

September 2022

michigan

IN TOUCH

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



HEALTHY WORKERS

Maier Concludes Fourth Term as District President

by Deborah S. Fall

On September 30, Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier will complete his fourth and final term as president of the Michigan District, LCMS. Building on the work of his predecessors, one senses the continuation of a Kingdom mindset over the last 13 years: the Michigan District is composed of *People of Hope*, first seeking the Lord, and following His guidance in finding new ways to reach new people with the love of Christ.

President Elect Rev. David Davis reflects, “*What I* continued on page 2

Photo by Kelly Cieslak/Michigan District, LCMS

michigan

IN TOUCH

Official Periodical of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
September 2022, Volume 21, No. 8
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

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

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

©2022 Michigan District, LCMS, Ann Arbor, Michigan. *Michigan In Touch* is published monthly by the Michigan District and inserted into *The Lutheran Witness* and distributed to subscribers 11 times a year. It is also available online at www.michiganintouch.com. Reproduction of articles is permissible with written permission of the Michigan District Communications Department and should give credit to *Michigan In Touch*. References to resources and websites for further information are included in *Michigan In Touch* for the potential use by individuals and congregations. Resources not associated with or published by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or Concordia Publishing House® may contain helpful programmatic information but may vary in doctrine from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Please use discretion or consult your pastor on doctrinal issues. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the English Standard Version (ESV).



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

888.225.2111
intouch@michigandistrict.org
michigandistrict.org

Table of Contents

- 1 Healthy Workers
- 4 Great Commission
- 6 Great Compassion
- 8 Church Extension Fund
- 10 Great Compassion
- 11 LLL/LWML
- 12 News and Events
- 13 Special Recognition
- 16 Calls and Roster Update
- 16 Calendar of Events

continued from page 1

appreciated about David is his strength of character as a follower of Jesus. This was borne out in at least two ways. First, he was always pushing to see what was the most he could do to further the interest of Jesus' Kingdom. Second, through all of it, good times and bad times, consternations and celebrations, COVID heartaches and change of hearts, David was joyful and positive about what Jesus could do. He has been indeed a person of HOPE."

As a graduate of Concordia University Ann Arbor, President Maier has always had a heart for his alma mater and its mission. Michigan District 1st Vice President Rev. Mark Brandt says, *"President Maier's role in keeping Concordia Ann Arbor open cannot be overstated. He worked tirelessly and courageously to help bring about the current relationship that our university has with Concordia Wisconsin. That is but one example of what our gracious God has done through His humble servant."*

During President Maier's tenure, he worked with the District Vice Presidents and Board of Directors to put forth the current vision, mission, and these four critical targets of the District: Great Commission Ministry, Great Compassion Ministry, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Workers.

"I have been blessed to serve at the feet of President Maier for the past 4 years. His passion and enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel and growing the church was and is clearly evident. His humble and servant heart reflects that of the ultimate Servant, Jesus. His hearty laugh and sense of humor rounds out the man that God has used in wonderful ways in our District. I am confident that he will continue to be a positive influence in the future of our District even as the Lord uses him in a different role," shares Michigan District 2nd Vice President, Rev. Dean Davenport.

Another vision of President Maier's was the initiation of Theological Conferences, fashioned after Synod's first Theological Conference where church leaders came together to discuss the topic of worship. In the Michigan District, laity and church workers come together at Theological Conferences to hear from speakers and examine relevant and sometimes controversial topics. The first conference, on the topic of worship, took place in 2011. Since then, the subsequent nine included: Apologetics; Church, State, and Culture; the Holy Spirit; Life Issues; Sexual Identity; Take Heart, Take Action; Prayer; Legacy: Reclaiming a Lost Generation; and Beyond the Walls with Jesus.

The now flourishing intentional urban ministry, Acts 2 Enterprise, was a vision of President Maier's as well, and a missionary at large was called to Detroit. The humble beginning has now expanded to include the Benton Harbor Lutheran Outreach; Camp Restore Detroit; Elli's House, Detroit; Flint Mission Network encompassing Franklin Avenue Mission, York Avenue Mission, Mercy House, and The Luke Clinic; Family of God, Detroit; The Luke Clinic, Detroit; Summer Camps in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Pontiac; St. Paul Community, Pontiac; Charity, Detroit and Charity Inc; Outer Drive Faith, Detroit; Pan de Vida, Detroit; and Bethany, Detroit. Currently, six missionaries at large are deployed, and many congregations join in serving these growing ministries to under-served populations.



“His passion and enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel and growing the church was and is clearly evident. His humble and servant heart reflects that of the ultimate Servant, Jesus.”

