

October 2022

michigan

IN TOUCH

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

GREAT COMMISSION

Thank You

by Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

Friends, we are blessed to live ... and to live in this nation, with all its foibles and faults, discords and divides, growing inflation, and political unrest. In whatever way possible, please make the time to remember and reflect on the many sacrifices which allow us to celebrate our freedom ... and the privilege and opportunities to work using God-given talents and gifts. In this time of reflection, let us also repent of our sins ... our lack of love for God and those He loves, our often-distracted commitment to be in His Word each day, that all our life would be guided and blessed by the Holy Spirit.

But let us also remember the courage, strength of

continued on page 2

© Milaspage/iStock

michigan

IN TOUCH

Official Periodical of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
October 2022, Volume 21, No. 9
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

Rev. David A. Davis, 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 Great Commission
- 3 Healthy Congregations
- 7 Healthy Workers
- 8 Great Compassion
- 10 Church Extension Fund
- 12 LLL/LWML
- 13 News and Events
- 15 Special Recognition
- 20 Calls and Roster Update
- 20 Calendar of Events

“I am thankful for His salvation and for His hand of blessing in my life.”

continued from page 1

character, and persistence of the men and women who fought for their vision of a better future. And as you think of them, remember to give thanks. May God continue to bless America, in spite of the failure of many to love or even remember God or keep His Word and honor Him. May it always be our goal to proclaim the Jesus who gives us real freedom in perfect love—the freedom from sin and death—and the privilege of participating and working in His Kingdom.

Truly, it is important to stop and give thanks. Jesus once healed some lepers, and out of the ten only one returned to give thanks. I’m sure the other nine were thankful in their own way, but they failed to stop to give thanks to the One who healed them. Only one was intentional about giving thanks to Jesus.

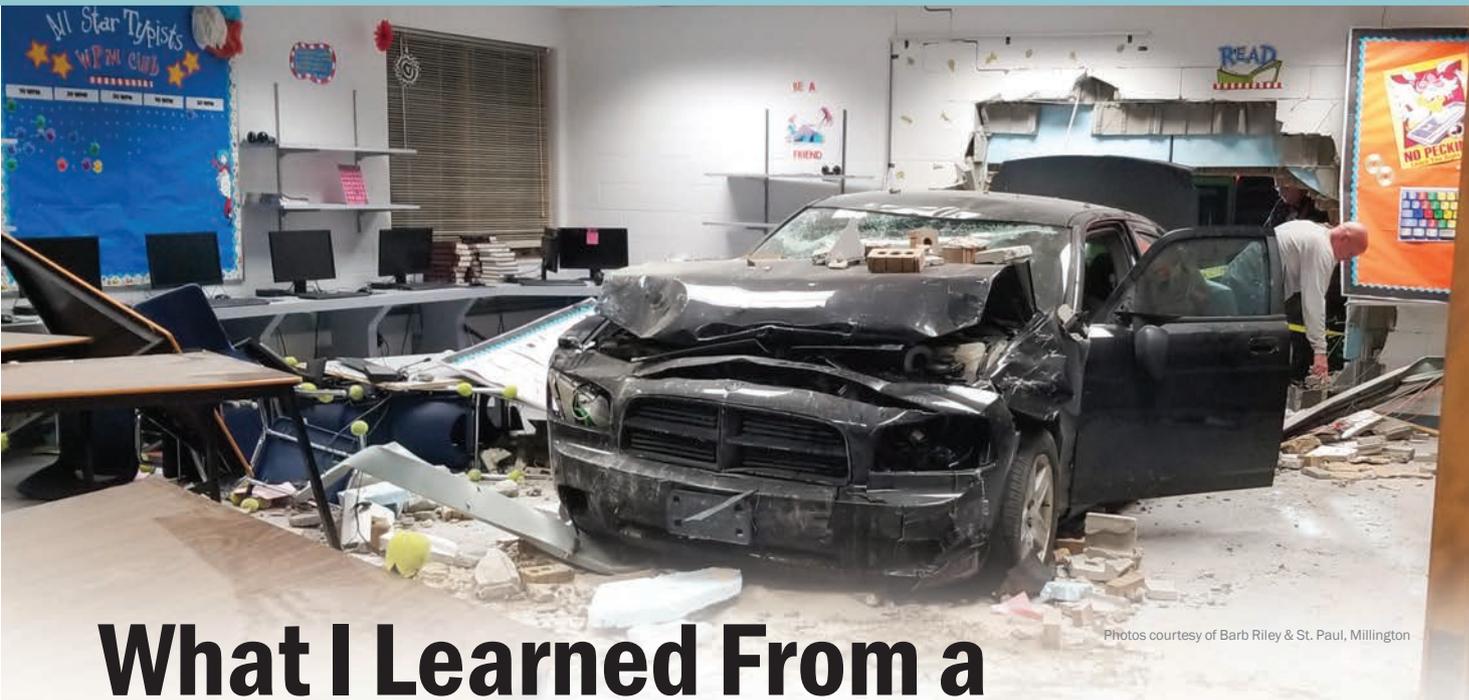
Meditating on this account in God’s Word, I am confronted with my own failure to stop and give thanks for God’s abundant and continuous blessings in my life. I, at times, have neglected to thank those who have richly blessed my life. There are SO MANY OF YOU! Please forgive me for that oversight. Serving as District President has been a blessing—especially because of the many people I have met—and I am thankful to have had this opportunity for service to the Lord and ministry to His people locally and in the world.

It is almost unbelievable to realize I have served thirteen years (four 3-year terms plus the “bonus” COVID-year extension) as District President. As I look back on this incredible adventure, there have been some major highs and some stress-filled lows. Through the good days and the difficult days, the Lord has been faithful and kind, forgiving iniquity, demonstrating His steadfast love and righteousness for Christ’s sake. I am thankful for His salvation and for His hand of blessing in my life. Among those blessings has been the opportunity to work with an awesome staff at the District Office, a wonderful Board of Directors, wisdom-filled regional Vice-Presidents, a faithful and determinedly competent group of Circuit Visitors, and so many other wonderful people along the way. In fact, when asked what I will miss most it is, without hesitation, the relationships. Of special note ... Julie Strobl and Laurie Brown, who have been my Administrative/Executive Assistants for all 13 years. They were indispensable in accomplishing ministry, and I could not have asked for better support, more committed prayer warriors, and dedicated friends. I treasure ALL the staff at the Michigan District and pray God’s continued blessings on them for the future ahead.

When I look back over the past 13 years, God has done some tremendous things. We were all a part of working for the survival of—but now the thriving of—our Concordia University Ann Arbor, now a dual campus with Concordia University Wisconsin. Despite the ‘recession’ of 2009, 2010, etc., and the COVID-19 Pandemic, our congregations devotedly supported the work of the district and also participated in the *Future is Now* and *Here We Stand* campaigns. This generosity of God’s people allowed for a major increase in church work career scholarships for students attending Concordia University Ann Arbor or Wisconsin as well as other Concordia Universities and Seminaries. We have seen innovative ministries started, reaching into segments of communities previously unreached. God has allowed new partnerships



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS



Photos courtesy of Barb Riley & St. Paul, Millington

What I Learned From a Car Wreck

by Barbara A. Riley

Over the years, I've served in various ministries as a teacher or principal. I've recently accepted a call to serve as a K-8 principal. As with any call, it takes a while to get to know the new community, but I was suddenly made aware of what a caring church and school environment there is at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Millington, Mich. On Sunday, August 14, at 10:08 p.m., a woman raced her car through our parking lot, crashed through a wall, and landed in the middle of our computer lab.

Throughout the crisis, there were two questions that I heard over and over: "Was anyone hurt?" and "How can I help?" Thankfully, none of our staff or families were hurt, and the driver had minor injuries. Within days, we had crews in the building clearing debris and rescuing the few usable items. We had volunteers that helped us to set up a temporary computer lab in a classroom at the other end of our building. Other area Lutheran schools offered equipment to help us start our school year.

We've had news media trying to dig up "dirt" during this situation. Fortunately, the only dirt has been the dust that this incident caused. The driver didn't have a connection with our church or school or any vendetta that she was acting out. She was trying to harm herself, and we had a long driveway and empty section of wall. After this invasion, how did our church and school respond? With love. We held a prayer service where we praised God for the safety of our students and staff. We prayed for

the driver and others who suffer through depression. We asked the Holy Spirit to work through us to minister to those who are hurting. We thanked God that we are able to start our school year on time.

It's not unusual for a congregation to have a potluck to welcome a new principal. However, this situation better fed my soul. I was able to see Christ's love in action through the depth of care shown by parents, students, staff, congregation members, and the community at large. An unusual car wreck quickly taught me about this strong, vibrant body of believers, and I'm humbled to be a part of it. ■

Barbara A. Riley is the Principal at St. Paul Lutheran School in Millington.





Photos courtesy of Kim Montague

From a Small Town to a Massive Youth Gathering

by Jeffrey T. Heisner

The National Youth Gathering (NYG) was held in Houston, TX this summer. 20,000 high schoolers, volunteers, and group leaders descended upon the Lone Star State for the celebration. Jeff Heisner, the Michigan District, LCMS Video Journalist and Digital Media Director interviewed Kim Montague, a parent and chaperone for a small church group that went to the NYG from Christ Lutheran Church in White Cloud, Mich.

Jeff Heisner: What was your experience like in Houston for the National Youth Gathering?

Kim Montague: For my group, I was kind of prepared because when I was in youth group as a teenager, we used to go to some large gatherings. That was on a much smaller scale, you know, in Chicago. And then River, my oldest son, had been to a couple of gatherings [NYGs], so he talked a lot about his experiences. He is almost 20 years old and talks about how they were both life changing. He absolutely loved the national gatherings. Our kids were really excited; they had heard tons of stories and they were just ready to go. It was overall just as amazing as River said it would be. We took a bus and the ride down there and back was much, much harder than we expected because the air didn't work correctly. And it was 109 degrees. So, the whole way there, I was a little bit worried that all they would do is focus on that bus ride once they got there, but they forgot about it and enjoyed the whole week.

Jeff: What were some of their takeaways—the things that they really enjoyed from the National Youth Gathering?

Kim: They really enjoyed the mass events at night,

the music, the speakers. That was their favorite part. We come from a really small town, maybe 1,500 people, and our congregation is small. And so, to go to something this massive and to see other Lutherans and other teenagers that all have this love for Jesus, it was eye opening for them. So that was what I was excited about on the way because that's what my son had talked about. I remember him coming home and saying, "I cannot believe there are this many Lutherans out there in the United States or even in the world." So that was a big thing for me, for these kids. Their takeaway was wow, there are large, large groups of Christian teens like me. Because they don't see that in school, and they don't see that in their community at all. Not like that. So that was, I think, their biggest takeaway.

Jeff: When you look at some of the topics that were there at the youth gathering, there were some really interesting ones. They touched on just about everything and many of the problems that teens face and included many of the pressures they deal with. What was your reaction to some of those things and then getting a chance to hear some of those talks? How did you feel about it and how did your

kids feel about it?

Kim: Some of the topics I expected. I don't know that they expected to hear. But they're things that they're faced with every day. They just don't talk about them all the time, you know? So, I think they enjoyed those Bible studies and the speakers that talked about those tough topics. I really enjoyed the astronaut that I saw. He was one of my favorites. But for the kids, for instance, one of the speakers was an atheist that I think is a professor at Concordia now. And he became a Christian late in life, and his story was really cool. And the kids got a lot more out of that than for me. So that was proof that they can openly talk about those things with the kids and the kids can handle it. At night, when we would go back to our hotel, they talked a lot about how they talked about this or that. So that was great.

Jeff: I was impressed that the topics were relevant and then the speakers were real. And I'm sure that's exactly what you're getting at by saying, the kids wanted to talk about that, got more out of that than maybe they did out of a fluffier topic. Right?

Kim: Exactly. And then one of the speakers was talking about something and I remember expecting a different response from the speaker. More of a, you know, "No, don't deal with that type of person." But the response was really all about kindness and love. It was good for me as a teacher also.

Jeff: I know your group faced its share of adversity, like the bus ride without air conditioning.

Kim: We expected it to be warm, but it quickly warmed up within the first 20 minutes. So, we got to a certain point, and we stopped at a Walmart, I think. We ran inside and I grabbed spray bottles and the bus driver went in and got huge box fans, just any way to get the air moving, which kind of heated it up more because it brought the hot air from the back. But it was probably very relieving to the poor kids that were in the very back. (It was way warmer in the back of the bus than towards the front.) I was watching my weather app and I was like, okay, it's going to be about 70 degrees at midnight when we finally go to sleep. We were using cooling towels, spraying our faces. The girl in front of me had a tower fan, and she was sitting in her seat with the fan, holding it on her face. And she at one point lifted it up over her seat to blow the air back to us. And I took a video and it's just amazing because I thought, oh, this is wonderful how all of these people on that bus, they were thinking about everyone else around them.

Jeff: I'm sure you have a number of great stories from the trip. Can you share one or two that make you laugh?

Kim: We saw this comedian in one session. I was sitting



there laughing so hard, I was crying. It was so funny. And then I would look at our kids, and they just sat straight faced. Meanwhile I'm thinking this is so funny. And then my niece that was with us, she said, "Those were just a bunch of dad jokes." I was like, wait a minute, they were way better than dad jokes. I think he (the comedian) would be great to have come to your congregation. He was really funny. I thought the astronaut was great and showed some amazing pictures. I teach science and I love showing space pictures. So that was cool to see a Christian astronaut and hear his take on Christianity and his view from above the earth. I think I liked that more than most of the sessions that I went to, just because I could relate to so much of it. And the kids thought that the pictures and his experience were cool, they all enjoyed that too.

Jeff: What would you tell other kids who are thinking about possibly doing going to a future NYG?

Kim: It's absolutely worth going, especially as a teenager. It's something that everyone should experience. I would just tell them that its life changing. It's worth it. It's something they'll never forget. And it's something that will help them to grow their faith. And I believe, you know, when they're 40, 50 years old, they will look back and they will remember these youth gatherings for sure.

Join us in New Orleans for the next LCMS National Youth Gathering in the summer of 2025! Can't wait that long? The Michigan District, LCMS is hosting its Senior High Gathering at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island, June 25–28, 2023. For more information, go to michigandistrict.org/srhigh23. Registration opens November 1. ■

Jeffrey T. Heisner is the video journalist and digital media director for the Michigan District, LCMS.

Finding Our Identity in Times of Chaos: God Is the Owner

by Richard J. Wolfram



Many today describe a world in chaos as the new normal. There are wars and rumors of war, diseases like COVID and such, political fighting and infighting, and a long list of other challenges. One result of all of it is an escalation in the level of antagonism against Christians and the Church. Instead of thinking it's "them against us," a more accurate way to see it is "all against God and His Son Jesus." One help for us Christians is to reorient our thinking from a very basic level. Consider the following:

Two men are quarreling over the ownership of a piece of land. They come to a rabbi and ask him to settle the dispute. The rabbi says, "I will ask the land which of you it belongs to." He put his ear to the ground and then said, "The land said it belongs to no one, but that both of you belong to it. Dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

The basic issue of ownership is important for people today as they seek to live in the chaos. Consider that success is often measured by how much "stuff" one has. People often find a sense of security (a false sense of security to be sure) in how much they have. There have been countless arguments over who owns what.

Ownership is also a key issue for the Christian steward, but in a completely different way. The Christian steward recognizes that he/she is not the owner. "The biblical truth," says Charles R. Lane in *Ask, Thank, Tell*, "that it all belongs to God—is the cornerstone of everything we have to say about stewardship" and how we frame the world in which we live.

The term "stewardship" immediately identifies the steward as one who is not the rightful owner of what is to be stewarded. "Stewards," R. Scott Rodin writes in *Stewards in the Kingdom*, "are by definition not owners, but they have a relationship with the owner in order to be a faithful steward."

Here are some questions to think about:

1. What do the following Bible verses say about God's ownership?

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1).

2. How do the following incorrect statements influence our thinking?

We own what we have.

We have what we have because we deserve it.

Starting with the truth of God as the Creator and owner influences how we think about all that is going on around us. God is the owner. We are stewards of all that He blesses us with to use according to His purposes. We're accountable to Him for our stewardship.

Discussion Question

What can you do this week that will demonstrate that you really believe that God owns everything? ■

Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram is Assistant to the President – Stewardship Ministries for the Michigan District, LCMS.

This is one of nine devotions from the resource *Leading Through Chaos*, written by various Michigan District Stewardship Committee members. These devotions are for use by congregational leaders to boards of directors, church councils, committees, and any others who might use them in these challenging times. You can download your free copy at michigandistrict.org/leadingthroughchaos.

Peace Be With You

by Alex Hoffmeyer

© Aaron Burden/Unsplash

“Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you” (Luke 10:5–6).

Peace is a peculiar thing. When we think of peace, many things might come to mind. Some picture a gentle flowing river or a babbling brook. Others think of those moments staring from shore out onto the glassy surface of a lake. When we think of peace or being “at peace,” we think of tranquility, serenity, those moments when all conflict in the world seems to melt away and give way to contented bliss. For me, the picture of being “at peace” is one that comes at the end of the day. If the opportunity presents itself, I can make myself a warm drink, recline on the couch with my feet up, and dig into a good book. If I’m lucky, my dog Tucker will curl up on the floor beside me and doze off, reminding me just how peaceful the moment is.

The only problem is that this picture is not a common occurrence; it’s occasional, seldom even. And I imagine the same is true for many of you. Peace is peculiar because, although we desire it, we often have trouble finding or achieving it. In fact, from the world’s perspective, as violence, conflict, and strife grows greater and greater, peace is a punchline, a pipe dream that many believe they will never find save for a few chance moments on earth.

So, what changed? Because if you read your Bible, peace isn’t treated this way. In fact, peace seems much more common. When Jesus sends out the 72 apostles, He instructs them to say, “Peace be to this house,” and He goes on to say if a “son of peace” is there then the peace will rest on him. In other words, peace was something they already possessed,

and they possessed it in such great quantities that they could offer it as a gift to as many households as they entered! That’s hard to believe, especially since we know the apostles didn’t have much if any opportunity to kick back and relax. So how could they have peace in such abundance?

“Therefore since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God.”

Jesus teaches that peace comes through faith in Him. He tells a sinful woman in Luke 7, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace” (7:50). We can also read in Romans from the apostle Paul, “Therefore since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God” (5:1). Peace comes through faith in Christ. This is how the apostles possessed it in such abundance. They had faith in Christ, their Lord. And in this faith they were sent out and were able to share this peace with others.

The same is true for us and all followers of Christ. Peace comes through faith. But what does this mean? Does it mean that we will have abundant moments of blissful relaxation? Does it mean we will experience more tranquility or less conflict? Certainly not. Quite the opposite, in fact. Jesus tells the apostles, “Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division” (Luke 12:51). The peace that comes through Him is not peace as we think of it;

continued on page 19

michiganintouch.com 7



Meeting Needs with Dignity
Serving the ALICE Population

After seven years of giving away food to the community (a total of 275 tons), Pastor Ed Doerner of Messiah, Midland shared that the congregation decided to interview all the people who received the food. One woman said she hated the food giveaway because *“You dictate what we eat; a lot of it is expired, and some of it isn’t even healthy.”* The interview was a reality check for Doerner. He then asked what they wanted, and the woman said, *“We want a store we can afford.”*

This woman represents the population known by the acronym ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). This segment of the population (25%) is comprised of those whose income is above the poverty level but still has a hard time paying its bills. Federal guidelines distinguish three people groups and Doerner has attached a noun to each segment.

1. The poor = charity. These families live in poverty. They have an income of \$27,750 or less and are the ones who depend on charity. They must frequent foodbanks and giveaways to survive.

2. ALICE = dignity. This group’s income is more than the poor, but less than \$64,000 (in Michigan). These individuals want to be able to provide for their families but would rather go without than accept charity. ALICE people are trying to survive but they don’t make enough money to pay all their bills. A survival budget for ALICE families includes housing, transportation, food, childcare, health care, technology (cell phones), miscellaneous, and taxes.

3. The above \$64,000 group = altruism. They really want their life to matter; they want to do something for someone else.

A typical scenario in our society is described by Doerner: *“If you make \$64K or more and want to make a difference, you are probably giving something to somebody for free, and this creates all kinds of issues because if you give and another receives, you are not on equal terms anymore. This hurts people’s dignity.”*

Messiah, Midland has started several ministries to serve the ALICE population, one of which is a grocery store where they buy wholesale food and sell it at cost plus 5 cents so people can afford to buy what they need and not feel robbed of their dignity. Doerner says, *“they need the church to step in and help them protect their dignity by giving them the goods and services they need at a price that they can actually afford.”* Along those lines, Messiah also operates a licensed automotive repair facility that works on about 1,500 vehicles a year. They have a car dealership and also an appliance store which resells refurbished appliances that were donated. The appliance store employs people with barriers to employment such as those coming out of prison or drug or alcohol rehab. The church also runs a childcare

center, a recovery ministry for those with addictions, and they just started a health care clinic where people pay no more than \$40 for a visit. For Christmas, they collect nice toys and sell them for very low prices that people can afford. Community members whose income is above \$64K get involved by volunteering, by donating goods and services.

They need the church to step in and help them *protect their dignity* by giving them the goods and services they need at a price that they can *actually afford.*

Doerner says they have noticed that, at the grocery store, the poverty group (13% of the population) rise up and are happy to be able to pay what they can afford for the food, and then they walk away with extra food that volunteers give away. Notably, ALICE people also volunteer their time and help at the store.

This compassionate ministry also seeks ways to introduce people to Jesus through relationships. Volunteers have a genuine interest in people and begin by asking simple questions like, *“How are you doing?”* as a catalyst for interactions and for prayer. According to Doerner, the question, *“Can I pray with you?”* is a daily occurrence between all the ministries. One of his favorite stories is that of a delivery driver named Jeremiah who had been driving parts to the automotive shop for a long time and they knew him by name. One day when he came in, Doerner, who was working at the shop, noticed he was looking sad and asked how he was doing. Jeremiah said his grandfather had passed away. Doerner talked and prayed with him that day. A few weeks later, Jeremiah came in and asked if Doerner was the pastor of the church. Doerner said yes, and Jeremiah said, *“I want to be baptized.”*

Doerner was the lead person in beginning these ministries because, as he says, *“I happen to see a need and I’m pretty relentless that I will figure out a way to meet the need with dignity.”* Today, he sees his role as more of a support to the volunteers who are interacting with clients. He tries to stop by the grocery store every day. He also drives to Detroit once about every six weeks to talk to the workers in a warehouse for 10 minutes. They don’t understand the concept of a grocery store that doesn’t make any money, but they are very interested in it. He has built relationships with them in the last 5 years and feels comfortable asking about their wives, children, and specific situations, and prays with them.

To hear a more detailed account of this ministry, listen to two Michigan District podcast episodes regarding

OCTOBER 2022

New Board Members Bring Diverse Expertise and Deep Insights to CEF



Among the excellent slate of nominees presented at the Michigan District's convention in June, these earned election as new members of CEF's Board of Trustees. From left are: Rev. Dr. David P.E. Maier, Rev. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson, Ms. Laura Davis, and Ms. Rebecca Holnagel.



“We thank God for these exceptional new Board members. They all have a heart for CEF’s mission, and have demonstrated their desire to be servant leaders.”

Jim Saalfeld
Chief Executive Officer
Church Extension Fund

New Board Members Bring Diverse Expertise and Deep Insights to CEF

Church Extension Fund is pleased to welcome four new members to our Board of Trustees. You, the Michigan District's church members and leaders, can expect to benefit from their fresh perspectives as they help to guide CEF in the coming years.

Each of our new Board members was elected, along with one re-elected incumbent, to a six-year term at the Michigan District's convention at Concordia University in Ann Arbor this past June. The new Trustees began their terms of service on October 1.

There were two election slates for CEF's Board of Trustees:

- LCMS Rostered Persons, who are pastors and other professional church workers; and
- LCMS Laypersons, who are active church members in good standing.

For the Rostered Persons, our newly elected Board members are Rev. Dr. David P.E. Maier, past President of the Michigan District, and Rev. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson, Vice President of Administration at Concordia University. Both bring to our Board uniquely rich understandings of the District's congregations, as well as deep insights into future opportunities

for CEF to continue its mission in helping to Build the Kingdom.

For the Laypersons, Mr. Kurt Kuck of Peace, Saginaw was re-elected to our Board for a second six-year term. Mr. Kuck is a recently retired business executive who has been a faithful and valued CEF Board member since 2015.

New Layperson Board members are Ms. Laura Davis of Bethany, Detroit and Ms. Rebecca Holnagel of St. Luke, Haslett. Ms. Davis is an attorney and Ms. Holnagel is an actuary. They are contributing their specialized professional knowledge in areas that are particularly interesting to CEF as we look forward. Both have served in leadership roles in their churches, and both have been highly regarded by their pastors and other LCMS leaders.

Leaders Worth Waiting For

Every three years, the churches and delegates of the LCMS Michigan District convene to elect leadership positions, approve overtures, and handle the “business” side of a church body. Per CEF’s bylaws, the congregations comprising the Michigan District shall elect board members at either a convention or another meeting of congregations.

This year’s Michigan District convention was unique in that it happened one year later than originally slated. This was due to the Covid restrictions that persisted into last year. In fact, many of the most recent LCMS District conventions nationwide were delayed for a full calendar year for this same reason. The Covid delay also led to Kurt Kuck providing an extra year of service in his first term on CEF’s Board. (Thank you, Kurt!)

In CEF’s case, two existing board members were term-limited this year, and two other Board members decided not to seek re-election. This created an unusually high number of openings on our Board for the upcoming terms. With God’s grace, an outstanding slate of nominees emerged for our convention’s delegates to pick from.

“We really couldn’t lose,” says Jim Saalfeld, CEO of Church Extension Fund. “No matter what the outcome of this year’s CEF Board elections, we knew we’d continue to have Board members with impressive backgrounds and great reputations to serve us.”

A Key Driver of CEF’s Success

CEF’s Board of Trustees has been, and continues to be, a key driver of CEF’s success. In all, there are nine



Elections to CEF’s Board of Trustees are staggered between the Michigan District conventions held every three years. Five CEF Board members were voted on at this year’s convention.

elect Board members, plus one appointed non-voting member (the District President’s representative). Board members are limited to two six-year terms.

“We thank God,” says CEO Saalfeld, “for the service of our continuing and departing Board members, and for bringing to CEF these exceptional new Board members. They all have a heart for CEF’s mission, and all have demonstrated their desire to be servant leaders. Please join us in prayer for God’s guidance during their time as CEF Trustees.”



“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with His own blood.”

Acts 20:28



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.

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Two Longtime LLL Officers Called Home

Two longtime officers of the Michigan Lutheran Laymen's League went home to be with the Lord this past summer. Bill Eick of Harbor Beach and Jean Wellhousen of Monroe were longtime officers in the Michigan District and Michigan Southeast Districts.

Eick, 91, died on Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at his home, under hospice care. Bill was baptized on September 21, 1930 and confirmed on June 13, 1943 at Christ, Goodrich. He and his wife Shirley (Swinehart) were united in marriage on June 19, 1954 in Hadley. She preceded him in death on November 16, 1997.

He was a member of Zion, Harbor Beach where he served over the years as a chairperson, trustee, elder, usher, member of the Board of Education, and Zion LLL member. He also helped with Lutheran Hour Ministries and served as a Thumb Zone Leader, Michigan District Development chairman, Michigan District LLL president, and Region 5 governor.

Wellhousen, 81, served as a treasurer for the LLL Michigan Southeast District along with her husband Howard. They were active with the Lutheran Hour

Ministries in Michigan and internationally. They traveled extensively, attending multiple Lutheran National Conventions over the years and even attended the Rose Bowl Parade in Anaheim, Calif. to help complete the Lutheran Laymen's League float.

Jean was active in her home congregation of Trinity, Monroe for decades. She and Howard were also proud to be voting members of Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Myers, Fla. where the couple had wintered for many years.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Equipping and Educating Women

Ensuring LWML For The Next Generation

Established to help perpetuate the charitable wishes and ministries of the LWML Michigan District, gifts to Lydia's Legacy help to fund the education and training of women serving in the LWML.

Consider giving through:
Stocks or Bonds
Honorariums
Cash Donations
Bequests From Wills/Trusts

For more information:
www.lwmlmichigan.org/giving
or contact
Tonya Zube Special Gift Fund Coordinator
tonyazube@gmail.com



Martin Luther's Evening Prayer Adds 10th International Station

Martin Luther's Evening Prayer, the radio ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church in Taylor, will begin its 13th year of broadcasting by adding a tenth station to its expanding podcast and radio ministry.

In August 2022, the half-hour broadcast of classical Lutheran preaching and worship will be carried by WRMI, Radio Miami International on 77.30 MHz short wave to the Eastern seaboard of the United States and in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Currently, *Martin Luther's Evening Prayer* is heard locally Mondays at 8 p.m. on AM1440 WMKM "Reborn," and Sundays at 6 p.m. on AM560 WRDT "The Word" (just before the national broadcast of *The Lutheran Hour*). The combined potential listenership on both stations is estimated at around 200,000.

This tenth station is an international broadcast made possible by the support of Down River Lutheran Churches of the Missouri Synod, notably Calvary, Lincoln Park (Rev. Michael Grannis); Trinity Wyandotte, (Rev. Greyson Grenz); Christ the King, Southgate (Rev. Jason Cashmer); St. Paul, Trenton, (Rev. Dr. Richard Blythe); Our Redeemer, Taylor (Rev. Kenneth Spence); and St. John's, Taylor (Rev. Dr. Richard Zeile), which originated the broadcast locally in 2009. WRMI *Radio Miami International* is the largest short-wave station in the western hemisphere with 14 transmitters and 23

antennas. The signal will be 77.30 Megahertz (7730 kHz) Mondays at 5 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Savings Time), heard at 10 p.m. in London; 11 p.m. in Khartoum (Sudan); and 12 midnight in Jerusalem.

Martin Luther's Evening Prayer is aimed for those open to learning more about Lutheranism and the Christian life, and for those who can't physically attend church. In each half-hour program, Dr. Zeile shares the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a message based on God's Word combined with excerpts from St. John's Sunday services. These often include anthems sung by the adult choir and on occasion the Sunday school children sing. Dr. Zeile will be completing a 13th year with WMKM AM1440 at the end of October and three years of broadcasting in six states on stations of the Wilkins Radio Network broadcasting on seven stations in four cities across the United States.



Photo courtesy of Rev. Dr. Richard Zeile

37 Grants Awarded During Phase 1 of the Million Dollar Life Match

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is pleased to announce that 37 congregations have received grants during Phase 1 of the 1 John 3 Initiative Million Dollar Life Match. The program, which offers a total of \$1 million in matching grants, seeks to support LCMS congregations involved in providing beginning-of-life care in their local communities.

The 37 recipients were chosen after a careful review process that included input from staff of the LCMS Office of National Mission, LCMS district presidents or their representatives, and district life coordinators.

"It is exciting to learn about the variety of mercy work being done by LCMS congregations across the country and to partner with them to expand their capacity," said Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor, director of LCMS Life Ministry, who is overseeing the grant program. *"There are some very creative projects that are providing spiritual, emotional, and physical care. All of the projects chosen share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people in the communities."*

Grants were given out in four categories: 1) Congregational projects directly caring for families experiencing challenges at the beginning of life; 2) Partnerships with LCMS Recognized Service Organizations; 3) Supporting foster care and adoption in collaboration with local agencies; and 4) Collaborations with local pregnancy resource centers.

Five Michigan congregations received grants: Under category 3, Cross and Resurrection, Ypsilanti; under category 4, Christ Our Savior, Livonia; St. James, Montague; St. John, Jenison; and St. John's, Adrian.

Additional grants will be awarded during two more phases of the Million Dollar Life Match. A second set of applications is currently undergoing the review process, and applications for the third phase will be accepted Nov. 1, 2022, through Jan. 22, 2023. All LCMS congregations are encouraged to apply.

Learn more about the 1 John 3 Million Dollar Life Match at lcms.org/serve/grants/life-grant.

Messiah Listens

A common theme in many of the sermons of Pastor Phillip DeVries of The Lutheran Church of the Messiah in Carrollton, a Saginaw suburb, is that our Christianity ought to be reflected in how we treat others. Since May, Messiah has had an opportunity to live that message.

It all began with a member noticing that the attached garage belonging to an elderly widow, also a member of our church, was literally falling apart and desperately needed a new roof. That member informed our pastor and leaders of the need, and then approached the owner of the garage, asking whether she would like help from her church family. The offer was gratefully accepted.

At first, Habitat for Humanity was approached to adopt the project, but they do not repair garages. Then the church turned to fund raising. A young man from the neighborhood, who is an all-around handyman specifically trained in installing roofs, agreed to take on the job for \$3,300, considerably less than the \$7,000 quote from a local roofer.

Soon the project was completed, but the best news of all was that the help fund brought in the full cost of the project! In July, there was a small celebration, including a prayer of thanks and blessings, and all enjoyed some light refreshments.

No congregation is too small or poor to respond to the Lord's call to action. Despite few in numbers and mostly elderly, Messiah acted in obedience to the Lord's will and received an unexpected miracle. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Photo courtesy of Messiah, Carrollton



Montague Celebrates Milestone

St. James, Montague is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Celebrations have taken place the second Sunday of each month. These include guest pastors, guest organists, and special food events. In May, a Hall of History was dedicated along with a Veterans Memorial Plaque. Pictured is 92-year-old Ken Dahl, a member of the church.



Photo courtesy of St. James, Montague

Educators of the Year 2022

We are excited to announce the 2022 Educators of the Year for our Michigan District Lutheran schools. We have so many passionate and gifted educators working with our students and families across the state that it can be difficult to single out a handful for the awards each year. This year was no exception as we had many wonderful teachers and administrators nominated by their peers. Praise be to God as He continues to work through the educators He has called to serve in our ministries here in the Michigan District.

Photo courtesy of Bethlehem, Roseville



Lynn Lawton – Early Childhood Teacher of the Year

Lynn serves at Bethlehem Lutheran Early Learning Center in Roseville. Here are some comments shared by those who nominated her:

We all can always count on Lynn to have a smile on her face. She is like a mom to us all.

The families of our center have said she is the reason their children love coming to school and that they wouldn't trust anyone else with the care of their babies.

Lynn is a part of a vital ministry in our Lutheran congregations sharing Jesus' love with children at such an early age. We are thankful for her work both inside and outside of the classroom.

Photo courtesy of Travis Grulike



Monica Slack – Early Childhood Director of the Year

We are blessed with many early childhood centers throughout the Michigan District, and they all have administrators that play

a vital role in the success of Lutheran education. Monica serves at St. Paul, Ann Arbor's Early Childhood Center. Here are some comments from those who nominated her:

Monica is a good listener, gives great guidance and gives her staff grace.

Monica gives all of her time and energy to running two programs smoothly. She is a blessing!

Monica's ministry to the students, staff, and families at St. Paul is one that should be celebrated. We are extremely thankful for her leadership and dedication to her ministry.

Jackie Brooks – K-8 Teacher of the Year

Each year we lift up outstanding educators who are doing extraordinary things in the classroom. Jackie serves as the Kindergarten teacher at Christ The King Lutheran School in Southgate, and here is what peers had to say about her:

Jackie has infectious energy. She is innovative and driven. She is always sharing creative ideas to boost morale and community spirit.

There is no better Kindergarten teacher out there! Her love for our Lord, students, and community is inspiring.

We are thankful for Jackie's work both inside and outside of the classroom, and we look forward to hearing how she continues to have a powerful impact on those she has been called to serve.



Photo courtesy of Travis Grulike

Melissa Eastland – High School Teacher of the Year

It is our privilege to recognize Melissa Eastland as the 2022 Michigan District High School Teacher of the Year.

She serves at West Michigan Lutheran High School, and here are some comments shared by those who nominated her for the award:

The students are very important to Melissa, who treats them all like her own children. This caring nature has her being one of their favorite teachers. At the senior night basketball game, four of the five seniors listed AP US History as their favorite class and that is all thanks to their teacher, Mrs. Eastland.

Melissa is always interacting with students and offering new and innovative ways to help students learn.

It is evident that Melissa's ministry to the students, staff, and families at West Michigan Lutheran High School is one that should be celebrated. We look forward to hearing how she continues to have a powerful impact on those she has been called to serve.



Photo courtesy of Travis Grulike

continued on page 16

Dan Burk – Principal of the Year

Each year we lift up an outstanding principal who exemplifies what it means to be a servant leader. It is our privilege to recognize Dan Burk as the 2022 Michigan District Principal of the Year. Dan serves at St. Matthew Lutheran School in Westland, and this is what his staff had to say about him:

He is supportive and also pushes us to better ourselves as educators and Christian examples ... he shows concern for all teachers, and he will always find ways to make our days go smoother. He leads a staff filled with a variety of personalities with the utmost grace.

Rev. Dr. Bryce Rosche, pastor of St. Matthew, Westland offered additional comments on Dan's ministry at both the church and school. He says, *"Dan's servant leadership and work ethic has won the respect of his faculty and staff and has led to amazing results in both the school and the*



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LONS

church under God's guidance. When Dan began his role as principal in 2018, school enrollment was approximately 80 K-8 and 30-40 in preschool. It has since grown to 135 for K-8 and 60 for preschool in the 2022-2023 school year. St. Matthew also received a 5-year accreditation for her school under Dan's leadership."

He continues, *"Dan instituted streaming of our worship services and Bible classes. Additionally, he runs our website, manages our Facebook account presence, and oversees the maintenance of our facilities. Coach Burk led our elementary school's boys basketball team to a Division B conference championship this year while re-introducing an array of sports. Doing all of the above, he found the time to serve on the Michigan District Board of Directors. We as a church and school would not be where we are without God working through such human means as Dan Burk."*

Congratulations to all award recipients!

At the end of February 2023, we will begin the nomination process for our annual awards.

Moro to Serve MOST Ministries as Executive Director

MOST Ministries is pleased to announce that Martin Moro accepted a divine call to serve as its Executive Director. He previously served as Program Advancement Director for Lutheran Special Education Ministries in Ann Arbor and as the Director of Development at Concordia University Ann Arbor. Moro is an active member of Open Arms, Belleville. He attended Concordia University in Seward, Neb. and obtained a Master of Science in Education from Indiana University.

In August, Moro began his duties to manage the overall business of MOST Ministries and its programs and services. His responsibilities include overseeing the strategic relationships with missionaries and national church leaders in the field; serving as a primary representative to congregations / church organizations, funding sources and other organizations that assist MOST Ministries in carrying out its mission; and Directing MOST Ministries' Development Program and public relations efforts.

MOST Ministries thanks God for Moro and looks forward to *Impacting the World for Jesus Christ Through Short-Term Missions.*

Moro replaces Ruth Martin, who served in this role for four years.



Photo courtesy of MOST Ministries

Duerr Installed

On Sunday, August 7, Rev. Mark Duerr was installed as Associate Pastor of Trinity, Monroe. Pastor Duerr grew up in Bakersfield, Calif., is a graduate of Concordia University, Irvine and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., and completed his vicarage at Immanuel, Macomb.

Pastor Duerr comes to Trinity from Sierra Lutheran High School in Carson City, Nev., where he served as campus pastor and theology instructor. Pastor Duerr and his wife, Lynn, were married at the end of July. She serves as Trinity's 8th grade teacher.

The people of Trinity give thanks to God for His continued faithfulness!



Photo courtesy of Trinity, Monroe



In July, St. Mark's, Brooklyn installed Rev. Bryan K. Schindel as Pastor; inducted Vicar Bryan Varblow; and commissioned Deacon G. Mike McCain.

Photo courtesy of St. Mark's Brooklyn

Neuendorf Retires

On August 14, 2022, Rev. Donald O. Neuendorf officially retired from full-time pastoral ministry at St. Paul, Ann Arbor. The congregation came together for a single worship service (instead of the regular two that take place on Sundays), and many guests were present as well. Rev. James Neuendorf (missionary in Ponce, Puerto Rico and Don Neuendorf's son) was the preacher, and Rev. Daniel Maske (associate pastor at St. Michael, Portage and Neuendorf's son-in-law) was the Scripture reader.

A graduate of Concordia University Ann Arbor (A.A., 1977) and Concordia Seward, Nebraska (B.A., 1979), Neuendorf earned his M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind. in 1985.

His first call was to St. John Lutheran Church in Black River Falls, Wisc. (1985–1989). He went on to serve at Immanuel, Saginaw (Frankentrost) until 2001. He became senior pastor of St. Paul, Ann Arbor in 2002.

Neuendorf served the Michigan District as Vice President from 2012–2018 and later as Visitor for Circuit 29 (2018–2022). He also served at various Boards of Directors for Lutheran Child & Family Services, Lutherans for Life, Lutheran Homes of Michigan, and Wellspring.

The Lord has greatly blessed Pastor Neuendorf during his 37 years of ministry. The members and staff of St. Paul are grateful for Pastor Neuendorf's ministry and pray for God's richest blessings upon him and Karen in retirement.

Photo courtesy of Elisa Schulz Photography



Woell Installed

After four years of vacancy, Emmanuel, Cadillac installed Rev. Brennan Woell on August 20. Twenty pastors were in attendance to support and bless his ministry.

Rev. Woell is a graduate of Concordia University Ann Arbor and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. He served as a vicar in Oviedo, Fla., and his first call was to St. Luke, Nunica, which he served until this year.



Photo courtesy of Emmanuel, Cadillac

Rev. Brennan Woell, his wife Anna, their son Reuben, and baby Woell due in Nov.



Photo courtesy of Faith, Prescott

This summer, Rev. Edward A. Meyer was installed as pastor at Faith, Prescott. Pictured are Rev. Frederick T. Cordts, Rev. Matthew T. Dent, Rev. Dennis W. Matyas, Rev. Edward A. Meyer, Rev. Paul G. Kruse, and Rev. Theodore E. Voll.



Photo courtesy of Rev. Williamson

Rev. Kenneth L. Williamson was installed as pastor of Our Savior, Scottville. He is pictured here with his wife, Sue, and daughter Kennedy.

Thank You

continued from page 2

among congregations for increased ministry together rather than hanging on separately as two or more “failing” congregations. There is ministry in the inner city, where many suburban congregations have partnered together and are participating in demonstrating God’s love in sports camps, meals served, Bible studies, and in bold prayers in the name of Jesus. I am grateful to have been introduced to the real suffering of others and to have experienced the gracious, patient touch of brothers and sisters in Christ from various ethnic backgrounds educating me to the sinful realities of prejudice. Sin acknowledged, confessed, and forgiven leads to lasting relationships under the cross of Christ, reconciliation, and focused ministry. Pat and I could never praise and thank God enough for the privilege of time shared with many of our pastors’ wives at the Katie Conference. What an incredible group of positive, supportive, creative sisters in Christ who are an intimate and vital part of Gospel ministry in their families, congregations, and communities.

Friends, I want you to know how thankful I am for District President-Elect David Davis. I know Dave to be a person of great integrity and honor, a dedicated and Jesus-filled man, someone who has always encouraged church workers and all God’s people to live lives of “significance” for the glory of God. An avid reader, God richly gives him wisdom and passion for the mission of God to seek and to save the lost. I look forward to how our God will use him as a blessing—not only to the Michigan District, but to our Synod, and the Church at large.

As for Pat and me, we aren’t quite certain what the future holds, but we are certain of the One who holds our future. As we settle into northern Michigan, we are determined to know and serve our community, to serve in our congregation where we will become members, and, as God allows, to spend more time with our children and grandchildren. We will truly value the opportunity to re-engage and be part of their lives.

My hope and prayer for the District is that of the Apostle Paul found in one of my favorite sections of Scripture, Ephesians 3:14–21:

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being; so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and



to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fulness of God.

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

God is able! So ... *“[Let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God ...” (Hebrews 12:2).*

May it always be a part of the vision for the Michigan District, in some way or another, to equip, empower, engage, and connect people to Jesus. We equip as we teach and train disciples as servants of Jesus. We empower as we gather around the Word and Sacrament, and use the gifts placed within each of us by the Holy Spirit. We engage when we move beyond the confines of the sanctuary or the boundary of the church property to connect people to Jesus. To engage can be messy business because it involves an investment of self, resources, time, and often changing the familiar to meet the needs of others. I am so very thankful for the many people who have shared stories of how the Holy Spirit has blessed their witness, of how people have been connected to Jesus, and how their lives and the lives of others have been changed by the power of the Gospel. I will continue to pray for this for all of you that God may be glorified.

In closing, let me simply say “Thank You.” Thanks for the love, prayers, and support. Thanks for the “gentle” correction at times, and the calls to repent. Thanks for the forgiveness and understanding, especially as we’ve struggled through the past two-plus COVID-marked years. Most of all, thanks for letting the Jesus in you be Jesus to Pat and myself. His love has shown through so many of you, and our lives, Pat and mine, are better for it. I can truly say I have loved working with all of you (most of the time :)).

My good friend Greg Walton (former Florida-Georgia District President) liked the way Bob Hope would create a song to thank his audience. Greg did the same for his District and I share that with you now:

“Thanks for the memories, of serving God above, and serving you in love, and walking in the blessings of the Spirit-driven Dove, I thank you so much!”

Thanks for the memories, of leading a great district team, it’s always been a dream, connecting folks to Jesus has always reigned supreme. So, thank you so much! ■

With gratitude in my heart,
David (and Pat)

Peace Be With You

it's far greater because it comes at all times, both the tranquil and the turbulent.

While we conceive peace as a lack of conflict, Christ gives us peace in the midst of conflict. And this is good news. Although we would prefer that conflict go away, we know it won't. We live in a fallen and sinful world. We see sin at work in our own lives. We see sin at work in the lives of our friends, our communities, and our leaders. Sin and its burdens are a constant while we are here on earth. But God knows this. That is why He gives us His special gift of peace. It's a peace that doesn't require a tranquil moment or a lack of conflict; it's a peace that comes in the midst of these things, one that comforts in spite of these troubles. With this peace, we can witness the greatest burdens sin has to bring, even death itself, and still rejoice and say, "Praise and thanks be to God." Because God's peace is the promise of the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation—all of which sin cannot destroy for those who have faith.

We all have our picture of peace that seems to elude us. But God reminds us that He offers an even greater peace. It won't make your life easier; it won't remove all conflict from your life. But it will grant you a tranquil and joyful conscience before God at all times, even in times of hardship. It's a peace that passes all earthly understanding, but it

continued from page 7



© Aaron Burdery/Unsplash

is one that brings us joy at all times. So praise be to God, and peace be with you. ■

Rev. Alex W. 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, his wife Leah, and his daughter Harper continue to enjoy Pure Michigan taking chances to explore God's Creation.

Meeting Needs with Dignity

the ALICE population at michigandistrict.org/podcast.

To learn more about how to implement a similar type of ministry, Doerner invites you to visit Messiah, Midland to understand its philosophies to get the whole picture.

If you are wondering how to finance such a ministry, the Michigan District offers grants called StartNew Returnable Funding and StartNew Explorer. These resources enable ministries to launch new ministries which support a common goal of creating opportunities for sharing the Gospel. To learn more, visit michigandistrict.org/ministries/start-a-ministry/. ■

continued from page 9



© monkeybusinessimages/istock

Your Investment Builds Churches

When you invest with Church Extension Fund your investment helps to renovate and build churches and schools, just like St. Michael, Portage.

“I would highly recommend any congregation work with CEF for funding. They use their resources for the Great Commission.”

— Pastor Paul Naumann,
St. Michael, Portage



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. Matthew Canion (Willmar, MN) to Living Water, Whitmore Lake
 Rev. Joel Eden (Westland, MI) to Associate, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Rev. John Greig (Rehoboth Beach, DE) to First, Algonac
 Rev. Mark Hill (Grand Blanc, MI) to IIM, Bethlehem, Roseville
 Rev. Thomas Messer (Alma, MI) to dual parish, Peace, Alma and
 Calvary, Carson City
 Rev. Benjamin Roberts (LaGrange, IL) to Associate, St. Paul, Trenton
 Rev. Dr. Scott Sommerfeld (Whitmore Lake, MI) to Vacancy, St. Paul,
 Ann Arbor
 Rev. Roger Straub (Eagle, MI) to IIM, St. Andrew, Portland
 Rev. Christopher Troxel (Clinton Twp, MI) to Associate, University
 Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor
 Rev. Lang Yang (Richville, MI) to Associate, Our Savior, Lansing

Change of Status and Title Changes

Rev. Galan Grulke (Howell, MI) to Emeritus
 Rev. David Jung (Pinconning, MI) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Rev. Elroy Brockopp (Emeritus) from Missouri District
 Rev. John Greig (Rehoboth Beach, DE) from Southeastern District
 Rev. Benjamin Roberts (LaGrange, IL) from Northern Illinois District
 Rev. Steven Schave (Howell, MI) from Missouri District

Transferred Out of District

Rev. Daniel Fulmer (Emeritus) to Florida/Georgia District
 Rev. Barton Gray (Emeritus) to Missouri District
 Rev. David Weirauch (Candidate) to Indiana District

Called Home

Rev. Fred Krause

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Bach, Lisa (Reinstated) to St. Paul, Millington
 Cody, Katelyn (Candidate) to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Kasper, Holly (Cq. Concordia, Seward) to LSEM, Ann Arbor
 Schave, Kimberly (Office of National Mission, Saint Louis, MO) to
 Concordia, Ann Arbor
 Scott, Kimberly (Candidate, Indiana District) to LSEM, Ann Arbor
 Winterstein, Thomas (St. John, Indianapolis, IN) to St. Lorenz,
 Frankenmuth

Change of Status

Anders, Brian (Trinity, Clinton Township) to Emeritus
 Barker, Autumn (Trinity, Fenton) to Candidate
 Bunkelman, James (Trinity, Monroe) to Emeritus
 Ceplecha, Paula (Candidate) to Emeritus
 Gruber, Mary (Holy Ghost, Monroe) to Emeritus
 Petzold, Julian (Valley Lutheran, Saginaw) to Candidate
 Shirley, Tessa (St. Paul, Albion) to Candidate
 Werner, Courtney (St. John's, New Boston) to Candidate

Transferred Into District

Ballantyne, Lynn (CNH District) to Trinity, Monroe
 Schave, Kimberly (Missouri District) to Concordia University, Ann
 Arbor

School Closing

Lansing, Martin Luther High School

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

OCTOBER 2022

- 2 Farewell Dinner for Rev. David P. E. Maier
Crowne Plaza, Lansing
- 6–8 LEA Conference
Milwaukee, Wisc.
- 9 State Cross Country Meet
Concordia University Ann Arbor
- 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
Concordia University Ann Arbor/St. Paul, Ann
Arbor
- 11 Veterans Day
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 24–25 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER 2022

- 23–26 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day

Michigan District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

GET EQUIPPED
FOR EFFECTIVE GOSPEL MINISTRY

- Start A Ministry
- Events
- Resources
- Calls & Vacancies
- Join A Ministry
- Ministry Finder
- Blog/Podcast
- Stories & Highlights

Visit us today at
michigandistrict.org