

June/July 2022

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IN TOUCH

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

HERE WE STAND

Praising God for a Successful Campaign

The *Here We Stand* campaign began in 2015 with a lofty goal of \$10 million to fund Michigan District ministry. On April 4, 2022 the campaign reached its goal—and it is still growing.

Ray Zavada, Assistant to the President – Development, is the driving force behind the campaign, but he humbly chooses to highlight all the additional people who made it happen—

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Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

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IN TOUCH

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President
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the 2015 Convention delegates who voted in favor of starting a new campaign, the Blueprint and Steering Committee members who put their heads together and helped shape the campaign and its goals, the thousands of donors who contributed (and are still contributing), and the Church Extension Fund, our faithful ministry partner.

The four initiatives of **Here We Stand** are: Professional Church Worker Scholarships, Innovative Missional Ministries, Endowment Fund, and International Ministries. One of the great things about this campaign is the fact that you can choose where you want your money to go. Zavada says that *“having that ability to determine where you want your dollars to go is important to donors. They could support one, two, three, or all four of the initiatives as they chose. And I promise you, as they indicated how they wanted their dollars to be given and then eventually spent, it was done that way.”*

Zavada says that support for Professional Church Workers *“has always been a priority for those in our district but, as it turned out, the second category—Innovative Missional Ministry—ended up being the area that our membership and our congregations gravitated towards.”* The Endowment fund makes sure fundings are always available for future ministry, and the donors’ response to that initiative was about what the committee had expected. But what really surprised everyone was the International Ministries Initiative, which got a tremendous level of support. Reflecting on the success of all four initiatives, Zavada concludes: *“All of those things came together because people put their heads together and prayed and asked, ‘What is going to make an impact for future ministry here and beyond the Michigan District?’”*

Four and a half million dollars has already been raised for Innovative Missional Ministries. Those dollars serve to fund initiatives under Acts 2 Enterprise or A2E—an urban ministry initiative umbrella serving Detroit, Flint, Pontiac, Benton Harbor, and Grand Rapids. The A2E ministries have already received some funds from the campaign, and there is money allocated for the next 5-8 years to provide for ministry in those urban areas. Regarding the work carried out by pastors Christopher

Bodley (Detroit), Christian Jones (Flint), Chris Jung (Pontiac) and others, Zavada says, *“We call the category Innovative Missional Ministry, but they take it to the next level and implement those within their communities. So whatever they need financial support for, we’re here to try to provide so they can carry out their vision for their ministries.”*

The generosity of Michigan District donors has been outstanding. Zavada said that at one point during the pandemic he was really worried, wondering if and how congregations and individuals would be able to respond and continue to fund the campaign at a level that would take it to the goal and hopefully exceed it. He concludes: *“But they did. The donors of the Michigan District are generous, generous people. They respond when there’s a need to respond and they respond at high levels.”*

Michigan District President, Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier adds, *“When you start and you realize that this campaign is coming on the heels of a previous campaign, you wonder how successful it’s going to be ... and then Covid hits! That did lengthen the campaign a bit, but Ray Zavada is a gem. He loves the Lord, and I know he and [his wife] Cindy have prayed for this campaign, but to see some of the larger gifts come in that enabled us to get past the \$10 million dollar mark is amazing. And the fact that the Church Extension Fund is a part of that—every million dollar we collect, they give us \$100,000—what a generous, God-blessed ministry they are.”*

The support from Church Extension Fund (CEF) was trifold. Not only did it provide the 10% match in donations, but it also gave the District a grant of \$350,000 to cover campaign expenses so that every dollar donated would go towards its intended goal. Additionally, CEF covered all expenses of the 2017 celebratory worship service held at the Breslin Center in Lansing to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation—a memorable event that had over 13,000 people in attendance.

During the upcoming Michigan District Convention, Zavada will give a final report on the campaign, in what he calls a “soft closing”—the real closing will happen when people no longer donate. So the campaign continues, and you may still contribute. To donate online, go

“The donors of the Michigan District are generous, generous people. They respond when there’s a need to respond and they respond at high levels.”

to michigandistrict.org/herewestand. And if this is not your way of gifting, feel free to do it the old-fashioned way: write a check, put it in an envelope and send to Michigan District, LCMS; 3773 Geddes Rd.; Ann Arbor MI 48105.