Photos by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

In the fall and winter of 2016, President Maier traveled with Development Director Ray Zavada to many locations throughout the District to share the initiatives and vision of *Here We Stand*, a capital campaign to raise \$10 million to support professional church worker scholarships, innovative missional ministry, the Michigan District Endowment Fund, and international ministry. The goal of this campaign was exceeded and celebrated at the District Convention this past summer. The campaign kickoff, a joint worship service to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, took place in October of 2017 in Lansing, Mich. with over 13,000 in attendance.

In the summer of 2020, President Maier pulled together a group of both clergy and lay stakeholders in metro Detroit to address racism in the church. This resulted in the topic for the District’s All Pastors Conference, and later, the development of a Bible study for congregations titled, *Heart Issues are Hard Issues*.

“President Maier listened intensely to the needs and feelings of this group. Although the subject was a tough matter, all came together with respect of being heard, and more importantly understood. Topics included inclusiveness in ministry, voice in District matters, and diversity of our ministry approaches. As my brother in faith, [Maier] inspired a resulting communication across all clergy / parishioners for moving us forward in Michigan. He continually believes in bringing us together for understanding and love. His own podcasts, a healing service which included diverse speakers, and the available sermons are simply outstanding!” shares Deacon Robert (Bobby) Brooks, Metro West Layperson, Michigan District Board of Directors.

Over the years, President Maier was a frequent speaker and preacher at many District events and

conferences across Synod. He was also directly involved with the District branding, People of Hope, as well as District conventions developed with Ephesians 3:20–21 in mind:



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LOMS

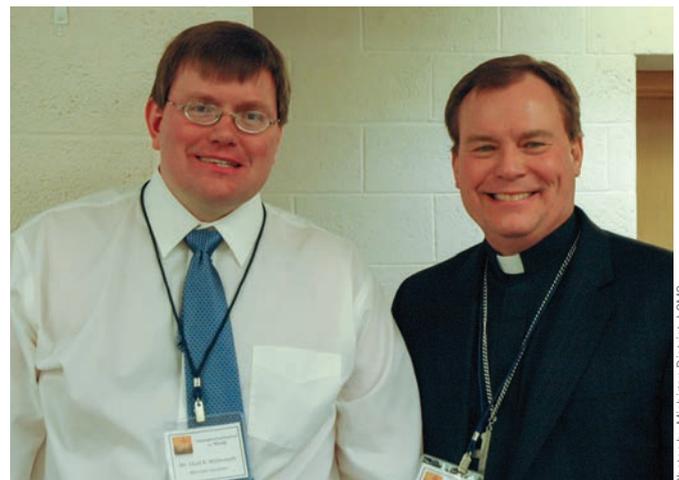
Imagine Living as God’s ... Forgiven and Forgiving Family (2012), Loved and Compassionate Community (2015), Saved and Sent Servants (2018), and lastly “People of Hope: It’s Time!” (2022). President Maier often challenged laity and church workers to think deeply about where we see God is at work and move in His direction.

President Maier serves alongside of his staff of Executive and Administrative Assistants, rolling up his sleeves and getting down in the trenches with them. Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper, Assistant to the President – Congregation Mission and Ministries, Metro Zone/Ministry Support, shares, *“If anyone has ever heard President Maier at a pastors’ conference or something, when he’s giving his report, or for some other reason introducing ... or maybe just making some reference to the district staff, he very often will make the comment that most everyone has a position title that starts with, ‘Assistant to the President.’ He then goes on to say something like, ‘That’s because I need a lot of assistance (or help)!’ But the thing is, I don’t think he is just making a silly joke. He really does see his fellow servants, with whatever role or*

continued on page 14



Photo courtesy of Pat Maier



Photos by Michigan District, LOMS

Urban Summer Camps/VBS

by Elisa L. Schulz



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

Three Summer Camp/VBS programs supported by the Michigan District's Acts 2 Enterprise Ministry, particularly the Michigan District Spring Appeal, took place this year.

Bethany, Detroit held its first Sports Camp/VBS in Detroit since the Covid Pandemic in 2020. There were 63 students in attendance, with ages ranging from 4 to 16. Bethany's volunteers were joined by volunteers from Camp Restore Detroit, East Bethlehem, St. Philip, and Faith Outer Drive. Additionally, a Concordia University Ann Arbor graduate joined them daily, driving in from Ypsilanti.

Two of the five days of camp were extremely hot, so attendance suffered a little on those days, but on Wednesday a family of five walked by, decided to see what it was all about, and ended up joining the camp for the last three days. Along with basketball, lacrosse, cheerleading, and self-defense, favorite activities for attendees were water gun fights and archery.

St. Paul Community, Pontiac held a VBS program with a theme of Construction. About 35 children were in attendance, and St. Paul Community volunteers were joined by volunteers from St. John, Rochester; St. Matthew, Walled Lake; and St. Stephen, Waterford. This year, with help from the District's A2E funds, they were able to purchase pocket Bibles to give to each child. Pastor Chris Jung taught them how to look up passages and to find the verse that they all memorized

during the week. The kids were excited when they learned they could take the Bibles home with them.

The Vine church plant in Walker had its first Summer Camp (VBS) since coming out of Covid protocols. They had 36 children attending and 9 volunteers, and the program was based on Science (STEM). Of the children who participated, only 10 attend regularly at The Vine on Sunday mornings. Eight more of the children are connected to the church plant through the after-school program it hosts during the school year. Eighteen of the children who came to the STEM camp this year were brand new connections from the neighborhood and most of these are not connected with any church family.

On the Sunday following The Vine Summer Camp week, The Vine invited the children and families to join the congregation for worship. The Summer Camp children sang two songs and they all celebrated with a picnic afterwards. Several new families came to worship. A dad from one of the new families said, "We haven't been in a church building for 12 years. That's when we were married. It feels good to reconnect and we will be back." Praise the LORD! ■

Elisa L. Schulz is a staff writer, copy editor, and photographer for the Michigan District, LCMS. She is married to Rev. Dr. Charles Schulz (Concordia University Ann Arbor) and they have three children.



Photos courtesy of The Vine, Grand Rapids and Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS



Photo by Jeff Heisner/Michigan District LCMS

Compassion and Community –

News From A2E Ministries in Urban Areas of Michigan

Detroit encompasses a vast urban area. Even though the downtown is experiencing a resurgence, the rest of the city remains rough. Some of the struggles that people have are financial, some have to do with housing or health, and some have to do with addiction. The pandemic took a heavy toll on the financial and mental health of many, and some people are still struggling with going back to work or just with communicating with others. The following is a sample of several ministries that function under the Michigan District's Acts 2 Enterprise in Detroit and Flint.

Mt. Calvary and Charity, Detroit

Rev. Dietrick Gladden serves as the District's Missionary at Large at both Mount Calvary and Charity in Detroit. His focus is to establish connections and build relationships with the community in order to learn where the needs are so he can bring the Gospel to people where they are at. For this purpose, he rides along with police officers, gets together with other pastors in the area, and hosts townhall meetings at the church. He also looks for community resources—there are many in Detroit through the local universities and other organizations.

Mt. Calvary is the host site for Camp Restore Detroit, an

organization that partners with local agencies and neighborhood associations by identifying needs and then hosting volunteers who come to do service projects in the Ninth Precinct. These projects include blight removal, house maintenance or building, planting trees, creating community gardens, building parks and playgrounds, and others. Charity works closely with a non-profit (Charity, Inc.) which works with house rehabilitation. They are also working on making connections with a local school, and recently re-established their iCan program, in conjunction with Lutheran Special Education Ministries, to help children who struggle in school.

Both Mt. Calvary and Charity are involved in programs that aim to foster good relationships with youth. At Mt. Calvary, the Detroit Behavior Institute (DBI) is a juvenile program that brings about 20 youth to the church on Tuesday nights for a mentorship-style program in which Gladden and other local pastors participate. At Charity, the gym is used for a similar program, called Cease Fire—every Thursday night, police officers pick up youth aged 14–18 and drop them off at the church. There, mentors play basketball with the youth and feed them afterwards. Because of these relationships, when these kids get in trouble at school, the same officers already know them and are able to redirect them.

Family of God, Detroit

Located in Southwest Detroit, Family of God is no stranger to the struggles faced by Detroiters. The congregation is deeply connected to its surrounding community, serving dinner followed by Bible study six nights a week and partnering with The Luke Clinic—a free prenatal and baby clinic—twice a month.

Nick Gapski, who served as Vicar at Family of God last year, describes what it's like to be a part of that congregation:

“Pastor Hill has talked a lot about just the ‘ministry of presence.’ And I think that’s a lot of what we do on a day-to-day basis: just being down here and just being with these people here, being part of the community. The church is called Family of God, and it really does feel like a family because we are so immersed and you see the same people every single day, and you’re hanging out with them three, four hours a day. And then we also lead Bible studies after dinner. So you are just totally immersed in the Word—whether I’m leading it or listening to someone else leading it. We have worship on Sundays. I am involved with helping to do a kid’s Bible study on Monday nights. When there’s adult Bible study up here, I take them downstairs and do a kid’s level Bible study. And we eat dinner together. Sharing a table with people, eating with one another, that really does build relationships more than you would imagine.”

Gapski says everything has been a surprise to him, but in a good way: *“Just to see the vibrant community and to see Christ’s love lived out here has just been an awesome surprise. Some days it’s really hard—you see people suffering and you’re so close to them that you feel their suffering. You feel their burden that they’re bearing. But there’s also great joy and happiness when things are going well for people. Some days it’s a struggle. Some days it’s a lot easier, but it’s a wide range every day.”* He says he learned a lot during his vicarage: *“I’ve learned more than I ever thought I would learn. I’ve really learned what it means to be a disciple and a servant of Christ in a way that I’ve never learned before.”*

Flint Mission Network, Flint

The city of Flint faces the same problems as Detroit. The Flint Mission Network—an umbrella organization encompassing Franklin Avenue Mission, York Avenue Mission, Mercy House, and the Luke Clinic—works to bring hope and the love of Christ to the communities it serves.

Some days it’s really hard—you see people suffering and you’re so close to them that you feel their suffering ... But there’s also great joy and happiness when things are going well for people.

In June, the Flint Mission Network received great news: its director, Rev. Christian Jones, was awarded a \$15,000 Emerging Leader Grant by the We Raise Foundation. Emerging Leader Grants are an investment in the development of leaders between the ages of 20-35 at Christian organizations who are leading new programs at the intersection of poverty, violence, and inequality.

Jones receives \$15,000 over two years with \$10,000 supporting the Flint Mission Network “Raising Children Up” project and \$5,000 supporting leadership development. This leadership development includes attendance at a Leadership Fundamentals conference through The Center for Creative Leadership; attendance at the Global Leadership Summit through satellite locations; and individualized leadership coaching. Jones also receives an invitation to attend the Emerging Leader Convening in Chicago, hosted and paid for by We Raise; and promotion/networking within the We Raise community.

“We Raise Foundation’s grant will make a tremendous impact on the lives of those served by Flint Mission Network,” said Jones. *“Being able to financially expand our ministry to better serve the needs of our neighbors and their children will produce much needed stability in our community and neighborhoods. Grateful does not begin to sincerely describe the amount of thanks I give to We Raise for their commitment to support us in being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ as we proclaim the Gospel, empower neighbors, and lift one another up in the city of Flint.”* ■

ACTS 2 ENTERPRISE (A2E)

Acts 2 Enterprise (A2E) is a strategic and holistic urban outreach initiative of the Michigan District, LCMS based on the work of Jesus and His disciples in the early church as recorded in the book of Acts. For information on all the urban ministry being accomplished in the Michigan District through A2E or to get involved, visit michigandistrict.org/a2e.

SEPTEMBER 2022

With God's Grace, Plus CEF's Support, a New Church Takes Root in Southwest Michigan



The new home for Creator's Praise Ministries, on Mendon's main drag, was once a retail site. It may not have looked all that church-like upon first glance, but when renovations to the building are completed soon, it should well serve this growing congregation



“We aim to make disciples who are believers, learners, followers, witnesses, and, ultimately, reproducers of the faith. In this way we can multiply the faithful.”

Reverend David Grimm
Senior Pastor
Creator's Praise Ministries
Mendon, Michigan

You know the saying: “From a tiny seed, a mighty oak grows.”

This has been the story so far for Creator's Praise Ministries in Mendon, Michigan, near our state's southwest corner. Being open to opportunity, wherever it may come from, has seeded this new congregation's discipleship – as has faith in Our Lord's guidance.

Now, through God, Creator's Praise aims to continue growing just as wondrously as that proverbial oak tree. A preferred-rate loan for new ministries from Church Extension Fund is helping.

How the Lord Leads Us

First inklings of Creator's Praise arose in a sad yet impassioning way. In September 2001, as the 9/11 tragedy unfolded, Pastor David Grimm was assisting at a large Lutheran church in Iowa. “I saw on TV the thousands of victims,” he says, “and I thought of how many had surely gone to their deaths without having found salvation in Jesus Christ.”

From those stirrings, Pastor Grimm began to feel a new calling. In 2004, he and his wife Shawna purchased and developed a family

camp in Leonidas, Michigan, on the St. Joseph River, a few miles from Mendon. They named the camp En Gedi, meaning “spring of the goat”, after the noted oasis and nature reserve within the Holy Land of Israel. “The name may seem unusual,” says Pastor Grimm, “yet it has served us well. For one, it consistently sparks conversations about our mission to lead people to eternal life through Jesus.”

In short time, the camp had built the Chapel of Our Creator’s Praise upon its grounds. “The chapel’s name,” per Pastor Grimm, “came from words in the hymn ‘From All That Dwell Below the Skies’ – but it was inspired even more by the awe we feel in how the Lord creates opportunities to connect with people and lead them to Him.”

To Multiply the Faithful

As the En Gedi camp and its annual music fest have continued to flourish, the opportunities for outreach in the area have increased. God was clearly pointing to the need for a new church in Mendon. The right site, in a former store in the center of town, was available at a reasonable cost. Here, Creator’s Praise Ministries, was established, with Lutheran doctrine at its core and Pastor Grimm as the congregation’s pastor.



A loan from CEF at a special startup rate offered to new ministry starts, enabled Creator’s Praise to purchase the building and begin its rehab late last year. Church members soon hung decorations and held the church’s first Christmas services. In summer, services returned temporarily to the camp’s chapel while building renovations proceeded in earnest. Grimm hopes the congregation will be worshipping in the building by this fall.

Creator’s Praise currently numbers about 40 regular worshippers. “We’ll be sustainable when we have 100 members,” says Pastor Grimm. “And when we get to 200 members, we plan to divide into two congregations, and continue to grow them both.”

The name “Creator’s Praise” comes from the hymn “For All That Dwell Below the Skies” and the lyrics “let the Creator’s Praise arise – alleluia!”.

This vision, with its extra emphasis on discipleship, echoes the long-time LCMS strategy of church planting. “We aim,” says Pastor Grimm, “to make disciples who are believers, learners, followers, witnesses, and, ultimately, reproducers of the faith. In this way we’ll not only grow our congregation, we’ll help multiply the faithful beyond our walls.”

As Pastor Grimm asserts: “CEF was a great partner throughout this entire process. We wouldn’t have this building without them.”



“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven.”

Matthew 5:16



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

This information is provided to assist you in your estate planning process and is not meant to offer financial or legal advice. Please contact your Attorney or Financial Advisor to obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.

Help for the Homeless – Trinity, Clinton Twp. Provides Building Grant to MCREST

By Rebecca W. Thomas

After purchasing and renovating a shelter in Mount Clemens for homeless women, the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (MCREST) recognized the need for a men's shelter as well. The Women's League from Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton Township decided to step in and offer support. With a \$140,000 Memorial Trust Fund grant from Trinity, MCREST was able to purchase a building adjacent to the women's shelter to house homeless men. Once renovations are complete, the building will provide lodging for at least 30 men at a time.

Creating a Community Connection

In 1988, nine founders, including Trinity, developed the idea of establishing a homeless day camp. As a result of that meeting, MCREST was born. By the fall of 1988, 12 churches provided meals and lodging to the homeless. MCREST continued to evolve and today provides meals, lodging, life-skills training, housing assistance, job readiness training, and emergency shelter 365 days each year to Macomb County's homeless population.

Trinity has supported MCREST for decades by hosting men, women, and children during the week of Christmas. Not only does Trinity provide a place for the homeless to sleep, but the congregation members also provide transportation, toiletries, meals, and activities for the guests. Several churches provide the same experience for the homeless men and women of Macomb County by hosting guests for a week throughout the year.

In recent years, however, the number of churches able to provide the service has declined and MCREST was forced to purchase lodging for the homeless at a nearby motel under a contract to account for the lost space and accommodations made by the churches.

Expanding the Experience

This spring, MCREST opened a women's shelter at 215 South Main Street in Mount Clemens. After \$1.6 million in renovations to the three-story formerly vacant building, it is now equipped to house 45 women and children for up to 90 days. The building has sleep-

ing areas and a Learning and Resource Center—an area where the residents learn life skills and job readiness training and where they can apply for jobs and government benefits. The building also holds the organization's offices.

When an adjacent property, located at 205 South Main Street, was listed for sale, MCREST considered the space for the men's shelter. The property would include additional parking and a potential play area for children. It can also be expanded in the future, should the need arise.

Trinity's Women's League learned about the opportunity for the men's shelter and wanted to help. The Women's League provides financial support to Trinity's mission partners and funds projects throughout the year. However, for this project, the Women's League got the backing of the church through a Memorial Trust grant request.

Funding the Future

Trinity's Memorial Trust Fund is designated to provide long-term and sustaining support for the growth of the congregation's ministry and outreach. The Women's League submitted the men's shelter proposal to Trinity's Mission Council, which unanimously approved the grant to help MCREST purchase the building.

With the men's shelter located next to the women and children's shelter and staff offices, the communication

continued on page 15



L-R: Trinity's Mission Council President Ben Brown, MCREST Director April Fidler, and Debbie Graham-Large, representing Trinity's Women's League.

Photo courtesy of Trinity, Clinton Township

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

LHM Outreach in Brazil

Today, 208 million people call Brazil home. A nation renowned for its hospitality, Brazilians emphasize family and friendship. The country has the largest Roman Catholic population in the world. However, atheism has become a growing trend among young adults.

There is tremendous opportunity to share God's love and reach out with the Gospel in Brazil. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM-Brazil, locally known as *Hora Luterana*) responds to the spiritual hunger across this South American country through a variety of strategies:

RADIO – *Five Minutes with Jesus*, a daily radio program aired on more than 100 stations around Brazil, contains a brief reflection message, a moment of prayer, and a ministry resource. They also have a companion devotional book.

LIVE EVENTS – *Hora Luterana* partners with local congregations to present live events that include a play, dance, and music. In these casual, pressure-free environments, volunteers can show the love of Jesus to those who attend, offering more information to those who do not know Him or are new to the faith.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES (BCC) – When someone responds to an outreach activity, *Hora*

Luterana will typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. BCCs are available for both children and adults.

DIGITAL OUTREACH – Young adults gravitate to the internet seeking help, including millions who are curious—or have doubts—about Christianity. The *Vivenciar.net* website serves as a hub for digital outreach in Brazil and throughout Latin America. Through this site, they establish online relationships with individuals and provide biblically based answers for their lives.

HOLISTIC OUTREACH – Providing practical care (such as clothes, food, and personal hygiene products, as well as Christian resources, prayer, and counseling) creates opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love in action. This opens the door to tell people about Jesus, the motivator behind that action.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS (ETS) – ETS workshops provide a new generation of Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their local communities.

For more information about mission in Brazil and other lands, visit lhm.org.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Lutheran Womens Missionary League

2022-2024 GOAL:

\$386,000

TO FULLY FUND 14 MISSION GRANTS

To God be
the Glory!



WWW.LWMLMICHIGAN.ORG

Champions for Liberty Live Seminar

On Saturday, September 17, join Dr. Gregory Seltz, Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, for a LIVE seminar entitled “Champions for Liberty.” The seminar, which will take place at Christ Our Savior, Livonia will set forth the foundational, constitutional protections provided for Christians in the Bill of Rights and how the Christian lives in the Public Square.

This is a FREE event, with lunch provided when you RSVP at <https://bit.ly/championslibertycos>. For more information, contact the church office at 734.522.6830.



Photo courtesy of Greg Seltz

Partnership Brings Success at Messiah, Carrollton

Messiah, Carrollton’s evangelism team has been doing monthly outreach projects. For the second straight year between Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, the church has collected baby diapers and wipes for Life Clinic, a local pro-life organization. This year, Messiah invited neighboring Bethlehem Lutheran School to join in this endeavor, resulting in a trunkful of items donated to the project.

A Thrivent Action Team Grant added substantially to what was donated. In all, over 2,500 diapers and over 2,500 wipes were donated to Life Clinic, which was very grateful for the donation.

Messiah is a small church, worshipping about 60 people a week—proof that even a small church can do big things.



Photo courtesy of Messiah, Carrollton

In-Depth Study with Bryan Wolfmueller

On Saturday, September 17, St. John, Fraser is hosting a conference led by Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller with an in-depth study of Jesus’ parable of the Prodigal Son. There will be time for questions and answers, as well as a hymn sing. Wolfmueller’s books will also be available for purchase. Tickets are \$15 and include a continental breakfast and lunch. They can be purchased at stifconference.givesmart.com. Check-in is at 8 a.m. For more information, please contact the church office at 586.293.0333.



Photo courtesy of Bryan Wolfmueller

Deaf Ministry in Tawas

Laurie Long is Deaf and her first language is American Sign Language (ASL). In July, she was confirmed at Zion, Tawas and was welcomed into the congregation as a fellow Lutheran. Laurie and other Deaf people are members of congregations throughout the Michigan District who participate in Sunday morning Lutheran worship by using interpreters who sign the services in American Sign Language. Laurie also teaches ASL to members of Zion to help make Deaf visitors feel welcome by greeting them in their own language. Laurie is pictured with Pastor Gabriel Martin of Zion and Rev. Thomas Dunseth, Michigan District missionary pastor to the Deaf.



Photo courtesy of Thomas Dunseth

Special Recognition

Frechette Installed

Pastor Jeff Frechette was installed as Associate Pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Flint on Sunday, July 17. Pastor Todd Biermann of Faith, Grand Blanc presided over the installation, Pastor Paul Undlin of St. Trinity, Clarkston preached, and many other area pastors participated in the service and welcomed Pr. Frechette to the Flint area.



Photo by Michigan District, LCMS



Photo courtesy of St. Mark, Flint

CAMPUS CONNECT!

Heading to college in the fall?
We want to meet you!

All we need from you? Say hello!
Scan this QR code or visit
michigandistrict.org/campusconnect
to fill out our Campus Connect form.
It'll take just a minute or two!



Maier Concludes Fourth Term

continued from page 3

task, as valuable partners in the mission of God. I think that comes from his biblical understanding of 'vocation' in Jesus."

President Maier served as the chairman of the LCMS Council of Presidents for four years. Rev. Dr. Robert Newton, President Emeritus of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District, shares: "I am honored to call Pastor Maier brother, colleague, and friend. Like his father before him, David loves the Lord our God with all his heart, soul, and strength. His simple trust in God's unfailing and all-powerful Word enables him to serve with great joy, hope, and confidence, knowing that the Gospel must and will extend to the ends of the earth. Men whose hearts are captive to Jesus' love show us the way; they lead with integrity, vision, resiliency, and humility. David is one of those men. We are richly blessed by his life and service. And then there's Pat, his better, better half. 'An excellent [woman], who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.' You can say that again."

President Maier attributes much of his leadership achievements to the love and support of his wife, Pat. She often accompanies him on business trips and retreats. She is a true friend to other pastors' wives.



Photo by Kelly Cieslak/Michigan District, LCMS

Pat encourages others to develop close relationships through her work with the annual District Katie conference for pastors', vicars', and deacons' wives. She also serves her Lord and others by sharing her gifts and talents as an artist and Visual Faith coach.

Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary St. Louis and a longtime friend of the Maiers, says: "My first thought when I think of David Maier is exuberance for our Lord and for His Church. Instilled in him through parents and family, 'Christ in you, the hope of glory,' Pastor Maier has shared that lively hope with us all through conversations, preaching, teaching, and yes, even in church meetings where we easily forget the presence of our reigning Lord. Thank you, David and Pat, for all you have done and blessings in all that is ahead."

The Maiers have four children and three children-in-love: James, Leah (Kyle), Joel (Shae), and Hannah (Garrett) and seven grandchildren. The Maiers enjoy relaxing together with family and friends on their land in Montana when they can get away. They make their home in Frankfort, Mich. near Camp Arcadia, another very special place in their hearts. ■

Deborah (Debby) S. Fall is the Assistant to the President – Communications for the Michigan District, LCMS.

2022 Lutheran World Relief Collection Sites

Alpena, Immanuel Oct. 15, 2022	Muskegon, First Oct 10-17, 2022
Fraser, St. John Oct. 17, 2022	Portage, St. Michael Oct. 15 & 16, 2022
Frankfort, Trinity Oct 15, 2022	Saginaw, Valley Lutheran HS Oct. 17, 2022
Grand Rapids - West Michigan Luth. HS Oct. 19, 2022	Sandusky, Peace Oct. 16, 2022
Howell, Heart of the Shepherd Oct 15 & 16, 2022	Westland, Lutheran High Westland Oct. 18, 2022

For more information on days, times, site contacts, and how to build kits visit:

michigandistrict.org/lwrgathering

Help for the Homeless

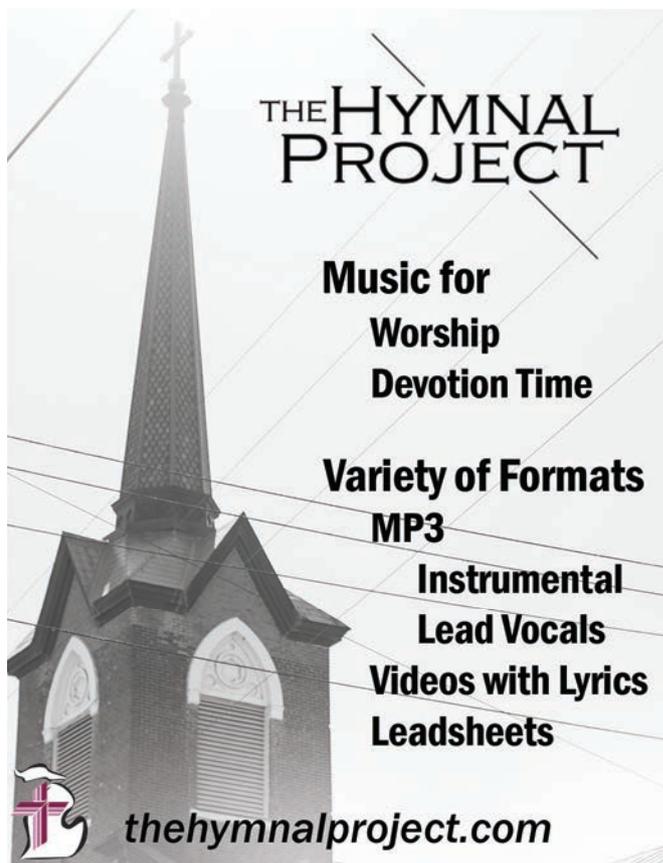
continued from page 10

between the MCREST caseworkers and the homeless men will be much easier. In addition, the men will be able to use the Learning and Resources Center for training and job applications as well.

“We are so honored to accept this grant,” said MCREST Director April Fidler. *“This gift means that MCREST will not have a mortgage on the building. We will be able to offset that cost and generate funds instead for our programs.”*

The shelter won't open immediately. The space needs to be renovated and set up before it can be occupied. MCREST is in the process of securing funding for the necessary structural renovations and interior furnishings for the building. It is anticipated the building will be in use by January 2023. ■

Rebecca W. Thomas is the communications director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton Township and a freelance writer serving the Metro Detroit area. When she's not crafting her next article, she's hanging out with her husband, three daughters, and two Newfoundlands.



THE HYMNAL PROJECT

**Music for
Worship
Devotion Time**

Variety of Formats
MP3
Instrumental
Lead Vocals
Videos with Lyrics
Leadsheets

 thehymnalproject.com

Your Investment Builds Churches

When you invest with Church Extension Fund your investment helps to renovate and build churches and schools, just like Peace, Rogers City.

“We appreciate CEF and their generosity. Without their grant programs, projects may have stayed on the back burner rather than becoming a reality. They are a blessing for our district.”

— Pastor Riddle,
Peace, Rogers City



Church Extension Fund

Office:

800-242-3944

24/7 Interest Rates:

800-232-7313

Website:

www.mi-cef.org



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

Calls and Roster Update

ORDAINED

Calls Accepted

Rev. Peter Elliott (Fraser, MI) to Messiah, Seattle, WA
Rev. Michael Heiden (Macomb, MI) to Associate, Christ Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ
Rev. Jeffrey Heimsoth (Saint Johns, MI) to IIM, Cross of Christ, South Lyon
Rev. James Krueger (Saginaw, MI) to Faith, Marinette, WI
Rev. Edward Meyer (Bridgman, MI) to Faith, Prescott
Rev. Dr. David Prout (Troy, MI) to GoodLife, Rochester Hills
Rev. Bryan Schindel (Ypsilanti, MI) to dual parish, St. Mark's/Cross and Resurrection, Brooklyn/Ypsilanti
Rev. Brennan Woell (Nunica, MI) to Emmanuel, Cadillac

Change of Status and Title Changes

Rev. Mark Arendell (Washington, MI) to Emeritus
Rev. Thomas Fischer (Three Oaks, MI) to Emeritus
Rev. Donald Neuendorf (Pinckney, MI) to Emeritus
Rev. Robert Riggs (Carson City, MI) to Emeritus
Rev. John Schwartz (New Boston, MI) to Sr. Pastor, St. Paul, New Boston
Rev. Theodore Voll (West Branch, MI) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Rev. Patrick Boomhower (Emeritus) from Northern Illinois District
Rev. Jonathan Mumme (Candidate) from South Wisconsin District
Rev. Richard Rossow (Emeritus) from Florida-Georgia District

Transferred Out of District

Rev. Michael Heiden (Macomb, MI) to Pacific Southwest District
Rev. Peter Elliott (Fraser, MI) to Northwest District
Rev. James Krueger (Saginaw, MI) to North Wisconsin District
Rev. R. William Roper (Jackson, MI) to Southeastern District
Rev. Edward Steeh (Beverly Hills, MI) to English District

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Adams, Grace (Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Trinity, Clinton Township
Hansen, Ankara (Concordia, Irvine) to Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Hansen, Maxwell (Concordia, Irvine) to Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Moro, Martin (LSEM, Ann Arbor) to MOST Ministries, Ann Arbor
Parrish, Elizabeth (Candidate) to Trinity, Clinton Township

Change of Status

Bird, Terry (Trinity, Saint Joseph) to Emeritus
Hooper, Susan (Faith, Grand Blanc) to Emeritus
Hoskey, Brenda (St. Paul, Millington) to Candidate
LaRocque, Janet (Immanuel, Bay City) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Mellecke, Judith (Ohio District) to Trinity, Traverse City
Reed, Taylor (Ohio District) to St. John, Fraser
Rockwell, Lori (Eastern District) to Immanuel, Saginaw

Called Home

Havrilsak, Laura

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

Calendar of Events

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

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 2-5 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 11-13 Deacons Conference
Camp Arcadia
- 16 New Church Worker Conference
Ann Arbor
- 16 QUEST
Ann Arbor
- 18-20 Best Practices Heartland
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- 18-20 Circuit Visitors Conference
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- 24-25 Church Extension Fund Fall Conference
Auburn Hills
- 26-28 Intentional Interim Ministry - Discernment Conference
Michindoh, Hillsdale
- 28-29 Intentional Interim Ministry - Continuing Education Conference
Michindoh, Hillsdale
- 30 New Teacher Orientation
Ann Arbor

OCTOBER 2022

- 2 Farewell Dinner for Rev. David P. E. Maier
Crowne Plaza, Lansing
- 6-8 LEA Conference
Milwaukee, Wisc.
- 9-12 All Pastors Conference
Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls
- 10-19 Lutheran World Relief Ingathering
Several Michigan Locations
- 14-16 Lutheran Adult Gathering
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

NOVEMBER 2022

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 2-4 MANS Teachers Conference
Lansing, Mich.
- 5 State Volleyball Championship
Location TBD
- 11 Veterans Day
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 24-25 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED