

August 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



GREAT COMMISSION

People of Hope ... It's Time!

On June 26–28, 864 delegates, guests and others attended the 103rd Michigan District Convention under the theme *People of Hope ... It's Time!* on the campus of Concordia University Ann Arbor. Here are a few of the highlights:

Worship Services

The Opening Worship of the 103rd Michigan District Convention took place in The Chapel of

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Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

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Official Periodical of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
August 2022, Volume 21, No. 7
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

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the Holy Trinity. Worshiping together was uplifting and inspiring both in the chapel and in the overflow section. Many commented on how they were moved to tears as they praised God and sang *This is the Feast*.

In Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison's sermon, he referenced the convention text and theme as he further shared: *"In this you will rejoice though for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials. Many families are grieved by trials every day ... every one of your crosses, my dear friends, are made exactly by Christ to fit your shoulders,—every pain and sorrow, every disappointment, every death, every struggle with sin. My favorite passage from the Book of Concord ... 'God determines in advance those specific afflictions by which he conforms us to the image of His Son. Therefore, all things work together for the good of those who are called according to His purpose. Hope is something that is present but unseen; it is certain. And you have it. Hope is Christ. In this crazy world, all the crosses and difficulties are purposeful for one thing: that the full number of believers come to Jesus through your witness,*

through your mouths. The power of the Gospel resides on the lips of the smallest child that speaks it as it was on the lips of Jesus' (Martin Luther). People of Hope. It's time to live certain, joyous, free under the cross. Amen."

A special arrangement of *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* was composed by John A. Behnke in thanksgiving to God for President David P. E. Maier and his service to the Michigan District from 2009–2022.

Three other worship services took place over the course of the three days: Monday morning's Service of Invocation with Rev. Brian West (Holy Cross, Jenison) preaching; Tuesday morning Memorial Service with Trinity with Rev. Kenneth Wise (Trinity, Clinton Township) preaching; and Tuesday evening Installation and Sending Service, with Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, Michigan District President, preaching.

Many thanks to Our Savior, Lansing for hosting the Opening Worship Service and providing ushers; organists John Horak and John Boonenberg; brass choir conductor Phil Klintworth; the bell choir; and the combined choir from Our Savior, Lansing; Concordia University; and St. Paul, Ann Arbor. Worship services were organized with President Maier by Convention Committee members Rev. William Wangelin and Rev. Erik Cloeter.

Elections

Rev. David A. Davis, age 64, of Ann Arbor, Michigan was elected to his first term as Michigan District, LCMS president on the third ballot. Davis' education includes Concordia University Ann Arbor (B.A.), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (M.Div.), Classical Studies at Washington University, St. Louis, and Governance and



Photos by Elisa Schultz/Michigan District, LCMS

Choir and brass ensembles under the direction of Dr. John Boonenberg and Phil Klintworth respectively, shared the gift of music at the opening service.

Executive Training, Pastoral Leadership Institute. He served four congregations, all in Michigan. President Elect Davis currently serves St. Luke Lutheran Church in Haslett/Lansing as its executive pastor. Other ministry roles included Michigan District Vice President, circuit leadership, church planting, and many District events. He is also the author of *Toward Significance: A Guide for Pastoring Well*, and serves as Adjunct Faculty at Concordia University Ann Arbor. He and his wife Sallie have four grown daughters and two granddaughters.

Reflecting on his election, Davis shares, “*I am very humbled to be elected District president, but also very excited to serve Jesus and the congregations of our District and build on the fine work of David Maier and others that have gone before me.*”

President Elect Davis was installed during convention and will officially take office on October 1, 2022.

Other elections took place, including the vice presidents. They are Rev. Dean Davenport, 1st Vice President; Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, 2nd Vice President; Rev. Craig Bickel, 3rd Vice President; and Rev. Erik Cloeter, 4th Vice President.

Convention Business

The convention agenda included several presentations. Floor committees brought 21 resolutions forward for voting and advisory delegate action. The convention also received three overtures of gratitude through



Newly elected President and Vice Presidents. l-r: Rev. Dean Davenport, Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, President Elect Rev. David Davis, Rev. Craig Bickel, and Rev. Erik Cloeter

Omnibus Resolution C and referred one overture to the CTCR through Omnibus Resolution A. Newsworthy resolutions included:

1-17 – That the Michigan District Respond to the Reversal of Roe vs Wade with Gospel Understanding and Care

To respond to the Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court with rejoicing, but more importantly asking the congregations of the Michigan District to fill the Gospel need of providing support for crisis pregnancy centers, encouraging members to consider foster parenting and adoption options, and supporting many pro-life ministries in the district.

