

March 2024

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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 CONGREGATIONS

What Can Stem Decline in the Christian Church?

by Rev. David A. Davis

When you contemplate and consider life in your congregation what do you see? Do you see flourishing? Do you see joy and peace? Do you see excitement about following Jesus? Do you see new people being reached?

Many congregations in our denomination and others are in decline. You can fill a library full of books analyzing why that is. Both Christian and non-Christian writers are working overtime to opine. Ultimately, as M. Scott Peck observes, the reasons are, borrowing a concept from Sigmund Freud, overdetermined: *“Anything of any significance is overdetermined.”*

continued on page 2

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Everything worth thinking about has more than one cause” (M. Scott Peck, *In Search of Stones*). There is no one thing that contributes to congregational decline; maybe a library full of analysis is warranted.

A theme you will find as you read through the “decline literature” is that a congregation’s balanced focus on content, context, and character can serve as a pathway out of decline.

Content

Already I have written and spoken much about annually reading the Bible. In twenty minutes a day you can read the entire Bible this year. We cannot give away (the Christian faith) what we do not have (gained through the Scriptures). In many ways our denomination has a high value on being stewards of the Word; we are content rich. But for real impact we need to focus more on “retail than wholesale.” We need the Christians in the pews and not just the men in the pulpit to be filled with the content of the Bible. Lay people as steeped in the Word as their preachers serve as a key part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod heritage.

Consider this a footnote to that:

We should keep an eye out for what other content we Christians absorb. Blogs, websites, podcasts, newscasts, and popular books fill us with content too. What are they filling us with? Fear. Consumerism. Anger. False hope. Self-centeredness. Christians who have trouble finding time to read their Bible might find it by analyzing their screen time. Some things ring true through all technologies: garbage in, garbage out.

Context

Focusing on context serves as a second aspect for alleviating congregational decline. Where are you serving? Who are the people who live around you? What are their fears? What do they celebrate? What do they think about? What are their needs? See related article: towardsignificance.com/on-meeting-the-needs-of-the-community-2/.

We remember that Paul focused on context for his flourishing mission endeavors. He wrote, “*I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some*” (1 Corinthians 9:22). Your congregation’s context should impact your music. It should impact your programming. It should impact your calendar. It should impact your budget. We Christians and our congregations need to see our neighbors as ones for whom Christ died and not as objects of jokes or judgments.

Character

Character serves as the third aspect of alleviating congregational decline. It amounts to living out the first two issues: how do I connect the Word (content) with where I live (context). Humanly speaking, the character of Christians serves to draw or repel unbelievers. If people cannot distinguish us from the shrill voices on the right or the left, they will not hear us. If people experience the same level of scorn and judgment from us that they get from every other group of which they are not a part, they will not join us. If people do not experience sacrificial love from us, they will not learn of Christ’s sacrificial love that is behind us.

Christian character, like congregational decline, is the subject of many books. Excellent books on spiritual disciplines abound. Most will concentrate on Bible reading, prayer, generosity, service, kindness, forgiveness. To say such things

are simple is not to say they are easy. We do well to explore such topics; we’ll do better if we practice them.

The path to congregational flourishing in the midst of decline? Certainly, it is Jesus and His Gospel applied by the Holy Spirit to the hearts of sinners. But humanly speaking, for the local congregation to flourish the path is at least threefold: content, context, character. A right balance of these will lead to great connecting with one another and your community. ■



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



© Tyler Lagalo/Unsplash

District Archives Launches Booklet on the History of our District Presidents

by Elisa L. Schulz



Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

Kathleen Graham, Assistant to the District Archivist, worked for several months on a special project at the request of President Davis: the History of the Michigan District, LCMS Presidents.

Graham has been working with the District Archives for 21 years. She has a Library Science degree from Eastern Michigan University and worked at the old EMU library—although never specifically with archives, which she ended up learning as she went along. Her sister, Dr. Barbara Laughlin-Adler, became the District Archivist in 2003, when the archives were still located at Concordia University Ann Arbor. When Adler's student worker graduated, she asked her sister if she would be interested in becoming her part-time assistant. Graham interviewed with Chad Woltemath, the District's Business Manager, and got the job.

Graham says it's been nice working with her sister. They have gone together to conferences on archives and have also hosted informational booths about the District archives at various events.

HOW THE BOOKLET CAME TO BE

Not too long after President David A. Davis took office, he asked Graham if the archive had information about the previous presidents. She looked, and there wasn't really much—not even a file for some of the previous presidents. So she started doing some research, looking at obituaries and funeral service bulletins (which usually have biographies included). She also found some things online. She says, “I had been thinking for a

while that it would be nice to have a booklet with the list of the presidents and some information about the history of each one. So President Davis gave me the incentive to start working on a booklet, and I ended up adding some years of the history to show how the District had changed and what had changed.”

Graham is very proud of the resulting booklet, and the District is very thankful for her dedication to this labor of love. You can access the booklet on the District Website at michigandistrict.org/resources/history-of-the-michigan-district-presidents/.

The archive also has a dedicated page on the District Website: michigandistrict.org/districtarchives. Use of the archive for historical research about Michigan District history is welcomed. Access is possible by contacting the district archivist, Barbara Laughlin Adler. She can assist congregations in archival preservation, researching for a major anniversary, or in finding information on Michigan District history. There are also resources available to congregations, such as guides on how to start a congregational archive and how to find records in archives. ■

Elisa L. Schulz serves as staff writer, copyeditor, and photographer for the Michigan District, LCMS.

Have questions about starting your own congregational archive? Want to learn more about our Michigan District History? Contact the Michigan District Archives:

Call: 888.225.2111

Email: archives@michigandistrict.org



An Immigrant's Journey: From South Sudan to the Michigan District, LCMS

by Elisa L. Schulz

Rev. Moses Dangba was installed as pastor of Living Word, Lansing in October of 2023. Born and raised in South Sudan, Dangba has had quite the journey to become a pastor in the Michigan District.

Dangba was born in 1956, towards the end of the first civil war in the country. His grandfather, a pastor in one of the churches in South Sudan, was a great influence in Moses' life—he gave him his name, then later asked his parents if he could raise him. At age 8 or 9, Moses went to live with his grandfather. He says, *"I became his boy, going with him in every ministry and every place he went. The funny thing about my grandpa was [that] he started calling me, 'My pastor.' Since then, he would never call me Moses anymore. He would say, 'My pastor, can we go here? Can we do this?' Then I kept growing with this expectation just building [inside of] me."* Moses' grandfather also introduced him to a missionary from Lebanon, and the boy never forgot that introduction.

"God has a purpose for everybody born into the world" – Rev. Moses Dangba

When Moses reached high school age, he was transferred to North Sudan. There he was told that, in order to finish high school, he would have to take an Islamic religion class. He asked why he couldn't take a Christian religion class and, when they said it was because there was no teacher, he said he would do it on his own and they just needed to give him the exam at the end. Dangba says, *"That's [when] God started calling me. I started teaching the Bible to other students."* He had nothing but a pocket New Testament, but the people in South Sudan heard of what he was doing and started sending him materials and encouraging him and his 12 pupils. The stakes were high: If they didn't pass the final exam, they would lose an entire year of high school. After much hard work, they took the exam and passed. However, this brought some unwanted attention to Dangba.

Like all other young men his age, he went to enlist for military service, but instead of being assigned to serve in North Sudan, where he was, he was told to go fight against his own people in South Sudan. The civil

war became so bad that he couldn't go back home, and he couldn't stay in North Sudan either, so God made a way for him to go to Egypt with the help of the United Nations.

Moving Again

Life in Egypt wasn't easy, however. There were too many people, and it was hard to make a living. Dangba already knew he didn't want to stay in Egypt—he wanted to go on to Lebanon and find the pastor his grandfather had introduced him to. He made his way to Lebanon, registered as a refugee in order to be able to work there, and went to look for the pastor. He found his church but learned that the pastor had already passed away. Still, the congregation welcomed him and tried to find a way to help him prepare to be a pastor. He enrolled in Bible college with the goal of going back to serve his home church in South Sudan, but after two years he got an opportunity to come to the United States.

Dangba found his way to Lansing and started going to church. While there, he noticed that there were many immigrants in the area who didn't understand English. They were coming to church but not understanding anything. Dangba said that Romans 10:14 came to his mind: *"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"*

The Beginning of Living Word

That's when Dangba started to gather with six people on Saturdays to study the Bible. From once a month, they went to gathering twice a month. He says, *"It was just a way of grasping what we didn't understand during the preaching and all these things because of [the] language, so it would help our community here."* Gradually, more people joined the group. They were now up to 20 gathering in the library of the church, and Dangba began to wonder what would happen in the future and how he could serve those people, since he didn't feel prepared. Then, Rev. Richard Laeder, a retired pastor from Trinity, Lansing volunteered to help. He said he would help train and send someone to the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program at the seminary. He was installed as the interim pastor for Living Word in January of 2018. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, he had to quit not too long afterwards.

Dangba jumped into the driver's seat again and started teaching and praying: "What's next?" God answered again, this time by bringing Rev. Mandla Khumalo from South Africa to spend a couple of years in Lansing. Dangba says, *"He came from nowhere. He fell in love with the congregation. Then he started visiting us. Then we explained to him all that had happened. Right away he called the District and spoke to certain people there. Then they assigned Dr. Todd Jones to look after this thing and, after we [went] through registration, he went personally with me to St. Louis to make sure that the registration went fine and I [was] enrolled into the program."*

Dangba says the EIIT training wasn't an easy journey because he had a full-time job, a full-time congregation to look after, and a family, but he is very thankful: *"I'm so glad that I came here and God never gave up on me. He continued pushing me until the ordination and I call it like the prophecy of my grandfather being fulfilled when I was ordained."* Of his ordination day, he says, *"It was overwhelming to see the body of Christ coming together just for one purpose—to raise a servant to serve in the church."*

Vision for the Future

Dangba's vision for Living Word is to *"bring Christ to the immigrants in the Lansing area who are trying to hear the Word but who cannot understand it. We want to bring Christ to their door and also to worship in the way that we feel we can worship God, with singing and dancing,"* all things that are the expression of their culture. He continues, *"We have a unique way of worshiping God and serving God and this really can help not only [to bring] African immigrants together; it can even bring Christ into the midst of Americans here in Lansing."* One of the programs that Dangba created and is praying will continue to grow is the "Knowing Your Neighbor Music Festival"—an event where people come to experience the way Africans worship—and they get to taste their food as well. The goal is for people to know that *"the same Jesus you are serving here, these people in Africa [and] other parts of the world are serving him too."* ■

Elisa L. Schulz serves as staff writer, copyeditor, and photographer for the Michigan District, LCMS.

This article is based on the podcast interview of Rev. Moses Dangba published on January 8, 2024.

MARCH 2024

MI-Home Welcome Rate – A blessing to all!

Imagine that you are back in 2020 – scary, I know! You own a home with a mortgage and see that you can save hundreds of dollars a month by refinancing your mortgage at a historically low rate. Good for you! You have been a good steward of God's gifts.

refinanced. You might even end up paying significantly more for housing. What would you do? Unfortunately, declining the call or job offer may be the response.

This is where CEF steps in. Healthy parishes with strong leadership are a blessing to the Church. The Michigan District is blessed with numerous churches of all sizes and styles that exemplify these tenets. There are also ministries with faithful lay leaders that just need the Lord to bless their ministry with a pastor, teacher, or ministry worker. The MI-Home (My Home) Welcome Rate is new for 2024. This rate is meant to help ease the burden of finding an affordable mortgage to purchase a home for new workers to the Michigan District. This special rate reduces CEF's already low interest rate for ministry worker housing by 1% for a new worker joining the District!



Calling or hiring
a new worker?

Let CEF Help!

**Up To
100%
Financing!**

MI-Home Welcome Rate

New to the District? Receive **1% below** CEF's low mortgage rates!

Now, fast forward a couple of years and imagine that you are a pastor, a Lutheran school teacher, or a ministry worker from another LCMS District. You have been praying about the direction of your vocation. Maybe you have even received a call to a ministry in the Michigan District. You feel the Holy Spirit

tugging you in many ways. You desire to listen to God's will, but when you start to calculate your expenses for moving and relocating to a new ministry site, something just isn't adding up. Your mortgage expense ends up being much greater because of the large increase in interest rates from when you last

In a time when there is a shortage of church workers, CEF has once again listened to the needs of our partner ministries and acted to help them. Last summer, we addressed mortgages for current workers in the



Michigan District with the Summer of Savings promotion, and this year we are hoping to encourage workers from outside of Michigan to consider calls and positions in Michigan through the MI-Home Welcome Rate. Think about how much monthly savings is put back into

the workers pocket – it could be hundreds of dollars a month!

This program is available during 2024. As always, CEF is happy to work with churches who have questions about how our housing loan program works. Our loan department is happy to talk through all the

particulars of how this special rate can be applied to your new workers. CEF has a simple, timely, and no fee process that will be a blessing to all.

Contact us today to learn more! Call 800-242-3944 or email cef@mi-cef.org



Want to learn more about the MI-Home Welcome Rate?
Call 800-242-3944



Church Extension Fund

3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-3098

www.mi-cef.org ■ Offices: 800-242-3944

Gifted for More Church Campaign

Lutheran Hour Ministries partners with Barna Group—an industry leader for research-based insights about faith and culture, leadership and vocation, and generational groups—in ongoing studies of faith in America. This collaboration allows LHM to create resources and online courses that address the needs of the individual Christian, the church at large, and those who don't yet know the Gospel message.

The *Gifted for More* Church Campaign offers congregations an extensive menu of digital resources to discover, grow, and share the gifts of their members. In partnership with Barna Group, LHM has made these materials available so churches can uncover the abundance of gifts already present in their midst, which often go unrecognized and underutilized.

According to research done by Barna Group in 2022, *"Strengths, talents, and abilities, these personal assets of church members often go by the wayside as simply unnoticed. Consequently, building up the body of Christ and reaching out to others with the Gospel languish, as the possibilities of gift discovery and implementation aren't even on the radar. The truth is many today struggle to understand or even see the gifts that they possess."* The good news, however, is that people want to take hold of and develop their gifts!

To help congregations and individuals do this is what the *Gifted for More* Church Campaign is all about. Featuring an extensive five-week sermon series to help churches engage with the journey of understanding their giftedness, the *Gifted for More* Church Campaign includes in-depth sermon outlines and accompanying slide sets that highlight key concepts and Scripture verses. There's a five-session small group Bible study with videos and a handy leader's guide. The curriculum piece has video prompts, discussion questions, Scripture verses, and suggestions for putting concepts into practice.

Also included is the **EveryGift™ Inventory**, an easy-to-take online assessment of your giftedness in 12 distinct areas, which takes about 20 minutes to complete. When you do, you will take away a sharper awareness of your aptitudes, innate abilities, acquired skill sets, and mastery of these items. You can also share the *EveryGift* Inventory with others, so they too can see what kinds of untapped potential they possess!

And to engage others, both Christian and non-Christian, in the journey of comprehending their own life's purpose, four "Path to Purpose" videos offer

real-life insights from guests who assess their lives, their careers, and their long-range journeys.

A 30-slide PowerPoint presentation (also available as a PDF), a video presentation, and the *Gifted for More* monograph are additional resources available to those loving to drill down for more data.

To help churches promote the *Gifted for More* Church Campaign, several promotional tools are provided: an instructional PDF, an extensive file of social media/email images, ready-made copy to plug onto your images, and a video "sermon bumper" to preface messages based on the *Gifted for More* sermon series. A short how-to guide is included as well.

To learn more about the fully digital kit of materials to deploy in your church through the *Gifted for More* Church Campaign, or to explore other *Gifted for More* resources LHM has developed with Barna Group, go to lhm.org.



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Funerals, Baptism, and Synod

by Laura Thomas

After months of declining health, the announcement finally came about the death of a dearly loved sister in Christ. She had lived beyond her husband, a former District President, and had served faithfully by his side throughout several terms. Some might say she served fiercely as an organizer and “go-getter” in establishing women’s ministry in Michigan. In her later years, she was a tireless advocate for ministries where her children and grandchildren were involved. This sister knew that Jesus is a precious gift to be shared and she pursued that goal daily.

In the funeral sermon, the preacher talked about her family and her life, and he narrowed his focus to her young great-grandson. In his youthful wisdom, the young man declared that she “isn’t lost and isn’t in jail—she’s in heaven!” The preacher acknowledged that this child created the outline of his sermon. Our dear sister had walked a clearly defined path to Jesus which began at the moment of her Baptism. Her earthly walk completed; she was no longer contained by temporal life “jail.” The eternal joy of heaven is now hers that was promised in Christ through her Baptism.

It has been said that funerals are for the living. What this child will remember about his great-grandmother is what she cherished most. She served her Church well as a supportive spouse and volunteer, but she served her Lord by

living and sharing her baptismal gift of Christ’s redemption and the promise of eternal life. Her legacy of faith began when her parents brought her to the waters of Baptism and is now alive in the youngest of her family members.

As members of the Michigan District staff carrying on the good work of our sainted brother and sister, we are “in synod” (= walking together) with you as you seek avenues to share the Gospel of Jesus with church families and those in your communities. Differences abound in our district, but the goal is singular: to vigorously make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our congregations, communities, and the world. We are committed to supporting District congregations, schools, professional and lay church workers, and ministry partners who are on the frontline of Gospel work.

Our sister is with Jesus now, but her testimony of faith in Christ lives on in the next generation. This is the goal we pursue in our roles—to support you in every way so that you are able to carry this vision to completion.

Laura Thomas, Director of Development, will be visiting congregations to share Michigan District Sunday presentations with more information about District staff, services, and resources available to congregations and church workers.

New Beginnings IN HIS PRESENCE Revelation 21:5

Lodging, meals,
and gratuities at
the Grand Hotel

\$390

per person based on
quad occupancy.



Lutheran Adult Gathering | Mackinac Island, Mich.

October 11-13, 2024 | www.michigandistrict.org/lag24

Speakers:

Rev. Dr. Jeff & Renee Gibbs
Rev. Dr. Ryan Tinetti - Chaplain
Lizzie Boeck - Entertainment
100 White Flag - Music

Cost:

\$50 Registration + Lodging



Always Only Jesus

Hebrews 13:8 says, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*” What comfort that verse can give! In our world, where things are constantly in motion and changing from one day to the next, knowing we have a God not altered by these earthly ideas can bring peace.



The St. Lorenz Girls of Grace Dance Ministry is excited to announce its annual concert, *Always Only Jesus*. This worship-filled event featuring dancers, actors, videos, and more will focus on the idea of our unchanging God. As the girls express worship through dance, the audience will be taken through yesterday, today, and forever.

These three sections will help us remember the gospel lesson through Jesus’ birth, life, and resurrection, how to apply that same message to our lives today, and the joy of eternal life with Him. The Girls of Grace concert will occur on April 13 at 1 and 5 p.m. and April 14 at 3 p.m.

Tickets can be bought for \$10 on the St. Lorenz website at stlorenz.org/ministries/girls-of-grace/ or by calling the St. Lorenz church office at 989.652.6141. Join the Girls of Grace for a night that will boost your spirit: filled with love, peace, and the Holy Spirit.

Lutheran Summer Music Resources

Lutheran Summer Music introduces two FREE compositions by Anne Krentz Organ: *Holy Manna*, for solo instrument with keyboard accompaniment, and *Be Thankful*, for SATB chorus, descant, keyboard accompaniment, *optional*: assembly, handbells. Download the free sheet music at www.lsmacademy.org/resources.

Lutheran Summer Music is the nation’s premier faith-based music academy for high school students. Enroll now for summer sessions. To learn more, visit lsmacademy.org.



Calvary Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Calvary, Lincoln Park is celebrating its 100th anniversary on Saturday, May 18. Events include a walk through the campus at 4 p.m., a worship service at 5 p.m., and a catered reception. Past members and church workers are invited to attend.

Tickets are \$30/person and must be purchased in advance by sending your payment and information to: Calvary Lutheran Church; 3320 Electric Ave; Lincoln Park MI 48146. The deadline to purchase your ticket is April 27, 2024.

For more information, contact the church office at 313.381.6715.

Special Recognition

Black Installed

In January, Rev. Eric Black was installed as the seventh pastor of Messiah, Grand Rapids during a festive service followed by a meal hosted by Messiah’s Church Council and Parish Services Guild. Pastor Black holds degrees from Texas Lutheran University and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. Following his ordination, he served as pastor at St. Paul, Kalkaska



Messiah pastors photo (left to right): Rev. James Blain, Pastor Eric Black, Rev. Terry Hoese.

Photos courtesy of Messiah, Grand Rapids

and St. Matthew, Mancelona.

Messiah is grateful to the men who provided pastoral services during their recent vacancy, to the Michigan District for its assistance in the pastoral call process, and to all who have offered their support and prayers. They welcome Pastor Black and his family and pray God’s blessings on his service as Jesus’ undershepherd in their midst. Celebrating their 60th year of ministry as a congregation, they trust in the Lord’s goodness and look forward to continuing His mission—“Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.”

Meyer Installed

In December, Rev. Jonathan Meyer (pictured front row center) was installed as senior pastor of St. Matthew, Grand Rapids. It was a beautiful service rejoicing in God's provision and faithfulness which included the sermon, "A Man Sent from God", given by St. Matthew's former pastor, Rev. Robert Appold. The Rite of Installation was given by Michigan District President, Rev. David Davis, with additional blessings and verses from many area pastors.

The St. Matthew congregation gives thanks to God for Pastor Meyer, his wife Emma, and three children, Lydia, Eleanor, and Finn.



Photos courtesy of St. Matthew, Grand Rapids

Trinity Installs SMP Pastor

Rev. Joshua Britton (pictured center) was ordained and installed as the Associate Pastor of Worship at Trinity, Utica in January. Pastor Britton and his wife Elizabeth, daughter Charlotte, and son Moses have been blessed to call Trinity, Utica home for the past five years and absolutely love serving the people there.

Before coming to Trinity, Utica and beginning the Specific Ministry Pastor program in 2021 through Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., Britton served as the Director of Worship at St. Matthew, Grand Rapids for four years and St. Peter's in Columbus, Ind. for five years.

Pastor Britton and Elizabeth are both Michigan natives and love serving in the great state of Michigan. They look forward to all God has in store.



Photos courtesy of Trinity, Utica





Church Extension Fund

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Website : mi-cef.org/loans

Calendar of Events

For more information about these and other events visit:
michigandistrict.org/events

MARCH 2024

- 2 Pre-Retirement Conference
Holy Cross, Flushing
- 2-3 State Basketball Tournament
Concordia University Ann Arbor
St. Paul, Ann Arbor
- 18 Board of Directors Listening Event Metro West
Trinity, Monroe
- 19 Board of Directors Meeting
Trinity, Monroe
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Maundy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 31 Easter Sunday

APRIL 2024

- 12-14 The Katie
DoubleTree by Hilton, Bay City
- 27 Community Worship Network
Our Savior, Lansing
- 28-30 Office Personnel Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth

MAY 2024

- 6-7 North and East Pastors Conference
DoubleTree by Hilton, Bay City
- 14-15 South and East Pastors Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 15-16 Circuit Visitors Conference
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 18 Regional Track Meets
Lutheran High North, Macomb
Concordia University Ann Arbor
Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw
- 20-21 West Pastors Conference
DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Rapids
- 21 Board of Directors
St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
- 22-23 Intentional Interim Ministry Conference
Michindoh Conference Center, Hillsdale

Calls and Roster Update

ORDAINED

Calls Accepted

Rev. Timothy Azzam (Oscoda, MI) to Vacancy, Bethlehem, Lewiston
Mr. Joshua Britton (Macomb, MI) to SMP, Trinity, Utica
Rev. Bart Fouts (Battle Creek, NE) to Executive Director, Camp Concordia, Gowen
Rev. Michael Hughes (Perrysburg, OH) Colloquy placement to Saint Matthew, Spring Lake
Mr. Richard Lewis (Frankenmuth, MI) to SMP, St. John of Marion Springs, Brant
Rev. Barry Mueller (Richmond, MI) to Vacancy, Our Saviour, Armada
Rev. Eric Nelson (Lester Prairie, MN) to St. James, Montague
Rev. Ryan Reese (Center Line, MI) to Trinity, Lansing, IL

Status & Title Changes

Rev. A. Chris Garcia (Associate, Immanuel Bay City) to Sr., Immanuel, Bay City
Rev. David Sidwell (Kalamazoo, MI) to Emeritus
Rev. Jonathan Trinklein (Shelby Twp., MI) to Emeritus
Rev. Kevin Jones (Bay City, MI) to Emeritus
Rev. Samuel Sherouse (Richmond, MI) to Emeritus
Rev. Kenneth Spence (Westland, FL) to Emeritus

Transferred Out of District

Rev. Benjamin Bruns (Fort Wayne, IN) to Indiana District
Rev. Daniel Potts (Monroe, MI) to Nebraska District
Rev. Austin Wellhousen (Wixom, MI) to Minnesota South District

Called Home

Rev. Daniel Clemons
Rev. Dan Seng
Rev. Steven Sparks
Rev. James Balzer

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Duncan, Amy (Candidate) to University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor

Change of Status

Hoskey, Brenda (Candidate) to Emeritus

Transferred Out of District

Smith, James (Emeritus) to Indiana District

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



Michigan District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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