives (3) Recruit and train pastors, teachers  
13 and other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continued growth; and (5) Aid  
14 congregations to develop processes of thorough Christian education and nurture and to establish  
15 agencies of Christian education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support synodical  
16 colleges, universities, and seminaries); and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities not only exist to train professional church workers but also to  
19 train Christian laymen and laywomen who will be godly and influential leaders in their workplaces,  
20 communities, churches, and families; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ calls His followers to be salt and light in the world at large and not only  
23 in safe, homogeneous communities (Matthew 5:13–16); and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, Many of our six remaining Concordia Universities (on seven residential campuses) give our  
26 Synod a valuable foothold in increasingly diverse, multicultural, and urban settings where the Church’s  
27 presence is in many cases not especially prominent in the 21st century; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities, by their very existence, have the potential to bring the mission  
30 field to our Synod’s doorstep and to provide safe places for difficult theological and cultural issues to be  
31 openly and honestly engaged; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, Our Synod is filled with many generous givers and donors with the means and/or the desire  
34 to lend needed financial support to our Concordia Universities if called upon to do so; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Our God Himself is *“able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think”* (Ephesians  
37 3:20), even though we may not always be immediately able to identify a viable solution; therefore be it  
38

39 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District investigate opportunities for how it can provide support (prayer,  
40 church worker and other student recruitment, financial, etc.) to help ensure the continuation of the  
41 residential campus of Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA) located within its own District; and be it  
42 further  
43

44 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention memorialize the Synod at its 2023 Convention to  
45 affirm our commitment, as far as humanly possible, not to allow any more of our remaining Concordia  
46 Universities to close their doors before first exploring all possible avenues to assist them to remain open  
47 and to continue to fulfill their missions; and be it further  
48



1 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod at its 2023 Convention to  
2 instruct synodical leadership to refuse to take any future action(s) with respect to our six remaining  
3 Concordia Universities without being fully transparent with the professional church workers and the lay  
4 membership of the entire Synod's congregations regarding any course of action being considered, prior  
5 to any such course of action being carried out, and without first giving the members and member  
6 congregations of the Synod every opportunity to respond to such a potential course of action in  
7 generosity and/or with creativity; and be it finally  
8

9 **Resolved,** With respect to the three Concordia Colleges and Universities that have unfortunately closed  
10 their doors in recent years (Selma, Portland, and Bronxville), that the Michigan District in Convention  
11 memorialize the Synod in its 2023 Convention to ask synodical leadership to humbly and publicly  
12 acknowledge that, both within the Colleges' and Universities' respective communities and across the  
13 entire Synod, deep hurt was caused and trust in synodical leadership was damaged by those closures  
14 that might possibly have been avoided if the members and member congregations of the Synod had first  
15 been given the opportunity to have some kind of a voice before the closures were finalized. This would  
16 permit healing to begin and our Synod as a whole to further unite behind a renewed commitment to  
17 keep the doors of our six remaining Concordia Universities open as long as our gracious God sees fit, to  
18 His glory, honor, and praise.  
19

20 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-06  
4 SUBJECT: The CUS/CUE Proposed Governance Model  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS in convention adopted 2019 Resolution 7-03 To Direct a  
7 Collaborative Process to Propose a New Governance Plan with respect to University Education; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, 2019 Resolution 7-03 resolved “That the proposed new governance plan specifically address  
10 the objectives of 2013 Res. 5-01A and 2016 Res. 7-02B by continuing to:

- 11 • strengthen all Concordia University System (CUS) institutions’ connection to the Synod;
- 12 • strengthen the confessional Lutheran identity of all CUS institutions;
- 13 • review the composition, size, and selection of boards of regent (BOD)s;
- 14 • review the process for selecting presidents of institutions;
- 15 • review the overall governance of CUS and the boards of regents of the CUS institutions;
- 16 • review the financial models for the institutions”; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, 2019 Resolution 7-03 further resolved “That a report on the initial governance model  
19 proposals be disseminated to the Synod for a six-month period of comment commencing not later than  
20 15 months prior to the start of the 2022 convention of the Synod; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, At the February 19, 2021 meeting of the LCMS Board of Directors (BOD), the Board approved  
23 dissemination of the initial governance model proposal, “setting the stage” for the “built-in six-month  
24 period of comment by the Synod’s congregations, districts and circuits, the universities themselves, and  
25 others” (*Reporter*, March 8, 2021); and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, The governance model proposal is a 27-page document of By-law changes that have been  
28 and continue to be reviewed by the presidents and BOR of the universities in the CUS; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, This review has produced findings, among them being:

- 31 • An appreciation of the hard work that the Resolution 7-03 committee has done to review and  
32 evaluate the current structure and bylaws and create a new structure that serves the church  
33 and its needs.
- 34 • Giving to the boards of regents unfettered authority and responsibility in the business matters  
35 of the school (Section A, page 3, lines 15-16).
- 36 • Defining the universities as affiliates of the church rather than agencies (Section B).
- 37 • Providing an ecclesial accreditation process by which the schools demonstrate their  
38 commitment to being and remaining Lutheran (Section C).
- 39 • Creating structures and opportunities by which church worker programs at LCMS colleges and  
40 universities can be strengthened and sustained (Section D); and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, This review has produced concerns, among them being:

- 43 • That while the new governance model allows greater autonomy to universities with respect to  
44 “left hand kingdom” responsibilities, the new bylaws are highly prescriptive and give large  
45 measures of control outside the local BOR, particularly the selection of members of the BOR.  
46 The concerns for both universities and Synod alike are diminishing any true legal separation  
47 and increasing any ascending liability rather than reducing it as intended.

- That the Commission for University Education (CUE) can not only and exclusively remove an elected board of regents (BOR) member for training deficiencies but can force a local BOR to remove an appointed BOR member for the same.
- That the prior approval panel, with a disproportionate amount of influence by the CUE, creates the list of presidential nominees from which the BOR may select their president vs. the BOR creating and narrowing a list of nominees to be vetted and approved by the prior approval panel.
- That the LCMS BOD, in consultation with the CUE, can specify, amend, or rescind the benefits of affiliation from time to time without the consultation of the local BOR, creating an unclear future for universities legally, financially, strategically, and missionally, and doing the same to students themselves.
- That the CUE's decisions regarding accreditation with respect to Lutheran identity and mission outcome standards may not be appealed. Regional (secular) accreditors all have an appeal process in place that is outlined and known; and

**WHEREAS**, This review has produced questions, among them being:

- How might the reality of today's students and the schools as a mission field be more prominent and celebrated in the Preamble and throughout?
- It appears that the workload of the CUE is even greater than the CUS. How will that work be resourced? What will be any added costs to the church and/or schools over time? What is meant by "direct costs" in terms of accreditation visits and board training?
- What happens when the CUS is dissolved? What entities would retain any remaining assets or liabilities? How will all the endowment funds currently overseen by the CUS be managed? As members of the CUS, would the schools now be liable for any debt that might remain? What are the legal implications of dissolving the CUS?
- What is the difference between being accredited and affiliated? Can a university be affiliated and not accredited?
- While an institution is on probation for up to five years, it can no longer certify graduates for placement on the LCMS roster. How do those students become certified for placement? Additionally, while a church work program is on probation for up to three years, would students within the program need to transfer to a Concordia with an accredited program?; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan District Board of Directors (MI BOD) responded to the LCMS 2019 Resolution 7-03 Committee request for comments, in a letter dated August 17, 2021, expressing their concern over proposed changes to the governance model for our Concordias; and

**WHEREAS**, the current and former chief executives of the Concordias have publicly shared their concerns and recommend rescinding the policy; and

**WHEREAS**, the MI BOD has examined these concerns and concurs with the executives of the Concordias; and

**WHEREAS**, these concerns need to be addressed in an open and transparent manner throughout Synod before any changes to our governance model are made; therefore be it

- 1    **Resolved** that the Michigan District memorialize The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod 2023 convention
- 2    that until these concerns are addressed, the implementation of the findings of the LCMS 2019 Res. 7-03
- 3    committee should be dismissed.
- 4
- 5    Submitted by:   Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-07  
4 SUBJECT: To Rescind Resolution 5-08 of the 2013 Synodical  
5 Convention Regarding Prior Approval  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS,** The intent of Resolution 5-08 of the 65th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—  
9 Missouri Synod, held in St. Louis, Missouri July 20–25, 2013, was to “create mutual understanding and  
10 reduce mismatched expectations later in the process” in an effort to streamline the election process for  
11 college and university presidents in the LCMS; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS,** The mutual understanding that was sought has not been found; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS,** The prior approval process has resulted in delays in electing presidents at Concordia,  
16 Portland (now closed); Concordia, Texas; and Concordia, Wisconsin and Ann Arbor; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS,** The Board of Regents at each of those institutions has expressed frustration and  
19 disappointment that many of the candidates who met the criteria developed by the Board of Regents  
20 and who were submitted for approval were removed from the list of approved candidates; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS,** This has created tension and has resulted in a lack of trust in our church body due to a lack of  
23 transparency and the concentration of power in a very limited number of people; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS,** The fact that an institution’s Board of Regents is not allowed to exercise full authority in the  
26 choosing of the President of that institution would seem to jeopardize its standing before accrediting  
27 bodies; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS,** The lack of independence of an institution and the level of involvement by “Synod Inc.” in  
30 the election of an institution’s president has been characterized as making Synod a corporate hierarchy,  
31 thereby placing Synod in fiscal jeopardy as it could be the subject of lawsuits (as has already happened  
32 in the case of Concordia, Portland); and  
33

34 **WHEREAS,** Such liability at best diverts monies from mission and at worst threatens the very existence  
35 of our beloved Synod; therefore be it  
36

37 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in Convention memorializes The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
38 to rescind Resolution 5-08 of the 2013 Synodical Convention; and be it finally  
39

40 **Resolved,** That included in that rescission be a resolution that the previous process for electing the  
41 president of a college or university be utilized until (or if) another process is put into place by a future  
42 convention of the LCMS.  
43

44 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District



1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-08  
4 SUBJECT: Concordia University  
5  
6  
7 **WHEREAS**, The Ann Arbor Campus of Concordia Wisconsin is located in Michigan; therefore be it  
8  
9 **Resolved**, That the President of the Michigan District is appointed to the CUW Board of Regents as a  
10 voting member; and be it finally  
11  
12 **Resolved**, That as a member of the board, the Michigan District President has a vote in the selection of  
13 the CUW/CUAA President.  
14  
15 Submitted by: The 2021 All Pastors Conference

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-09  
4 SUBJECT: To Adjust Michigan District Circuits  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The 2018 Michigan District Convention resolved that “existing circuit alignment is affirmed  
8 and retained in support of ongoing and future commitment to Living as God’s Saved and Sent Servants”  
9 and charged “the Board of Directors to develop a process to keep the circuit in compliance with the  
10 Synodical bylaws” (Resolution 2-11); and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Visitation circuits provide an important geographic connection for sister congregations and  
13 pastors to work collaboratively to more effectively carry out the Great Commission to make disciples of  
14 all people; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Long-standing relationships among congregations in existing visitation circuits are a  
17 blessing and should be encouraged, and any realignment of congregations in circuits should seek to  
18 cause as little disruption in such relationships as possible; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.1.2a states: “An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent  
21 visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following  
22 requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an  
23 aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000”; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, It has been the custom of the Michigan District to establish visitation circuits that are large  
26 enough to also be electoral circuits without combining with an adjacent circuit; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, The following thirteen visitation circuits currently are either unable to be or (\*)nearly unable  
29 to be electoral circuits on their own:

30 Circuit 2 – Alpena \*  
31 Circuit 3 – Timberline  
32 Circuit 4 – Gladwin  
33 Circuit 11 – Flint North \*  
34 Circuit 13 – Lapeer \*  
35 Circuit 20 – Detroit East  
36 Circuit 21 – Detroit West  
37 Circuit 25 – Dearborn  
38 Circuit 28 – Milan  
39 Circuit 31 – Petoskey  
40 Circuit 34 – Big Rapids  
41 Circuit 37 – Tri River  
42 Circuit 44 – South Central; and  
43

44 **WHEREAS**, The Board of Directors of the Michigan District (BOD) laid out the following seven  
45 guiding principles for its convention-appointed work:

- 46 1) Relationships in circuits are good and pleasing, minimum disruption is a good thing;  
47 2) Shared geographic mission work is important;

- 1 3) We are governed by synodical rules on circuits; thus, we will need to make changes to  
2 our circuits at times (bylaw 3.1.2);  
3 4) We need to keep in mind that there is a difference between visitation and electoral circuits;  
4 5) Communication is vital to make these changes;  
5 6) We rely on the staff to share with us electoral circuits that are no longer in compliance, or  
6 close to not being in compliance with synodical rules;  
7 7) Communication with our pastors and congregations is vitally important; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The BOD has, through its committee formed for this study, sought input from congregations  
10 through a District-wide mailing to both congregation presidents and pastors in the fall of 2019 and 2020,  
11 sought input from circuit visitors at 2019, 2020, and 2021 circuit visitor conferences, received over 30  
12 responses from pastors, congregations, and circuits, and considered these responses as it developed a  
13 plan for potential circuit realignment with minimal disruption of existing fruitful relationships among  
14 cooperating congregations; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Congregations and pastors, including those that will be in a new circuit following the passage  
17 of this resolution, are free to associate and collaborate in mission/ministry with any sister congregation  
18 or fellow pastor regardless of circuit alignment; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, All Nations, Clinton Township and Heart of the Shepherd, Howell would be better served  
21 with closer congregations geographically; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Such circuit changes need to be brought to the District Convention for approval; therefore be  
24 it  
25

26 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District give thanks and praise for the relationships and ministry in the  
27 Alpena, Dearborn, and Tri Rivers circuits as it consolidates these circuits into neighboring circuits; and be  
28 it further  
29

30 **Resolved**, that the following circuits be renamed:  
31

Circuit Number	Current Name	New Circuit Name
32 1	Mackinaw Straits	Mackinac Straits
33 21	Detroit West	Dearborn / Detroit;
34		
35	And be it finally	
36		

37 **Resolved**, that the following changes be made to Michigan District circuits:  
38

Congregation	Current Circuit	Moves to Circuit
39 St. John Lutheran Church, Hillman	2 – Alpena	1 – Mackinac Straits
40 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Posen	2 – Alpena	1 – Mackinac Straits
41 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alpena	2 – Alpena	1 – Mackinac Straits
42 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ossineke	2 – Alpena	1 – Mackinac Straits
43 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hubbard Lake	2 – Alpena	3 – Timberline
44 Living Water Lutheran Church, Mio	2 – Alpena	3 – Timberline
45 Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lewiston	2 – Alpena	31 – Petoskey *
46		
47 St. John Lutheran Church, Pinconning	6 – Bay City	4 – Gladwin
48		

1	St. Philip, Owosso	10 – Saginaw	11 – Flint North
2	Faith, Bridgeport	10 – Saginaw	11 – Flint North
3			
4	St. Andrew, Memphis	14 – Port Huron	13 – Lapeer
5			
6	All Nations, Clinton Township	16 – Macomb NW	19 – Macomb South
7			
8	St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Detroit	21 – Detroit West	20 – Detroit East *
9	Nazareth Lutheran Church, Detroit	21 – Detroit West	20 – Detroit East *
10			
11	Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dearborn	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
12	Guardian Lutheran Church, Dearborn	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
13	St. Michael Lutheran Church, Wayne	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
14	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Westland	25 – Dearborn	21 – Dearborn / Detroit
15			
16	Peace Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor	29 – Ann Arbor	28 – Milan
17			
18	Heart of the Shepherd, Howell	35 – Capitol	26 – Kensington
19			
20	Bethel Lutheran Church, Howard City	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
21	Resurrection Lutheran Church, Sand Lake	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
22	Hope Lutheran Church, Stanton	37 – Tri River	34 – Big Rapids
23	Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Belding	37 – Tri River	40 – Grand Rapids N Central
24	Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Greenville	37 – Tri River	40 – Grand Rapids N Central
25	St. John Lutheran Church, Ionia	37 – Tri River	41 – Grand Rapids SW
26	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lowell	37 – Tri River	41 – Grand Rapids SW
27			
28	St. Paul Lutheran Church, Albion	42 – Battle Creek	44 – South Central
29	St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Three Rivers	42 – Battle Creek	44 – South Central
30			
31	* Also changes region.		
32			
33	Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District		

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-10  
4 SUBJECT: Change Electoral Circuit Requirement  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.1.2.(a) states: "An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent  
8 visitation circuits, as determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following  
9 requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an  
10 aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000"; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The confirmed membership of many congregations in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
13 (LCMS) has been declining, thus also reducing the aggregate confirmed membership in circuits; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, There is often change in the number of congregations within visitation circuits due to  
16 mergers or closures; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The necessity of making fewer electoral circuits due to visitation circuits barely missing the  
19 current minimum requirements of size to be an electoral circuit on their own creates fewer  
20 opportunities for these congregations and circuits to have direct representatives at a Synod convention  
21 to both participate as delegates in the convention and to bring back initiatives and resolutions of the  
22 Synod to the congregations of the circuit(s); and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Districts from time to time realign visitation circuits in order to avoid the necessity of  
25 combining visitation circuits into electoral circuits; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Such realignment is sometimes necessary each triennium, despite the fact that, in the  
28 following triennium, aggregate confirmed membership may increase and additional member  
29 congregations may join circuits that are too small to be electoral circuits on their own currently; and  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, Such realignment can adversely affect long-term relationships, which provide an important  
32 geographic connection for sister congregations and pastors to work collaboratively to more effectively  
33 carry out the Great Commission to make disciples of all people; therefore be it  
34

35 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention submit to the 2023 LCMS Convention an overture  
36 with the above stated WHEREAS statements and the following Resolved statement:  
37

38 **Resolved**, That Bylaw 3.1.2.(a) be amended to state, "An electoral circuit shall consist either of  
39 one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as determined by the district board of directors for the  
40 first Synod convention of each decade on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of  
41 delegates shall represent from ~~7~~ 5 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate  
42 confirmed membership ranging from ~~1,500~~ 1,000 to 10,000. Such electoral circuits shall remain  
43 valid for that decade."  
44

45 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District



1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-11  
4 SUBJECT: To Spell the Name of Circuit #1 of the District as the  
5 "Mackinac Straits Circuit."  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, only Mackinaw City is spelled with a "w" at the end of the word "Mackinaw"; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Mackinac Straits, Mackinac Island, Mackinac County, Mackinac Trail, Fort Mackinac, Fort  
11 Michilimackinac (in Mackinaw City), and the Mackinac Bridge are all spelled with a "c" at the end of the  
12 work "Mackinac"; therefore be it  
13

14 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District of the LCMS, as opportunities arise, begin spelling the name of  
15 Circuit #1 of the District as the "Mackinac Straits Circuit".  
16

17 Submitted by: Saint Barnabas Lutheran Church, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-12  
4 SUBJECT: To Commend The Hymnal Project  
5  
6  
7 **WHEREAS**, During COVID, many congregations were unable to hold in-person worship services; and  
8  
9 **WHEREAS**, The Hymnal Project served churches in various ways, particularly in facilitating online  
10 worship needs by providing video, song, and lyrics resources; therefore be it  
11  
12 **Resolved**, That we commend and give thanks for the Hymnal Project and its variety of resources; and be  
13 it further  
14  
15 **Resolved**, That we commend and give thanks for Peter Prochnow and the many other artists that serve  
16 on this project; and be it finally  
17  
18 **Resolved**, That we give thanks, praise, and glory to God for how He has blessed us through the Hymnal  
19 Project.  
20  
21 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-13  
4 SUBJECT: To Commend Lutheran Bible Translators  
5  
6  
7 **WHEREAS**, Romans 10 proclaims that “faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of  
8 Christ.”  
9  
10 **WHEREAS**, 2022 is the 500th anniversary of Luther’s translation of the New Testament into common  
11 German; and  
12  
13 **WHEREAS**, Luther’s New Testament translation galvanized the Reformation; and  
14  
15 **WHEREAS**, Where God’s Word is understood, hope is found through the light of Scripture even today;  
16 and  
17  
18 **WHEREAS**, Lutheran Bible Translators has produced the Living Water project to commemorate the  
19 500th anniversary of Luther’s New Testament; and  
20  
21 **WHEREAS**, Living Water presents the ESV text of Scripture word for word without interpretation or  
22 commentary; and  
23  
24 **WHEREAS**, Living Water gives the opportunity to experience Scripture in a new way; and  
25  
26 **WHEREAS**, Those who hear God’s Word will be uplifted and grow in their faith; and  
27  
28 **WHEREAS**, More people will hear the Word of Christ in the language they understand best; and  
29  
30 **WHEREAS**, Lutheran Bible Translators is committed to putting God’s Word in the hands of people  
31 around the world; therefore be it  
32  
33 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District, LCMS commends Lutheran Bible Translators for its continued  
34 mission service through Bible translation and lowering barriers to the Gospel throughout the world; and  
35 be it finally  
36  
37 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District, LCMS in convention give thanks to God for His Word proclaimed  
38 through the Living Water project.  
39  
40 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-14  
4 SUBJECT: To Affirm the Inspiration and Authority of All Scripture,  
5 Including Mark 16:9–20  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the Holy Scriptures of the prophets (Old Testament) and apostles (New Testament) are the  
9 foundation of Christ’s Church on earth, with Jesus Christ as the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2.20); and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures along with the Lutheran Confessions, which are normed by the Holy  
12 Scriptures, are the unalterable rule and norm of all doctrine and practice for and in all her congregations  
13 and by which all rostered ministers are pledged before God to conduct their office; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Scripture is never a matter of private opinion or interpretation but is given by the Holy Spirit  
16 through holy men whom that same Spirit moved, inspired (2 Peter 1.21-22) and gave their very Words;  
17 and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Mark is a universally accepted Gospel in the New Testament canon of Scriptures and was  
20 never included among the so-called *anti-legomena*, that is books some church leaders spoke against for  
21 inclusion when the canon was accepted by the Christian Church; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Two ancient Greek texts of the Holy Scriptures, rediscovered in the nineteenth century  
24 originating from the fourth century (Namely codex Sinaiticus and codex Vaticanus), contain texts of the  
25 Gospel of Mark with unusual truncations (that is, visually abnormal endings when compared to the  
26 appearance of other endings of books in the same codex), excluding the last 12 verses, Mark 16:9-20, as  
27 they appear in our Bibles, and:  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, this truncation is unheard of before the writings of Eusebius of Caesarea († 339 AD) in the  
30 fourth century (and later those of Jerome [† 420 AD], apparently quoting him) and his comment about  
31 texts that exclude this section does not preclude his own acknowledgment of that text as authoritative,  
32 nor Jerome’s omitting it in his Latin translation of the Bible, and since nineteenth century scholarship  
33 that began to be critical of the inclusion of these twelve verses as well as Moses’ authorship of the  
34 Pentateuch were well countered by the arguments of scholarship supporting the Church’s and Bible’s  
35 claims of its own origins by such scholars as John Burgon (1813 - 1888 AD) and expressed carefully and  
36 exhaustively by modern scholars such as Nicholas Lunn (cf. *The Original Ending of Mark: A New Case for*  
37 *the Authenticity of Mark 16:9-20*; Pickwick Publications, Eugene Oregon, 2014); and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, contemporaneous churchmen, such as Eusebius and Jerome, being aware of these texts and  
40 their omissions, and living much closer to the historical context of their appearance, neither speaking  
41 against their inclusion, nor themselves excluding these texts as authoritative from their own use and  
42 quotation, were in a much better position to evaluate their authenticity than the musings of modern  
43 scholars of Scriptures, let alone unbelieving scholars who have a record of attacking the veracity of the  
44 sacred text; and  
45

46 **WHEREAS**, the omissions of this section from these ancient texts has sparked academic debate as to  
47 whether these last 12 verses of Mark were written by the same author identified as Mark or whether  
48 these verses were added later, perhaps in the second century, so that the majority of contemporary

1 Biblical scholars and authorities in Christendom reject the authenticity of these verses, and would *de*  
2 *facto* demote these 12 verses to the status of *anti-legomena*; and

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, exclusion of the last 12 verses of Mark renders this Gospel incomplete and prone to  
5 erroneous interpretation as compared to the other Gospels since the resurrection would be thus  
6 promised by the Lord (8:31; 9:31; 10:33-34) without witness of its fulfillment, and since Christ's  
7 personal promise of the Holy Spirit and commissioning His disciples to preach to the world would be  
8 missing and because lacking both a birth and a resurrection narrative Mark's Gospel as it stands on its  
9 own would invite a Gnostic interpretation; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, Mark 16:16 is the authoritative statement in Scripture on Baptism, chosen by Luther to teach  
12 about the efficacy of Baptism in his Large and Small Catechisms, and is a cornerstone of the doctrine of  
13 Baptism that is memorized and used to affirm Baptismal regeneration in all our congregations; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, footnotes flagging words and sections of modern Bibles as missing in ancient versions serve  
16 no purpose for laymen, except to undermine their confidence in God's preserving the text of His Word  
17 but only invite them to believe the Bible is flawed and inaccurate; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, our Synod was warned in the tragic events of the Seminex walk out in 1974, that reason is  
20 not to be used to silence or to replace the Word of God by its judgements of the same (Majesterial use  
21 of reason), but is to be used to draw out from Scriptures what God is saying in it (Ministerial use of  
22 reason); therefore be it

23  
24 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District affirm that all Scriptures are inspired by God and not subject to  
25 private interpretation, but to the interpretation the Holy Spirit gives in Scriptural context, by which the  
26 Holy Spirit gives faith and salvation when and where He will; and be it further

27  
28 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District affirm that all of the Gospel according to St. Mark, (including Mark  
29 16:9-20), as it appears in over 95% of the Scriptures and Biblical versions witnessed in all the history of  
30 the Church is not to be demoted to the status of *anti-legomenon* but affirmed as inspired and  
31 authoritative; and be it further

32  
33 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District commend our seminaries to thoroughly train future pastors in the  
34 arguments employed support inclusion or exclusion of Mark 16:12-20 in the sacred text and to further  
35 remind them both of Christ's promise that Scripture would not be broken (John 10:35) and that His  
36 Word would never pass away (Matthew 5:35) as well as the Scriptural admonitions and curses against  
37 adding or subtracting from God's Word (cf. Deut. 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19); and be it further

38  
39 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District present this overture to the next Synodical Convention for their  
40 consideration; and be it finally

41  
42 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District exhort CPH to note in this section of their published Bibles: "Though  
43 a few ancient texts omit these verses, they are well attested in the vast majority of ancient New  
44 Testament texts and to the present day."

45  
46 Submitted by: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dearborn, Mi



1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-15  
4 SUBJECT: Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of Luther's Small  
5 Catechism  
6  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Luther's Small Catechism was first published in 1529 as a means to instruct laypeople in basic  
9 Christian doctrine; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, it became an immediate success in that Lutheran pastors preached from it; city councils in  
12 Luther's time adopted it for school textbooks; parents taught from it; and children learned it by heart;  
13 and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the practice of using Luther's Small Catechism has been widely neglected across Synod since  
16 the 1950s when numerous pastors began (and continue) using other materials instead of the Catechism  
17 in adult instruction classes, resulting in countless members who have never seen the Small Catechism,  
18 once known as the layperson's Bible, because of its pertinent, irreplaceable Biblical teachings; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Luther's Small Catechism remains today a book that the head of the family should teach, not  
21 just to his children, but to his entire household; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, catechisms of other church denominations have come and gone, but Luther's Small  
24 Catechism has endured and is the oldest catechism of the church still in use today;<sup>1</sup> and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Luther's Small Catechism is not only a book of the chief doctrines of the Bible, but also a  
27 book that is a prayer book and can be used in daily devotions; and  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Missouri Synod Lutherans have in the past celebrated Luther's Small Catechism on its 400<sup>th</sup>  
30 anniversary where 60,000 Lutherans gathered in Soldiers' Field in Chicago<sup>2</sup>; 45,000 with a choir of 1,300  
31 singers gathered at the state Fair Grounds Coliseum near Detroit<sup>3</sup>; 25,000 celebrated in the city's arena  
32 with a 3,500 member children's choir in St. Louis, Missouri<sup>4</sup>; and many other celebrations of the  
33 catechism were held throughout the United States and Canada<sup>5</sup> where thousands of Lutherans praised  
34 and gave thanks to God for Luther's Small Catechism; and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, no noteworthy celebration was held for the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the catechism<sup>6</sup>; therefore be  
37 it  
38

39 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod reaffirm the spiritually  
40 edifying importance of pastors faithfully continuing to use Luther's Small Catechism in catechizing junior  
41 confirmands, and be it further  
42

43 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District strongly urge its pastors to use Luther's Small Catechism to  
44 catechize adults desirous of becoming communicant members, and be it further  
45

46 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District reaffirm the biblical importance of using Luther's Small Catechism  
47 by urging pastors to preach on the Catechism's teachings in Sunday services at least several times each  
48 year, as Luther and his friend Pastor Bugenhagen faithfully preached, and be it further

1 **Resolved**, that our Michigan District pastors and churches encourage the daily use of Luther's Small  
2 Catechism by heads of households in their homes for devotions and prayer; and be it further  
3

4 **Resolved**, that the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church  
5 Missouri Synod begin planning a major celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the writing and publishing  
6 of what has been called the Layman's Bible to be held in the year 2029 to praise and give thanks to God  
7 for the catechism, which instructs us in God's Word; and be it finally  
8

9 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in Convention submit to the next LCMS Convention this overture  
10 with adjustments made so that it reads "The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod" in place of "The Michigan  
11 District" wherever appropriate.  
12

13 Cost: To be estimated by Synodical and District Treasurers, based upon District Administrative  
14 discussions.  
15

16 Submitted by: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millington, Michigan  
17

18 <sup>1</sup>Lueker, Erwin L., "Catechetics," Lutheran Cyclopedia, p. 175.  
19

20 <sup>2</sup>The Lutheran Witness, June 23, 1929, p. 242.  
21

22 <sup>3</sup>The Lutheran Witness, November 12, 1929, p. 375-376.  
23

24 <sup>4</sup>The Lutheran Witness, November 12, 1929, p. 376.  
25

26 <sup>5</sup>The Lutheran Witness, May 28, 1929, p.185, September 3, 1929, p. 298, October 30, 1929, p.  
27 361-362, November 12, 1929, p. 376, November 26, 1929, p. 393-394, December 24, 1929, p.  
28 424-426, and Der Lutheraner, July 16, 1929, p. 250.  
29

30 <sup>6</sup>Schmidt, Alvin J., Hallmarks of Lutheran Identity, 2017, p. 143.

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-16  
4 SUBJECT: To Thank God for Lutheran Special Education Ministries  
5 as it Celebrates 150 Years of Service to the Church  
6  
7  
8 **WHEREAS**, For 150 years, Lutheran Special Education Ministries (formerly The Lutheran School for the  
9 Deaf) has faithfully served the LCMS by providing opportunities for students with learning differences to  
10 grow in the knowledge of God and His world within a Lutheran school setting; and  
11  
12 **WHEREAS**, Lutheran Special Education Ministries continues to partner with Lutheran schools in  
13 Michigan and around the world, working to build inclusive environments for students within our schools  
14 with learning differences, providing guidance, resources and support for all learners; and  
15  
16 **WHEREAS**, God has provided outstanding leadership to guide Lutheran Special Education Ministries  
17 through the years, and has continued to bless the ministry through the vision and leadership of  
18 President/CEO Stacy McGhee in concert with the work of the Lutheran Special Education Ministries  
19 national office team and the Lutheran Special Education Ministries teachers in the field who directly  
20 serve our students; therefore be it  
21  
22 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention thank the Lord of the Church for the work of  
23 Lutheran Special Education Ministries, and further thank God for those who have led and currently lead  
24 Lutheran Special Education Ministries in its service to the Lord and Church.  
25  
26 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-17  
SUBJECT: Patricia Maier

**WHEREAS,** The Lord of the Church has richly blessed Patricia Kemmerling Maier by calling her:

- Into Christ's family through Holy Baptism,
- Into her vocation as wife, mother, and grandmother,
- Into her vocation as teacher; and

**WHEREAS,** The Church has been richly blessed by the ministry of Patricia Maier as she has faithfully served the Church in her role as First Lady of the Michigan District, including her involvement as a leader in:

- Visual Faith ministry
- Katie Conference
- Mentor to many pastors' wives; and

**WHEREAS,** The many accomplishments of Patricia Maier have been recognized by her Alma Mater (Concordia University Ann Arbor), as that institution bestowed upon her the "Outstanding Alumna Award" in 2021; therefore be it

**Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention acknowledges the gift to her family, to the community, and to the Church that Patricia Maier has been; and be it further

**Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention gives thanks to God for blessing us with this gift; and be it finally

**Resolved,** That, on behalf of the Michigan District, the delegates to the 2022 convention rise to recognize and thank Patricia Maier for her service and to give glory to God for that service by singing the Common Doxology.

Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: KINGDOM ADMINISTRATION, ORGANIZATION,  
2 ADVANCEMENT, THANKS AND PRAISE  
3 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-18  
4 SUBJECT: David P. E. Maier  
5  
6

7 **WHEREAS,** The Lord of the Church has richly blessed David P. E. Maier by calling him:

- 8 ● Into Christ's family through Holy Baptism,
  - 9 ● Into his vocation as husband, father, and grandfather, and
  - 10 ● Into the Office of the Holy Ministry; and
- 11

12 **WHEREAS,** The Church has been richly blessed by the ministry of David Maier as he has faithfully served  
13 in many positions in the Church and the community, including:

- 14 ● Congregational
    - 15 ○ Our Savior, Marlette, Michigan
    - 16 ○ St. Peter, Arlington Heights, Illinois
    - 17 ○ Our Savior, Lansing, Michigan
  - 18 ● Michigan District of the LCMS
    - 19 ○ Circuit Counselor
    - 20 ○ District Vice-President
    - 21 ○ District President
  - 22 ● Synod
    - 23 ○ LCMS national convention delegate
    - 24 ○ LCMS national convention floor committee member and chairman
    - 25 ○ Chairman of the Council of Presidents
  - 26 ● Community
    - 27 ○ American Cancer Society, Relay for Life
    - 28 ○ Kiwanis Club
    - 29 ○ Pregnancy Services of Michigan; and
- 30

31 **WHEREAS,** The many accomplishments of David Maier have been recognized by several universities and  
32 institutions by the awarding of honorary degrees, including:

- 33 ● St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church of South Africa (Doctor of Letters)
  - 34 ● Concordia University Ann Arbor (Doctor of Letters, Alumnus of the Year)
  - 35 ● Concordia University Wisconsin (Doctor of Divinity); and
- 36

37 **WHEREAS,** The Michigan District in particular has been tremendously blessed as a direct result of the  
38 thirteen years that David Maier has served as our president; therefore be it

39  
40 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention acknowledges the gift to his family, to the  
41 community, and to the Church that David Maier has been; and be it further

42  
43 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention gives thanks to God for blessing us with this gift; and  
44 be it finally



1   **Resolved,** That, on behalf of the Michigan District, the delegates to the 2022 convention rise to  
2 recognize and thank David Maier for his service and to give glory to God for that service by singing the  
3 Common Doxology.  
4  
5 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District