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“ Behold, *now* is the favorable time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation. ”

2 Corinthians 6:2b

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2-06a – The CUS/CUE Proposed Governance Model

To memorialize Synod to delay the CUS/CUE Proposed Governance Model until concerns about possible unintended consequences are addressed.

2-01 – To Strengthen the Advisory Delegate Participation at District Conventions

The Michigan District enabled advisory delegates to provide an advisory poll on floor committee resolutions during its regular convention and the result of that poll was shared prior to the vote of the voting delegates. The Michigan District in convention memorialized the Synod in convention in 2023 to pass a like-minded resolution.

2-08 – CUW/CUAA Board of Regents Representation 1-05a – To Address Issues of Race Utilizing Resources Such as Heart Issues are Hard Issues (michigandistrict.org/heartissues/)

1-01a – A Culture of Bible Reading

1-06 – To Focus on Spiritual Formation

1-10 – To Encourage Congregations to Raise Up New Commissioned and Ordained Church Workers

Essayists

During convention, delegates heard from two essayists. Rev. Dr. Chad D. Lakies is the regional director for North America at Lutheran Hour Ministries and provides leadership and operational management for the North America region. Lakies presented the topic: *Plausible Hope: Faithful Witness in an Age of Distrust*.



President Maier encourages those in attendance to be a "People of Hope" during his President's Address.

Photos by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

Rev. Dr. John A. Nunes is a Lutheran pastor and Senior Fellow at the Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy. He has served as the President of Concordia College New York, President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief, and as a professor at Valparaiso University. His presentation included a moving acapella rendition of *Great is Thy Faithfulness*, sung by his wife, Monique. ■

Convention Playlist and Proceedings

The Convention video playlist is available at [YouTube.com/michiganLCMS](https://www.youtube.com/michiganLCMS) and includes a recap video, worship services, sermons, the President's Address, the essayists' presentations, and President Harrison's presentation. Transcripts of the President's Address and Essayists will be available in the Convention Proceedings due out early fall.



Rev. Erik Cloeter leads worship during the Monday morning Service of Invocation.



Delegates spend time focusing on the business of the Convention.



Advisory delegates and guests join in a time of prayer and reflection following a message from our Essayist.

A Statement Regarding the Supreme Court Dobbs Decision

by Paul M. Clark

The date—June 24, 2022—goes down as one of the momentous dates in history, as the U.S. Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling on the Dobbs Case and, in a 6-3 decision, overturned one of the most infamous cases of all time—Roe v. Wade.

This is a day of joy and thanksgiving to our God. He has worked in the hearts of the majority of the Supreme Court justices to move them to do what is ethical and right—to state clearly that there is NO constitutional right to an abortion. The lives of unborn children matter!

Remember—abortion kills babies. And abortion—contrary to the lies—hurts women.

So, yes, the day has come! We have prayed and worked and yearned for this day. Our lips pour forth our Alleluias and our *Te Deums*, as we give honor and praise and glory to the Lord of Life—our Triune God.

It is significant that the decision was handed down on this day which, on our church year calendar, is the feast day for the Nativity of John the Baptist. Yes, the very one who, in the womb of his mother Elizabeth, leapt for joy in the presence of Baby Jesus, who was in the womb of His mother, Mary. God's timing is absolutely amazing.

So, Roe is no more. What does this mean?

This court decision does not make abortion illegal. It simply acknowledges that the “right” to an abortion was never in the Constitution and should never have been enshrined as a “right” by the Supreme Court in the first place.

It returns the issue to the fifty states, and to the democratic and legislative process, putting it back in the hands of citizens and not in the hands of nine justices.

So, for us here in Michigan, the battle continues in a new way. We are in a good position. Our state already

“I praise you, for I am fearfully
'and wonderfully made.’”

has a law on the books that, before Roe, banned abortions in Michigan. There is a lawsuit to stop this law from going back into effect, however, and until the court rules on this lawsuit, abortion will still be legal in Michigan. But we have good, solid people fighting against this lawsuit and, God willing, our law protecting the unborn will soon be back into place.

In addition, Planned Parenthood—the nation's largest abortion provider—has begun a petition drive to collect signatures to place the issue on the ballot. The goal of this lawsuit and this petition is the same—to make sure that abortions would continue to be allowed in Michigan for all nine months of pregnancy, with no restrictions whatsoever! Thanks be to God, we have many hard-working pro-life citizens right now who are battling this radical petition, and who are getting the word out, warning people not to sign it.

The battle continues in many ways, and we must not tire or slack off in vigilance until our state again becomes a place of safety for little baby girls and boys. God bless and keep you all—as you stand strong for the sanctity and dignity of all human life, born and unborn!

“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14a ESV).

ALLELUIA! ■

Rev. Paul M. Clark has been the pastor of St. Paul, Fowler for over 30 years. He serves as President of Lutherans for Life of Michigan, as well as the Pastoral Counselor. Rev. Clark and his wife Elizabeth have three children through the blessing of adoption.

Year-Round *Mental Health* Church Worker Care

by John R. Rathje

The month of May is publicized as Mental Health Awareness Month when everyone seems to have advice on this topic. But what about the rest of the year?

My sister in Christ, fellow staff member, and our Michigan District Mental Health Case Manager, Dcs. Christie Hansard, RN, BSN shares that we know there will be times of trouble other than during a month of mental health observance. Psalm 9:9–10 tells us that, *“The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You.”*

Our troubles may be physical, mental, or even spiritual. When we consider whole-person health, it includes our mental health. Psalm 73:26 notes, *“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”* When we become out of balance in our health, whether it is physical, mental, or spiritual, we might need to reach out for help.

In the Michigan District, the Commission for Church Worker Care (CCWC) has set up resources for just such a need. The Michigan District offers a confidential process for church workers and their families to receive

guidance when they are going through a difficult time. Dcs. Hansard assists individuals in making informed decisions about mental and emotional health. Insurance plans often cover such services, but if not, the District is prepared to offer financial assistance for ordained and commissioned church workers and their family members.

If a church worker or their family member needs counseling, contact Dcs. Hansard at 734.845.2972 or churchworkercare@michigandistrict.org. She will gather some basic information and connect you with a counselor in your area.

These counselors are approved through a process, including verification that they are licensed and have the appropriate liability insurance. The approval process begins with a conversation to see if they agree with our theological perspective, hear about their integration of theology and good clinical practice, discover their specialties, and much more. Many of these counselors are Lutherans themselves.

The CCWC is always looking for more counselors to serve in this role.

Currently, we

especially need more in the Northern part of the Lower Peninsula and in the Upper Peninsula. The vision is to build a list of state-wide counselors to be an ongoing resource for our church workers and their families. The goal of the Michigan District is to have approved counselors in every area of the state as well as virtual counseling to provide even more access. If you are a counselor or know of one, please contact Dcs. Hansard with contact information.

Scripture gives us the image that, as the leaders in Christ’s Church are the healthiest they can be, then their ministry and mission of love toward others will be the healthiest it can be—as the Head goes, so goes the Body (1 Timothy 3, 1 Corinthians 12, 15).

Please join us in praying for all church workers and their families. ■

Rev. John R. Rathje (LPC, NCC, SPM) serves as Dean of Students at Concordia University Ann Arbor and as the Michigan District Mental Health Support Coordinator.

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”



Encourage One Another

by Mark D. Brandt

Am I the only one who has noticed that every year there seems to be more conferences offered than the previous year? And most of them happen within about one month of each other! So, why would someone attend the Best Practices Heartland conference (stlorenz.org/ministries/best-practices/) on September 18–20 this year? What distinguishes this conference from others? We'll get to that, but first let's highlight what Best Practices Heartland has in common with other great conferences:

Fabulous speakers!

Best Practices Heartland includes four plenary sessions that feature outstanding speakers:

- Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, outgoing Michigan District President, will share insights for workers and congregations.
- Rev. Jeff Kloha, Chief Curator for the Museum of the Bible, will discuss what that institution has been discovering.
- Stephanie Rummel, widowed at a young age, will relate how miracles still happen.
- Rev. Mark Brandt (me!), retired Lead Pastor at St. Lorenz, will talk about challenges to his faith and prayer life when serious illness struck a close family member.

Best Practices also includes five breakout periods with dozens of presenters in several ministry categories such as Witnessing, Leadership, Technology, Worship. You pick the ones that most interest you.

Inspirational worship!

The opening service on Sunday evening will take place in the recently constructed St. Lorenz Worship and Event Center, a modern worship space designed for a more contemporary style of worship. The sending service on Tuesday will be in the historic St. Lorenz church building with its Gothic architecture, majestic organ, and magnificent stained-glass windows.

Opportunities for networking!

There will be plenty of time to connect with others who are experiencing similar (or completely different) circumstances and ministries. The Sunday evening *Gemütlichkeit*, the meals we eat together, and extended-break times will all serve to facilitate networking.

Exhibitors!

Participants will be able to visit a plethora of displays where you will learn about various ministries or have opportunities to purchase materials. There might also be free take-aways at some of the booths.

So, what's unique about this conference?

It's free!

There is no registration fee or charge for conference meals. Your only cost is transportation and lodging—and we've arranged for special rates at community hotels for attendees. (Sorry, but we can't do anything about gas prices!)

