

November 2023

# michigan

## IN TOUCH

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

### HEALTHY WORKERS

## Farm-to-Table Biblical Theology

by Rev. David A. Davis

A member of ours used to show up at our house about 4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Eve to deliver a turkey. Earlier that morning the turkey had been eating its breakfast. By the next morning, after our breakfast, it would be in the oven becoming our dinner. We were having a farm-to-table Thanksgiving.

Across America, the farm-to-table movement continues to grow. People look for the freshest fruits,

*continued on page 2*

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vegetables, and meats. We have grown suspicious of highly processed foods with unknown additives and preservatives. We are not sure where the food has really come from either in terms of location or producers. Is the food safe? Is the food healthy? Is it really food?

Let's get food that is fresh, local, and pure: farm-to-table.

We should do the same with biblical theology. Let's make sure that we are getting safe and healthy theology that really is biblical theology. The best way to do that is "farm-to-table" with local and reliable producers. By this, I mean personally reading your Bible and being involved in a local Christian congregation.

Podcasts and posts proliferate. Ancient and historical texts abound. Scholars search and then produce profound tomes. Certainly, these are not all bad, but they are more like processed food than farm to table. Their ingredients are uncertain. Their origins and perspectives are unclear. Some are like junk food. Some are very tasty but limited in nutritional value. Some are harmful, eternally so.

Of course, such things are not useless. There is a

place for boxed macaroni and cheese in our lives. What would life be like without a Snickers Bar or the ability to throw a frozen pizza in the oven? Getting a taste of Italian or Chinese or Mexican food by going down the International aisle at the grocery store instead of going to the airport to get on a plane enhances life's experience. To listen to a podcast, read the ancients, or sit at the feet of a scholar can provide benefit and a richness to our faith life. But like farm to table, like shopping in the fresh food section of the grocery store, the more your faith is rooted in reading the Bible for yourself and joining weekly or more with your local congregation, the better your diet will be.

Check your theological diet. Are you relying on podcasts and articles (not counting this one!) as your primary source of Christian nutrition? Are you consuming the scholars and the ancients in a way that leaves you too stuffed to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Bible itself? Are you sampling online worship throughout the world and not worshipping with fellow congregants and a local pastor who knows you?

If you are feeling sluggish and unmotivated, it may be your diet. You may be consuming too much of the wrong things and not enough of the best things. Let's return to what has been a center of health in the Christian Church from the beginning: personally engaging in the Word of God within the context of a local community of believers.

God bless you as you gather for Thanksgiving. Offer up thanks to God for his manifold goodness. Enjoy a meal of fresh food as foretaste for That Meal: *"a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined"* (Isaiah 25:6).

NOTE: Like physical health, spiritual health is not an end in and of itself. It is a means by which we are better able to engage the world around us. ■



*Rev. David A. Davis serves the Michigan District, LCMS as its president.*

*This article first appeared on Rev. Davis' blog, [towardsignificance.com](http://towardsignificance.com), on September 29, 2023.*



# Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart

by Jimmy K. Riley

I heard a story that happened long ago—so long ago I really don't know if it is true. The story goes something like this: A devout king had a royal court. He was disturbed by the court's ingratitude to God. So the king prepared a great banquet for his court. When all the invited guests were seated, a beggar (pre-arranged by the king) came into the hall, sat down at the king's table, and began to have his fill of the food reserved for the king's guests. Then, without saying a word, got up and left. The guests were infuriated with the beggar's disrespect for the king. They asked the king for permission to seize the tramp and tear him limb for limb for his ingratitude.

The king replied, *"The beggar has done only one thing to an earthly king what each of you does three times each day to the heavenly King. You sit there at the table and eat until you are satisfied. Then you walk away without recognizing God, or expressing one word of thanks to Him."*

The story kind of makes you think—I know it did me—how much we take or use things and people without much appreciation (clothes, shoes; meat, drink; house, home; spouse, kids; ... and all I have).

A pastor friend of mine would make the rounds to various youth events and have the youth respond to the phrase "God is good, *all the time*" with "All the time, *God is good.*" Some of you may have heard this phrase. My pastor friend used it as a reminder that, even when

things seem to be unbearable or when we are at our wit's end and don't know if we can take another setback, God is in control and "God is good ..." (well, you get the message). A simple reminder of God's graciousness and providence—rejoice always and give thanks for the marvelous things He has done.

Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good. His mercy endures forever! He has given Jesus Christ, His Son—for you!!!

Give thanks, give thanks.

Blessed Thanksgiving to you and your family. ■

*Rev. Jimmy K. Riley is the pastor at Trinity-St. James, Munger.*

“God is good,  
*all the time.*”

All the time,  
*God is good.*”



# Always Thankful

by Neil F. Webb

I vividly remember the chill that started to set in as the sun fell early below the mountains to our west. The twelve of us boys, none older than 12, and our guide were hungry and thirsty. The crispness of the air in June somewhere just below 10,000 feet in the valley in which we were huddled, and the darkness that came early in its shadows, drove home to all of us the seriousness of our situation. We were too far into the mountains to turn back at this late hour, and the bike trail we were on had become impassable. We were stuck for the night. We had dressed for a few hours of 90-degree mountain biking, not for the temperatures that would surely come as the sun went down. At that elevation, some places in the shade still had remnants of the winter's snow. We knew we were in for a long night.

As we huddled in the dark around the fire, we spent time asking questions. We wondered what our parents might be thinking. We wondered what the other campers at Camp Perkins might be thinking. We wondered what dinner was served back at the camp and what dessert might have topped it off.

Eventually, we found comfort in discussing the things that we were thankful for. The fact that no bears or mountain lions had been spotted. The fire that we had, a fire by the way that was lit with our last match (I would never trust book matches again). We were thankful for the cheap bike helmets and their thin flammable covers that helped us produce enough heat to start our fire on that last match. We were thankful that we had each other. And we looked forward to the morning light which would bring us time to retrace our steps and return us to the head of the trail.

I learned a lot on that cold night in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho. It is a memory that I carry with me to this day. Through that tough experience, I learned of the value of being thankful, especially during times of trouble. It is one thing to be thankful in abundance; it is quite another to be thankful in scarcity. Talking about the things we were thankful for during that cold, dark night around the fire helped us tremendously. And we know that God is the creator and provider of all things good. Matthew 5:45 reminds us that God *"makes his sun rise on*

*the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."*

These last few years at Christ Lutheran School (CLS) have been tough. In addition to a pandemic, our staff and their families have been affected by various illnesses that have caused us to ask ourselves "Why?" There have been a lot of uncertainties. It has been quite a storm. As we prepare for Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to God for all that we have.

I give thanks for the wonderful staff that we have at CLS. Their dedication to the students is amazing. There are so many things that our staff does inside and outside of the classroom to ensure the best for our students. When discussing things in our faculty meetings, their focus on the welfare of the students is humbling to see. It is an honor to work with such dedicated Christian teachers!

I give thanks for Christ Lutheran Church, which has for decades made Christian education in our community a priority. Did you know that roughly 75% of the school's operations cost is supported by the generosity of the members of Christ Lutheran Church? When we consider that it costs roughly \$8000 to educate a child, I am thankful to the church that they work to make a Christian education affordable for our families.

We indeed have a lot to be thankful for, especially during these past few years. My prayer is that all of us take time this Thanksgiving to thank our Almighty Father, that He has given us so much. Often, more than we even realize.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise Him all creatures here below!  
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host!  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Amen!

Happy Thanksgiving! ▀

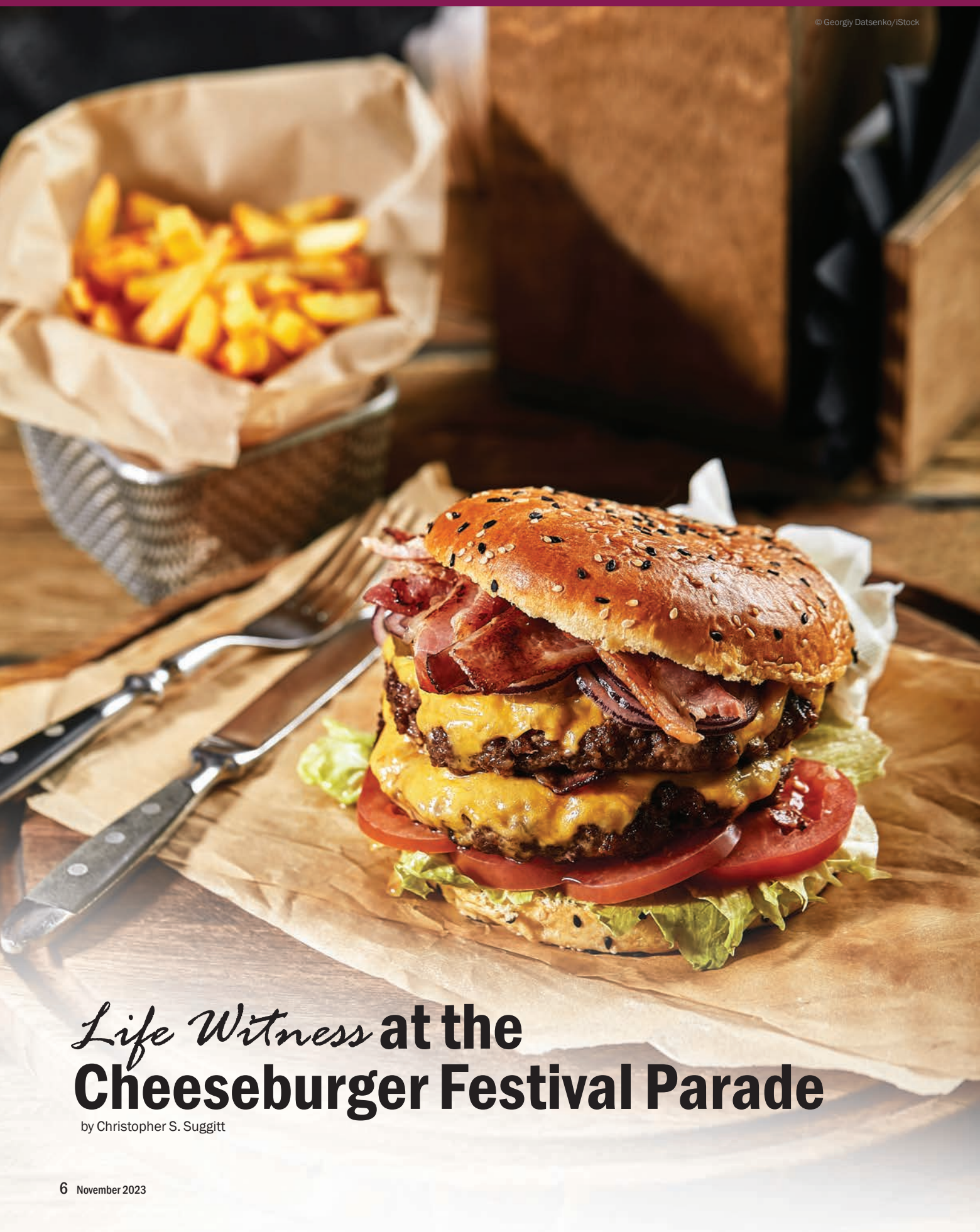
*Neil Webb serves Christ, Stevensville as its principal as well as religion and PE teacher.*



“ ... God makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ”







# *Life Witness* at the **Cheeseburger Festival Parade**

by Christopher S. Suggitt

The annual Cheeseburger Festival in the little town of Caseville is something that must be experienced to be known. Thousands upon thousands of people stream in to enjoy the ten-day “island getaway” themed festival which reveals itself in Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, and pink flamingos.

The height of the festival and certainly the most rambunctious activity offered is the Parade of Fools. The parade draws estimates of 15,000 people for the one-mile trek down main street. Most of the floats are businesses promoting themselves and local organizations participating in community fun while dressed in cheeseburger garb adorned with flamingo trimmings. As you might imagine, some of it can get a little over the top and the wise parent may have to shield young eyes, but one thing is for sure: people turn out in droves to witness the parade. The streets in Caseville are densely lined with people there to watch, gather candy and beads, and shout for the floats they like best. It’s not uncommon for it to last an hour and a half.

I never thought I would be in that parade, but as it turns out this year was my second year in a row. Last year I had the opportunity to walk with the Huron County Right To Life and this year it was the same. Several brave souls who encouraged each other found confidence to walk the giant party gauntlet. We joined together to spread the message of the value of God-given life in the womb to thousands. This is an intimidating task and venue, but the message is worth it. Some boo or hiss. Some give back the bookmarks with God’s truth of life on it. Some decline the simple pen or pencil with the message that even the smallest are loved by our Lord. Some deny the golden pin of the feet of a ten-week-old child. But some don’t! Many don’t! I heard cheers as our van with banners on either side saying, “Pro-woman, Pro-Child, Love Them Both” approached. Many accepted the handouts and the balloons which said, “Smile! Your mom chose life!” Twenty-somethings in ridiculous island garb shouted full-throated support! This gave us encouragement. Encouragement that we were not alone in standing up



for life. Often what other people need is to see that you need not be afraid to speak the truth and our voice gets louder together. It’s a voice that speaks for the voiceless and seeks to defend those who need someone to do it for them. One person yelled from the crowd, “Keep politics out of the parade!” Standing up for children isn’t politics; it’s a confession that any decent society needs because it’s a matter of life and death for children. If we can’t see that this isn’t arbitrary politics but a necessity of any well-functioning group of people, then we are blind.

I led our small group in prayer before the parade started. We prayed that the Author of life, Jesus, would give us wisdom and courage to speak His truth. We prayed that He would soften hard hearts to see that all life is precious. We prayed that others would be encouraged to join in defending life.

May our Lord answer our prayers even in the midst of a Cheeseburger parade. He who is faithful will do it. ■

*Rev. Christopher S. Suggitt serves Good Shepherd, Caseville and St. Paul, Linkville.*

*Editor’s Note: The Michigan March For Life will take place November 8 in Lansing, followed by a post-march Lutheran Gathering at Hope, DeWitt. Join others for mutual encouragement!*

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“ Standing up for children isn’t politics; it’s a confession that any decent society needs because it’s a matter of life and death for children. ”

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NOVEMBER 2023

## A Call To Mission

When Marty Moro began his career in Lutheran ministry as a high school educator, he never foresaw working at a mission like MOST Ministries. In fact, he graduated from Concordia University Nebraska in 1981 with a focus on math and physics education at the secondary level.

“My first call as a teacher was to Concordia High School Fort Wayne,” Moro shared. “And when the principal found out I’d taken computer programming classes in my undergrad, the school newspaper declared that the computer whiz had arrived.”

Moro ended up serving as a high school math and science teacher for 22 years. Then when a former principal suggested he consider a career shift to development and fundraising, he worked in that arena for 18 years. It wasn’t until August of 2022 that he contemplated another change in vocation, when he was called to the role of executive director at MOST Ministries.

“All of the work I’ve done has fallen into some vein of Lutheran ministry, and that’s



*Marty Moro on a Medical Team.*

not accidental,” said Moro. “As a teacher, I was directly impacting the lives of my students. As a fundraiser for Lutheran schools, I was impacting the longevity of Lutheran education. Now I get to impact the lives of people around the world,

as we encourage them to spread the gospel and share in the experience of global mission work.”

MOST stands for Mission Opportunities Short Term. They share the Gospel in both word and deed. MOST is known for working with missionaries in third world countries to provide a service project; medical clinic, water filtration installation, or most notably, eyeglass clinics. Even though Moro was excited to begin his new line of work at MOST Ministries, he didn’t participate in a mission opportunity through MOST until months after he’d accepted the job.

“I volunteered with my wife, who is a nurse, and my sister-in-law who is a retired medical doctor. I got to experience the work of MOST Ministries firsthand in Guatemala. It was amazing.”

And Moro believes it takes more than volunteers willing to travel for MOST Ministries to run smoothly. MOST also needs individuals who can offer support to MOST mission trips through financial gifts, eyeglass donations, volunteering weekly at the MOST headquarters, and especially through prayer.





*Tanzania Eyeglass Team*



*Guatemala Medical Team*



*Guatemala Medical Team*

In 2014, when the opportunity arose to purchase the building they had been leasing for years, they contacted an old friend, CEF. CEF provided a mortgage to buy the building, and now MOST covers the mortgage cost with rent payments from another tenant. As Moro points out “Every dollar that is donated to MOST goes to ministry.” CEF has helped MOST in many ways over the years, and both

organizations look forward to future shared ministry opportunities.