President Maier concludes, “*With the congregations that were involved* and the individual donors who were excited about the various goals, to cross the finish line of*

\$10 million and to still reach for more is a tremendous blessing of the Lord, and I think it’s a benediction upon the ministries that the Michigan District is conducting. We did not seek God’s blessing upon what we were doing—we wanted to seek God first and do what He wanted to bless. And I really believe that is what has been taking place here. May God be praised for His goodness and generosity through His people.” ■

*LIST OF PARTICIPATING CONGREGATIONS AS OF MAY 10, 2022:

Addison, Lutheran Church of the
Lakes
Adrian, St. John
Alpena, Immanuel
Ann Arbor, Peace
Ann Arbor, St. Luke
Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Au Gres, St. John
Bad Axe, Our Savior
Baldwin, Grace
Battle Creek, St. Mark
Battle Creek, Redemption
Bay City, Faith
Bay City, Immanuel
Bay City, Zion
Belding, Holy Cross
Belleville, Open Arms
Birch Run, St. Martin
Birmingham, Lutheran Church of
the Redeemer
Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Bloomfield Hills, Cross of Christ
Boyne City, Christ
Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
Britton, Emmanuel
Brooklyn, St. Mark
Bruce Twp. (Romeo), Grace
Lutheran Fellowship
Buchanan, St. Paul
Buchanan, Trinity
Burton, Pilgrim
Cadillac, Emmanuel
Caledonia, St. Paul
Canton, Grace
Carson City, Calvary
Cass City, Good Shepherd
Centreville, St. Paul
Charlotte, First
Cheboygan, St. John

Chelsea, Our Savior
Clare, Prince of Peace
Clinton Twp., Trinity
Clio, Messiah
Colon, St. Paul
Conklin, Trinity
Coopersville, Grace
Davison, Trinity
Dearborn, Atonement
Dearborn, Guardian
Detroit, Historic Trinity
East Lansing, Ascension
Eastpointe, St. Peter
Eastpointe, St. Thomas
Engadine, Bethlehem
Fenton, Trinity
Flat Rock, Community
Flint, Calvary
Flint, Lamb of God
Flint, Our Savior
Flint, St. Mark
Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Fremont, Redeemer
Gaylord, Trinity
Germfask, Grace
Glen Arbor, Bethlehem
Glennie, Our Savior
Grand Blanc, Faith
Grand Haven, St. John
Grand Rapids, Immanuel
Grand Rapids, Our Savior
Grand Rapids, St. James
Grand Rapids, St. Matthew
Grayling, Mount Hope
Greenville, Mount Calvary
Hamburg, St. Paul
Harrison, St. Luke
Haslett, St. Luke
Hawks, Faith

Hemlock, St. Peter
Hemlock, Zion
Highland, Faith
Hillman, St. John
Hillsdale, St. Paul
Holland, Christ Our Savior
Holland, Zion
Houghton Lake, St. John
Howell, Heart of the Shepherd
Hudsonville, New Hope
Huntington Woods, Huntington
Woods
Interlochen, Redeemer
Jackson, Trinity
Jenison, Holy Cross
Jenison, St. John
Kalamazoo, Immanuel
Kalamazoo, Zion
Kentwood, St. Mark
Lansing, Good Shepherd
Lansing, Our Savior
Lansing, Trinity
Lapeer, St. Paul
Leland, Immanuel
Lewiston, Bethlehem
Lincoln Park, Calvary
Linden, Hope
Livonia, Christ Our Savior
Ludington, St. John
Macomb, Immanuel
Macomb, St. Peter
Mancelona, St. Matthew
Marysville, Light of Christ
Mesick, Faith
Midland, Our Savior
Midland, St. John’s
Milan, St. Paul
Milford, Christ

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Following the Leader

by Alex Hoffmeyer



“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’” (John 8:12).

July 4 is a day of national celebration, where we praise the work of our nation’s forefathers who relieved our ancestors from the oppression of the tyranny in Great Britain. As we enjoy barbecues, fires, and fireworks, we revel in the collective pride we take in our freedoms. Yet these days, as our thoughts turn to current leaders, this pride can seem soured or even misplaced. More now than ever, citizens see the flaws in leaders, justified or otherwise. And this makes it hard for some to follow any leader at all.

This got me thinking about what it means to follow, both as citizens and as Christians. As a kid, I often played the game “follow the leader” with some of my elementary school friends. The rules of the game were simple. One person—the leader—would start off on a journey, and everyone else—the followers—would have to do exactly as the leader did. If the leader went down a slide, so did the followers. No matter where the leader went, the followers had to, well, follow. And if you didn’t follow, or couldn’t follow, you would lose and have to wait until the next game started. If you can’t picture my elementary school days, go and watch Disney’s *Peter Pan* where John Darling leads the lost boys in a game of “follow the leader” while singing. They walk through thick jungle, over fallen trees, and even underwater! But none of them break stride; they all follow their leader to the letter throughout the whole journey.