It's in Frankenmuth!

Come early or stay after the conference to soak up the Old-World ambiance of Michigan's favorite tourist attraction. September is one of the most beautiful months in this always-beautiful town. Enjoy a world-famous Frankenmuth chicken dinner at the Monday evening banquet at the Bavarian Inn Lodge. (Included in your registration fee—which is \$0.00!)

Have I used too many exclamation marks? Register at stlorenz.org/ministries/best-practices/ to attend the conference and find out! ■

Rev. Mark D. Brandt serves as the 1st Vice President of the Michigan District, LCMS.

Best Practices for Ministry: Heartland

September 18–20, 2022

St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

stlorenz.org/ministries/best-practices

AUGUST 2022

New and Improved! CEF Direct Now Makes It Easier to Transact with Us Online



The upgraded CEF Direct builds upon the DDI-Direct™ software from DiscipleData, Inc. This platform for online transactions has been proven in use by extension funds nationwide. In a panel discussion at DDI's recent Annual User Group Meeting, CEF's Steve Perrault shared CEF's key lessons learned in implementing the software.



“The CEF team made the software conversion easy. They’ve grasped new concepts with ease ... all while keeping the focus on the customer as their number one priority.”

Mark Chyba

Implementation Specialist, DiscipleData, Inc.
Providers of CEF Direct's Core Software Platform

Do you like the convenience of performing online transactions? Then we have great news for you: Church Extension Fund has significantly improved CEF Direct, our electronic accounts system. You can now conduct many more of your transactions with CEF at your computer or on your smartphone, wherever you happen to be.

You may have already read about the CEF Direct upgrade in our Annual Report released in May. The project began over a year ago. Our goal was to simplify our processes while enabling ministries and members to do more with us, online, more easily.

Of course, if you prefer to interact with CEF in person, you still can. We always enjoy having you visit us at our headquarters in Ann Arbor – and when you do, we can assure you'll continue to enjoy the same high level of customer care you've always received.

Proven Software Platform

CEF partnered with DiscipleData, Inc. (DDI) of Carmel, Indiana to enhance and expand CEF Direct's capabilities. For nearly 50 years, DDI has been serving extension funds throughout the USA. They understand the unique challenges of CEF's ministry, having grown out

of an extension fund themselves. DDI's deep familiarity with our day-to-day processes made the decision to switch to their proven software platform an easy one.

Over the past 12 months, CEF staff members have worked diligently to transfer data to the new system. We've done this while continuing to ensure that we keep all financial records and personal information thoroughly accurate and secure. We're now pleased to report that we've completed the data transfer process - with flying colors!

Mark Chyba, an implementation specialist for DDI, highly praised the performance of our staff during the CEF Direct upgrade. "The CEF team made the software conversion easy," he said. "CEF's people have been patient and understanding, and always eager to learn. They've grasped new concepts and processes with ease. And they've done all this while consistently keeping the focus on the customer as their number one priority."

Smooth Transition

This past June, four CEF staff members attended DDI's Annual User Group Meeting in Indianapolis. There they compared notes with other users of the software platform, assessed performance metrics, and learned about future software upgrades. It was also an opportunity to network with other extension funds about overall operations.

So impressed was DDI with CEF during the software conversion process, they asked Steve Perrault,

CEF's Assistant Vice President and Systems Manager, to participate in the meeting's panel discussion on system implementation for new users of the software.

For those who know Steve, it was no surprise he was asked to join this panel. Steve is CEF's "go to" for practically anything software-related. His dedication to CEF's ministry has only been amplified during the past year, as he has prepared countless reports on the CEF Direct upgrade, and has strived tirelessly to be sure that CEF's customers experience a smooth software transition. Without Steve's leadership and hard work, the upgrade could not have happened as successfully as it did. Well done, Steve!

Driven by Our Mission

Others contributing mightily to the CEF Direct upgrade included our President John Bates, Accounting Manager Zack Werner, Assistant Vice President and Loan Manager Jodi Gonzalez, Mortgage Loan Processor Shannon Morrin, Accounting Clerk Cheryl Slyfield, Customer Service Representative Sandy Mastenbrook, and Executive Assistant Kris Nowak. What a team we have at CEF! All rose to the occasion, and they knocked it out of the park in delivering this new and better CEF Direct to our customers.



The recent upgrade of CEF Direct allows us to better serve our members and ministries in their mission to Build God's Kingdom by providing an easy way to conduct more of their transactions online.

CEF's determination to upgrade CEF Direct is consistent with our mission: We serve as trusted and innovative stewards of financial resources by providing investment and lending products to help Lutheran ministries and church members Build God's Kingdom.