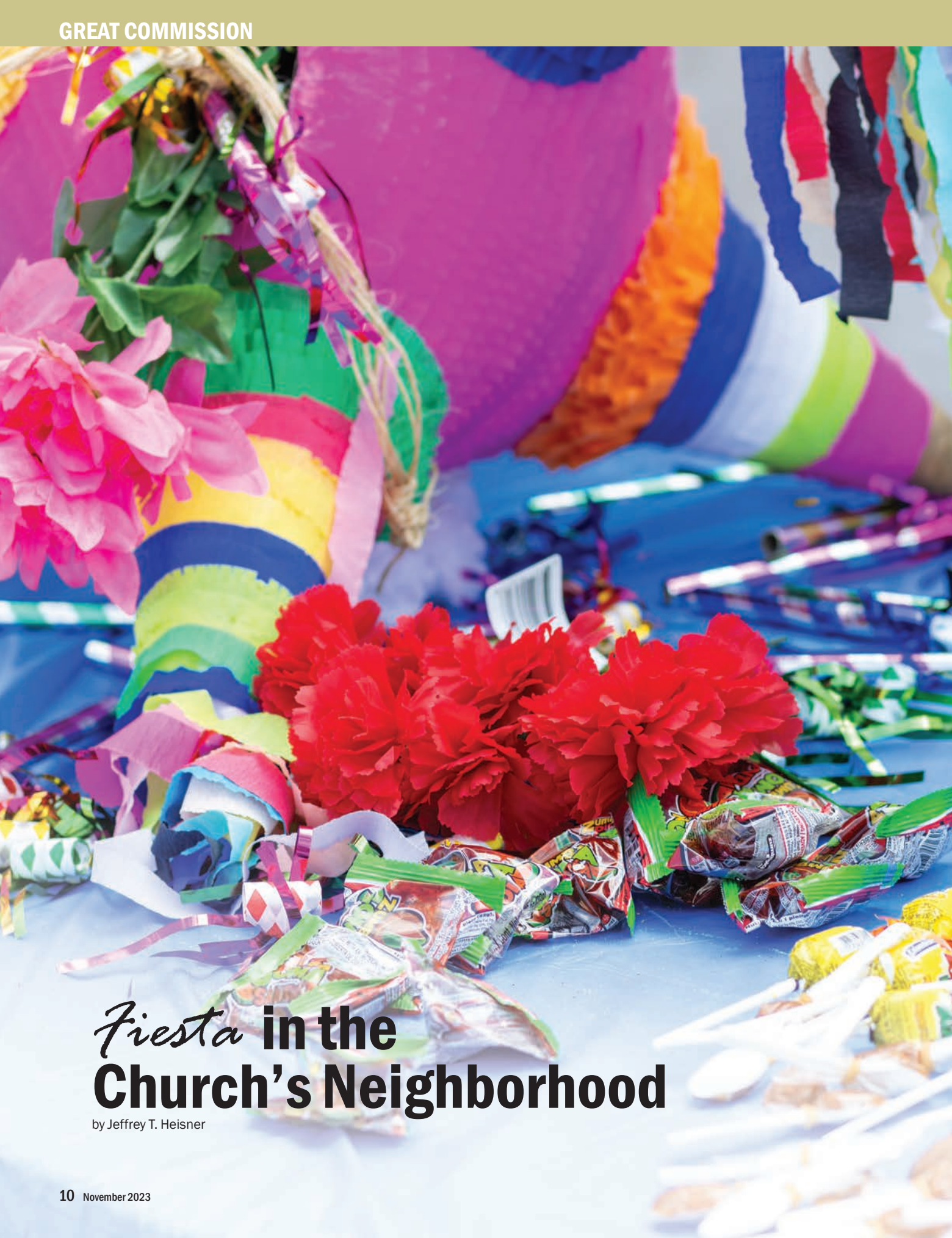
“We empower a wide variety of everyday church members across the country to meet the needs of the less fortunate worldwide. It is such a gift.”

To learn more about MOST Ministries and how you can best support their work, you can check out their website at [MOSTMinistries.org](http://MOSTMinistries.org).



To learn more about MOST and their unique ministry, visit [mi-cef.org/news](http://mi-cef.org/news)





# *Fiesta* in the Church's Neighborhood

by Jeffrey T. Heisner



At a time where so many churches are struggling and losing members, Pan de Vida, Detroit rises as a shiny exception. The Southwest Detroit church is one of the fastest growing in our Synod, according to Rev. Tyler Cronkright of neighboring Family of God, Detroit. Rev. Ricardo Granado and Pan de Vida have found many ways to engage the community to help the church not only grow, but thrive. Their latest community event was the Hispanic Heritage Festival which took place on Sunday, October 1, on the premises of St. Stephen Lutheran Church—which is also where Pan de Vida congregates.

The celebration, which had people coming and going in an open-house style, was free to the public. Approximately 500 people from the inner-city neighborhood got a taste of Latin America. There was dancing, activities for kids, and of course the authentic Latin American cuisine. From empanadas to tamales to ceviche to gorditas, people got the chance try favorite foods from Peru, Columbia, Honduras, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and many other places.

Rev. Granado was happy to see how successful the first-time festival turned out and has been excited by the way the church is growing—he has presided over four baptisms and five confirmations so far in his first year at the church. *“It is a precious group of brothers and sisters here at Pan de Vida and I am very happy with this, both with the collaboration of these brothers and sisters and with what has been taking place,”* said Rev. Granado. *“We’re very happy and very thankful to God for this.”*

Community involvement has been a staple of what is propelling Pan de Vida to flourish. They’ve had a Trunk or Treat last October and will have another this October. They also held a Vacation Bible School which brought several children from the neighborhood to hear about God’s love. At the Hispanic Heritage Festival, the congregation took prayer requests and will follow up to check in with those in need.

Rev. Granado feels blessed to see how all the effort is paying off. *“There’s a lot of work behind it,”* said Granado. *“When you see the turnout and how the congregation works together to try to make it work, it’s very rewarding and you see God’s work in it.”* ■

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



Photos by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS





## LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

### LLL Retreat Recap

This year's Lutheran Laymen's League Arcadia retreat had 111 men in attendance, with ages ranging from 19 to 91. This is truly a multi-generational retreat. The fall weather was outstanding. The retreat committee has received feedback of a great time and great value of the contributions of our chaplains, speaker, and those in attendance.

This was Dr. Dale Meyer's sixth time as speaker at this retreat. He was speaker at the 1990, 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2015 retreats. Dr. Meyer is now retired and carries the titles of president emeritus and professor emeritus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. and speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour® radio program.

Retreat chaplains were Rev. Tyler Cronkright, associate pastor of St. Stephen and Family of God Lutheran Churches in Southwest Detroit, and Rev. Dean Davenport, senior pastor of Christ Our Savior, Livonia and also a Michigan District vice president.

Next year's retreat will mark 78 years and will feature Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray Jr., Director of Black Ministry within the LCMS Office of National Mission.

Chaplains will be Michigan District Missionaries at

Large Rev. Christopher R. Bodley of Acts 2 Enterprise and Bethany, Detroit, and Rev. Dietrick Gladden, pastor of Mount Calvary and Charity, Detroit.

Next year's retreat will take place September 5–8, 2024 at Camp Arcadia.



Photo courtesy of Michigan District LLL

September LLL retreat attendees pose for photos including retreat chaplain Rev. Dean Davenport (third from left) and Dr. Dale Meyer, retreat speaker (third from right).



**Lutheran Adult Gathering**  
**October 11-13, 2024**  
**Save the Date!**





### Parish Nurse Conference

Are you looking for Christ-centered care for your staff, congregation, and/or community? Join the Michigan District on February 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to learn more about how a Parish Nurse Ministry or Congregational Health Ministry would look in your church or organization. All current parish nurses as well as others who are interested are welcome to come and learn how to get started, maintain, and move forward in caring for others in Christ-centered practices.

This one-day conference will take place at the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth. Deaconess Christie Hansard, who serves as the Michigan District Mental Health Case Manager, will be the main speaker. Dcs. Hansard is currently the chair of the LCMS Parish Nurse Ministry and was asked to join the Church Worker Wellness Synodical Committee. Registration is \$25/person and includes lunch. For more information or to register, visit [michigandistrict.org/parishnurseconf](http://michigandistrict.org/parishnurseconf).

### Family Praise and Picnic in the Park

In August, St. John, Rochester hosted its 24th "Family Praise and Picnic in the Park" community outreach celebration at Rochester Municipal Park, with ideal weather provided by our Creator. The more than 1,300 in attendance were blessed with Family Worship that included inspiring music and Pastor Marc Schwichtenberg's and Steve Wilson's encouraging messages.

Following worship, attendees had an opportunity to visit the prayer and photo booths and view the vintage vehicle and police and fire department displays. A free picnic lunch was followed by ice cream, sno-cones, and popcorn. The popular Red, White, and Cute Wheels Parade featured a record number of well-decorated entries. A children's obstacle course and face painting were popular activities along with entertainment by balloon artists and an illusionist.



Photos courtesy of St. John, Rochester



### A Journey to Bethlehem

Join Immanuel, Saginaw on December 1–3 for its free 30-minute outdoor living nativity. Travel to the ancient town of Bethlehem to pay your taxes and be counted in the Roman census. Hear the shepherds talk about the angels' proclamation. Listen to the prophet talk of signs and wonders. Enjoy the city alive with activity, see baby Jesus asleep in the manger, and more. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, visit [frankentrost.org](http://frankentrost.org) or like on Facebook (Living Nativity Frankentrost). The event is located at 8220 E Holland Rd (M-46) in Saginaw.

### CLW Awards 20 Scholarships

The Council of Lutheran Women recognized two CUAA female church work students and 18 seminarians as 2024 scholarship recipients at its Fall Meeting on September 25. Scholarships are funded by proceeds from the Council of Lutheran Women Annual Luncheon in March and by individual earmarked donations. Teacher candidate Hollie Johnson received the CUAA Leona M. Meyer Scholarship and Family Life Ministry student Molly Breitenbach received the CUAA John C. Streit Scholarship. Seminarian recipients are: Martin Banks, St. Michael, Wayne; Brandon Boos, Faith, Troy; Josh Britton, Trinity, Utica; Patrick Brooks, Christ the King, Southgate; Janis Buelow, Trinity, Utica; Noah Dunsmore, Faith, Troy; William Ebel, St. John, Fraser; Henry Eising, St. Paul, Royal Oak; James Gramzow, Ascension of Christ, Beverly Hills; Alex Hinojosa, Emmanuel, Dearborn; Luke Konkell, Christ the King, Southgate; Lucas Moody, St. Matthew, Westland; Matt Nelson, Trinity, Utica; Alex Ogden, Historic Trinity, Detroit; Sean Sheppard, Trinity, Utica; Chris Sturges, Faith, Troy; Adam Thiel, St. Michael, Wayne; and Jason von der Lage, St. Peter, Macomb. Donations are welcome throughout the year and can be made by visiting [clwmichigan.com](http://clwmichigan.com).



Photo courtesy of CLW

CLW Concordia University Ann Arbor scholarship recipients Hollie Johnson (L) and Molly Breitenbach (R) with Mrs. Beth Hopkins, Secondary Education Coordinator and Adjunct Professor



Photo courtesy of Faith, Prescott


New members at Faith, Prescott are pictured (front row l-r) Marion Hall, Joni Green, Barb Munson, Joanne Beebe; (back row l-r) Bob Green, Dick Cramb, Rev. Edward Meyer.

# THE HYMNAL PROJECT

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## 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



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## Special Recognition

### EIIT Vicars Installed

Mkuninwa Salumu John and Mmunda-Bantu Shikoa were installed as vicars at St. Luke, Haslett. Both men have begun their pastoral formation through the EIIT program of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. John and Mmunda are the first of what is hoped will be more Swahili-speaking men to prepare for pastoral ministry through the LCMS. Please pray that God will use these men, and many to come, to help reach the growing African immigrant population settling in Michigan. The funds to assist the vicars with their educational costs are provided by the members of St. Luke and through the Michigan District scholarship fund.



Photo courtesy of St. Luke, Haslett

(front row l-r) Rev. Dr. Todd Jones, Rev. Mlala Tawimbi Wa, Mmunda-Bantu Shikoa, Mkuninwa Salumu John, Rev. Ramazani Iobya, and Mr. Misambya. (back row l-r) Rev. Sean Esterline, Rev. Trevor Sutton, Rev. Zerit Yohannas, Rev. Michael Stainbrook, and Rev. Elamin Banjor.

### Maier Awarded Fr. John Zwiers Award

The Michigan Association of Non-public Schools (MANS) named Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier as the 2023 Fr. John Zwiers Award recipient at its Administrators' Conference in October. The MANS Board of Trustees chose Dr. Maier for his strong history of support for faith-based schools, his ability to articulate the importance of faith-based schools, and his continuous leadership to the Michigan District, LCMS school community, its parents, teachers, and students.



Photo courtesy of Travis Grulke

Pictured are Travis Grulke, Michigan District Superintendent of Schools, Pat Maier, and Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, Michigan District President Emeritus

### Polk Installed at ULC

Norma Polk grew up in Indonesia in a Muslim family. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) where she also met her husband, Dr. Thad Polk. Two weeks before she started at CMU she was introduced to Jesus. She got involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, where she was discipled and had her first experience with International Student Ministry.

When Polk moved to Ann Arbor in 1996, she got involved in International Ministry with Pastor Mike Malinsky at St. Luke, Ann Arbor. She also served as the volunteer coordinator for the renovation project at University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) that turned the basement into The Common Cup and added the elevator.

Polk entered the Deaconess training program at



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 2009 and was installed at Cross and Resurrection Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti in 2013. In 2019, she and Thad felt led to return to ULC and minister to college students. She was installed at ULC on Sunday, October 1.

Currently, Dcs. Polk serves as a chaplain at The Luke Clinic in Detroit and designs sets and costumes for local theaters. Dcs. Polk's passion is to reach out to others, especially students, with Jesus' love and saving grace. One of her favorite Bible verses is *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest"* (Matthew 9:37–38). Her goal is to be one of those laborers.

# Calendar of Events

For more information about these and other events visit:  
[michigandistrict.org/events](http://michigandistrict.org/events)

## NOVEMBER 2023

- 1 All Saints Day
- 3 Early Childhood Cabinet  
District Office Ann Arbor
- 10 Admissions Workshop  
Immanuel, Macomb
- 11 Veterans Day
- 19–21 Professional Church Workers Conference  
DeVos Place/Amway Grand, Grand Rapids
- 22–24 DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 23 Thanksgiving Day

## DECEMBER 2023

- 24–26 Christmas Weekend  
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

## JANUARY 2024

- 1 New Year's Day  
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 9 Board of Directors Meeting  
New Life, Swartz Creek
- 21–27 National Lutheran Schools Week

## FEBRUARY 2024

- 3 Theological Conference  
Our Savior, Lansing
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 15 Snow Tire Conference  
Frankenmuth
- 24 Parish Nurse Conference  
Frankenmuth

## MARCH 2024

- 2 Pre-Retirement Conference  
Holy Cross, Flushing
- 2–3 State Basketball Tournament  
Lutheran High North, Macomb
- 18 Board of Directors Listening Event MW  
Trinity, Monroe
- 19 Board of Directors Meeting  
Trinity, Monroe
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Maundy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday  
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 31 Easter Sunday

# Calls and Roster Update

## ORDAINED

### Calls Accepted

Rev. Gary Bender (Bay City, MI) to Vacancy, St. Paul, Ann Arbor  
Rev. Phillip Chaffee, SMP (Bailey, MI) to SMP, Resurrection, Sand Lake  
Rev. Mark Hill (Grand Blanc, MI) to Journey, Oxford  
Rev. Kurt Klingbiel (Van Wert, OH) to Sole, Trinity/Hope, Gaylord/Grayling  
Rev. James Weist (Traverse City, MI) to Circle of Life, Lame Deer, MT  
Rev. Jeffrey Wilhelm (Greenville, MI) to Vacancy, St. Matthew, Grand Rapids  
Rev. Tyge Zucker (Red Wing, MN) to Sole, Holy Cross, Flushing

### Change of Status/Title Change

Rev. Timothy Kade (Howell, MI) to Candidate  
Rev. Dale Kleimola (Jackson, MI) to Emeritus  
Rev. Timothy Seeber (Portage, MI) from Sr. to Associate, Zion, Kalamazoo

### Transferred Into District

Rev. James Murr, Jr. (St. Clair, MI) from Northern Illinois District

### Resigned from the Roster

Rev. Jacob Buday

## COMMISSIONED

### Calls Accepted

King, Carole (Candidate) to St. Paul's, West Allis, WI  
Schmidt, Kurt (Candidate) to St. Paul, Northville

### Change of Status

Duncan, Amy (Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton) to Candidate  
Nett, Alyssa (St. John's, Midland) to Candidate

### Transferred Out of District

Preuss, Micah (Candidate) to Southern Illinois District

### Transferred Into of District

Weiss, Bethany (Ohio District) as Candidate

### Reinstated to the Roster

Lewis, Lori  
Schultz, Andrea

A complete up-to-date listing of Calls and  
Vacancies can be found at [michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org).