As adults, we see many problems with translating this mindset into maturity. For children, following a leader is easy. No child will lead their friend into any real danger. On top of that, children need someone to lead them, since they are still learning about the world around them. But adults are much more wary. We see the darker side of this world and we raise our defenses. We become more self-reliant, more independent, and as such it becomes difficult to follow anyone blindly. There is so much mistrust of others that we’re tempted (and sometimes encouraged) to blaze our own trail and disregard leaders, especially if their character is in question. We know it’s foolish to follow any person blindly. “Follow the leader” doesn’t translate well into adulthood.

Yet it needs to translate into the Christian life. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus calls His disciples

from all different situations to drop what they are doing and follow Him. No hesitation, no delay, and no questions asked. Any after-school special would place this scenario under “stranger danger” and warn kids to avoid such a man. In truth, this is how many people view the call to follow Jesus. To follow any person blindly can have disastrous consequences, as history has shown us.

“He is the perfect leader, the One who will never lead you astray into darkness but will lead you into the light of life everlasting.”

But we Christians must be the voice that reminds the world that Jesus is not just any person. He is not just any man. John 8 tells us who Jesus is: He is the light of the world, the light shining in the darkness. He is not selfish like earthly leaders, nor is He driven by greed or any vice. Jesus stepped into the darkness of sin in our world for our sake, not His own. He suffered the pain and mockery of the crowds and willingly suffered death on the cross so that we could be forgiven of sins. And He rose again and ascended into heaven that He might prepare a place for us, so that when He returns He can take us to be with Him forever. Jesus is not like an earthly leader; He is the perfect leader, the One who will never lead you astray into darkness but will lead you into the light of life everlasting.

It’s easy to mistrust people who ask you to follow them blindly. We know from experience how nasty and evil people can be. But even as we remain wary of the world, may we never be wary of Christ’s call to follow. He is the only One worthy of our full devotion, and all who follow Him can be certain that He will always lead them on the right path. ■

Rev. Alex Hoffmeyer graduated with an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. in May 2017, and has been blessed to serve Salem Lutheran Church in Coloma, Mich. He and his wife continue to enjoy Pure Michigan whenever they can, taking chances to explore God’s Creation on the trails, the bluffs, and the beaches.



Photos courtesy of POBLO

The Work of the Kingdom

The work of the Kingdom is love, hope, salvation, mercy, and spiritual growth along with God's provisions. In James 2:15–16, the Word of God reminds us: *"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled,' notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?"* (KJV).

The instruction to us is clear: we are to be the hands and feet of Jesus, reaching out to share the Gospel of hope and salvation and stretching forth to meet the physical needs of His people. By the grace of God and through the power of the Holy

Spirit, for over 20 years, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) International has been effectively sharing the Gospel message with those of Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu backgrounds, leading them to the Baptismal font and baptizing them in the name of the Triune God and guiding new brothers and sisters in the faith to living their new lives in Christ.

POBLO International has not only been able to speak to the needs of the hearts of God's people but also to answer the needs of their earthly lives.

The refugee families and individuals that POBLO International is privileged to assist have missed many comforts that are common to us here in the United States. In addition to lacking basic education, being able to live in a bustling yet peaceful neighborhood, or even being able to make

“The instruction to us is clear: we are to be the hands and feet of Jesus, reaching out to share the Gospel of hope and salvation and stretching forth to meet the physical needs of His people.”

a quick department store run for toilet paper or baby food, these families also miss the chance to maintain basic health care, such as the annual doctors' visits or dental appointments that we often dread.

POBLO International's efforts were blessed when a medical and dental care clinic reached out from an article they had read in a local community paper. The clinic's lead doctor and the executive director, both sisters in Christ as we came to learn, exclaimed that they had been looking for a way to bless those in the community who lacked the financial resources to provide much needed medical or dental care for themselves. Going without this care could mean aggravated or worsening medical conditions that could even progress to the point of hindering the refugees' ability to work and provide for their households.

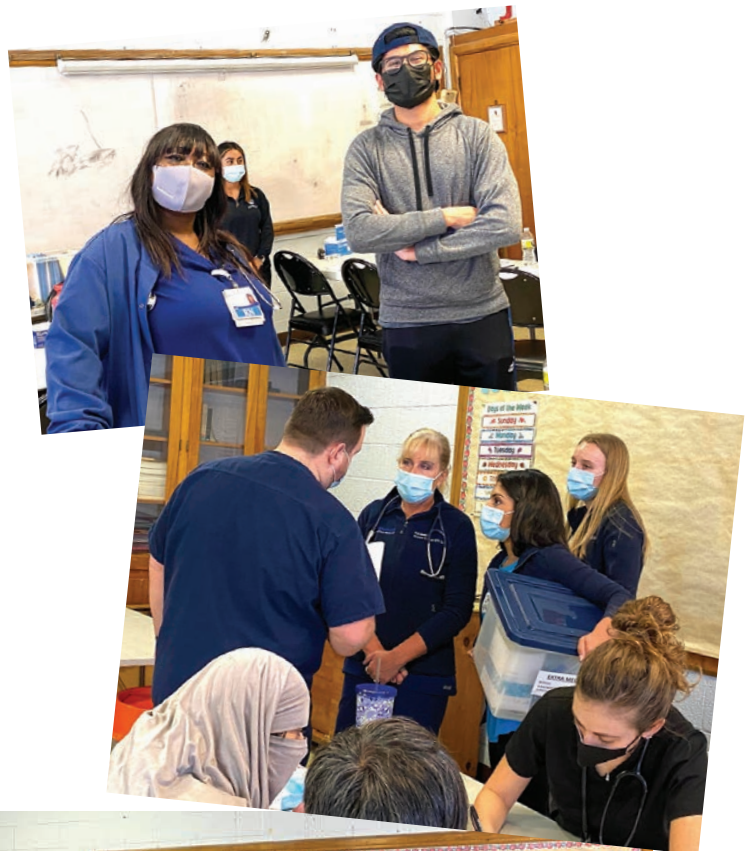
After coordinating efforts, POBLO International and its new partner in human care services, Trinity Community Care, hosted their first pop-up clinic at the Dearborn International Friendship Center (IFC) location! Nearly 50 refugee families from Afghanistan were provided free health checkups (blood pressure and glucose), medical information and education, and health maintenance items like toothbrushes and travel hand sanitizer. Not only were refugee individuals able to see healthcare providers free of charge, but they will also have the opportunity for follow-up and additional care—all at no cost.

POBLO is thankful for these opportunities to honor God by serving the 'least of these' and thanks God for you, partners in this appointed Gospel mission. Please know that you are prayed for regularly. We offer thanksgiving to God daily that He sent His provision

ahead of this ministry in having you join with us to love His people back to health not only in word, but also in deed. POBLO is so grateful to its dear brothers and sisters in Christ for prayers, for fellowship, and for continued support and partnership in this ministry.

POBLO wants to share the goodness and provision of the Lord as has been humbly provided for the care of others. God bless you!

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you" (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2). ■



JUNE/JULY 2022

How Your Lifetime Plan for Giving Can Help Secure Your Family and Faith



Your gift plan can not only help to provide for your family, it can also benefit your church or school, a Lutheran seminary, one of our Concordia universities, or the new Mighty Fortress Foundation for generations to come.



“Many people don’t realize they have enough wealth to bequest a significant amount to a favorite ministry. We often have far greater blessings than we ever thought.”

Julie Burgess
Gift Planning Counselor
CEF & LCMS Foundation

For over 120 years, Church Extension Fund has made financial resources available to Lutheran ministries throughout the Michigan District. That’s our mission. And it can be part of your life’s purpose as well – even after you’ve been called home to Heaven.

Meet Julie Burgess, our District’s Gift Planning Counselor. CEF, in partnership with the LCMS Foundation, offers you Julie’s services in planning how to continue directing your earthly blessings to the people and ministries you love for long after you’ve passed.

“Your lifetime plan for giving is a spiritual journey in stewardship,” says Julie. Here she answers some frequently asked questions about creating a Christian gift plan:

Julie, do I truly have the wherewithal to support ministries through my estate?

“Many people don’t realize they have enough wealth to bequest a significant amount to a favorite ministry. Today, many assets for most people are ‘non-cash’. Whether our wealth is in retirement accounts, life insurance, our homes,

or other properties, when we leave this Earth, we often have far greater blessings than we ever thought.”

How can I feel sure I'm making the most of my gifts?

“We can structure how you’ll leave assets in ways that minimize taxes on your estate. This can enable you to do more with your blessings. For example, using a charitable remainder trust, your gift plan could provide the same amounts to your heirs while also letting you make a substantial gift to the Lutheran ministry or charity of your choice. Since we all have gifts from God, even the humblest bequests can make a difference.”

What if I already have a will or a trust?

“Good for you! You’ve looked ahead. I can review your plan to be sure your bequests to loved ones and ministries are in proper order. This will help to ensure that, when you’re called home, what you leave will bless your family and faith well into the future.”

What I especially want from my gift plan is peace of mind. Can you help with this?

“Absolutely! And I’ll be happy to. We’ll plan how to provide for and protect your family while supporting the ministries you’ve cared most

about in life. Working with church members throughout Michigan, I’ve seen gifts put in place to local, state, and national ministries that simply wouldn’t have happened without this planning process.”

What’s the basic process for planning my gifts?

“Gift planning can be complicated, and unexpected taxes can reduce what you’re able to give. We’ll work to help you pay less and leave more through four stages of planning:

- 1) Discovery
- 2) Design
- 3) Summary
- 4) Implementation

In Stages 1, 2, and 3, I’ll meet with you in person as your Gift Planning Counselor. In Stage 4, you may want to involve your attorney or other advisors; I’ll accompany you to this meeting if you wish.”

Is there a cost for your gift planning services?

“There’s no fee! That’s thanks to the partnership of CEF and the LCMS Foundation. Though note that you may incur cost for your own estate planning attorney or financial advisor. I can provide a list of qualified attorneys in your area. If you’d like me to join you in your estate meetings with your attorney, I’ll do so at no charge.”



Julie Burgess welcomes the opportunity to help you continue giving blessings to the people and ministries you love even after you've passed from this life. Contact Julie at 713-822-5284 or julie.burgess@lfnd.org.

How do I get started on my gift plan?

“I regularly lead ‘Lifetime Plan for Giving’ presentations for congregations. Your group’s session can take place on a Sunday morning or whenever works best. Ask your pastor or endowment team to contact me to schedule it. I also work with church leadership teams to help set up new endowment plans and promote existing endowments. I’ve been in ministry for over 30 years, and I’d love to assist you and your congregation.”



“But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

2 Corinthians 8:7



Church Extension Fund

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

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UNIVERSITY
Ann Arbor, Michigan

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Mission Work in China and South Korea

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has had unique ministry outreach in foreign countries. For example, LHM has never operated a ministry center in China, yet it has been a partner in God's mission and work together with the national China Christian Council (CCC) and Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) of the national protestant church since 1988.

Faithful LHM donors provided the funds to build the Ai Ji (Love of Christ) printing factory in Shanghai. It was dedicated for God's glory and handed over to the CCC/TSPM in 1997.

China Ministry programs that are supported by LHM include:

- Printed Christian materials such as books, booklets, and tracts;
- MP3 audio Bible players;
- Special events that feature animation DVDs and colorful cartoon books;
- Evangelist training service (ETS) in six provinces (Guangdong, Hebei, Henan, Hubei, Yunnan, JingXi and Inner Mongolia);
- A special evangelist rally; and

- Bible distributions to the poor.

Since its reopening in 2003, the LHM center in South Korea, known as Korea Lutheran Hour (KLH), has been working to spread the Gospel and to create a youthful vibrancy within the church there. The Christian culture resources produced by KLH are valuable evangelistic tools reflecting Korean traditions. KLH carries out LHM's mission of proclaiming, equipping, and engaging through various outreach ministries. Theatre and music events sponsored by KLH provide opportunities for non-Christians to connect with Christians and local Lutheran congregations. Christian "Jazz & Vespers" performances attract attention from the public as well as local media. In addition, KLH ministers to the Korean people through its website, newsletter, videos, and books. KLH is also taking steps to spread the Gospel in North Korea as well as in China.

To learn more about how you can support these ministries, visit lhm.org.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Michigan District



My sheep hear
my voice, and I
know them, and
they follow me.
John 10:27

VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
www.lwmlmichigan.org/convention/district

**2022 LWML Michigan District
39th Biennial Convention
Frankenmuth
July 7-9, 2022**

Best Practices Heartland in Frankenmuth this Fall

You are invited to join St. Lorenz congregation in beautiful Frankenmuth for an uplifting time of worship, information, and inspiration at the Best Practices Heartland Conference.

The conference will take place on September 18–20, in the St. Lorenz Worship and Event Center at 850 West Genesee.

As an outgrowth of the annual Best Practices for Ministry Conference at Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, Ariz., Best Practices Heartland continues with the same basic philosophies as its parent conference to provide an opportunity for congregations and church workers to share with one another proven ministry practices and to encourage one another in ministry.

At these conferences, no participant pays for registration or meals and no speaker gets paid for their presentation. In addition, conference organizers go all out to provide a positive, welcoming experience for everyone.

To register, visit stlorenz.org/ministries/best-practices/. There are separate links for attendees, breakout session leaders, and exhibitors. Information on local lodging options is also provided. For further questions, send an email to bph@stlorenz.org.



Guardian, Dearborn Celebrates its 75th Anniversary

Guardian, Dearborn will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on Sunday, September 18, at a 10 a.m. worship service with a dinner to follow at noon.

Pastor Gregory Seltz, a son of the congregation who serves as the Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. will be the guest preacher for the service.

Dr. John Boonenberg of Concordia University Ann Arbor, former Music Director of the congregation, will be the guest organist and Music Director for the service.

The congregation was founded in 1947 and met at a local school until the original chapel, located on Cherry Hill Street in West Dearborn, was dedicated in 1948. Rev. Theophil H. Voss founded the congregation and served Guardian as its pastor from 1947 to 1974. A Parish Hall (Gym) was built in 1954 and the congregation worshiped in the dual use space until the current sanctuary was completed in 1969. A mid-century modern structure, Guardian's unique cross with rays suspended over the altar is a striking feature of the sanctuary and quite bold for its time.

The congregation began a Christian day school 1959 with 33 students in grades one through four. Today, there are over 250 children enrolled in Preschool through 8th Grade.

Both congregation and school have been blessed extensively during the past 75 years. If you wish to attend the dinner, please submit your reservation to Kathy Sillanpaa at businessmanager@guardianlutheran.org or call the church office at 313.274.1414 no later than August 31, 2022.



Photo courtesy of Guardian, Dearborn

Update on Supreme Court Leak on Abortion Decision

While those who are pro-life have yearned for the day when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, we must be cautious and wait until the Supreme Court officially releases any decision on the Dobbs case. Even though a draft opinion has been leaked to the public showing that, as of February, the Court was poised to overturn *Roe*, this is *not* the final decision, and votes can still be changed. The leak could be a pro-abortion staff member's last-ditched effort to save *Roe v. Wade*. An investigation has ensued.

While the draft sounds hopeful, we will need to wait for the final decision by the court to be released. If *Roe v. Wade* is indeed overturned, then the issue will be returned to the states and to the voters. In Michigan, we already have a law that would go into effect banning abortion except to save the life of the mother. Of course, this will be challenged by those who wish to defend the "right to kill" babies in the womb. There is already a petition drive underway in Michigan to enshrine abortion in the State Constitution. If this petition comes to you, **please do not sign it**, and advise others not to sign it either. If passed, it would even strike down any and all restrictions that we have been able to put in place, including parental consent laws.

As God's people, we must stand fast in defense of innocent human life and be the voice for the voiceless. The battle for Life will not end even if and when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. We need to continue to pray—for the Justices, for the nation, for our State leaders, for women facing a crisis pregnancy, and of course, for the unborn babies who are such helpless victims in the plague of abortion. *Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer!*

Immanuel, Frankentrost Celebrates 175 Years

Immanuel (Frankentrost), Saginaw celebrates 175 years of God's blessings in 2022.

The colony of Frankentrost, which means the comfort, or consolation, of the Franconians was formed by Rev. Wilhelm Loehe of Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, Germany, to establish German Lutheran settlements in America and as centers of mission activity to Native Americans. Settled in 1847, Frankentrost is the second of the four Franconian Colonies established in Michigan's Saginaw Valley.

Rev. Loehe chose candidate Johann Heinrich Phillip Graebner to be the pastor of 22 families of colonists and lead them to their new home. The first years came with many hardships as they settled in the primeval forest with roaming wild animals including wolves, bears, and deer. There were also illnesses and death, especially of children, that made those first years difficult.

The first church services were held in a member's primitive log home until a log church was built in 1848. Quickly outgrowing that first building, a larger church was built in 1852, and in 1869 a beautiful white frame church was completed. Sadly, this church was

destroyed by fire on January 6, 1951. On October 12, 1952, Immanuel's present church was dedicated. The congregation began instructing their children in 1847 and continues to share the love of the Savior in their Preschool–8th grade Christian day school, as well as in their childcare program.

Amid all the Frankentrost colonist's tribulations, they never lost faith or became discouraged, as they always had God's Word by which they were comforted. The theme for this anniversary year is Isaiah 40:1 *"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God."*

A service of thanksgiving and celebration is planned for Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 10 a.m., with Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. as guest preacher. A meal will follow with further sharing of remembrances from over the years. Former members and friends are invited to attend.

For more information, contact the church office at 989.754.0929.

Lutheran Schools Admissions Summit

On May 1-3, 2022, 45 Admissions Counselors attended the Lutheran Schools Admissions Summit at Lutheran West in Rocky River, Ohio. It was the first event of its kind. Lutheran West had the idea and contacted Michigan District, LCMS Superintendent of Schools Travis Grulke on the feasibility of hosting such an event. Grulke offered ideas and support and the Michigan District, along with several others, contributed with some funds to help cover costs. This ensured that attendance was free; participants only had to pay for their travel and hotel stay.

The focus of the summit was on networking and collaboration through presentations and roundtable discussions. Keynote speakers were Dr. Ryan Bredow, Assistant Vice President at Grand Canyon University; Jon Bahr, Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing at Spring Arbor University; and Charlene Coughlin, President of TWIST Creative.

There were 45 people in attendance, many from the Midwest but some from as far away as Washington state. Of the 45 participants, 20+ were from Michigan.

Rachel Potts, Admissions Counselor at St. Paul, Ann Arbor, was one of the participants. She shares: *"It was a great experience! The speakers were fantastic, it was nice to share time talking with everyone, and the food was great."* She adds, *"I think one of the things that was*



The people in the picture are from Southeast Michigan schools, but there were other Michiganders and attendance too, including Trinity Traverse City, Dearborn, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and Saginaw.

most exciting about this conference was hearing that many Lutheran schools are growing and expanding."

The event was such a success that the organizers hope to repeat it on an annual basis going forward. Next year's event may be hosted in Milwaukee.

Revive 2.0! Music Fest

REVIVE 2.0! That's the theme of this year's En Gedi Music Fest organized by Creator's Praise Ministries Lutheran Church of Mendon, Mich.—a small new church start with a BIG vision of God's Kingdom.

Now entering its fifth year, En Gedi Music Fest has gone from a one-day festival attracting local artists to a two-day festival attracting nationally known contemporary Christian music artists. This year's Saturday night headliner, Jordan Feliz, recently enjoyed the #1 song on the Billboard Christian Airplay Chart.

En Gedi Music Fest is planned with activities for everyone including family and kids. Various activities, speakers, food vendors, and camping options are available.

This summer's theme verse is Psalm 69:32b: "*You who seek God,*



let your hearts revive." We have probably all experienced times like the psalmist expresses as he cries out. We can be REVIVED because the Lord will deliver us by His amazing grace.

The music fest takes place at the En Gedi Resort in Leonidas, Michigan, July 22–23. Tickets and parking passes can be purchased at engedimusicfest.com.

Special Recognition

Welcome New Roster Workers

The Michigan District welcomed two pastoral candidates, five vicars, and one deaconess to its roster at the end of April.

On Tuesday, April 26, Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. (CSL) held two separate worship services for assignment of vicarage and internships and for call placements, respectively. Vicars assigned to the Michigan District are Jonathan Dueker (Messiah, Clio), Noah Menke (Journey, Oxford), and Adam Tanney (St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth). Candidates receiving their first placement in Michigan from CSL are Thomas Gustafson (Immanuel, Grand Rapids) and Michael Stainbrook (St. Luke, Haslett).

On Tuesday, April 26 and Wednesday, April 27, two separate worship services took place at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW) for assignment of vicarage and internships and for call placements, respectively. Those assigned to the Michigan District from CTSFW are Vicars David Matthews (Trinity, Reese) and Zachary Staehr (Historic Trinity, Detroit) and Deaconess Michaela Dub (Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, Dearborn).



Photos courtesy of Pat Maier

Please keep these students and their families in your prayers as they transition from seminary life into vicarage and full-time ministry.

Praising God for a Successful Campaign continued from page 3

Millington, St. Paul
Minden City, Trinity
Monroe, Grace
Monroe, Trinity
Mt. Pleasant, Zion
Munger, Trinity-St. James
Muskegon, Trinity
New Baltimore, Christ
New Boston, St. Paul
Newberry, Trinity
Newport, Christ Our Shepherd
Northville, St. Paul
Nunica, St. Luke
Onaway, Holy Cross
Oscoda, Trinity
Otisville, St. Timothy
Oxford, Journey
Petoskey, Zion
Pinckney, Trinity
Pinconning, St. John
Pontiac, St. Paul Community
Port Hope, St. John
Port Huron, Trinity
Portage, St. Michael
Portland, St. Andrew

Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
Reed City, Trinity
Richmond, St. Peter
Richville, St. Michael
Rochester, Living Word
Rochester, St. John
Rochester Hills, Crown of Life
Rochester Hills, Gethsemane
Rockford, St. Peter
Rogers City, Peace
Roseville, Bethlehem
Saginaw, Bethlehem
Saginaw, Good Shepherd
Saginaw, Holy Cross
Saginaw, Immanuel of Frankentrost
Saginaw, St. Mark
Saint Johns, St. John
Saline, Christ Our King
Scottville, Our Savior
Sebewaing, Immanuel
Shelby Township, Peace
South Lyon, Cross of Christ
Southgate, Christ the King
St. Helen, Hope
St. Ignace, Hope

St. Joseph, Trinity
Stevensville, Christ
Sturgis, Trinity
Taylor, St. John
Three Rivers, St. Peter's
Traverse City, Trinity
Trenton, St. Paul
Troy, Faith
Utica, Trinity
Walled Lake, St. Matthew
Warren, Hope
Waterford, Peace
Wayne, St. Michael
Wellston, Beautiful Savior
West Bloomfield, St. Mark
West Branch, St. John
Westland, St. Matthew
Whitehall, Faith
Wyandotte, Trinity

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Calls and Roster Update

ORDAINED

Candidates Placed

Mr. Thomas Gustafson (St. Louis, MO) to Associate, Immanuel, Grand Rapids
Mr. Michael Stainbrook (St. Louis, MO) to Associate, St. Luke, Haslett

Calls Accepted

Rev. Robert Bartz Jr. (Three Rivers, MI) to IIM, Faith Easton, PA
Rev. Eric Black (Kalkaska, MI) to dual parish St. Paul/St. Matthew, Kalkaska/Mancelona
Rev. Richard Boshoven (Hobart, IN) to IIM, St. John/Good Shepherd, Ionia/Lowell
Rev. John Carrier (Fort Gratiot, MI) to IIM, Zion, Plainview, NE
Rev. Mark Duerr (Carson City, MI) to Associate, Trinity, Monroe
Rev. Dean Dumbille (Fenton, MI) to dual parish Christ the King/St. Paul, Flint
Rev. Mark Hannemann (Elkhorn, NE) to Good Friend Ministries, Traverse City
Rev. James Krach (Gladwin, MI) to Hope, Bradenton, FL
Rev. Daniel Murray (Ann Arbor, MI) to dual parish Immanuel/Hosanna-Tabor, Dearborn Hts./Redford

Change of Status

Rev. Todd Brunworth (Spring Lake, MI) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Rev. Richard Boshoven (Hobart, IN) from Indiana District
Rev. Daniel Murray (Ann Arbor, MI) from SELC District

Transferred Out of District

Rev. Robert Bartz Jr. (Three Rivers, MI) to Eastern District
Rev. John Carrier (Fort Gratiot, MI) to Nebraska District

Called Home

Rev. John Schreiber

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

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Ballantyne, Lynn (Sierra HS, Carson City, NV) to Trinity, Monroe
Armbricht, Louis (St. Peter, Macomb) to Guardian, Dearborn
Drinane, Nicole (Candidate) to St. Matthew, Westland
Ennis, Jacob (Lutheran High, Springfield, IL) to Immanuel, Macomb
Esselman, Adele (St. Paul, Jackson, MO) to Trinity, Saint Joseph
Hoeft, James (Hosanna-Tabor, Redford) to Guardian, Dearborn
Mellecke, Judith (Candidate, Ohio District) to Trinity, Traverse City
Ristow, Beth (Reinstated) to Holy Ghost, Monroe
Rockwell, Lori (Candidate, Eastern District) to Immanuel, Saginaw
Trent, Keith (Peace, Saginaw) to St. Paul, Westlake, OH
Winterstein, Jill (St. John, Indianapolis, IN) to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Transferred Into District

Hessler, Dorothy (CNH District) as Emeritus



Calendar of Events

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

JUNE 2022

- 3–5 Michigan District Junior High Gathering
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 4 State Track Meet
Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw
- 15–17 FLAME
Regent Hotel & Suites, Ann Arbor
- 20–22 English District Convention
Concordia University Ann Arbor
- 20–24 A2E VBS/Sports Camp - Detroit
- 20–24 A2E VBS/STEM Camp - Grand Rapids
- 22–24 Ohio District Convention
Concordia University Ann Arbor
- 26–28 Michigan District Convention
Concordia University Ann Arbor

JULY 2022

- 4–5 Independence Day
District Office Closed
- 9–13 LCMS National Youth Gathering
Houston, Texas
- 18–22 A2E VBS/Summer Camp - Pontiac

AUGUST 2022

- 1–3 Higgins Lake Principals Conference
Higgins Lake
- 1–5 Special Friends Camp
Camp Copneconic, Fenton
- 5 Retirement Luncheon - Ray Zavada
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting
Location TBD
- 9 Early Childhood Directors Day
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- 10 Early Childhood Educators Day
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 2–5 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 11–13 Deacons Conference
Camp Arcadia
- 18–20 Best Practices Heartland
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- 24–25 Church Extension Fund Fall Conference
Auburn Hills
- 26–29 Intentional Interim Ministry Conference
Michindoh, Hillsdale