To learn more about what CEF offers to you - including details on your enhanced capabilities with CEF Direct - please visit our website at www.mi-cef.org.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

— 2 Corinthians 5:17



Church Extension Fund

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Ray Zavada Retires

Ray Zavada, the Michigan District, LCMS Assistant to the President – Development, retired July 31, 2022, leaving a legacy of two successful campaigns that greatly support ministry in the district.

Zavada, an avid sports fan, played baseball and football in high school, and football in college. He graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in Education. His first job was teaching Physical Education and coaching football and basketball. After seven years, however, school district cutbacks caused him to lose his job, prompting him to change careers. He went to work at Teen Ranch Family Services, an institution that offered foster care and adoption services, intervention services, family counseling, institutional care, residential care for teenagers, and the like. He started out as a regional director for Southeast Michigan and eventually moved up to become the CEO. From there, he went on to work at Lutheran Child and Family Services, where he was Vice President of Development.

In March of 2007, Zavada started working for the Michigan District, LCMS. Reflecting on his career at the District, Zavada marvels at God’s work, allowing him to see the successful conclusion to the two campaigns that he led: *The Future is Now* and *Here We Stand*. Both campaigns share strikingly similar patterns: *“When we did **The Future is Now** campaign, there was a two-year period where we entered a significant recession. And yet people in our church body responded. They were challenged because everybody was just watching their finances so closely. And churches were under tremendous challenge too, and yet they responded so generously to us.*

*“And then we go into the **Here We Stand** campaign and it’s going along great. It had a great kickoff to it—a wonderful community opening at the Breslin Center in East Lansing as we celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in October of 2017—and it was going right on schedule, and then the pandemic hit. So it was another two-year period, just like in the previous campaign, that came at a time when the timing almost couldn’t have been worse. But as it turned out, maybe the timing couldn’t have been better. God’s plan for us was different than what our plan was. And we*

*found that, even in a time of challenge like that, people were wonderfully generous at a level that I still kind of just shake my head at and say, ‘how could that have happened?’ And as we are coming out of that period, that has continued and certainly allowed us to reach—and surpass—our goal of 10 million in the **Here We Stand** campaign.”*

Michigan District President Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier says, *“Ray Zavada is a consummate professional and a layman that is completely dedicated to Christ in the ministry that he performed all his life. He has served admirably in the District. What a joy it was to travel with Ray—and often with his wife Cindy too—to 24 of the Open Forums before we began the Here We Stand Campaign. Those will be lifelong memories, and I’m so thankful for how the Lord has blessed that stewardship program.”*

Zavada is grateful to his wife, Cindy, and is also deeply indebted to the administrative assistants he’s had along the years, as well as President Maier and President Emeritus C. William Hoesman, and the whole office team.

In retirement, Ray and Cindy are looking forward to spending more time with their three sons and their families, seeing their grandchildren, and participating in their events and games more often.

We wish Ray and Cindy a God-blessed retirement!



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

LLL Work in Mexico and Men's Retreat

The Lutheran Hour Ministries ministry center in Mexico is locally known as *Cristo Para Todas las Naciones* (Christ for all Nations). LHM—Mexico works closely with local Lutheran missions and pastors to support the outreach of each mission church, and to build a collaborative effort among all Lutheran agencies working in Mexico. LHM—Mexico publishes booklets each month that address a variety of everyday subjects. Each topic is explored and addressed from the Christian perspective encouraging the reader to apply the teachings to his or her own life.

The ministry center distributes the booklets through volunteers working within the various missions, outreach stands, city-wide fairs, festivals, and through the schools involved in Project JOEL, a force for the development of Christian values and biblical understanding within the youth of Mexico. Classified ads in newspapers, social media posts, a tabloid-sized newspaper supplement, Bible correspondence courses, groups, and events are an important part of the outreach. For more information, visit lhm.org.

The 76th annual Lutheran Laymen's League Men's Retreat at Camp Arcadia is set for Sept. 8–11, 2022. The

retreat features spiritual growth, fellowship, relaxation, and recreation. The retreat theme is *Moving from Dissatisfaction to Holy Discontent*.



Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper Rev. Gabe Kasper

Guest speakers include Rev. Gabe Kasper, lead pastor of University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor and Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper, Michigan District, LCMS Assistant to the President-Congregation Mission and Ministries, Metro Zone/Ministry Support. Retreat chaplains are Rev. David Mews, Guardian Lutheran Church, Dearborn and Rev. Thomas Schroeder, Emeritus, Saline.

The cost is \$235/person. Register at camp-arcadia.com and click on *Attend Arcadia*.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY LWML

80 Years of of God's Grace



EQUIPPING
WOMEN

PROCLAIMING
CHRIST



SERVING
OTHERS

SUPPORTING
MISSIONS

<https://lwmlmichigan.org/>

Maier Farewell and Recognition Dinner

Registration is now open for the Farewell/Recognition Dinner in honor of Michigan District President Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier and his wife, Pat. The dinner will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza; 725 South Creyts Road; Lansing, Mich. Tickets are \$40 and can be reserved online at michigandistrict.org/maierfarewell or by contacting Debbie Hughes at 734.665.3791 ext. 234 or debra.hughes@michigandistrict.org.



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

Former Vice President Pence Visits LHNW

To demonstrate the importance of the Student Opportunity Scholarship Petitions, the *Let MI Kids Learn* organization selected Lutheran High School Northwest as the school to visit to help promote the *Let MI Kids Learn* campaign and petition drive. This event occurred on Thursday, May 17. Vice President Mike Pence spoke to the student body at large and held a round table discussion with parents. Former Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos was also present.

Michigan District, LCMS Assistant to the President – Superintendent of Schools Travis Grulke attended the event. He shares: “[Pence] brought in Christ and His foundation, saying that the students at LHNW are not only gaining academic education, but also that foundation built on Christ; he empowered them to really take advantage of that.”

Lutheran High Northwest thanks Vice President Mike Pence and the *Let MI Kids Learn* organization for taking the time to visit. Principal Matthew Tschudy says, “We are truly thankful, blessed, and honored for this opportunity!”



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

Chaos or Courage? Reclaiming Sexual Virtue, Human Identity, and The Family

St. Stephen, Waterford is hosting a workshop with Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford on Saturday, September 24. Dr. Woodford is the president of the LCMS Minnesota South District.

American life is being turned upside down and inside out. Our sexually explicit and transgendered culture threatens to strip the world of meaningful purpose and humanity of moral character. Cultural madness is all around and infects the digital media and entertainment of our day, leading our children astray. Many are wondering how to combat it all. This workshop explores ways to do that. Join the discussion at St. Stephen’s on what it means to be a human being created in the image of God, and the hope that we have amid a chaotic world.

Register by September 15 for this free event at ststephenwaterford.org. Seats are limited. For more information, contact the church office at 248.673.6621 ext. 100 or office@ststephenwaterford.org.

Trust Fund Gift Presented

Church Extension Fund Gift planner Julie Burgess was overjoyed to present \$107,280 to Zion Lutheran Church and School in Bay City. The gift was from Tula L. Seidenstucker. Tula’s family (who joined Julie for the check presentation) shared that their mom was dedicated to Christian education and the LWML. So, before God called Tula home, she donated her parent’s farm to fund a trust that supported her children for 20 years. Afterwards, the trust funded the generous gift to Zion Lutheran Church and School.



Photo courtesy of Church Extension Fund

Pictured with Julie Burgess (L) and the Seidenstucker family is Pastor Phillip Baerwolf (2nd row center)

Donations for South Sudan

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation and Orphan Grain Train – Michigan are working together to send a large shipping container of church and humanitarian supplies to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan/Sudan this fall.

Needs include vestments, choir robes, paraments, baptismal fonts, shoes of all kinds, children’s clothes and adult polo shirts and t-shirts, warm blankets and bed sheets, twin mattresses, hospital equipment, school desks, used wireless microphone equipment, keyboards, drums and electric guitars, small roto tillers, garden tools, padded chairs, and a small, enclosed hitch trailer that can be used



Photo courtesy of The Lutheran Heritage Foundation

to haul books. Cash donations are also accepted.

Donations may be sent by early September to Orphan Grain Train; 126 E Main Street; Sebawaing MI 48759.

The Night the Teachers Slept on the Roof

Teachers at Trinity (Monitor), Bay City spent the night on the school roof on June 3 after the students reached their goal of raising \$1,000 to build four beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This wonderful organization builds beds for local kids who don’t have one, so that “No Kids Sleep on the Floor in Our Town” (that’s their motto).

First grade teacher Megan Gallagher shares, *“After tents were up, we settled in to watch a beautiful sunset from a different vantage point. We turned in around 11 p.m. and tried to get as much sleep as possible ... but it was in the 40’s that night and the next morning, there was frost on the ground! After a quick trip home to shower or take a short snooze, it was on to the sponsored bed build.”*

In about 3 hours, with about 50 volunteers, they were able to build parts for 40 beds to go to local children.



Photo courtesy of Megan Gallagher

l-r: Mrs. Judy Jean (8th Grade Teacher), Miss Rebecca Steffey (Kindergarten Teacher), Miss Megan Gallagher (1st Grade Teacher), Mrs. Karen Friebe (Principal)

Women’s Health Day

The Women’s Health Day event is a community outreach at St. Paul, Ann Arbor surrounding National Women’s Health Day. The event, which will take place on Saturday, September 10, encourages women to reconnect and set aside time for self-care. Various booths available will focus on mental health, nursing well checks, dietary recommendations, massage therapy, prayer, visual faith, facial and hand massages, and nail art.

There will also be a variety of short fitness classes to try out led by The Mix of Ann Arbor, as well as prize giveaways. The Alzheimer’s Association and St. Paul Church and School will be available for education and resources.

Admission cost is \$25. Proceeds from this event will benefit both the local Alzheimer’s Association and the St. Paul Scholarship Fund. Be sure to put the date on your calendars and spread the word! For more information, visit stpaulannarbor.org/spnews.



Wellspring Lutheran Services celebrated the opening of the new Transitional Care Community in Saginaw, an investment of \$5 million by the Covenant/Wellspring partnership in Great Lakes Bay Region, with a ribbon cutting on June 16. The newly renovated building started accommodating patients the week of June 20.

Special Recognition

Healy Retires from Childcare Ministry

On Sunday, June 5, a worship service took place at Freedom Childcare Center, a ministry of St. Thomas, Ann Arbor, to celebrate the center's 10th anniversary and to bid farewell to director Jamie Healy, who recently retired. The St. Thomas congregation, led by Pastor Coleman Geraci, gathered on the campus of the childcare center alongside current and former families of students. The service was followed by presentations honoring Healy, including a commemorative plaque presented to her by Travis Grulke, Michigan District, LCMS Superintendent of Schools.

Jamie Healy has been the childcare center director since June 2013. She is originally from Harbor Beach, Mich., where she was the childcare director at Zion Lutheran Church for over a decade.



Students at Saginaw Valley Lutheran High School raised \$1,000 during March Madness by creating a bracket which featured cats and dogs in the care of the Saginaw County Animal Care and Control. This donation helped support the agency with blankets, food, toys, and treats.

Organist Serves for Over 70 Years

Eileen Jones began serving as an organist at 16 years of age. This spring, she was honored for over 70 years of service as the organist of Emmanuel, Britton. The first church service she played was in 1949 on an electric organ that looked like an upright grand piano. She rode her bike to church until she was old enough to drive the family car. Along with being the organist, she has played a vital part in the music ministry at Emmanuel, forming and directing an adult choir as well as handbells and chime choirs. Eileen passed down her love for serving the Lord and encouraged her daughter, Carolyn Reitz, who now sits on the organ bench a couple of Sunday mornings a month.





Photo courtesy of Rev. Thomas Gustafson

Rev. Thomas Gustafson was ordained at Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Louis on June 5. He will be installed as associate pastor at Immanuel, Grand Rapids on August 7. Clergy included front row (l-r) Pastor-Elect Andrew Asp, Rev. John Vaughn Jr., Rev. Thomas Gustafson, Rev. Dr. Erik Herrmann, and Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Oswald. Back Row (l-r); Rev. Bill Wilson, Rev. Andrew Dinger, Rev. Dr. David Maxwell, Rev. Jaime Nava, and Rev. Dr. Ron Rall.

IN HIS PRESENCE

Throughout All Generations

Psalm 90:1

SPEAKERS

Rev. Matt Popovits

Dcs. Heidi Goehmann

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

100 White Flags

Jan Struck

Lodging, meals,
and gratuities at
the Grand Hotel

\$370

per person based on
quad occupancy.

Michigan District, LCMS presents

Lutheran Adult Gathering

October 14-16, 2022 | Mackinac Island, Michigan

michigandistrict.org/lag22

Cost: \$30/person plus lodging

Deadline to register is August 15, 2022



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Director of Facilities and Safety at
Peace Lutheran School, Saginaw



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Calls and Roster Update

ORDAINED

Calls Accepted

Rev. Richard Collin (Emeritus) to Sole (Vacancy) Pastor, St. Peter's, Big Rapids
Rev. Matthew Durance (Kansas District) to Sole Pastor, Zion, Harbor Beach
Rev. Jeffrey Frechette (Sterling Heights, MI) to Associate, St. Mark, Flint
Rev. K. Frank Graves (Emeritus) to Sole (Vacancy) Pastor, Redeemer, Fremont
Rev. Alfred Kersten (Lincoln) to SMP, Good Shepherd, Ossineke
Rev. Samuel Watters (Emeritus) to SMP, St. Matthew, Westland

Change of Status

Rev. Timothy Azzam (Oscoda) to Emeritus
Rev. Edward Filter (Portland) to Emeritus
Rev. Roger Mackie (Green Bay, WI) to Emeritus
Rev. Terry Nelson (South Lyon) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Rev. Matthew Durance (Kansas District)

Transferred Out of District

Rev. Roger Mackie (Green Bay, WI) to North Wisconsin District
Rev. Edward Steeh (Emeritus) to English District

Resigned From the Roster

Rev. William Hooper

Called Home

Rev. Raymond Pollatz
Rev. Ray Scherbarth

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

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Berry, Jenna (Candidate) to Immanuel, Macomb
Bolwerk-Heien, Anne (Immanuel, Hamilton, OH) to St. Matthew, Walled Lake
Buelow, Janis (Concordia, Seward, NE) to Trinity, Utica
Ellison, Robert (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (North)
Hackbarth, Samuel (Concordia, Ann Arbor) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (North)
Klausmeier, Veronica (Candidate) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (North)
Lepley, Wendi (Candidate) to Trinity, Conklin
Lustila, Gerald (St. Paul, Bay City) to Trinity, Sturgis
Massey, Elizabeth (Candidate) to Holy Cross, Colorado, CO
Plourde, Randall (St. Peter's, Big Rapids) to Camp Luther, Three Lakes, WI
Russell, Charles (Grace, Little Rock, AR) to St. Peter, Macomb
Sherry, Patrice (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to St. Peter, Hemlock
Siemen, Rachel (Candidate) to Michigan District, LCMS
Swartz, Dawn (St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth) to Child of God, Saint Peters, MO
Schoenknecht, Paul (St. Paul, Millington) to Immanuel, Saginaw
von der Lage, Ruth (LHSA, Rochester Hills) to St. Paul's, Fort Wayne, IN
Werling, Anna (Immanuel, Sebawaing) to Lutheran High School Association, Saint Louis, MO

Change of Status

Carr, Allison (Trinity, Utica) to Candidate
Faerber, Janise (St. John's, New Boston) to Emeritus
Harris, Valerie (Trinity, Utica) to Emeritus
Hinck, Barbara (St. Matthew, Westland) to Emeritus
Jammer, Bonnie (Zion, Auburn) to Emeritus
Kayser, Doris (Messiah, Grand Rapids) to Candidate
Kosman, Paul (Trinity, Sturgis) to Emeritus
Kressbach, Frederick (Immanuel, Macomb) to Emeritus
Lucas, Krista (Trinity, Traverse City) to Emeritus
McDonald, Andrea (Faith, Bay City) to Candidate

Prisby, Kelly (Immanuel, Macomb) to Emeritus
Snyder, Brigid (Trinity, Utica) to Emeritus
Sturgess, Jacqueline (St. Peter's, Eastpointe) to Emeritus
Wedde, Deborah (Trinity, Berrien Springs) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Bolwerk-Heien, Anne (Ohio District) to St. Matthew, Walled Lake
Ennis, Jacob (Central Illinois District) to Immanuel, Macomb
Esselman, Adele (Missouri District) to Trinity, Saint Joseph
Francik, Christopher (Kansas District) to St. Paul, Royal Oak
Reinking, Martha (Iowa District East) to Trinity, Utica
Riley, Barbara (Ohio District) to St. Paul, Millington
Russell, Charles (Mid-South District) to St. Peter, Macomb
Traska, Keith (Minnesota South District) to Trinity, Saint Joseph
Winterstein, Jill (Indiana District) to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

Transferred Out of District

Heine, Mary (Emeritus) to Nebraska District
Kayser, Doris (Candidate) to Mid-South District
Mackie, Ruth (Trinity, Conklin) to North Wisconsin District
Massey, Elizabeth (Candidate) to Rocky Mountain District
Plourde, Randall (St. Peter's, Big Rapids) to North Wisconsin District
Swartz, Dawn (St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth) to Missouri District
Swartz, Joshua (St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth) to Missouri District
Trent, Keith (Peace, Saginaw) to Ohio District
von der Lage, Ruth ((LHSA, Rochester Hills) to Indiana District
Werling, Anna (Immanuel, Sebawaing) to Missouri District

Reinstated to the Roster

Bach, Lisa

Resigned From the Roster

Hinrichs, Thomas
Schian, Ruth

Removed From Roster

Alderson, John
Graham, Melissa
Osborne, Matthew

Calendar of Events

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

AUGUST 2022

- 1-3 Higgins Lake Principals Conference
Higgins Lake
- 1-5 Special Friends Camp
Camp Copneconic, Fenton
- 5 Ray Zavada Retirement Luncheon
- 7-9 Board of Directors Retreat
Bay City
- 9 Early Childhood Directors Day
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- 10 Early Childhood Conference
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth