

February 2023

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IN TOUCH

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

HEALTHY WORKERS

Own the Mystery: Fasting

by Rev. David A. Davis

The hymn *Holy God We Praise Your Name* ends with these words, after a description of the Trinity: “While we own the mystery.”

That’s good. There are a number of things we do not understand and cannot fully explain about God and His Kingdom, even if we know the Scriptures forward and backward. So, we are led by faith to simply “own the mystery.”

This Lenten Season, own the mystery of fasting. Fasting, often connected with prayer,

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Official Periodical of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
February 2023, Volume 22, No. 2
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

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is a common biblical practice. Jesus fasted for those 40 days of His temptation experience. At the end of the fast He was hungry, but was He also stronger? What does fasting do? Why did the disciples fast as well as pray when they were setting apart Barnabas and Saul? What difference did it make in Esther's day that her people fasted before she went into the king? A mystery.

Jesus, quoting Deuteronomy, said, *"Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD"* (8:3). What does it mean that we are nourished by the Word of God? In what way does the Word of God even surpass the food (and other things) of the world? This Lenten Season, own the mystery of fasting.

When the disciples returned and found Jesus speaking to the Samaritan woman at the well, they encouraged Him to eat something.

He said, *"I have food to eat that you do not know about"* (John 4:32). And then, *"My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work"* (John 4:34). Can it be that there is something more nutritious about doing God's will than eating? Can that be for both our spirit and our body? This Lenten Season, own the mystery of fasting.

There are any number of ways to fast. You can give up chocolate for 40 days. You can turn off the TV on Sunday. And so on. But try this: during the Lenten Season, find one day each week where you do not eat between sunrise and sunset. If you have health conditions, you could substitute this with very austere meals instead.

During the fast, spend extra time in the Word and in prayer.

Who knows what will happen? We do know Jesus did this sort of thing. So did the early disciples. As did the ancients in Old Testament times.

Here are some guesses. You may find yourself more aware of God's grace and provision. You may find yourself better prepared for a challenge or temptation. You may find yourself more steadfast and even joyful in faith. You may find yourself less beholden and driven by food and other comforts of the world. You may find that this has nothing to do with a meritorious work but that it works to build your relationship with Jesus. Who knows? Fasting, like so many other things in God's Kingdom, is a mystery.

This Lenten Season, own the mystery of fasting. ■



Rev. David A. Davis serves as President of the Michigan District, LCMS.

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“Man does not live by bread alone, but man *lives* by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD (Deuteronomy 8:3).”



Second Career with a Second Chance

by Jeffrey T. Heisner

After 30 years working at General Motors, Rev. Bob Scott never intended to have a second career. He figured he would ride off into the sunset by writing a book or two and enjoy retirement. Others at Faith, Grand Blanc, where Rev. Scott was a member, had different plans. They planted the seed and encouraged him to become a pastor. God's hand did the rest.

"The Lord doesn't let up when he calls you," said Rev. Scott. *"He didn't let up on me, so finally I consented."*

Scott went into the Specialized Pastoral Ministry (SMP) Program and received a call to his home church, Faith. He called it the ideal situation for him to become a pastor: *"This was perfect for us, because you serve in your congregation while you are going to school, and you hopefully continue to serve after you are ordained,"* he said.

This was not the only major event, however. Last year, Scott was in the hospital for 2 months fighting for his life. He had a perforated bowel and then other complications set in, making the stay longer and the fight more difficult. *"I almost died a number of times,"* said Scott.

Prayers from family, friends, his congregation, and others in our district made a huge difference. He was able to leave the hospital and in April returned to doing God's work at Faith. At his first service back, before he could finish walking down the aisle, Rev. Scott got a standing ovation from the congregation. Before the service was completed, there wasn't a dry eye in the sanctuary. All the pain Scott

suffered and all the heartache his wife Karen and their family endured weren't enough to break their spirit.

The Scotts feel blessed and grateful for all the support they received from the community, but Rev. Scott knows who deserves the credit: *"We know the Lord is the one who healed me, because I shouldn't be here today,"* he said.

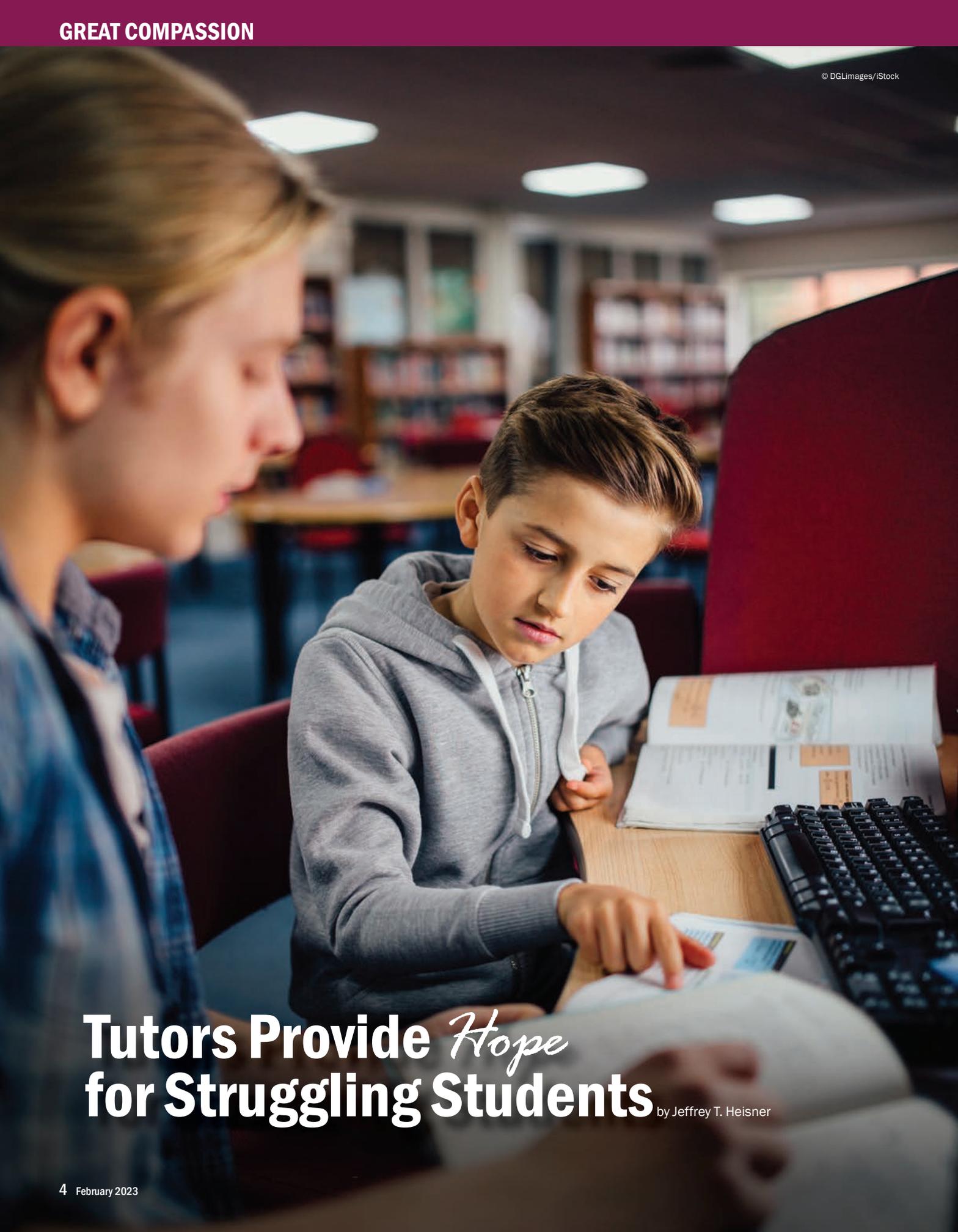
Scott says he is in better shape now than before he went into the hospital. And he's happy to be back at Faith continuing to do the job he loves with the people he loves.

Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper serves the Michigan District, LCMS as an Assistant to the President—Congregation Mission and Ministries and plays an integral part in helping many people like Rev. Scott get their start in the ministry. Kasper would love to see more people follow in Bob's footsteps by listening to God's call and becoming a pastor through the Synod's SMP program. *"Bob's story is a great example of the love that his congregation has for him and how they identified him as a Christ-centered leader: 'Your work is not done. You've been a great servant in the past and we want to call you as our pastor,'"* said Kasper.

To find out more about the SMP program, visit lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/specialized-pastoral-ministry or email Rev. Dr. Kasper at robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org. ■

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





Tutors Provide *Hope* for Struggling Students

by Jeffrey T. Heisner

“Any opportunity that we have to bring those students back into a place where *qualified educators* are able to work with them and provide them with the services they need to be able to *rebuild those skills*, that’s our one best chance.”

Student scores on Michigan’s standardized tests in 2022 were sharply down from before the pandemic. Last spring, 41.5% of third graders statewide scored at least proficient in math on one exam, known as the M-STEP. That’s a decline of 5.2 percentage points from 2019, the last time the test was given before COVID-19 shuttered classrooms. In English language arts, 41.6% of third graders scored proficient or higher, a decline of 3.5 points from 2019.

These numbers didn’t come as a surprise to Rich Schumacher, Director of Programs and Services for Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM). “Practical issues really created a damaging impact on education and it’s going to take us years to overcome that, if we’re able to do it at all,” said Schumacher.

Michigan District ministries and organizations are helping through partnerships with LSEM to provide tutoring. Charity Lutheran in Detroit hosts the iCan tutoring program, where students learn about Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” LSEM teachers Denise Sanders and Rebecca Gladden serve numerous students at Charity, working to improve their reading and math proficiency and adding a faith component at the same time.

St. Paul Community in Pontiac also uses the iCan tutoring program. Students meet there on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m. LSEM teacher Susan Williams leads the group and has seen how students are generally one or two years behind in reading. Williams makes it a point to visit each student and help build them up.

Gifts For All God’s Children (GFAGC) continues to help students with both their online tutoring program and their in-person tutoring sessions at East Bethlehem, Detroit. Additionally, this year they have been able to get into a public school to help students, thanks to a new initiative from Detroit Public Schools that accepts help from faith-based groups. GFAGC sends a tutor weekly to Marion Law Academy on the East side of Detroit.

There are still obstacles—teachers and tutors are needed—but many within the Michigan District are helping in places that really need it. Schumacher knows every tutor makes a huge difference to the kids. “Any opportunity that we have to bring those students back into a place where *qualified educators* are able to work with them and provide them with the services they need to be able to *rebuild those skills*, that’s our one best chance,” said Schumacher.

To find out more or to volunteer to help, go to michigandistrict.org/joinaministry. ■

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

Photos by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS





Thirty Years of Special Friends Camp

Michigan In Touch featured an article regarding Special Friends Camp, a camp for adults living with cognitive/intellectual disabilities, back in July of 2018. The adult campers live with disabilities such as Down's syndrome, autism, and others. We realized that this summer Special Friends Camp will celebrate 30 years of serving. We thought it was a good time to check in, see what they are up to and how things are going, by speaking with Special Friends Camp Director Dennis Pieper.

In Touch: Perhaps we should do a quick review of Special Friends Camp, how you got involved and what it's all about.

Pieper: Sure thing. While teaching at Lutheran Special Education Ministry in Detroit, I was approached by the Michigan District to take over directorship of the camp in the spring of 1993. The previous director was dealing with cancer and needed support. I wanted my family at the camp so I could see them during the evening hours. The director backed out at the last minute. It was a good thing my wife

Valerie and kids were there. They stepped up to help with crafts and be part of singing and fun activities. The campers responded well to my family. My kids viewed the people as their camp friends, not as people with special needs.

Special Friends Camp was started and continues to serve with 3 major goals in mind:

First – above all else, Special Friends Camp strives to share the love of Jesus with this population and their families. I didn't know it at the time, but statistics say that 80% of these families are unchurched and don't know Jesus.

Second – we want our campers to experience a “vacation” from their day-to-day routine. To be in the outdoors, with activities at the lake, around the campfire, in the woods, and the like.

Third – we know that often this is the only respite the caregivers and family members get—knowing their loved one is in a safe place.

In Touch: And what about the campers and Special Friends Camp? How has it changed over the years?

Pieper: In some ways, Special Friends Camp goes

on much the same as ever. Our campers, simple as they are, love Jesus, each other, and the camp experience. In that way, they teach us. Many people think our friends are always loving and generous with their friendship. In some ways that is true, but they do feel fear, anger, homesickness, and every other emotion the rest of us feel. The difference we see is due to their lack of a filter. They express their feelings open and honestly. For example, Steven came to us as a hyperactive mischievous young man. At first, we didn't know what to make of him or how to bring him into the group. That is until we came to realize that Steven sang "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" whenever he was afraid. He sang it a lot the first two years, but over time he trusted us, and we came to know his real self. By the way, his mischievousness turned into creative practical jokes.

Like most camps, our day starts with breakfast. We always sing a prayer such as Johnny Appleseed. After breakfast, we stop to say the pledge of allegiance and get ready for the day. We always have about an hour of Jesus Time. This includes plenty of songs, a Bible story and lesson, a skit and, of course, prayers. The lessons always fit into a theme of the week. You might think these are just basic children's messages; in reality, we often look at a Bible concept and break it down into understandable pieces. My favorite was when we spent a week looking at the meaning of GRACE = God's Radical Act of Compassion for Everyone.

In Touch: That's a concept we all struggle to understand. What do you do with the rest of the day?

Pieper: After Jesus Time we get moving. Some do archery, others waterfront activities, and some do crafts or a slew of other camp activities. After lunch we come together again for camp activities until dinner time. After dinner it's usually an open time in which we play games or work on our talent show activities.

“ Our campers, simple as they are, love Jesus, each other, and the camp experience. ”

In Touch: You have a talent show? That must be interesting.

Pieper: Oh yes. It's a lot of fun. The campers are encouraged to express themselves in ways they feel good about themselves. We have everything from reenactment of a Bible story to karaoke songs from *High School Musical* to a *Price is Right* game show, and dancing exposé. I emcee the event and get campers to help me with corny dad jokes. This is our evening event. We also have a Campfire night, Horseback leader rides with special field games while they wait their turn to ride, and the last night is always our big dance.

In Touch: I bet they love the dance.

Pieper: That's a good bet. The gals often bring special outfits for it. They love the oldies such as the Beatles and Elvis but are moving to the current music as well. Line dances are a big thing. I will say this—our campers don't judge how well you move or how silly you might look. They measure success by how much fun they have.

In Touch: It seems like the rest of the world could learn a thing or two from you campers.

Pieper: Totally agree. In fact, that's the reason we come back year after year.

In Touch: So, for 30 years you and your family have returned to lead the Special Friends Camp? It must have had an impact.

continued on page 14



FEBRUARY 2023

After 13 years of service, Bill Burmeister Retires



Bill presenting an Investment Rebate check to Rev. Brian West of Holy Cross, Jenison



“His tireless effort

has made a huge impact

on how CEF is received

throughout Michigan.”

Andy Sohn

Vice President - Strategy & Marketing
Church Extension Fund

Our gracious Lord has blessed the ministry of Church Extension Fund in numerous ways over the years. CEF has seen God’s hand guiding our decisions, as well as His provision during economic downturns, wars, and global pandemics. One such provision is in the form of our long-serving and dedicated staff members. Across our 12 staff members, we boast over 200 years of service to Christ in our ministry at CEF!

One of our more visible employees, Bill Burmeister, has served CEF for over 13 years. He began his time serving as a Gift Planning Counselor, which helped make sure that church members’ personal finances would be a blessing to their churches, favorite ministries, and loved ones after they are called to their Heavenly home. “Bill joined the CEF staff in 2009 and set out to be a well-known and friendly face throughout the Michigan District. Mission accomplished!

When you go to a conference with Bill, I am always amazed at the genuine relationships he has with Pastors, their wives and numerous church leaders,” commented Andy Sohn, Vice President – Strategy & Marketing. “His tireless effort has made a huge impact on how CEF is received throughout Michigan.”

Bill joined CEF after a successful career in veterinary sales and a short stint in the financial services industry. “His friendly and outgoing demeanor, as well as being a great churchman, made him a great fit at CEF,” stated CEO Jim Saalfeld. Wanting to use the years of relationships Bill had built, he was given a new role in 2019 as Director of Congregational Services. This role put Bill in charge of recruiting CEF Representatives and Stamp Reps, presenting Investment Rebate checks at churches, and helping spread the news of CEF grants and services.

Through many seasons of life in the past 13 years, Bill has remained faithful to his Lord and to the mission of CEF. Bill officially retired from CEF at the end of January.

“Bill is beloved by the many Pastors and church leaders in Michigan. He will be truly missed by hundreds, if not thousands, of people in the District and here at the CEF office,” noted President John Bates.



Bill Burmeister, dependable employee, loving father and grandfather, and faithful servant of the Lord.

Bill will spend his retirement being a full-time Grandpa to his numerous grandchildren, and taking up new hobbies, such as learning to sew, in order to spend special moments with his granddaughters.

As is said in Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:23 “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

Well done, Bill! Enjoy your retirement!



“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness’”

Matthew 25:23



Church Extension Fund

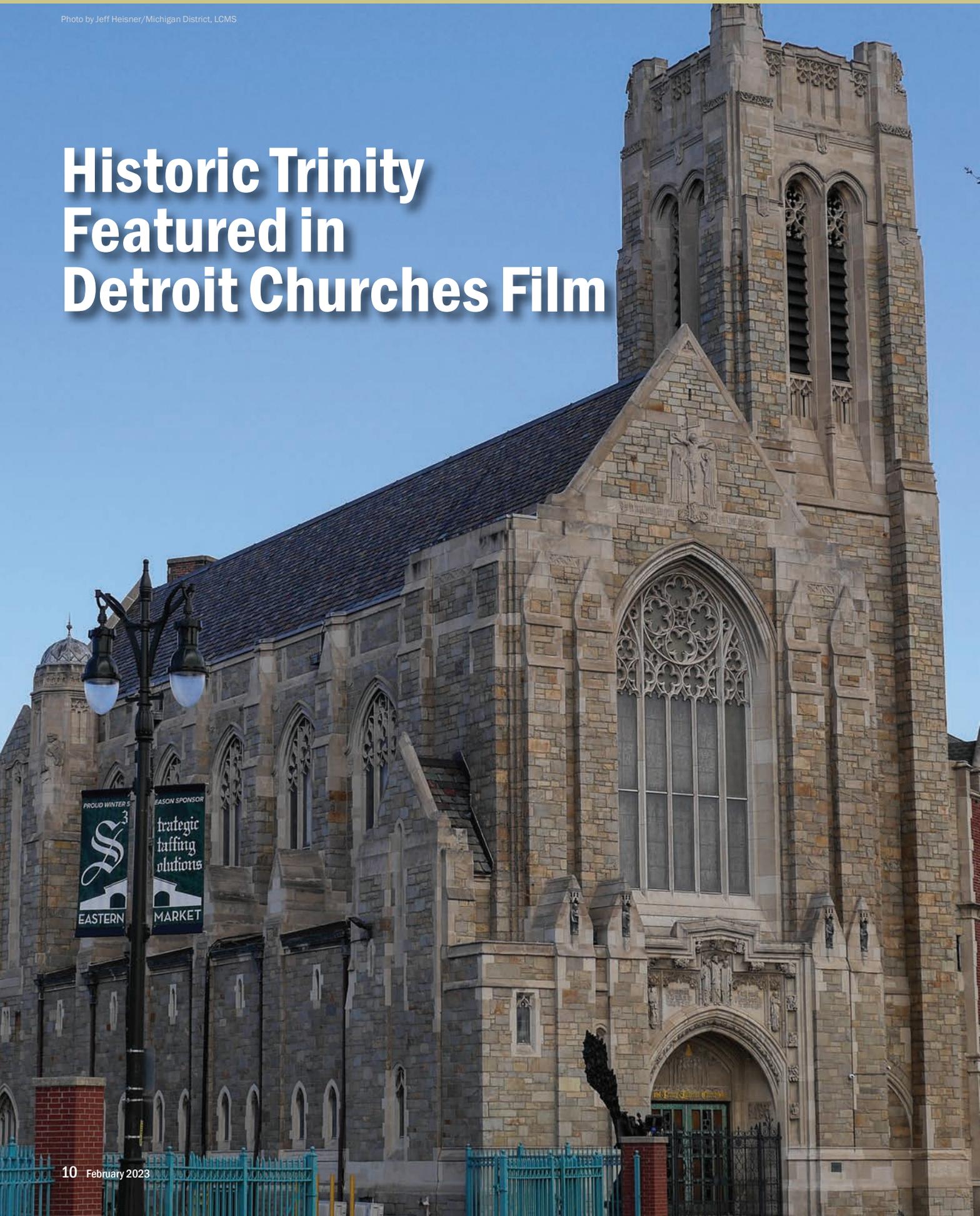
Church Extension Fund

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Historic Trinity Featured in Detroit Churches Film



“ We will return to a time when a *community comes together* to celebrate the things we share in common: Our *love* for our city, our people, our children, our teams, our companies, our music, even our beer. ”

Historic Trinity Lutheran Church was one of the Detroit churches featured in a brand-new film that made its debut in December. Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski, head pastor at Historic Trinity, was excited to be included and featured in the project. *“It is going to be amazing to see an artist and storyteller like Keith Famie pull it all together,”* Andrzejewski said.

Rev. Andrzejewski and Historic Trinity played a crucial role in making this work. Rev. Andrzejewski describes how it started: *“‘Detroit: The City of Churches’ began as a brainchild of Historic Trinity, in cooperation with Keith Famie who’d been thinking about this idea as well. The first meeting was held in May 2021 when a priest, a minister, and a rabbi walked into our church. No joke. From that moment, we have been on an incredible journey of learning the history and beauty of the people of faith that have called Detroit their home for centuries.”*

The two-hour film is hosted by long-time Detroit Television personality Chuck Gaidica and produced by Visionalist Entertainment Productions. *Detroit: The City of Churches* takes an in-depth look at Detroit’s history from the perspective of 17 of the city’s houses of worship.

Historic Trinity’s Christmas Eve service was featured in one of the film’s trailers (vimeo.com/660829745). The Michigan District also has a video tour of Historic Trinity on its YouTube channel (MichiganLCMS).

Detroit, at one time, had more churches per square mile than any other city in the country, serving a population from many nationalities and many faiths.

Detroit: The City of Churches premiered at a private showing on December 10, 2022 at The Fillmore Theater in Detroit. A special closing of the evening’s celebration brought together several of the featured churches’ choirs on the candle-lit stage to sing “Silent Night.” The movie’s broadcast debut was on DPTV / PBS in December.

Rev. Andrzejewski shares, *“At a time in our nation’s history where we focus so much on our differences, this film bucks that trend. We will return to a time when a community comes together to celebrate the things we share in common: Our love for our city, our people, our children, our teams, our companies, our music, even our beer. If through that we can capture our love and dedication to the Lord in the living out of our faith, who wouldn’t be inspired?”* ■

Photo courtesy of Visionalist Entertainment Productions



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS



Top Left: Video taping taking place at Historic Trinity.

Bottom Left: Night of the premiere at The Fillmore Theater, Detroit.

Above: Rev. Andrzejewski (right) pictured with his family and members of Historic Trinity at the premiere.

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Lutheran Hour Ministry in Mexico

The Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) ministry center in Mexico is locally known as *Cristo Para Todas las Naciones* (Christ for all Nations). LHM—Mexico works closely with local Lutheran missions and pastors to support the outreach of each mission church, and to build a collaborative effort among all Lutheran agencies working in Mexico.

LHM—Mexico publishes booklets each month that address a variety of everyday subjects. Each topic is explored and addressed from the Christian perspective, encouraging the reader to apply the teachings to his or her own life. The ministry center distributes the booklets through volunteers working within the various missions, outreach stands, city-wide fairs, festivals, and through the schools involved in Project JOEL.

Project JOEL endeavors to be a force for the development of Christian values and biblical understanding within the youth of Mexico. Classified ads in newspapers are used extensively, along with distribution of a tabloid-sized newspaper supplement called *The Family in the Modern World*.

Bible Correspondence Courses are an important

part of the outreach and work of LHM because people in Mexico are largely unfamiliar with the Bible. Currently, LHM—Mexico is using six different courses.

LHM supports the church through training and education of lay ministers. One group of facilitators uses the LHM office as their training center and material resource office as they study the training course developed through the Hispanic Institute of Theology from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

For more information on how to support ministry in Mexico, go to LHM.org.



Photo courtesy of LHM

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Happy Valentine's Day

Treat yourself
and sign up
for the LWML
Convention today!

Get Ready
Registration opens
exclusively online on
January 9!

Celebrate the
Lord of the Nations
Psalm 33:12-13

LWML Convention — June 22–25, 2023 — Milwaukee, WI



Special Recognition

Chris Brown Retires

Early in 2022, Chris Brown announced her retirement from the Commission of Deacon Qualifications (CDQ) as its Registrar. At the Deacon/Ministry Assistant Program Conference in September, she was recognized for her contributions and service in building the Deacon, MAP, and SMP training programs. There are very few Deacons/Ministry Assistants who have not been touched by her service, dedication, and personal interest in their lives and their service to the Lord.

Chris Brown reminisces in her farewell article of the Deacon/MAP Program newsletter:

I can only thank God for the wonderful opportunity and the many blessings I have been given over the last 20 years as I served as the Deacon/MAP registrar. I never imagined what God had in mind when I received a phone call from Rev. Dr. Robert “Bob” Schultz to serve on the Commission of Deacon Qualifications (CDQ) back in 2002. As we interviewed men to become Deacons, it became apparent we needed a Lutheran school for all the Deacons to have the same Lutheran doctrine knowledge to share in their congregations.

It took months of planning to develop the school. Dr. Bob, the late Dr. Ron Jahnke, and I created the training. Rev. Ted Beiderwieden and Deacon Bill Storm also provided much insight and help and the first Deacon class was on November 8, 2003 with 19 students.

Over the years, the largest class held was in 2004 with 32 students. The first Commencement service was in 2005 with five students commencing. In 2016, Jewel Richardson

of Beautiful Savior, Wellston was the first to commence as a Ministry Assistant. Our largest group to commence was in 2019, with 13 Deacons and 3 Ministry Assistants.

Accreditation of the Deacon/MAP Program became a priority with the CDQ and a new master’s degree program for Deacons/MAPs was developed through Kairos University. In 2021, Deacon Al Renard was the first student to commence from Kairos with his master’s degree. In 2022, Deacon William Bible was the first student to commence from Kairos AND be accepted into the seminary.

Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper says, “I am grateful to the Lord for Chris, for her amazing capacity and focused concern for the details in providing for students in our Deacon Training Program. She provided me with tons of ‘program history’ when I first came to my position at the Michigan District. She has been a key servant leader in the history of this program and continues to be a great champion and supporter of lay leadership development.”

Chris Brown will be replaced by Deacon Al Renard. For more information on the program, visit michigandistrict.org/missional.

May the Lord’s continued blessings be with Chris, always guiding her according to His will.



Photo by Elisa Schultz, Michigan District, LCMS

Hauser Retires

Rev. Paul Hauser retired from public ministry on December 31, 2022. He is the fifth generation within the Hauser family to serve as a LCMS Pastor. Paul was ordained in the summer of 1983. His 39.5 years of public ministry were all spent within the Michigan District.

He served Holy Cross, Belding (1983–88); Bethlehem, Saginaw (1983–2000); and Zion, Hemlock until his retirement.

Paul married Deborah (Zipf) Hauser in August of 1980. Deborah served for 20 years before she retired in the field of Early Childhood Ministry within the Michigan District, LCMS. Together, they raised four children: Rev.



Photo courtesy of Zion, Hemlock

Matthew Hauser (Peace, Saginaw), Julia and Elise (both raising young children and serving in volunteer positions within their local churches), and Paul, a professional actor. Retirement will find Hauser enjoying his grown children and nine (almost ten) grandchildren.

Correction from December 2022 Issue

John Herrmann Award

The Michigan District Stewardship Committee is proud to announce the selection of Lamb of God, Flint and Zion, Auburn for their outstanding stewardship work. Each congregation received a plaque, recognition on the John E. Herrmann Award plaque in the Michigan District office, and a ministry grant of \$1,000. Rev. Seth Hemme, pictured with Rev. Dan Meckes and Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram, received the award on behalf of Zion, Auburn.

Thirty Years ...

continued from page 7

Pieper: Well, we certainly didn't know this would continue so long. When I took a call to Illinois, I thought we were done. But my children came to me saying they wanted to return and see their friends. I thought they meant their school or neighborhood friends. But they pleaded not those friends but their *camp friends*. So yes, year after year we came back to be with our friends. My kids only took jobs that would let them come to camp. Their occupations were influenced as well. One became an administrator in a Special Education Cooperative, another a Philological Counselor at an agency for people who live with both cognitive and emotional disabilities, the third a Physical Therapy Assistant, and finally a Special Education teacher. So yes, the Camp and the people have had a profound effect on my family.

In Touch: And how are you and your family doing?

Pieper: The family is doing great! Since our last conversation, two of my children have married and we even have two grandchildren. Our granddaughter Leila is 4 years old and has been a part of Special Friends the last 2 years. Joshua's son is only 2 months old but will be part of the camp this year.



Photo by Felisa Schmitz/Michigan District, LCMS

In Touch: My, that seems young!

Pieper: I know, but keep in mind Josh was only 6 months old the very first year we took over the camp, back in 1993.

In Touch: So to wrap things up, what does the future look like for Special Friends Camp? Does the camp have needs people can help with?

Pieper: Thank you for asking. First, let me say a big thank you to the Michigan District for all their support over the years.

Second, when I retired from teaching, I was concerned how much longer I could continue with Special Friends. Good news here is that Joshua and Emily have stepped up to lead the operations of the camp. They are also working with the Michigan District to continue to bring Special Friends Camp into the next generation.

Regarding needs and ways to support Special Friends Camp, there are three ways we ask for you to get involved:

- Prayer – we always ask for prayerful support that Special Friends Camp can continue to share the love of Jesus in this manner. Perhaps to open doors for other people, in other places, at other times of the year, to those who might benefit from this experience.

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VIBRANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.
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- Financial – the costs of running Special Friends Camp, from the rental of the space and food and activities at the YMCA camp are going up just like everything else. There is, by the way, a designated fund which Michigan District manages, set aside for Special Friends Camp. We need to replenish these funds. Typically, the monies are used to reimburse supply costs, help campers who otherwise could not attend, and meet any shortfall between collected funds and costs of camp. You should know, we do not charge volunteers to help at camp. The camper fees help to cover this cost. This year the fees will exceed \$400 each. Our fear is this will restrict camper participation.
- Volunteer – getting involved would be a great way to support the ministry. We look for high school students to be counselors in training, and adults (college age through active seniors) to be lead counselors. I promise you it will help your discipleship walk grow.

For more information or to volunteer, visit michigandistrict.org/specialfriendscamp. ■

Save the Date!

In-Person Nonprofit Workshop

One-day equipping event to build teams and donor relations with guest presenter Bill Woolsey from FiveTwo.

MARCH 9, 2023
8 am - 4 pm

Location: 17100 Chalmers St.
Detroit, MI 48205

Opportunity for a year-long coaching relationship

Cost, granting opportunities, and more details to follow!

detroit@camprestore.org





Guest Speaker
Bill Woolsey

Timeline:
8am: Networking Breakfast
8:45am: Event Kickoff
12pm: Working Lunch
4pm: Closing

Opportunities to learn about:

- Building a team
- Speaking to donors
- Narrowing your mission focus

Your Investment Builds Schools

When you invest with Church Extension Fund your investment helps to renovate and build churches and schools, just like Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw.

“CEF is so respected in the lending industry that when the school talked to local banks to satisfy due diligence on the loan, the lenders told them there was no way they could beat CEF’s rates and didn’t even offer a quote.”

– John Brandt,
Executive Director at
Valley Lutheran High, Saginaw



Church Extension Fund

Office:
800-242-3944

24/7 Interest Rates:
800-232-7313

Website:
www.mi-cef.org



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Calls and Roster Update

Calendar of Events

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

ORDAINED

Candidate Placement

Rev. Michael Hansen (Wixom, MI) to Immanuel, Oceanside, CA

Calls Accepted

Rev. Tyson Bentz (Jackson, MI) to Saint Peter's, Big Rapids
Rev. Mark Gilson (Fruitport, MI) to IIM, St. James, Montague
Rev. Matthew Gunia (Ironwood, MI) to Faith, Whitehall
Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier (Frankfort, MI) to Associate, Historic Trinity, Detroit, deployed to Executive Director, Mission Partners Platform
Rev. J. Derek Riddle (Rogers City, MI) to Trinity, Jackson

Change of Status

Rev. John Brooks (Pentwater, MI) to Emeritus
Rev. Lee Zabrocki (Louisville, KY) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Rev. Seth Kaiser (Saginaw, MI) from Iowa West District

Transferred Out of District

Rev. Scott Benjamin (Spring Lake, MI) to English District
Rev. Matthew Hall (Cedar Rapids, IA) to Iowa East District
Rev. Merelyn Snider (Peyton, CO) to Rocky Mountain District

Called Home

Rev. Paul Boecler

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Cronkright, Brandi (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to St. John, Rochester

Transferred Out of District

Strang, Donna (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
Strang, William (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District

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

FEBRUARY 2023

- 1 Early Childhood Cabinet
Frankenmuth
- 2-3 Snow Tire Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 4 Theological Conference
Our Savior, Lansing
- 22 Ash Wednesday

MARCH 2023

- 2-3 DCE/DFL/Deaconess/Worship Arts Conference
St. Paul, Hamburg
- 4-5 State Basketball Tournament
CUAA/St. Paul, Ann Arbor
- 14 Board of Directors
Our Savior, Bad Axe

APRIL 2023

- 6 Maundy Thursday
- 7 Good Friday
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 9 Easter Sunday
- 21-23 The Katie
DoubleTree, Bay City

MAY 2023

- 1-2 North and East Pastors Conference
DoubleTree, Bay City
- 9-10 South and East Pastors Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 10-11 Circuit Visitors Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 15-16 West Pastors Conference
Inn at Harbor Shores, St. Joseph
- 23 Board of Directors
Location TBD
- 24-25 Intentional Interim Ministry Conference
Michindoh, Hillsdale
- 29 Memorial Day
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED

