



104th Michigan District Convention 2025

Closing Remarks

Pres. Davis:

Take your bag, not the pads, for the journey home that you'd be nourished for the journey as we remember, as we renew, and now as we get ready to return. So to conclude our time together, I'd ask you to rise. We're going to join. Let's sing.

Congregation sings "We Praise You and Acknowledge You O God to Be the Lord"

Pres. Davis:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. We'll have a reading of a lesson.

Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper:

From Colossians one: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Rev. Dean Davenport

Brothers and sisters, I invite you to pray with me. Dear gracious and loving heavenly Father, hear the petitions of your children as this, the 104th convention of the Michigan District comes to a close. While the reality of sitting here on the campus of CUAA weighs heavy on our hearts, hear our prayer. Hear our prayers of thanksgiving for all the congregations, for all the individuals who made CUAA possible. Beginning over 60 years ago, there were many, many who sacrificed to make this reality. A place where the gospel would go out and lives would be changed. They included past presidents, congregations, and individuals who gave of themselves to make CUAA thrive as an outpost of the Gospel, an uncommon place where hearts and lives, those of the faculty, staff, and students and their families were brought to life through the work of the Holy Spirit. We praise you and we thank you for the selfless love of your people, confident that you'll continue to work in and through us, your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski

Dearest Jesus, 2000 years ago, it was twelve. Twelve that sat at your feet and listened, walked with you, talked with you, even died for you. You formed them, Lord, and sent them out into the world. And 60 years later, old St. John had a man sitting in his feet named Polycarp, and he sat and listened and learned and was formed and sent out. And 60 years after him, before he was burned at the stake, there were others that sat at his feet, Irenaeus. And here we are, 2000 years later, and we're thankful for all those that have gone before us, whose feet we've sat at, who formed us and molded us, especially here at Concordia Ann Arbor. For our theology professors, biblical languages, education, music, art, science, athletics, math. Lord, when I list these, I'm sure we're all seeing somebody, many of whom are with you in Paradise. This is where we give you our praise. And thanks for those whose feet we sat at and those who

sent us out into the world. And here 60 years later, Lord, we find ourselves broken, but rejoicing for the great gifts of those whose shoulders we stand upon. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Rev. Craig Bickel

In heavenly Father, we praise you for seeking us, for allowing us to bless the students that have passed through these hallways over the last 60 years at Concordia Ann Arbor. Lord, pray for each one of those students that we were able to gather, to remind them, to show them, to strengthen them, that Christ truly is preeminent. We ask for the students who have passed through Concordia Ann Arbor, their spirits would be uplifted with faith and hope and love. And heavenly Father, we do not know the future, but you do. And so we pray for the future students.

Lord, we pray for those who came to faith in you, Lord Jesus, here. May their eyes always be on Christ and may their hearts always have thanksgiving for the ministry of Concordia Ann Arbor. Heavenly Father, we don't know how many doors--will it be some or most or all the doors--that are closed here, but Holy Spirit, the heart of the Father is always open for this world. And heavenly Father, we know that the door of our mouth to proclaim the majesty, the glory, the grace and the mercy of Jesus is still open. May students who have been blessed here, may they be a bold and continuing witness. May the ministry of Concordia Ann Arbor continue and even multiply through those who are blessed here. The Church, the people of God goes on. Continue, Lord, to do your work. For we ask it in Jesus' name.

Rev. Eric Cloeter

Oh Holy Spirit, you're the great and powerful gather and comforter. The Father's Word speaks of you and calls you the spirit of wisdom. And we pray that your wisdom would come to us in greater measure. Even now as we, your servants in the Michigan District, brush the dust off, get up and advance your Kingdom purposes. Even now through the education of young people in their vocations as servants of Christ, may we find greater and creative doors by which to teach and bring people into discipleship to fulfill the command that you were given power to lead us in. When Jesus said that we should make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them here in this place where both have been completed. Holy Spirit, we pray for that wisdom. For all the leaders of our larger church body, we do indeed pray wisdom for the leaders of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor, where is and in all our Lutheran schools throughout this nation, if it would be your will, fan into flame an even greater movement where we can, through education, advance your Gospel and the desires of the heart of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

And if it would be your will, may your foolishness confound our wisdom and move us to love the things that our Savior Jesus has loved; to be broken by the things that broke His heart; and to be moved by the things that moved Him, even beyond the cross to the joy that was before Him. May we move forward, not just in the wisdom that you provide, but in the joy that is the fruit that you provide. Lord God, Holy Spirit, this we pray as we raise here our Ebenezer and say, thus far we have been blessed, and we expect more because our God goes beyond our imagination and hear us as we join together in the words that our savior graciously gave us.

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pres. Davis

Nourished for the journey. It's time to return. And so we adjourn the 104th Convention of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Spirit abide with all of us always. Amen. We join in song.

Congregation sings

Pres. Davis: We go in peace. Serve the Lord.