

Convention Workbook - Part I



“Imagine ... Living as God’s Saved and Sent Servants”

102nd Michigan District Convention

Concordia University Ann Arbor

June 24–26, 2018

Section 1: Organizational Matters (Green)

Section 2: District Reports (Yellow)

Section 3: Overtures (Pink)

April 2018

Please read through the Workbook carefully. You will need this information in preparation for the Regional Meetings which will be held on Saturday, April 21, and May 5 (see below). Bring your Workbook with you to these meetings. Your Regional Vice President may send you more information for your Regional Meeting.

Floor Committees will meet on Saturday, May 12, at the District Office. They will be considering the overtures, found in Section 3, that have been submitted to the Convention.

Following the Regional Meetings and the Floor Committee Meetings, you will be receiving Convention Workbook - Part II. It will contain: (1) General Convention Information, (2) the Agenda, (3) any additional reports and updates, (4) slate of candidates for offices and boards as well as biographical material, and (5) the Resolutions for the Floor Committees. If you have any questions, you may contact Julie Strobl at 734.665.3791 ext. 233.

Convention Workbook - Part II should reach you the first full week in June.

102nd Michigan District Convention Regional Meetings

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Metro West

St. Paul Lutheran School, Ann Arbor ▪ 9:00 a.m.– Noon
495 Earhart Rd

North & East

St. John, Pinconning ▪ 10:30 a.m.– Noon
1633 E Pinconning Rd

West

St. Matthew, Grand Rapids (Ada) ▪ 9:00 a.m.– Noon
5125 Cascade Rd SE

Saturday, May 5, 2018

Metro East

Hope, Warrren ▪ 9:00 a.m.– Noon
32400 Hoover Rd



Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

People of Hope...Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ

Section 1 - Organizational Matters

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Congregations

North and East Region

#1 – Mackinaw Straits Circuit – Charles B. Burhop, Visitor
Cheboygan, St. John – Randy L. Johnson
DeTour Village, Redeemer – Donald P. Nemeec
Drummond Island, Drummond Island – Donald P. Nemeec
Engadine, Bethlehem – Arthur J. Bode
Germfask, Grace – Arthur J. Bode
Hawks (Rogers City), Faith – Jack D. Ferguson
Kinross, St. Paul
Moltke (Rogers City), Immanuel – Eric W. Voigt
Newberry, Trinity – Kyle I. Kuehl
Onaway, Holy Cross – Trenton N. Wollberg
Rogers City, Peace – J. Derek Riddle
Rogers City, St. John
Rogers City, St. Michael – Keith A. Schneider
Sault, St. Barnabas – Charles B. Burhop
St. Ignace, Hope
*Manistique, Victory

#2 – Alpena-Gaylord Circuit – Jason L. Mandley, Visitor
Alpena, Immanuel – James D. Erickson/Joshua M. Schultz
Harrisville, Faith – Dennis J. Neigh
Hubbard Lake, St. Paul – Joseph J. Llewellyn
Hillman, St. John B Jason L. Mandley
Lewiston, Bethlehem – Steven E. Thiel
Ossineke, Good Shepherd – Dennis J. Neigh
Posen, St. Paul – Jack D. Ferguson
Mio, Living Water

#3 – Timberline Circuit – Timothy P. Azzam, Visitor
AuGres, St. John – Frederick T. Cordts
Glennie, Our Savior
Hale, St. Paul – Dean R. Muhle
Oscoda, Trinity – Timothy P. Azzam
Prescott, Faith – Daniel L. Jansen
Tawas City, Zion – Gabriel J. Martin
Whittemore, Good News Ministries

#4 – Gladwin Circuit – William C. Winter, Visitor
Clare, Prince of Peace – Paul V. Young
Gladwin, Our Savior – James M. Krach
Harrison, St. Luke – Michael W. Schaedig
Houghton Lake, St. John – Theodore E. Voll (IIP)
St. Helen, Hope – Rodney L. Morrison, Jr.
Standish, Bethlehem – Matthew T. Dent
West Branch, St. John – Howard S. Travis

#5 – Midland Circuit – Samuel B. Reith, Visitor
Alma, Peace – Thomas C. Messer
Auburn, Grace – Aaron T. Schian
Auburn, Zion – Andrew P. Menz /Seth R. Hemme
Midland, Messiah – Edward F. Doerner/Tige A. C. Culbertson
Midland, Our Savior – Robert J. Schultz (IIP)
Midland, St. John – Daniel A. Kempin/Joshua J. Parsons (SMP)
Mt. Pleasant, Zion – Jonathon J. Bakker/Benjamin J. Ulledalen
**Mt. Pleasant, CMU Chapel (Mt. Pleasant, Zion)
Sanford, St. Paul – Samuel B. Reith
Wheeler, Immanuel – Gary L. Bender (IIP)
Midland, Lord of New Life – Kurt W. Eichinger
Brant, St. John – Timothy J. Behnke

#6 – Bay City Circuit – William H. Allwardt, Visitor
Bay City, Faith – Matthew A. Hall
Bay City, Immanuel – Kevin C. Jones
Bay City (Amelith), St. John – Stephen P. Starke
Bay City (Monitor), Trinity – David F. Sherry
Bay City, Zion – Paul G. Kruse
Essexville, Pilgrim – Erwin M. Hutter
Frankenlust (Bay City), St. Paul – Dennis W. Matyas
Pinconning, St. John – David A. Jung

#7 – Thumb East Circuit – Kenneth D. Lueke, Visitor
Bad Axe, Our Savior – Kenneth D. Lueke
Kinde, St. Peter – Larry K. Loree, Sr
Forestville (Minden City), Trinity – Richard G. Wilson
Harbor Beach, Zion – Ronald C. Schultz
Palms, St. John – Henry J. Hales
Port Hope, St. John – David A. Dodge
Port Sanilac, St. John
Sandusky, Peace – Richard L. Tino/James C. Tino
Marlette, Our Savior – David J. Sutton

#8 – Thumb West Circuit – G. Stevens Bagnall, Visitor
Bach (Sebewaing), St. Peter – Thomas B. Garrison
Caseville, Good Shepherd – Christopher S. Suggitt
Cass City, Good Shepherd – G. Stevens Bagnall
Kilmanagh (Sebewaing), St. John – Thomas B. Garrison
Linkville (Pigeon), St. Paul – Christopher S. Suggitt
Sebewaing, Immanuel – Michael D. Boyer
Unionville, St. Paul – Steven M. Stolarczyk
Fairgrove, Grace B Joshua T. Haller

#9 – Frankenmuth Circuit – Gary L. Bender, Visitor
Caro, St. Paul – Cameron K. Steele
Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz – Mark D. Brandt/Joel C. Kaiser/Caleb M. Adams/Shawn D. Fenske
Millington, St. Paul – James R. Bruner/
Munger, Trinity-St. James – Michael G. Stahl
Reese, Trinity – Daniel G.O. Burhop
Richville, St. Michael – Robert G. Gadeken/Wesley S. Gillaspie/Lang Yang
Saginaw (Frankentrost), Immanuel – Mark A. Loest
*Richville, Hmong Ministry

#10 – Saginaw Circuit – William W. Hessler, Visitor
Bridgeport, Faith – John H. Weldon (IIP)
Hemlock, St. Peter – William L. Morris
Hemlock, Zion – Paul A. Hauser
Owosso, St. Philip – Brian F. Heidt
Saginaw, Bethlehem – Michael R. Korte/Charles F. Buckhahn
Saginaw, Good Shepherd – Paul R. Biber
Saginaw (Carrollton), Messiah – Phillip M. DeVries
Saginaw, Peace – C. Wm. Weis/Paul R. Hinz/Matthew J. Hauser (SMP)
Saginaw, Holy Cross – James F. Krueger
St. Charles, Nativity – Mitchell R. Vogeli
Saginaw, St. Mark – Edward A. Meyer
*Chesaning, Chesaning – Mitchell R. Vogeli

#11 – Flint North Circuit – Erik K. Cloeter, Visitor
Birch Run, St. Martin – James D. Chinery
Clio, Messiah – Erik K. Cloeter
Flint, Christ the King – Brant A. Engel
Flint, United In Christ
Flint, Our Savior – Randall P. Schultz
Flint, St. Paul – Jeffrey B. Walsh
Flushing, Holy Cross – Clifford F. Bira

#12 – Flint South Circuit – Kelly D. Todd, Visitor
Flint (Burton), Pilgrim – Daniel A. Wonderly
Fenton, Trinity – Dean G. Dumbrille
Goodrich, Christ – Kelly D. Todd
Grand Blanc, Faith – Todd A. Biermann/Robert G. Scott (SMP)
Linden, Hope – Stephen E. Schilke (IIP)
Swartz Creek, NewLife Community – David E. Rossow (SMP)
Flint, Lamb of God – Paul M. Boerger

#13 – Lapeer Circuit – Gary L. Beck, Visitor
Davison, Trinity – Todd I. Frusti
Dryden, Holy Redeemer – Steven C. Helms
Flint, St. Mark – Gary L. Beck
Lapeer, St. Paul – John C. Kaiser
North Branch, New Life in Christ
Otisville, St. Timothy
Imlay City, Family of Christ
*Flint, Franklin Avenue Mission – Bradley J. Yops (Deployed)

* Mission
** Satellite Site

Metro East Region

#14 – Port Huron Circuit – Gerhardt A. Doroh, Visitor
Algonac, First – J. Robert Herrod
Armada, Our Saviour – M. Samuel Sherouse
Fair Haven, St. Peter – Steven R. Hoerr
Goodells, Hope
Lexington, St. Matthew – Barry C. Sheldon
Port Huron, Faith – Mark L. Huff
Port Huron, Trinity – Mark J. Madson
Richmond, St. Peter – Mark J. Haller
St. Clair, Immanuel – Alan J. Schwieger
Memphis, St. Andrew
Ray, Living Hope of Bay
Marine City, Living Faith
Marysville, Light of Christ

#15 – Macomb North Circuit – Barry L. Mueller, Visitor
Clinton Twp., St. Luke – Russell D. Johnson/Scott E. Benjamin
Clinton Twp., Trinity – Kenneth M. Wise/Brian D. West/Gary L. Richard
Macomb, Immanuel – Greg S. Griffith/Michael L. Heiden/Nikolai J. Gibbons
Macomb, St. Peter – Mark T. Wuggazer/ Mark W. Arendell
Chesterfield (New Baltimore), Good Shepherd – David M. Ulm
New Baltimore, Christ – Barry L. Mueller
Ray Twp (New Haven), St. John – Joshua T. Ball

#16 – Macomb Northwest Circuit – Craig M. Meyer, Visitor
Romeo, Grace Fellowship – Eric W. Majeski/Michael G. Phillips (SMP)
Shelby Twp. (Utica/Disco), Peace – David R. Klemm
Sterling Heights, Redemption
Sterling Heights, St. Paul – Walter A. Keller
Troy, Faith – Joseph A. Casiglia/Paul W. Arndt/Antonio C. Boos/Richard J. Grunewald (SMP)
Utica, Trinity – Scott G. Sommerfeld (IIP)/Justin A. Krupsky/Christopher D. Troxel/Lewis W. Stier
Washington, Our Redeemer – Jeffrey G. Draeger
Shelby Twp, Shepherd's Gate – Timothy R. Bollinger/John T. Kral (SMP)
Troy, All Nations – Khurram M. Khan/Amer M. Khan/Farrukh M. Khan
Troy, Faith Tamil – Arul J. Alexander

#17 – Oakland North Circuit – John E. Kassen, Visitor
Clarkston, St. Trinity – Michael G. Duchene (IIP)
Lake Orion, Good Shepherd – Gary E. Koltz
Oxford, Holy Cross – Matthew G. Schuler
Rochester Hills, Crown of Life – Norman A. Koy (IIP)
Rochester (Brooklands), Gethsemane – Thomas F. Fischer
Rochester, Living Word – Daniel C. Meckes
Rochester, St. John – Marc N. Schwichtenberg/ Stephen D. Grafe
Waterford, St. Stephen
Rochester Hills, Incarnate Word – Allen D. Lunneberg
Ortonville, Prince of Peace – John E. Kassen (IIP)
Pontiac, St. Paul Community – Jonathan B. Trinklein (IIP)

#18 – Birmingham Circuit – Ray E. Scherbarth, Visitor
Birmingham, Our Shepherd – Ray E. Scherbarth/Stephen W. Woodfin (SMP)/Mark R. Doede (SMP)/Michael S. Vieregge (SMP)/Ronald R. Farah
Birmingham, Redeemer – Randall J. Schlak/Tyler A. Walworth
Birmingham, Our Savior Deaf
Bloomfield Hills, Cross of Christ – Randy J. Miller
Huntington Woods, Hunt. Wds. – Peter S. Nickel
Royal Oak, St. Paul – David P. Schmidt
Troy, St. Augustine – Paul C. Monson
Warren, Holy Cross – Alan P. Eisinger

#19 – Macomb South Circuit – John E. Merrill, Visitor
Eastpointe, St. Peter – Joshua H. Cook/Alexander C. Garber
Eastpointe, St. Thomas – Mark W. Hetzner/Richard A. VanBriggle (SMP)
Fraser, St. John – Bradley A. Smith/ Peter W. Elliott
Roseville, Bethlehem – Jeffrey D. Frechette, Sr.
Warren, Hope – John M. Duerr/Daniel C. Howard (SMP)
Warren, Peace – David L. Prout (IIP)
Warren, Trinity – Ryan D. Reese
**Harper Woods, Genesis Center

#20 – Detroit East Circuit – Steven J. Essenburg, Visitor
Detroit, Bethany – Christopher R. Bodley (Deployed)
Detroit, Bethlehem East – Asaph A. James
Detroit, Charity – Steven J. Essenburg (Deployed)
Detroit, Historic Trinity – Darryl L. Andrzejewski
Detroit, Mt. Calvary – John S. Carrier (IIP)
Detroit, Peace – Robert L. Mikkelson

* Mission
** Satellite Site

Metro West Region

#21 – Detroit West Circuit – Eddie Morales, Visitor
Detroit, St. Philip – Marvin A. Griffin, Sr.
Detroit, Faith – Brian C. Dupre
Detroit, Iglesia Luterana
Detroit, Nazareth
Detroit, St. John
Detroit, St. Stephen – Richard E. Robinson
Detroit, Evergreen – William F. Danowski
Detroit, Outer Drive Faith – Eddie Morales
Detroit, Redford – Raymond D. Parent
Dearborn, Atonement – Gary E. Rohwer
*Detroit, Family of God

#23 – Down River Circuit – Erik R. Schmidt, Visitor
Flat Rock, Community – Erik R. Schmidt
Southgate, Christ the King – Jason D. Cashmer/ Terry L. Cashmer /
Mark R. Bushuiakovish
Taylor, Our Redeemer – Kenneth M. Spence
Taylor, St. John – Richard A. Zeile
Trenton, St. Paul – Richard J. Blythe / Andrew M. Pronsati
Wyandotte, Trinity – Greyson D. Grenz
Allen Park, Mt. Hope
Lincoln Park, Calvary – Michael W. Grannis

#24 – Monroe Circuit – Jeffrey E. Heimsoth, Visitor
Waltz, St. John – Jeffrey E. Wade
Newport, Christ Our Shepherd
Monroe, Grace – Mark K. Witte
Monroe, Holy Ghost – D. Lee Cullen, Jr.
Monroe (Ida), Immanuel – Curtis D. Garland
Monroe, Trinity – Jeffrey E. Heimsoth/Daniel A. Potts
Lambertville, Christ the King – Timothy J. Loewe
Petersburg, St. Peter – Mark S. Flory

#25 – Dearborn Circuit – Andrew D. Gruenhagen, Visitor
Dearborn, Emmanuel – Joel R. Baseley/Paul A. Wolff
Dearborn, Guardian – David M. Mews/ Daniel W. Ramthun (SMP)
Dearborn, Our Redeemer – Roderick D. Schultz
Wayne, St. Michael – Andrew D. Gruenhagen
Westland, Our Saviour
Westland, St. Matthew – Jeffery C. Moore (IIP)/Kurt E. Lambart
Plymouth, Living Word – Samuel P. Watters (SMP)
*Dearborn Heights, First Arabic

#26 – Kensington Circuit – Terry A. Nelson, Visitor
Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes – Mark D. Milatz/ Benjamin Bruns
Highland, Faith – Jonathan J. Moyer
Milford, Christ – Andrew M. Johnson
South Lyon, Cross of Christ – Terry A. Nelson
White Lake (Union Lake), Cedar Crest
West Bloomfield (Union Lake), St. Mark – Aaron H. Vergin
Walled Lake, St. Matthew – Paul M. Moldenhauer/Robert J. Nelson
**Wixom, St. Matthew (Walled Lake, St. Matthew) – Robert J. Nelson
Waterford (Union Lake/Pontiac), Peace – Russell S. Tkac (SMP)

#27 – Livonia Circuit – Dean M. Davenport, Visitor
Westland, Salem
Farmington Hills, St. Paul – Gary L. Siefert (IIP)
Farmington Hills, Prince of Peace – Keith H. Lemley (IIP)
Northville, St. Paul – Christopher D. Fairbairn
Livonia, Christ Our Saviour – Dean M. Davenport /Robert F. Bayer/Joel S.
Eden/ James M. Hill
Redford, Hosanna-Tabor – Paul J. Undlin
Dearborn Heights, Immanuel
Canton, Grace – Steven M. Newton

#28 – Milan Circuit – Thomas L. Schroeder, Visitor
Britton, Emmanuel – David J. McCarty
Saline, Christ Our King – Thomas L. Schroeder
Ypsilanti, Faith – James A. Waddell
Milan, St. Paul – Philip W. Penhallegon
New Boston, St. Paul – John W. Schwartz
Ann Arbor, St. Thomas – Carl F. DeMeritt (IIP)
Belleville, Open Arms – Scott P. Eberlein
Canton, Tabernacle of Praise – Bertram B. Lewis, Sr.

#29 – Ann Arbor Circuit – Larry G. Courson, Visitor
Ann Arbor, St. Luke – Justin P. Rossow/Matthew C. Hein
Ann Arbor, University Chapel – R. Gabriel Kasper
Whitmore Lake, Living Water – Harrison S.C. Parker
Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection – Bryan K. Schindel
Ann Arbor, Peace – Larry G. Courson
Ann Arbor, St. Paul – Donald O. Neuendorf/Aaron W. Roggow
**Ann Arbor, St. Paul (Earhart) (Ann Arbor, St. Paul)
Chelsea, Our Savior – Dale A. Grimm
Hamburg, St. Paul – Evan P. Gaertner
Pinckney, Trinity B Merelyn R. Snider (IIP)

#30 – Jackson Circuit – Joel H. Sarrault, Visitor
Adrian, Hope – Paul W. Herter
Adrian, St. John – Joel H. Sarrault/Alan D. Muck (SMP)
Brooklyn (Irish Hills), St. Mark – R. William Roper
Hudson, Our Saviour – Alan D. Muck (SMP) - deployed from Adrian
Jackson, Redeemer – Michael A. Geml
Jackson, Trinity – Eric I. Ekong
Addison, Lutheran Church of the Lakes
Adrian, St. Matthew – Daryl H. Etheridge, Sr.
Blissfield, Blessed Savior – Daryl H. Etheridge, Sr.

* Mission
** Satellite Site

West Region

#31 – Petoskey Circuit – Matthew A. Peters, Visitor
Bellaire, Hope – Wade M. Seaver
Boyne City, Christ
Charlevoix, Bethany
Gaylord, Trinity – Joseph W. B. Polzin
Grayling, Mt. Hope – Joseph W. B. Polzin
Kalkaska, St. Paul – Eric S. Black
Mancelona, St. Matthew – Jeffrey S. Burgess
Petoskey, Zion – Matthew A. Peters

#32 – Traverse City Circuit – Mark E. Berlin, Visitor
Benzonia, Our Savior – Michael G. Belinsky, Sr.
Elk Rapids, Grace – James C. Redmann
Good Harbor, St. Paul – Robert W. Wurst, Jr./John F. Wurst
Glen Arbor, Bethlehem – Daniel L. Dockery, SMP
Interlochen, Redeemer – Mark E. Berlin/Jason C. Bauer, SMP
Leland, Immanuel – Joshua C. LaFeve
Traverse City, St. Michael – James L. Nihiser
Traverse City, Trinity – Robert M. Zagore/Charles W. Webb/Bruce K. Lucas

#33 – Manistee Circuit – Joel A. Hess, Visitor
Arcadia, Trinity – James E. Metcalf (IIP)
Cadillac, Emmanuel – Joel A. Hess/Timothy C. Selim (SMP)
Ludington, Peace – John G. Hansen (SMP)
Manistee, Trinity – Dennis D. Rahn
Mesick, Faith – M. Robert Low (IIP)
Manistee, Norwalk
Onekama, Trinity
Scottville, Our Saviour – James E. Schroeder
Wellston, Beautiful Savior
Ludington, St. John – Thomas V. Boehne
Pentwater, Lighthouse

#34 – Big Rapids Circuit – John A. Bookshaw, Visitor
Baldwin, Grace – Daniel H. Fienen
Big Rapids, St. Peter – John A. Bookshaw/Jonathan V. Williams
Fremont, Redeemer – James A. Schouweiler
Mecosta, Chapel/Lakes – Richard W. Collin (IIP)
Reed City, Trinity – Paul A. Tonn
White Cloud, Christ – William J. Hooper
**Big Rapids, Ferris State

#35 – Capitol Circuit – G. Travis Downs, Visitor
Charlotte, First – Timothy W. Olson
Holt, Messiah – Thomas W. Vanderbilt
Holt, St. Matthew – Dean R. Poellet
Howell, Heart of the Shepherd – John A. Hile/ Galen E. Grulke
Lansing, Living Word – Richard P. Laeder (IIP)
Lansing, Our Savior – William R. Wangelin
Lansing, Trinity – G. Travis Downs
Lansing, Good Shepherd – Roger K. Straub
Leslie, Grace Fellowship – Michael R. Martin
*Holt, Rehoboth

#36 – St. Johns Circuit – Edward W. Filter, Visitor
Carson City, Calvary – Robert V. Riggs
DeWitt, Hope – E. Anthony Sikora
East Lansing, Ascension – David C. Winningham
Fowler, St. Paul – Paul M. Clark/ Lance D. Klamer
Haslett, St. Luke – David A. Davis/A. Trevor Sutton
Portland, St. Andrew – Edward W. Filter
St. Johns, St. Johns – Martin L. Schroeder (IIP)
St. Johns (Riley), St. Peter – Quentin T. Nuttmann
**Haslett, St. Luke (Downtown location) – Zerehaimanot Z. Yohannes/
Elamin Baggor

#37 – Tri-River Circuit – Jeffrey M. Wilhelm, Visitor
Belding, Holy Cross – Robert V. Wagner
Greenville, Mt. Calvary – Jeffrey M. Wilhelm
Howard City, Bethel
Ionia, St. John
Lowell, Good Shepherd – Joseph Fremer
Sand Lake, Resurrection – Lee H. Zabrocki (IIP)
Stanton, Hope – Alexander W. Sabol (EN)

#38 – Muskegon Circuit – Dennis L. Lassanske, Visitor
Conklin, Trinity – Mark A. Oswald
Montague, St. James – John W. Brooks
Muskegon, Our Redeemer – Robert J. Conradt
Norton Shores (Muskegon), St. Mark – Mark E. Gilson
Muskegon, Trinity – Paul C. Appold
Nunica, St. Luke – Brennan A. Woell
Shelby, St. Stephen – Thomas W. Bye
Whitehall, Faith – William K. Willenbrock

#39 – Holland Circuit – Michael M. Goers, Visitor
Coopersville, Grace – Joel F. Hoyer
Spring Lake, Lakeshore Fellowship – Christopher M. Boehnke
Grand Haven, St. John – Kurt R. Wenzelburger
Holland, Christ Our Savior – Todd J. Brunworth (IIP)
Holland, Zion – Ryan A. Winningham
Spring Lake, St. Matthew – Michael M. Goers
West Olive, United

#40 – Grand Rapids N. Central Circuit – James H. Blain, Visitor
Ada (Grand Rapids), St. Matthew – Robert B. Appold
Alpine Twp, Family of Christ – Phillip W. Chaffee (SMP)
Grand Rapids, Immanuel – Craig L. Bickel/Tyler D. Carter
Grand Rapids, Messiah – Thomas W. Bartzsch
Grand Rapids, Mt. Olive
Grand Rapids, Our Savior – David C. Fleming/North P. Sherrill/Jeremy M. Swem
Grand Rapids, St. James
Rockford, St. Peter – Jason P. Peterson

#41 – Grand Rapids SW Circuit – David J. Rufner, Visitor
Caledonia, St. Paul – Timothy J. Brand
Grandville, Bethel – Robert A. Gerke
Hudsonville, New Hope – David J. Rufner
Jenison, Holy Cross – James F. Eggert (IIP)/Adam J. Peck
Jenison (Allendale), St. John
Kentwood, St. Mark – Michael W. Wentzel
Middleville, Good Shepherd – Terry W. Kenitz
Byron Center, Journey In Faith – Matthew L. Starnier (SMP)

#42 – Battle Creek Circuit – Karl N. Strenge, Visitor
Albion, St. Paul
Battle Creek, St. Mark – Bradley B. Hubbard
Battle Creek, Redemption – Karl N. Strenge
Battle Creek, St. Paul – Larry R. Gorlitz
Kalamazoo, Immanuel – David H. Sidwell
Kalamazoo, Zion – Timothy W. Seeber
**K'zoo, Solid Grounds (Kalamazoo, Zion) – Mark T. Couch
Marshall, Christ – David E. Boedecker
Paw Paw, Trinity – Eric A. Gledhill
Portage, St. Michael – Paul R. Naumann/Jason D. Toman, (SMP)
Three Rivers, St. Peter – Robert O. Bartz

#43 – St. Joseph Circuit – Michael J. Roth, Visitor
Berrien Springs, Trinity – Douglas M. Adams
Bridgman, Immanuel
Buchanan, St. Paul – Daniel S. Barz (SMP)
Cassopolis, St. Paul – Paul M. Doellinger
Coloma, Salem – Alex W. Hoffmeyer
Glendora (Buchanan), Trinity – Jonathan A. Liebich
Niles, St. Paul – Joseph T. Liss (SMP)
St. Joseph, Trinity – Michael J. Roth
Sawyer, Trinity – Randy D. Lett
Stevensville, Christ – Martin P. Measel/Christopher J. Yeager

#44 – South Central Circuit – Aaron B. Chittick, Visitor
Burr Oak, St. John – Kurt P. Kuhlmann
Centreville, St. Paul – David A. Grimm
Centreville (Sturgis), Salem
Coldwater, St. Paul – Aaron B. Chittick
Colon, St. Paul – David A. Grimm
Hillsdale, St. Paul – L. Daniel Johnson/Scott E. Johnson
Quincy, Prince of Peace – Robert E. Eickmann
Sturgis, Trinity – Ronald C. Moritz (IIP)/Calvin J. Kolzow, Jr.
Union City, Our Savior

* Mission

** Satellite Site

Ministers of Religion - Ordained

Sole/Senior Pastors

Adams, Douglas M. – Trinity, Berrien Springs
Alexander, Arul J. – Faith Tamil, Troy
Andrzejewski, Darryl L. – Historic Trinity, Detroit
Appold, Paul C. – Trinity, Muskegon
Appold, Robert B. – St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
Azzam, Timothy P. – Trinity, Oscoda
Bagnall, G. Stevens – Good Shepherd, Cass City
Bakker, Jonathon J. – Zion, Mount Pleasant
Ball, Joshua T. – St. John, Ray Twp.
Bartz, Robert O. – St. Peter, Three Rivers
Bartzsck, Thomas W. – Messiah, Grand Rapids
Beck, Gary L. – St. Mark, Flint
Behnke, Timothy J. – St. John, Brant
Belinsky, Michael G. – Our Savior, Benzonia
Berlin, Mark E. – Redeemer, Interlochen
Biber, Paul R. – Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Bickel, Craig L. – Immanuel, Grand Rapids
Biermann, Todd A. – Faith, Grand Blanc
Bira, Clifford F. – Holy Cross, Flushing
Black, Eric S. – St. Paul, Kalkaska
Blythe, Richard J. – St. Paul, Trenton
Bode, Arthur J. – Bethlehem, Engadine/Grace, Germfask
Boedecker, David E. – Christ, Marshall
Boehne, Thomas V. – St. John's, Ludington
Boehnke, Christopher M. – Lakeshore, Spring Lake
Bogda, David W. – Our Savior, Union City
Bollinger, Timothy R. – Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Twp.
Boerger, Paul M. – Lamb of God, Flint
Bookshaw, John A. – St. Peter's, Big Rapids
Brand, Timothy J. – St. Paul, Caledonia
Brandt, Mark D. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Brooks, John W. – St. James, Montague
Bruner, James R. – St. Paul, Millington
Burgess, Jeffrey S. – St. Matthew, Mancelona
Burhop, Charles B. – St. Barnabas, Sault Ste. Marie/St. Paul, Kincheloe
Burhop, Daniel G.O. – Trinity, Reese
Bye, Thomas W. – St. Stephen's, Shelby
Cashmer, Jason D. – Christ the King, Southgate
Casiglia, Joseph A. – Faith, Troy
Chinery, James D. – St. Martin, Birch Run
Chittick, Aaron B. – St. Paul, Coldwater
Clark, Paul M. – St. Paul, Fowler
Cloeter, Erik K. – Messiah, Clio
Conradt, Robert J. – Our Redeemer, Muskegon
Cook, Joshua H. – St. Peter's, Eastpointe
Cordts, Frederick T. – St. John, Au Gres
Courson, Larry G. – Peace, Ann Arbor
Cullen, D. Lee, Jr. – Holy Ghost, Monroe
Danowski, William F. – Evergreen, Detroit
Davenport, Dean M. – Christ Our Savior, Livonia
Davis, David A. – St. Luke, Haslett
Dent, Matthew T. – Bethlehem, Standish
DeVries, Phillip M. – Messiah, Saginaw
Dodge, David A. – St. John, Port Hope
Doellinger, Paul M. – St. Paul, Cassopolis
Doerner, Edward F. – Messiah, Midland
Downs, G. Travis – Trinity, Lansing
Draeger, Jeffrey G. – Our Redeemer, Washington
Duerr, John M. – Hope, Warren
Dumbrille, Dean G. – Trinity, Fenton
Dupre, Brian C. – Faith, Detroit
Eberlein, Scott P. – Open Arms, Belleville
Ekong, Eric I. – Trinity, Jackson
Eichinger, Kurt W. – Lord of New Life, Midland
Eickmann, Robert E. – Prince of Peace, Quincy
Eisinger, Alan P. – Holy Cross, Warren
Engel, Brant A. – Christ the King, Flint
Erickson, James D. – Immanuel, Alpena
Etheridge, Daryl H. – St. Matthew's, Adrian/Blessed Savior, Blissfield
Fairbairn, Christopher D. – St. Paul, Northville
Ferguson, Jack D. – Faith, Hawks
Fienen, Daniel H. – Grace, Baldwin
Filter, Edward W. – St. Andrew, Portland
Fischer, Thomas F. – Gethsemane, Rochester Hills
Fleming, David C. – Our Savior, Grand Rapids
Flory, Mark S. – St. Peter, Petersburg
Frechette, Jeffrey D. – Bethlehem, Roseville
Fremmer, Joseph – Good Shepherd, Lowell
Frusti, Todd I. – Trinity, Davison
Gadeken, Robert G. – St. Michael's, Richville
Gaertner, Evan P. – St. Paul, Hamburg
Garland, Curtis D. – Immanuel, Monroe
Garrison, Thomas B. – St. Peter, Bach/St. John's, Kilmanagh
Geml, Michael A. – Redeemer, Jackson
Gerke, Robert A. – Bethel, Grandville
Gilson, Mark E. – St. Mark, Muskegon
Gledhill, Eric A. – Trinity, Paw Paw
Goers, Michael M. – St. Matthew, Spring Lake
Gorlitz, Larry R. – St. Paul, Battle Creek
Grenz, Greyson D. – Trinity, Wyandotte
Griffin, Marvin A. – St. Philip, Detroit
Griffith, Greg S. – Immanuel, Macomb
Grimm, Dale A. – Our Savior, Chelsea
Grimm, David A. – St. Paul's, Centreville/St. Paul's, Colon
Gruenhagen, Andrew D. – St. Michael, Wayne
Hales, Henry J. – St. John, Palms
Haller, Joshua T. – Grace, Fairgrove
Haller, Mark J. – St. Peter's, Richmond
Hauser, Paul A. – Zion, Hemlock
Heidt, Brian F. – St. Philip, Owosso
Heimsoth, Jeffrey E. – Trinity, Monroe
Helms, Steven C. – Holy Redeemer, Dryden
Herrod, J. Robert – First, Algonac
Herter, Paul W. – Hope, Adrian
Hess, Joel A. – Emmanuel, Cadillac
Hetzner, Mark W. – St. Thomas, Eastpointe
Hile, John A. – Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
Hoerr, Steven R. – St. Peter, Fair Haven
Hoffmeyer, Alex W. – Salem, Coloma
Hooper, William J. – Christ, White Cloud
Hoyer, Joel F. – Grace, Coopersville
Hubbard, Bradley B. – St. Mark, Battle Creek
Huff, Mark L. – Faith, Port Huron
Hutter, Erwin M. – Pilgrim, Essexville
James, Asaph A. – East Bethlehem, Detroit
Jansen, Daniel L. – Faith Prescott
Johnson, Andrew M. – Christ, Milford
Johnson, L. Daniel – St. Paul's, Hillsdale
Johnson, Randy L. – St. John, Cheboygan
Johnson, Russell D. – St. Luke, Clinton Twp.
Jones, Kevin C. – Immanuel, Bay City
Jung, David A. – St. John, Pinconning
Kaiser, John C. – St. Paul, Lapeer
Kasper, R. Gabriel – University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor
Keller, Walter A. – St. Paul, Sterling Hgts.
Kempin, Daniel A. – St. John's, Midland
Kenitz, Terry W. – Good Shepherd, Middleville
Khan, Khurram M. – All Nations, Troy
Klemm, David R. – Peace, Shelby Twp.
Koltz, Gary E. – Good Shepherd, Lake Orion
Korte, Michael R. – Bethlehem, Saginaw
Krach, James M. – Our Savior, Gladwin
Krueger, James F. – Holy Cross, Saginaw
Kruse, Paul G. – Zion, Bay City
Kuehl, Kyle I. – Trinity, Newberry
Kuhlmann, Kurt P. – St. John, Burr Oak

LaFeve, Joshua C. – Immanuel, Leland
 Lett, Randy D. – Trinity, Sawyer
 Lewis, Bertram B. Sr. – Tabernacle of Praise, Romulus
 Liebich, Jonathan A. – Trinity, Buchanan
 Loest, Mark A. – Immanuel, Saginaw
 Llewellyn, Joseph J. – St. Paul, Hubbard Lake
 Loewe, Timothy J. – Christ the King, Lambertville
 Loree, Larry K., Sr. – St. Peter, Kinde
 Low, M. Robert – Faith, Mesick
 Lueke, Kenneth D. – Our Savior, Bad Axe
 Lunneberg, Allen D. – Incarnate Word, Rochester Hills
 Madson, Mark J. – Trinity, Port Huron
 Majeski, Eric W. – Grace Fellowship, Romeo
 Mandley, Jason L. – St. John, Hillman
 Martin, Gabriel J. – Zion, Tawas City
 Martin, Michael R. – Grace, Leslie
 Matyas, Dennis W. – St. Paul, Bay City
 McCarty, David J. – Emmanuel, Britton
 Meckes, Daniel C. – Living Word, Rochester
 Menz, Andrew P. – Zion, Auburn
 Messer, Thomas C. – Peace, Alma
 Meyer, Edward A. – St. Mark, Saginaw
 Mikkelson, Robert L. – Peace, Detroit
 Milatz, Mark D. – Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
 Miller, Randy J. – Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills
 Moldenhauer, Paul M. – St. Matthew, Walled Lake
 Monson, Paul C. – St. Augustine, Troy
 Morales, Eddie – Outer Drive Faith, Detroit
 Morris, William L. – St. Peter, Hemlock
 Morrison, Rodney L. – Hope, St. Helen
 Moyer, Jonathan J. – Faith, Highland
 Mueller, Barry L. – Christ, New Baltimore
 Muhle, Dean R. – St. Paul, Hale
 Naumann, Paul R. – St. Michael, Portage
 Neigh, Dennis J. – Good Shepherd, Ossineke/Faith, Harrisville
 Nelson, Terry A. – Cross Of Christ, South Lyon
 Nemeck, Donald P. – Drummond Island, Drummond Island
 Neuendorf, Donald O. – St. Paul, Ann Arbor
 Newton, Steven M. – Grace, Canton
 Nickel, Peter S. – Huntington Woods, Huntington Wds.
 Nihiser, James L. – St. Michael & All Angels, Traverse City
 Nuttmann, Quentin T. – St. Peter, St. John's
 Olson, Timothy W. – First, Charlotte
 Oswald, Mark A. – Trinity, Conklin
 Parent, Raymond D. – Redford, Detroit
 Parker, Harrison S. C. – Living Water, Whitmore Lake
 Penhallegon, Philip W. – St. Paul, Milan
 Peters, Matthew A. – Zion, Petoskey
 Peterson, Jason P. – St. Peter's, Rockford
 Poellet, Dean R. – St. Matthew, Holt
 Polzin, Joseph W. B. – Trinity, Gaylord/Mt. Hope, Grayling
 Rahn, Dennis D. – Trinity, Manistee
 Redmann, James C. – Grace, Elk Rapids
 Reese, Ryan D. – Trinity, Warren
 Reith, Samuel B. – St. Paul, Sanford
 Riddle, J. Derek – Peace, Rogers City
 Riggs, Robert V. – Calvary, Carson City
 Robinson, Richard E. – St. John, Detroit
 Rohwer, Gary E. – Atonement, Dearborn
 Roper, R. William – St. Mark's, Brooklyn
 Rossow, Justin P. – St. Luke, Ann Arbor
 Roth, Michael J. – Trinity, St. Joseph
 Rufner, David J. – New Hope, Hudsonville
 Sarrault, Joel H. – St. John's, Adrian
 Schaedig, Michael W. – St. Luke, Harrison
 Schian, Aaron T. – Grace, Auburn
 Schindel, Bryan K. – Cross & Resurrection, Ypsilanti
 Schlak, Randall J. – Redeemer, Birmingham
 Schmidt, David P. – St. Paul, Royal Oak
 Schmidt, Erik R. – Community, Flat Rock
 Schneider, Keith A. – St. Michael, Rogers City
 Schouweiler, James A. – Redeemer, Fremont
 Schroeder, James E. – Our Saviour, Scottville
 Schroeder, Thomas L. – Christ Our King, Saline
 Schuler, Matthew G. – Holy Cross, Oxford
 Schultz, Randall P. – Our Savior, Flint
 Schultz, Roderick D. – Our Redeemer, Dearborn
 Schultz, Ronald C. – Zion, Harbor Beach
 Schwartz, John W. – St. Paul's, New Boston
 Schwichtenberg, Marc N. – St. John, Rochester
 Schwieger, Alan J. – Immanuel, St. Clair
 Seaver, Wade M. – Hope, Bellaire
 Seeber, Timothy W. – Zion, Kalamazoo
 Sheldon, Barry C. – St. Matthew, Lexington
 Sherouse, M. Samuel Jr. – Our Saviour, Armada
 Sherry, David F. – Trinity, Bay City
 Sidwell, David H. – Immanuel, Kalamazoo
 Sikora, E. Anthony – Hope, DeWitt
 Smith, Bradley A. – St. John, Fraser
 Snider, Merelyn R. – Trinity, Pinckney
 Spence, Kenneth M. – Our Redeemer, Taylor
 Stahl, Michael G. – Trinity-St. James, Munger
 Starke, Stephen P. – St. John, Bay City
 Steele, Cameron K. – St. Paul, Caro
 Stolarczyk, Steven M. – St. Paul, Unionville
 Straub, Roger K. – Good Shepherd, Lansing
 Strenge, Karl N. – Redemption, Battle Creek
 Suggitt, Christopher S. – St. Paul/Good Shepherd, Caseville/Pigeon
 Sutton, David J. – Our Savior, Marlette
 Thiel, Steven E. – Bethlehem, Lewiston
 Tino, Richard L. – Peace, Sandusky
 Todd, Kelly D. – Christ, Goodrich
 Tonn, Paul A. – Trinity, Reed City
 Travis, Howard S. – St. John, West Branch
 Ulm, David M. – Good Shepherd, Chesterfield
 Undlin, Paul J. – Hosanna-Tabor, Redford
 Vanderbilt, Thomas W. – Messiah, Holt
 Vergin, Aaron H. – St. Mark's, West Bloomfield
 Vogeli, Mitchell R. – Nativity, St. Charles
 Voigt, Eric W. – Immanuel, (Moltke) Rogers City
 Waddell, James A. – Faith, Ypsilanti
 Wagner, Robert V. – Holy Cross, Belding
 Walsh, Jeffrey B. – St. Paul, Flint
 Wangelin, William R. – Our Savior, Lansing
 Weis, C. William – Peace, Saginaw
 Wentzel, Michael W. – St. Mark, Kentwood
 Wenzelburger, Kurt R. – St. John's, Grand Haven
 Wilhelm, Jeffrey M. – Mt. Calvary, Greenville
 Willenbrock, William K. – Faith, Whitehall
 Wilson, Richard G. – Trinity, Minden City
 Wunningham, David C. – Ascension, East Lansing
 Wunningham, Ryan A. – Zion, Holland
 Wise, Kenneth M. – Trinity, Clinton Twp.
 Witte, Mark K. – Grace, Monroe
 Woell, Brennan A. – St. Luke, Nunica
 Wollberg, Trenton N. – Holy Cross, Onaway
 Wonderly, Daniel A. – Pilgrim, (Burton) Flint
 Wuggazer, Mark T. – St. Peter, Macomb
 Wurst, Robert W. – St. Paul's, Cedar
 Young, Paul V. – Prince of Peace, Clare
 Zagore, Robert M. – Trinity, Traverse City
 Zeile, Richard A. – St. John's, Taylor

Associate Pastors

Adams, Caleb M. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Arendell, Mark W. – St. Peter, Macomb
Arndt, Paul W. – Faith, Troy
Baggor, Elamin M. – St. Luke, Haslett
Baseley, Joel R. – Emmanuel, Dearborn
Bayer, Robert F. – Christ Our Savior, Livonia
Benjamin, Scott E. – St. Luke, Clinton Twp.
Boos, Antonio C. – Faith, Troy
Boyer, Michael D. – Immanuel, Sebewaing
Bruns, Benjamin R. – Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
Buckhahn, Charles F. – Bethlehem, Saginaw
Bushuiakovish, Mark R. – Christ the King, Southgate
Carter, Tyler D. – Immanuel, Grand Rapids
Cashmer, Terry L. – Christ the King, Southgate
Culbertson, Tige A. C. – Messiah, Midland
Eden, Joel S. – Christ Our Savior, Livonia
Elliott, Peter W. – St. John, Fraser
Farah, Ronald R. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Fenske, Shawn D. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Garber, Alexander C. – St. Peter's, Eastpointe
Gibbons, Nikolai J. – Immanuel, Macomb
Gillaspie, Wesley S. – St. Michael's, Richville
Grafe, Stephen D. – St. John, Rochester
Grannis, Michael J. – Open Arms, Belleville
Grulke, Galen E. – Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
Hall, Matthew A. – Faith, Bay City
Heiden, Michael L. – Immanuel, Macomb
Hein, Matthew C. – St. Luke, Ann Arbor
Hemme, Seth R. – Zion, Auburn
Hill, James M. – Livonia, Christ Our Savior
Hinz, Paul R. – Peace, Saginaw
Johnson, Scott E. – St. Paul's, Hillsdale
Kaiser, Joel C. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Khan, Farrukh M. – All Nations, Troy

Klamer, Lance D. – St. Paul, Fowler
Kolzow, Calvin J. Jr. – Trinity, Sturgis
Krupsky, Justin A. – Trinity, Utica
Lambart, Kurt E. – St. Matthew, Westland
Lucas, Bruce K. – Trinity, Traverse City
Measel, Martin P. – Christ, Stevensville
Mehdi-Khan, Amer – All Nations, Troy
Mews, David M. – Guardian, Dearborn
Nelson, Robert J. – St. Matthew, Walled Lake
Peck, Adam J. – Holy Cross, Jenison
Potts, Daniel A. – Trinity, Monroe
Pronsati, Andrew M. – St. Paul, Trenton
Richard, Gary L. – Trinity, Clinton Twp.
Roggow, Aaron W. – St. Paul, Ann Arbor
Scherbarth, Ray E. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Schultz, Joshua M. – Immanuel, Alpena
Sherrill, North P. – Our Savior, Grand Rapids
Stauffer, W. Roger – Peace, Saginaw
Stier, Lewis W. – Trinity, Utica
Sutton, A. Trevor – St. Luke, Haslett
Swem, Jeremy M. – Our Savior, Grand Rapids
Tino, James C. – Peace, Sandusky
Troxel, Christopher D. – Trinity, Utica
Ulledalen, Benjamin J. – Zion, Mt. Pleasant
Wade, Jeffrey E. – St. John, New Boston
Walworth, Tyler A. – Redeemer, Birmingham
Webb, Charles W. – Trinity, Traverse City
West, Brian D. – Trinity, Clinton Twp.
Williams, Jonathan V. – St. Peter's, Big Rapids
Wolff, Paul A. – Emmanuel, Dearborn
Wurst, John F. – St. Paul's, Cedar
Yang, Lang – St. Michael, Richville
Yeager, Christopher J. – Christ, Stevensville
Yohannes, Zerehaimanot Z. – St. Luke, Haslett

SMP Pastors

Barz, Daniel S. – St. Paul, Buchanan
Bauer, Jason C. – Redeemer, Interlochen
Chaffee, Phillip W. – Family of Christ, Comstock Park
Dockery, Daniel L. – Bethlehem, Glen Arbor
Doede, Mark R. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Grunewald, Richard J. – Faith, Troy
Hansen, John G. – Peace, Ludington
Hauser, Matthew J. – Peace, Saginaw
Howard, Daniel C. – Hope, Warren
Kral, John T. – Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Twp.
Liss, Joseph T. – St. Paul's, Niles
Muck, Alan D. – St. John's, Adrian deployed to Our Saviour, Hudson
Parsons, Joshua J. – St. John's, Midland

Phillips, Michael G. – Grace, Romeo
Ramthun, Daniel W. – Guardian, Dearborn
Rossow, David E. – NewLife, Swartz Creek
Scott, Robert G. – Faith, Grand Blanc
Selim, Timothy C. – Emmanuel, Cadillac
Starner, Matthew L. – Journey of Faith, Byron Center
Tkac, Russell S. – Peace, Waterford
Toman, Jason D. – St. Michael, Portage
VanBriggle, Richard A. – St. Thomas, Eastpointe
Vieregge, Michael S. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Watters, Samuel P. – Living Word, Plymouth
Woodfin, Stephen W. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham

Intentional Interim Pastors

Bender, Gary L. – Immanuel, Wheeler
Brunworth, Todd J. – Christ Our Savior, Holland
Carrier, John S. – Mt. Calvary, Detroit
Collin, Richard W. – Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta
DeMeritt, Carl F. Jr. – St. Thomas, Ann Arbor
Duchene, Michael G. – St. Trinity, Clarkston
Eggert, James F. – Holy Cross, Jenison
Flynn, Daniel J. – St. Stephen, Waterford
Kassen, John E. – Prince of Peace, Ortonville
Koy, Norman A. – Crown of Life, Rochester Hills
Laeder, Richard P. – Living Word, Lansing
Lemley, Keith H. – Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills

Metcalf, James E. – Trinity, Arcadia
Prout, David L. – Peace, Warren
Schilke, Stephen E. – Hope, Linden
Schroeder, Martin L. – St. John's, St. Johns
Schultz, Robert J. – Our Savior, Midland
Siefert, Gary L. – St. Paul's, Farmington Hills
Sommerfeld, Scott G. – Trinity, Utica
Trinklein, Jonathan B. – St. Paul, Pontiac
Voll, Theodore E. – St. John, Houghton Lake
Weldon, John H. – Faith, Bridgeport
Zabrocki, Lee H. – Resurrection, Sand Lake

Campus Pastors

Couch, Mark T. – Zion / WMU Campus, Kalamazoo

District Administration

Jones, Todd A. – Mission Education and Support
Kasper, Robert E. – Congregation Ministry Facilitator
Maier, David P. E. – District President
Walther, Galan D. – Congregation Ministry Facilitator
Wolfram, Richard J. – Congregation Ministry Facilitator

Other

Bodley, Christopher R. – MAL in Detroit for A2E
Dunseth, Thomas W. – Mill Neck Deaf Ministries, Mill Neck, NY
Essenburg, Steven J. – MAL in Detroit
Heise, Matthew W. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb

Ouellette, Dennis E. – LAMP Ministry, New Haven
Rahn, Robert L. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb
Rockemann, Larry W. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb
Yops, Bradley J. – MAL in Flint at Franklin Avenue Mission

Foreign Missionaries

Erber, David M. – Nigeria
James, Roger B. – Sri Lanka
Mahlburg, Steven C. – Sri Lanka

Lutheran High Schools

Mueller, John F.

Concordia University Ann Arbor

Duncan, Randall S.
Hopkins, Theodore J.
Penhallegon, Philip W.
Peterson, Ryan R.

Rathje, John R.
Schulz, Charles R.
Yakimow, Scott E.

Chaplains

Bowditch, Mark A. – U.S. Air Force
Mueller, Peter L. - U.S. Army
Schinkel, John A. – Monroe
Townes, Richard A. – U.S. Navy
Wollberg, Jeffrey N. – Battle Creek

Candidates

Ajak, Simon A. – Lansing
Gizynski, Richard G. – Oak Park
Heiney, Timothy M. – Big Rapids
Iqbal, Vincent – Battle Creek
Maas, Korey – Hillsdale
Martin, Frank H. – Carleton

Masih, Afzal – Grand Rapids
Roland, Ronald B. – Chesterfield
Talsma, Dale – Oakland Park, FL
Washington, Oliver G. – Detroit
Williams, Rodger L. – Ann Arbor

Emeriti

Ackerman, James L. – Warren
Ahlschwede, Dale C. – Birch Run
Allan, Kenneth H. – Portage
Allen, Michael S. – Essexville
Allmann, Robert F. – Merrill
Allwardt, William H. – Bay City
Arndt, Warren B. – Troy
AuBuchon, Stanley R. – Monroe
Aumann, Roger F. – Canton
Avers, Harold A. – Grosse Pte. Farms
Bahr, Albert W. – Unionville
Balzer, James G. – Sturgis
Bassett, Carl W. – Niles
Batsky, Thomas E. – St. Joseph
Beiderwieden, Theodore W. – Traverse City
Bendewald, Jon D. – St. Joseph
Bernthal, Kenneth G. – Gaylord
Beyer, Charles E. – Bay City
Blain, James H. – Grand Rapids
Boecler, Paul A. – Grand Rapids
Brammeier, Arnold H. – Detroit
Brazinsky, Thomas R. – Baroda
Brelje, Larry E. – Kalamazoo

Brinley, George W. – St. Johns
Brown, Robert E. – New Era
Brueckner, Peter R. – St. Clair Shores
Burgess, David F. – Howell
Burow, E. Paul – Macomb
Cantele, John A. – Marshall
Carey, Ralph W. – Grandville
Claus, Terry A. – Milford
Clemons, Daniel F. – Alto
Cordes, Darwin E. – Manistee
Cottam, Bertrand J. – Grand Blanc
Doroh, Gerhardt A. – Columbus
Douglas, Venice C. – Detroit
Dufon, Dennis L. – Holland
Edenfield, Harry N. – Brownstown
Eggers, Robert M. – Saginaw
Eichberger, Timothy M. – Port Huron
Elowsky, Earl W. – Hillman
Evanson, E. Dale – Waterford
Filbert, Bernhard W. – Louisville, KY
Fitzgerald, Michael N. – Frankenmuth
Fleming, James E. – Rochester Hills
Fluegge, Wilton H. – Sterling Heights

Fritz, Jeffrey M. – Roseville
Fulmer, Daniel R. – Grand Rapids
Garrison, Bradley G. – Fenton
Gatz, William A. – Jackson
Gerberding, Kieth A. – Southgate
Graupner, Herbert H. – Spring Lake
Graves, K. Frank – Grand Rapids
Gray, Barton C. – Alpena
Grimm, Gerald E. – Macomb
Gruetzner, James M. – Novi
Guettler, Ronald H. – Royal Oak
Hackett, Thomas S. – Holland
Hagenow, Martin J. – Hemlock
Hakes, David E. – Reese
Hamilton, George O. – Zeeland
Haupt, Dieter E. – Holland
Headapohl, Gary D. – Garden City
Heins, John L. – Saline
Henneman, Harry C. – Auburn Hills
Hensler, David H. – Clio
Herzog, John A. – Chesterfield Twp.
Hessler, William W. – Saginaw
Hillenbrand, Richard P. – LaSalle, IL
Hinz, Clarence R. – Clinton Twp.
Hinze, Dennis A. – Clinton Twp.
Hoese, Terry E. – Grand Rapids
Hoesman, C. William – Frankenmuth
Hoft, Thees C. – Clinton Twp.
Hollender, David E. – Caro
Holls, Joel M. – Allen Park
Hoogerhyde, Richard S. – Newaygo
Huber, David G. – Plymouth
Janetzke, Douglas K. – Midland
Johnson, David C. – Jackson
Jungkuntz, Theodore R. – Saline
Kaarre, David M. – Williamsburg
Kast, Edward L. – Saginaw
Keat, James D. – Leslie
Kilmer, Eric S. – Marlette
Kilponen, Roger R. – Cedarville
Kinne, Lawrence A. – Farmington Hills
Kirchhoff, Donald G. – Ann Arbor
Kirschke, Gary A. – Wyoming
Kleimola, Dale M. – Jackson
Koehler, Charles J. – Traverse City
Koeppen, Robert D. – Midland
Koessel, Eugene H. – Roseville
Kopper, Glenn P. – Holt
Kostizen, Erwin – Highland
Krause, Daniel L. – Traverse City
Krause, Fred C. – Trufant
Kroll, Micheal D. – East Lansing
Kromer, John C. – Livonia
Krueger, Dale B. – Kalamazoo
Krugler, Richard A. – Rochester Hills
Kuhl, Charles W. – Sebewaing
Larsen, Peter E. – Wyoming
Lassanske, Dennis L. – Muskegon
Loesel, Andrew E. – Pinconning
Lutz, Michael J. – Shelby Twp.
McDonald, Gilbert K. – Clarkston
Maier, Paul L. – Kalamazoo
Mann, Dennis C. – Monroe
Mann, Robert H. – Port Huron
Marshall, Robert H. – Riverview
Mau, Gerhard – Farmington Hills
McVey, Daniel J. – Howell
Melinat, Theodore C. – Pinconning
Merrell, William D. – Waterford
Merrill, John E. – Roseville
Meyer, Craig M. – Sterling Heights
Monson, John R. – Troy

Mueller, Howard W. – Hemlock
Mundt, Richard E. – Hemlock
Nehring, Gary L. – Albion
Neisch, Waldemar O. – Flushing
Otten, William H. – Rochester Hills
Otto, Rodney D. – Grand Rapids
Pankratz, Adolph W. – Stevensville
Panning, John F. – Holland
Paulson, Warren L. – Ypsilanti
Pflug, Mark R. – Saline
Pohanka, John C. – Midland
Pollatz, Paul A. – Garden City
Pollatz, Raymond R. Jr. – Stanwood
Quardokus, Philip G. – St. Joseph
Ramthun, Marvin W. – Lapeer
Rauh, John W. – Wentzville, MO
Reed, David H. – Sebewaing
Reich, Arthur W. – Goodrich
Reusch, Jon W. – West Bloomfield
Richert, Cary M. – Caledonia
Roberts, Robert R. – Bay City
Rolf, James E. – Rochester
Rossow, Richard H. – Howell
Ruediger, Paul G. – Rose City
Ruhl, Michael R. – Pinckney
Rynearson, Rodney R. – Frankenmuth
Sattelmeier, Glenn O. – Rochester Hills
Schemm, Milton R. – Troy
Schmitt, Frederick A. – Sterling Heights
Schneider, Paul H. – Gaylord
Schoof, Armond D. – Monroe
Schreiber, John R. – Coopersville
Schroeder, Kenneth O. – Frankenmuth
Schroeder, Roy P. – East Lansing
Schudlich, Gerald E. – Manistee
Seng, Dan L. – Battle Creek
Shackell, Maurice G. – Marshall
Shuta, Richard J. – Chelsea
Smith, Robert W. – Frankenmuth
Stahlhut, Stephen C. – Linden
Steeh, Edward J. – Macomb
Straub, John A. – Southgate
Teske, Walter W. – Ludington
Teuscher, Michael L. – Charlevoix
Thomas, Raymond K. – Jackson
Thompson, Bert A. – Clinton Twp.
Thoms, Leo G. – Port Hope
Traugott, Frederick W. – Macomb
Trosien, Carl F. – Hemlock
Turanski, Ted N. – Lake City
Turner, James W. – Farmington Hills
Van Dellen, James H. – Lake Orion
Veitengruber, Donald P. – Greenville
Verity, Timothy M. – Grand Rapids
Wachholz, Dean C. – Saline
Waidelich, Carl W. – Rochester
Wargo, Paul E. – Harsens Island
Warsinski, Larry A. – Clyde
Weber, James E. – Frankenmuth
Weiss, David E. – Delavan, WI
Wendt, Ernest C. – Fenton
Wenskay, Lee C. – Pigeon
Wentzel, Wayne H. – Grand Blanc
Wernecke, John W. – Bay City
Westphal, Leroy R. – Midland
White, Harry W. – Birch Run
Winter, William C. – Prudenville
Witto, Lawrence E. – Grand Blanc
Zielke, Kenneth E. – Coldwater
Zimmerman, Mark E. – Spring Lake
Zimmerman, Russell E. – Bay City

Ministers of Religion - Ordained Roster Changes

March 2015 - March 2018

Pastors Who Entered the District

Baggor, Elamin M. (English District) to Assistant Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett
Berndt, Matthew C. (Nebraska District) as Candidate
Biber, Paul R. (SELC District) to Pastor, Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Black, Eric S. (St. Louis) to Pastor, St. Paul, Kalkaska
Bowditch, Mark A. (Missouri District) as LCMS International Missions Chaplain
Burgess, Jeffrey S. (St. Louis) to Pastor, St. Matthew, Mancelona
Burhop, Daniel G. (Rocky Mountain District) to Trinity, Reese
Bushuiakovish, Mark R. (Mid-South District) to Associate Pastor, Christ the King, Southgate
Cantele, John A. (Southern District) as Emeritus
Carrier, John S. (Nebraska District) to IIP, Mt. Calvary, Detroit
Carter, Tyler D. (St. Louis) to Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Grand Rapids
Chaffee, Phillip W. (St. Louis) to SMP, Family of Christ, Comstock Park
Cook, Joshua H. (Indiana District) to Senior Pastor, St. Peter's, Eastpointe
Dockery, Daniel L. (Ft. Wayne) to SMP, Bethlehem, Glen Arbor
Douglas, Venice C. (English District) as Emeritus
Duchene, Michael G. (Florida-Georgia District) as Candidate
Dufon, Dennis L. (Kansas District) as Emeritus
Dupre, Brian C. (Texas District) to Pastor, Berea, Detroit
Eberlein, Scott P. (Kansas District) as Non-Candidate
Farah, Ronald R. (English District) to Associate Pastor, Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Garber, Alexander C. (Ft. Wayne) to Associate Pastor, St. Peter's, Eastpointe
Garland, Curtis D. (South Dakota District) to Pastor, Immanuel, Monroe
Garrison, Thomas B. (Northwest District) to Pastor, St. Peter, Bach/St. John's, Kilmanagh
Gibbons, Nikolai J. (St. Louis) to Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Macomb
Grunewald, Richard J. (St. Louis) to SMP, Faith, Troy
Hackett, Thomas S. (Florida-Georgia District) as Emeritus
Hall, Matthew A. (St. Louis) to Associate Pastor, Faith, Bay City
Haller, Joshua T. (Ft. Wayne) to Pastor, Grace, Fairgrove
Hauser, Matthew J. (St. Louis) to SMP, Peace, Saginaw
Heinecke, Gerald D. (North Wisconsin District) as Candidate
Hoffmeyer, Alex M. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Salem, Coloma
Hopkins, Theodore J. (Missouri District) to Professor, Concordia University Ann Arbor
Huff, Mark L. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Faith, Port Huron
Johnson, David C. (Texas District) as Emeritus
Jones, Todd A. (Missouri District) to Mission Education and Support, Michigan District, Ann Arbor
Kasper, R. Gabriel (Texas District) to Pastor, University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor
Kirschke, Gary A. (Northwest District) as Emeritus
Kral, John T. (St. Louis) to SMP, Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Twp.
Kuehl, Kyle I. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Trinity, Newberry
LeFeve, Joshua C. (Pacific Southwest) to Pastor, Immanuel, Leland
Mackie, Roger L. (Missouri District) as Candidate
Mackowiak, John E. (Florida-Georgia District) as Emeritus
Mahlburg, Steven C. (Missouri District) as Ethnic Ministry Developer in Asia for LCMS
Martin, Gabriel J. (Ft. Wayne) to Pastor, Zion, Tawas City
Mau, Gerhard (Northern Illinois District) as Emeritus
McCarty, David J. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Emmanuel, Britton
Mews, David M. (Ft. Wayne) to Associate Pastor, Guardian, Dearborn
Moritz, Ronald C. (Minnesota South District) to IIP, St. John, Grand Haven
Muck, Alan D. (Missouri District) to SMP, St. John's, Adrian
Mueller, Howard W. (Iowa East District) as Emeritus
Nemec, Donald P. (Wyoming District) to Pastor, Drummond Island, Drummond Island
Ouellette, Dennis E. (Indiana District) to Pastor/Pilot, LAMP Ministry, New Haven
Parker, Harrison S. C. (Northwest District) to Pastor, Living Water, Whitmore Lake
Parsons, Joshua J. (Ft. Wayne) to SMP, St. John's, Midland
Peck, Adam J. (Iowa West District) to Associate Pastor, Holy Cross, Jenison
Peterson, Jason P. (Iowa West District) to Pastor, St. Peter, Rockford
Phillips, Michael G. (St. Louis) to SMP, Grace, Romeo
Polzin, Joseph W. B. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Trinity, Gaylord/Mt. Hope, Grayling
Pronsati, Andrew M. (St. Louis) to Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Trenton
Roggow, Aaron W. (Northern Illinois District) to Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Ann Arbor
Schian, Aaron T. (Eastern District) to Pastor, Grace, Auburn
Schroeder, Martin L. (Southeastern District) to IIP, St. Matthew, Westland
Schuler, Matthew G. (St. Louis) to Pastor, Holy Cross, Oxford
Selim, Timothy C. (Ft. Wayne) to SMP, Emmanuel, Cadillac
Starner, Matthew L. (St. Louis) to SMP, Journey of Faith, Byron Center
Suggitt, Christopher S. (Ft. Wayne) to Pastor, St. Paul/Good Shepherd, Pigeon/Caseville

Swem, Jeremy M. (LCC Central) to Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids
 Tonn, Paul A. (North Wisconsin District) to Pastor, Trinity, Reed City
 Troxel, Christopher D. (St. Louis) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica
 Ulledalen, Benjamin J. (Ft. Wayne) to Associate Pastor, Zion, Mt. Pleasant
 Walworth, Tyler A. (Atlantic District) to Associate Pastor, Redeemer, Birmingham
 Watters, Samuel P. (Ft. Wayne) to SMP, Living Word, Plymouth
 Weldon, John H. (Eastern District) to IIP, Faith, Bridgeport
 Wenzelburger, Kurt R. (South Wisconsin District) to Senior Pastor, St. John's, Grand Haven
 Willenbrock, William K. (New Jersey District) to Sole Pastor, Faith, Whitehall
 Williams, Jonathan V. (Ft. Wayne) to Associate Pastor, St. Peter's, Big Rapids
 Woell, Brennan A. (St. Louis) to Pastor, St. Luke, Nunica
 Wollberg, Trenton N. (Ft. Wayne) to Pastor, Holy Cross, Onaway
 Yakimow, Scott E. (Northwest District) to Theology Professor, Concordia University Ann Arbor
 Yeager, Christopher J. (Ft. Wayne) to Associate Pastor, Christ, Stevensville
 Yohannes, Zerehaimanot Z. (English District) to Associate Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett

Changes Within the District

Andrzejewski, Darryl L. (Senior Pastor, Guardian, Dearborn) to Head Pastor, Historic Trinity, Detroit
 Arendell, Mark W. (Sole Pastor, Calvary, Lincoln Park) to Associate Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb
 Ball, Joshua T. (Sole Pastor, St. Andrew, Memphis) to Sole Pastor, St. John, Ray Twp.
 Bender, Gary L. (Emeritus) to IIP, Immanuel, Wheeler
 Benjamin, Scott E. (Sole Pastor, Resurrection, Detroit) to Associate Pastor, St. Luke, Clinton Twp.
 Bogda, David W. (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, Our Savior, Union City
 Bollinger, Timothy R. (Associate Pastor, Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Twp.) to Senior Pastor, Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Twp.
 Brand, Timothy J. (Sole Pastor, Salem, Westland) to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Caledonia
 Brand, Timothy J. (Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Caledonia) to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Caledonia
 Brazinsky, Thomas R. (Emeritus) to IIP, Immanuel, Bridgman
 Bruns, Benjamin (Associate Pastor, St. Stephen, Waterford) to Associate Pastor, Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
 Brunworth, Todd J. (Emeritus) to IIP, Christ Our Savior, Holland
 Casiglia, Joseph A. (SMP Pastor, Faith, Troy) to Senior Pastor Elect, Faith, Troy
 Casiglia, Joseph A. (Senior Pastor Elect, Faith, Troy) to Senior Pastor, Faith, Troy
 Collin, Richard W. (Emeritus) to IIP, Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta
 Cullen, D. Lee (LHSA, Westland) to Sole Pastor, Holy Ghost, Monroe
 DeMeritt, Carl F. (Emeritus) to IIP, St. Thomas, Ann Arbor
 Dodge, David A. (Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Union City) to Sole Pastor, St. John, Port Hope
 Duchene, Michael G. (Candidate) to IIP, St. Trinity, Clarkston
 Duncan, Randall S. (Pastor, Living Word, Plymouth Twp.) to Director of Campus Ministry, Concordia University Ann Arbor
 Dupre, Brian C. (Pastor, Berea, Detroit) to Pastor, Faith, Detroit
 Eberlein, Scott P. (Candidate) to Sole Pastor, Open Arms, Belleville
 Eggert, James F. (IIP, Faith, Whitehall) to IIP, Family of Christ, Comstock Park
 Eggert, James F. (Emeritus) to IIP, Holy Cross, Jenison
 Elliott, Peter W. (Pastor, Christ, Boyne City) to Associate Pastor, St. John, Fraser
 Fairbairn, Christopher D. (Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Northville) to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Northville
 Fenske, Shawn D. (Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica) to Associate Pastor, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Garrison, Bradley G. (Candidate) to Pastor, Living Water, Whitmore Lake
 Gerke, Robert A. (Emeritus) to Pastor, Bethel, Grandville
 Gorlitz, Larry R. (Candidate) to Pastor, St. Paul, Battle Creek
 Grannis, Michael J. (Candidate) to Assistant Pastor, Open Arms, Belleville
 Grulke, Galen E. (Senior Pastor, Heart of the Shepherd, Howell) to Associate Pastor, Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
 Hakes, David E. (Emeritus) to IIM, St. Paul, Bay City
 Hamilton, George O. (Emeritus) to Christ Our Savior, Holland
 Hile, John A. (Associate Pastor, Heart of the Shepherd, Howell) to Lead Pastor, Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
 Hutter, Erwin M. (Pastor, Our Redeemer, Taylor) to Sole Pastor, Pilgrim, Essexville
 Johnson, Andrew M. (Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Lapeer) to Sole Pastor, Christ, Milford
 Kassen, John E. (Pastor, Living Word, Rochester) to IIP, Prince of Peace, Ortonville
 Kilponen, Roger R. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Onaway
 Klamer, Lance D. (Associate Pastor, Hope, DeWitt) to Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Fowler
 Koy, Norman A. (Emeritus) to IIP, Crown of Life, Rochester Hills
 Kruse, Paul G. (Pastor, Light of Christ, Marysville) to Pastor, Zion, Bay City
 Laeder, Richard P. (Emeritus) to IIP, Living Word, Lansing
 Lemley, Keith H. (Candidate) to IIP, Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills
 Lucas, Bruce K. (Pastor, Immanuel, Monroe) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Traverse City
 Mann, Dennis C. (Emeritus) to Pastor, Immanuel, Monroe
 Matyas, Dennis W. (Pastor, St. Paul, Albion) to Pastor, St. Paul, Bay City
 Meckes, Daniel C. (Senior Pastor, Faith, Bay City) to Pastor, Living Word, Rochester
 Menz, Andrew P. (Pastor, Salem, Coloma) to Senior Pastor, Zion, Auburn
 Metcalf, James E. (Emeritus) to IIP, Trinity, Arcadia
 Moyer, Jonathan J. (Associate Pastor, Faith, Grand Blanc) to Faith, Highland
 Prout, David L. (Non-Candidate) to IIP, Peace, Warren
 Ramthun, Daniel W. (SMP, St. Stephen, Detroit) to SMP, Guardian, Dearborn
 Reed, David H. (Grace, Auburn) to Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Sebawaing

Robinson, Richard E. (Holy Cross, Detroit) to IIP, Open Arms, Belleville
 Robinson, Richard E. (IIP, Open Arms, Belleville) to St. John, Detroit
 Roper, R. William (Emeritus) to St. Mark's, Brooklyn
 Salminen, Bryan R. (Sole Pastor, St. John, St. Johns) to Senior Pastor, St. John, St. Johns
 Salminen, Bryan R. (Senior Pastor, St. John, St. Johns) to Michigan District, Ann Arbor
 Schilke, Stephen E. (IIP, Faith, Port Huron) to IIP, Grace, Auburn
 Schilke, Stephen E. (Emeritus) to IIP, Hope, Linden
 Schroeder, Martin L. (IIP, St. Matthew, Westland) to IIP, St. John's, St. Johns
 Schultz, Robert J. (Emeritus) to IIP, Our Savior, Midland
 Schwartz, John W. (Sole Pastor, Peace, Warren) to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, New Boston
 Siefert, Gary L. (IIP, St. Paul, Caledonia) to IIP, Zion, Tawas City
 Siefert, Gary L. (IIP, Zion, Tawas City) to IIP, Living Word, Rochester
 Siefert, Gary L. (IIP, Living Word, Rochester) to IIP, St. Paul's, Farmington Hills
 Sommerfeld, Scott G. (Senior Pastor, Holy Cross, Jenison) to IIP, Trinity, Utica
 Spence, Kenneth M. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, Our Redeemer, Taylor
 Stier, Lewis W. (Emeritus) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica
 Stolarczyk, Steven M. (Sole Pastor, Good Shepherd, Caseville) to Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Unionville
 Tino, Richard L. (Sole Pastor, Peace, Sandusky) to Senior Pastor, Peace, Sandusky
 Trinklein, Jonathan B. (Candidate) to IIP, St. Paul, Pontiac
 Verity, Timothy M. (Emeritus) to IIP, St. John, Jenison
 Voll, Theodore E. (IIP, Pilgrim, Essexville) to IIP, St. Paul, Bay City
 Voll, Theodore E. (Emeritus) to IIP, St. John, Houghton Lake
 Wiesenauer, Stephen C. (Missionary) to Sole Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Holland
 Wuggazer, Mark T. (Associate Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb) to Senior Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb
 Yops, Bradley J. (Pastor, NewLife Community, Swartz Creek) to MAL to Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint, Michigan District

Transferred to Other Districts

Abatelli, Kirk W. (Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Millington) to Mid-South District
 Adams, Curtis W. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Baye, Matthew D. (Associate Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb) to North Wisconsin District
 Becker, Dale A. (Pastor, St. Paul, Farmington Hills) to Rocky Mountain District
 Berndt, Matthew C. (Candidate) to Central Illinois District
 Bomberger, Kenneth J. (Candidate) to Missouri District
 Bowditch, Mark A. (Pastor, Family of Christ, Comstock Park) to Missouri District
 Buchhorn, Michael G. (Senior Pastor, Zion, Auburn) to Texas District
 Buckert, Mark P. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Bush, John L. (Concordia University Ann Arbor) to Missouri District
 Cox, Ronald L. (Candidate) to Eastern District
 Dressler, Martin B. (Pastor, Christ, Milford) to Missouri District
 Frentz, Steven N. (Pastor, Bethel, Howard City) to Minnesota South District
 Gerber, Anthony J. (Assistant Pastor, Trinity, St. Joseph) to Nebraska District
 Gladden, Dietrick A. (Pastor, St. Paul, Pontiac) to Pacific Southwest District
 Hanson, Michael B. (Associate Pastor, Trinity, Jackson) to North Wisconsin District
 Heinecke, Gerald D. (Candidate) to Wyoming District
 Ketelsen, Joshua C. (Pastor, Holy Cross, Onaway) to Missouri District
 Lange, Thomas M. (Candidate) to Missouri District
 Langewisch, John E. (IIP, Good Shepherd, Saginaw) to Nebraska District
 Lochner, Daniel E. (Emeritus) to Northwest District
 Loree Jr., Larry K. (Pastor, Holy Ghost, Monroe) to English District
 Lubeck, Thomas M. (Emeritus) to Texas District
 Mackie, Roger L. (Candidate) to Kansas District
 Mackowiak, John E. (Emeritus) to Central Illinois District
 Mahlborg, Steven C. (Pastor, Zion, Tawas City) to Missouri District
 Matro, Lawrence K. (Pastor, Immanuel, Leland) to Missouri District
 Merrill, John F. R. (Associate Pastor, St. Matthew, Walled Lake) to Mid-South District
 Moritz, Ronald C. (Emeritus) to Pacific Southwest District
 Moyer, Thomas E. (Assistant Pastor, Faith, Grand Blanc) to Ohio District
 Murray, Daniel P. (Candidate) to English District
 Neujahr, Troy R. (Pastor, Our Savior, Hudson) to Ohio District
 Newberg, Steven E. (Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison) to Southeastern District
 Peterson, Russell A. (Senior Pastor, Trinity, Sturgis) to Kansas District
 Potter, Jeffrey R. (Candidate) to Montana District
 Richert, Aaron M. (Associate Pastor, St. John, Fraser) to Texas District
 Richter, James F. (Non-Candidate) to Northern Illinois District
 Rockrohr, Carl E. (Non-Candidate) to Indiana District
 Rudowske, Richard C. (Missionary, World Missions) to Missouri District
 Schaeffer, Kendall L. (Candidate) to Indiana District
 Schleicher, John C. (Emeritus) to Minnesota South District
 Schulz, Michael P. (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District
 Seaver, Todd A. (Associate Pastor, Holy Ghost, Monroe) to English District
 Spaeth, David M. (Emeritus) to Central Illinois District

Staudacher, Theodore L. (Emeritus) to Northern Illinois District
 Stephan, Luke F. (Emeritus) to Pacific Southwest District
 Taylor, Kurt S. (Senior Pastor, St. John, New Boston) to South Wisconsin District
 Urvan, John R. (Non-Candidate) to Ohio District
 Vogel, Benjamin W. (Associate Pastor, Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton) to Ohio District
 Wagener, Kenneth C. (Senior Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb) to Indiana District
 Wagner, Ainslie B. (Emeritus) to Southeastern District
 Weber, Kurt A. (Associate Pastor, Messiah, Midland) to Minnesota South District
 Weidmayer, Robert C. (Pastor, Bethel, Grandville) to Eastern District
 Werner, Paul G. (Pastor, Living Hope of the Bay, Ray) to Ohio District

Inactive

Inactive – Candidate Status

Bomberger, Kenneth J. (7/9/2017)
 Cox, Ronald L. (4/8/2017)
 Iqbal, Vincent (3/4/2015)
 Lange, Thomas M. (5/23/2016)
 Lemley, Keith H. (7/2/2017)
 Massey, Steven M. (12/31/2015)
 Kendall L. Schaeffer (8/15/2016)
 Trinklein, Jonathan B. (2/28/17)
 Rodger L. Williams (7/25/2016)

Inactive – Non-Candidate Status

Dusheke, Keith H. (6/30/2015)
 Talsma, Dale A. (4/14/2015)

Inactive – Emeritus

Allwardt, William H. (2/29/16)
 Arndt, Warren B. (8/31/2015)
 Bassett, Carl W. (1/1/2016)
 Beiderwieden, Theodore W. (10/31/2015)
 Bender, Gary L. (1/1/2017)
 Bendewald, Jon D. (5/2/2016)
 Blain, James H. (12/31/2017)
 Brazinsky, Thomas R. (8/1/2017)
 Brunworth, Todd J. (8/31/16)
 Claus, Terry A. (7/12/2015)
 Eberhard, David (8/12/2015)
 Eggert, James F. (11/10/2016)
 Fulmer, Daniel R. (7/12/2015)
 Hakes, David E. (4/30/2017)
 Hamilton, George O. (4/17/2016)
 Haupt, Dieter E. (11/16/2015)
 Hessler, William W. (6/12/2017)
 Hillenbrand, Richard P. (1/28/2017)
 Holls, Joel M. (4/1/2016)
 Kilponen, Roger R. (7/1/2017)
 Koy, Norman A. (6/30/2017)
 Krause, Daniel L. (1/19/2017)
 Lassanske, Dennis L. (7/12/2015)
 McDonald, Gilbert K. (6/30/2016)
 McVey, Daniel J. (7/31/2015)
 Mann, Dennis C. (8/27/2016)
 Metcalf, James E. (7/31/2015)

Meyer, Craig M. (12/31/2016)
 Moritz, Ronald C. (1/31/2017)
 Quardokus, Philip G. (12/31/2017)
 Reed, David H. (7/1/2017)
 Richert, Cary M. (8/31/2017)
 Rolf, James E. (12/24/2016)
 Roper, R. William (1/31/2016)
 Ruhl, Michael R. (12/31/2016)
 Schleicher, John C. (3/31/2015)
 Schmitt, Frederick A. (2/3/2016)
 Schneider, Paul H. (6/30/2016)
 Spence, Kenneth M. (6/30/2015)
 Steeh, Edward J. (6/30/2017)
 Stephan, Luke F. (4/17/2015)
 Straub, John A. (12/31/2017)
 Teuscher, Michael L. (6/28/2015)
 Thompson, Bert A. (4/30/2017)
 Thoms, Leo G. (12/31/2017)
 Van Dellen, James H. (12/31/2015)
 Verity, Timothy M. (10/16/2017)
 Voll, Theodore E. (7/1/2017)
 Wagner, Ainslie B. (7/31/2016)
 Warsinski, Larry A. (9/30/2017)
 Weiss, David E. (10/31/2017)
 Wenskay, Lee C. (8/2/2015)
 Winter, William C (12/31/2017)

Resigned From Roster

Dusheke, Keith H. (1/19/2016)
 Eilers, Gregory J. (8/21/2015)
 Makela, Matthew M. (5/18/2015)
 Salminen, Bryan R. (10/19/2016)
 Speller, Chad M. (8/7/2017)
 Wiesenauer, Stephen C. (11/21/2017)
 Witt, Lynn F. (10/28/2015)

Reinstated To Roster

Ajak, Simon A. (9/22/2015)
 Garrison, Bradley G. (4/27/2015)

Removed From Roster

Voltattorni, Anthony R. (10/21/2016)

Called To Glory

Baerwolf, Robert D. (10/5/2015)
Barkow, Roland R. (11/13/2017)
Besler, William W. (1/17/2017)
Bette, Norman E. (7/27/2017)
Bickel, Eldor F. (12/21/2015)
Boerger, Charles F. (12/9/2016)
Boerger, John A. (8/19/2015)
Chadwick, Robert L. (9/30/2017)
Eberhard, David (5/10/2016)
Fuhlbrigge, Karl A. (8/28/2017)
Gohn, David P. (10/18/2015)
Grafe, William C. (1/31/2016)
Haenftling, James F. (2/28/2018)
Heckert, Jakob K. (1/16/2018)
Koke, Louis I. (8/31/2016)
Kuhn, Donald A. (1/2/2017)
Mues, Robert D. (5/2/2015)
Sting, Raymond P. (2/21/2016)
Stoll, Allen R. (6/4/2015)
Theiss, Paul D. (12/21/2015)
Vinecourt, Bruce E. (9/24/2015)
Wuggazer, Duane T. (6/14/2016)
Zeile, Theodore A. (6/16/2015)

New Missions Added

Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel (12/15/2015)
Flint, Franklin Avenue Mission (12/31/15)
Manistique, Victory (1/24/2015)
St. Ignace, Mission (8/16/2015)

New Missions Disbanded

Clarkston, The Gathering Place (10/16/15)
Grass Lake, Grass Lake (11/1/15)

Congregations Added

Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel (2/7/16)
St. Ignace, Hope (6/25/2017)
Whitmore Lake, Living Water (4/17/16)

Congregations Disbanded

Ann Arbor, Divine Shepherd (9/20/2016)
Detroit, Holy Cross (3/8/2015)
Detroit, Resurrection (8/13/2017)
Flint, Calvary (12/31/2015)
Trout Lake, Trout Lake (12/1/2015)

Congregations Merged

Detroit, Greenfield Peace and Detroit, Berea to form Detroit, Faith (12/3/2017)

Congregations Removed

Marshall, Zion (1/23/2018)

Congregations Resigned

Birch Run, Christ (9/15/2015)

Satellites Added

Lansing, Christ to St. Luke, Haslett (10/30/16)

Ministers of Religion - Ordained Anniversaries

In 2013

75 Years

Louis W. Grother
Theodore A. Zeile

60 Years

William C. Grafe
John F. Panning
Ronald R. Zehnder

50 Years

Charles E. Beyer
David E. Hakes
Jakob K. Heckert
Theodore R. Jungkuntz
Theodore C. Melinat
Lawrence E. Witto

40 Years

William H. Allwardt
George W. Brinley
Gilbert K. McDonald
Richard E. Mundt
Robert R. Roberts
Keith A. Schneider
Michael P. Schulz
William C. Winter

25 Years

Robert G. Barber
Arthur J. Bode
Paul M. Clark
Ronald L. Cox
Jeffrey G. Draeger
Roosevelt Gray, Jr.
Richard S. Hoogerhyde
Kevin C. Jones
Barry L. Mueller
Joel H. Sarrault
Bradley A. Smith
Kenneth M. Wise
Paul V. Young

In 2014

60 Years

Adolph W. Pankratz

50 Years

James F. Haenftling
John W. Rauh
Glenn O. Sattelmeier
Richard J. Shuta
Donald P. Veitengruber

40 Years

Thees C. Hoft
Douglas K. Janetzke
Glenn P. Kopper
John E. Langewisch
R. William Roper
Stephen C. Stahlhut

25 Years

Joel R. Baseley
Scott E. Benjamin
Thomas V. Boehne
Michael G. Buchhorn
Edward W. Filter
Eric S. Kilmer
Mark A. Loest
Frank H. Martin
Daniel C. Meckes
Kendall L. Schaeffer
Jeffrey N. Wollberg

In 2015

60 Years

Roy P. Schroeder
Maurice G. Shackell

50 Years

Robert D. Baerwolf
Arnold H. Brammeier
Erwin Kostizen
Charles W. Kuhl
Peter E. Larsen
William H. Otten

40 Years

Dieter E. Haupt
Daniel E. Lochner
James C. Redmann
John C. Schleicher
Theodore E. Voll

25 Years

Todd A. Biermann
Mark A. Bowditch
Daniel F. Clemons
James D. Keat
Terry W. Kenitz
Micheal D. Kroll
Larry K. Loree, Sr.
Carl E. Rockrohr
Richard H. Rossow
Randall J. Schlak
Richard C. Wilson

Officers

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President (2019)
1st Vice-President: Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr. (2019)
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray (2019)
3rd Vice-President: Rev. Nabil S. Nour (2019)
4th Vice-President: Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr. (2019)
5th Vice-President: Rev. Daniel Preus (2019)

6th Vice-President: Rev. Christopher S. Esget (2019)
Secretary: Rev. Dr. John W. Sias (2019)
Chief Administrative Officer: Mr. Frank Simek (2019)
Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Jerald C. Wulf (Appointed)
Chief Mission Officer: Rev. Kevin D. Robson (Appointed)

Michigan District

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President (2018)

1st Vice-President: Rev. Mark D. Brandt (2018)
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Donald O. Neuendorf (2018)
Secretary: Rev. David H. Reed (2018)

3rd Vice-President: Rev. David A. Davis (2018)
4th Vice-President: Rev. John M. Duerr (2018)
Treasurer: Mrs. Bonnie L. Mann (2018)

Michigan District Circuit Visitors

(2018)

1. Charles B. Burhop
2. Jason L. Mandley
3. Timothy P. Azzam
4. William C. Winter
5. Samuel B. Reith
6. William H. Allwardt
7. Kenneth D. Lueke
8. G. Stevens Bagnall
9. Gary L. Bender
10. William W. Hessler
11. Erik K. Cloeter
12. Kelly D. Todd
13. Gary L. Beck
14. Gerhardt A. Doroh
15. Barry L. Mueller

16. Craig M. Meyer
17. John E. Kassen
18. Ray E. Scherbarth
19. John E. Merrill
20. Steven J. Essenburg
21. Eddie Morales
22. Erik R. Schmidt
23. Jeffrey E. Heimsoth
24. Andrew D. Gruenhagen
25. Terry A. Nelson
26. Dean M. Davenport
27. Thomas L. Schroeder
28. Larry G. Courson
29. Joel H. Sarrault

31. Matthew A. Peters
32. Mark E. Berlin
33. Joel A. Hess
34. John A. Bookshaw
35. G. Travis Downs
36. Edward W. Filter
37. Jeffrey M. Wilhelm
38. Dennis L. Lassanske
39. Michael M. Goers
40. James H. Blain
41. David J. Rufner
42. Karl N. Strenge
43. Michael J. Roth
44. Aaron B. Chittick

Boards and Committees

Board of Directors

Region

Metro East: (2018)
West: (2018)
Metro West: (2021)
North & East: (2021)

Ordained

Norman A. Koy
Craig L. Bickel
Paul M. Moldenhauer
Randy L. Johnson

Commissioned

Natalie A. Haupt
Richard C. Krueger
Daniel R. Burk
Eric M. Hagenow

Laypersons

Stephen R. Boergert
Ruth E. Martin
Scott Beam
Dale D. Gust
Williard C. Ducharme
John C. Raffel
James M. Riske, Jr.
Jeffrey Reinbold

Church Extension Fund Board of Trustees

Ordained

Robert B. Appold (2021)
Joel F. Hoyer (2018)
John M. Duerr (2018)

Commissioned

Julian H. Petzold (2021)

Laypersons

Julie C. Hoegeman (2021)
Kurt C. Kuck (2021)
Timothy H. Haberling (2018)
Jeffrey T. Roscoe (2018)
Eric Prisby (2021)
David C. C. Eberhard (2018)

Staff

James R. Saalfeld, CEO
John H. Bates, President
Paul R. Wills, VP for Marketing

2018 Convention Nomination Committee

Region

Metro East:
Metro West:
North & East:
West:

Ordained

Thomas F. Fischer
Andrew D. Gruenhagen
Paul R. Hinz
Ryan A. Winningham

Commissioned

Terry M. Davis
Matthew D. M. Dummann
Stephanie L. Baarck
Bradley R. Massey

Laypersons

Laura J. Davis
Philip M. Krauss II
John W. Nutzmann
William L. Boice

Commission on Church Worker Care (Formerly known as Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support)

Ordained

Gary L. Beck
Ryan R. Peterson
Daniel W. Ramthun
Robert E. Kasper

Commissioned

Gregory S. Arnett
Beverly J. Koch
Amanda J. Neumeyer
Carolyn I. Bira

Laypersons

Christie Hansard
Kathy A. Krause

Ex-Officio

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

Commission on Deacon Qualification

Ordained

Rev. Todd I. Frusti
Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper, Advisory
Rev. Dr. Robert J. Schultz, Advisory
Rev. Dr. John A. Herzog

Laypersons

Mrs. Christine Brown
Mr. Walter W. Storm

Commissioned

Mr. Dale Vorwerk

District Reconcilers

Ordained

Rev. Michael J. Roth

Laypersons

Mr. George M. McCain
Mr. Duane A. Renken

New/Revised Constitution Committee

Mr. Keith Altenburg
Mr. Aaron J. Baylis
Rev. Arnold H. Brammeier
Rev. Theodore E. Voll, Chairman

District Legal Council

Mr. Dana Dever

District Standing Committees

Stewardship Committee:

Mr. Ronald Chewing, Rev. John M. Duerr, Rev. Daniel C. Meckes, Rev. R. William Roper,
Rev. Stephen E. Schilke

Education Committee:

Ms. Cindy Brown, Mr. Daniel R. Burk, Mr. Matthew Couser, Ms. Jennifer A. Enge, Mr. Bradley D.
Feenstra, Ms. Laura Harvey, Mr. Gregory K. Johnson, Mr. David Kaiser, Mr. Steven D. Meseke, Mr. Joel
K. Neumeyer, Mr. Julian Petzold, Mr. Richard W. Schumacher, Mr. Roger W. Wolter,

District Committees

Endowment Advisory Council:

Mr. John H. Bates, Mr. Jeremy Frank, Mr. Michael W. Greve, Mr. Adam Heinlein, Mrs. Bonnie L. Mann,
Mr. David P. E. Vallie Non-Voting Members: Mr. Chad R. Woltemath, Mr. Raymond J. Zavada

Junior High Gathering Planning Committee:

Mr. James Anderson, Mrs. Kathy Duvendeck, Mr. Luke Esselman, Mrs. Kristin Hardy, Ms. Brenda
Heissenbuettel, Mrs. Terri Kober, Mrs. Janelle Meckes, Mrs. Karen Reincke, Mrs. Stephanie Rummel

Senior High Gathering Planning Committee:

Mr. James Anderson, Rev. James Bruner, Mrs. Kristen Hardy, Mr. Seth Hinz, Mrs. Mary Koboldt, Mrs.
Janelle Meckes, Mr. Keith Minda, Dr. Sara Pendleton, Mrs. Jennifer Rossi, Mrs. Stephanie Rummel,
Rev. Bill Yonker

Lutheran Adult Gathering Planning Committee:

Dan and Patti Bogema, Rev. David and Sallie Davis, Ron and Peggy Steinke, Keith and Kim Waller

Principal's Planning Committee:

Mr. Daniel R. Burk, Mr. Matt Couser, Ms. Jennifer A. Enge, Mr. Daniel D. Stoelting,

School Accreditation Committee:

Mr. Levi Bringold, Mrs. Cynthia Brown, Mr. Bob Burgess, Mrs. Janet LaRocque, Mr. Paul Looker,
Ms. Lori Milory, Mr. Todd Pehlke, Mr. Julian Petzold, Mr. David Waltz, Mr. Brian Young

Early Childhood Cabinet:

Ms. Gloria D. Fahlsing, Mrs. Kelley J. Fehn, Mrs. Kathryn J. Hartfield, Mrs. Courtni Holst, Mrs. Deborah
M. McDonald, Mrs. Kathryn L. Pearson, Mrs. Dawn E. States, Ms. Jennifer J. Welch

State Basketball Committee:

Mr. James O. Bunkelmann, Mr. Justin N. Garcia, Mr. Eric M. Hagenow, Mr. David M. King, Mr. Joel K.
Neumeyer, Mr. Scott R. Neumeyer, Mr. Caleb O'Hara, Mr. Mark D. Schiefer, Mr. Timothy C. Siekmann,
Mr. Kyle Thoms, Mr. Jeffrey S. Young

State Track Committee:

Mr. John P. Boldt, Mrs. Jessica Carter, Mr. Bruce N. Braun, Mr. Kurt R. Hofmeister, Mr. Timothy O.
Siekmann

Finance Committee:

Mr. Scott Beam, Mr. Steven R. Boergert, Mr. Eric M. Hagenow, Rev. David P. E. Maier, Mrs. Bonnie L.
Mann, Mrs. Ruth E. Martin, Rev. Paul M. Moldenhauer, Mr. Chad R. Woltemath,

Staff

Office of the President

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President
Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper, Asst. to the President – Congregation Ministries / Ministry Support
Rev. Todd A. Jones, Asst. to the President – Mission Education and Support
Rev. Wayne H. Wentzel – Call List Support
Julie A. Strobl – Executive Asst. to the President
Laurie A. Brown – Administrative Asst. – President's Office
Barbara J. Laughlin Adler – Archivist – Zimmerman Library

Missionaries at Large

Rev. Christopher R. Bodley, Missionary at Large in Detroit for A2E
Rev. Steven J. Essenburg, Missionary at Large in Detroit
Rev. Dr. Bradley J. Yops, Missionary at Large in Flint

Congregation Ministries

Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram, Asst. to the President – Congregation Mission and Ministries, North Zone / Stewardship Ministries
Rev. Galan D. Walther, Asst. to the President – Congregation Mission and Ministries, Southwest and Thumb Zones / Family Ministries
Gail L. Milatz – Administrative Asst. – Congregation Ministries
Julie A. Nielsen-Schmidt – Chaplain – University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor

Lutheran Day Schools

Travis G. Grulke, Asst. to the President – Superintendent of Schools
Charles A. Winterstein, Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
Carol L. Williams, Administrative Asst. – Schools
Jennifer A. Rumberger, Administrative Asst. – Education / Stewardship / Database

Communications

Debby S. Fall, Asst. to the President – Communications
Seth R. Hinz, Asst. to the President – Web / Media Director
Elisa L. Schulz, Staff Writer / Copy Editor / Photographer
Jenna M. Szpara, *Michigan In Touch* Designer

Development

Raymond J. Zavada, Asst. to the President – Development
Linda M. Ekong, Administrative Asst. – Development / Art Director

Business/Finance

Chad R. Woltemath, Asst. to the President – Business / Finance
Donna J. Conrad, Administrative Asst. – Business / Finance
Debra R. Hughes, Event Coordinator / Accountant

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned

March 10, 2015 to February 23, 2018

District Administration

Grulke, Travis G. – Ann Arbor, Assistant to the President – Superintendent of Schools

Principals

- * Baerwolf, Paul R. – Dearborn, Emmanuel
- Bender, Michael H. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Bird, Terry L. Smith – Saint Joseph, Trinity
- * Bringold, Levi R. – Reese, Trinity
- * Brown, Cynthia A. Haller – Harbor Beach, Zion
- * Buck, Mary Lynn McNally – Flint, St. Paul
- Burgess, Robert M. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
- Burk, Daniel R. – Southgate, Christ the King
- Dummann, Matthew D. M. – Dearborn, Guardian
- Enge, Jennifer A. Keefer – Bay City, St. John
- * Feenstra, Bradley D. – Muskegon, Trinity
- * Frisco, Eric R. – Alpena, Immanuel
- * Gurney, Adrienne A. Thompson – New Boston, St. John
- * Hagenow, Eric M. – Hemlock, St. Peter
- * Hegenauer, Diane L. Heyl – Wayne, St. Michael
- Johnson, Gregory K. – Portage, St. Michael
- Kaiser, David A. – Sebewaing, Immanuel
- * Klauer, Susan E. Goebel – Bay City, Trinity
- Kosman, Paul K. – Sturgis, Trinity
- * LaRocque, Janet E. – Bay City, Zion
- Leinberger, Timothy D. – Macomb, St. Peter
- Lucas, Cindy L. Doede – Monroe, Trinity
- Lustila, Gerald J. Jr. – Bay City, St. Paul
- * Massey, Bradley R. – Big Rapids, St. Peter's
- * McClatchey, Rita I. Simanis – Royal Oak, St. Paul
- McLoughlin, Janet M. Wooden – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
- Moehring, David P. – Manistee, Trinity
- Neumeyer, Joel K. – Macomb, Immanuel
- Pahlkotter, Henry G. II – Saginaw, Peace
- Palka, Susan E. McCreddie – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
- Pehlke, Todd M. – Rochester, St. John
- Petzold, Julian H. – Clinton Township, Trinity
- * Pifer, Christine A. Gentz – Northville, St. Paul
- * Rachow, Joel W. – Marlette, Our Savior
- Schoenknecht, Paul R. – Millington, St. Paul
- Singleton, Lisa A. – Jackson, Trinity
- Speers, Chelsea M. Heap – Holt, St. Matthew
- Stathakis, Carol B. Schnake – Shelby Township, Peace
- Stoelting, Daniel D. – Richville, St. Michael's
- * Sturm, Raymond T. – Lapeer, St. Paul
- * Unger, Andrea L. Walters – Westland, St. Matthew
- * Vieregge, Keith L. – Clinton Township, St. Luke
- Volkert, Bruce R. – Utica, Trinity
- Waltz, David E. – Fraser, St. John
- * Webb, Neil F. – Stevensville, Christ
- Weismantel, Paul O. – Saint Johns, St. Peter
- * Wolter, Roger W. – Saginaw, Holy Cross

Assistant Principals

- * Hindenach, Deanna J. Brill – Paw Paw, Trinity
- Hoch, Robert M. – Macomb, St. Peter
- * Trent, Keith – Saginaw, Peace

* Indicates principal/teacher or assistant principal/teacher

Educators in Lutheran Elementary Schools and Early Childhood Centers

- Abraham, Rachel M. – Bay City, St. Paul
- Abresch, Vera K. Fowler – Bay City, St. John
- Alderson, John – Dearborn, Guardian
- Anders, Brian L. – Clinton Township, Trinity
- Anderson, Lisa M. Klute – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Angott, Donna L. Renkert – Utica, Trinity
- Annas, Michelle L. Platts – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
- Armbrrecht, Louis W. – Macomb, St. Peter
- Baarck, Stephanie L. Kroeger – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Ball, Rebecca L. Bierlein – Bay City, Immanuel
- Balzer, JoAnn Grote – Sturgis, Trinity
- Barnes, Susan M. – Macomb, Immanuel
- Bartels, Elizabeth R. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Bauer, Todd D. – Rochester, St. John
- Bean, Christina L. Silvey – Utica, Trinity
- Becker, Kimberle L. Wright – Lansing, Our Savior
- Bernau, Jonathan P. – Bay City, St. John
- Bickel, Elaine C. Petzold – Saginaw, Immanuel
- Bierlein, Heather M. Shirley – Richville, St. Michael's
- Bierlein, Mary B. Bauer – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Blackwell, Judith J. Radthke – Dearborn, Emmanuel
- Blickensdorf, Jennifer L. – Macomb, Immanuel
- Block, Michelle R. Nielsen – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Boldt, John P. – Monroe, Trinity
- Bower, Greta L. Cutter – Belleville, Open Arms
- Brand, Susan L. Gibson – Traverse City, Trinity
- Brandt, Alayna J. – Grand Rapids, Our Savior
- Brandt, Susan R. – Saginaw, Bethlehem
- Brenner, Mark D. – Saginaw, Holy Cross
- Briggs, Cynthia M. – Reese, Trinity
- Brink, Yvette M. Healy – Sebewaing, Immanuel
- Bronner, Jill J. Stamm – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Brooks, Jacquelin R. Walsh – Royal Oak, St. Paul
- Bunke, James E. – Sebewaing, Immanuel
- Bunkelman, James O. – Monroe, Trinity
- Butler, Devin L. – Clinton Township, Trinity
- Carlton, Ruth M. Kell – Milford, Christ
- Carver, Logan J. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- Case, Susan G. Grau – Saint Joseph, Trinity
- Celmer, Katrina L. – Fraser, St. John
- Chaiser, Elizabeth A. – Clinton Township, Trinity
- Chaplin, Heidi U. Klemm – Shelby Township, Peace
- Childers, Frances M. Cashmer – Southgate, Christ the King
- Contreras, Andrew J. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
- Conway, Samantha M. Poet – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
- Cowan, Beth A. – Muskegon, Our Redeemer
- Croucher, Sarah R. Steffe – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
- Daniell, Sheri L. Gross – Utica, Trinity
- Davis, Kathryn R. Koenig – New Boston, St. John
- Davis, Leanne S. Schlaefke – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
- De Boer, Kristine K. Reimann – Lansing, Our Savior
- Degg, Pamela J. Drzyzga – Bay City, Zion

Delmotte, Karen M. Reichenbach – Utica, Trinity
 Dembeck, David E. – Macomb, St. Peter
 Deneen, Matthew W. – Unionville, St. Paul
 Dent, Andrea J. Guse' – Jackson, Trinity
 DeVries, Kristi K. – Hemlock, St. Peter
 DeVoy, Tanya M. Walsh – Macomb, Immanuel
 DeYarmond, Sara M. Benington – Lansing, Our Savior
 Dickinson, Matthew T. – Traverse City, Trinity
 Dickinson, Melinda S. Bathke – Traverse City, Trinity
 Diroff, Jayne K. Kregel – Monroe, Holy Ghost
 Donal, Karyn M. – Farmington Hills, St. Paul's
 Draves, Thomas J. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Drinan, Lori J. Weir – Saginaw, Peace
 Drinan, MacKenzie W. – Lansing, Our Savior
 Drinane, Nicole R. Lovasz – Southgate, Christ the King
 Dunsmore, Sharon K. Bruns – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Earley, Karen L. Gross Wolgast – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Eckstorm, Kay E. – Bay City, St. John
 Efird, Rebecca L. Difatta – Southgate, Christ the King
 Eisenman, Barbara M. Kade – Dearborn, Guardian
 Eising, Christina E. Guettler – Royal Oak, St. Paul
 Engelbrecht, Rachael A. Paterick – Lansing, Our Savior
 Engelhard, Cynthia M. Elston – Unionville, St. Paul
 Erfourth, Lee E. – Jackson, Trinity
 Erlenbeck, Jill A. Sherman – Bay City, Immanuel
 Etheridge, Kimberly D. – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
 Eyster, Timothy K. – Richville, St. Michael's
 Faerber, Janise M. Lehl – New Boston, St. John
 Fahlsing, Gloria D. – Richville, St. Michael's
 Faszholz, Mark A. – Utica, Trinity
 Fehn, Kelley J. Werdeman – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Fehn, Lynn A. Knoll – Saginaw, Good Shepherd
 Felten, Daniel L. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Findlay, Jessica R. Helwig – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Fisk, Katrina A. Blackwell – Manistee, Trinity
 Frisco, Alexandra N. Fisher – Alpena, Immanuel
 Frobelt, David P. – Rochester, St. John
 Frusti, Kathleen H. Robertson – Jackson, Trinity
 Gakstatter, Kari S. Streeter – Bay City, Immanuel
 Gallagher, Megan J. – Bay City, Trinity
 Gansberg, Christine A. – Grand Rapids, Our Savior
 Garcia, Justin N. – Bay City, St. Paul
 Genthner, Clinton F. – Jackson, Trinity
 Genthner, Richard G. – New Boston, St. John
 Geyer, Stephen H. – Flint, St. Paul
 Glumm, Julie K. Boes – Bay City, Zion
 Godbold, Ellen E. Stamm – Kentwood, St. Mark
 Grage, Glenn G. – Bay City, Faith
 Grams, Susan E. Ripke – Fraser, St. John
 Greve, Wendy F. Fischer – Lansing, Our Savior
 Grim, Katie L. Walter – Flint, St. Paul
 Grimm, Ellen K. Dedert – Montague, St. James
 Gross, Lisabeth K. Moehring – Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
 Gross, Nancy D. Waldrop – Monroe, Trinity
 Grothaus, Timothy A. – Rochester, St. John
 Gruber, Mary M. Janssens – Rochester Hills, Crown of Life
 Gruenhagen, Heather S. Thomson – Wayne, St. Michael
 Grupe, Michele S. Rebant – Utica, Trinity
 Gulliver, Holly A. – Saginaw, Peace
 Gust, Clara F. Gaffke – Harbor Beach, Zion
 Hackbarth, Tracey J. Norenberg – Monroe, Trinity
 Hagenow, Margaret A. Schroeder – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Hambaum, Patricia S. Stange – Bay City, St. John
 Hansell, Christopher G. – New Boston, St. John
 Harbaugh, Kara E. Garvelink – Grand Rapids, Our Savior
 Harris, Dawn M. – Utica, Trinity
 Harris, Valerie J. – Utica, Trinity
 Hartfield, Kathryn J. Sattler – Saint Joseph, Trinity
 Havers, Brenda E. Krzyske – Utica, Trinity
 Havrilcsak, Laura A. Hart – Bay City, Faith
 Hawkins, Wendy A. Knox – Utica, Trinity
 Hecht, Annie R. Buchanan – Portage, St. Michael
 Heck, Zonna L. King – Big Rapids, St. Peter's
 Heinert, Karla S. – Dearborn, Guardian
 Heissenbuettel, Monica M. Frank – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Helmreich, Harry J. – Traverse City, Trinity
 Hermann, Randi S. Rush – Southgate, Christ the King
 Hiddings, Michael – Midland, St. John's
 Hildebrand, Laura A. Giger – Stevensville, Christ
 Hilsabeck, Janet E. Roberts – Macomb, Immanuel
 Hinck, John T. – Westland, St. Matthew
 Hoeft, James M. – Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
 Hoepfner, Carrie E. Severin – Richville, St. Michael's
 Hoerner, Miriam J. Stock – Utica, Trinity
 Holtzen, Richard O. – Monroe, Trinity
 Holzer, Katie A. Hermann – Southgate, Christ the King
 Hoskey, Brenda L. Otto – Millington, St. Paul
 Howe, Emilie R. – Clinton Township, Trinity
 Hyslop, Dora J. Pingel – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Jackson, Kristen M. Nagy Heyniger – New Boston, St. John
 Jacques, Krista E. Pfeiffer – Macomb, Immanuel
 Jahnke, Lisa K. Turner – Saginaw, Holy Cross
 Jammer, Bonnie M. – Auburn, Zion
 Janetzke, Kristen S. Billig – Rochester, St. John
 Jansen, Mari-Beth Ingalls – Grand Rapids, Immanuel
 Johnson, Andrea E. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Jones, Amanda R. Kajjala – Flint, St. Paul
 Kaiser, Erika J. Goebel – Sebawaing, Immanuel
 Kaniuk, Taylor N. – Macomb, Immanuel
 Kaschube, Elizabeth M. Ueckert – Muskegon, Trinity
 Keller, Michael T. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Kelly, Kimberly A. – Saint Joseph, Trinity
 Kelso, Corey L. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Kelso, Nicole J. Zehnder – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Kern, Heidi S. Loesel – Saginaw, Holy Cross
 Kern, Kimberly L. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Keup, Aaron W. – Reed City, Trinity
 Keup, Joel A. – Saginaw, Peace
 Kirchenberg, Mark R. – Manistee, Trinity
 Kitzman, Laura A. Benson – Northville, St. Paul
 Knoll, Leah M. Schiefer – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Koboldt, Mary E. Dietzel – Saginaw, Peace
 Kolberg, Deborah L. Ziebart – Grand Haven, St. John's
 Konkell, Lynnette S. Jensen – Southgate, Christ the King
 Kooi, Patti J. Walter – Grand Haven, St. John's
 Kopper, Jill M. – Shelby Township, Peace
 Koschmann, Mark E. – Midland, St. John's
 Kosciuk, Sarah D. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Kosmatka, Amy B. – Macomb, St. Peter
 Kowalke, Julie A. – Macomb, St. Peter
 Krause, Jennifer L. Dietrich – Richville, St. Michael's
 Kressbach, Frederick M. – Macomb, Immanuel
 Krieger, Ruth A. Dubke – Berrien Springs, Trinity
 Kunding, Debra J. Bach – Sebawaing, Immanuel
 Kurien, Rebekah L. Bullock – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 LaFontaine, Cindy R. Havemeier – Grand Blanc, Faith
 Lagalo, Ruth J. Heinlein – Saginaw, Immanuel
 Lahrman, Sherri L. – Sturgis, Trinity
 Lanning, Chantal M. Kulczycki – Shelby Township, Peace
 Laubsch, Jennifer M. – Rochester, St. John
 Lauterbach, Emily M. Manack – Portage, St. Michael
 Laux, Elizabeth A. Krenz – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Leidecker, Karla J. Thanepohn – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Lewis, Lori J. Kell – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Lindenfelder, Lynn M. Duhl – Dearborn, Guardian
 Lindhurst, Katryne M. – Utica, Trinity
 List, Vicky L. Schreiner – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Lockhart, Susan J. Smith – Utica, Trinity
 Loucks, Autumn M. Hyder – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Lucas, John K. – Utica, Trinity
 Lyon, David R. – China, Shanghai, Concordia International
 Macheimer, Susan M. Teske – Fraser, St. John
 Mackie, Ruth E. Garchow – Conklin, Trinity
 MacKinnon, Kasey R. Gugel – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz

Makowski, Rebecca L. – Saginaw, Peace
 Manthei, Gregory W. – New Boston, St. John
 Marshall, Lisa M. Gilchrist – Holt, St. Matthew
 Massey, Elaine L. Holmes – Big Rapids, St. Peter's
 Massey, Elizabeth K. – Auburn, Zion
 Matasovsky, Dina C. Cristante – Wayne, St. Michael
 Mazur, Tammy E. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 McCollister, Allison M. Drake – Northville, St. Paul
 McDonald, Andrea M. Armstrong – Bay City, Faith
 McDonald, Deborah M. Crosby – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 McGrath, Janis M. Movsesian – Fraser, St. John
 McQueen, Carla J. Wardin – Hemlock, St. Peter
 McMahon, Petrea L. Schwahn – Clinton Township, St. Luke
 Meier, Jessica L. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Meier, William F. – Wayne, St. Michael
 Mick, Beth A. Kah – Flint, St. Paul
 Miller, Adrienne G. – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
 Milroy, Lori J. Pless – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Milz, Carolyn E. – Monroe, Trinity
 Moehring, Mary M. Bahr – Manistee, Trinity
 Monroe, Kelly M. Muehlbrandt – Fraser, St. John
 Moon, Kathryn J. Schlieger – Flint, St. Paul
 Morden, Karen T. Walleman – Saginaw, Holy Cross
 Morris, Cheryl J. Gruenhagen – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Mueller, Dawn M. Klein – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Mueller, Dawn M. Olson – Saginaw, Immanuel
 Myers, Paula M. Heddle – Utica, Trinity
 Nelson, Gary R. – Rochester, St. John
 Neumeyer, Amanda J. – Stevensville, Christ
 Neumeyer, Karen B. Koenig – Rochester, St. John
 Neumeyer, Paul L. – Rochester, St. John
 Neumeyer, Sarah – Shelby Township, Peace
 Newton, LaRayne S. Stanek – Richville, St. Michael's
 Nimtz, Wendy E. Blus – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Novak, Julie M. Spurgat – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Olsen, Matthew W. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 O'Boyle, Sharilyn M. Specht – Utica, Trinity
 O'Meara, Elizabeth E. Plaehn – Macomb, Immanuel
 Ostrander, Christy L. Clark – Millington, St. Paul
 Otto, Jane M. – Macomb, St. Peter
 Palm, Lori A. Montney – Flint, St. Paul
 Palmreuter, David W. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Paluch, Beth A. Hesterman – Muskegon, Trinity
 Parks, Trevor A. – Saginaw, Bethlehem
 Pearson, Kathryn L. Kraai – Saginaw, Peace
 Pettibone, Katherine L. – Macomb, Immanuel
 Petzold, Christina C. Schoenknecht – Millington, St. Paul
 Piasecki, Allison J. Leach – Macomb, Immanuel
 Pichan, Thomas A. – Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
 Pierce, Deborah A. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Pike, Kamie L. Reinbold – Reese, Trinity
 Pittman, Janel D. – Saginaw, Peace
 Pomroy, Courtney L. Wahl – Royal Oak, St. Paul
 Prisby, Kelly R. Knight – Macomb, Immanuel
 Rapson, Andrea K. Beck – Harbor Beach, Zion
 Rasmussen, Sarah E. – Bay City, Zion
 Reck, Jennifer D. Glahn – Muskegon, Trinity
 Reinert, Daniel M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Reinhardt, Karen S. Krohe – New Boston, St. John
 Rich, Mary B. Aufdemberge – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Richardson, Brenda C. Koglin – Clinton Township, St. Luke
 Riley, Melinda L. Geer – Macomb, Immanuel
 Ritz, Wanda L. – Macomb, St. Peter
 Roberts, Gerald M. – Grand Rapids, Our Savior
 Rolf, Cheryl J. Hahn – Troy, St. Augustine
 Rosentreter, Kathy E. – Richville, St. Michael's
 Rossi, Jennifer S. Haglund – Saginaw, Peace
 Rynearson, Abigail G. – Westland, St. Matthew
 Saleska, Candice O. Noelker – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Samsell, Christopher N. – Bay City, Immanuel
 Sankey, Margaret A. Orman – Sturgis, Trinity
 Sarkkinen, Amy A. – Sturgis, Trinity
 Schaffer, Joel P. – New Boston, St. John
 Schank, Hannah M. Kaltz – Marlette, Our Savior
 Scheeres, Maribeth – Farmington Hills, St. Paul's
 Scheiwe, Wendy A. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Schettenhelm, Karla J. Witt – Livonia, Christ Our Savior
 Schilling, Rebecca A. Massel – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Schmidt, Alison J. – Saint Joseph, Trinity
 Schmit, Steven P. – Fraser, St. John
 Schnack, Deborah G. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Schumacher, Stephanie J. Emington – Conklin, Trinity
 Schwaegerle, Judy L. – Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
 Sellers, Tammy L. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Sharman, Ian M. – Saginaw, Bethlehem
 Sheppard, Loren K. Popke – Utica, Trinity
 Shirk, Cassandra E. – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
 Siekmann, Timothy C. – Utica, Trinity
 Singer, Connie L. Ziegler – Millington, St. Paul
 Smith, Mary-Bethany A. Atkins – Bay City, St. John
 Smith, Gail H. Graham – Westland, St. Matthew
 Smith, Kyle J. – Saginaw, Immanuel
 Snyder, Brigid A. – Utica, Trinity
 Spanos, Esther M. Giese – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Stanley, Lisa S. – Bay City, St. Paul
 Steffens, Heather A. Dorn – Saint Joseph, Trinity
 Stockmeyer, Heidi M. – Clinton Township, Trinity
 Streeter, Kim E. – Macomb, St. Peter
 Strefling, Jessica L. – Midland, St. John's
 Stresman, Kevin D. – Richville, St. Michael's
 Sturgess, Jacqueline M. Montabeau – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Swazey, Angela N. Kelly – Fraser, St. John
 Toman, Laura K. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Topel, Matthew – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Topel, Samantha J. Schroeder – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Topel, Wendy S.C. VanBreda – Fraser, St. John
 Topham, Jill N. – Bridgeport, Faith (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz)
 Topham, Roxanne S. Schmerheim – Portage, St. Michael
 Trinklein, Susan M. Blattner – Shelby Township, Peace
 Tucker, Lori D. Hegler – Saginaw, Bethlehem
 Twork, Clara J. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Ulmer, Laurie L. Bonzchowski – Stevensville, Christ
 Valente, Elizabeth A. Mooney – Jackson, Trinity
 Voelz, Robert T. – Southgate, Christ the King
 Walter, Teresa I. Holle – Millington, St. Paul
 Walters, Paulette E. – Sturgis, Trinity
 Wargo, Nicole N. Hurrigam – Macomb, St. Peter
 Wascher, Charridan A. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Wascher, Erin M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Washburn, Debra S. Kohler – Macomb, St. Peter
 Webb, Angela D. Eisman – Stevensville, Christ
 Weber, Carol A. Kamasis – Millington, St. Paul
 Wedde, Deborah D. Keller – Berrien Springs, Trinity
 Weidner, Christina M. Hile – Reese, Trinity
 Weiss, Jeffery D. – Paw Paw, Trinity
 Weiss, Stephanie D. – Harbor Beach, Zion
 Welch, Jennifer J. – Grand Rapids, Immanuel
 Werschky, Sharon L. Schnitker – Sebawaing, Immanuel
 Weston, Amy J. Osborne – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Wheeler, Julie A. Bittner – Reese, Trinity
 Williams, Allan A. – Macomb, Immanuel
 Williamson, Katie L. Widstrand – Fraser, St. John
 Wilson, Brenda S. Frank – Saginaw, Bethlehem
 Wisnieski, Rebecca R. Rosso – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Witchger, Ann G. Gerstacker – Saginaw, Peace
 Wyman, Kelly A. Blomstrom – Bay City, St. Paul
 Yoder, Jennifer A. Gremel – Unionville, St. Paul
 Zeddies, Michael F. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz

Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit

Looker, Paul J. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Meseke, Steven D. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit

Principals in Lutheran High Schools

* Backus, Traci L. Fulghum – Holt, Martin Luther High
Brandt, John M. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Reincke, John M. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Schwecke, Steven A. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Tschudy, Matthew D. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest

* Indicates Principal/Teacher

Assistant Principals in Lutheran High Schools

* Hardy, Timothy D. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
* McDonald, Ian K. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
* Wade, Kevin A. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland

* Indicates Assistant Principal/Teacher

Educators in Lutheran High Schools

Abraham, Caleb J. G. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Angers, Kristine A. Martz – Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High
Blake, Jennifer L. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Brandt, John E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Brown, David C. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Brown, Erika P. Heimsoth – Holt, Martin Luther High
Brown, Mark A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Cooper, Benjamin P. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Davis, Jeffrey M. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Doyle, Barbara E. Stoll – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Dumar, John E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Ebel, Anne M. Frank – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Ebel, William H. Jr. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Eifert, Rebecca J. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Eschmann, Paul D. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Faszholz, Gary W. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Felten, Mark G. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Ferguson, Steven J. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Fink, Kelly L. Wiegand – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Grobely, Cheryl A. Hoscheit – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Guenther, Douglas D. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Guse', Paul B. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Gutenkunst, Gary A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Hardies, Michael A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Haupt, Natalie A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Horvath, Brian R. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Jagoda, Pamela J. Mendieta – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Klausmeier, Veronica M. Danne – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Kleine, Racheal A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Kratz, Dean E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Kusch, David S. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest

Lower, Joseph W. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Meyer, David J. – Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High
Meyers, Lisa H. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Millen, Jai D. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Mueller, Lindsay E. Meyer – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Noelker, James E. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Pollatz, Brian M. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Preuss, Micah D. – Holt, Martin Luther High
Rochlitz, David W. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Ruth, David G. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Schaidt, Lauren A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Smith, Eric R. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Stahlecker, Karla M. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Thompson, Steven L. – Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High
Topel, Timothy L. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Unger, Allison M. Meineke – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Unger, Daniel E. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Vincent, Heath D. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
von der Lage, Ruth A. Meseke – Macomb, Lutheran High North
von Kampen, Paul M. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Weber, Karlton R. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Weilna, Jeanette N. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Wenzelburger, Garrett – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Wesley, Ryan E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Wilke, Christian T. – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Winter, Elizabeth A. Turanski – Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Wolf, Charles H. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Wyly, Jeaneen T. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland

Directors of Christian Education

Anderson, James C. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Arnett, Gregory S. – Caro, St. Paul
Auger, Robert G. – Bad Axe, Our Savior
Bira, Carolyn I. Spatz – Flushing, Holy Cross
Brown, David E. – Clinton Township, Trinity
Brown, Samantha M. – Saginaw, Good Shepherd
Busse, Donald R. – Trenton, St. Paul
Chapman, Darius M. – Macomb, St. Peter
Cmeyla, William P. – Saginaw, Peace
Esselman, Luke M. – Coopersville, Grace
Grannis, Kristy M. Abel – Belleville, Open Arms
Grenz, Melinda S. Scott – Wyandotte, Trinity
Grube, Aaron E. – Kalamazoo, Zion
Hausch, Michael F. – Hamburg, St. Paul
Hollman, Linda M. Kirchner – Livonia, Christ Our Savior
Hueseman, James I. – Jenison, Holy Cross
Huth, Daniel R. – Davison, Trinity
Johnson, Paul M. – Trenton, St. Paul

Krueger, Steven R. – Flat Rock, Community
Martinal, Rebekah E. Wrase – Adrian, Hope
Oldenburg, Craig S. – Gowen, Camp Concordia
Oldenburg, Mary K. Brown – Gowen, Camp Concordia
Otrhalik, Kevin D. – Paw Paw, Trinity
Revard, Stephanie R. Weldon – Birch Run, St. Martin
Rupe, Dawn M. Ruelle – Saline, Christ Our King
Schmidt, Nathan E. – New Haven, LAMP Ministry Inc.
Schultz, David M. – Bay City, St. Paul
Schutt, Kim D. – Trenton, St. Paul
Stark, Debora A. Willing – Midland, St. John's
Steinke, Eric D. – Adrian, St. John's
Stephens, Elizabeth A. – Battle Creek, St. Mark
von Fange, Susan D. – Clinton Township, Trinity
Welte, John A. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
Wilson, Steven R. – Rochester, St. John
Zander, Joel R. – Muskegon, Trinity

Deaconesses

Bakker, Anne E. K. – Mount Pleasant, Zion
Johnson, Rebecca E. Rockrohr – Hillsdale, St. Paul's
Longmire, Sarah A. – Traverse City, Trinity
McCain, Jean A. Geipel – Auburn, Grace
Musa, Rahel – Haslett, St. Luke

Neuendorf, Christel A. – Saint Louis, LCMS Board for
International Mission
Polk, Norma P. – Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection
Schultz, Sarah M. – Traverse City, Trinity

Directors of Family Life

Brazeal, Andrew J. – Utica, Trinity
Britton, Joshua D. – Grand Rapids, St. Matthew
Ferguson, Rose E. Meinert – Flint, St. Mark
Gehm, Rachel K. – Utica, Trinity
Grimm, Timothy A. – Centreville, St. Paul's & Colon, St. Paul's
Hire, Matthew J. – Flat Rock, Community
Knopf, Jamie L. – Kentwood, St. Mark
Kruger, Anna C. – Bay City, Zion

Leeds, Ashleigh N. – Birmingham, Redeemer
Longden, Daniel R. – Charlotte, First
Lynch, Andrea M. – Portage, St. Michael
Marshall, Margaret I. E. – Bloomfield Hills, Cross Of Christ
Ribar, Vicki L. Booker – Fenton, Trinity
Walsh, Hannah R. – Port Huron, Faith
Walsh, Kimber L. Richard – Jackson, Redeemer
Wright, David M. – Lansing, Our Savior

Directors of Parish Music

Beethe, Nathan A. – Auburn, Grace
Chaveriat, Charles A. – Richville, St. Michael's
Dexter, Johanna L. Hilfiker – Jenison, Holy Cross
Hyslop, Scott M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz

Peters, Mark G. – Leland, Immanuel
Stevenson, Jennifer R. O'Connell – Muskegon, St. Mark
Zieschang, Zachary M. – Livonia, Christ Our Savior

Parish Assistants

Chester, Thomas B. – Haslett, St. Luke
Krueger, Richard C. – Grand Rapids, Messiah
Tedesco, Kimberly J. Richalt – Lapeer, St. Paul

Special Ministries

Ashley, Jeremy R. – Clinton Township, Trinity
Aughe, Kent J. – Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods
Baughman, Terry A. – Waterford, St. Stephen
Bickel, Randall J. – Birch Run, St. Martin
Bode, Timothy A. – Southgate, Christ the King
Burgess, Julia A. Haertling – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Colley, Ann M. Fisher – Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
Faith, Scott M. – Muskegon, St. Mark
Fanta, Amy L. Carrier – Lexington, Octane Ministry
Geikas, Sarah M. Kaufman – Bay City, Immanuel
Hohnstadt, Rebecca S. – Warren, Holy Cross
Hooper, Susan L. Repp – Grand Blanc, Faith
Horak, John B. – Lansing, Our Savior
Johnson, Christine A. Eberhard – Eastpointe, St. Peter's

Klages, Kenneth J. – Saginaw, Peace
Koch, Beverly J. – Rochester, St. John
Krupsky, Harold K. – Troy, Faith
Kwapis, Nicholas A. – Rochester, St. John
Machemer, Melvin A. – Fraser, St. John
Matthias, John W. – Detroit, Peace
Miller, Tammy L. Wendland – Waterford, St. Stephen
Mol, James M. – Flint, St. Mark
Mueller, Scott R. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Nimtz, Mark A. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Paul, Gregory L. – Royal Oak, St. Paul
Pawlitz, Gary L. – Macomb, Immanuel
Scheiwe, Warren A. – Bay City, St. John
Wieneke, Lori S. MacKay – Grand Rapids, St. Matthew

Lutheran Special Education Ministries

Hoefl, Stacy J. McGhee
Moro, Martin L. III
Schneider, Janis E.

Schumacher, Linda L. Laux
Schumacher, Richard W. Jr.
Toth, Annalisa J. Winget

Concordia University Ann Arbor

Chuhran, Kyle B.
Freudenburg, Benjamin F.
Jones, Karen B. Peterson
Kittleman, Joshua B.

Looker, Mark S.
Refenes, James L.
Sankey, Thad J.
Schumacher, Joshua S.

Skov, Neil M.
Weisenbach, Janice L. Dove

Candidates

Abraham, Emily J. DeBoer
Armstrong-Dieselberg, Kathryn P.
Arrick, Mary S. Petzold
Bartok, Kimberly J. Reimann
Biermann, Heather L.
Brandimore, Layna M. Schneider
Ceplecha, Paula I. North
Choroba, Katherine J. Kuhl Poisson
Clark, Mary E. Williams
Cooper, Amy M. Morton
Davis, Elizabeth I. MacKenzie
Demo, Maida R. Sevon
Durham, Darci A.
Enge, Heidi A. Seiter
Evola, Julia C. Jankauskas
Eyster, Carol M. Simmons
Felten, Jolyn R. Daenzer
Feustel, Stefanie E. Davey
Fish, Sarah E.
Forster, Jonathan D.
Garcia, Adan C.
Genig, Dennis K.
Gerken, Terri N. Neer
Gledhill, Kristin A. Arthurton
Gleim, Laura M.
Goers, Bethany L. Ketcher
Grays, Jean M. Overgaard
Hardy, Kristin E. Hirt
Heissenbuettel, Brenda M.
Hessler, Lindsey S. Raney

Hinz, LeRae I. Mossner
Hinz, Rachel G. Cousino
Johnson, Emily D. Chapman
Jordan, Sharon B. Berry
Kamin, Jonathan M.
Keinath, Julie L. Hooper
Klamer, Melissa J. Gunlock
Krone, James R.
Krueger, Julie M. Jacobsen
Langlois, Tonya M. Fleming
Lovett, Jillian K. McNally
Major, Cynthia C. Schluckebier
Meckes, Hannah K. Maske
Mehltretter, Andrew W.
Merz, Jessica L. Stoltenberg
Meyer, Katherine M. Davis
Meyer, Kelly M. Grabarczyk
Miller, Jennifer A.
Mueller, Walter O.
Myers, Michael J.
Neumeyer, Scott R.
Newell, Johanna F. Eschmann
Niska, Heidi A. Bowman
Noel, Marie A. Fetterer
Phillips, Anne M. Hoft
Pidzosny, Mary L. Fenske
Rathje, Kristin L. Kolb
Reiser, Sandra K.
Roedel, Karen R. Wessel
Rohde, Molly J. Helmreich

Rudick, Annette K.
Sankey, Brent T.
Schaedig, Kelli R.
Scheske, Melissa M.
Schian, Ruth E. Eichinger
Schmidt, Kurt E.
Schmit, Abigail R. Werner
Schnuell-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale
Schultz, Amy J. Schinkel
Schurig, Kathy A. Fritz
Seguin, Kathleen J. Auch
Seymour, Kathryn L. Schwecke
Smith, Jennifer M. Schaedig
Swem, Katherine E. Brinkley
Thomas, Terri M. Smith
Tomashewsky, Andrew C.
Tomashewsky, Suzanne B. Birkholz
Vecsernyes, Evelyn L.
Vincent, Rebecca C. Timm
von Kampen, Kathleen E. Garner
Wade, Christine L. Koenig
Wagner, Erin R. St. Bernard
Wangelin, Kristin J.
Weiss, Rebecca A. Lehenbauer
Wills, Paul R.
Wolfe, Emily C. Gaud
Wright, Jonathan K.
Young, Kathryn J. Grush

Emeriti

Allen, Ronald M.
Altevogt, Lester L.
Argue, Joanne R. Prudek
Attenberger, David F.
Aubuchon, Barbara A. Hoeft
Aufdemberge, Erwin J.
Aufdemberge, Theodore P.
Bailey, Bonnie L. Banash
Barrie, Pamela M. A. Wilson
Bauer, Nancy K. Kiel
Beckman, Katherine S. Krieger
Behm, Constance R. Rengstorf
Bender, Edgar L.
Bergant, Virginia A. Albers
Bergkoetter, Molly A. Schechte
Beringer, Daniel W.
Beringer, Gloria L. Gehner
Berns, Nancy E. Jung
Berthold, Ann L. Williams
Beyer, Marilyn A.
Bishop, Mary J. Lutz
Blake, Sharon E. Rachow
Block, Marajeane A. Palmreuter
Block, Richard A.
Blomquist, Barry E.
Boldt, H. James
Brauer, Ethan R.
Braun, Bruce N.
Brautnick, Janice M. McGorman
Bremer, David A.

Bresemann, Linda G. Houren
Bresemann, Perry A.
Brunk, Donna J.
Buchinger, Lori A. Haines
Buchinger, Steven L.
Campbell, Gary H.
Carlson, Sandra L. Gresham
Mendians
Carrier, Lori J. Grimshaw
Carroll, Dorothy M. Bartusch
Christian, Robert J.
Clark, Dennis W.
Conger, Norene J. Hass
Covell, Mary A. Hein
Daenzer, Katherine L. Hoops
Danz, Shirley M. Walenter
Davis, Terry M.
Dean, Karen A. Werth
Decheim, Sandra E. Niemi
DeLage, Deborah L. Knight
Dickhudt, Robert J.
Dietrich, Clifford A.
Difatta, David C.
Doebler, Lynda M.
Dohrmann, Jane M. Bergman
Dressler, Ronald L.
Dunklau, Edward H.
Dunklau, Linda J. Bork
Eckert, Lorraine R. Kissau
Edenfield, Marilyn J. Kluck

Eisman, Kathleen S. Ott
Erber, Glenn R.
Ernst, Timothy L.
Farrand, Thomas J.
Fechik, Carol A. Voss
Finkel, Linda L. Callender
Fisceri, Darlene N. Behling
Fischer, Karen E. Murphy
Fish, Dale W.
Fischer, Dennis H.
Florip, Eunice E. Merz
Frank, George C.
Fredrich, Peter D.
Freudenburg, Curtis C.
Fricke, John M.
Fritz, Beverly A. Knuth
Frusti, Timothy M.
Fuller, Lynne E. Erikson
Gallagher, John J.
Gallert, Frederick D.
Gast, Carolyn R. Fischer
Gast, Frederick J.
Gehrs, Kathleen A. Sandfort
Geil, Jean R. Hendrich Sundell
Gengler, Constance C. Koester
Gerds, Fredrick A.
Gerlach, Eileen K. Altenburg
Gerlach, John W.
Germeroth, Paul L.
Gibson, Lisette L. Lueker

Gierach, Raymond C.
Gioe, Christopher M.
Gioe, Louise E. Scheueman
Glotzhober, Alyce K. Kraepel
Goehmann, Rodney P.
Goetz, Lois A. Mortensen
Green, Sheila M. Patchett
Gremel, Bruce A.
Grese, Susan J. Turner
Gresens, Walter F.
Greve, Karen L. Faszholz
Griffin, Shirley A. Grayson
Grigg, Pauline E. Schoenfeld
Grimpo, R. Dwain
Groll, David H.
Grupe, Elizabeth F. Reinboth
Grupe, Larry R.
Guenther, Vernon C.
Gugel, Ruth E. Krengel
Hackbarth, Richard O.E.
Haegele, Dennis F.
Hall, Carl G.
Hanke, Elsie C. Hesemann
Hass, Kenneth E.
Hauser, Janet L. Johnson Stoll
Headapohl, Virginia A. Randall
Heck, David P.
Heins, Eric J.
Hilken, John C.
Himmler, Marvin M.
Hiske, Beverly G.
Hoch, Arthur G.
Hoch, Judith L. Bohl
Hofmeister, Kurt R.
Hoerauf, Karen F. Strickert
Hollrah, Deanna S.
Hopp, Jerry L.
Hurd, James A.
Hurd, Loraine K. Einspahr
Jaremba, Marcia S. Sonnenberg
Jones, Katherine A. Schafer
Kacmar, Dawn S. Gerike
Kaiser, Roy G.
Kalmes, Michael W.
Karsten, Beverly M. Wegner
Kaschinske, Kenneth A.
Kasper, Deborah L. Brandt
Keinath, Kay A. VanPetten
Kell, Delmar A.
Kell, Luther P.
Kell, Mary L. Brubaker
Keller, Connie J. Witt
Kempff, Elna M.
Kern, Bonnie L. Leidel
Kern, Dennis L.
Kern, Loretta L. Gehrke
Kern, Stuart C.
Keup, Karen L. Von Behren
Keup, Ronald W.
Klausmeier, Caroline L. Hartwig
Klug, David H.
Knopp, Allen M.
Knuth, Fred F.
Kohtz, Roger O.
Kolb, Arlene C.
Korbely, Marie A. Engelhardt
Kosmatka, Bruce J.
Kovtun, George G.
Krause, Alan C.
Krause, Beth E. Appold
Krause, Sandra L. Grousnick
Krone, Shirley M. Miller

Krone, Walter K.
Kruger, Nancy E.
Kruse, Lavern R.
Kugler, Colleen J. Klahn
Kurth, Ruth J.
Kurtz, Nancy C. Bromund
Kuschmann, Margie A. Linder
Kuschmann, Helmut P.
Kuske, Mary E. Moll
Kutz, Cathy A. Gerds
Kutz, John C.
Laeder, Leroy D.
Lanning, Joyce A. Owen
Laubsch, Terry J.
Laughlin-Adler, Barbara J.
Leatzow, Edward A.
Leidecker, Shirley A. Hantak
Leidich, Roy E.
Leinberger, David W.
Lemke, George F.
Lemke, Jane E.
Lenghart, Susan M. Mitchell
Lienau, Jane E. Mund
List, Rose M. Sachtleben
Locke, George M.
Lockhart, Carol E. Jennejahn
Lockhart, John W.
Loomans, Lowell A.
Louden, Sandra J. Hyatt
Mahler, William A.
Marino, Quentin M.
Martin, Kathy A.
Marton, Kenneth R.
Marxhausen, Gary P.
Masengarb, Virginia R. Ungrodt
Matzke, Sally L. Ebert
McNally, Brian D.
McNeeley, Mark E.
McNeil, David A.
Meinert, Robert W.
Merrill, Kenlyn S. Weller
Meyer, David J.
Meyers, Anita G. Steufert
Miles, Robert G.
Mills, Ellen K. Baker
Milnikel, Jenifer J. Engel
Milz, G. David
Minda, Keith A.
Moerer, Lucille P.
Mohlenhoff, Richard W.
Mohlenhoff, William H.
Moiilanen, Karen K. Hemming
Moldenhauer, Herbert C.
Moritz, Lorelle R. Baumgart
Muck, Susan K. Thumm
Mueller, Robert K.
Muhl, Carol M. Anderson
Nelson, Geraldine E. Menth
Nemec, Carol A. Stabler
Neuhart, Norma D.
Neu, Coral L.
Neumann, Gary J.
Neumeyer, Dennis K.
Neumeyer, Marsha J. Jastram
Nieman, Anna E. Kanning
Nieman, Lenore K. Kelly
Nightlinger, Cathy J.
Nihiser, Jane A. Wollenburg
Nobili, Linda D. Davidson
Nobis, Judy A. Hospodar
Nobis, Lloyd B.
Olson, John R.

Opel, Edgar L.
Opel, Robert Warren
Ott, Donna J. Paris
Otto, Phyllis F. Foreman
Pagano, MaryAnn Sembach
Pagels, Doris E. Meyermann
Pagels, James D.
Pakkala, Deborah L. Falck
Palmer, Rachel M.
Pankow, Shirley M. Mosch
Paselk, Renate E. Erhardt
Pauli, Elaine E.
Pawlitz, Carol J. McCollum
Pedersen, Fred R.
Pfannkuch, Darrell L.
Pfefferle, Kathie M.
Pfeiffer, Ann M. Kaiser
Pfund, Jonathan D.
Pickelman, Maureen R.
Pittman, Eric G.
Prechel, Dennis O.
Precht, Kenneth P.
Priehs, Warren F.
Priehs, Warren W.
Primeau, Douglas A.
Priskorn, Gary J.
Prusak, Kathleen A. Hollman
Quade, Gene W.
Quade, Karen J.
Rademacher, JoAnn A. Zimmerman
Randall, Sally A. Barry
Rankin, Patricia A. Alderman
Rashid, Janet M. Schott
Rathje, Lynda L. Scarr
Rauschert, Cynthia K. Appold
Rawson, Kathleen N. Glade
Riske, Ralph H.
Rodriguez, Teresita Pedmaja
Rockensuess, Sr., Larry H.
Roggatz, George R.
Rolf, Elda C. Elbert
Roth, Carlyn J. Hodde
Roth, James A.
Roth, Leslie D.
Rudick, Barbara A. Klug
Rudy, Sally L.
Samsell, Alva L.
Sandor, Donald R.
Schafer, Joyce L. Unverfehrt
Schalk, Linda S. Hopp
Schamber, Bonnie L. Struck
Scheiwe, Jean R. Rodammer
Schempf, Richard H.
Schiefer, Mark T.
Schiemann, Kathleen R. Wardin
Schilling, Raymond L.
Schilling, Timothy R.
Schimm, Naomi R. Rush
Schley, Margaret J. Trautman
Schmid, Erna I. Baehr
Schmidt, Dennis M.
Schmidt, Paul M.
Schmidt, Sandra J. Toennies
Schmit, Harvey M.
Schmucker, Calvin F.
Schnack, John C.
Schoenherr, Barbara I. Jammer
Schollmeyer, Robert C.
Schroeder, Dorothy J. Succop
Schroeder, Kenneth W.
Schuck, Kathleen A. Alatalo
Schultz, Patricia A. Nagel

Schultz, Robert L.
Schumacher, James L.
Sebold, Marcia L. Mueller
Shaffer, John O.
Sheldon, David A.
Siefker, Dorothy I. Lemkel
Siefker, Roy D.
Sievert, David R.
Smith, Alice E. Kratt
Smith, James F. Jr
Sonntag, Connie L. Kundinger
Sorgatz, James F.
Sorgatz, Marian A. Helmreich
Sprow, Keith R.
Standiford, Nancy L. Fahl
Steffens, Mark C.
Stevenson, Betty J. Potts
Storck, Charles L.
Stordahl, Jean A. Weigt
Strang, Donna J. Reidenbach
Strang, William J.
Stresman, Kenneth C.
Stresman, Shirley M. Koeppen
Strohacker, Charles J.
Sundermann, Dianne S.
Sutter, Irene T.
Taggart, Linda J. Lapinsky
Taylor, Marcia D.
Thunder-Haab, Keturah A. Thunder
Todt, John H.
Topel, Stanley R.
Trinklein, Rebecca M.
Truog, David J.
Truog, Susan L. Carroll
Unger, Michael E.
Van Dellen, Carol A. Harriman
Vanick, Edward W.
Vogtmann, Janet L. Roth
Volz, Karen R. Nitz
Von Behren, Erich W.
Vorwerk, Dale H.
Waak, Vera C. Lovercamp
Wallace, Shirley M. Eggerding
Walz, Christine J.
Ward, Donna J. Feltner
Warnick, Harriet H. Lange
Warnick, Howard J.
Watson, Marie C. Buvelot
Weier, Kent G.
Wegener, LuAnne S.
Wegener, Thomas L.
Weiss, Jared L.
Weiss, Lori A.
Weiss, Muriel J. Pingel
Wellander, Ronald E.
Wenzel, Pamela B.
Werderman, Amy L. Rohde
Wesenberg, Deborah L.
Westendorf, Karen S. Renkert
White, Pamela K. Ochs
Wiersig, Christine C. AuBuchon
Wiersig, W. Dan
Wilke, Nancy E.
Wilks, Myril A.
Williams, Elizabeth V.
Williams, Judy E. Harmoning
Winterstein, Charles A.
Witte, Lucie E. Stelter
Wittig, Evelyn D. Sell
Wittrock, John H.
Wood, Janice M.
Wrase, William R.

Wrobleski, Richard E.
Wuertz, Duane W.
Yelden, Susan I.
Young, Brian A.
Zappitell, Kathleen M. Gerber
Zehnder, James W.
Zehnder, W. Sherrill Moeckei
Zielke, Adolph E.
Zill, Steven E.
Zink, Charlene J. Little

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned Roster Changes

March 10, 2015 to February 23, 2018

Entered the District Through Graduation or Colloquy

Ambrecht, Louis W. (Cq. River Forest) to Macomb, St. Peter
Bartels, Elizabeth R. (Saint Paul) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Brink, Yvette M. Healy (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Sebewaing, Immanuel
Carver, Logan J. (Nebraska) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Dent, Andrea J. Guse' (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Jackson, Trinity
DeYarmond, Sara M. Benington (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Lansing, Our Savior
Drinan, MacKenzie W. (Ann Arbor) to Lansing, Our Savior
Eifert, Rebecca J. (Chicago) to Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Finkel, Melinda L. Geer (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Macomb, Immanuel
Findlay, Jessica R. Helwig (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Frisco, Alexandra N. (Ann Arbor) to Alpena, Immanuel
Frisco, Eric R. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Alpena, Immanuel
Gansberg, Christine A. (Mequon) to Big Rapids, St. Peter's
Hans, Emily E. (Ann Arbor) to Flint, St. Paul
Harbaugh, Kara E. Garvelink (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Grand Rapids, Our Savior
Heins, Joseph M. (Wisconsin) to Saint Joseph, Trinity
Heinlein, Ruth J. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Immanuel
Hiddings, Michael (Wisconsin) to Midland, St. John's
Hoeppner, Carrie E. Severin (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Richville, St. Michael's
Hoerner, Miriam J. Stock (Wisconsin) to Utica, Trinity
Howe, Emilie R. (Chicago) to Clinton Township, Trinity
Jahnke, Lisa K. Turner (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Holy Cross
Kaniuk, Taylor N. (Ann Arbor) to Richmond, St. Peter's
Kelso, Corey L. (Irvine) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Kelso, Nicole J. Zehnder (Irvine) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Kosciuk, Sarah D. (Chicago) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Lauterbach, Emily M. Manack (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Portage, St. Michael
Lindhurst, Katryne M. (Ann Arbor) to Utica, Trinity
Loucks, Autumn M. Hyder (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Lower, Joseph W. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association
MacKinnon, Kasey R. Gugel (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Massey, Elizabeth K. (Wisconsin) to Auburn, Zion
Millen, Jai D. (Seward) to Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Milroy, Lori J. Pless (Ann Arbor) to Hemlock, St. Peter
Morden, Karen T. Walleman (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Holy Cross
Mossner, LeRae (Ann Arbor) to Reese, Trinity
Neumeyer, Amanda J. (Wisconsin) to Stevensville, Christ
Neumeyer, Paul L. (Ann Arbor) to Rochester, St. John
Noack, Chelsea M. (Wisconsin) to Harbor Beach, Zion
Ostrander, Christy L. Clark (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Millington, St. Paul
Prisby, Kelly R. Knight (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Macomb, Immanuel
Preuss, Micah D. (Chicago) to Holt, Mid-Michigan Lutheran High School Association
Pyscher, Beth A. Kah (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Flint, St. Paul
Rich, Mary B. Aufdemberge (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Eastpointe, St. Peter's
Rynearson, Abigail G. (Wisconsin) to Westland, St. Matthew
Schank, Hannah M. Kaltz (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Marlette, Our Savior
Schmidt, Alison J. (Ann Arbor) to Saint Joseph, Trinity
Sharman, Ian M. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Bethlehem
Shirk, Cassandra E. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
Trent, Keith (Chicago) to Saginaw, Peace
Wenzelburger, Garrett (Wisconsin) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association
Wilke, Christian T. (Chicago) to Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Wilson, Brenda S. Frank (Cq. Wisconsin) to Saginaw, Bethlehem

Newly Rostered Directors of Christian Education

Brown, Samantha M. (Chicago) to Saginaw, Good Shepherd
Martinal, Rebekah E. Wrase (Cq. Saint Paul) to Adrian, Hope
Stephens, Elizabeth A. (Nebraska) to Battle Creek, St. Mark

Newly Rostered Deaconesses

Bakker, Anne E. K. (Fort Wayne) to Mount Pleasant, Zion
Polk, Norma P. (Fort Wayne) to Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection

Newly Rostered Directors of Family Life

Gehm, Rachel K. (Ann Arbor) to Utica, Trinity
Grimm, Timothy A. (Ann Arbor) to Centreville, St. Paul's & Colon, St. Paul's
Hire, Matthew J. (Ann Arbor) to Flat Rock, Community
Lynch, Andrea M. (Ann Arbor) to Portage, St. Michael
Walsh, Hannah R. (Ann Arbor) to Port Huron, Faith
Wright, David M. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Lansing, Our Savior

Newly Rostered Lay Ministers

Bruce, Lawrence J. (Wisconsin) to Coldwater, St. Paul

Transferred from Other Districts

Abraham, Caleb J. G. (Florida-Georgia District) to Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High
Abraham, Emily J. DeBoer (Florida-Georgia District) as Candidate
Abresch, Vera K. Fowler (Rocky Mountain District) to Bay City, St. John
Beethe, Nathan A. (Mid-South District) to Auburn, Grace
Brandt, Alayna J. (South Wisconsin District) to Grand Rapids, Our Savior
Brazeal, Andrew J. (Ohio District) as Candidate
Britton, Joshua D. (Indiana District) to Grand Rapids, St. Matthew
Brown, Amy M. (Ohio District) as Candidate
Burgess, Julia A. Haertling (Texas District) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Burgess, Robert M. (Texas District) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Butler, Devin L. (Ohio District) as Candidate
Cmeyla, William P. (Indiana District) as Candidate
Conway, Samantha M. Poet (Southern Illinois) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul
De Boer, Kristine K. Reimann (Florida-Georgia) to Lansing, Our Savior
Deneen, Matthew W. (Ohio District) to Unionville, St. Paul
Dietrich, Clifford A. (Indiana District) as Emeritus
Eckstorm, Kay E. (Pacific Southwest District) to Bay City, St. John
Fritz, Beverly A. Knuth (Indiana District) as Emeritus
Gross, Lisabeth K. Moehring (Pacific Southwest District) to Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
Grulke, Travis G. (Ohio District) to Ann Arbor, Michigan District, LCMS
Harder, Jason D. (South Wisconsin District) to Reed City, Trinity
Huth, Daniel R. (English District) to Davison, Trinity
Johnson, Paul M. (Texas District) to Trenton, St. Paul
Keller, Katherine J. (Wyoming District) as Candidate
Knopf, Jamie L. (Eastern District) to Kentwood, St. Mark
Kowalke, Julie A. (Indiana District) to Macomb, St. Peter
Krueger, Julie M. Jacobsen (Texas District) as Candidate
Krueger, Steven R. (Texas District) to Flat Rock, Community
Lahrman, Sherri L. (California-Nevada-Hawaii) to Sturgis, Trinity
Laubsch, Jennifer M. (Indiana District) to Rochester, St. John
Leinberger, Elizabeth A. Schmidt (Florida-Georgia District) to Rochester, St. John
Leinberger, Timothy (Florida-Georgia District) to Macomb, St. Peter
Lepp, Crystal K. (Iowa District East) as Candidate
Lustila, Gerald J. Jr. (Montana District) to Bay City, St. Paul
Marton, Kenneth R. (South Wisconsin District) as Emeritus
McMahon, Petrea L. Schwahn (South Wisconsin District) to Clinton Township, St. Luke
Miller, Adrienne G. (New England District) to Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
Mueller, Dawn M. Olson (Northern Illinois District) as Candidate
Mueller, Paul M. E. (Indiana District) to Millington, St. Paul
Musa, Rahel (English District) to Haslett, St. Luke
Myers, Michael J. (Ohio District) as Candidate
Nalefski, Karin L. (Northern Illinois District) to Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Farmington Hills
Nemec, Carol A. Stabler (Wyoming District) as Emeritus
Noelker, James E. (Indiana District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Nunes, Brenna L. (Northern Illinois District) to Utica, Trinity
Peterson, Jennifer C. Vesper (English District) as Candidate
Pfefferle, Kathie M. (English District) as Emeritus
Precht, Kenneth P. (English District) as Emeritus
Rathje, Kristin L. Kolb (Missouri District) as Candidate
Rudy, Sally L. (Texas District) as Emeritus
Schian, Ruth E. Eichinger (Eastern District) as Candidate
Schmidt, Nathan E. (Northwest District) to New Haven, LAMP Ministry Inc.
Schoenback, Cheryl L. Reitz (Pacific Southwest District) to Berrien Springs, Trinity
Schultz, Amy J. Schinkel (English District) as Candidate
Seymour, Kathryn L. Schwecke (Rocky Mountain District) as Candidate
Sheppard, Loren K. Popke (Indiana District) to Utica, Trinity
Sorgatz, James F. (Mid-South District) as Emeritus
Sorgatz, Marian A. Helmreich (Mid-South District) as Emeritus
Speers, Chelsea M. Heap (California Nevada Hawaii District) to Holt, St. Matthew

Swem, Katherine E. Brinkley (Indiana District) as Non-Candidate
Topham, Jill N. (Northwest District) to Bridgeport, Faith (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz)
Tschudy, Matthew D. (Southern Illinois District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Volkert, Bruce R. (Northern Illinois District) to Utica, Trinity
von Kampen, Kathleen E. Garner (Pacific Southwest District) as Non-Candidate
von Kampen, Paul M. (Pacific Southwest District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Walsh, Kimber L. Richard (Ohio District) to Jackson, Redeemer
Weiss, Jeffery D. (Missouri District) to Paw Paw, Trinity
Zander, Joel R. (Northwest District) to Muskegon, Trinity
Zieschang, Zachary (Texas District) to Livonia, Christ Our Savior

Transferred Within the District

Backus, Traci L. Fulghum (Holt, St. Matthew) to Holt, Mid-Michigan Lutheran High School Association
Bickel, Elaine C. Petzold (Emeritus) to Saginaw, Immanuel
Bierlein, Heather M. Shirley (Candidate) to Richville, St. Michael's
Brazeal, Andrew J. (Candidate) to Utica, Trinity
Brenner, Mark D. (Bay City, St. John) to Saginaw, Holy Cross
Brown, Erika P. Heimsoth (Holt, St. Matthew) to Holt, Mid-Michigan Lutheran High School Association
Brown, Mark A. (Clinton Township, Trinity) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Butler, Devin L. (Candidate) to Clinton Township, Trinity
Chaplin, Heidi U. Klemm (Eastpointe, St. Peter's) to Shelby Township, Peace
Cmeyla, William P. (Candidate) to Saginaw, Peace
Daniell, Sheri L. Gross (Lake Orion, Good Shepherd) to Utica, Trinity
DeVries, Kristi K. (Candidate) to Hemlock, St. Peter
Dexter, Johanna L. Hilfiker (Candidate) to Jenison, Holy Cross
Dockery, Daniel L. (Emeritus) to Ordained
Ebel, Anne M. Frank (Non-Candidate) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association
Fahlsing, Gloria D. (Jackson, Trinity) to Richville, St. Michael's
Gallagher, Megan J. (Clinton Township, Trinity) to Bay City, Trinity
Gallert, Frederick D. (Emeritus) to Grand Rapids, Our Savior
Gansberg, Christine A. (Big Rapids, St. Peter's) to Grand Rapids, Our Savior
Grenz, Melinda S. (Candidate) to Wyandotte, Trinity
Grim, Katie L. Walter (Candidate) to Flint, St. Paul
Gross, Nancy D. Waldrop (Candidate) to Monroe, Trinity
Gruber, Mary M. Janssens (Candidate) to Rochester Hills, Crown of Life
Gust, Clara F. Gaffke (Port Hope, St. John) to Harbor Beach, Zion
Havrlicsak, Laura A. Hart (Candidate) to Bay City, Faith
Hempel, Ruth R. Dornfeld (Candidate) to Wayne, St. Michael
Hoef, Stacy J. McGhee (Rochester, Living Word) to Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries
Hoskey, Brenda L. Otto (Candidate) to Millington, St. Paul
Janetzke, Kristen S. Billig (Candidate) to Rochester, St. John
Johnson, Andrea E. (Macomb, St. Peter) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Kaniuk, Taylor N. (Richmond, St. Peter's) to Macomb, Immanuel
Kern, Heidi S. Loesel (Candidate) to Saginaw, Holy Cross
Kittleman, Joshua B. (Shelby Township, Peace) to Ann Arbor, Concordia University
Klauer, Susan E. Goebel (Millington, St. Paul) to Bay City, Trinity
Klausmeier, Veronica M. Danne - (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Kral, John T. (Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate) to Ordained
Kusch, David S. (Farmington Hills, St. Paul's) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Leeds, Ashleigh N. (Muskegon, Trinity) to Birmingham, Redeemer
Massey, Alaine L. Holmes (Candidate) to Big Rapids, St. Peter's
McDonald, Andrea M. Armstrong (Candidate) to Bay City, Faith
Meckes, Hannah K. Maske (Bridgeport, Faith serving Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Meier, William F. (Midland, St. John's) to Wayne, St. Michael
Moro, Martin L. III (Candidate) to Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries
Morris, Cheryl J. Gruenhagen (Candidate) to Hemlock, St. Peter
Mueller, Dawn M. Olson (Candidate) to Saginaw, Immanuel
O'Boyle, Sharilyn M. Specht (Candidate) to Utica, Trinity
Oldenburg, Mary K. Brown (Candidate) to Gowen, Camp Concordia
Pearson, Kathryn L. Kraai (Richville, St. Michael's) to Saginaw, Peace
Petzold, Christina C. Schoenknecht (Saginaw, Immanuel) to Millington, St. Paul
Pifer, Christine A. Gentz (Candidate) to Northville, St. Paul
Rasmussen, Sarah E. (Candidate) to Bay City, Zion
Revard, Stephanie R. Weldon (Saginaw, Holy Cross) to Birch Run, St. Martin
Sankey, Margaret A. Orman (Dearborn, Guardian) to Sturgis, Trinity
Schnuell-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale (Candidate) to Saint Johns, St. Peter
Schumacher, Richard W. Jr. (Candidate) to Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries
Singleton, Lisa A. (Grand Rapids, Immanuel) to Jackson, Trinity
Smith, Gail H. Graham (Non-Candidate) to Westland, St. Matthew
Stathakis, Carol B. Schnake (Macomb, St. Peter) to Shelby Township, Peace
Stevenson, Jennifer R. O'Connell (Non-Candidate) to Muskegon, St. Mark
Sturgess, Jacqueline M. Montabeau (Candidate) to Eastpointe, St. Peter's

Topham, Roxanne S. Schmerheim (Candidate) to Portage, St. Michael
Toth, Annalisa J. Winget (Candidate) to Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries
Troxel, Christopher D. (Non-Candidate) to Utica, Trinity (Ordained)
Unger, Andrea L. Walters (Candidate) to Westland, St. Matthew
Vogel, Meghan K. Mahler (Non-Candidate) to Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
Webb, Angela D. Eisman (Candidate) to Stevensville, Christ
Webb, Neil F. (Big Rapids, St. Peter's) to Stevensville, Christ
Weismantel, Paul O. (Emeritus) to Saint Johns, St. Peter
Weismantel, Paul O. (Emeritus) to Saint Johns, St. Peter
Williamson, Katie L. Widstrand (Warren, Peace) to Fraser, St. John
Wilson, Steven R. (Big Rapids, St. Peter's) to Rochester, St. John

Transferred to Other Districts

Adams, Joyce A. Schmidt (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
Anderson, G. Peter (Alpena, Immanuel) to Northwest District
Anderson, Jean E. Behrens (Alpena, Immanuel) to Northwest District
Antonetti, Karin L. Nalefski (Farmington Hills, Lutheran Special Education Ministries) to Indiana District
Bahr, Joel M. (Kentwood, St. Mark) to South Wisconsin District
Baye, Megan E. Tindall (Non-Candidate) to North Wisconsin District
Beardsley, Ronald L. (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District
Bielby, Sara M. (Monroe, Immanuel) to English District
Bobowski, Benjamin R. (Candidate) to South Wisconsin District
Bobowski, Crystal K. Lepp (Candidate) to South Wisconsin District
Bolt, Jonathan M. (Rochester, Living Word) to Indiana District
Britton, John W. (Port Huron, Trinity) to Northern Illinois District
Bruce, Lawrence J. (Coldwater, St. Paul) to North Wisconsin District
Butler, Harmon R. Jr. (Royal Oak, St. Paul) to Southern District
Christopher, Steven L. (Ann Arbor, Concordia) to Pacific Southwest District
Crawford, Jolene L. (Richville, St. Michael's) to CNH District
Dopp, Sherry E. Eggert (Candidate) to Pacific Southwest District
Duclos, Rebecca L. Arnholt (Candidate) to Mid-South District
Easterday, Paul R. (Ann Arbor, St. Luke) to Mid-South District
Engelking, Cynthia L. (Candidate) to Missouri District
Furr, Ruth C. Smeeding (Saginaw, Holy Cross) to Rocky Mountain District
Garrabrant, Rachel A. Richert (Candidate) to Texas District
Garrabrant, Steven A. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) to Texas District
Greer, Theresa M. Rosace (Candidate) to Florida-Georgia District
Harder, Jason D. (Reed City, Trinity) to South Wisconsin District
Heins, Joseph M. (Saint Joseph, Trinity) to Pacific Southwest District
Hempel, Ruth R. Dornfeld (Candidate) to English District
Hoehne, Matthew J. (Livonia, Christ Our Savior) to Rocky Mountain District
Hutton, William P. (Candidate) to Minnesota South District
Jung, Christopher D. (Non-Candidate) to Southeastern District (Ordained)
Justice, Donald C. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) to Texas District
Kayser, Doris A. (Candidate) to Eastern District
Kernstock, Patricia J. (Candidate) to New England District
Kleimola, David A. (Candidate) to Mid-South District
Knea, Stephanie C. Bickmeier (Candidate) to Texas District
Kohn, Dawn M. Rudnick (Candidate) to Rocky Mountain District
Kowalke, Julie A. (Utica, Trinity) to Indiana District
Krc, Mary E. (Candidate) to Southeastern District
Latin, Keri M. Urban (Reed City, Trinity) to Indiana District
Mahler, Richard J. (Emeritus) to Ohio District
McKinney, Robert D. (Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Pacific Southwest District
Michael, Patricia M. Sadlon (Emeritus) to Southeastern District
Mueller, Paul M. E. (Millington, St. Paul) to Southern Illinois District
Newman, Kimberly A. LaBine (Candidate) to Florida-Georgia District
Nieman, Emilee R. (Non-Candidate) to Rocky Mountain District
Noelker, James E. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) to Indiana District
Nunes, Brenna L. (Utica, Trinity) to Texas District
Pendley, David W. (Candidate) to Pacific Southwest District
Rockrohr, Deborah L. Roth (Candidate) to Indiana District
Roekle, Thomas H. (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) to South Wisconsin District
Rogers, Randall J. (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) to Northern Illinois District
Rudolph, Erin L. (Clinton Township, Trinity) to Minnesota South District
Schuster, Phil (Emeritus) to Texas District
Schimm, Alisha D. Bohnert (Midland, St. John's) to Oklahoma District
Schlak, Stephanie M. (Candidate) to Mid-South District
Schoepp, Mark L. (Emeritus) to Northern Illinois District
Seehafer, Tyler N. (Utica, Trinity) to North Wisconsin District
Sheppard, Loren K. Popke (Farmington Hills, St. Paul's) to Indiana District

Spaeth, Carol R. Kionka (Emeritus) to Central Illinois District
Springer, Joel W. (Rochester, Living Word) to Central Illinois District
Vicari, Matthew V. (Candidate) to South Wisconsin District
Vogel, Meghan K. Mahler (Candidate) to Ohio District
Wells, Timothy M. (Non-Candidate) to Nebraska District (Ordained)
Winston, Valerie J. (Royal Oak, St. Paul) to Northern Illinois District
Young, Courtney A. Campbell (Stevensville, Christ) to South Wisconsin District

INACTIVE

Inactive – Candidate Status

Armstrong, Kathryn P. (Monroe, Holy Ghost) 07/05/2016
Bobowski, Benjamin R. (Lansing, Our Savior) 03/15/2016
Brandimore, Layna M. Schneider (Saginaw, Peace) 06/30/2015
Cooper, Amy M. Morton (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) 12/08/2016
Durham, Darci A. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/31/2017
Engelking, Cynthia L. (Richmond, St. Peter's) 05/22/2016
Evola, Julia C. Jankauskas (Macomb, St. Peter) 08/15/2017
Eyster, Carol M. Simmons (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/31/2015
Frank, Jon D. (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) 07/31/2016
Garrabrant, Rachel A. Richert (Utica, Trinity) 06/15/2016
Gleim, Laura M. (Millington, St. Paul) 04/01/2015
Greer, Theresa M. Rosace (New Boston, St. John) 06/15/2016
Griffin, Shirley A. Grayson (Non-Candidate) 01/22/2016
Hempel, Ruth R. Dornfeld (Eastpointe, St. Peter's) 06/05/2015
Hempel, Ruth R. Dornfeld (Wayne, St. Michael) 06/10/2016
Hinz, LeRae I. Mossner (Reese, Trinity) 06/08/2017
Hoskey, Brenda L. Otto (Midland, St. John's) 06/15/2017
Janetzke, Kristen S. Billig (Rochester, Living Word) 06/15/2015
Jordan, Sharon B. Berry (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) 06/15/17
Kamin, Jonathan M. (Saginaw, Immanuel) 08/25/2017
Kernstock, Patricia J. (Utica, Trinity) 07/31/2016
Kohn, Dawn M. Rudnick (Grand Haven, St. John's) 08/15/2016
Krc, Mary E. (Saginaw, Holy Cross) 07/01/2015
McDonald, Andrea M. Armstrong (Saginaw, Peace) 09/30/2015
Meckes, Hannah K. Maske (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 06/30/2016
Moro, Martin L. III (Concordia University, Ann Arbor) 01/04/2016
Neumeyer, Scott R. (Saginaw, Peace) 06/30/2015
Noel, Marie A. Fetterer (Northville, St. Paul) 06/30/2016
Pidsozny, Mary L. Fenske (Eastpointe, St. Peter's) 06/15/2017
Pifer, Christine A. Gentz (Eastpointe, St. Thomas) 06/15/2015
Rudick, Annette K. (Bay City, Immanuel) 07/15/2016
Schlak, Stephanie M. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) 07/13/2016
Schnuell-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale (Saint Johns, St. Peter) 07/01/2017
Sturgess, Jacqueline M. Montabeau (Eastpointe, St. Thomas) 06/15/2015
Thomas, Terri M. Smith (Eastpointe, St. Peter's) 06/15/2015
Tomaszewsky, Andrew C. (Bay City, Faith) 12/31/2015
Vogel, Meghan K. Mahler (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) 06/15/2017

Inactive – Non-Candidate Status

Ceplecha, Paula I. North (Port Hope, St. John) 06/30/2016
DeVries, Kristi K. (Non-Candidate) 11/23/2015
Fish, Sarah E. (Candidate) 06/24/2016
Hilfiker, Johanna L. (Saginaw, Holy Cross) 04/16/2016
Keinath, Julie L. Hooper (Millington, St. Paul) 05/16/2016
Keller, Katherine J. (Candidate) 01/27/2016
Klamer, Melissa (Candidate) 07/15/2015
Phillips, Anne M. Hoft (Non-Candidate) 04/28/2015
Rasmussen, Sarah E. (Bay City, Faith) 06/30/2015
Weiss, Rebecca A. Lehenbauer (Candidate) 07/01/2015
Weiss, Theodore P. (Sebewaing, Immanuel) 06/30/2015
Wentzel, Anne C. Natzke (Kentwood, St. Mark) 08/15/2015
Wolfe, Emily C. Gau (Candidate) 12/15/2015

Inactive – Emeriti Status

Barrie, Pamela M. A. Wilson (Alpena, Immanuel) 06/15/2017
Bauer, Nancy K. Kiel (Bay City, St. John) 06/30/2016
Beckman, Katherine S. Krieger (Sawyer, Trinity) 12/31/2017
Berns, Nancy E. Jung (Monroe, Trinity) 06/30/2017
Berthold, Ann L. Williams (Candidate) 01/26/2018
Blomquist, Barry E. (Grand Rapids, Our Savior) 06/15/2017
Braun, Bruce N. (Ann Arbor, Michigan District) 08/01/2017
Brunk, Donna J. (Utica, Trinity) 08/15/2015
Buchinger, Steven L. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/01/2016
Carrier, Lori J. Grimshaw (Flint, St. Mark) 06/30/2017
Clark, Dennis W. (Port Huron, Trinity) 06/15/2017
Decheim, Sandra E. Niemi (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) 06/30/2015
DeLage, Deborah L. Knight (Southgate, Christ the King) 06/15/2017
Dockery, Daniel L. (Traverse City, Trinity) 06/15/2015
Ernst, Timothy L. (Saint Joseph, Trinity) 08/15/2017
Frusti, Timothy M. (Jackson, Trinity) 08/06/2016
Fuller, Lynne E. Erikson (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) 08/15/2015
Gallert, Frederick D. (Grand Rapids, Our Savior) 06/15/2016
Gehrs, Kathleen A. Sandfort (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/01/2015
Greve, Karen L. Faszholz (Macomb, Immanuel) 08/15/2017
Griffin, Shirley A. Grayson (Candidate) 02/13/2018
Grimpo, R. Dwain (Bay City, Faith) 07/31/2017
Heck, David P. (Utica, Trinity) 06/15/2017
Heins, Eric J. (Lake Orion, Good Shepherd) 07/01/2017
Hoch, Judith L. Bohl (Alpena, Immanuel) 06/15/2015
Hoeft, Terry L. (Candidate) 01/31/2017
Hofmeister, Kurt R. (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) 07/31/2017
Jaremba, Marcia S. Sonnenberg (Flint, St. Paul) 06/15/2017
Jones, Katherine A. Schafer (Holt, St. Matthew) 06/30/2015
Kalmes, Michael W. (Ann Arbor, Concordia University) 06/30/2016
Kasper, Deborah L. Brandt (Candidate) 01/19/2018
Karlín, Daniel W. (Utica, Trinity) 12/31/2015
Keinath, Kay A. VanPetten (Millington, St. Paul) 03/11/2016
Keller, Connie J. Witt (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) 06/15/2016
Kolb, Arlene C. (Troy, Faith) 06/30/2016
Korbely, Marie A. Engelhardt (Fraser, St. John) 06/15/2016
Krause, Beth E. Appold (Lansing, Our Savior) 06/30/2017
Kruger, Nancy E. (Macomb, Immanuel) 06/30/2015
Lemke, Jane E. (Candidate) 02/22/2017
Martin, Kathy A. (Bay City, Zion) 08/01/2016
McNeil, David A. (Saline, Christ Our King) 12/31/2015
Mills, Ellen K. Baker (Redford, Hosanna-Tabor) 06/15/2016
Milz, G. David (Redford, Hosanna-Tabor) 04/23/2017
Minda, Keith A. (Saginaw, Peace) 08/31/2016
Moilanen, Karen K. Hemming (Candidate) 02/09/2017
Neumeyer, Dennis K. (Bay City, St. Paul) 06/30/2017
Ott, Donna J. Paris (Saginaw, Peace) 06/30/2017
Pfeiffer, Ann M. Kaiser (Westland, St. Matthew) 07/01/2016
Pfund, Jonathan D. (Rochester, St. John) 08/14/2017
Prechel, Dennis O. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) 08/31/2017
Priehs, Warren W. (Shelby Township, Peace) 08/15/2017
Prusak, Kathleen A. Hollman (Clinton Township, St. Luke) 06/15/2016
Quade, Karen J. (Rogers City, St. John) 08/15/2016
Rathje, Lynda L. Scarr (Port Huron, Trinity) 06/30/2017
Rauschert, Cynthia K. Appold (Bay City, St. John) 06/30/2016
Schafer, Joyce L. Unverfehrt (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 07/15/15
Schalk, Linda S. Hopp (Rogers City, St. John) 07/31/2016
Schamber, Bonnie L. Struck (Unionville, St. Paul) 06/30/2017
Schiefer, Mark T. (Richville, St. Michael's) 06/30/2016
Schilling, Timothy R. (Eastpointe, St. Peter's) 09/02/2016
Schimm, Naomi R. Rush (Candidate) 01/23/2017
Schmit, Harvey M. (Ann Arbor, Concordia University) 06/30/2016
Schnack, John C. (Candidate) 10/21/2015
Schoenherr, Barbara I. Jammer (Auburn, Zion) 06/30/2016
Schoepp, Mark L. (Gladwin, Our Savior) 07/31/2016
Shaffer, John O. (Rochester, St. John) 06/15/2016
Sheldon, David A. (Utica, Trinity) 03/31/2016
Sievvert, David R. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 09/01/2016
Sprow, Keith R. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) 06/30/2015
Unger, Michael E. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association) 06/15/2016

Wegener, LuAnne S. (Auburn, Zion) 06/30/2017
Weismantel, Paul O. (Saint Johns, St. Peter) 06/24/2016
Weiss, Jared L. (Northville, St. Paul) 07/31/2017
Weiss, Muriel J. Pingel (Saginaw, Immanuel) 06/15/2015
Wenzel, Pamela B. (Candidate) 01/27/2017
Wesenberg, Deborah L. Galford (Utica, Trinity) 06/15/2017
White, Pamela K. Ochs (Alpena, Immanuel) 06/15/2016
Zielke, Adolph E. (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 04/30/2015
Zill, Steven E. (Saginaw, Saginaw Valley Lutheran High) 07/01/2016
Zink, Charlene J. Little (Candidate) to Emeritus 01/15/2018

Reinstated to the Roster

Ankerberg, Erik P. 02/02/2016	Major, Cynthia C. Schluckbier 11/15/2017
Grim, Katie L. Walter 04/23/2016	Massey, Alaine L. Holmes 04/28/2015
Gross, Nancy D. Waldorp 09/24/2015	Roedel, Karen R. Wessel 02/07/2018
Hambaum, Patricia S. Stange 09/13/2016	Schumacher, Jr., Richard W. 04/23/2016
Hutton, William P. 09/24/2015	Schnuell-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale 02/02/2016
Kern, Heidi S. Loesel 09/13/2016	Stier, Janel L. Rousselo 11/23/2015
Knea, Stephanie C. Bickmeier 02/09/2017	Unger, Andrea L. Walters 04/27/2017
Langlois, Tonya M. Fleming 11/15/2017	Vecserynes, Evelyn L. 11/23/2015

Resigned from Roster

Brown, Amy M. 11/01/2016	Karlin, Daniel W. 06/30/2016
Frank, Jon D. 12/05/2017	Leinberger, Elizabeth A. Schmidt 04/15/2016
Gibson, Debra S. 12/06/2015	Lyvere, Gary D. 03/24/2017
Hans, Emily E. 07/11/2016	Peterson, Jennifer C. Vesper 04/03/2017
Hauser, Briana L. McCray 12/19/2016	Schlump, Alex M. 08/19/2016
Hoefl, Karen R. Ging 06/15/2016	Van Zweden, Kelli M. Gronevelt 02/01/2018
Holtzen, Mary K. Garchow 02/18/2017	Weiss, Theodore P. 02/15/2017
Howard, Kelly L. 03/14/2016	Wentzel, Anne C. Natzke 01/30/2018
Jackemeyer, Susan E. Oberhaus 03/01/2016	

Removed from Roster

Bringer, David J. 03/01/2017	Ristow, Beth A. Aufdemberge 03/08/2017
Grueber, David J. 03/04/2016	Schoenback, Cheryl L. Reitz 06/30/2016
Hambaum, Patricia S. Stange 10/09/2015	Schuetz, Christina Strauchman 03/04/2016
Kaelberer, Jay A. 01/23/2017	Seibel, Diane L. 01/23/2017
Keller, Katherine J. 03/13/2017	Spencer, Jesseca L. Starr 12/11/2015
Kirchhoff, David W. 07/10/2017	Steffens, Carl M. 03/04/2016
Kirchhoff, Susan K. Smith 04/04/2016	Stier, Janel L. Rousselo 03/01/2017
McLoughlin, Mark E. 03/08/2017	Tapling, Rachel E. Roth 10/09/2015
Meier, Roger E. 10/09/2015	
Noack, Chelsea M. 06/16/2016	

Called to Glory

Bruenger, A. Kenneth 11/25/2016	Romp, Wilbert F. 10/10/2017
Christiansen, Alfred O. 11/09/2015	Schafer, Robert D. 03/08/2016
DeMeyere, Roger 11/23/2017	Scherer, Ronald D. 05/03/2016
Dohrmann, Aaron C. 11/24/2016	Schmitt, Kristine E. Halon 2/18/2018
Dubke, Darwin C. 09/11/2016	Sheldon, Ernest L. 01/26/2016
Helmreich, Christine A. Studt 02/11/2017	Sohn, Miriam L. Sattelmeier 12/22/2016
Hoefl, Terry L. 08/21/2017	Sturmfels, John H. 03/27/2017
Holste, Herman M. 02/08/2016	Tiedje, Norman A. 10/17/2016
Klintworth, Kathryn G. Kunkel 10/29/2016	Von Fange, Erich A. 09/15/2015
Krach, Jr., George M. 07/20/2017	Waak, LeMoyne D. 08/04/2017
Miller, Herman F. 10/19/2017	Willis, Linda J. Eller 01/24/2016
Naber, Darrell H. 04/17/2015	Winter, Paul G. 03/04/2016
Pickelmann, Henry M. 08/30/2015	Zessin, Catherine E. 06/06/2017
Roedel, Martin O. 03/15/2015	

School Openings

Rochester Hills, Crown Preschool

School Closings

Canton, Little Lambs Preschool & Learning Center
Eastpointe, St. Thomas Lutheran School and Preschool
Farmington Hills, St. Paul's Preschool
Gaylord, Trinity Preschool and Day Care
Kentwood, St. Mark Lutheran School
Lake Orion, Good Shepherd Lutheran School
Lambertville, Little Lamb Christian Center

Newport, Lutheran High School South
Petersburg, King's Kids Christian Preschool
Port Hope, St. John Lutheran School and Preschool
Port Huron, Trinity Lutheran School and Preschool
Rochester, Living Word Lutheran School and Early Childhood Center
Warren, Peace Lutheran School and Preschool

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned Anniversaries

In 2015

50 Years

Bergant, Virginia A. Albers
Germeroth, Paul L.
Hopp, Jerry L.
Miles, Robert G.
Nightingler, Cathy J.
Sutter, Irene T. Troutman
Wittrock, John H.
Zehnder, James W.

40 Years

Bresemann, Linda G. Houren
Brown, David E.
Brunk, Donna J.
Christian, Robert J.
Dembeck, David E.
Ernst, Timothy L.
Fredrich, Peter D.
Gallert, Frederick D.
Gierach, Raymond C.
Gremel, Bruce A.
Grese, Susan J.
Grimpo, R. Dwain
Johnson, Christine A. Eberhard
Krause, Sandra L. Grousnick
Laughlin-Adler, Barbara J.
Lienau, Jane E. Mund
Meseke, Steven D.
Neumeyer, Marsha J. Jastram
Pagano, MaryAnn Sembach
Rawson, Kathleen N. Glade
Roedel, Martin O.
Schmit, Harvey M.
Schneider, Janis E.
Siefker, Dorothy I. Lemke
Smith, Alice E. Kratt
Sorgatz, Marian A. Helmreich
Wolf, Charles H.

25 Years

Baarck, Stephanie L. Kroeger
Carrier, Lori J. Grimshaw
Davis, Kathryn R. Koenig
Fisk, Katrina A. Blackwell
Krueger, Richard C.
Lustila, Gerald J.
Mahler, William A.
Massey, Elaine L. Holmes
Muhl, Carol M. Anderson
Neumeyer, Karen B. Koenig
Olsen, Matthew W.
Pearson, Kathryn L. Kraai
Reincke, John M.
Rosentreter, Kathy E.
Scheiwe, Wendy A.
Westendorf, Karen S. Renkert
Wheeler, Julie A. Bittner

In 2016

50 Years

Fricke, John M.
Kern, Stuart C.
Krone, Walter K.
Lemke, George F.
Roth, Leslie D.
Schumacher, James L.
Siefker, Roy D.
Steffens, Mark C.
Wittig, Evelyn D. Sell
Young, Brian A.

40 Years

Block, Marajean A. Palmreuter
Brautnick, Janice J. McGorman
Buchinger, Steven L.
Dohrmann, Jane M. Bergman
Faszholz, Gary W.
Koschmann, Mark E.
Minda, Keith A.
Otto, Phyllis F. Foreman
Schoenknecht, Paul R.
Strang, Donna J. Reidenbach
Twork, Clara J.
Warnick, Harriet H. Lange
Watson, Marie C. Buvelot
White, Pamela K. Ochs
Zehnder, W. Sherill

25 Years

Abresch, Vera K. Fowler
Burgess, Julia A. Haertling
Colley, Ann M. Fisher
Contreras, Andrew J.
Gakstatter, Kari S. Streeter
Genig, Dennis K.
Heinert, Karla S.
Hyslop, Dora J. Pingel
Keller, Connie J. Witt
Lewis, Lori J. Kell
Meinert, Robert W.
Palmreuter, David W.
Roberts, Gerald M.
Rudick, Annette G.
Schmidt, Kurt E.

In 2017

50 Years

Kaschinske, Kenneth A.
Klages, Kenneth J.
Mohlenhoff, William H.
Pickelman, Maureen R.
Primeau, Douglas A.
Roth, Carlyn J. Hodde
Smith, James F.
Sorgatz, James F.
Vogtmann, Janet L. Roth
Wallace, Shirley M. Eggerding

40 Years

Behm, Constance R. Rengstorf
Berns, Nancy E. Jung
Bird, Terry L. Smith
Brandt, John M.
Fish, Dale W.
Grimm, Ellen K. Dedert
Heins, Eric J.
Moehring, Mary M. Bahr
Ritz, Wanda L.
Ruth, David G.
Sebold, Marcia L. Mueller
Stevenson, Betty J. Potts
Walz, Christine J.
Wegener, Luanne S.
Wilks, Myril A.
Williams, Allan A.
Zill, Steven E.

25 Years

Baerwolf, Paul R.
Baughman, Terry A.
Decheim, Sandra E. Niemi
Jackson, Kristen M. Nagy Heyniger
Jahnke, Lisa K. Turner
Keup, Karen L. von Behren
Klauer, Susan E. Goebel
Manthei, Gregory W. Manthei
McLoughlin, Janet M. Wooden
Newton, LaRayne S. Stanek
Nimtzy, Wendy E. Blus
Pahlkötter, Henry G.
Pierce, Deborah A.
Pifer, Christine A. Gentz
Pike, Kamie L. Reinbold
Rolf, Cheryl J. Hahn
Schoenherr, Barbara I. Jammer
Stanley, Lisa S.
Stathakis, Carol B. Schnake
Trinklein, Susan M. Blattner

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Circuit Visitors' Report

Circuit #1 – Mackinaw Straits Circuit Rev. Charles B. Burhop – Circuit Visitor

Roster of Congregations:

Faith, Hawks – Rev. Dr. Jack Ferguson; St. Michael, Rogers City (Belknap) – Rev. Keith Schneider; Immanuel, Rogers City (Moltke) – Rev. Eric Voigt; St. John, Rogers City – Rev. Eric Voigt (vacancy); Peace, Rogers City – Rev. J. Derek Riddle; Holy Cross, Onaway – Rev. Trenton Wollberg; St. John, Cheboygan – Rev. Randy Johnson; Redeemer, DeTour Village – Rev. Donald P. Nemeč; Drummond Island, Drummond Island – Rev. Donald P. Nemeč; Trinity, Newberry – Rev. Kyle Kuehl; Bethlehem, Engadine – Rev. Arthur Bode; Grace, Germfask – Rev. Arthur Bode; Hope, Saint Ignace – Rev. Arthur Bode; Victory Lutheran Mission, Manistique – Rev. Arthur Bode; Saint Paul, Kincheloe (Kinross) – Rev. Charles B. Burhop; Saint Barnabas, Sault Sainte Marie – Rev. Charles B. Burhop.

Since the last Convention, two new pastors were called to the Mackinac Straits Circuit: Rev. Kyle Kuehl (Trinity, Newberry) and Rev. Trenton Wollberg (Holy Cross, Onaway). Trout Lake Lutheran Church (Trout Lake) closed, with its members going to Bethlehem, Engadine or Hope, Saint Ignace. Hope Lutheran Church, Saint Ignace and Victory Lutheran Mission, Manistique were established.

The brothers of Circuit #1 meet together with our brothers in Circuit #2 on the first Tuesday of most months. T.A.M.S.M.A.C. (The Alpena Mackinac Straits Mission Action Council) meets three times a year to report on, foster, and support mission work in the two circuits. The pastor and a lay representative of each congregation are invited to attend as voting members, while others are always welcome to the gathering. Each congregation has the opportunity to contribute funds that are distributed to various mission projects.

Faith, Hawks - Rev. Dr. Jack D. Ferguson

At Faith Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

1. During the calendar year 2017, 52 Sunday morning worship services and 4 special worship services were conducted on site.
2. The congregation celebrates Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, as well as on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday, regardless of when these festival days occur.
3. The average worship service attendance is 35.
4. The total baptized membership of the congregation is 101.
5. The total communicant membership of the congregation is 92.
6. The total number of current shut-ins is 3. They are seen by the pastor and communed once each month.

7. Area hospital patients are visited by the pastor on an as-needed basis.
8. The congregation's financial obligations were paid in full by the close of 2017, and it has no indebtedness of any kind.
9. Annually, the congregation donates \$6,000.00 to Synod and Missions.
10. The congregation supports 5 other mission programs with donations of \$600.00 each per year.
11. The congregation helps support 1 seminary student and two full-time missionaries in the field.
12. The congregation is supportive of its pastor in his research and writing endeavors. During 2017, he translated 2 works from German into English and published them in separate volumes. The congregation maintains a collection of the pastor's printed works.

St. Michael, Rogers City – Rev. Keith Schneider

At St. Michael Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

Immanuel, Moltke (Rogers City) – Rev. Eric Voigt

At Immanuel Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

Immanuel is now in its 145th year of serving the spiritual needs of people in central Presque Isle County through the Word and Sacraments. Rev. Eric Voigt has served the congregation since 2005. With its pastoral sharing arrangement with St. John, Rogers City for several years, Immanuel looks to work with its church neighbors in various ministries. Advent and Lenten services are alternated with St. John's, and a closer relationship has developed. Our ladies' group is active every year in preparing quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and Immanuel also serves as the host site for the county quilting group. Immanuel's youth group, though small, has dedicated itself every year to packing at least 30 shoeboxes of toys and school supplies for kids in need.

St. John, Rogers City – Rev. Eric Voigt

At St. John Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

St. John comes to its 145th year as a congregation in Rogers City, looking to continue its presence in the town and surrounding community by sharing God's mercy and forgiveness. Since 2013, Rev. Eric Voigt has served as pastor in a joint relationship with Immanuel, Moltke. Education

is a focal point for the congregation, both in the church and through St. John Lutheran School. The school offers educational programs for children in Preschool-3 through Grade 8. The congregation has just given its approval for the Preschool-3 and Preschool-4 programs to expand to full days in the fall of 2018. Before and after school daycare is also being offered to assist school families with working parents. During the 2015–16 school year, St. John Lutheran School celebrated its 100th year of ministry, and it is dedicated to reaching out to as much of the county as possible to provide a Lutheran education. Mrs. Linda Schalk retired as principal in 2016, and now we have Mrs. Tonya Langlois as principal. The church continues to hold two services a weekend to provide for the worship needs of its members and community. The Sunday service is broadcast on a local radio station to reach members and the community. St. John's supports several of its teenage members in attending the National Youth Gathering every three years, and now is looking at ways of strengthening its youth ministry.

Peace, Rogers City – Rev. J. Derek Riddle

At Peace Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

During the last triennium, the Lord has continued to richly and graciously bless our congregation's ministry in the Rogers City community. While we have said good-bye to a number of beloved members of our congregational family who have gone on to the Church Triumphant, the Lord has also blessed us with a number of new faces. A definite highlight of this last triennium was successfully paying off our building mortgage with CEF in October 2016, which has freed our congregation to begin to focus on other ministry priorities. Our Peace Project Hygiene Pantry, which was still in its early stages three years ago but has since become an established ministry, is one example of our congregation's desire to be a caring, reaching, sharing, and teaching presence in our community in the name of Jesus

Holy Cross, Onaway – Rev. Trenton Wollberg

At Holy Cross Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

Baptized – 155 Confirmed – 120 Weekly Attendance – 56 Holy Cross was founded in 1932 in the city of Onaway. It built and moved to its current location in 1960 at the corner of State and Glasier. In 2002, Holy Cross started a cooperative preschool that serves the community and has many non-members currently enrolled. Holy Cross called a candidate from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. and, on June 25, 2017, Rev. Trenton Wollberg was installed as pastor. Holy Cross is a small but dedicated community of believers gathered around Word and Sacra-

ment, which continues to serve the church and community in various ways, including a semi-annual clothing drive and an annual 5k walk/run.

St. John, Cheboygan – Rev. Randy Johnson

Touching the lives of Old and Young alike with the Love of Christ Jesus by sharing His love in Word and Deed.

At St. John Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

St. John has continued to become involved in the community through various events. Included in these events are a benefit dinner for the local food kitchen, backpack giveaway, community concerts, 911 Memorial, Keryx Ministries, and others. Members of St. John have given their blessing for their pastor to become Chaplain for the Cheboygan County Sheriff's Office. They have welcomed 11 new members in 2017.

Redeemer, DeTour Village – Rev. Donald P. Nemeč

At Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

Redeemer serves the people of the small community of DeTour Village. Congregational membership is 13, yet the average attendance at Sunday worship is higher than that. A midweek Bible study is offered and almost all of the members attend regularly.

Drummond Island, Drummond Island – Rev. Donald P. Nemeč

At Drummond Island Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

Drummond Island Lutheran Church continues to serve the people of this resort community. An increased emphasis has been on supporting the bringing of the Gospel to people everywhere. Monthly mission offerings are collected and sent to the mission designated for that month. The congregation also provides monthly support to a seminary student they have “adopted.” Although there are only a few youth in the congregation, monthly youth activities are held and many youth from the community attend.

Trinity, Newberry – Rev. Kyle Kuehl

At Trinity Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments,

the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

Trinity, through generous donors in the church, was able to purchase the property directly north of the church. They are planning on putting in a temporary parking lot, which may open up to building in the future.

Three years ago, Trinity called a candidate from Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis. Rev. Kyle Kuehl fits right in with the weather and mindset of the Upper Peninsula.

Many of the church groups and organizations have started back up again, and new ones were started. The members have become more active in the community with many outreach events, participating in the Walk for Warmth, helping with Feeding America at the local school, entering a float in the Independence Day parades, and supporting the youth to send them to different trips and events.

Bethlehem, Engadine; Grace, Germfask; Harbor Hope; Saint Ignac; and Victory Lutheran Mission, Manistique – Rev. Arthur Bode

Rev. Arthur Bode travels many miles every week to bring the message of HOPE to several congregations. The Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered in the U.P.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

The Congregation at Trout Lake closed with members going to either Bethlehem, Engadine or to Harbor Hope, the Saint Ignace congregation which was “resuscitated” by Pastor Bode. Read all about Harbor Hope in Saint Ignace at www.harborhopecoffee.blogspot.com

Pastor Bode has also started another mission congregation in Manistique—Victory Lutheran Mission.

Saint Paul, Kincheloe (Kinross) – Rev. Charles B. Burhop
God With Us; and through us with others.

At Saint Paul Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

Saint Paul, Kincheloe is a small but active gathering of God’s people. 7-10 attend the Sunday morning service, of which 6-7 attend the Wednesday morning Bible study. Nice ratio! An LWML group meets regularly and the ladies of the congregation provide Mother’s Day baskets for women staying at the Diane Peppler House (a domestic violence shelter) in Sault Ste. Marie.

Saint Barnabas, Sault Sainte Marie – Rev. Charles B. Burhop
God With Us; and through us with others.

At Saint Barnabas Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.

“Through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Spirit is given. He works faith, when and where it pleases God, in those who hear the good news.” AC V:2

Lake Superior State University is “up the Easterday Hill” from Saint Barnabas in Sault Ste. Marie. At the very first worship service, back in 1994, an LSSU Student attended; and they’ve been with us ever since. Saint Barnabas hosts a weekly “PotLuck, Plus” for the students so that they get at least one home-cooked meal a week. One family provides the “Plus” and the rest of us ‘potluck’ around that theme.

A student orchestra, consisting of participating LSSU students and two high school members of Saint Barnabas playing violin, is part of the Sunday morning Divine Service. During the school year, attendance is boosted by 2-6 LSSU students a week (a number of them from congregations of Circuits 1 and 2).

Saint Barnabas is not just a campus ministry. Members from age 1 to 95 hear the Word and receive the Sacraments each and every Sunday morning and Monday evening. Members of Saint Barnabas serve the community by volunteering with “Friends of the Library,” “Road to Recovery,” “War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary,” “Sugar Island Fire Dept.” and “Relay For Life.”

2-9 members attend Bible study and/or the daily Matins service in the Chapel downstairs.

So, that’s the 15 congregations, a mission, and 10 pastors of Circuit #1. The Mackinac Straits Circuit extends from Manistique to Germfask and Sault Ste. Marie, then across the Mackinac Straits on down the east coast of the Lower Peninsula to Rogers City, then back across to I-75.

Circuit #2 – Alpena Circuit **Rev. Jason L. Mandley, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit # 2 of the Michigan District is located in Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties of Northeast Lower Michigan. The area is mostly rural and small town. The challenges that face the congregations in our circuit are an aging population and lack of work opportunities to keep young families in the area. Yet, despite challenges, the work of the Gospel still continues. There are a variety of congregations in the circuit. We have new mission starts as well as congregations over 125 years old. We have rural, small town, and small city congregations. There is also a good working relationship between the congregations of the circuit.

Immanuel, Alpena – As the only LCMS congregation in Alpena, established in 1874, Immanuel is served by the Rev. James Erickson as senior pastor and the Rev. Joshua Schultz as associate pastor. Mr. Alfred Kersten, installed as a deacon in 2014 and currently pursuing SMP status, oversees the senior outreach ministry and assists with pastoral care and visitation. Presently, Immanuel conducts weekly worship services in seven facilities, including nursing homes, assisted living centers, and senior living complexes. A full-time technology director, Ryan West, continues to implement new opportunities for ministry both in the church and the school. Immanuel is very active in community outreach

efforts which include a local radio ministry, local newspaper column, and streaming worship services on its website as well as on Facebook. Immanuel's Lutheran elementary school remains a vibrant outreach with an expanding pre-school program, and plans to develop an early childhood center in the near future. Six full-time teachers and two part-time teachers have taken the reins from a very experienced staff who have all retired in the past six years. Mr. Eric Frisco is the new principal of the school. Immanuel recently received accreditation recognition from the N.L.S.A. in September of 2017, the culmination of a two-year process. Immanuel supports an active youth ministry for those in junior and senior high that meets weekly for Bible study and fellowship. Many of them attended the 2016 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. A large number of discipleship Bible study groups meet weekly on a variety of days and at a variety of locations around Alpena. The studies are led by pastors, deacon, and individuals from lay ministry (elders). As the largest congregation of Circuit #2, Immanuel treasures its close relationship with and continues to support the area pastors and congregations of the circuit.

Faith, Harrisville – Faith is served by the Rev. Dennis Neigh.

St. John's, Hillman – The Rev. Jason L. Mandley has served as pastor since 1999. Pastor Mandley also serves as the circuit visitor for the Alpena circuit. This year St. John's began a radio ministry on Hillman Community radio, broadcasting the Sunday morning Divine Service to the area. With an aging population and more members becoming homebound, we saw this as a good mission opportunity. We also help sponsor the radio broadcast for St. John's, Rogers City. The congregation operates an early childhood center offering pre-school through first grade. While the students are in class, the parents serve as teacher's aides and also work on making crafts for the early childhood center fundraiser held each fall. The crafters share space with the quilters who make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. These activities have strengthened their relationships with their fellow redeemed, and some of the preschool families have taken instruction in the faith and have received adult confirmation. Our properties committee has been making changes to the physical plant to make it more energy and cost efficient. St. John's realizes that it is only through the Holy Spirit working through the Means of Grace that such blessings are happening in our midst.

St. Paul, Hubbard Lake – St. Paul is served by the Rev. Joseph Llewellyn since 2014. Over the last several years, the congregation has updated its constitution and bylaws and begun developing and implementing policies and procedures. With an update to the constitution came the addition of our stewardship and fellowship boards, both of which have added an important and much needed element to the congregation. In addition, St. Paul has really done a great job focusing on local community outreach and getting into the community in order to let their light shine. This has included giving, serving, and volunteering with local organizations such as the pregnancy center, the soup kitchen, the mission shelter, the local public schools, etc. Furthermore, the congregation has seen a significant increase in membership and attendance over the last triennium. Looking forward, we

will begin working through a strategic planning process to identify our vision, mission, core values, and long-term plan for the congregation. We also look forward to celebrating our 125th anniversary in 2019.

Bethlehem, Lewiston – Bethlehem is served by the Rev. Steven Theil.

Living Water, Mio – Deacon Glen Bromm was installed on September 17, 2017 after four years of faithful service by the Rev. Paul Ruediger. Deacon Bromm is being supervised by the Rev. William Winter, emeritus, of Houghton Lake. The membership of the congregation is very interested in outreach and evangelism and is very supportive of service organizations in the county, including His Love and Lydia's Gate (a homeless shelter for women and children). The congregation has held Bible studies there, and some of the women have visited for Sunday worship. Food baskets were provided to help families at Christmas, and members bought gifts for children of families referred to us by His Love Inc.

Despite some financial challenges, the congregation plans to do a building project to update their kitchen in order to provide meals to the public in the future. In the hopes of reaching out to the unchurched, the council voted to have a blended service with a praise band once a month and also is looking into holding outdoor services on Saturday evenings.

Good Shepherd, Ossineke – Good Shepherd is served by the Rev. Dennis Neigh.

St. Paul, Posen – St. Paul is served by their vacancy pastor, the Rev. Rr. Jack D. Ferguson. During 2017, 50 Saturday evening services were conducted. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first and third Sundays of the month and on Christmas and Easter. During the winter, the average attendance is seven and, during the summer, the average attendance is 10. The congregation has 15 baptized and 11 communicant members. There are two homebound and one nursing care facility patient visited and communed by the pastor once a month. The congregation has met all financial obligations and has no indebtedness of any kind. Annually, the congregation donates \$400.00 to Synod and Missions.

Circuit #3 – Timberline Circuit **Rev. Timothy P. Azzam, Circuit Visitor**

The Timberline Zone is in the northeast corner of Michigan bordered by State Highway 72 to the north, Lake Huron to the east, US 23 from Au Gres to the south, and Prescott to the west.

Congregations are located in Glennie, Oscoda, Hale, Tawas City, Whittamore, and Au Gres and Prescott.

We meet monthly with the Gladwin Circuit (#4) for study and encouragement.

Trinity, Oscoda participated in numerous events to recognize the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Church, culminating with sending over 50 members to the worship service at the Breslin Center. Outreach includes our bell choir which performs in the community, and participating in community events with information tables.

Our Savior, Glennie is now served by Deacon Glenn Bromm, who also preaches at Living Water in Mio. Worship service times were swapped with Living Water to accommodate schedules. They share a weekly Bible class.

Good News Ministries, Whittamore is served jointly by deacons Ken Oswald and Mike Sadler. They replaced founding deacon Jack Rohn, who retired. They continue to reach out with a food distribution and clothing bank.

Zion, Tawas City is now served by Rev. Gabriel Martin. They continue their Kids Club and have installed a new organ. They are thankful to Pastors Gary Siefert and Carl Trosein who served them as Intentional interim and vacancy pastor, respectively.

St. John, AuGres is served by Rev. Fred Cordts. They continue a men's Bible study, an annual ox roast, and are beginning work on re-organizing office space following the building of their new sanctuary in 2012.

St. Paul, Hale is served by Rev. Dean Muhle, who just celebrated his 25 years in the ministry. St. Paul enhanced their worship space finishing three large framed mosaics depicting the Trinity.

Faith, Prescott is served by Rev. Dan Janson, who also celebrated 25 years in the ministry. He continues Word and Sacrament ministry and is very involved in organizing the Bible Quiz Club ministry.

Circuit #4 – Gladwin
Rev. Michael W. Schaedig, Circuit Visitor

Prince Of Peace, Clare – Rev. Paul V. Young
Baptized Membership – 91
Communicant Membership – 61
Average Worship Attendance – 32

Our Savior, Gladwin – Rev. James M. Krach
Baptized Membership – 700
Communicant Membership – 700
Average Worship Attendance – 200

St. Luke, Harrison – Rev. Michael W. Schaedig
Baptized Membership – 200
Communicant Membership – 171
Average Worship Attendance – 80

St. John, Houghton Lake – Rev. Theodore E. Voll, IIP
Baptized Membership – 453
Communicant Membership – 409
Average Worship Attendance – 178

Hope, Saint Helen – Rev. Rodney L. Morrison, Jr.
Baptized Membership – 127
Communicant Membership – 112
Average Worship Attendance – 60

St. John, West Branch – Rev. Howard S. Travis
Baptized Membership – 176
Communicant Membership – 148
Average Worship Attendance – 90

Bethlehem, Standish – Rev. Matthew T. Dent
Baptized Membership – 246
Communicant Membership – 177
Average Worship Attendance – 70

Circuit #5 – Midland
Rev. Samuel B. Reith, Circuit Visitor

During the last triennium, the congregations of Circuit 5 have continued to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to their respective communities. Ministry highlights are as follows.

Peace, Alma, under the capable leadership of Rev. Tom Messer, continues to provide biblically faithful and liturgically sound Word and Sacrament ministry to the community of Alma.

Grace, Auburn has welcomed new pastor Aaron Schian and Kantor Nathan Beebe in the last two years. Following the closing of the school in 2014, the congregation has worked hard to utilize the school building to advance God's kingdom in Auburn and beyond. One classroom has been turned into Grace Closet, which is where we distribute clothes to families every month. Since opening last fall, Grace Closet has distributed over 3,000 articles of clothing. Another classroom is used for Large Print Ministry, which publishes Bibles and sends them around the world. Grace has found a great use for the gymnasium with Campus Life, which shares the Gospel with 50 high schoolers every Monday night. In 2017, Grace sent 14 members on a M.O.S.T. mission trip to Guatemala, which was a new endeavor for us. Even though the congregation has gone through many changes in the last several years, the saints' steadfastness in reaching out to the community with the love of Christ remains constant.

Zion, Auburn bid farewell to Rev. Michael Buchhorn and welcomed new Senior Pastor Andrew Menz, who serves alongside Associate Pastor Seth Hemme. Zion is experiencing growth in their preschool and parochial school.

Lord of New Life, Midland is preparing for a time of transition as they prepare for the retirement of faithful Pastor Kurt Eichinger. They continue to make full use of their new facility dedicated in September of 2014.

St. John's, Marion Springs continues to be ably served by Pastor Tim Behnke and is approaching its 5th anniversary as a member congregation of the LCMS.

Messiah, Midland bid farewell to Associate Pastor Kurt Weber and continues to be well served by pastors Ed Doerner and Tige Culbertson. They recently retired the mortgage from their last building project and continue to support the many unique ministries for which they are known in the Midland community, the most recent of which was the establishment of a food cooperative designed to better meet the nutritional needs of families.

Our Savior, Midland is now being served by Deacon Gary Lyvere under the supervision of St. Paul, Sanford. They are actively pursuing ways in which they might be of service to their community.

St. John's, Midland is being served by Senior Pastor Dan Kempin and by newly ordained Pastor Joshua Parsons. They are looking forward to the installation of a new principal this summer.

Zion, Mt. Pleasant & Christ the King Chapel are being served by Senior Pastor Jon Bakker and Associate Pastor Ben Ulledalen, along with recently installed Deaconess Anne Bakker. Together they serve the needs of the town and campus communities through Divine Worship, a Christian preschool, and very active International and Campus Ministries.

St. Paul, Sanford is being served by Rev. Samuel Reith and continues to minister to the needs of the people of congregation and community. They look forward to welcoming Don Barnard into the Deacon ministry following the completion of his training.

Immanuel, Wheeler celebrated the retirement of Rev. Larry Warsinski after decades of faithful service. During their time of transition they are being served by Intentional Interim Pastor Gary Bender.

While located in a variety of settings, from rural to small city, the congregations of circuit 5 continue to seek ways to connect with their communities and to live out their identity as loved and compassionate communities in Christ.

Circuit #6 – Bay City Circuit
Rev. William H. Allwardt, Circuit Visitor

Faith, Bay City – Rev. Matthew A. Hall
Baptized Membership – 1170
Communicant Membership – 878
Average Worship Attendance – 289

Immanuel, Bay City – Rev. Kevin C. Jones
Baptized Membership – 1821
Communicant Membership – 1050
Average Worship Attendance – 320

St. John, Bay City – Rev. Stephen P. Starke
Baptized Membership – 551
Communicant Membership – 383
Average Worship Attendance – 198

Trinity, Bay City – Rev. David F. Sherry
Baptized Membership – 721
Communicant Membership – 597
Average Worship Attendance – 260

Zion, Bay City – Rev. Paul G. Kruse
Baptized Membership – 1150
Communicant Membership – 961
Average Worship Attendance – 369

Pilgrim, Essexville – Rev. Erwin M. Hutter
Baptized Membership – 390
Communicant Membership – 293
Average Worship Attendance – 90

St. Paul, Bay City – Rev. Dennis W. Matyas
Baptized Membership – 989
Communicant Membership – 770
Average Worship Attendance – 269

St. John, Pinconning – Rev. David A. Jung
Baptized Membership – 393
Communicant Membership – 346
Average Worship Attendance – 124

Circuit #7 - Thumb East Circuit
Rev. Kenneth D. Lueke, Circuit Visitor

Circuit #7 covers the eastern half of Huron and Sanilac Counties, with M-53 as its western border. It is comprised of nine congregations. Its pastors meet in monthly Winkles with the pastors of Thumb West Circuit #8. This Circuit is largely agricultural, with some light industry mixed in. We continue to feel the effects of the economic recession of a few years ago, and have lost several businesses and factories in the ensuing years. Though the trend has slowed down somewhat, younger people are still moving away to find work elsewhere. With smaller family sizes, and the number of family farms being absorbed by larger, conglomerate farms, the population of Huron County is diminishing. And, like Thumb West, some of our congregations are beginning to consider, due to their shrinking size, the possibility of becoming dual parishes.

Our Savior, Bad Axe – Our Savior is a congregation that uses the classic liturgies and hymns of the Lutheran Church and, bucking the trend, has seen an influx of younger families active in the church. Its preschool continues to operate at maximum capacity, with an ongoing waiting list. Our Savior's website has received over 35,000 visits since its inception, and its Radio Ministry continues to be popular and widely listened to throughout Huron, Tuscola, and Sanilac Counties. We have hosted two community-wide "Absolutely Free Garage Sales," collecting various household items and clothing that are given out free to those who come, and we are active in Human Care projects in the community.

Peace, Sandusky – Peace has enjoyed a healthy and blessed triennium. After our preschool teacher of 25 years retired in 2013, we hired one of our members who was appropriately credentialed. She is in the middle of her 5th academic year, and our preschool has not missed a beat. It continues to fill both 3-year-old and 4-year-old morning and afternoon classes to capacity nearly every year (depending on the local birthrate three years prior). Every school day, each child hears the wonderful news about Jesus as they also discover the wonderful world that He created just for them. Also, regarding our youth, we decided to hire a Youth Director. Again we had a member who was a certified school teacher. Our middle school and high school youth are more active than at any time since 2001! We also had received a very generous donation from the family of a dear member and decided to use that money to add stained glass windows to our sanctuary. At present, half of the windows are created and installed. Lastly, we are supporting a missionary in Chile. He and his wife are working full time there to establish more Lutheran congregations in and around the city of Santiago.

St. John, Pt. Sanilac – St. John's pastor, Rev. Leo Thoms, retired in January, and the congregation is being served by the Rev. Barry Sheldon of St. Matthew, Lexington. Discussions

will need to take place regarding St. John's future, as it is unlikely that they will be able to support a full-time pastor.

St. John, Pt. Hope – Since July 2016, the Rev. David Dodge has been the pastor at St. John. With the closing of the community's public school in the spring of 2014, St. John's day school continued to operate, with hopes that students who attended the public school would begin attending the day school instead. Unfortunately, that did not happen, and the day school closed in the spring of 2017.

Zion, Harbor Beach – Zion continues to operate a successful and high-quality day school.

Our Savior, Marlette – Since the last convention, OSL has held 2 annual Sportsman dinners to fund efforts to support Christian Education in Marlette; had two teachers complete colloquy and achieve commissioned status; paved the second driveway. Our church and day school have been recognized by Federal, State and Local Government for over 10 years of providing a Christian education alternative in Marlette. And the Word continues to be taught and preached in truth and purity.

St. Peter, Kinde – St. Peter continues to reach out to the community in a variety of ways, especially through VBS, during the Kinde Polkafest each year, and also in outreach to Veterans of the Armed Forces living in Huron County.

Trinity, Forestville – Like all rural congregations, Trinity is in the midst of decreasing population and aging membership. Slowly our membership numbers, attendance numbers, and others continue to decrease. Yet, we continue to gather each Sunday to worship, hear the Word of God, and receive the sacraments. 2017 marked a couple of anniversaries. In 1877, members gathered in a log home to worship and began the nucleus of Trinity. In 1928, Pastor Gugel was installed. In 1962, Pastor Bob Schroeder was installed. This year, 2018, will mark the 25th anniversary of Rev. Richard Wilson's installation. Three pastors will have served Trinity over a period of 90 years. Trinity also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the fellowship hall and offices this year. Trinity continues to be blessed and provided for by our gracious God and heavenly Father.

No report from St. John, Palms.

Though the area has suffered economic hardships and the exodus of many people to other areas of the state and country, the congregations of Thumb East are firmly committed to carrying on Word and Sacrament ministry to the residents of Huron and Sanilac Counties. Our congregations remain committed to orthodox Lutheran doctrine and liturgies, and in mission work to bring the Gospel of Christ to all.

Circuit #8 - Thumb West Circuit Rev. G. Stevens Bagnall, Circuit Visitor

Good Shepherd, Cass City – This has been an eventful triennium for the saints of God in Cass City. Most importantly, we have been gathered each week by the Holy Spirit to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. In 2017 we also began to offer a summertime Monday evening service to allow campers and others who are away on the weekend an

opportunity to worship in their own church. In addition, our three-year membership initiative has resulted in five members returning to worship services.

In 2016 we kicked off a successful capital fund drive, *God's Building His People*. As of February 2018, we have already accomplished four of our five goals and are in the midst of remodeling our Fellowship Hall. The campaign includes a tithe which was sent to the District's *Here We Stand* campaign for the purpose of church worker student financial aid.

Throughout 2017 we joined with the other congregations of the Thumb West and Thumb East circuits for a series of events in commemoration of the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation. These included gatherings for Senior High youth, Junior High youth, elementary-aged children, and a joint Divine Service.

At Good Shepherd, the Reformation anniversary coincided with our celebration of the 70th anniversary of our congregation and 50th anniversary of our current church building. Those festivities kicked off in July with a week of events, including an evening of fun with a reading of the congregation's history and reunion of the SonShines, a singing group that visited area nursing homes and headlined fundraising events. The highlight was a Sunday Divine Service with three former pastors joining our current pastor and current sponsored seminarian in leading the service.

St. Paul, Pigeon (Linkville) – July of 2015 saw the retirement of Rev. Lee C. Wensky after 15 years of serving God's people at St. Paul. Without experiencing a time of vacancy, candidate Christopher S. Suggitt of Concordia Theological Seminary was ordained and installed as St. Paul's new pastor on July 26, 2015.

St. Paul has begun a dual parish identity with the arrival of Rev. Suggitt, as they share his services with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Pigeon (Caseville). This transition has been smooth, with the people beginning to join one another at shared midweek services during Advent and Lent.

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation provided the opportunity to join with our sister congregations in the thumb at various retreats for different ages.

Baptized Membership - 423
Communicant - 372
Average Attendance - 90

Good Shepherd, Pigeon (Caseville) – After a few months of vacancy, Good Shepherd received candidate Christopher S. Suggitt of Concordia Theological Seminary. Rev Suggitt was ordained and installed as Good Shepherd's new pastor on July 26, 2015.

Good Shepherd has begun a dual parish identity with the arrival of Rev. Suggitt, as they share his services with St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pigeon (Linkville). This transition has been smooth, with the people beginning to join one another at shared midweek services during Advent and Lent. The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation provided the opportunity to join with our sister congregations in the thumb at various retreats for different ages.

Baptized Membership - 97

Communicant - 90

Average Attendance - 50

Grace Lutheran Church, Fairgrove – On July 12, 2015, Grace received its new pastor, Rev. Joshua Haller, through the rite of ordination and installation. We began an earlier catechesis class for all children from the 5th to 8th grade. We enjoyed a joint Reformation service with other area Lutheran churches in September of 2017. God’s people, both young and old, continue to be fed by God through his Word and Sacraments each week.

St. Paul, Unionville – The past three years have seen several departures and new arrivals among our staff. In May of 2015, the Rev. Steve Stolarczyk was installed as pastor of St. Paul. In June of 2017, one of our called teachers, Mrs. Bonnie Schamber, retired after more than 40 years of service to the church. Mr. Matthew Deneen then accepted the call to teach in our school and was installed the following August. In October, another faithful servant of the congregation, Mrs. Bev Wiltse, retired from nearly 20 years as secretary in our church office. After a blessedly short search process, Mrs. Tracey Reinbold accepted the position and began in December.

We give thanks to God for the faithful service of Mrs. Schamber and Mrs. Wiltse and for the many lives they have touched in their time among us. We also praise Him for leading Mr. Deneen and Mrs. Reinbold to join in our ministry and for the many gifts that they bring.

Among the new faces, much has stayed the same— we continue to operate Christ the King Lutheran school in partnership with Immanuel, Sebewaing; we continue our support of Valley Lutheran High School, Concordia University Ann Arbor, and Alaska Mission for Christ. God continues to bless us richly through these partnerships, as well.

Like many others, we observed the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We spent time re-learning the Catechism in our worship services and took part in circuit-wide celebrations, as well. In the spirit of that Reformation heritage, we look to the future, confident of God’s continued blessing.

Immanuel, Sebewaing – Immanuel continues to be a congregation gathered around Christ and His means of grace. Through the Divine Service, these great gifts are given out by Christ through His servants. Our Associate Pastor, Rev. David Reed, has retired and begun work as our Visitation Pastor. Our Youth worker, Charles McGathy, has worked tirelessly to encourage our young people. Our new Director of Music, Barbara Bleck, has graced those at Immanuel with her joy of music. Enrollment is up a little at our school, Christ the King. David Kaiser is now our full-time principal. Those at Immanuel rejoice in the gifts which the Lord gives to His church and are certain of His blessings in the coming years.

St. John’s, Kilmanagh (Sebewaing) – We welcomed Pastor Thom Garrison to the congregation in August, 2016. St. John’s is a community formed by Jesus in Baptism and gathered around Scripture, the Eucharist, and prayer. We have 12

students enrolled in area Lutheran schools and many others maturing in Christ as they attend four different public school districts. We are reaching out to individuals and families through Vacation Bible School and through monthly service projects to our communities. Our motto is “Connecting People to Jesus.” We serve others through humble work, sharing His Word and works with them.

St. Peter, Bach (Sebewaing) – We welcomed Pastor Thom Garrison to the congregation in August, 2016. Under the theme “Where We Are Family”, St. Peter is celebrating 106 years of service to our Lord and our rural community. We are located a few miles east of Sebewaing where God has planted us. Our roots are firmly grasped by Jesus Christ who holds us close to Him as we gather around Scripture, the Eucharist, and a life of prayer, service, and witness. We have 5 students receiving an excellent Lutheran education at Christ the King Lutheran School in Sebewaing.

Circuit #9 - Frankenmuth Circuit Rev. Gary L. Bender, Circuit Visitor

Over the past three years, God has guided and blessed the congregations of the Frankenmuth Circuit. The LEAP (Lutheran Education Advancement Plan) effort in the Saginaw Valley continues to be active and helpful to many of the congregations in the circuit. Several of our pastors have been busy dealing with calls. And I retired from St. Lorenz and am now serving an intentional interim ministry at Immanuel, Wheeler. Other things that have happened since the last convention:

Immanuel, Frankentrost – God has blessed Immanuel over the past three years in ways we could have never imagined—while at the same time challenging us to be both good stewards and a blessing to others with His gifts. Our childcare program has been blessed by God and continues to run at close to capacity. Hopes are for expansion of our facilities, including that of our day school, to meet future needs. Also, our Living Nativity has had some of the largest attendances of the 21 years of its presentation. Truly, by Word and Sacrament, and with His many blessings, Immanuel has seen that “God is with us.”

St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth – St. Lorenz was named a “School of Distinction” by the National Lutheran School Accreditation Commission—one of five schools so designated nationwide in 2017. 2018 is the “Year of Discipleship” for our congregation, as we focus on who disciples are in Jesus and what disciples do in His name.

St. Paul, Caro – In the last triennium, St. Paul has hosted three “Fixin’ Up the Thumb” Servant Events, serving 20 households in Tuscola County. There have been three mission trips to Haiti, which have included building a church sanctuary in Lestage and work with the Lutheran church in Sejourne. Congregational members also participated in two mission trips to Nora, Va. and Caldwell, Ohio. On April 3, 2016, the St. Paul, Caro congregation celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

St. Paul, Millington – We hosted a “Walk, Learn, Pray” event along the Michigan Rail Trail. We wrote Bible verses with chalk on the path and had sign posts with prayer ideas. There were also learning stations along the way. We received compliments about the event and how time spent on the trail

was a blessing. Over the past three years, we have hosted a “Hall-o-ween” event in the school hallways. Members decorated the doorways to our classrooms and gave out candy at these stations. The community was invited to a safe and warm environment prior to the community-wide observance of trick-or-treat on Halloween. This event enables the community to see our school campus and also the various other Christian messages that are in our building, including student art work in the hallways, murals, posters, and the architecture of the building itself that incorporates the Christian faith.

Trinity, Reese – On November 22, 2015, Rev. Daniel Burhop was installed as pastor. Trinity continues to work towards its mission of *Teaching about Christ, Leading to Christ, Caring like Christ, and Sharing Christ with our community.*

Trinity-St. James, Munger – In addition to the typical events most churches do, such as VBS, Trunk-or-Treat, Breakfast with Santa, and Easter Egg hunts, the youth group at Trinity-St. James started an outreach to the community by offering classes on various things like an art studio, country line dancing, and preparing freezer meals. The cost for the classes is \$5, and they are taught either by members in our congregation or friends of congregational members. 100% of the funds are given back to community endeavors: a rescue mission, the county animal rescue, purchasing school supplies for children in foster care, etc.

Circuit #10 – Saginaw Circuit **Rev. William W. Hessler, Circuit Visitor**

The heavenly Father continues to bless the eleven congregations of the Saginaw Circuit with the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit as it continues the rich history of Lutheranism in the Saginaw Valley by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament ministry and Christ-centered, Lutheran education.

Bethlehem, Saginaw is ably served by Rev. Michael Korte together with Rev. Charles Buckhahn. Bethlehem’s parochial day school continues to make a significant impact on the community, as does Bethlehem’s annual “Boars’ Head Festival,” produced every Advent, which has become a staple of the Saginaw Christmas season.

After faithfully serving Faith, Bridgeport for over 28 years, Rev. William Hessler retired in June, 2017. Rev. John Weldon has been guiding Faith through the intentional interim process since July, 2017. Faith also cooperates with St. Lorenz Lutheran Church (Frankenmuth) by providing one of the teachers for its parochial day school, thus giving Faith families the opportunity of a Christian day school experience for their children.

Good Shepherd, Saginaw is presently being served by Rev. Paul Biber. Together, pastor and people strive to “Follow the Shepherd, Nurture the Flock, [and] Seek the Lost.” Good Shepherd also operates an Early Childhood Center which provides a safe and secure haven for child care, along with a Christ-centered curriculum for three and four-year-old preschoolers, Kindergarten students, and young fives.

Rev. James Krueger continues serving the mother church of Saginaw, Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Located in the heart of “old town” Saginaw, Holy Cross, together with its parish

day school, makes a concerted effort to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through outreach efforts and active participation in various community events, thus bringing a Christ-centered witness to the area.

The Lutheran Church of the Messiah, Carrollton is capably served by Rev. Phillip DeVries. Messiah continues working with Bethlehem, Saginaw in hosting an annual PICO (Practical Ideas for Community Outreach) workshop.

Rev. Mitchell Vogeli ministers vigorously as Pastor of Nativity, St. Charles. Nativity continues to pursue its vision of establishing an outreach resource in nearby Chesaning. Community involvement and making its presence visible in the village comprise a major focus of Nativity’s Christ-centered ministry.

Peace, Saginaw is the largest congregation in the Circuit. Rev. C. William Weis, together with Rev. Matthew Hauser, serve Peace’s members as their shepherds-under-Christ. Peace recently broke ground in expanding its state-of-the-art Christian day school campus to pursue more effectively its Christ-centered ministry to families.

St. Mark, Saginaw has been served by Rev. Edward Meyer along with the part-time assistance of Rev. Robert Allmann. St. Mark and its preschool are committed to experiencing God’s love through one another’s daily lives, as well as to expressing that love to the world in their relationships and through their worshiping community.

Rev. Brian Heidt continues to serve St. Philip, Owosso. The congregation continues to work hard, making its presence known in the community and faithfully sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Dr. William Morris capably ministers to the good saints of St. Peter, Hemlock by continuing its rich heritage of Word and Sacrament ministry to rural Hemlock. As it has since 1881, the parochial day school provides a quality Christian education program for children ages preschool through eighth grade, plus an extended childcare program.

Rev. Paul Hauser continues to serve Zion, Hemlock as its Shepherd-under-Christ. Based on Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:19–20, the mission and vision of Zion is to share JESUS with all people by Joyfully worshiping, Educating all people, Sharing God’s Word, Utilizing all gifts, and Serving all souls.

After 19 years of dedicated service as the Pastor on staff at Saginaw’s Valley Lutheran High School, Rev. John Mueller accepted a call and was recently installed as pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dwight, Ill. Having celebrated its 40th anniversary during the 2017–2018 school year, VLHS successfully launched its \$10 million “Growing Campaign” to provide the space and resources needed to continue being a top-notch secondary school on the leading edge of education.

The Saginaw Circuit is also blessed with the participation and involvement of a number of emeriti: Rev. Bert Eggers, Rev. Martin Hagenow, Rev. William Hessler, Rev. Paul Hinz, Rev. Edward Kast, Rev. Robert Koeppen, Rev. Howard Mueller, Rev. Richard Mundt, Rev. Dr. Robert Schultz, and Rev. Carl Trosien. Their experience and expertise are valuable resources

as the Circuit continues walking and working together for the Lord in the greater Saginaw area.

Circuit #11 – Flint North Circuit **Rev. Erik K. Cloeter, Circuit Visitor**

The congregations of the Flint North Circuit serve faithfully within a varied spectrum. The churches of our circuit continue to advance the purposes of Christ often, in spite of an increasingly de-churched population and other social, cultural, and economic pressures. God is good to bless the Flint North Circuit.

Listed are the congregations in the circuit and significant events that took place during the past 3 years:

Holy Cross, Flushing (Rev. Cliff Bira) – Holy Cross continues to serve as a cornerstone congregation for the Flint North Circuit. It is growing in its teaching ministry, continually applying new technologies to advance the Gospel at home and to the world. It continues to be a founding leader in its community in feeding and clothing the hungry and the needy.

United in Christ, Flint (Rev. Stephen Stahlhut) – United in Christ continues to be served part-time by its vacancy pastor, the Rev. Steve Stahlhut. Since the last report, the congregation made several attempts at outreach to the community: a Saturday morning “Coffee and Talk,” ads in local newspapers, and advertising on t-shirts sold at a local high school. Also, a group of members have participated faithfully with other local congregations at the Franklin Avenue Mission in Flint. Reaching out also to their inactive members remains a priority.

St. Paul, Flint (Rev. Jeffrey Walsh) – Because of health issues, Pastor Walsh is on partial disability, and the congregation has contracted Rev. Brant Engel as vacancy pastor. St. Paul is calling a new senior pastor. St. Paul is home to the last and only parochial school in our circuit. The leadership has been faithful in reevaluating a dynamically-changing environment, meeting new needs with the relevancy of the Word of God. During the past triennium, St. Paul celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Ordination for Rev. David Hensler, visitation pastor.

Our Savior, Flint (Rev. Randy Schultz) – This urban church continues to serve the ministry of Word and Sacrament in a diminished area of Flint. They have joined community partners in efforts of revitalization and crime prevention in their neighborhood. They have welcomed partnerships with sister congregations to provide for the needs of their immediate community. This past year, Our Savior has engaged in the New Beginnings process of the Michigan District Church Extension Fund for assistance in re-visioning their future.

Christ the King, Flint (Revs. Brant Engel & Thomas Dunseth) – Unique in their ministry and reach, this congregation continues to serve the deaf community in Metro Flint and Mid-Michigan. In October 2017, CTK moved to St. Paul in Flint. They reach out to the hearing and deaf by offering sports camps to the children in Flint. The pastors continue their involvement in training future workers in deaf ministry by supervising vicars and deaconesses and teaching deaf ministry classes at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Messiah, Clio (Rev. Erik Cloeter) – This congregation is blessed to continue adding converts to the Priesthood of All Believers, regularly teaching and baptizing adults, teens, children, and entire families. In this past triennium, Messiah has been able to make a number of improvements to its facility and technological offerings. They have also increased their teaching ministry with new ventures like their EQUIP service for training disciples in biblical fluency.

St. Martin, Birch Run (Rev. James Chinery) – Since 2015, St. Martin has begun a Stephen Ministry Campaign, hired a new director of worship (Mrs. Stephanie Revard), and continued to make steady progress on the church debt. Our worship attendance has grown modestly, as well as our benevolences to the Michigan District, District campaign, the community through Helping Hands, POBLO Ministries, and individual seminarian support.

The member congregations of the Flint North Circuit are grateful to God, our Father, to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus Christ within the increasingly challenging frontline of our unique, yet diverse communities.

Circuit #12 – Flint South Circuit **Rev. Kelly D. Todd, Circuit Visitor**

Pilgrim, Burton – Rev. Daniel A. Wonderly
Baptized Membership – 181
Communicant Membership – 154
Average Worship Attendance – 80

Trinity, Fenton – Rev. Dean G. Dumbrille
Baptized Membership – 695
Communicant Membership – 466
Average Worship Attendance – 385

Christ, Goodrich – Rev. Kelly D. Todd
Baptized Membership – 229
Communicant Membership – 189
Average Worship Attendance – 72

Faith, Grand Blanc – Rev. Todd A. Biermann/Rev. Robert G. Scott (SMP)
Baptized Membership – 1981
Communicant Membership – 1323
Average Worship Attendance – 486

Hope, Linden – Rev. Stephen E. Schilke (IIM)
Baptized Membership – 304
Communicant Membership – 278
Average Worship Attendance – 126

NewLife Community, Swartz Creek – Rev. David E. Rossow (SMP)
Baptized Membership – 202
Communicant Membership – 202
Average Worship Attendance – 157

Lamb of God, Flint – Rev. Paul M. Boerger
Baptized Membership – 206
Communicant Membership – 175
Average Worship Attendance – 66

Circuit #13 – Lapeer Circuit **Rev. Gary L. Beck, Circuit Visitor**

St. Mark, Flint – We have continued our service to the local community and expanded it to the East Flint community. We serve the local community through our Kearsley High School homecoming parade food tent; we also offer free parking and space on our lawn so anyone can watch the parade up close. We celebrated our 15th year of our free Halloween alternative for the Kearsley community. This event is a safe place for children to get some candy, play games, and have some fun. We participate with fellow Lutheran Churches by serving at the Franklin Avenue Mission on the east side of Flint, reaching out to the needy families with the love of Jesus. We have also provided opportunity for outreach training through a “Joining Jesus on His Mission” small group and then introduced the remainder of the congregation to the process through a 7-week sermon series, incorporating the Joining Jesus videos.

Family of Christ, Imlay City – For a small rural church, we are involved in many things and we thank God for that. We partner with two other Lutheran churches in our circuit in regularly supporting Franklin Avenue Mission. We grafted in members of other local churches that are not LCMS in working at the mission also. Our Parish Nurse facilitates AA meetings at Family of Christ. She also facilitates Grief Share meetings at the Senior Center in town. The church’s deacon is pursuing the SMP program and enjoys full support of the congregation in the endeavor. He continues to support his home church with pulpit supply and teaching new member classes when requested. We continue to grow by the hand of the Lord. The church also has a deacon candidate in the Deacon program who has completed 80% of his studies. The church has started a Wednesday night contemporary service. We ask for opportunity to better serve our city and its members as faithful witnesses of Christ, bringing the church to them and not waiting for them to come to church.

St. Paul, Lapeer – St. Paul, Lapeer operates a childcare program that takes children from ages 0-4. The number of children served in 2017 was 70. The congregation also operates a 3 and 4-year-old preschool and an early-fives-through-eighth-grade day school. St. Paul has been blessed with a Food for Families program which feeds about 60 people every Friday. The congregation conducts a food distribution program that gives food to about 18 needy families each week. The congregation partially sponsors Rev. J.P. Cima, a LCMS missionary in Vietnam through the TIM program. St. Paul has also supported basic health and cooking education classes in Vietnam. The congregation also participates in the Refuge—a cooperative effort by the churches in Lapeer to provide food and shelter to the homeless people of the community during the cold months. St. Paul also sponsors a community garden. Garden plots on the church’s land are made available to families of the community who want to grow their own garden food. There are 48 garden plots. It is a wonderful tool for creating goodwill in the community. Finally, during the coat distribution program, over 400 coats were given to people in the area. In 2018, St. Paul celebrated its 145th anniversary of serving Christ in the Lapeer community.

Holy Redeemer, Dryden – Holy Redeemer Lutheran church continues to rejoice in the Lord and the blessings of His grace, even as this small congregation of Lutherans in Dryden faces challenges in mission and ministry. With the support of Rev. Galan Walther, our District CMMF, the congregation completed the Natural Church Development survey in the summer of 2017 and received an informative assessment of the eight quality characteristics associated with congregational health and vitality. Rev. Walther is now coaching a taskforce that will make recommendations designed to strengthen the congregation minimum factor in the spring of 2018. While this process is new to the congregation, we are praying that, over the coming 12–18 months, the Holy Spirit will use this process to renew the congregation’s mission and ministry.

Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint – Franklin Avenue Mission was planted in 2015. It is a reMission of the former Calvary Lutheran Church. It was and is a corporate effort of the Flint Tri-Circuit churches, the Michigan District, and other LCMS congregations that have joined this missional effort. The mission serves the poorest of the poor on Flint’s east side—the least of our culture. Most recently, the Michigan District called Pastor Bradley J. Yops to serve as the Missionary at Large to the underserved community of the poor, hungry, and homeless in America’s backyard. In the summer months, missionaries are deployed into the urban fabric with their lawn mowers and rakes in Operation Clean and Green to build bridges of trust with the community while cleaning up the neighborhood. It is the mission’s purpose to elevate, serve, and treat the least of our culture with dignity and respect—to be the hands, feet, face, and voice of Jesus to them. At present, the mission provides a ministry to 30 children (THE R.O.C.K.), a Bible study to 70 adults (THE 2:42), a clothes closet, and a medical clinic. Every Tuesday and Thursday, approximately 200 men, women, and children dine at the Franklin Avenue Diner in an inviting atmosphere that builds community at round tables—reMISSION the CHURCH to reCOMMUNITY the COMMUNITY. At Pastor Yops’ installation, this CHURCH/COMMUNITY baptized 13 new members into God’s family. A worship service of Word and Sacrament is planned for mid-term of this year, as well as completion of the Mercy House and initial steps for the future Franklin Market, Laundromat, Showers, and Furniture facility. God’s grace continues to shower His Church with many opportunities to serve our new neighbors.

St. Timothy, Otisville – Through God’s generous provision, St. Timothy is blessed to have reached out to our community and the world through various mission projects. Our ladies’ group is honored to sponsor a deaconess student. Quilting and knitting/crocheting groups provide items to Franklin Ave. Mission as well as new and like-new clothing items. We are grateful to reach out to local shelters, crisis pregnancy centers, and schools. God has moved St. Timothy to impact our community for Christ through mobile food pantries, Family Promise, and Red Cross blood drives. Some of the farther-reaching groups we support are the VA Hospital, World Vision, and Lutheran World Missions. Our heart for the next generation leads us to Coats for Kids, Trunk ‘n’ Treat, and Angel Tree ministries. St. Timothy’s inside news

would be the addition of worship screens in June of 2016 and the retirement of Pastor David Weiss in October of 2017.

Trinity, Davison – The Lord continues to lead Trinity with new opportunities to share the love of Jesus. We are thankful that, for four weeks each year, He provides us with what is necessary to house local families who are experiencing homelessness. Members of Trinity are also active in serving meals at a homeless shelter in Flint and assisting with the Franklin Avenue Mission. In celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, members of Trinity donated over 500 gallons of water to the Franklin Avenue Mission. In 2017, Trinity held its first annual “Living Water Fun Run & Walk” which raised nearly \$2,000 to purchase water filtration kits. These kits were used in Uganda by a short-term mission team from a Lutheran congregation in Colorado. With thankful hearts for the Lord’s past blessings, we continue to explore and implement parts of our facility master plan, which will enable us to grow and improve our mission and ministry.

New Life in Christ, North Branch – Once again I must say that God has blessed the little church on the corner. These past years we have had several new members and have been able to confirm 15 young men and women. We may not be growing fast, but with the blessings of God, we have been growing. I would like to thank Deacon Michael DeVries for all the help this past year, while I have been out of service. He has done a great job and has worked great with all the members. We may be just a little farming community, but this little church on the corner has planted many seeds. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide, use, and lead us in the planting of many more seeds. May the Spirit make them grow into large, fertile fields.

Circuit #14 - Port Huron Circuit **Rev. Gerhardt A. Doroh, Circuit Visitor**

The Port Huron Circuit is comprised of 13 congregations, one Lutheran grade school, and three early education centers. We are located in the Blue Water Area as it borders Lake Huron and the St. Clair River.

First, Algonac – Rev. Bob Herrod
First Evangelical Lutheran Church is now at peace with itself, and is stronger in the Word. Our Community Supper is going strong with increased attendance, as new neighbors have heard about our outreach efforts. We are studying Romans in our weekly Bible study class, and it is going well. We have three new families who have joined us in weekly worship, and soon will have two new adults attending Catechism instruction. Several needed repairs to the building have been completed. Our Sunday school class is now being held before Divine Worship, so that our eight children are able to attend the worship service.

Our Saviour, Armada – Rev. Sam Sherouse
Since the last district convention our congregation has been going through a transformation of becoming smaller and older, which has prompted us to go through a self-evaluation to see exactly what we look like and who we are so we can begin to sit down and plan ongoing ministries that

will keep us alive and strong in our community and in the congregation. We are also looking into safety measures for the congregation in the wake of all the violence taking place in churches across our country. Our Saviour continues to be one of the three congregations with a preschool.

St. Peters, Fair Haven – Rev. Steven Hoerr
St. Peter has been blessed by our Lord throughout these past few years. Our usual array of congregational support activities continue: we provide age-appropriate Sunday school instruction for our children, our confirmation students are working through the Catechism, and our adult Bible classes provide opportunities to delve into the Word and apply it to daily living. Our year-round outreach programs continue to provide food for the food pantries in the neighboring towns and personal items for the veterans at the VA facility. Our in-reach efforts allow our home-bound members to be involved in the life of the church through visitations, sermon recordings, and personal correspondence. We are presently upgrading our use of technology in order to improve our ability to connect with our members and our community.

Hope, Goodells – Vacant
At the present time, the congregation is served by Pastor William Otten on Communion Sundays and Mr. Dave Rochlitz from Lutheran High School North on the other Sundays. A step forward was taken as William Warsinski, Congregation Chairman, has completed the District Deacon Training and plans to apply for the SMP program in order to serve the congregation.

St. Matthew, Lexington – Rev. Barry C. Sheldon
The most significant message from Martin Luther on music is this: “*Next to theology, music takes the highest rank in the sciences because ... it soothes the mind and renders the mind joyful and courageous ... and that the evil one ... flees at the voice of music.*” At St. Matthew, the theology of the sacred Scriptures continues to go forward because of the power and the promise of the Holy Gospel and the Holy Sacraments Jesus gives His Church. God opened wide the door for music in our church. We have a resurgent vocal choir, a new bell choir, a new organ, and a grand Estonia piano. We are blessed to have accomplished directors and skilled musicians. We are working to open more doors for the youth of our congregation. We continue to work shoulder-to-shoulder as a body of Christ united in traditional liturgy, the holy doctrine that comes from the sacred Word, Christian education, and service in our communities. Theology and music together for the glory of the Holy Trinity.

Living Faith, Marine City – Vacant
Presently being served by Pastor Gerhardt Doroh and several retired pastors. The congregation has been actively calling. A recent congregational meeting renewed their commitment to examine new ways to reach the unchurched based on the strengths of the congregation. Two children’s ministries—Locomotion (Weekly VBS format) and a summer VBS—are happening under the leadership of two teachers from a neighboring congregation. The congregation sees its partnering as a blessing—they have the God-given finances to employ part-time qualified individuals to walk with them.

Light of Christ, Marysville – Vacant

During the vacancy, the leadership is moving forward. An elder of the congregation has applied to the Synod's SMP program. Plans are to begin classes in 2018. The elder will serve under the supervision of the pastor of Immanuel, St. Clair while he finishes his class work.

St. Andrew, Memphis – Vacant

Word and Sacrament ministry each week is presently being carried out under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Ron Roland. The congregation is taking a new look at its mission field in the Memphis area as they prepare to call.

Faith, Port Huron – Rev. Mark Huff

In 2017, we began our 61st year of ministry in Port Huron. In September we called a new Director of Family Life, Hannah Walsh, who is helping us develop and strengthen an inter-generational ministry approach. Included in that is the re-introduction of a small group ministry to help facilitate cross-family relationships and the creation of a new Faith Formation class to help parents teach and live out the faith in their homes. Through the efforts of our food pantry, Faith serves about 2,000 needy individuals annually. We are also embarking on the opportunities for web and internet-based ministry by beginning a complete revamp of our website, live-streaming church services, and making greater use of Facebook and Twitter. Earlier in the year, we installed Jeff Strock as our deacon and hope to install a second deacon within the next year.

Trinity, Port Huron – Rev. Mark Madson

The past three years have been difficult ones for our congregation as we have come to terms with the closing of our beloved school. This was a difficult decision for us and involved much discussion and prayer. We celebrated the faithfulness of our Lord in supporting this ministry over 145 years of his grace this past June as our final class graduated. We are thankful for all who supported us during this time. During the transition, we have opened our door to community groups who use our school facilities during the afternoon and evenings. One group is a 4H robotics team; the other is a girls' dance team. Our congregation is thankful to support these endeavors and hopes to be a welcoming and friendly place for families that participate.

This last fall we also held our first annual classic car night. It was well received by both the congregation and our neighborhood. We hope to build on this outreach activity and continue our social ministry activities in the coming years.

Living Hope of the Bay, Ray Township – Vacant

During this time of vacancy the leadership is looking at its ministry and its present location to assess its future. Is a restart necessary? What changes need to happen in structure, in outreach?

Immanuel, St. Clair – Rev. Alan Schwieger

Three years ago we changed our Mission Statement to read: "Loving God, Loving Others: Making Disciples that Make Disciples." We have expanded our discipleship groups from two to seven and are striving to align all of our ministries around our purpose statement: *"The Word of God compels Immanuel to intentionally create relational environments*

for making disciples that make disciples in everything we do." This refocusing has caused a renewed sense of common vision and excitement. Our preschool and childcare centers continue to be thriving arenas for making connections with the community for the goal of discipleship. Immanuel's worship attendance continues to grow under the blessings of God where we have both traditional and living praise services. Our music ministry, education, fellowship, youth, and community outreach continue to focus on reaching out to the community where we can share the Gospel and make disciples that make disciples in all things. To God be the glory!

St. Peter, Richmond – Rev. Mark Haller Principal Heather Haller

The past three years have been a constant growth. Our regular attendance increased from an all-time low of 180 to approximately 340 each weekend. The members of St. Peter's are actively talking about the Lord and inviting new people to the church on a regular basis. The ministry and members are making a difference. We have been blessed with a new term for volunteers, who are now called "Partners for the sake of the Gospel." We published in 2017 a booklet listing over 200 members of St. Peter's who are "Partners for the sake of the Gospel." Due to the increase of involvement of our members, our Sunday school has grown to its highest numbers over the past seven years. We have been able to accomplish many building updates. We joined into partnership with Lutheran Braille Workers and have actively printed large-print New Testaments, which are being sent out across the globe. We have also joined with many other ministries impacting the congregation and the community.

St. Peter's school has grown twice its size in three years and is showing ongoing growth in the school for many years to come due to the positive vibe the entire ministry has along with our partnership with our preschool. With the growth of the school ministry, we have added a part-time youth leader who will be going full-time in the summer of 2018. The focus of the youth leader will be youth and families, from the womb through college age.

The Port Huron Circuit is grateful for the Emeriti pastors who continue to be a blessing to the Church: Rev. Bob Mann, Rev. Tim Eichberger, Rev. Larry Warsinski, and our adopted brother, Rev. Thees Hoft. A Circuit Reformation Service was held to a packed house. We will explore future assemblies. We are in the early stages of talking about "Ministry Centers" from which to deploy workers to our congregations that are at present experiencing "financial shortages" that hinder full-time calls. It is a God-given privilege to serve alongside these brothers and sisters in the Lord and the leadership of the congregations.

Circuit #15 – Macomb North Circuit **Rev. Barry L. Mueller, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 15 is the North Macomb Circuit, and it comprises four large and three small congregations. Each of them is different, with a variety of pastoral practices, outreach opportunities, spiritual gifts, and worship styles. But each of them is united in the truth that Jesus is the one and only way

of salvation. Having recently reorganized our Winkels, there is a renewed sense of fellowship and encouragement among the good servants and people of the congregations.

St. Luke, Clinton Twp. – Rev. Russell Johnson, Rev. Scott Benjamin, Rev. Bert Thompson
Baptized / Confirmed / AWA: 767 / 634 / 215

St. Peter, Macomb – Rev. Mark Wuggazer, Rev. Mark Arendell, Rev. Craig Meyer
Baptized / Confirmed / AWA: 4181 / 3096 / 1216
In 2017—God be praised! —we celebrated the 140th Anniversary of our church and school.

Immanuel, Macomb – Rev. Greg Griffith, Rev. Nikolai Gibbons, Rev. Michael Heiden, Rev. Paul Burow, Rev. Michael Lutz
Baptized / Confirmed / AWA: 5307 / 2950 / 1367
In our annual Back2School festival, we gave away 2,000 backpacks to families, and we hosted a community-wide barbecue with games for all people. We also broke ground on a new 12-classroom building with a high-school-regulation rec center.

Good Shepherd, Chesterfield – Rev. David Ulm
Baptized / Confirmed / AWA: 71 / 66 / 41
Over the past three years, the Word of God has been preached regularly and the Sacraments administered regularly. We are preparing for our 50th anniversary in 2018, and the congregation's first pastor will preach God's Word on June 10.

Trinity, Clinton Twp. – Rev. Ken Wise, Rev. Brian West, Rev. Gary Richard
Baptized / Confirmed / AWA: 2582 / 1696 / 830
New in this triennium, we participated in the Lutheran Early Response Team and received a grant through Lutheran Disaster Relief to purchase a trailer for us in this ministry. Our Youth participate in servant events in Philadelphia, New York, and Appalachia.

St. John, Ray Twp. – Rev. Joshua Ball
Baptized / Confirmed / AWA: 193 / 168 / 99
We give thanks to God for the faithful ministry of Rev. Edward Steeh who retired in 2017. In July of 2017, we welcomed and installed Rev. Joshua Ball as our pastor. We ask God's blessings upon his ministry and we look forward to many years of faithful service together.

Christ, New Baltimore – Rev. Barry Mueller
Baptized / Confirmed / AWA: 100 / 89 / 54
We too face the challenge of a changing society. To reach out with the message of Christ's glory and salvation, we host "Activity Nights" on summer Wednesday evenings. Most recently, *America's Christian Heritage* was our theme. We took part in New Baltimore's community-wide "Trick-or-Treat on Main Street" distributing candy and a tract telling of the Reformation and of Jesus as the only way of salvation.

Circuit # 16 – Macomb Northwest Circuit Rev. Craig M. Meyer – Circuit Visitor

The pastors and deacons of Circuit 16 attend regularly scheduled breakfasts. At these breakfasts, we have had representatives from the district, local high schools, business

leaders, and area charities attend to speak with us. We also take the opportunity to pray for one another and receive support.

All Nations, Sterling Heights – Rev. Khurram Khan – All Nations continues to reach out the community with the Gospel.

Faith, Troy – Rev. Joseph Casiglia was installed as Senior Pastor of Faith.

Faith Tamil, Troy – Rev. Arul John Alexander – Faith Tamil continues to reach out to the community with the Gospel.

Grace Fellowship, Romeo – Rev. Eric Majeski – Grateful to God for three men at Grace being ordained into the Pastoral Office.

Our Redeemer, Washington – Rev. Jeffery Draeger – Our Redeemer is conducting a church-wide evangelism/witnessing training.

Peace, Shelby Township – Rev. David Klemm – Peace, Shelby Township is celebrating 50 years of the school's existence by giving 50 gifts of service back to the community.

Redemption, Sterling Heights – Deacon Jerry Corbett – Redemption continues to reach out to the community with the Gospel and is thankful for the growth at Redemption. Deacon Corbett also began his SMP studies.

St. Paul, Sterling Heights – Rev. Walter Keller – St. Paul continues to reach out to the community with the Gospel.

Shepherds Gate, Shelby Township – Rev. Timothy Bollinger was installed as Lead Pastor at Shepherds Gate.

Trinity, Utica – Rev. Scott Sommerfeld, IIM. Rev. Norm Koy retired and is now serving as an IIM at another congregation. Trinity is in the process of calling a new senior pastor as they continue to reach out to the community with the Gospel and work through the intentional interim ministry process.

Circuit # 17 – Oakland North Circuit Rev. John E. Kassen, Circuit Visitor

Crown of Life, Rochester Hills – Since our last report, our preschool opened and is serving 3- and 4-year-olds in addition to a Junior Kindergarten. Each year the program grows. We recently engaged an Intentional Interim Pastor to prepare us to make a call for a pastor. Our leadership has completed a strategic long-range planning process that provides direction. As we continue, a marketing specialist has been engaged to assist us as the long-range plan is operationalized. Our facility is being shared with Living Word Lutheran Church in Rochester for worship, education, and office space.

Gethsemane, Rochester Hills – During the past triennium, God has started opening significant kingdom inroads into our community. Started in September of 2014, Gethsemane's *GoodLife Community Partnership* is quickly becoming a foundation of ministry renewal.

In 2017, Gethsemane went through a year-long strategic planning process. This process results in 1) directing us to seek the "low-hanging fruit" in our community that we could

best reach; and 2) committing *GoodLife* to connect with those age 50+ in our community. Building on this strategic, intentional commitment, God has led *GoodLife* to an ambitious, three-tiered, community-focused kingdom ministry.

Tier 1- Ministries To Independent Living Facilities - *GoodLife* currently serves five independent living “satellite” sites by offering worship, enrichment activities and small group Bible studies.

Tier 2- Connecting to the Community by Building Community – via country music.

- *GoodLife’s* monthly *Open Mic* enjoys 80–120 in attendance in Gethsemane’s sanctuary;
- *GoodLife’s Folk Music Workshop* meets weekly from 12–2 p.m. with a growing group which now enjoys 12–15 participants each week;
- *GoodLife’s Community Concert Series*, started in January of 2018, draws—and connects—people from our greater community to Gethsemane’s campus and ministry family.

Tier 3- Revitalizing Gethsemane’s ministry – *GoodLife* sponsors weekly “GoodLife Café” with free lunch every Wednesday at 11 a.m. This café, *LifeTree Café*, encourages hospitality and conversations with both members and people in the community.

GoodLife-Gethsemane is excited at what God is doing in our community. As we realize that our church is our community’s church and our pastor is our community’s pastor... God is renewing this Word and Sacrament ministry and energizing us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our community.

GoodLife-Gethsemane praises God for their leaders and supporters. Matt and Nan Drinkard and other area pastors are joyfully serving the Lord as they assist us with this community outreach. Most of all, we thank Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper and the entire Michigan District staff for their support, counsel, and encouragement. We also thank the Michigan District for their generous financial support, without which this would not have been possible.

May God bless us as we share Word and Sacrament to our greater community through *GoodLife*-Gethsemane!

Good Shepherd, Lake Orion – Rev. Gary Koltz was ordained and installed to lead Good Shepherd in 2014. The mission of God’s people at Good Shepherd is “*Helping People Know, Love, and Follow the Good Shepherd Jesus to Grow His Flock.*” After a long pastoral vacancy and much turmoil, the church of about 80 people is reorganizing and focusing on Christ. We are determined to find the specific purpose Jesus has for us in this community where He has planted us. So far, we connect with our community via:

- Parent Night Out: a mini-VBS for four hours the second Saturday of every month;
- MOPS (Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers): a groups that meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month;
- Youth Group (middle school/confirmation age and high school): meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday afternoon;
- Bible study for all ages on Wednesdays and Sundays;

- We have a one-week summer Vacation Bible School for all children 5th grade and under to age three;
- The Quilters group: recycles materials for quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief;
- We are a collection center for Operation Christmas Child that sends packages of Jesus’ love all over the world;
- The LWML holds an Advent by Candlelight for all ladies in the community, and mission Saturday annually to demonstrate the fun of serving in different capacities;
- American Heritage Girls troop 1308 is actively training up young ladies as leaders;
- We support our friends in Pontiac with a monthly dinner at St Paul’s Lutheran. Easter baskets, Christmas gifts, clothing, household items, and food are collected and donated.

We encourage everyone to get involved and participate in kingdom work in the community and church. We have youth and adult greeters, ushers, and audiovisual helpers for Sunday services. We have a 17-year-old high school student as our organist. We want to train our youth and give them an opportunity to serve that empowers them with life skills and service to the community and church. Our youth are planning their next community engagement—a free carnival for the community. We are trying to live out the mission of “*Helping People Know, Love, and Follow the Good Shepherd Jesus to Grow His Flock.*” We are praying to live in the midst of a revival. May the Holy Spirit continue His work.

Holy Cross, Oxford – Holy Cross is a community welcoming all people of all ages to follow Jesus, learn, and grow. God has blessed Holy Cross in the past three years, increasing the opportunities the congregation has to share the love of God with our members, guests and community.

Rev. Matthew Schuler was installed June 21, 2015, just before the previous district convention. Holy Cross has launched a second service, hired new staff members, and received new musicians to lead worship.

Additionally, Holy Cross has reignited efforts in evangelism, participating in community events like the Oxford Soup and Sweet Stroll, Scarecrow Festival, parades, and more. God has expanded the reach of Holy Cross into the surrounding community.

Rev. Schuler sits on the Board of Directors for the Oxford Chamber of Commerce, prays monthly for our village council and hosts a Bible study at the local brewery called “Beers and Bibles,” which engages people with the Word of God. Our preschool has continued to flourish, with families joining worship and worship teams after getting connected with Holy Cross.

In 2017, Holy Cross completed an expansion of the preschool to engage more kids and families with great education and the Gospel of Jesus. Enrollment has increased and our teaching staff has expanded. We continue to follow Jesus, learning as He leads us and growing in faith and love. We’re excited for the future and the proclamation opportunities we’ll have to share God’s grace with others.

Incarnate Word, Rochester – Twelve years ago, a few

members from St. John, Rochester began a mission to serve members of the deaf community. After some years it was discovered that, while the deaf appreciate participating with the hearing community, they also prefer to identify as a family themselves. Incarnate Word's mission emphasis began to slowly change.

A sponsoring congregation of "Issues, Etc.," a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, Ill., we have gained members looking for a confessional, liturgical, Lutheran congregation through advertising on LPR. We have been an official congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Michigan District for ten years.

Most of that time, we gathered for Sunday worship at Lutheran High School Northwest in Rochester Hills. In the past year, we have moved to Troy Historical Village in Troy. Loraine Campbell, Executive Director of the Village, was delighted "that these walls will once again resound with song and prayer."

A small congregation of about 25 members, we do not have the many usual programs and activities of larger congregations. Rev. Allen D. Lunneberg serves in retirement to conduct Sunday services and others such as weddings and funerals.

Living Word, Rochester – This past triennium has brought about many changes in the ministry at Living Word. At the end of the school year in 2015, Living Word Lutheran School and early childhood center were closed due to financial issues. In January of 2016, the only pastor that Living Word has known since its mission status, the beloved Rev. John Kassen, retired. Living Word was served by intentional interim pastor Rev. Gary Siefert until Pastor Dan Meckes was installed in May of 2017. Due to financial and debt issues, the congregation agreed to sell its current facility and land in October of 2017 and closed on the sale in February, 2018.

Believing that God does have a plan and purpose for His ministry through this body of believers, the members of Living Word voted to temporarily move its ministry to the facility of Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Rochester Hills. We will be two separate congregations operating out of one building. We thank our brothers and sisters in Christ at Crown of Life for their graciousness and willingness in assisting us that we may fulfill our mission statement that "Living Word exists to lead people to Jesus."

As Living Word continues to follow God's guidance and direction for ministry in the future, we excitedly await God's revealing and blessing as we seek to grow His Kingdom.

Prince of Peace, Ortonville – Prince of Peace is a small congregation with an average worship attendance of 40 people per Sunday. Even though small in numbers, Prince of Peace is connected to the community and the church at large with a variety of meaningful ministries. Prince of Peace congregation is active in meeting the needs of people in our community through the Ortonville Community Emergency Fund (OCEF) by way of special gatherings of food, gifts, and funds at Christmas and Easter. Prince of Peace is a

friendly group of people with a heart for the lost and a desire to reach the unchurched.

God has blessed Prince of Peace with several members with music abilities. They have formed a worship group that leads worship with appropriate contemporary music on a monthly basis. Worship is now led by projection, which has greatly assisted the older members in following the service. The projection style of worship has also helped engage the younger members who are tuned in to various technologies. The confirmation ministry has grown to four students who are seeking to learn more about Jesus and participate in the rite of Confirmation in the near future.

Rev. John Kassen was installed as part-time Intentional Interim Pastor on February 7, 2016. He is working with the congregation to help them identify their mission and ministry goals for the future.

St. Paul, Pontiac – Here at St. Paul we have experienced a major outreach of our inner city ministry over the past three years:

- On January 7, 2018 Pastor Jon Trinklein was installed as an Intentional Interim Pastor serving part-time. Having a part-time pastor has freed up money to give additional hours to Deacon Matthew Koch so that he can begin the Specific Ministry Pastor program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. Pastor Jon serves as Matt's supervisor.
- Our Father's Hands Food Pantry & Clothing Closet has continued to provide food and clothing to the low-income people of the community. We have served nearly 2,000 people with food and clothing needs each year for the last three years.
- Gifts for All God's Children partnered with St. Paul to provide Christmas gifts to needy families and individuals. In 2017, approximately 600 individuals were presented with gifts.
- In 2017, our Vacation Bible School reached about 150 children (and 250 in 2016). Every year we provide a free breakfast and lunch to the children attending and, at the end of the week, each child is presented with a school backpack filled with supplies. In 2017, the LWML provided volunteers to help run our VBS. In 2018, St. Paul is partnering with MOST Ministries as a cross-cultural training for future mission team members.
- St. Paul continues to offer Wednesday Family Nights to anywhere from 50 to 160 people each Wednesday, when local churches provide a hot meal, and adults, youth and children participate in separate Bible studies.
- Seasonally, we offer special community dinners, i.e. – Harvest Dinner; Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Dinner, and Easter Brunch, as well as an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter baskets for the children. Attendance at each of these dinners usually exceeds 300 people.
- In addition to English worship services at 11 a.m., St. Paul continues to provide a Spanish-speaking service at 1:30 p.m.
- St. Paul continues to provide life-transforming studies and groups such as Overcomers Bible Study on Tuesdays at 12 noon taught by Sharron Murphy. The AA program meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

- St. Paul will launch Step Out and Serve initiatives in partnership with sister Lutheran churches to reach out with the love of Christ to the community of Pontiac through car care and home repair days.

St. John, Rochester – Of all the things Jesus could have prayed for in the moments before His arrest leading to the cross, it is significant that He prayed for us as His future followers: “*that they might be one ... so that the world would know*” (John 17:21–23). Our shared church and school mission and vision, *One in Jesus ... Reaching Many* flows from that prayer. And over the past three years the Lord has been answering that prayer more and more! Here are some of the highlights we continue to be grateful for:

- The Lord has blessed us to welcome 141 amazing new families (247 adults and 116 kids) to officially become part of our St. John family! Add to this 128 children and 9 adults (including 3 former Muslims) who have been washed in water and Word and brought to faith through Baptism!
- Our school is reaching out to more and more children and families as we share daily the love of Jesus and His Word through quality education to 295 children and their families (a 28% increase in enrollment over the last six years!)
- In addition to hundreds of people gathered around the study of God’s Word throughout the week through various small and large group classes, people representing countries from around the world gather on our campus to learn to speak the English language and experience the love of Jesus through our ESL ministry and weekly international Bible study.
- Hundreds of intergenerational family members have continually lived out their faith through compassionate service efforts in our community and world in tandem with our local mission partners in Rochester, Pontiac, and Detroit, as well as on-site international opportunities with Feed My Starving Children. In addition, our young people have been on fire to go and serve in Jesus’ name domestically and internationally wherever they are needed.
- After over two years of demographic study, site planning, and extensive time spent in prayer, followed by a very special outpouring of pledged sacrificial generosity, we are preparing to break ground on a full church and school campus master site plan renovation/expansion project in the coming months as a springboard of excellence into the future. Part of this exciting effort includes the extending of our mission tithing response to include all capital initiative giving that we pray will make a huge difference in the Lord’s kingdom-at-large.

These are exciting days! We are so grateful for the immeasurable return that comes when, led by the Holy Spirit’s calling over us, in answer to Jesus’ prayer, we invest our God-given lives and resources in response to what He has done!

St. Stephen, Waterford – St. Stephen is excited to have Rev. Dan Flynn serve as our Intentional Interim.

We are also continuing with our outreach by supporting and serving meals at St. Paul, Pontiac and service projects with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital by providing blankets. Our VBS program is preparing a service project for the children’s

ward at St. Joseph Mercy also.

St. Stephen has had a wonderful relationship with St. Trinity, Clarkston. It was fostered by our Senior Ministry and Stephen Ministry activities together. The seniors walking ministry continues to be strong.

St. Trinity, Clarkston – There are many exciting ministries currently going on at St. Trinity, as we continue to reach into the community with the love of our risen Lord Jesus.

- We have become more intentional in living the Great Commission by way of reaching out to the community and making our facility available to the area residents. We have a 20-acre property that outside groups of people in the community use such as a gym, kitchen, room rental for basketball, volleyball, H.S. indoor baseball practice, and many family events. We also have a full-size baseball field that is utilized extensively in the warmer months, along with a full-size soccer field that is also used. Our land is also made available to the local Oakland County sheriff department to train and run the K-9 units (Officer White overseeing). We are supporting the Eagle Scout project. We have built a walking trail around our land and are working to put benches and Bible passages on the trail for spiritual growth of those walking the paths. We continue to reach out through My Habitat Clarkston, Oxford Pregnancy Center, and Clarkston Lighthouse. We support the ministry of St. Paul, Pontiac, adopted a missionary, and sponsor a seminarian. Our congregation offers opportunities to various community sports teams, a Vietnam Veterans group, AA, and other community groups. Regular blood drives, serving as a voting precinct, and allowing AP Testing are cooperatives we have with community endeavors.
- We have been undergoing major interior renovations to better serve our members and guests for worship and non-worship events. A complete renovation and addition of over 2,000 s.f. of our youth rooms, including game rooms, have been added.
- Our preschool is also being changed from a three-and-a-half-hour day (9:30 a.m.–12 p.m.) to full time 6 a.m.–6 p.m. in the fall. Our enrollment is up over 50% from last year. We will be hiring 2–3 new teachers.
- We have partnered with some local churches (St. Stephen and Good Shepherd) and combined the Stephen Ministry, along with the Senior Ministries such as J.O.Y. groups.
- Our worship attendance is up 14% from a year ago with new members coming every week. We are undergoing plans to renovate the sanctuary altar area to make it handicap accessible (barrier free) for Communion. We have installed large direct-feed 70” monitors in the sanctuary to assist in the quality of the worship services. We continue to upload our worship services to the local TV station and YouTube.
- St. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church is currently in the call process and waiting with great excitement to see whom our Lord sends here to be our senior pastor.

By God’s grace, our congregation has grown in so many ways as we serve God and community with His love!

Circuit (#18) - Birmingham Circuit
Rev. Ray E. Scherbarth, Circuit Visitor

Our Shepherd, Birmingham – Rev. Ray E. Scherbarth/Rev. Mark R. Doede (SMP)/Rev. Michael S. Vieregge (SMP)/Rev. Stephen W. Woodfin (SMP)/Rev. Ronald R. Farah
Baptized Membership – 1719
Communicant Membership – 1413
Average Worship Attendance – 486

Redeemer, Birmingham – Rev. Randall J. Schlak/Rev. Tyler A. Walworth
Baptized Membership – 1635
Communicant Membership – 1344
Average Worship Attendance – 460

Our Savior – Deaf, Birmingham – Rev. Tyler A. Walworth
Baptized Membership – 43
Communicant Membership – 38
Average Worship Attendance – 25

Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills – Rev. Randy J. Miller
Baptized Membership – 575
Communicant Membership – 432
Average Worship Attendance – 224

Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods – Rev. Peter S. Nickel
Baptized Membership – 484
Communicant Membership – 398
Average Worship Attendance – 133

St. Paul, Royal Oak – Rev. David P. Schmidt
Baptized Membership – 984
Communicant Membership – 828
Average Worship Attendance – 267

St. Augustine, Troy – Rev. Paul C. Monson
Baptized Membership – 252
Communicant Membership – 210
Average Worship Attendance – 126

Holy Cross, Warren – Rev. Alan P. Eisinger
Baptized Membership – 388
Communicant Membership – 326
Average Worship Attendance – 139

Circuit #19 - Macomb South
Rev. John E. Merrill, Circuit Visitor

Saint Thomas, Eastpointe (STL) – The three years since the last district convention (and the closing of our school) have been a time of rebranding and mission renewal. It started with a grand celebration of the blessings bestowed by our God through 106 years of school ministry, a total rewrite of our mission statement and organizational structure, and the introduction of Faith Hope Love (small group) Ministry and CrossTraining for Children and Youth. STL's expanded service to her community now includes a food pantry, clothing closet, prayer partners, MCREST, SASS, FPU, Grief Share, and the hosting of various community organizations (AA, Alanon, NA, Life Builders). Under the theme of "Get the WORD OUT," STL's footprint is present at Redemption, Sterling Heights (Deacon Gerald Corbett) and

the Genesis Center (Rev. Richard VanBriggle). Additionally, the WORD is getting OUT electronically through Tuesday Texts, Thursday's Thirst, and Facebook Live broadcast of Sunday services. The year 2017 included a major capital drive (coupled with a CEF grant) that repaired/restored our building and grounds and enhanced curb appeal. Additional improvements continue through the support of the STL Foundation. As 2017 rolled into 2018, we have partnered with the CrossBridge Action Network to open a Great Start Readiness Preschool at STL.

Hope, Warren

2015 – Our new "sphere" system of church governance, introduced a few years past, has seen a marked increase in individual participation in church groups and a surge in new ministry ideas.

Our voters, at our biennial elections, elected a slate of officers featuring new participants in church activities, which reflects this renewed zeal in showing God's hospitality and compassion to our neighbors.

2016 – Hope celebrated her 50th Anniversary with a congregational dinner in February and the first of 10 guest speakers spread out over the next two years. The anniversary theme, "50 Years of Hope Through 500 Years of Faith," rolled over into 2017 to include the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Voters decided to form a building committee to consider changes to our physical plant as a possible outward demonstration of making our church more hospitable to visitors. The voters directed the committee to investigate pricing for 3 recommended proposals for enhancing the main entrance of the church.

The new leadership began the process of revising our Constitution and Bylaws, which culminated in the voters approving the changes in October.

2017 – Voters approved the enrollment of two members in the Michigan District's Deacon Training program and one member into the District's Ministry Assistant Program. The Voters' Assembly also approved the proposal of the building committee to enclose the handicap ramp on the north and east sides of the church building. Discussion on a proposal to add onto the main entrance was tabled until later in 2018.

Overall, our church membership has seen a slight increase in communicant members (+15) over the past 3 years while attendances have slipped as we seek to do God's will of being a Gospel lighthouse of hope to the world.

Bethlehem, Roseville – Baptized and confirmed membership as of 2017 is 241 souls. New members received – 12 (four by transfer, eight by profession of faith). We've seen 18 baptisms (two adults, 16 children), six transfers out to other LCMS congregations, one peaceful release, and 15 deaths. Average weekly worship attendance as of 2017 is 63, average weekly Bible study attendance is 16. Our Early Learning Center currently has 79 children enrolled, infants to 4-year-olds.

Many property improvements were made during this triennium, including a new roof over the sanctuary, framing, insulating, and installing new energy-efficient windows in the Learning Center, new energy-efficient windows in the sanctuary, new carpet/wood flooring in the sanctuary, painting, and other various spruce-ups.

We held various in-gatherings to support local pregnancy centers, local agencies to aid the poor, Lutheran World Relief, and LWML. We also have a small food pantry and a small clothing closet. We regularly distribute bus tickets to those in need. And we voted to participate in the Michigan District's *Here We Stand* Initiative.

St. John Lutheran Church & School, Fraser

Witness

- a. We have been blessed with seeing many new members join our congregation. Some have been drawn by our school. Many others have come as adult converts.
- b. St. John has tried to make our presence known via several giveaways. A prom dress giveaway was a success. We also did a school backpack (filled with school supplies) giveaway. We included devotional material for the families.
- c. We support many different missions with our Mission-of-the-Month program.

Mercy

- a. We continue to offer a food bank for Fraser and the surrounding communities.
- b. We offered support for the victims of the Fraser sink-hole. All received gift baskets; the three families who lost their homes received a financial gift from the funds raised by a community spaghetti dinner.

Life Together

- a. We are moving forward with a building program to upgrade facilities and add modern classrooms. Groundbreaking is planned for May 2018.
- b. God has blessed our school with stability and growth.
- c. Pastor Aaron Richert took a call to Houston, Texas.
- d. Pastor Peter Elliott was installed as Associate Pastor.
- e. On a larger, churchly level
 - a. Our youth attended the youth gathering;
 - b. A joint men's Bible study was begun with Hope, Warren. This is hosted at a local establishment with rotating speakers coming in.

Saint Peter, Eastpointe

Baptized Members: 1283

Communicant Members: 1143

Average Worship Attendance: 300

Peace, Warren

Baptized Members: 273

Communicant Members: 218

Average Worship Attendance: 71

Trinity, Warren

Baptized Members: 325

Communicant Members: 320

Average Worship Attendance: 100

Circuit #20 - Detroit East

Rev. Steven J. Essenburg, Circuit Visitor

Bethany, Detroit engages in an intentional holistic outreach on the East Side of Detroit. This intentional outreach is led by Rev. Christopher Bodley. A signature ministry of Bethany is the Growing Minds Learning Center which is a child development center open Monday–Friday from 6 a.m.–6 p.m. and provides childcare and educational classes for ages 6 months to 4 years. In addition to this, GMLC also provides latchkey services for children up to age 13. Bethany is engaged in a partnership with Gifts for All God's Children, which provides outreach to the children of the community in the form of an Easter Fair and a gift giveaway which accompanies its annual Christmas Eve outreach service. Another one of Bethany's mission is providing a food bank which is open two Wednesdays a month from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. The food bank serves between 60–85 families.

Bethany is directly involved with Acts 2 Enterprise's summer outreach mission. Bethany hosts one of the week-long summer sports camps in the community. Bethany members and leaders from various churches participate to provide an incredible experience of sports and a discipling opportunity. Bethany began its first student ministry outreach in October 2017. Children and youth attend the "End Zone" experience which encompasses food, fun, and faith every Wednesday from 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. We have been blessed to witness to 50 children and youth from the community in this outreach. One of Bethany's annual events is the spaghetti outreach dinner in the month of November. People from the community are invited to come out for this free meal which provides an opportunity for prayer and ministry with participants.

Charity, Detroit is in the center of one of the poorest and most violent communities in the nation. Blessed to serve this community, Charity and Rev. Steve Essenburg continue Charity's programs of positive community engagement. Our continued partnership with Lutheran Special Education Ministries, with our iCan Achievement Camps, is allowing us to reach children with the love of Jesus as we help them develop their academic potential. Understanding the relationship between the health of a community and the health of the parish, Charity has partnered with its own nonprofit, Charity, Inc., Michigan District StartNew, and the LCMS National Housing Office to address the housing needs of young families and the blight that has infected Detroit neighborhoods; turning the "dealer's dope house into the Healer's Hope House." We have been blessed with volunteer support from our sister congregations: St. John, Rochester; Faith, Troy; Trinity, Utica; and Trinity, Clinton Township. Addressing the needs of hunger, Charity provides Hope House families and iCan students with over 4,000 meals each year with the help of Trinity, Utica. Currently, four Hope Houses are providing housing security to families, with two more planned for 2018.

Our engagement with the community has been blessed with numerous baptisms and confirmations. Reversing the trend, Charity has grown larger and younger each year.

East Bethlehem, Detroit and Rev. Asaph James share the

Good News of the Gospel in the community surrounding the church through their Connecting Kids to Christ programs with the support of Gifts for All God's Children. Through Bible camps, Valentine's Day, Easter, Harvest, and Christmas parties, East Bethlehem touches the lives of children and their families with the love of Jesus.

Historic Trinity, Detroit, which had only four head pastors in 155 years (between 1860–2015), is prayerfully navigating through Year Three of the rare pastoral transition. Worship attendance for 2017 was at its highest since 2012 (439/wk). We held our first week-long VBS in decades and started two Theology on Tap Bible studies (one at Historic Trinity, the other at Atwater Brewery), drawing 35/week for food, fellowship, Lutheran beverages, and study of the Word. Additionally, we launched a new food pantry ministry. We began fundraising (\$40k in one evening) for a bold initiative to re-purpose an entire city block on Detroit's lower eastside for youth-related programming. In honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we commissioned renowned sculptor Timothy Schmalz to create an original—vastly unique—one-ton, 12' bronze sculpture of Luther nailing the 95 theses. This was dedicated on April 29, 2018 at Historic Trinity, serving as a spectacular gateway to downtown Detroit. After finishing his doctoral class load, new head pastor Rev. D. Lee Andrzejewski now turns his attention to collaborating, researching, interviewing, writing, and defending his dissertation—"Connecting Christ to a Downtown Demographic: A Postmodern Application of the Biblical Motif of Relationship."

Mount Calvary, Detroit celebrated 95 years of ministry in 2017. During our 95th anniversary year, under the leadership of Pastor John Carrier, we celebrated the completion of our new playground for the Head Start program utilizing space in our building and for the community. We praise God for the support and assistance of many outside our small fellowship through whom God made it happen. We have acquired lots around our building with intentions of developing garden areas for vegetables and for quiet areas to retreat in prayer. We continued our partnership with Gifts for All God's Children and with our suburban partner congregations to host our Easter Fare and Christmas gift celebration reaching out to the families of the preschool and community. We hosted a community barbecue and a Halloween party with the assistance of Hope, Warren celebrating the completion of the playground and encouraging dialog with our neighbors. We look for these programs to grow stronger bonds to our neighborhood as we partner with others to sustain and rebuild our community through our new Camp Restore Detroit effort. Begun in 2017 as a project supported by a Michigan District returnable mission dollars grant, this project has been a massive undertaking. But with the assistance of congregations and individuals throughout the Michigan District, it has grown to an anticipated 2,000 plus days of service by those coming to serve in Detroit through our ministry this summer. You can read more about Camp Restore in the Michigan District Convention Workbook. We are looking forward to seeing what God has in store for us as we move toward completing our first century of ministry!

Peace, Detroit is an old church with traditional worship but the congregation continues its historical zeal for mission outreach and community service. Peace is served by the Intentional Interim Ministry of Rev. Robert Mikkelson. Visitors are welcome and worship attendance averages between thirty and fifty per Sunday morning. Worship is preceded by a lay-led Bible study and followed regularly by a fellowship luncheon for the worshippers. Sunday school for children is held during sermon time. Evening Advent and Lenten midweek services are held.

Peace has an active clothing bank open on the first and third Saturdays each month. It is a particular blessing to families in need of school clothes and those in need of warm clothing and blankets in winter.

The food pantry is open to the community every Tuesday. Its routine includes a pastor-led devotional message and prayer, followed by distribution of food and a fellowship luncheon. Pastor is available for prayer, ministry of special needs, and counseling. A Bible class follows at 12 p.m. There is also a community Bible class held at noon Thursdays.

Peace's outreach ministry is aided by many other LCMS programs and suburban congregations, too numerous to mention all. They bring volunteers to teach VBS, present outreach Easter or Christmas programs, and donate gifts through Gifts for All God's Children. Trinity, Utica; Faith, Troy; and many others have generously given time, talent, and treasures to do good through Peace's outreach. Many benefit in Christ and give glory to the Father in heaven.

Resurrection, Detroit closed in 2017.

Circuit #21 – Detroit West Circuit Rev. Eddie Morales – Circuit Visitor

St. Philip, Detroit – Rev. Marvin A. Griffin
Baptized Membership – 183
Communicant Membership – 132
Average Worship Attendance – 75

Faith, Detroit – Rev. Brian C. Dupre
Baptized Membership – 180
Communicant Membership – 130
Average Worship Attendance – 88

Iglesia Luterana, Detroit
Baptized Membership – 50
Communicant Membership – 45
Average Worship Attendance – 45

Nazareth, Detroit
Baptized Membership – 38
Communicant Membership – 38
Average Worship Attendance – 15

St. John, Detroit – Rev. Richard E. Robinson
Baptized Membership – 88
Communicant Membership – 63
Average Worship Attendance – 38

St. Stephen, Detroit –
Baptized Membership – 106

Communicant Membership – 80
Average Worship Attendance – 40

Evergreen, Detroit – Rev. William Danowski
Baptized Membership – 75
Communicant Membership – 50
Average Worship Attendance – 25

Outer Drive Faith, Detroit – Rev. Eddie Morales
Baptized Membership – 145
Communicant Membership – 145
Average Worship Attendance – 130

Redford, Detroit – Rev. Raymond D. Parent
Baptized Membership – 67
Communicant Membership – 55
Average Worship Attendance – 42

Atonement, Dearborn – Rev. Gary Rohwer
Baptized Membership – 344
Communicant Membership – 118
Average Worship Attendance – 40

Holy Cross, Detroit held its closing Service on March 8, 2015.

Circuit #23 - Downriver Circuit **Rev. Erik R. Schmidt, Circuit Visitor**

The congregations of the Downriver area of metro Detroit continue in their efforts to design, implement, and lead ministries that are faithful to the Great Commission, as we seek to reach the lost, make disciples, and care for God's people. Each Gospel outpost downriver has been blessed with unique resources and gifts, and we are working toward serving God's Kingdom together as brothers and sisters with a common mission. To that end, our congregations have done more and more joint ministries with each other, building relationships and expanding the presence of Christ in our communities.

Calvary, Lincoln Park – Calvary continues to grow, even though many of our elderly saints are being called home. Visitors have stayed, and babies are being born. We had a flood, but it was the Lord's way of forcing us to remodel our basement. We have new Sunday school rooms and a production studio where we make our VBS programs as well as video sermonettes. We also have free guitar lessons weekly, as well as concerts. We continue to feed the poor and help young mothers. We have purchased new boilers, carpet, and a stove. Our new Catechism is being used for confirmation with great results.

Our pastor and youth director have taken calls elsewhere. We have a new youth program and are calling a pastor.

Christ The King, Southgate – Christ The King, Southgate was founded in 1951. We are a Bible-based family in Christ with an emphasis on education ministries, having a daycare, preschool, and K-8 elementary school. We are striving to be more involved in our community while at the same time providing a worship home for our members with the goal of connecting people to Christ and bringing new Christians into the Kingdom of God.

As of June 2017, we have been blessed with our new Associate Pastor, Rev. Mark Bushuiakovish, to oversee our family/youth ministries.

As of September 2017, Christ The King has moved Sunday morning worship, Bible class, and Sunday school to the Pennsylvania Road location, which is now considered our main campus. Saturday evening worship is at the Trenton Road campus. The main church office plans to move into the Administration Building on the main campus in August. With the use of two full gyms, we have been able to allow outside organizations to utilize the space and have become more community-focused.

God's kingdom is His work within the world. God wants to bless all people. God wants people to come to Him through Jesus Christ His Son. God's kingdom is coming and will come ultimately on the Last Day. Our prayer is that we help God's Kingdom come by focusing on Him and His Church, not hinder it by focusing on us and our church (John 3:30).

Community, Flat Rock – Founded in 1980, Community has always been about seeking the lost and making disciples through new and innovative means, while staying true to the biblical and confessional teachings of the LCMS. This guiding philosophy holds true today, as the people of Community live out our pledge to be a church where people "Come as you are... but don't stay that way!"

In the fall of 2015, our founding Pastor, Rev. David Gohn, returned home to be with the Lord. Since then, Community has called two professional church workers—a Director of Worship Arts and a Director of Discipleship. We have benefited greatly from the generosity of the Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District, improving our facilities through the Aesthetics Grant and Loan program by replacing the carpeting throughout our buildings and the chairs in our worship center. We look forward to further improvements in the coming year.

We continue to be active in our community, providing Christmas clothing and food to over 1,500 people per year through our Helping Hands food pantry, providing free events like our Easter Egg Hunt and Hall-O-ween service, and our upcoming involvement with Camp Restore in Detroit this summer. Our Creative Learning Campus preschool continues to grow as well, with enrollment increasing by 50% over the past three years.

We look forward to what God has in store in the next three years, as we seek to present God's timeless Truth with a modern sound. We humbly pray that He will grow us in love for Him and toward one another, as we seek together to do His will in Downriver and beyond.

Mount Hope, Allen Park – Rev. Marvin Griffin became our vacancy pastor in October of 2015. He has been a real God-send to our congregation. Even though he also serves St. Phillip's, Detroit on a full-time basis, he has been able to provide valuable assistance to Mt. Hope on a weekly basis.

Through the generous donations of two of our Mt. Hope faithful, one living and one deceased, we were able to install

new carpeting in our church last year. We were also able to put a much-needed new roof on part of our building.

Our church organist, Dolores Fiedler, became ill in March of 2017 and passed away later that year. She was well loved and a dedicated organist and choir director for Mt. Hope. However, since God always seems to provide, we were able to hire a new organist, Marie Brown, last July. She has been a member of Mt. Hope for several years and had been filling in for Dolores during her illness. Up until the last year or so, we didn't even know she had this God-given musical gift. We have been truly blessed through her musical talent at our services as well as leading our church choir.

On another musical note, one of our musically talented members organized a Handbell choir for our Christmas Eve service in 2017. We had about a dozen volunteers play "Away in a Manger" and "The First Noel". We are hopeful to do something similar for Easter Sunday in 2018.

The Elders of Mt. Hope continue to visit our shut-ins on a quarterly basis as we have been for the past several years. Pastor Griffin has been able to visit some of them as well.

We have an adult Bible class which is held after our Sunday services. This was reinstated last year and is led by one of our church leaders. Catechism is also taught to our upcoming Confirmation class by one of our elders, who also leads a midweek Bible class in which we are studying the book of Revelation.

Some of our Mt. Hope women are part of a quilting club that meets monthly to make quilts for needy people. These quilts are given to needy members and non-members as well. This has been an ongoing effort for a few years.

One of our Church Council members heads up a Trunk or Treat festivity each October that takes place in the church parking lot. We have had as many as 200 people show up for this in the past three years.

This past December, on the first Sunday in Advent, we had a "Celebration of Advent" potluck immediately after our Sunday service. This included singing, games and food. Approximately 50 of our members attended. This took the place of a Sunday evening Advent by Candlelight service we used to have, which had lost some of its appeal.

We have two preschools that are renting at Mt. Hope. One of them, Mt. Hope Preschool, is led by Jackie Fults and is funded through tuition. They have been with us for about twelve years. The other preschool is called CrossBridge at Mt. Hope, led by Michele Jones. Up until recently, CrossBridge had been renting one classroom. However, our Church Council authorized them to rent another classroom this past year (2017). Both classrooms are now being used. This program is not funded through tuition. Both of these programs provide additional rent money to support our congregation. We also continue to rent our gym/cafeteria to members and non-members who wish to make use of that facility for various occasions.

Even though our Mt. Hope congregation is relatively small, they are loyal and dedicated to the ongoing work of the

church through their God-given stewardship gifts of time, talent and treasure. Furthermore, we are in the process of adding three new members to our congregation. We have been truly blessed.

Our Redeemer, Taylor – Did not report.

St. John's, Taylor – St. John's Lutheran Church was founded in 1888 as a ministry of Trinity, Wyandotte to the German-speaking farmers that settled the Telreka area. In 1932, a Lutheran school was organized which closed in 2009. The 240-member congregation is served by Rev. Dr. Richard Zeile who is in his 18th year of service to the congregation. He is assisted by Deacon David Valenti, trained by the Michigan District, and by Parish Administrator Stephanie Krueger. St. John's averages 90 worshipers at a 9 a.m. Sunday service, a 7 p.m. Saturday service, and a midweek service. Worship is traditional with strong emphasis on Word and Sacrament. A 10-member choir performs at holidays. About 25 attend Bible classes on Sunday or Saturday. Sunday school has averaged five in attendance the last two years despite efforts to invite neighborhood families. Occasional lock-ins, by contrast, have seen 20–30 participants. Seven adults were received into membership in the last month, the largest such gain in five years or more. Calls with elders are made Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons; a nursing home service is held Wednesday mornings at nearby Regency. The 16-member Ladies Aid Society is active in LWML. Recent congregational projects include parking lot resurfacing, a new digital sign, and a new website. The congregation supports the local food bank "Fish & Loaves," and the Christnet organization which provides shelter to homeless. Help for members facing financial difficulty has been an ongoing ministry for decades.

St. John's has appreciated her partnership with other congregations in our circuit and district. The mission of St. John's Lutheran Church is to conserve and promote the true faith of our Lord Jesus Christ in our members, our community, and our world.

St. Paul, Trenton – The past three years at St. Paul have been a great time for Gospel-centered ministry. This past year, 2017, we celebrated our 75th anniversary. We gave praise and honor to God for all the ministry He has done through our faith family. One of the ways that we did this was by inviting some of the pastors who have served over the years to be guest preachers. It was extremely well received and a great time to celebrate the faithful pastors that God has called to St. Paul. We also took time to look ahead at what God might have in store for us in the next 75 years of ministry to our Downriver community.

Along with the congregation's anniversary, our Christian preschool is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018. We praise God for all of the families that we have had the opportunity to serve and we are making an intentional effort to reach out, build relationships, and help connect these families to Jesus.

We are in the process of concluding our second effort campaign for various improvements upon our Christian

Life Center and it has been a great success, raising around \$900,000! With the improvements in that building, we have focused upon hosting various events that aim to engage the wider community. For example, we have hosted a Back-to-School Fair to serve local students in need, concerts that feature our outstanding choir, and other events that are done to give opportunities to build relationships with people in the community who are not connected to the local church.

We also called an Associate Pastor from the seminary, Rev. Andy Pronsati. With his leadership, we are in the process of launching a new satellite campus. This new campus is one of the ways that we are seeking to reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We continue to be blessed with strong lay leadership and a continued sense of mission as we live out the Great Commission Downriver. In all things, we seek to know Christ and make Christ known!

Trinity, Wyandotte – Over the past couple years, Trinity Lutheran Church has added a second custodian to the staff and recently called Mendy Grenz to be our Mission & Ministry Director. We did say goodbye to our full-time organist, but welcomed Mary Tollefson as our part-time organist. We have continued our yearly events of VBS, Trunk or Treat, Car Show, and Easter Egg Hunt with strong attendance numbers. An annual school supply drive was started to aid teachers in readying their classrooms for the school year and ensuring every child has the supplies needed for a successful year. We do continue it throughout the year should a teacher need something special. We also have a very successful Christmas Basket program for families recommended to us from the Wyandotte school system which gives each family a Christmas meal, gifts for the children, and winter weather wear for the entire family. We took care of 27 families this year.

Rev. Grenz took part in the StartNew Program and started two programs that were not present in the community. Bitty Ballin' is a basketball camp for first-through-third graders, and every session has been full. This summer will be the 3rd season. Raising Up Readers is the second program started with the cooperation of the Wyandotte school system. This program is for students first-through-fifth grades struggling with reading and is meant to help children maintain their reading level over the summer. This has been a very successful program with some children even raising their levels! We are continuing to look for more opportunities to aid our community and start new summer programs for kids.

Circuit # 24 – Monroe Circuit **Rev. Jeffrey E. Heimsoth, Circuit Visitor**

Greetings to our sister congregations in the State of Michigan from the churches of the Monroe circuit—Christ Our Shepherd (Newport), Christ the King (Lambertville), Grace (Monroe), Holy Ghost (Monroe), Immanuel (Monroe), St. John's (Waltz), St. Peter (Petersburg), and Trinity (Monroe). We rejoice in the partnership we share and the ministry God has entrusted to us. Please accept this brief report of ministry of the past triennium.

Christ Our Shepherd, Newport is served part-time by Rev. John Schinkel, who also serves as full-time chaplain of the Lutheran Home (Wellspring Lutheran Services) of Monroe. The church continues to worship on the property of the former Lutheran High School South. The congregation is blessed to carry on its support for a seminary student from Fort Wayne.

Christ the King, Lambertville is served by Rev. Tim Loewe. It has added a Saturday worship service and made improvements to its facilities. The congregation has also added a digital sign in front of the sanctuary welcoming the community. CTK participates in many community events and local mission opportunities.

Grace, Monroe is served by Rev. Mark Witte, as it continues to give back to the community around us through support of One Sheep Ministries, We Care Project, Oaks of Righteousness, A.A., Boy Scouts, Heartbeat of Monroe, and others. Grace continues to lead our young men and women into ministry with one young woman who was recently called as a DCE in Michigan and two young men who are currently in studies at St. Louis Seminary. In 2017, Grace was pleased to add Deacon Bob Auxter to our staff to serve the church in inactive and outreach ministries.

Holy Ghost, Monroe is served by Rev. Lee Cullen, who has led the transition out of vacancy. The congregation created a Reformation History Museum in October 2017 and is now planning celebration activities for its 175th anniversary in 2019.

Immanuel, Monroe (East Ida) is served by Rev. Curtis Garland, who has added a Saturday worship service. The congregation has also participated in mission trips to Hong Kong and El Salvador. It has recently dedicated a new kitchen in the fellowship hall.

St. John's, Waltz is served by Rev. Jeffrey Wade, recently called as Sr. Pastor with the departure of the Rev. Dr. Kurt Taylor to Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW). The ministry is growing and the day school recently completed work to develop a comprehensive marketing strategy.

St. Peter, Petersburg is served by Rev. Mark Flory. The congregation celebrated their 140th anniversary in 2016. They have raised funds several times to meet people's needs in the community. The church paid off a mortgage and has grown by six or seven people this year.

Trinity, Monroe is served by Rev. Jeffrey Heimsoth and Rev. Daniel Potts. Trinity is committed to families being the heart of ministry, and recognizes that God's heart is so large that He would include all people in His family. Thus, Trinity is working to strengthen its impact on the community for all to see God's heart. This extends beyond Monroe, as Trinity sent mission teams in 2015 & 2017 in support of a sister congregation in Guatemala. Trinity was also blessed to carry out a capital campaign in 2017 to fund several remodeling and refurbishing projects on its campus. One of those is to make the campus handicap accessible.

The circuit continues to work together providing Bible Study

through a local radio outreach program called “The Gospel For You.” It is broadcast on WRDT AM 560 each Sunday at 12:30 p.m., following the Lutheran Hour. The pastors and other professional church workers of our circuit hold a 30-minute Bible study on books of the Bible. The website for the program is www.thegospelforyou.org. Past programs are available via that site.

Monroe Circuit #24 gives praise and honor to God for the privilege of leading ministry in Monroe County. The Circuit is blessed to have three Christian day schools and two other preschool ministries. It is our prayer that the kingdom of God would grow through our service. To God alone be all the glory!

CIRCUIT REPORT—Dearborn Circuit #25 **Rev. Andrew D. Gruenhagen, Circuit Visitor**

Emmanuel, Dearborn – Rev. Joel R. Baseley and Rev. Paul A. Wolff

Baptized Membership – 366
Communicant Membership – 320
Average Worship Attendance – 140

Guardian, Dearborn – Rev. Daniel W. Ramthun (SMP) / Rev. David M. Mews

Baptized Membership – 1272
Communicant Membership – 995
Average Worship Attendance – 471

Our Redeemer, Dearborn – Rev. Roderick D. Schultz

Baptized Membership – 77
Communicant Membership – 73
Average Worship Attendance – 36

Living Word, Plymouth Township – Rev. Samuel P. Watters

Baptized Membership – 237
Communicant Membership – 194
Average Worship Attendance – 127

St. Michael, Wayne – Rev. Andrew D. Gruenhagen

Baptized Membership – 671
Communicant Membership – 515
Average Worship Attendance – 296

Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, Westland

Baptized Membership – 32
Communicant Membership – 18
Average Worship Attendance – 34

St. Matthew, Westland – Rev. Jeffery C. Moore (IIM)

Baptized Membership – 709
Communicant Membership – 575
Average Worship Attendance – 191

Circuit #26 – Kensington Circuit **Rev. Terry A. Nelson - Circuit Visitor**

Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton – Rev. Mark Milatz, Rev. Benjamin Bruns

Shepherd of the Lakes has experienced much transition since the last District Convention. We said goodbye to an associate pastor in June 2017 and welcomed a new pastor at the end of 2017. The congregation conducted a capital campaign

called “Drop the Nets” to raise the funds necessary for the construction of a gymnasium and classroom wing for our growing school. We have also embarked on a new initiative through our Genesis Community, which serves many people in recovery from addiction. Genesis Community Gardens will be a co-op that employs people recently released from incarceration and helps their re-assimilation as healthy and productive citizens. We anticipate some staff retirements during this next triennium, but look forward to the new ways that God will work in and through us as we live out our vision, which is to LoveChristLovePeople.

Faith, Highland – Rev. Jonathan Moyer

In 2015, Faith gave thanks to God for the many years of faithful ministry of Rev. Terry Claus upon his retirement. Throughout the vacancy we were served by Rev. Richard Rossow and other faithful shepherds of the district. In the summer of 2017, the Lord led Rev. Jonathan Moyer to accept the call to serve Faith as pastor. Faith continues to strive under the Lord’s leading to welcome and unite God’s people to nurture Faith through the Gospel and provide opportunities and commitment to serve Christ through our ministry within the congregation and community. SDG!

Christ, Milford – Rev. Andrew Johnson

Christ Lutheran Church continues to serve the greater Milford area, striving to be a place for forgiveness and hope for all in our community. Following the command of our Lord, we have continued to find creative ways to serve our community and to proclaim the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, making disciples by Word and Sacrament. Our preschool and Kindergarten continue to serve many community families as a hub for a Christian worldview and an excellent first step in their education. Our Journey with Jesus, a free, walkable, live nativity, has seen over 1,500 persons attend and hear the Good News of a Savior born for them. We have hosted a truck-or-treat and have seen over 300 community children enjoy fellowship and hear the Gospel through our impressive puppet ministry. We had a pastoral transition in 2017 and are looking forward to walking together in service of the kingdom in 2018 and beyond.

Cross of Christ, South Lyon – Rev. Terry Nelson

The Holy Spirit drew new members to the congregation in the past three years. God has given our congregation opportunities for cross-cultural outreach through our Vacation Bible School and Christian preschool. Cross of Christ conducts ministries in three local rehabilitation and assisted-living facilities: Abbey Park, South Lyon Senior Care and Rehabilitation Center, and Regency. Judy Nimer serves as our Treasurer. Jim Morrison continues to serve as Congregation President, and Chuck Deeds serves as Financial Secretary. The congregation will celebrate its 45th anniversary in November, 2018. God has blessed Cross of Christ Christian Preschool with increased student enrollment the past three years. Mrs. Janelle Rapson-Lach continues to serve as our preschool Teacher/Director. Praise and thanks to God for the blessings He has given Cross of Christ congregation this past triennium.

St. Matthew, Walled Lake and Wixom – Rev. Paul Moldenhauer, Rev. Robert Nelson, Vicar Doug Slavens

This past triennium, God has renewed our zeal and focused

us with what St. Matthew refers to as our 20/20 Vision, namely, “to develop vibrant, missional Christ-followers in a post-Christian America.” Strategic initiatives have been undertaken toward that end, including an outreach emphasis with Greg Finke; expansion of relational accountability; retirement of all mortgage debt; renewal of our school’s National Lutheran School Accreditation; and ongoing mission support of Hospitality House, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac, and Pastor Daniel in India. In 2015 we updated our governance, Constitution, and Bylaws. In 2016 we changed our worship schedule and sermon style to expository in order to expose more to the power of God’s Word. In 2017 Dr. Paul Maier presented “New Light on Lent.” God continues to bless our school, Hearts & Hands Child Development Center, other children’s and youth ministries, Bible studies, small groups, and International Ministry as we serve out of a campus in Walled Lake and another in Wixom.

Regarding staff in this triennium, after Pastor John Merrill took a call we were served by Vicar Ahren Reiter and now Vicar Doug Slavens. The congregation is now seeking an Associate Pastor in place of vicars. Our school staff has enjoyed stability, though teacher Matt Olsen has announced his retirement at the end of the 2017–18 school year.

Peace, Waterford – Rev. Russell Tkac

Peace continues to serve the needs of the body of Christ in Waterford with Word and Sacrament ministry. Our mission is *“To witness and live as followers of Christ, serving one another in Christian love, so that God’s Holy Spirit may save the lost and strengthen the saved.”* Over the last three years we have continued to help with school supplies and needed clothing items for the students at Houghton Elementary School in Waterford. Though we are an older congregation, the members joyfully engage in the needs of the community. Most recently, we held a pancake breakfast to help raise funds for the Fallen Heroes Memorial Foundation to build a permanent memorial to those service members in Oakland County who died while serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. We continue to reach out to those in our community with the love of Christ, actively attend to the needs of our shut-in members, and enjoy our VBS week with the many students who attend and are blessed with this outreach.

St. Mark’s, West Bloomfield – Rev. Aaron Vergin

St. Mark’s strives to be a loving and welcoming family of believers that is joyfully growing in Jesus’ Word and actively shining the light of His grace into our neighborhood, our community, and our world. We continue to proclaim God’s unchanging Word and to administer His Sacraments among His people, and have begun several new activities to reach out to our neighborhood, including a family outdoor movie night, a midweek Bible study, a family game night, as well as a welcome basket delivery program for those moving into our area. We also have begun going into our neighborhood in the spring to invite our neighbors to our Easter service and have begun training our members to witness to others in their daily lives. We are thankful for God’s many blessings which we enjoy in Christ, His Son, and look forward to seeing how our God leads us in the future.

Cedar Crest, White Lake – Deacon Ron Nieman

At the time of the previous Michigan District Convention, Cedar Crest was going through a process to discern the plans our Lord has for us in the future while desiring to continue serving our Triune God in the White Lake area. With leadership from the Holy Spirit, Cedar Crest discerned its mission, agreed on its vision for the future and developed goals and strategies to attain the vision while living the mission. Unfortunately, due to multiple factors, including the age and health issues of the members of Cedar Crest, most of the goals and strategies were not able to be implemented. When the current triennium began, Cedar Crest was experiencing a slight increase in membership and attendance, which continued through the summer of 2017, until resuming the long-term trend of attendance decline in the fall of 2017, which many other LCMS congregations are also experiencing. For most of this triennium, Cedar Crest was served under contract by Deacon Ron Nieman with supervision from Rev. John Kassen and Rev. Terry Nelson. Based on the 2016 LCMS Convention decision that Licensed Lay Deacons seek colloquy to one of the ordained rosters of the LCMS, Deacon Ron applied for and was granted colloquy.

Circuit #27 – Livonia Circuit **Rev. Dean M. Davenport - Circuit Visitor**

The Livonia Circuit of the Michigan District consists of the following congregations: Grace, Canton – Rev. Steven Newton; Immanuel, Dearborn Heights – vacant; Salem National, Westland – vacant. St. Paul’s, Farmington Hills – presently being served by IIM Rev. Gary Siefert (includes a Lutheran school); Prince Of Peace, Farmington Hills – presently being served by IIM Rev. Keith Lemley; Hosanna-Tabor, Redford – Rev. Paul Undlin (includes a Lutheran school); St. Paul, Northville – Rev. Christopher Fairbairn (includes a Lutheran school); and Christ Our Savior, Livonia – Rev. Dean Davenport, Rev. Robert Bayer, Rev. Joel Eden and Rev. Jim Hill (Deployed to Family of God in Southwest Detroit).

Over the past three years, the circuit has bid farwell to Pastor Andrew Becker (formerly of St. Paul’s, Farmington Hills) as he accepted a call to serve in the Rocky Mountain District, and Pastor John Straub (formerly of Prince of Peace in Farmington Hills), who has retired.

Christ Our Savior, Livonia – Over the last three years we have experienced the Lord’s abundant blessings as we continue to serve the people here in Livonia and beyond. We celebrated our 40th Anniversary in 2017. Our support of Lutheran education continues with our local Lutheran schools because we don’t operate a Lutheran day school of our own. In an increased effort to reach out to the city of Detroit, we called Rev. Jim Hill to be deployed as pastor of Family of God mission in Southwest Detroit. Through the Holy Spirit and Jim’s efforts, many of our members are actively involved in mission opportunities right in our backyard—thanks be to God! A new Early Childhood Center director was hired, bringing with her energy and a passion for sharing Jesus with our little ones. The Holy Spirit brought Zachary Zieschang to us to fill our music director vacancy. God is good, all the time!

Grace, Canton – Grace continues to help the needy in our community by providing local food banks with vegetables from our church garden and by holding periodic food drives. We host a Detroit-area reading initiative which is intent on increasing the reading ability of both adults and children in our area. Grace is working with a sister church, Risen Christ, Plymouth (English District), by doing joint Bible studies and occasional joint worship services. Through God's grace, we intend to continue ministering to our own and those around us, seeking to make ourselves available for God to grow His Kingdom.

Hosanna-Tabor, Redford – Hosanna-Tabor continues to joyfully serve the people of south Redford and the surrounding communities. Our summer Christian music festival, Hosanna-Palooza, has become a self-sustaining event and we continue to see new faces every year. In 2015, we celebrated our 60th Anniversary. During the Summer of 2017 we expanded our Early Childhood Center, which is seeing continuous growth, and our jointly operated school, Concordia Lutheran School, continues to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the families we serve.

Immanuel, Dearborn Heights

Many members, including the Church Council, are striving to grow our church and bring people closer to God. Pastor Milton Schemm retired from Immanuel after 17 years of service. God blessed us with the Rev. Paul Pollatz, who helped us plan and participate in our 150th Anniversary of service to our Lord and Savior. In July of 2017, Pastor Pollatz left Immanuel and we called upon many retired pastors to help us as we looked for someone to fill the position of pastor. Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper suggested the use of Deacon Steve Sparks, and he has certainly been a God-send. In the past 3 years, Immanuel has replaced the sign with a new LED digital sign, replaced half the security windows, painted the parish hall and hung new vertical blinds, continuously working hard with volunteer help to beautify our grounds. We held VBS and an Easter Egg Hunt in the last three years and have plans to further reach out to the community. God continues to be good to Immanuel and we thank Him every day. We look forward to reaching out to the community to teach the young people about Jesus and growing Immanuel to the vibrant church it was in its hey day.

Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills – Prince of Peace continues to live in God's blessings of His Word, Sacraments, and Christian teaching. In response, we strive to be a blessing to our community. We continue to support Family of God in Christ Ministry financially, and by serving meals there each month. We also help feed our neighbors through a weekly, on-site food pantry. With the help of God, we will expand our support of Another Way Pregnancy Center (AWPC) by offering our classrooms and volunteers to host parenting classes beginning in April 2018. AWPC is a Christian-based center that offers emotional, practical, and spiritual assistance to both men and women facing unplanned pregnancies. We are thankful that we are able to continue our support of mission projects of the Michigan District through tithing of our member offerings. We prayerfully began the

Intentional Pastoral Interim process in January 2018 upon the retirement of Rev. John Straub. The people of Prince of Peace live in joyful hope waiting for the pastor our faithful Lord is preparing for us.

Salem National, Westland – 2017 was a year of worship and physical changes at Salem. In November, our vacancy pastor, Rev. Brant Engel, accepted a vacancy position at St. Paul, Flint. Also, our Deacon Scott Blevins moved to Monroe. We wish them both the Lord's blessings in their new calling. They will be sorely missed here at Salem. As a result, our worship services are conducted by emeriti pastors, primarily Rev. Joe Cottam, while we prayerfully consider our options.

In 2017 we had a number of physical changes made at our church. We replaced all exterior doors and windows, and painted and added new landscaping around the building. Our interior got a facelift as well: we added new fellowship tables, new blinds on the windows, and a fresh coat of paint throughout. We also repaired an under floor leak caused by our old hot water heating system. Our boiler finally gave out early in January 2018 during the most frigid weather, and we finally had to replace it. We pray that God will continue to bless us in 2018.

St. Paul's, Farmington Hills – St. Paul's is in a period of transition. Our pastor, Rev. Andrew Becker, accepted a call to a parish in Colorado in 2017. St. Paul's then elected to participate in the Intentional Interim Ministry and called Rev. Gary Siefert to be the Intentional Interim Pastor. He was installed on June 11, 2017. The primary focus during this process is on the joint/association day school of Concordia Lutheran School, between St. Paul's and Hosanna-Tabor in Redford. It is a blessing that St. Paul's is looking at its future and how best to serve the community through Concordia school and St. Paul's congregation. We are most certain that the Lord will bless St. Paul's and Concordia school so that the Gospel message can continue to be spread in our community. Thanks be to God!

St. Paul, Northville – By God's abundant goodness, St. Paul's family of faith has expanded our Gospel connections to the people of Northville and the surrounding communities. Since 2015 we added a licensed lay deacon, a director of Family Life, and a campus manager. We have partnered with Another Way Pregnancy Center to help promote the sanctity of life with those involved in the birth of a new child. Our bi-annual MOST mission trips have included Nicaragua and Guatemala. What a blessing as we continue to provide people with comfort, support, and opportunities to serve.

Circuit #28 - Milan Circuit Rev. Thomas L. Schroeder, Circuit Visitor

Christ Our King, Saline – In the past three years, we have again seen the hand of God at work. He has given us great blessings beyond our expectations. This last year, an International Friendship Center opened on our campus in conjunction with POBLO, focusing on English as a Second Language. Our Vacation Bible School continues to grow and flourish as we are privileged to minister to 135 children, with 100 of them being visitors. Under some excellent lay leadership, a new prayer ministry was started, entitled "Plug

into Prayer.” The last few years, we hosted an annual Great Commission Sunday during the season of Epiphany. This year’s Sermons and Bible studies were developed under the theme “Joining Jesus – Show Me How” based on Rev. Greg Finke’s book. Finally, Christ Our King has recognized a need in the community and is actively involved in taking God’s Word to five different senior citizens’ facilities. How blessed we are to be His partners in Kingdom work!

Emmanuel, Britton – Emmanuel Lutheran Church has been on the Ridge serving our Lord for the past 157 years. Pastor David McCarty has been serving at Emmanuel since 2015. Emmanuel has begun a partnership with the American Red Cross by sponsoring Blood Mobiles. Pastor McCarty is serving as the Chaplain for the Ridgeway Township Fire/Rescue. The congregation is involved in Prison Ministry through the Angel Tree program, the PenPal program, and the Card Ministry program. The congregation is also actively involved in sponsoring a Boy Scout/Cub Scout program and teaching Scouting religion classes.

St. Paul’s, Milan – St. Paul’s continues to grow spiritually and numerically as we work toward the goal of calling a full-time pastor. For the first time, in addition to STEPS students from CUAA, we also have a Family Life intern for six months. We also have plans to replace our former “parish house” with a new grade-level building containing a fellowship hall, offices, bathrooms, a kitchen, and an elevator. Great things are happening, and we are planning for more.

Open Arms, Belleville – Rev. Scott Eberlein was installed in November of 2016. Open Arms continues to have a strong daycare and preschool presence in the Belleville area community, though it is seeing some changes to enrollment and recruitment due to public/charter schools opening up programs that offer childcare and preschool classrooms. Open Arms’ Board of Administration is currently working on revising board policy documents and has started a funding drive to provide new playground equipment and several building updates to better serve the community.

Tabernacle of Praise, Canton – Tabernacle of Praise is still meeting together in Canton as the congregation regroups after their building was sold in September 2017. The congregation has an average attendance of 25-30 adults and 9-10 children coming together on Sundays. The current plans are that the congregation will find a new permanent place to worship after Easter. It has been a very tactic time for the congregation but they are pulling together with determination. Blessings to you and the Michigan District!

St. Thomas, Ann Arbor – The congregation is currently served by Rev. Carl DeMerritt, Intentional Interim Pastor. St. Thomas is the oldest Missouri Synod Lutheran congregation in Michigan. Thanks to the Michigan District and many others, St. Thomas’ daycare/preschool continues to grow and flourish as an important outreach to our community.

Faith, Ypsilanti – Rev. James A. Waddell
Baptized Membership – 119
Communicant Membership – 87
Average Worship Attendance – 55

St. Paul, New Boston – Rev. John W. Schwartz
Baptized Membership – 198
Communicant Membership – 174
Average Worship Attendance – 85

Circuit #29 - Ann Arbor Circuit **Rev. Larry G. Courson, Circuit Visitor**

The Ann Arbor Circuit churches continue to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in and around the Ann Arbor area. The circuit pastors meet monthly at the District Office for worship, study, and fellowship.

Our Savior, Chelsea – Here are some of the highlights over the last three years. Our preschool, Lambs of Our Savior, has been faithfully working on getting the NEYC accreditation. They, along with the congregation, have had a booth at the annual Chelsea community fair. Over the last three years, our enrollment has continued to grow and we have gone to a five-full-days-a-week program.

Our high school youth group has been very active. They have taken two mission trips to Florida and this year they are planning a mission trip to Houston, Texas to help those who were affected by the hurricanes. They are planning on having an outdoor concert with Citizen Way as the main attraction sometime early August. The seniors group, known as the Silver Streaks, has taken trips to various locations in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Their biggest trip was to the Creation Museum and the Ark in Petersburg, Ky. The Lord continues to bless our ministry as we faithfully serve Him!

Trinity, Pinckney – Trinity has completed a remodel and addition of a multipurpose room to the church facilities. The work was done by the members of Trinity as much as possible.

St. Paul, Hamburg – St. Paul has renewed its emphasis on trusting that God is at work through the family. We have added additional staff to help our congregation equip families with the resources necessary to share the Christian faith in their homes and community. We trust that God is at work through our congregation to connect people to Jesus, to each other, and to opportunities to serve their neighbors in need.

St. Paul, Ann Arbor – St. Paul conducts ministry at two locations: in the center of the city and on the east side of Ann Arbor near Concordia. Worship attendance is about evenly split between the two locations. The size of our ministry is generally unchanged in the last triennium, but several significant changes have taken place in staffing. We have welcomed a new Associate Pastor, Rev. Aaron Roggow, a new Principal, Mr. Bob Burgess, and a new Director of Family Life, Mrs. Julie Burgess. In addition to our (K-8) elementary school, we operate two preschools and an infant/toddler program. The preschool at our main school campus has expanded significantly,—30 new families—with the addition of our new teacher, Mrs. Samantha Conway. Our elementary school recently added a second full-day Kindergarten. In regard to facilities, remodeling and improvements took place at both sites. St. Paul added offices to the main school site in order to allow the associate pastor and director of family life to work more closely with the school. The narthex and bathrooms were remodeled at the downtown sanctuary.

Divine Shepherd, Ann Arbor – The congregation closed in 2016.

Cross and Resurrection, Ypsilanti – The Chapel at Eastern Michigan University. Over the last three years, Cross and Resurrection, has served to *Nurture Families and Welcome Students: Belong, Believe, Become* each day. We presently serve the campus of EMU with an SMP Vicar, James Hahn, and two part-time staff for youth and college outreach. We provide a time called “The Gathering at the Chapel” each Thursday evening with an opportunity to disciple and mentor students. We provide an outreach to campus by providing “Pancakes and Waffles TOO!” every Friday night at 10 p.m. through Saturday morning at 1 a.m. We serve as many as 400–500 students on these evenings. Pastor Bryan Schindel serves as Chaplain for our EMU Police and we have a really good relationship with the University, especially sharing the Ann Street parking lot. We also have an annual mission trip each year for the students. Since we are the only Chapel at EMU, we provide space for many groups to meet in our building, including MADD, New Life, and many other student groups. We are TRU EMU!

We also serve families by providing a great Sunday school, youth group, Bible studies for all ages, men’s breakfast, ladies’ Bible classes, Financial Peace University, Alpha Course, Delta Course, Spring and Fall Growth Retreats, family mission trip to Mississippi, and American Sign Language classes for both children and adults. We also chartered American Heritage Girls and Trail Life USA for our boys and girls. We have worship services with lunch following the service during the college year. We are truly blessed to have purchased the chapel building from the Michigan District and are working hard to continue to modernize, renew, and pay it off. We feel truly blessed by our Lord for the many ways Deaconess Norma Polk and our servant leaders provide the food ministry to the community twice a month and provide Art Camp each summer with many other outreach events to the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor community! We are excited to see what our Lord will do in advancing HIS KINGDOM among us and through us in the future!

St. Luke, Ann Arbor – In the last three years, St. Luke has gone from a multisite congregation in three different locations to three separate congregations in three locations. While camaraderie and partnership have continued, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel in Ann Arbor, and Living Water Lutheran Church in Whitmore Lake are now separate congregations. In that transition, St. Luke has changed governance structure, reassessed vision and direction, and started the staffing and ministry transitions needed as we seek to live out openness to people, faithfulness to complex truth, connection through authentic relationships, and dependence on Jesus.

Living Water, Whitmore Lake – Living Water became an LCMS congregation in 2016. Rev. Harrison Parker was installed as their pastor in 2017. The church has purchased property and has been working to modify it to serve as their first church facility.

University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor – ULC is now an

LCMS congregation as of January 2016. In April of 2017, Rev. Gabe Kasper was installed as the pastor of ULC. The Common Cup, a coffee shop at ULC, celebrated 10 years of ministry in October, 2017.

Peace, Ann Arbor – Peace entered into a partnership with Dexter Coop Preschool in 2016. The addition to the Peace facilities that includes two classrooms, a youth room, and gym was completed in September of 2016. We added an informal Sunday evening service at 6 p.m. Peace hosted two Wheelchair Basketball Clinics with the University of Michigan’s Motts Children’s Hospital in 2017 and started hosting practices in January of 2018. Peace has started a StartNew ministry project in 2018 with the focus on outreach to special needs people and their families.

The Ann Arbor Circuit is the home of the Michigan District Office and Concordia University. The churches and members of the Ann Arbor Circuit are thankful for the opportunity to be in partnership with Concordia University and the Michigan District staff.

Circuit #30 - Jackson Circuit **Rev. Joel H. Sarrault, Circuit Visitor**

In the Jackson Circuit, we have been striving to live as God’s Saved and Sent Servants so that those who have faith in Jesus will grow in service and love, and those who currently don’t know Jesus as their Savior will have the opportunity to meet Him!

Our eight congregations meet on a monthly basis for fellowship, encouragement, Word-work, prayer, and to make sure the local breweries are maintaining proper Michigan District standards. So far, so good!

Notable changes in the past three years: Pastor Steve Newberg, formerly at LCOL in Addison accepted a call to North Carolina. Pastor Troy Neujahr accepted a call in the Ohio District. Pastor Bill Roper (Intentional Interim) accepted a call to St. Mark’s, Brooklyn. Pastor Allen Muck (SMP) accepted a call to St. John’s, Adrian and was deployed to serve at Our Saviour, Hudson.

St. John’s, Adrian – Rev. Joel H. Sarrault
Our motto of “Pointing to Jesus” has continued to direct and challenge our activities in the congregation, community, and beyond. For the third year in a row, we sent a MOST ministries team to the village of La Joya, Nicaragua, participating in ministries of service that included water filtration, health & hygiene, VBS, eye-glass clinic, installing skylights in the village, and providing Christian encouragement. God willing, we plan on continuing a long-term relationship with Pastor Marvin Donaire and his congregation in Nicaragua, returning in early 2019 for some church facility maintenance and construction. St. John’s newly formed “Sisters in Faith” has taken “planning” to an entirely new level with the involvement of dozens of women in the congregation and community who have gathered regularly to serve the homeless in our community by making mats out of plarn (plastic grocery bags made into yarn). Literally thousands of plastic grocery bags have found new life as sleeping mats and bags

for the homeless. St. John's has agreed to "walk alongside" the Our Saviour, Hudson congregation to assist them in restarting with the guidance of the FiveTwo Ministries. St. John called Rev. Al Muck (SMP) to be the part-time pastor at St. John's while ministering at Our Saviour with a FiveTwo leadership team to help them reinvest in the community and become a healthier part of the Body of Christ. With assistance from area churches and organizations, we packaged over 40,000 Kids Against Hunger meals in 2017. Our 4th Annual Community Carnival saw over 900 visitors on our campus last year. We also greatly enjoyed hosting a Family Life intern from CUAA in 2017. St. John's currently has 691 Baptized members, 579 Confirmed and 312 households. 74% of the households are active in ministry with an average of 280 in worship.

Redeemer, Jackson – Rev. Mike Geml

The most significant event that took place over the past year occurred in our leadership positions of head elder, chairman, and vice chairman. All three men who held these positions were taken to their heavenly home within a few months of each other. While we mourn their loss in the congregation, we rejoice at their receiving the goal of their faith, the salvation of their souls. We also rejoice that God has raised up men to fill these positions. The other noteworthy item was the blessing of adding a full-time Family Life Educator on staff, Kimber Walsh. This addition has paralleled an increase of young families with small children regularly attending worship.

Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison – Vacancy Pastor, Rev. Michael Ruhl

Over the past several years, LCOL has been focused on building inroads into our local communities through outreach programs and spiritual/financial support of those less fortunate. In December 2016, Pastor Steve Newberg accepted a call to Charlotte, N.C. In January 2017, Pastor Michael Ruhl came out of his three-day retirement to serve as our vacancy pastor. Our vacancy has taught us the gifts that Pastor Steve gave us through training, tools, and most importantly, the confidence and the wisdom to keep our church focused on God's mission. Pastor Ruhl's passionate preaching and life experience has fueled our members' passion for Gospel service.

Trinity, Jackson – Rev. Eric Ekong

Trinity, Jackson is two ministries with one mission: *To Transform Lives and Cultivate Communities by Making More and Better Disciples for Jesus Christ!* Trinity has 809 baptized and 568 confirmed members. Our average weekly worship is 285 during three services. Our church staff includes an office manager and worship/music director. Our day school and early childhood center, led by Lisa Singleton, includes five called teachers, a secretary, an assistant early childhood director, and 22 part-time workers. The church is currently celebrating its 150th year, having been founded in 1868. Trinity has had many notable pastors to shepherd her over the years including Rev. Gustave Spiegel, President of the Michigan District in 1891; Dr. W. Harry Krieger, President of the Michigan District in 1957 and Synodical Vice-President in 1965; and Rev. Dr. David

Buegler, President of the Ohio District (1988) and 5th Vice President of the LCMS in 2004. Celebratory events include the creation of a "Trinity Museum" with local and church artifacts, a Mission Celebration event, and a Community Action Day. The final dinner celebration will include Dr. Lawrence Rast speaking at the dinner and Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison preaching at the final service in October 2018. Trinity partnered with our sister congregation, Redeemer, to hold a Community Day in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. At our downtown location, we served 477 community members, provided 1000+ pieces of clothing, 350 meals, 250 hygiene kits, and so much more, sharing the love and compassion of Jesus. Our school sponsored our third Kids Against Hunger event this year, packaging 22,680 meals that were sent to Haiti. We recently experienced a first: two Baptisms at our Lutheran school. Great is God's faithfulness!

St. Mark's, Brooklyn – Rev. Bill Roper

Established in 1952, St. Mark's is located in the historic and scenic Irish Hills of northeast Lenawee County, just east of the Michigan International Speedway. A fixture in the Irish Hills for over a half century, St. Mark's is rallying from a member adjustment after her previous pastor accepted a call to California. Now under the able leadership of the Rev. R. William Roper, St. Mark's has added new members and a new outreach attitude with involvement in community activities. We've started a Diaper Closet in November 2017. With an average Sunday attendance of 60+, innovative programs in discipleship training, evangelism and outreach are continuing to be offered. One of St. Mark's members is currently enrolled and enjoying the Deacon program.

Our Saviour, Hudson – Rev. Al Muck (SMP)

2016 marked the beginning of a three-year ministry partnership between Our Saviour, Hudson and St. John's, Adrian. Through financial, staff, and volunteer support from St. John's, Our Saviour embarked on a journey to grow and strengthen ministry that began 66 years ago. Seeking out the resources and training provided by FiveTwo Ministries, a joint team was formed to begin charting the path for Our Saviour to follow as the congregation sought to reach into the community of Hudson with the life-changing message of the Gospel. As the year progressed, worship attendance stabilized and saw a slight increase. The congregation undertook a variety of activities that raised the visible presence of the congregation as they served Jesus by serving others. A Community Easter Egg Hunt brought over 100 children and their families to the church grounds. VBS saw 22 children gather together to hear that Jesus is their Mighty Fortress. Our Saviour had a presence in the July 4th and Christmas community parades. Understanding that there are many families who are struggling to meet their daily needs, the congregation filled and delivered 12 Thanksgiving baskets. Christmas gifts were also purchased for children as part of the community effort. To God be the glory for the great things He has done and will continue to do in 2018!

Hope, Adrian – Rev. Paul Herter

Baptized membership: 210; Confirmed: 176; AWA: 99. Hope congregation observed its 45th anniversary in 2017.

We have been blessed with a great staff, including several accomplished musicians. Our Director of Christian Youth and Family Ministries since 2005, Rebekah Martinal, was installed as a Commissioned Minister in 2015 and continues to help our congregation to be more effective and focused on outreach and ministry to youth of all ages. During 2016, Pastor Herter and Rebekah completed a Michigan District-sponsored course through Church Extension Fund on leadership, underwritten in part by the congregation. Our congregation has a women's ministry group, the LWML Hope Women in Mission. In 2017, we hosted a "Pig-n-Jig," which was an opportunity for members to invite unchurched friends to enjoy an evening of food, hayrides, and line dancing.

St. Matthew's, Adrian – Rev. Daryl H. Etheridge
Baptized Membership – 185
Communicant Membership – 104
Average Worship Attendance – 55

Blessed Savior, Blissfield – Rev. Daryl H. Etheridge
Baptized Membership – 14
Communicant Membership – 13
Average Worship Attendance – 9

Circuit #31 - Petoskey Circuit
Rev. Matthew A. Peters, Circuit Visitor

The congregations of Northwest Michigan constituting Circuit 31 have seen many changes and shifts in the last three years. Our communities ebb and flow with the movement of the seasons, as well as with the coming and going of industries and commerce. Of our circuit's eight churches, six have experienced a pastoral change in this triennium, with two vacancies remaining as of this report. However, we are truly blessed to have a number of retired pastors in the area as well, and they have been immeasurably helpful, assisting in vacancies and bolstering the fellowship among the brother-pastors. Yes, there are challenges, but we also are able to joyously report that God is working among His people! Therefore, we submit these updates with the certain hope of our Lord continuing to sustain His churches 'Up North'.

—Rev. Matthew Peters, Circuit Visitor

Bethany, Charlevoix – After a few years of transition, Bethany is currently being served on an interim basis by Rev. Paul Schneider. Over the last three years, membership has been relatively stable with a few new members joining and a few members leaving. Unfortunately, the numbers are still declining ever so slightly, with more members leaving due to economic changes, relocations, transfers, and deaths. The current membership wants to grow but is frustrated to know how. They were pleased to be the host congregation for the District's *Here We Ride* bicycling event in 2017, and look forward to another event in 2018. With Pastor Schneider's temporary assistance, the congregation is exploring the possibility of a partnership that could create a long-term part-time pastorate.

Christ, Boyne City – Rev. Peter Elliot accepted a call downstate in the fall of 2017 after seven years of faithful service to the congregation. Therefore, they are currently vacant and in the call process. The congregation has a faithful group of

worshippers, and continues to have a strong attendance at Bible study. Their community mission of the Kinder Kloset provides children and mothers in the community with diapers and other essentials on a monthly basis.

Hope, Bellaire – The goal of blacktopping our parking lot was realized in July of 2015. In addition to offering the Eucharist every Lord's Day, we have added two more opportunities to receive the blessed Sacrament each week. A Low Mass replaces the praying of Vespers on Wednesday nights during Lent as well as Matins on Thursday mornings. We celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation on October 31, 2017 with the Rev. Philip G. Meyer, Pastor Emeritus of Terre Haute, Ind. preaching. The Rev. Todd A. Seaver, Pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Slippery Rock, Pa., served as subdeacon. Hope congregation started a new reading of the Book of Concord, beginning with the Augsburg Confession, on Monday evenings. Most recently, we hosted Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin of the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Novosibirsk. He presented on the work of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society.

Mt. Hope, Grayling – Rev. Joe Polzin was ordained and installed August 7, 2016 as pastor of the newly-formed dual parish with Trinity, Gaylord. Mt. Hope continues to focus on their life in worship and the study of the Word. They also have a variety of successful outreach initiatives such as community food distributions, an after-school movie ministry for students, and spiritual care of seniors. They've had many fellowship events as they walk together in Christ's love.

Trinity, Gaylord – Along with Mt. Hope in Grayling, Trinity called Rev. Joe Polzin in 2016, and formed a dual parish. In addition to focusing on their life in worship and the study of the Word, Trinity continues their efforts in supporting the local food pantry, providing a space and support for the local homeless shelter (the Refuge), tutoring elementary students after school, and their first community food distributions in 2017. They, too, have had great fellowship together, living as the body of Christ.

St. Matthew, Mancelona – Rev. Jeffrey Burgess was installed as their pastor in August of 2016. The congregation remains committed to continuing Christian education with three Bible study opportunities per week. Every Monday, about 15 people from the surrounding community meet at St. Matthew for Friendship Ministry. This evening worship service has grown out of an opportunity to connect people with developmental disabilities or brain injuries and their caregivers to Christ. We are overjoyed that Jesus still is drawing all people to Himself. About four times a year, St. Matthew gets to serve a free meal to the community of Mancelona. Since fall of 2016, our congregation has experienced a slight growth in membership with nearly 60 worshipers gathering around God's Word and Sacraments.

St. Paul, Kalkaska is hoping to find additional ways to serve our community even as we continue to support the local food bank. We have expanded our opportunities to gather in the Word with a new adult Bible study, and have enjoyed hosting two years of VBS after a year off while the congregation experienced a pastoral vacancy. We also give thanks

for some much-needed renovations that we were able to complete over the last couple years.

Zion, Petoskey – As we strive to remain faithful to God’s Word and our Lutheran Confession, Zion, Petoskey has also sought to open our doors and our hearts to the community around us, especially those who are in need of God’s love and who might benefit from a connection to His faithful people. The 3 & 4 year old preschool program is hoping to expand on its 17 years of success and begin a Young 5’s/Pre-K class this fall. We have been hosting free community concerts on the first Saturday of every month for the last year and a half, thanks to our talented and well-connected Director of Music. Our dedicated volunteers coordinated a bus trip to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter last summer, bringing members and friends from the area to see the exhibits and hear of God’s truths. We also successfully coordinated with Bethany, Charlevoix to co-host the District’s *Here We Ride* bicycling fundraiser event, and plan to do so again this year. Building on God’s blessings and opportunities, Zion is in the process of calling a director of family and youth ministries so that we might more fully share the Gospel with those in our pews, as well as with the families and neighbors that we might meet.

Circuit #32 – Traverse City Circuit
Rev. Mark E. Berlin, Circuit Visitor

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The eight congregations that make up the Traverse City Circuit serve the residents and visitors of Northern Michigan in Word and Sacrament ministry. We boldly proclaim the Gospel in a very beautiful but broken world. The effects of humanity’s sin are ever present. The forgiveness of sin and the grace of God reign supreme as this present world is passing away.

While our main focus is proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, we also serve our region in care ministries. While there are many wealthy people that live and vacation in our region, there are many working poor people here as well. For this reason, the Northwest Food Coalition, in a five-county region, serves hundreds of thousands of meals each year. Many of our circuit churches have, or participate in, food banks. Trinity Lutheran Church in Traverse City serves thousands of people on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Who are we and what are we doing? We are...

Grace, Elk Rapids – The village of Elk Rapids is nestled along the banks of the Elk River as it flows into the Grand Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan. The opportunities are not only about the sun and the sand, however. The sharing of the Gospel of Christ with all who live, work, and vacation here in the Elk Rapids area is our primary task. As we love the Lord, we love our neighbors and want them to know Jesus as their Savior. Pastor James Redmann continues to share this Good News as he serves the brothers and sisters in Christ at Grace.

St. Michael’s, Traverse City – For the past ten years, St. Michael’s has been served by Pastor Jim Nihiser. Over the last

triennium, there has been slow and steady growth, and many new leaders have been raised up by the Lord of the church. Along with these leaders have come many new ideas, and a renewed commitment to the ministry of the Gospel. Over the last 8 years, the primary goal at St. Michael has been to address the debt load the congregation was carrying... that being nearly \$500,000. We thank and praise God that nearly 90% of that debt has been eliminated. This has freed God’s people to take on a new goal: that of outreach. Efforts have begun to move ahead as a congregation, and to be progressively more faithful to our Lord’s Great Commission.

Recently, the ministry has developed a greater presence on social media, including Facebook and Instagram. In order to maximize the influence of our worship services, we have recently installed a video camera in the sanctuary, and the worship services are being posted on YouTube. We are blessed to have one of our own, Paul Gaudette, studying through the Michigan District’s Deacon Program. The leadership of St. Michael’s has agreed to issue Paul a contract to minister part-time as our Deacon-in-residence. We look forward to our continued service to Jesus, and to bringing the Gospel to those whom God has placed in our lives. We do so standing on the promise of God’s Word, especially focusing on Jeremiah 29:11: “...I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

St. Paul’s, Good Harbor (Cedar) – Good Harbor is located in the northern part of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. St. Paul’s observed 140 years of God’s grace in 2017. God continues his work at Good Harbor through the Word and Sacrament ministry of Senior Pastor, Rev. Robert Wurst Jr., and Associate Pastor, Rev. John Wurst. Pastor Robert works full-time at a local fire department to help the congregation maintain her ministry in the area. Pastor John helps as much as his health permits, his spirit being willing but having weakness in his flesh.

Redeemer, Interlochen – Redeemer continues to be a vibrant church with an exciting ministry in the middle of God’s vacation wonderland and near the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park. We are blessed to have many visitors and delight in sharing the Gospel of Jesus with people from all over the world. Redeemer continues to be a light on the hill in this small community whose main claim to fame is the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Pastor Mark Berlin and Pastor Jason Bauer (SMP) serve Redeemer Lutheran Church. Pastor Bauer returned to serving at Redeemer in 2016 after spending a year at Camp Arcadia as the Program Director. Last year, the congregation paid off their mortgage. Presently, we are looking at new and creative ways we can serve the people of our community. This is in addition to our food bank that feeds over 12,000 people per year. Redeemer is richly blessed by God’s grace in Christ and our cup of blessings overflows.

Bethlehem, Glen Arbor – Our Church is located on the shores of Lake Michigan and serves a large seasonal tourist population. Bethlehem is being served by Pastor Daniel Dockery (SMP), who was ordained and installed in 2016. Bethlehem

is actively involved in the area food pantry and many social outreach projects, including working with needy children in the local school. On a quarterly basis, Bethlehem is committed to tithing to local individuals or crisis situations in the area. After many years of no growth, Bethlehem has experienced several baptisms and both adult and junior confirmations.

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Traverse City – The last three years have been a time of growth and transition for Trinity. Rev. Bruce Lucas joined the staff as principal of the school and associate pastor. Our school has once again received high praise during its recent and successful accreditation visitation. Our mercy work in the community has drawn the attention of local and national media. We have sent a family of missionaries into the mission field, ordained a son of the congregation into the Holy Ministry, and sent two sons and one daughter of Trinity to prepare for church work careers. The congregation has added new members by transfer and adult confirmation. Best of all, we have met together in worship over 850 times since the last Michigan District Convention to receive Christ's Word and Sacraments for the forgiveness of sins and to be built up for works of service.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Leland – After over 20 years of faithful Word and Sacrament ministry at Immanuel, Rev. Larry Matro accepted a call back to the mission field in Papua New Guinea. Immanuel is now served by Rev. Joshua LaFeve, who was installed in 2015. In 2016, Immanuel dedicated a renovated pipe organ for use in the Divine Service. In 2019, Immanuel will celebrate its 150th Anniversary. Mark Peters continues to be the Church Musician/Music Director.

Our Savior, Benzonia – With the blue waters of Lake Michigan, the sparkling waters of Crystal Lake, and the busy resort community of Crystal Mountain nearby, Rev. Michael Belinsky continues to serve the saints of Our Savior. In addition, he also serves the people of Norwalk Lutheran Church in Manistee, Mich. during their vacancy. He cares for and serves the residents of these communities as well as those that vacation and seek a peaceful retreat.

Circuit #33 – Manistee Circuit
Rev. Joel A. Hess, Circuit Visitor

Trinity, Arcadia – Rev. James E. Metcalf (IIM)
Baptized Membership – 307
Communicant Membership – 248
Average Worship Attendance – 143

Emmanuel, Cadillac – Rev. Joel A. Hess / Rev. Timothy C. Selim (SMP)
Baptized Membership – 600
Communicant Membership – 439
Average Worship Attendance – 264

Peace, Ludington – Rev. John G. Hansen (SMP)
Baptized Membership – 29
Communicant Membership – 29
Average Worship Attendance – 26

St. John, Ludington – Rev. Thomas V. Boehne
Baptized Membership – 326

Communicant Membership – 177
Average Worship Attendance – 127

Norwalk, Manistee
Baptized Membership – 86
Communicant Membership – 67
Average Worship Attendance – 24

Trinity, Manistee – Rev. Dennis D. Rahn
Baptized Membership – 823
Communicant Membership – 539
Average Worship Attendance – 137

Faith, Mesick – Rev. M. Robert Low
Baptized Membership – 28
Communicant Membership – 28
Average Worship Attendance – 14

Trinity, Onekama
Baptized Membership – 194
Communicant Membership – 175
Average Worship Attendance – 83

Lighthouse, Pentwater
Baptized Membership – 60
Communicant Membership – 57
Average Worship Attendance – 24

Our Savior, Scottville – Rev. James E. Schroeder
Baptized Membership – 697
Communicant Membership – 491
Average Worship Attendance – 140

Beautiful Savior, Wellston
Baptized Membership – 13
Communicant Membership – 13
Average Worship Attendance – 12

Circuit #34 - Big Rapids Circuit
Rev. John A. Bookshaw, Circuit Visitor

Redeemer, Fremont – Rev. James A. Schouweiler
Baptized Membership – 128
Communicant Membership – 105
Average Worship Attendance – 57

Christ, White Cloud – Rev. William J. Hooper
Baptized Membership – 157
Communicant Membership – 124
Average Worship Attendance – 75

Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta – Rev. Richard W. Collin (IIM)
Baptized Membership – 218
Communicant Membership – 207
Average Worship Attendance – 50

Grace, Baldwin – Rev. Daniel H. Fienen
Baptized Membership – 48
Communicant Membership – 48
Average Worship Attendance – 25

Trinity, Reed City – Rev. Paul A. Tonn
Baptized Membership – 555
Communicant Membership – 454
Average Worship Attendance – 191

St. Peter's, Big Rapids – Rev. John A. Bookshaw/Rev.

Jonathan V. Williams

Baptized Membership – 845

Communicant Membership – 666

Average Worship Attendance – 331

Circuit #35 - Capitol Circuit

Rev. G. Travis Downs, Circuit Visitor

The Capitol Circuit is comprised of the following churches: First Lutheran, Charlotte; Grace, Leslie; Trinity, Lansing; Living Word, Lansing; Our Savior, Lansing; Good Shepherd, Lansing; Messiah, Holt; St. Matthew, Holt; and Heart of the Shepherd, Howell. Each church has a Word and Sacrament ministry to the communities in which they have been placed by God. All of these churches strive, by God's leading, to spread the Gospel message of Jesus Christ with the people in their neighborhoods (Mark 16:15). Here are some of the things that have happened in these churches over the past triennium:

Heart of the Shepherd, Howell – Rev. John Hile

Heart of the Shepherd celebrated its 15th anniversary in September of 2017. Founding pastor, Rev. Galen Grulke, and Rev. John Hile have served the church together for seven years. In 2015, the congregation called Rev. Hile as Lead Pastor. Heart of the Shepherd's Child Development Center, led by Director Courtni Holst, serves children from more than 80 families each year and is seeking to add to the current staff of 19 teachers in order to meet the demand for enrollment. In order to reach and serve these families, the church launched the Family Resource Series on Tuesday nights. This series of classes has drawn more than 50 families since its inception in 2016, giving families resources for navigating parenting, marriage, finances, faith, and more.

The members of Heart of the Shepherd also put Christ-like compassion into action by raising nearly \$10,000 and packing 34,000 meals through Kids Against Hunger in 2016, involving the community and local schools in the effort.

St. Matthew, Holt – Rev. Dean Poellet

We are a congregation that seeks to know Jesus and to let Him be known. We do this by reflecting God's love, teaching God's children, and serving our community.

We are still supporting the seven congregations formed in India through our mission work years ago. However, we've been reducing our financial support each year to encourage them to become self-sustaining. We are redirecting those funds to 13 other missions around the world. We continue partnering with MOST Ministries to give our members the opportunity to serve in short-term missions around the world. Our early childhood center enrollment has been very stable the past three years, and our elementary school enrollment has increased between 15 and 20% during the past two years. On the other hand, our congregation has been aging and shrinking in numbers. Maintenance needs for our building continue popping up in many areas. We are facing some incredible challenges, but they do force us to rely less upon ourselves and more upon our heavenly Father.

Messiah, Holt – Rev. Tom Vanderilt and Deacon Bill Lack

Messiah operates the Messiah Child Development Center (MCDC) under the leadership of Ms. Kelly Marble. We focus on Word and Sacrament ministry to the people of Holt as we "Seek the Lost; Grow the Found." We are learning to take the Gospel message outside our church building and into the lives of those in our communities. We continue to hold our Lenten fish dinners, serving over 3,000 meals in six weeks and providing an opportunity for our community to come together.

Living Word, Lansing – Rev. Richard Laeder, Intentional Interim Pastor

During this past year, a small group of Southern Sudanese people (about fifty people, counting children and adults) started to meet. The first formal meeting with the leadership of this group was in February of 2017. Since that time, we have met with the group on a semi-regular basis every other week. On May 13, a small group of people went to Frankenmuth for an informal recruitment meeting for Deacon/SMP/etc. Another meeting was held to establish with the Michigan District a process for this group to become a constituted congregation. After that meeting, leaders/officers were appointed/elected to serve. The next step was to begin a formal process of preparing people for membership in Living Word. In 2017, we began a study of Luther's Small Catechism. During this time of study, Mr. Moses Dangba applied to the EIIT Program through the St. Louis Seminary. If he is accepted, he will become the immediate vicar of the congregation. Pastor Laeder agreed to supervise Moses during his vicarage. On November 26, 2017, Living Word was reconstituted, new members confirmed, officers installed/appointed, and three children and one infant were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Since then, Pastor Laeder has been called to be the Intentional Interim Minister of Living Word as they meet for worship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansing.

Our Savior, Lansing – No report.

Trinity, Lansing – Rev. G. Travis Downs and Deacon Bob Dowding

Seeking to be the place God is looking for as he saves souls. God has led Trinity in different areas of ministry. Our child care center brings the love of Jesus to children through daily contact, chapel, and special events that include parents and families. The addition of Deacon Robert Dowding has been a blessing to our in-reach and outreach by assisting in teaching, visitations, and contacts with other churches and organizations. We encourage sister churches and the community to join us for worship (Tre-Ore service), music (organ recitals), and fellowship (Band Fest with bounce house and flea market), the Harvest Dinner, and Mission Festival. Major repairs to our pipe organ were completed in late 2016. Our youth are encouraged to strengthen their faith through VBS and Y.E.S. (Youth Exploring Scriptures) where they earn their own special Bible. Bible classes four days a week are opportunities to gather around and be in the Scriptures. Outreach and help to community organizations include Hannah's House, Lansing City Rescue Mission, Christian Services, Lutheran World Relief, LWML, ISM Friendship House, and Thanksgiving Baskets.

Good Shepherd, Lansing – Rev. Roger Straub

“A small church with a big heart for Christ.” Over the past three years, Good Shepherd has continued to face the challenges of a graying congregation, while remaining committed to its mission statement: “Good Shepherd seeks to gain people for God, gather around Word and Sacrament, and grow in Christ.” Good Shepherd is going on its eleventh year as a mission outpost with Lutheran Blind Missions, a ministry that continues to experience growth and growing pains. The congregation continues to stay engaged and active with Friendship House, the ministry to international students at MSU. Each month, the congregation is focused on a mission outreach within the community or partnering with the community. Twice a month, a community dinner is offered to the community, to provide a meal at no charge to people who need help making ends meet. In October of 2017, Good Shepherd was the recipient of the Delta Township Community Organization of the Year Award for 2017.

Grace, Leslie – Rev. Michael Martin

During the past three years, the congregation has conducted regular worship services on Sunday morning. During Advent and Lent, mid-week services are held with a soup supper before the service. In addition, there is a Good Friday service and, on Easter morning, a breakfast or brunch is served. During the past three years, only one Sunday service was cancelled due to especially inclement weather. Average worship attendance currently averages between 20 and 25 people. It has declined over the past three years due to the deaths of several active members and a lack of growth from the outside. There are very few children in the congregation. Yet, in the past three years, Grace Lutheran has confirmed two classes, one class of four students and the other class had three students. Grace continues to be engaged in the community with Christian literature in a local Laundromat, equipping visitors with information about the Leslie community, and providing a New Testament. Pastor Martin continues to be engaged in the community by attending the Chamber of Commerce meetings. The congregation engages with the community by sharing music through Southern Gospel concerts, providing resources for the Leslie Outreach Food Bank from a garage sale, supporting the Ft. Wayne Seminary’s food bank, and many other activities.

First, Charlotte – Rev. Timothy Olson

The Lord has blessed First Lutheran Church in Charlotte these past three years in great ways! God’s people continue to listen to God’s calling to reach out to the community of Charlotte with the Gospel (Matthew 28:19–20). As in the past, we have continued our ham and turkey giveaway on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. We invite the whole community to come and get a free ham and turkey with the fixings. Two years ago, we added a breakfast to this event. This past year we had over 400 people come through our doors, and we gave away 300 hams and 300 turkeys in an hour or so. We ministered and shared the Gospel with those who came. Our hearts were touched as we saw the love of Christ at work. We had breakfast with more than 300 people. As a result of our ham and turkey ministry, we have added a community dinner on the third Monday of the month.

Now we are completing a renovation to make our kitchen commercial, so that we can have more community dinners. The goal is to feed people with both physical and spiritual food. God has also blessed us with a great preschool/daycare ministry. Presently, we are filled to capacity. This allows us to minister to these families with the Gospel and especially teach the little children about Jesus. As Jesus said, “*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it*” (Mark 10:14–15).

Circuit #36, Saint Johns Circuit **Rev. Edward W. Filter, Circuit Visitor**

Ascension, East Lansing

Ascension is served by Pastor Dave Winningham, Deacon John Haubenstricker, and Music Director Alix Jenkins. Ascension has enjoyed growth in participation, as well as growth in awareness and support of District and Synod programs. Stephen Ministry was introduced about three years ago, and has been a growing blessing and presence. The elders have studied Stephen Ministry books in several retreat settings. Ascension’s Chapel has been used monthly for over 25 years by the local Coptic (Egyptian Orthodox) congregation, and ALC members have developed a warm relationship with that congregation. Fall of 2017 saw ALC also become the new home of the *Lansing Matinee Musicale*, an association which provides monthly musical programs of high caliber to the greater Lansing area. Ascension is currently going through a self-study and call process, as Pastor Winningham prepares to retire at the end of June.

Calvary, Carson City

During the last three years, by the grace of God, the people at Calvary (1) began a quilting ministry which, from January 2015 through October 2017, has produced 716 quilts for Lutheran World Relief; (2) hosted semi-annual free-will-offering lunches that benefited the Carson City Community. The lunches have supported projects at the local public elementary school, the local hospital, and other community projects; (3) after an asset mapping workshop in the spring of 2017, decided to use the asset of our property to host monthly community bonfires from June–October. Each bonfire was attended by a person from the community who did not previously have any interaction with Calvary; and (4) in the fall of 2017 began a self-study entitled “IF,” which stands for Insight (where are we at) and Foresight (where are we headed) as a small and aging congregation which has a mission in a small town.

Hope, DeWitt

Over the course of the last three years, Hope has continued to be a beacon of light in this dark world. The Spirit has repeatedly blessed the preaching of the Word, adding new souls to the Book of Life through water and the Word, as well as gathering many back into the fold who had previously wandered from the Good Shepherd. Both membership and worship attendance have increased, so much so that we have needed to add a second Sunday service. Hope has also had a second capital campaign to raise money for needed renovations to our current campus. In 2017, Hope celebrated the

500th anniversary of the Reformation with numerous events throughout the year, culminating in a joyous celebration of the Gospel on Reformation Sunday. Hope's members look forward to the many and various opportunities of sharing the Gospel of peace within our community and continuing to share the truth of the Gospel with a world desperately groping in the darkness. We thank the Lord of the Church for all His good gifts, most especially His grace and mercy shown to us each and every Lord's day through His Word and Sacraments.

St. Andrew, Portland

God, through His grace, has continued to bless St. Andrew and the Portland community in the past three years. Wee Grow Christian Preschool continues to be a blessing to church members and the community, with enrollment increasing in the past three years, and four baptisms taking place last fall with at least some connection to the preschool. Several activities were planned and carried out in 2017 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, including handing out 500 water bottles at the Portland 4th of July parade labeled with a 500th anniversary message and a float celebrating that theme as well. The door that was constructed to take to the Reformation service at the Breslin Center in East Lansing continues to be used to remind folks at St. Andrew of their task to continue to reach out to the community with Jesus' love. Each of the three years has included a community-wide packaging event for Kids Against Hunger resulting in 20,000 meals being packaged for use in county-wide food banks and beyond. In January of 2018, St. Andrew celebrated the 35th anniversary of its first meeting as Portland Lutheran Mission with a service and potluck which included two of the original families returning to help us celebrate. 2019 marks 30 years of service at St. Andrew for Pastor Filter. He and the congregation look forward to the coming years together, God willing.

St. John, St. Johns

Many thanks to our circuit/district brothers and sisters for their continued partnership in ministry. God has called the people of St. John's to a big task: working toward Kingdom expansion in the backdrop of completing a new building, welcoming some staff members and wishing others farewell. Now, a nine-member volunteer team called the Transition Task Force (TTF) is leading our congregation through a time of relationship-building, vision-casting, and decision-making as a part of the Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) of the Michigan District. Our prayer is that, by the end of this new fiscal year, God will give our church a clear sense of identity and purpose, enable us to come together as a family of faith, bless our use of His resources (facilities, finances, volunteers, and staff), and make clear His will for staffing configuration and the next pastor.

St. Luke, Haslett and Lansing

Our congregation focuses on helping people in *Knowing the Peace and the Power of the Cross*. We have major emphases on involving people in worship, group life, and personal Bible reading. Through an ever more informed and intimate relationship with Jesus, we want to raise up people who can't help but talk about what they have seen and heard. During

the past three years, our congregation started a second ministry site in downtown Lansing in what was formerly Christ Lutheran Church, English District. The unification of the two sites has expanded worship and ministry opportunities for both locations. Major outreach ministries include our Little Lambs Preschool, a community kitchen that serves 100 people weekly, and a coat bank that provides coats to over 1,200 people annually. We offer five services during the week in our two locations, one of which is in Arabic. In addition to our financial support of the District and Synod, we support International Student Ministries at Michigan State University and international LCMS missionaries David Erber and Chuck Tessaro. Our called staff includes Sr. Pastor David Davis, Associate Pastor Trevor Sutton, Associate Pastor Zerit Yohannes, Assistant Pastor Elamin Baggor, Youth Director Tom Chester, and Deaconess Rahel Musa. Our congregation includes 860 baptized members and 673 confirmed members. Our average attendance is 413.

St. Paul, Fowler

In the past three years, St. Paul has been involved in the following four tasks:

- Due to the tragic death of our organist and choir director, St. Paul was involved in the commissioning, installing, and dedicating of a mural by Ed Riojas in her memory;
- The installation of Rev. Lance Klamer as Associate Pastor/Kantor;
- Rebuilding and upgrading their pipe organ;
- Continuing to focus on Pro-life ministries under the direction of Pastor Paul Clark, who also continues to serve the Michigan District in this vital area of ministry.

St. Peter, St. Johns (Riley)

Baptized Membership – 453

Communicant Membership – 379

Average Worship Attendance – 130

Circuit #37 – Tri-River Circuit

Rev. Jeffrey M. Wilhelm, Circuit Visitor

The Tri-River Circuit is essentially a two-county area of congregations northeast of the greater Grand Rapids metropolitan area, stretching from Howard City in the north, south to Lowell, then eastward to Ionia and Stanton, including Sand Lake, Greenville, and Belding. We are small town and rural congregations, representing a variety of worship styles. The pastors and emeriti of Circuit #37 meet monthly during the school year for the Divine Service, study of God's Word, lunch together, and ministry updates and discussions. Our monthly pastors' conference has always been a place of peace and mutual respect, marked by harmony and warm fellowship. We support each other as we all deal with common challenges posed by the economically depressed region in which we serve.

Holy Cross, Belding is served by Rev. Robert Wagner since August 2009. Our church, under the direction of the Ladies' Aid, continues to support various ministries through our community dinners—Swiss Steak in the spring and Turkey in the fall. We have an outreach ministry to a local assisted living community as we share God's love with a lunch and activity several times each year. Our quilters send more

than 100 quilts to LWR, and the quilters' beginners classes make quilts for our Belding Fire Department and EMS and Victims' Advocates. They have been well received and continue to receive requests for more. Holy Cross has celebrated 75 years in Belding and we continue to "Proclaim Christ from on High."

Mt. Calvary, Greenville, served by the Rev. Jeff Wilhelm since 2005, is "POINT-ing the Way:" Proclaiming Christ, Offering Hope, Inspiring Service, Nurturing All, and Teaching God's Word. Their vision is to be a growing community of believers transformed by the power of God's love in Jesus Christ, positively impacting people's lives in our congregation and community, now and for eternity. As such, the congregation is seeking to grow its children and family ministry through emphasis on relational outreach to young families, increasing awareness and support of the preschool and childcare, and ongoing family-friendly events. We have been organizing and hosting periodic (monthly) "Cross Point" events, where families and individuals enjoy gathering to learn about other cultures and how we might best reach out in faith. "Cross Point" themes have included Muslim Ramadan, POBLO International, Migrant Family Ministry (Back to School Supplies, Fall Fiesta, Christmas Giving), India & Nepal, Chinese & Jewish Festivals, Annual Trunk 'n' Treat, Celebrating Birthdays, Pursuing Integrity in an Addictive Online World, and Short-Term Missions. Several members of the congregation are volunteering their time for six Bible time sessions with three preschool classes each week. Wendi Philley was recently hired as Interim Director of Children and Family Ministry while the congregation applies for a DCE intern to serve in that position in the future. An annual Kids Against Hunger food packaging event is held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, sponsored in part by Thrivent and hosted by the Greenville Ministerial Association. Mount Calvary's Youth Group remains very active under the leadership of Christine Nanzer, attending National and District Youth Gatherings, organizing various fundraising food events, participating in local and regional Servant Events, and enjoying occasional family game nights and other outings. Older members meet weekly for LifeLight Bible Class, led by Retired Pastor Don Veitengruber, and gather monthly for a Sunshine Club potluck, with a variety of speakers and topics. Led by Tim Tichelaar, the trustees have engaged in some very ambitious projects, including resurfacing the parking lot, new sewer line, and interior and exterior building repair and beautification. Pastor Wilhelm's wife, Grace, passed away June 3, 2016, after a courageous fight against cancer.

Bethel, Howard City is currently vacant after the Rev. Steven Frentz took a call to Bethany Lutheran Church in Lake City, Minn., on January 31, 2018. With the help of the Circuit Visitor and District Congregational Ministry Facilitator, the congregation is beginning the call process. We still continue with our tradition of helping the community by supporting Helping Hands food pantry and nearby families at Christmas. We participate in the Howard City Harvest Festival with a large food booth, and have also started a free pancake breakfast for the community two years ago. The congregation looks forward to God's provision for its next pastor and undershepherd.

Good Shepherd, Lowell continues to be served by Rev. Joe Fremer. Good Shepherd provides traditional liturgical worship to a small congregation of mostly older adults from eastern Kent County and western Ionia County. We have Advent and Lent midweek services in the afternoons, since most of our folks avoid traveling at night. Good Shepherd seeks to raise our profile in the community through booths at the Lowell Riverwalk Festival in the summer, and the Fallasburg Fall Festival. These activities do bring in some funds, but they are chiefly intended as a way for people in the area to see Good Shepherd folks having fun, serving the Lord with gladness. Our website and our Facebook page give us a beachhead in the digital world.

St. John, Ionia has been sharing Rev. Joe Fremer with their daughter congregation, Good Shepherd (Lowell), since 2014. Deacon Peter Carr assists with visits and worship leadership in a traditional liturgical setting. St. John's preschool/daycare continues to share Jesus with area children; the Child Development Center is small, but well thought of in the community and by its client parents. The past triennium has seen the development of a church website and a Facebook page. The church hosts an annual "Germanstyle Chop Suey Supper" that is highly anticipated by people in Ionia, and once a month they serve a community breakfast that has many repeat customers. A weekly women's Bible study meets in the school lunchroom, and a small but energetic group of quilting ladies have made over 2,000 "pillowcase dresses" in the last triennium, which get shipped via Orphan Grain Train for distribution in Haiti. The same group also made over 250 quilts for distribution by Lutheran World Relief. St. John remodeled its parsonage and rents rooms to students at the School of Missionary Aviation Technology, a local ministry which trains Christian missionary aviation technicians and pilots; recently we acquired another house on the block, so that now we are able to house up to a dozen students at low cost during their training. St. John has for many years held an annual Lenten breakfast that is well attended by Christians from a wide variety of local churches.

Resurrection, Sand Lake is served by Intentional Interim Minister Rev. Lee Zabrocki since 2009. The winds of God's Holy Spirit continue to blow through the trees of Sand Lake, bringing people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. More people are being assured of eternal life as they are touched by the ministries of Resurrection. Worship attendance and Bible class involvement have increased 12.5 % in the past triennium, with offerings increasing a whopping 30%! God used our 60 volunteers to minister to 115 community children during our VBS. Each evening began with a dinner served to children and parents alike to kick off our 6 p.m. Bible time. Many attendees committed their lives to Jesus, including several adults! Our hand-crafted wooden Lenten Cross stood from floor to ceiling, serving as a visual aid throughout the Lenten season. Our Good Friday worshippers nailed their list of sins onto the cross, leaving them buried with Christ. Easter morning found the list of sins removed and replaced with hundreds of Easter Lilies covering the Cross from floor to ceiling. Following the worship hour, 170 worshippers exited the church as each was given a dozen balloons and all took part in releasing more

than 2,000 helium-filled balloons; reminding us that we too shall rise into heaven to be with Jesus forever. God's Spirit is working through the family of Resurrection, taking people off the road to hell, and guiding them onto the highway to heaven.

Hope, Stanton, is part of a dual-parish with the English District church Holy Trinity (Lakeview), under the care of the Rev. Alexander Sabol. Their previous pastor, Rev. Steve Voelker, received and took a call to serve in Fort Wayne in February of 2017. On December 10, 2017 Rev. Sabol was installed as their new pastor. Hope is a small rural church with a committed congregation. There is a midweek Bible study as well as midweek Advent and Lenten services. The church has a food bank which serves numerous families in the area each week. The church also contributes to Liberty Line, a non-profit transportation service that is sponsored by their sister congregation in Lakeview. Hope and Holy Trinity enjoy their partnership and celebrate it by having joint services together throughout the course of the year.

The Tri-River Circuit is blessed to have Camp Concordia in nearby Gowen, a children's camp that serves the Michigan District, is staffed year-round by commissioned ministers, and is a Registered Service Organization of the LCMS. Many of our circuit's congregations have been involved in this camp since its founding by local Lutherans in 1957. In the past triennium, Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg (and wife, Mary) have been working hard with Camp Volunteers and an awesome college-aged Summer Staff to make Camp Concordia the best it can be in planting and nurturing life-long Christian values and faith! Children and youth depart Camp with a growing Christian faith, new-found friends, increased self-confidence and skills, lived-out values, and a suitcase full of memories!

Circuit # 38 – Muskegon Circuit **Rev. Dennis L. Lassanske, Circuit Visitor**

Faith, Whitehall – On October 30, 2016 Faith installed Rev. William Willenbrock as their new pastor. Since that time, the congregation has been involved in some exciting ministry opportunities. Last summer, the congregation held several community events, including a movie night, bike decorating contest/parade, and an outdoor carnival game night. One of our more exciting ministry opportunities has been the addition of our twice-monthly playgroup, "Jump and Java." The congregation purchased several inflatable bounce houses and other activities, and invited the young mothers of our community to join us for fun and fellowship. We have had an exciting turnout, and we've even had mothers attend our new member class as a result of this outreach. By God's grace, the future looks bright here in Whitehall!

Our Redeemer, Muskegon on the city's east side has been served for the past 26 years by the Rev. Robert J. Conratt, and assisted for the past 11 years by Deacon Alexander J. Koppel. In 2017, Pastor Conratt announced his plan to retire on June 30, 2018. The congregation has been working on his replacement and the future mission and ministry of the congregation. The congregation's Evangelism Board has offered several well-attended movie and pizza nights for

the community with special invitations extended to students at both Baker and Muskegon Community Colleges. Strong fellowship ties are being strengthened through the congregation's Men's Club and Women in Grateful Service (WIGS). The congregation continued its strong commitment to Life issues again this year by hosting the Muskegon Country Right to Life Memorial Service and Prayer Walk, attended by over 200 from the community.

St James, Montague – By God's abundant grace and manifold blessings, St. James, Montague continues to carry the flag of Christ in the Montague and White Lake area of magnificent West Michigan. We are currently enjoying the opportunity to work with and mentor a Vicar, Paul Gaschler, from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. Paul has recently been joined by his new bride, Kati. Paul has done an excellent job and we so enjoy having him, and now Kati, with us! We are also in the process of seeking a new staff member who will work with our children, youth, and families, as well as the educational agencies of our congregation. We are confident God will bring the right person to us, hopefully by September. Because of the generosity of members past, who set up a perpetuating Memorial Account designated solely for the children and youth of our congregational family, all 8th grade Confirmants will have the opportunity to go on an all-expense-paid weekend to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum every spring, every year! We want our young people to see and experience this incredible Genesis presentation before they go to high school and beyond. This year we added a second float to the annual White Lake Christmas Parade of Montague and Whitehall! Our Sunday school has had a float in the parade for a number of years but this year our outstanding choir joined it! Walkers hand out candy and flyers and we seek to be a witness for Christ to our neighbors and friends in our adjoining communities. We continue to embark on a "Generational Men's Canoe Expedition" every summer to the beautiful wilderness of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area along the Canadian Border in northeast Minnesota! Participants must be 8th grade and above and able to portage packs and canoes over trails between the thousand-plus lakes that span the BWCA, as well as paddle through all kinds of water and weather conditions. It is an incredible experience that many men and youth of our congregation have enjoyed for over 20 years! The Boundary Waters is a true wilderness, with no roads and no cell phone coverage, just woods and water and wildlife! Nothing like being out in the bush with your brothers in the faith for a week to enjoy and refresh! God is good and we seek to serve and follow Him always!

St. Luke, Nunica is joyfully continuing in Word and Sacrament ministry after receiving a new pastor, Rev. Brennan Woell, from the seminary three years ago. Over those three years, Bible study attendance has more than tripled, demonstrating a desire to delve into God's Word. Partnering with local organizations, St. Luke helps to provide for the physical needs of the community with multiple Feeding America food trucks throughout the year. Their annual Sauerkraut Supper is always a highlight in the area. With a thriving Sunday School Program, Vacation Bible School Ministry, and various community events, St.

Luke is working to spread the Good News of Jesus to the next generation and the people around them.

St. Mark, Norton Shores – In an effort to make everyone an everyday witness with anyone, we are partnering with Dwelling 1:24 and Rev. Greg Finke and making good progress. We have had 45 people go through the book *Joining Jesus* and are beginning missional communities. Each month we have a mission moment from different members. We are learning to put five mission practices before all ministry efforts. They are: “How did you see God at work in your life this week?” “What has God been teaching you in His Work?” “What kind of conversations are you having with pre-Christians?” “What good can we do around here?” “How can we help in prayer?” We are neighborhood missionaries in Norton Shores.

St. Stephens, Shelby – This small congregation is served part-time by a retired minister. The congregation added air conditioning to their rural church building, remodeled the interior of the sanctuary, and installed a heat pump heating system into the building. Pastor’s Adult Bible Class has grown to ten, which is 30% of the Sunday attendance. We are small, but faithful and continue to serve the Lord.

Trinity, Muskegon is committed to reaching out to our community as a “**Spring of Living Water.**” Our ministry focuses on **Worship** that reaches people with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ, **Applying** God’s presence and Word to the lives of His people that care, and **Called** to serve the Lord and others in need. We are **Telling** and sharing our living relationship with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are **Educating** children and adults through our West Shore Lutheran School ministry and digging deeper in God’s Word and applying those truths to faith in Christ. We are committed to **Relating** our living in Christ to one another, into our community, and with a missional ministry into the world. In the past three years, we have reached out into our community by offering a free monthly community meal, called the “Matthew Meal” to show God’s love to the people of our community. Every month, we also send a team of people to serve the poor and homeless at a place called MAP supper house. In addition, we have enjoyed hosting food trucks that serve to bring free food and hygiene items to the poor in our community. Trinity has continued to regularly send teams of people to help out the poorest of the poor in Guatemala, through “Groundwork Guatemala.” It is also Trinity’s great joy to host the Christmas Nativity Walk that tells the true story of Jesus’ birth. This event reaches approximately 1,000 people each year, many for the very first time. Trinity’s thirst is being quenched by the Living Water of God’s Word in Jesus Christ that drives our congregation to continually reach out with the Good News of God’s love for all people in Jesus Christ.

Trinity, Conklin celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2015 with Rev. Dr. Paul Maier as the guest preacher for the key celebration event held in July. Now, Trinity is making plans for the 150th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran School. The school program includes a preschool and an elementary school, grades K-5. At the present time, the school is in the

midst of a five-year plan seeking to bring growth and stability to this important ministry which serves not only members of the congregation but numerous families in the surrounding communities who desire a Christ-centered education for their children. In addition, Trinity observed Rev. Mark Oswald’s 25 years as their pastor by gifting Pastor and his wife, Rita, with a trip to Germany during the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation. Trinity also continues to support a special mission project each year, with the Michigan District’s “Here We Stand” campaign being the focus of that mission support in both 2017 and 2018.

Circuit #39 – Holland Circuit **Rev. Michael M. Goers, Circuit Visitor**

Congregational anniversaries abound for many in the Holland Circuit. These markers are providing opportunities for prayerful reflection, thanksgiving, and ministry expansion. The pastors and congregations of the Holland Circuit continue to appreciate their partnership in the faith.

Grace, Coopersville – Grace celebrated its 25th anniversary in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. In honor of the sacrifices made by the first generation of Grace members, and resolved to tell another generation of the love of Christ, they held a capital campaign with a “Here We Stand” theme that raised \$161,000 on the day of their celebration, with another \$178,000 pledged over three years. They were happy to use Michigan District resources and the expertise of Ray Zavada for the campaign and to be passing on 10 percent of the campaign to the District’s *Here We Stand* effort. The successful completion of the campaign will eliminate their debt, allow them to address building remodeling, and put them into a position to add staff and look to the future as they continue to make more and better disciples by sharing Jesus’ love.

St. John’s, Grand Haven – Following our celebration of 150 years of ministry in the Grand Haven area, St. John’s recently went through a transition period. With the retirement of Rev. Dieter Haupt, a faithful shepherd of 32 years, and an interim period of over a year, the congregation was led to call Rev. Kurt Wenzelburger to serve as our senior pastor. While awaiting the arrival of the new pastor, St. John’s continued to support the wonderful ministry of our Christian day school, and we also sought to eliminate our mortgage and any remaining debt. As we look ahead, we are now poised and excited about what the future may hold as we focus on establishing effective ways to activate our members to go and make disciples of Jesus in and around our surrounding community.

Christ Our Savior, Holland – Christ Our Savior celebrated 25 years of ministry in 2017. We are in a transition period where Pastor George Hamilton (member of the congregation) served us, then Pastor Stephen Wiesener for over a year, and now Intentional Interim Pastor Todd Brunworth, who started work in January 2018. Our congregation is blessed with many volunteers, prayer teams, visitation teams, and an active Stephen Ministry group. We are greatly blessed with many gifted and talented people in music, teaching, and other spiritual areas. We have several weekly Bible studies and

an active ladies' group. We continue to have a welcoming and friendly group with an active fellowship time after our worship and before our Sunday Bible study.

Zion, Holland – Zion, Holland celebrates its 125th anniversary this year. The celebration season kicked off at the Reformation 500th Anniversary Service in October 2017 and culminated on May 20 with a special service and meal. Zion invited many previous pastors or pastors who grew up at Zion to return and preach for a weekend. Zion continues to serve the community in many ways, as well as giving generously to the Michigan District and many other ministries and missions, totaling 15% of their budget. The church is in the process of calling a Family Life Director.

Lakeshore Fellowship, Spring Lake – Lakeshore Fellowship has been served by Pastor Chris Boehnke for over 7 years. Our mission statement is: Joyfully Connecting People to the Love of Jesus. We continue to worship in a Gospel-centered, contemporary style. We have successfully experimented with some discussion-oriented sermons titled, “Got Questions?” where people can text, write down, or speak into a microphone their question to be answered from Scripture. A video-based study called Faith Legacy Series has been used to equip parents of kids at each age level from elementary through high school. Shannon Johnson has joined our staff as the new Director of Student and Family Ministry. Our Community Group Ministry has about 15 groups meeting in homes. We have increased the use of ministry teams to activate lay people in serving. The Women’s Ministry, in addition to a weekly Bible study, hosts a quarterly Women’s Connect that includes worship and a speaker that draws women from the community. Our GO Local Team continues to put on a regular Household Necessities Pantry for the community, and to serve meals in Muskegon as part of a ministry called Supper House. The GO Global Team has supported financially and through short-term teams the completion of a water project in the village of La Cuesta, Honduras. Pastor Chris has begun a new outreach with the men’s ministry called Theology on Tap that meets in a local bar—Odd Side Ales. Lakeshore has just approved a new capital campaign for facility improvements over the next 3 years.

St. Matthew, Spring Lake – In September of 2016, St. Matthew dedicated its “Ready to Welcome” building addition and renovations. A dedicated Building Committee worked well with Church Extension Fund to lead the congregation in realizing the vision of the improved facilities on its 12-acre site in Spring Lake Township. Both the church and child care now benefit by the parking lot addition, new Cedar Commons entrance, classroom addition, and sanctuary expansion/renovation. Parish Musician Joanne Jansen, Bell Choir Director Michael Boice, and Gloria Dei Choir Director Bethany Goers have welcomed the community to the church through regular music at St. Matthew events and worship offerings. The congregation, served by Pastor Michael Goers for 12 years, now looks to its 50th anniversary in 2019 with the theme “Come and Rest,” based on Matthew 11:28.

United, West Olive – United continues to gather for worship

at 10 a.m. at its location on M-45. LCMS clergy have provided pulpit supply in recent years. United’s building and steeple are appreciated by many in the West Olive area.

The Holland Circuit looks to be refreshed at the Michigan District Convention as we *Imagine...Living as God’s Saved and Sent Servants*.

Circuit #40 – Grand Rapids North Central Circuit Rev. James H. Blain, Circuit Visitor

This report is about the *eight* congregations that now constitute the North-Central Circuit and are the fruit of faithful evangelism in the past.

Mt. Olive, Grand Rapids

In 2017, Rev. Kenneth Bomberger’s wife, Rachel, became the managing editor of *The Lutheran Witness*, so Rev. Bomberger resigned his call and moved to St. Louis with his wife. During the ensuing vacancy, the Michigan District has had in-depth talks with the congregation and the decision was made to turn the congregation into a brand new “mission congregation” under District supervision and support. Those plans are being implemented at this very time.

St. James, Grand Rapids

Throughout 2017, the congregation celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation and the display of a large, impressive banner behind the altar was a constant reminder. All of Luther’s “95 Theses” were studied and printed out each week in the bulletin. Even at the congregation’s “Trunks-O-Treats” Halloween outreach, kids learned the precious Gospel of Jesus, with Pastor and Mrs. Blain dressed up as Martin and Katie Luther. Pastor Blain’s retirement on December 31, 2017 is the biggest change, but the congregation has been working hard on self-study and preparation for its new under-shepherd of Christ. The congregation is confidently looking forward.

Immanuel, Grand Rapids

Immanuel has once again received the precious love of Jesus, love for all people. His goodness has blessed us with our Associate Pastor, Rev. Tyler Carter, who joined Immanuel since our last convention. His grace has given us the opportunity to share the Word, the Catechism, and fellowship with a group of Congolese immigrants as they look to share Jesus’ love in their French language. Plans for seminary education are underway for their shepherd, Leon Budibundee. Over the past three years, God has expanded our sharing of Jesus’ love through our Human Needs group that sponsors a monthly breakfast for about 220 of our under-resourced neighbors in Grand Rapids. We have built relationships with a nearby public elementary school and are tutoring and helping the principal in meeting the needs of the students. We also have begun a prayer ministry in the food court across the street, hosted a FiveTwo gathering to encourage people to think of new ministries, and have begun to prepare for outreach to the new apartments around our church. We continue to have monthly Communion services for our fellow Lutherans at the Michigan Veterans Home. God has been good to us through our Savior Jesus. Now we

strive to “Connect People to Jesus,” for He lived, died, and rose again for all people. We are excited about what the next three years will bring for us as we look at a third English service in downtown Grand Rapids and live as His redeemed People of Hope.

St. Matthew, Grand Rapids

St. Matthew began as a mission start in 1970 on Cascade Road in fast-growing Ada, an eastern suburb of Grand Rapids. The original triangle-shaped worship structure has expanded to a new sanctuary and now also a further expansion consisting of a large commons area, three additional classrooms, increased parking, an entrance canopy, and a large gym/multi-purpose room. The congregation also welcomed Mr. Karl Koenig to the staff as the Director of Student Ministry and Kingdom Expansion. We thank God for His good and gracious presence at St. Matthew and look forward to His blessing in the congregation’s various avenues of outreach.

Our Savior, Grand Rapids

Our Savior’s mission began at the site of Martin Luther School, a joint venture of Our Savior and Redeemer Lutheran churches. With the closing of Redeemer, the name of the school has since changed to Our Savior Lutheran School, and is still a major instrument of outreach into the area. The congregation was pleased to add Rev. Jeremy M. Swem to the staff as the principal/teacher of the school and as associate pastor. Rev. David Fleming has become connected with the ministry of Doxology, a Lutheran service organization which seeks to uplift LCMS pastors in their labors of Christ. Pastor Fleming is currently following a multi-year plan to become increasingly more active in Doxology, with Pastors North Sherrill and Jeremy Swem taking over more of the pastoral needs of the congregation. During the past year, Pastors Fleming and Sherrill served as vacancy pastors at Epiphany Lutheran in Dorr, a congregation of the English District. Their willingness to serve and Our Savior’s willingness to share its pastoral staff shows the mission spirit of the congregation.

Family of Christ, Comstock Park

In 2006, a new mission congregation was established in the fast-growing area of Comstock Park. After being housed in various temporary locations, including a small warehouse, the congregation now has a permanent structure. Family of Christ was served by Rev. James Eggert from St. Joseph as its IIM pastor. Since pastor Eggert completed his service, Phillip Chaffee has been serving as the congregation’s SMP Vicar. Rev. Rob Appold is serving as his Supervisor. St. Matthew, Grand Rapids is currently seeking to partner with Family of Christ in its outreach.

Messiah, Grand Rapids

Messiah continues to seek out new and innovative approaches to bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the ever-changing north end of the Grand Rapids area:

- We started working with our neighborhood elementary school’s social worker to coordinate assistance to needy families;
- We began participation in the Synod’s Re-Vitalization

program with a congregational survey, and have been working through follow-up exercises and the first module;

- 2017 saw the retirement of our long-time preschool teacher and director, Diane Oppeneer, whose zeal and commitment to giving 3 & 4 year olds a Christ-centered start to their education was greatly cherished.

Messiah also hosts a monthly study on the Lutheran Confessions not only for local Grand Rapids area pastors, but also for interested Lutheran laymen. This study group now draws people from as far away as Lansing.

St. Peter, Rockford

By God’s grace, St. Peter—once on the eastern edge of town—has grown to be an impressive center for Gospel outreach. A major part of the congregation’s outreach has been its ever-expanding Lutheran preschool. When Rev. Mark Love accepted a call out of the Michigan District, the congregation used the vacancy period not only as a time of careful and prayerful self-assessment, but also as a time for each person of the congregation to discover his or her God-given abilities in service to Christ Jesus. During that vacancy, all kinds of improvement projects, both great and small, were energetically carried out by virtually all members of the congregation. St. Peter’s period of otherwise “nervous waiting” was transformed into a very active and joyful time of improving and upgrading both facilities and programs. So, with the call of Rev. Jason Peterson, the congregation was all primed and ready to more energetically carry out its ministry to the growing Rockford area. Since Pastor Peterson’s installation, about two to three new families a month have taken instruction and become members of the congregation. To God be the glory in Christ Jesus!

Circuit #41 – Grand Rapids Southwest Circuit Rev. David J. Rufner, Circuit Visitor

In the past three years, Grand Rapids South Circuit (#41) has experienced a great deal of change, particularly in the area of church workers. Pastors have retired, taken calls, and received calls into our district. An SMP pastor has been ordained. A deacon is seeking colloquy, and musicians and youth workers have been added to our churches as well. In all cases, we are blessed.

St. Paul, Caledonia – We have undergone a complete overhaul of our governance structure, operating now under an administrative Ministry Governance Board. We experienced a new sense of unity and mission as many members have stepped forward to use their time and talent within our Ministry Action Teams. Our preschool ministry has seen growth to capacity, and has become the outreach component to the many young families moving into our community. We will be celebrating our 150th year as a congregation in 2019!

St. Mark, Kentwood – Our Christian day school closed, a non-synodical Classical Christian School opened in our building, and our preschool doubled in size.

St. John, Jenison – 1. Fall Celebration Banquet in October, 2017; 2. Grand Valley State University Outreach Event in November, 2017.

Journey of Faith, Byron Center – Ordained and installed Rev. Matthew Starner and supported him through the SMP program. Celebrated our 10th anniversary in 2016.

Bethel, Grandville – We completed a full restoration of our stained glass windows. During the 2017 Grandville 4th of July parade, we served free water, hot dogs, and popcorn to about one thousand people.

Holy Cross, Jenison – Celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the congregation in 2015; Pastoral changes: welcomed Rev. Adam Peck as Associate Pastor in April 2015 and moved into Senior Pastor vacancy in July 2017 as Rev. Scott Sommerfeld was called into Intentional Interim Ministry; Partnering with FiveTwo to develop ministry that helps young adults in our community follow Jesus.

Good Shepherd, Middleville – Good Shepherd received a new pastor, Rev. Terry Kenitz, and continues to be a presence of Word and Sacrament ministry in Middleville.

New Hope, Hudsonville – Presently, New Hope is in the midst of a building expansion, has been enjoying a growing witness to our community, is receiving new households yearly into fellowship, and is celebrating their 25th Anniversary. +SDG

May the Lord continue to bless the churches, workers, and people of the Grand Rapids South Circuit #41.

Circuit #42 – Battle Creek Circuit
Rev. Karl N. Strenge, Circuit Visitor

St. Paul, Albion

St Paul is a congregation in transition. Rev. Dennis Matyas took a call to Bay City during the summer of 2017. Presently the congregation is served by Rev. John Cantele as vacancy pastor. They are looking forward to calling a new pastor. Their preschool continues to grow. St. Paul has a liturgical, hymn-and-organ worship style based on the LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church moving toward being a program-driven church.

Redemption, Battle Creek

Redemption is at peace and led by Rev. Karl Strenge. The congregation supports local and regional mission activities of the church faithfully. It has a liturgical, hymn, organ-and-piano worship based on LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

St. Mark, Battle Creek

The congregation is at peace and well led by Rev. Brad Hubbard. Pastor Hubbard has served on various committees of our Michigan District including the worship for our Reformation 500th Anniversary service. The congregation has multiple worship services and styles including hymn/organ and song/praise band. St. Mark is a program-driven church and has a successful preschool.

St. Paul, Battle Creek

St. Paul is at peace and well served by Rev. Larry Gorlitz. St. Paul is a downtown congregation which has experienced transition but is working hard at reaching out to its neighbors and serving their community. It has a liturgical,

hymn-and-organ worship style based on LW/LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

Immanuel, Kalamazoo

Immanuel is at peace and well served by Rev. David Sidwell. They have a service-oriented approach supporting local and regional mission activity. It has a liturgical, hymn, organ-and-piano worship style based on LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

Zion, Kalamazoo

Zion is at peace and is well led, pastored by Rev. Tim Seeber. Rev. Mark Couch is also called to Zion and serves at Solid Grounds Campus ministry, Western Michigan University. They well support the many local missions and ministries of the Kalamazoo community. It has a liturgical, hymn, organ-and-piano worship style based on LBW. The congregation is a program-driven church and has a successful preschool.

Christ, Marshall

The congregation is at peace and is well led, pastored by Rev. David Boedecker. The congregation is also served by Deacon David Moran. This recent summer, Christ congregation hosted a community Octoberfest which was well received. The congregation has a passion for supporting mission projects. It has a liturgical, hymn-and-organ worship style based on LBW. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

Trinity, Paw Paw

Trinity is at peace and is well led, pastored by Rev. Eric Gledhill. It is centered in the county seat (Van Buren) and serves its community broadly and widely. It has multiple worship services and styles including hymn/organ and song/praise band. The congregation is a program-driven church and has a successful day school (K-8) and preschool.

St. Michael, Portage

St. Michael is at peace and is well led, pastored by Rev. Dr. Paul Naumann. It is also served by SMP Pastor Rev. Jason Toman. St. Michael added an Infant/Waddler/Toddler program to their Christ for Kids Childcare Center. This required moving the church offices from one end of the building to another (actually returning it to where it once was over 20 years ago but with a thorough renovation). The entire “historic wing” got an extreme makeover in the process. They also added a “Connector Building” between their communications center and gym, which provided a new music room for both church and school, a couple of locker rooms, a meeting room, and a beautiful prayer room. The entire project was topped off with a new steel roof over the old gravel roof, thus tying together the newer school building with the oldest church buildings into a unified whole (that makes everything look rather new). Some of the funding was generated through a brief “Raise the Roof” capital campaign that the congregation was able to put on with some advice from Ray Zavada. The rest of the costs were covered by extending the congregations Church Extension Fund mortgage and just continuing the existing debt service.

St. Michael has multiple worship services and styles including hymn/organ and song/praise band. The

congregation is a program-driven church and has a successful day school (K-8) and preschool.

St. Peter, Three Rivers

The congregation is at peace and is well led, pastored by Rev. Robert Bartz. St. Peter has in the last two years become part of Lutheran Comfort Dog ministry. They have brought to Three Rivers Jude, the comfort dog who, with his trainers, has traveled throughout the Midwest and beyond to aid those in need of his services. St Peter has a liturgical, hymn-and-organ worship style based on LSB. The congregation is a pastor-driven church.

Also included in the Battle Creek Circuit is Rev. Jeffery Wollberg, who serves as Chaplain of the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek.

Circuit #43 – St. Joseph Circuit **Rev. Michael J. Roth, Circuit Visitor**

Circuit 43 is the most southwesterly circuit in Michigan, bordering Lake Michigan on the west and Indiana on the south. There is positive collegiality and cooperation in Circuit 43. Winkels are well attended, installations and retirements are joyfully celebrated, and pastors and wives regularly enjoy fellowship. As a circuit, we are active with the *Benton Harbor Lutheran Outreach Ministry*. Together as a circuit, in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we funded the translation and publication of the Book of Concord into Vietnamese in partnership with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. We also regularly host a circuit-wide Reformation service. The following are reports of the church of the St. Joseph Circuit.

Trinity, Berrien Springs – Rev. Doug Adams

The Lord continues to bless Trinity and its members here in Berrien Springs. Over the last three years, the congregation has continued to grow in its faith towards the Lord and its love towards each other and our community neighbors. Together, we updated and approved a new Constitution for the church. The day school and daycare continue to grow as parents seek Christian education for their children. We have begun to partner with Michigan Lutheran High School and Middle School for our sports programs, along with Berrien Springs Public Schools, which are opening up the opportunity for our students to take part in a variety of sports. The congregation created a Board of Christian Discipleship whose goal is to increase biblical understanding in our home, church, and community. This new board has created Advent and Lenten VBS-style family events, new small group Bible studies, new men's and women's Bible studies, along with many new opportunities for adult Bible studies. Small groups and workshops have been developed to instruct the congregation and the community about the Christian faith. Also this year, major improvements were made to the church facilities with the addition to a new section of roofing on the church, a completely new steel roof on the school, along with updates to classrooms and our heating and cooling systems. All in all, the Lord continues to provide for the congregation in Berrien Springs as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our home, our church, and our communities.

Immanuel, Bridgman – IIM Pastor Carl Bassett

St. Paul, Buchanan – Rev. Daniel Barz

In 2018, St. Paul, Buchanan will celebrate 85 years of bringing Word and Sacrament to the Buchanan community. Sunday and seasonal services are faithfully held. God's Word is proclaimed and the study of God's Word takes place so that people might know God and know Him more fully. After planning by the Buchanan Youth Committee though the summer of 2017, a weekly Teen Hang Out was started on Wednesday afternoons. Buchanan teens are welcomed at St. Paul's Friendship Hall to shoot hoops, play games, visit, and stop in for a snack. An annual Father's Day Car Show and monthly movie nights are open to the community as we reach out with the message of Christ's love for all. We seek God's plan for our future.

St. Paul, Cassopolis – Rev. Paul Doellinger

St. Paul is a healthy, vibrant communion of saints in the heart of Cass County. The Lord continues to call, gather, and enlighten St. Paul with His Gospel and Means of Grace week in and week out. Weekly worship along with Bible studies (three per week) and Sunday school provide an environment for continued growth and nurturing in the Christian faith. St. Paul also conducts weekly worship services at a local nursing home facility. Youth and adult confirmation and catechism instruction are ongoing. St. Paul operates Open Arms Child Development Center. Our director, Amy Wiggins, along with her staff, serve the community with preschool and childcare in a Christian environment. Children's worship services led by the pastor are held twice weekly. Between preschool and before/after school care, Open Arms currently enrolls 40 children. Weekly Game Night has been made available for youth in the congregation and community; the activity is followed by a prayer service and pizza. St. Paul operates its own food pantry that is open to the public, serving 30 families per month. Food baskets are delivered periodically to needy families in the area. Support for foreign and domestic missions include seminary student adoption, foreign aid, domestic and foreign synodical missionaries, and contributions to district and synod. The Ladies' Circle of St. Paul is quite active in the congregation, LWML zone, and community with works of mercy, financial donations, and support. The crucified, risen, and ascended Lord Jesus continues daily and richly to bless His people at St. Paul. Soli Deo Gloria.

Salem, Coloma – Rev. Alex Hoffmeyer

In the past three years, the members of Salem Lutheran Church have seen a few major changes. Most recently, these changes have been in staffing. Pastor Andrew Menz announced in December 2016 that he was accepting a call. In April 2017, the members of Salem called Alex Hoffmeyer from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. to serve as pastor. Pastor Hoffmeyer was ordained in July at his home congregation and installed in August at Salem. In addition to this change, Salem welcomed Ann Scheffler into her new role as secretary. Also, Barb Radde retired from her role as preschool director. Over the summer of 2017, Salem hired Michelle "Shelley" Arms to serve as preschool director. Despite the turnover, Salem's preschool has seen steady and even increasing enrollment in both the 3-year-old and 4-year-old

classes, and projections show that enrollment will continue to increase for the coming year. With all these recent changes, activity in the church has been in a lull. Salem did not participate in their normal events such as Vacation Bible School, the Glad-Peach Festival, or the Oktoberfest celebration. But now that the time of transition is complete, the members show excitement for continuing new ministry outreach opportunities. One of our members has even managed to gather a group of high school boys who have begun attending Sunday services and who congregate once a week for fellowship and Bible study. Additionally, the council and the members are excited to celebrate Salem's 100th Anniversary in 2019. We are excited to see what opportunities God sets before our congregation in the coming years!

Trinity, Glendora (Buchanan) – Rev. Jonathan Liebich

Trinity is a rural congregation and is about to celebrate its 100th year of Word and Sacrament ministry in 2019. A highlight every year at Trinity is the last Sunday in June when we worship outside and encourage people to drive their tractor to church. A tractor parade follows the service. Also annually, the Ladies' League puts on a chicken supper and the proceeds support seminary student education and other mission initiatives. Many members of the congregation are key figures and volunteers at the Berrien County Youth Fair every August. The congregation is blessed with some thriving children's ministries including Sunday school, weekday school on Thursday evenings, and Vacation Bible School every summer. Trinity is active in the circuit mission called Benton Harbor Lutheran Outreach Ministry and took a leadership role in the circuit's 500th Anniversary Reformation project through the Lutheran Heritage Foundation to translate the Book of Concord into Vietnamese. God has richly blessed Trinity, Glendora and the congregation is excited about turning 100 and looking ahead to what the Lord of the Harvest has in store through His Word in the next century of this congregation's service to Him.

St. Paul's, Niles – Rev. Joseph Liss

St. Paul's continues to gather around the Word and Sacrament where God's children have the privilege of receiving His gifts of grace through weekly worship. In addition to worship, there are multiple Bible studies and Sunday school opportunities for growth in the Christian faith of its members. At the end of 2015, the congregation began a transition as Rev. Carl Bassett retired.

For the sake of the Gospel, St. Paul's has focused on strengthening its relationships in the community. St. Paul's supports the local food pantry, The Christian Service Center, with a monthly food drive, volunteers, and financial support to help families and individuals with utilities and prescriptions in addition to food. The congregation continues to encourage and support the local Pregnancy Care Center through diaper drives, donations, and involvement in fundraisers to support their mission of "Doing Life" centered around the Gospel of Christ. The Center for the Homeless in South Bend greatly appreciates the congregations' help to bring food baskets at Thanksgiving for clients who have graduated from their program and will also help provide one-day bus passes for current clients. The local school uses the church's parking lot as a pick-up and drop-off point as a safe alternative for

parents during remodeling of the school. St. Paul's supports a Guatemalan missionary through a short-term medical mission trip and monthly donations, and two missionary pilots (husband and wife) in Papua New Guinea and their family to aid in translating the Bible into local dialects. In conjunction with the circuit congregations, St. Paul's helped with the Vietnamese Project to translate the Book of Concord through the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. The Ladies' Aid continues to be very active with their work through the Rummage Sale (whose proceeds go to support various missions and charities), the LWML, and quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief for dispersion. The Prayer Shawl Ministry remains a source of comfort to anyone who needs it. A community-wide Trunk or Treat event in our Family Center provides a safe, warm, and fun environment for 1,000+ kids and their families. St. Paul's is very thankful for the gifts of all its members and their importance to the body of Christ and the blessings He bestows on them daily. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Trinity, Sawyer – Rev. Randy Lett

Now in our 107th year of Word and Sacrament Ministry, Trinity continues to move courageously forward in the midst of so many changes in the congregation and community. Staffing changes include a new church secretary after former secretary retired after 30 years. Our preschool/daycare ministry, "Precious in His Sight," has a new director. We celebrated these retirements and others at a special "People Appreciation Event." We are moving into a new era, studying who we are and where God is leading us as we go through the "New Beginnings" renewal process. Our outreach into the community includes a Christian counseling satellite office with "Centered on Wellness". Our gymnasium and fellowship hall continue to be gathering places for family events, various youth, sports, and dance groups. Our ministry to children and their families continues with weekly chapel, and seasonal worship/fellowship events. Preschool and daycare children are included in our summer VBS. Pastor Lett and others read stories and spend time with our Headstart children. We are exploring new directions for intentional outreach, maybe even at the TA truck stop off 94 in Sawyer. There is a growing awareness of the opportunity and potential for outreach with the Gospel, especially through our preschool/daycare and the Headstart. We continue to welcome worship visitors drawn to beautiful Harbor Country, the Warren Dunes area. One visiting mother and daughter from Naperville, Ill. even went out Christmas caroling with us on Christmas Day! God has planted and blessed us to grow. Many have been called home to glory in recent years. God's people at Trinity are thankful. They are hopeful about the future as Christ goes before us and leads us into new exciting frontiers of ministry in Harbor Country.

Trinity, St. Joseph – Rev. Michael J. Roth

In 2017, Trinity celebrated the 150th anniversary of its church and school. The year was filled with guest preachers and musicians who enhanced our worship. There were numerous events throughout the year to promote fellowship and a sense of God's blessing, including an outdoor German Festival and a Gala Event. In addition, a capital campaign was conducted to provide funding for a parking

lot and playground renovation, renovation to our early childhood center, exterior landscaping and improvements, debt reduction and support of the District's campaign, *Here We Stand*. Trinity remains a very active congregation, providing Word and Sacrament ministry to her members and sharing the love of Christ with the community. Significant changes in the last three years to the church staff of Trinity include the departure of Rev. Anthony Gerber, who accepted a call to Nebraska: the retirement of long-time beloved teacher, Mr. Tim Ernst: the calling and installing of Alison Schmidt to our teaching staff: the addition of a Director of Music Ministry, Paula Steuernagel: and the addition of part-time Deacon Scott Kizer. Trinity continues to be in the vicarage program of Synod and has enjoyed the mutual blessings of a vicar every year. The congregation is blessed to maintain and operate a Christian day school with a dedicated and experienced staff of highly qualified teachers. Trinity also operates a vibrant early childhood center with day care and preschool. The Lord has opened many doors of ministry in Benton Harbor. Trinity is actively involved in community outreach there, including: a monthly community dinner, a monthly food truck through *Feeding America*, monthly service at the *Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen*, a monthly food and preaching event called *Meal and More*, a weekly Bible study/Worship time called *A Gather of Grace* in a government housing complex, a clothing and household goods distribution ministry called *Sort 'n Share*, a benevolent funds ministry to assist people with utility shut-offs and evictions, a mentoring program for struggling families, in addition to ongoing annual events to feed, clothe, and enhance the lives of people in need. Trinity also vigorously supports foreign missions by providing financial assistance to a number of missionaries and mission agencies and the support of Pastor Michael Roth's teaching at *Concordia Lutheran Institute for the Holy Ministry* in Yambio, South Sudan.

Christ, Stevensville – Rev. Martin Measel and Rev. Christopher Yeager.

The year 2017 was a transitional year as Rev. Philip Quardokus retired after 40 years in ministry, 32 of them at Christ, Stevensville. The congregation joyfully celebrated the work of his ministry and, knowing his pending retirement, called a new Associate Pastor from the seminary, Chris Yeager. Upon Pastor Quardokus' retirement, Pastor Measel was named the new senior pastor. In 2015, our school called a new principal, Neil Webb, along with his wife Angie, who is our 1st/2nd grade teacher. Our school remains stable and strong, and is currently going through the re-accreditation process. We have recently upgraded the flooring in most of our facility, and are in the process of replacing the bell tower, followed by some new landscaping. Our church and school continues to focus on Jesus, growing stronger in our faith in Him, and living out that faith through fellowship, service, and ministry among ourselves and the surrounding community.

Circuit #44 - South Central Circuit Rev. Aaron B. Chittick, Circuit Visitor

Circuit #44 continues to grow in fellowship and discipleship. We delight in walking together and sharing our common love

for God's Word and its proclamation. We look forward to the introduction of new pastors and church workers in the years to come.

St. Paul, Hillsdale – Celebrated 10 years with Special Nights Ministry

St. Paul, Coldwater – Called Lay Minister, Larry Bruce

Our Savior, Union City – Installed Vacancy Pastor, Rev. David Bogda

Trinity, Sturgis – Installed Sheri Lahrman as a preschool teacher and Margaret Sandosky as a 6th grade teacher.

Salem, Sturgis – Hosted the all-circuit choir

St. John's, Burr Oak – Participated in celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

St. Paul, Colon – Major chancel remodeling project completed

St. Paul, Centreville – Added Timothy Grimm as Family Life Minister

Prince of Peace, Quincy – Continued to worship Jesus Christ

May the Lord continue to bless His children as we await His return.

Acts 2 Enterprise (A2E) Ministry

Rev. Christopher Bodley

Acts 2 Enterprise (A2E) is a holistic strategy of outreach in the urban context. A2E encompasses 6 mission components: Kingdom activity, leadership development, facilitating resources, engaging communities, implementing transformative systems, and collaborating and partnering with community stakeholders.

Significant events which took place during the past 3 years:

- A2E provided annual sports camp orientation for summer missionaries;
- Increased the number of summer sports camps to four: Detroit (2), Pontiac, and Benton Harbor;
- Provided strategic outreach planning for Detroit churches;
- Partnered with Gifts for All God's Children to coordinate Christmas gift and Easter Fair outreach with Detroit Lutheran churches;
- Coordinated partnership between Henry Ford Hospital and Detroit Lutheran churches;
- Implemented the Philippian Ministry partnership among Detroit Lutheran churches;
- Increased the frequency of an 8-week Soft Skill Training outreach to two times a year;
- Facilitated the annual regional Urban Institute;
- Coordinated the launching and training of a Student Ministry Outreach among Detroit Lutheran churches;
- Coordinated a medical outreach partnership with Madonna University;
- Partnered with Department of Human Services to initiate Safe Sleep program for parents with infants;
- Partnered with Department of Human Services to provide disaster training for Detroit church leaders;
- Initiated A2E New Year's Eve Service for Detroit Lutheran churches;
- Facilitated an Expungement Fair in Detroit: 13 attorneys participated and 77 residents were served.



Rev. Larry and Tina Matro – New Guinea and Oceania (\$9,375)

James and Christel Neuendorf – Dominican Republic (\$9,375)

Caitlin Worden – Peru (\$9,375)

Harry Steffens – New Guinea (9,375)

We thank and praise God for the men and women from Michigan who share Jesus with people around the world.

Other ministries supported through the generous giving of Michigan District congregations are:

Hmong Mission Society Project (\$35,000)

MOST Ministries – South Africa (\$90,000)

Christian Outreach for Africa – COFA (\$425,000)

The Michigan District supported **St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church and ministries** in South Africa under the knowledge and encouragement of The Lutheran



Church—Missouri Synod International Center. Over 31,000 people have been baptized through the St. Peter ministries. They have formed many preaching stations, a school system of over 900 children and, most recently, started an orphanage.

During the past three years, St. Peter's school has become self-sustaining. The school facilities, medical clinic, media centre, and auditorium were renovated, as well as the new gated entrance. IT classes will be taught for the school students and community. The St. Peter ministries have their own well/borehole to supply water to the campus.

To help gain broader support for the ministry at St. Peter and other ministries in Africa, the **Christian Outreach for Africa** (COFA) was created. Every dollar of this organization goes directly to the missions. Through health, education, jobs, and orphanages, COFA can help spread the Gospel. They are working to create strong, long-term partnerships that will serve the needs of the people.

As of March 2018, over \$1,250,000 has been given or pledged for the International emphasis of the campaign.

"No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor heart of man imagined the things God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Corinthians 2: 9).

International Missions

During the 2015 Michigan District Convention, the **Here We Stand** initiative in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation was adopted. One of the areas of impact by this initiative is International Missions. Through the generous giving through the **Here We Stand** Campaign, gifts of support were given to the following **international missionaries** since 2015:

Alyssa Anders – Germany (\$9,375)

Rev. David and Joyce Erber – Africa (\$9,375)

Rev. Roger and Amy James – Sri Lanka (\$9,375)

Rev. Steven & Martha Mahlburg – Sri Lanka (\$9,375)

New Mission and Ministry Starts

Our District's Vision Statement speaks directly to new mission initiatives. Taking "the love of Christ to our family, friends, neighbors, community, and the world in word and deed" is what MISSIONS is all about.

Taking our four strategic targets seriously, the mission focus has been to encourage and facilitate "Great Commission Ministries" and "Great Compassion Ministries" in each of our three ministry zones. With intention we have sought to come alongside congregations and circuits where God has already moved hearts to "start something new." The new start may not be a new "church plant" yet; but it is an aggressive and faithful expression of God's grace reaching out to new people with His love in Jesus!

Here are a few highlights of mission support through the Michigan District in the Metro Zone:

New missions/ ministries:

- **See all the A2E** initiatives communicated elsewhere in the convention report.
- **Camp Restore, Detroit:** rebuilding lives in Detroit. In partnership with Camp Restore, New Orleans, Mt. Calvary, Detroit, serves as host to this movement that brings volunteers from across the nation, providing a capable and willing workforce to make a difference in the lives of families and communities in Detroit and Wayne County, Mich. (Rev. John Carrier is the Exec. Director).

• **Luke Project 52 Clinic:** Prenatal and infant care clinic shares space at Family of God's location in Detroit. Here's a recent report from Rev. Brad Garrison, founder and executive director, dated February, 2018:



As you know I am the Director of The Luke Project 52 Clinic, a free prenatal and infant care clinic that has been seeing patients since October of 2016. In 2017 we served 80 moms and 29 babies at 248 kept appointments that resulted in 21 births (all healthy and some of whom would have been aborted). I have been working with the VG's staff in Fenton for our vaccine and prescriptions needs. In one day at our clinic, we filled 41 prescriptions for meds and vaccine, and the clinic paid \$447 for them. This will only increase as we anticipate a doubling of our volume in 2018. Here are some bullet points of info:

1. We are expanding to a second clinic (hopefully in Flint) in 2018;
2. We are flying to Raleigh, N.C. next week to purchase (if the unit is in good shape) a 40' mobile medical clinic for further expansion to areas of high infant mortality. The price for this unit with 36,000 miles is only \$35,000. Company retires units and only donates to 501(c)3's. A new similar unit is over \$250,000;
3. We are staffed by U of M doctors, nurse midwives, and RN's, as well as a pharmacist;
4. We met in February with the head of OB/Gyn at U of M to explore partnership in staffing. They currently allow free clinics to buy out a percentage of doctors'

time. U of M contracts at a discount for 501(c)3's and they continue to pay liability and benefits;

5. We have a partnership agreement with U of M School of Nurse Midwifery to provide clinical experience in mobile healthcare for their students;

6. We have a similar partnership with Concordia University School of Nursing in Ann Arbor;

7. We are currently partnered with the DMC to provide lab services through the clinic;

8. We are meeting with the Director of Pharmacy for Spartan Nash Corporation about partnering to supply a pharmacy in the mobile unit;

9. Huron Valley Ambulance is donating a 5-year-old ambulance to us (\$1,500 to strip and refurbish for development work);

10. We currently have \$90,000 in cash and over \$40,000 in capital assets;

11. We hope to have the mobile units outfitted in time for upcoming conferences and convention.

So, what can we do together to "save babies, change lives, and help LCMS churches?"

• **Ellie's House, Detroit:** Project underway to assist and provide a safe place for women escaping human trafficking. This is a huge issue in SE Michigan.

• **Charity Inc., Detroit:** Urban pastor, Steve Essenberg, is leading the charge to provide affordable housing on Detroit's East side. Through the purchase, rehab, and rental of blighted homes, Steve and his team or ministry partners from around SE Michigan are stabilizing families and communities, while also sharing the Good News of Jesus with new friends!

• **Numerous new starts:** From childcare centers to clothing and food distribution efforts, God's people are at work; and the Michigan District seeks to support their efforts wherever it can.

Ongoing missions/ministries supported by the Michigan District through partnerships:

• **Family of God, Detroit** continues to serve the underserved homeless with food, fellowship, worship, and Christ-centered teaching. Many ministry partners are helping Pastor Jim Hill and his team to touch lives with God's love every day of every week. Visit the FOG website for moving stories of God's transforming power at work in the lives of people. FOG now has a new and permanent location. They continue to serve hundreds weekly.

www.james215.org

• **St. Paul Community Lutheran Church, Pontiac** continues to impact the people of the inner city of Pontiac with creativity, care, personal relationships, and the love of Jesus. Numerous partners of this ministry (including the LWML) are enabling and encouraging Deacon Matt Koch and Intentional Interim Pastor, Jon Trinklein, as faith partners and workers, making a difference one life at a time.

• **Good Life, Rochester Hills:** initiated with minimal funding from the Michigan District, Pastor Tom Fisher (Gethsemane, Rochester Hills), launched a community-wide mission emphasis that has developed contacts within the local public school, merchants, service agencies and

businesses, as well as Oakland University. Grace-filled relationships are bearing fruit.

- **University Campus Ministries** are carried out in the metro zone at EMU through Cross and Resurrection, Ypsilanti, and at UM through University Lutheran Chapel. These two ministries are partially supported through the District. In addition, Historic Trinity, Detroit has initiated a Bible study and fellowship opportunity on the campus of Wayne State University.

- **Ethnic/Immigrant ministries:** With Michigan District support and through a unique partnership with Faith, Troy, the Word of God is reaching into the ethnic immigrant communities in the metro zone.

- **Ecclesia Luterana Pan de Vida** continues to reach out to the Hispanic community in southwest Detroit. The congregation presently worships at St. Stephen Lutheran Church and is now a dual parish with this faithful sister congregation. Together, these two congregations are seeking a bilingual missionary pastor to serve them. Pray for these dear brothers and sisters during this time of transition, and for their future effectiveness in their mission to the larger Hispanic community.

Here are a few highlights of mission support through the Michigan District in the North Zone:

New mission:

A new mission began in St. Ignace and was constituted as Hope Lutheran Church on June 25, 2017.

Hope also opened Harbor Hope Coffee as a new ministry start supported by the “FiveTwo StartNew” process. Through Harbor Hope, the congregation is reaching into the community of St. Ignace.

Ongoing mission/ministry:

Trinity, Newberry—supported by the Michigan District, the congregation received a new pastor and, during the triennium, has become self-sustaining and is seeking new ways to become involved with the community.

Mt. Hope, Grayling and Trinity, Gaylord joined together to call a pastor. Now they are focusing on ministry in their respective communities with the hope of each becoming self-sustaining and having their own pastor once again.

Campus Ministry in the North Zone is focused at Central Michigan University, in partnership with Zion Lutheran Church in Mt Pleasant. Worship and Bible study opportunities, peer ministry training and fellowship, and availability for coffee and study fellowship are part of the campus ministry.

Here are a few highlights of mission support through the Michigan District in the Southwest/Thumb Zone:

Ongoing missions and ministries:

- At His ascension, Jesus said His disciples were to be His witnesses “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). In many communities, immigration has brought that witness

opportunity to their doorstep. **Ethnic ministry** is being formally carried out to Ethiopian, Hispanic, Hmong, Pakistani, and Sudanese communities in Battle Creek, Flint, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Richville, and informally in other communities as opportunities arise.

- **Campus ministry** in the Southwest Zone is focused at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, in partnership with Zion Lutheran Church. In addition to opportunities for worship and Bible study, peer ministry training and activities, mentoring opportunities to elementary and junior high school students, week-long service and mission trips, and international student outreach are part of the campus ministry.

- The **urban** context provides unique, changing, and challenging opportunities to serve people in the name of Jesus with basic necessities of life. In Benton Harbor, food, clothing, daily needs, hot meals, life skills, and compassion are shared in the name of Jesus. Trinity, St. Joseph coordinates the congregations of the circuit in this caring ministry.

New missions/ ministries:

- Also serving in the **urban** context is Franklin Avenue Mission in Flint, born out of the desire of a congregation that was closing that ministry in Jesus’ name continue to be done in their neighborhood. Rev. Brad Yops, with the support of his congregation, New Life Lutheran Church in Swartz Creek, and the commitment, support, and involvement of many congregations in the area, began in 2015 to physically clean up the neighborhood and meet the people living there. The mission has grown to providing meals, children’s ministry, basic health care, pastoral care, encouragement, clothing, life skills, and Bible study, and plans are in process for a safe house for women and children, and a small market and thrift shop. It also is a distribution station for bottled water to Flint residents still impacted by contaminated water. In January 2018, Pastor Yops was installed as Missionary at Large to serve this caring ministry full time. On the day of his installation, 13 people were baptized.

- In the Grand Rapids area, discussions are in process to assist four congregations in their evaluation of the possibility of **combining ministries**.

- In addition, there are several **new starts** involving ministry to children and families, ministry to youth and young adults, a larger congregation coming alongside a nearby smaller congregation to strengthen ministry, among others.

What a joy it is to see how God is at work among us as His Spirit empowers His people in such a variety of ways to “take the love of Christ to our family, friends, neighbors, community and the world in word and deed.” The death and resurrection of Jesus was for all, and His commission is to share His message with all people and serve Him as we serve all people, wherever and in whatever circumstances of life we encounter them. Thanks and praise to God for congregations and their faithfulness in proclaiming Him and loving and serving others in the name of Jesus.

Social Media Ministry

The Communications Department has put an emphasis on building out **social media** communities to meet the objectives of continued learning and resource sharing among professional church workers and laity. We continue to tell the story of the Michigan District, LCMS and share in lifting up congregations in prayer throughout our social profiles. Some highlights of 2015–2018 include (statistics accurate as of February 26, 2018):

- Current Community on Social Media
 - * Facebook
 - facebook.com/miLCMS
 - 2018 – 7,040 fans (187% increase)
 - * Twitter
 - twitter.com/miLCMS
 - 2018 – 2,912 followers (182% increase)
 - * Instagram
 - Instagram.com/miLCMS
 - 2018 – 1,047 followers (new in 2015)
 - * YouTube
 - youtube.com/michiganLCMS
 - 2018 – 735 subscribers (536% increase)
 - Statistics: July 1, 2015 – February 24, 2018
 - Watch time: 557,529 minutes
 - Views: 72,217
- Facebook Groups
 - * The Michigan District, LCMS created and continues to help maintain several Facebook Groups for the purposes of networking and resource sharing among professional church workers. The groups include (membership included in parentheses): Pastors of the Michigan District, LCMS (171, up from 135); Youth Leaders – Michigan District, LCMS (220, up from 124); LCMS Resource Sharing (407, up from 262); Early Childhood Educators (44, up from 35); and Lutheran Communicators (1,528, up from 357).
- Church, School, and Ministry Consultations
 - * Seth Hinz worked with several congregations in consultation meetings to discuss and develop strategies for digital outreach to the local community. He worked with St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Ann Arbor on church and school websites, KFUEO Radio to talk about online outreach efforts, Concordia Technology Solutions to discuss Facebook algorithm changes, and LCMS National Youth Gathering to serve as Social Media Manager.
- Visits to Websites
 - * Since July 1, 2015, our website has been visited 203,062 times and our *Michigan In Touch* blog has received 127,656 visits (279% increase over same span).
- Webinars
 - * Since July 2015, the District has hosted 14 webinars. 792 individuals registered, 435 individuals attended live, and the archived recordings have been viewed 3,164 times.

StartNew Ministry

The Michigan District entered into a ministry agreement with Bill Woolsey and FiveTwo in the fall of 2014. The agreement



was born out of the desire to ignite new ministries through the collaborative efforts of FiveTwo, the Congregational Mission and Ministry Facilitators (CMMFs) and ministries within the district. The StartNew process involves four distinct phases: assessment of the leadership team, training in entrepreneurial development, exploration of new start opportunities, and ongoing coaching. Thirteen teams have completed at least the first two phases of the project. Over 65 people have received the initial training. In addition to providing a training path through FiveTwo, the Michigan District has offered StartNew grants of up to \$250,000.00. The grants are offered in the form of a zero-interest loan to be repaid in 20 years.

The following paragraphs provide an overview of the program from the participants' perspective:

- 2018 saw the completion of Charity, Inc.'s fourth Hope House. The Hope House immediately welcomed a homeless mother and her six children as our newest residents. 2018 should also see the addition of two more Hope Houses in the neighborhood of Charity Lutheran Church in Detroit. This connection of the congregation to safe, affordable housing has led to the baptism of one adult and four children in the last three years.

The connection of the church extends to the suburbs with huge volunteer support from St. John, Rochester; Faith, Troy; Trinity, Utica; Immanuel, Macomb; and Trinity, Clinton Township.

Working with abandoned and scavenged houses, this project illustrates the restorative power of Jesus Christ to the community and opens the path to minister the transformative power of Christ to individuals and families. We look forward to continuing to “turn the dealer’s dope house into the Healer’s Hope House.” – Pastor Steven Essenburg

- Camp Restore Detroit is a new ministry begun at Mount Calvary, Detroit with the aid of Michigan District returnable mission grant funds. Planning began in June of 2016. From a handful of campers last summer (almost all of whom are returning!), we have grown to an anticipated 2,000 days of service to Detroit citizens, ministries, and organizations in 2018. We seek to show the love of God to our community in tangible ways by connecting those desiring to serve with individuals and organizations in need of human care, environmental, and construction assistance. We provide meals (breakfast and dinner on site, brown bag lunch), sleeping accommodations, and opportunities to serve to groups from around the country. We thank our many partner congregations that have assisted us in this effort.

- Since the Living Water StartNew project began in

February 2016, we have chartered as a mission congregation with the Michigan District (April 2016), called Harrison Parker as our full-time pastor (June 2017), sponsored the Luke Project FiveTwo Clinic (another FiveTwo StartNew project), and purchased and renovated a 6,000 sq. ft. commercial building (February 2018) which is now being used as our permanent location to launch additional ministries to support the Whitmore Lake community.

We continue to engage and partner with various community organizations, including the Whitmore Lake School District, Northfield Human Services, Northfield Township Library, Kiwanis, Washtenaw County Health Department, and others. We continue to evaluate “Start New to Reach New” opportunities to further reach those in the community (partnership with a car repair ministry, helping to start up a local pharmacy, etc.).

A great example is the partnership we have with the annual Michigan Pond Hockey Tournament in which we provide volunteers and, on February 11, held a worship service on the ice for those participating in the tournament. We currently average 72 in weekly worship and have 109 baptized members.

- Frank Murdock

- Holy Cross, Oxford is a church in transition. For many years, we were a group of people battling two identities: one in our church, which retreated from our community, and one in our preschool, which embraced our community. Our experience in StartNew has given us a sense of Kingdom perspective and everything that God has going on in the world around us (through interaction and advice in the 3-day and 1-day experiences and in the tremendous coaching). Our two disparate personalities have begun to merge and we’re becoming a healthier congregation in the church and preschool because of our experience in StartNew. Now we can say: Holy Cross, Oxford is a place for all people of all ages to follow Jesus, learn, and grow. (At a recent event, the Oxford Scarecrow Festival, we had a church booth painting faces and passing out full-size candy bars as part of a Thrivent Action Team—our first as a congregation.) - Pastor Schuler

Future Directions

In addition to continuing to encourage congregations to utilize the FiveTwo training and coaching process, the Michigan District has launched a training and coaching process that provides an affordable option for ministries which are launching smaller, compassion-focused ministries. The Explorer program offers on-site training and monthly coaching. A limited number of small grants of up to \$10,000 is available through the program.

Blind and Deaf Ministries

Many congregations throughout the Michigan District have ongoing ministry efforts to the blind and deaf people.

Blind Ministry is taking place at churches in Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, and Midland. In partnership with *Lutheran Blind Ministry*, the District supports and lifts up in prayer the ministry among the blind and visually impaired. Bob Mates is the contact person in the Michigan District for the work among the blind and visually impaired.

Deaf Ministry

Deaf Churches in Michigan

- Christ the King, Flint
- Our Savior, Birmingham

Interpreted Worship in Michigan

- Immanuel, Kalamazoo
- Trinity, Paw Paw
- Peace, Saginaw
- Zion, Tawas
- Trinity, Traverse City
- Trinity, Utica
- St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- St. Paul, Hillsdale
- St. Paul, Coldwater

Other ministries to the Deaf and Blind

- American Sign Language Vacation Bible School at Mt. Hope – Allen Park
- Annual Deaf Mission Festival at St. Lorenz – Frankenmuth
- ASL Preschool with Crossbridge Action Network at Mt. Hope – Allen Park
- Ephaphatha Lutheran Mission Society

This ministry is possible because of partnerships with *Ephaphatha Lutheran Mission Society*, and most recently *Lutheran Friends of the Deaf*, a member of the Mill Neck Family of organizations. Rev. Thomas Dunseth, who formerly served as Missionary-at-Large to the Deaf for the District, now continues service as District Liaison under the auspices of *Lutheran Friends of the Deaf*. He is available for consultation, leadership development, and assisting district congregations to launch local ministries to the deaf and hearing impaired.

If your congregation is interested in ministry to the blind or deaf, or currently engaged in this important ministry, please contact Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper at the district office: robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org.

Chaplaincy

Michigan District Chaplaincy flows from the Good News in Christ Jesus and Christian compassion towards those who

are hurting. In most instances, our chaplains are on staff and serve as directors of pastoral care at the institutions where they are serving, with endorsement and ecclesiastical supervision through the District and the LCMS.

During this past triennium we have made no additions to the full-time chaplains, while two (David McNeil and Roger Stauffer) have retired.

Chaplains currently serving full-time are:

Julie Nielsen-Schmidt – University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor

John Schinkel – Lutheran Home, Monroe

Jeffrey Wollberg – VA Medical Center, Battle Creek

The Michigan District Chaplain’s Roundtable, a joint chaplaincy and congregational ministry support group, was established to provide information and training referral for those interested in serving as chaplains for FBI, Police, Fire, EMS, Civil Air Patrol, and Disaster Relief. Those serving on the roundtable are: Roger Stauffer, Julie Nielsen-Schmidt, David McNeil, and Peter Nickel.

A joint chaplaincy and congregation ministry is carried out through Immanuel, Grand Rapids to area medical and correctional facilities.

A grant through the St. Lorenz Family Advisory Committee from the Leona M. Geyer Trust provides tuition for the first quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education for those considering chaplaincy, as well as for pastors, deaconesses, and others who would like to increase their pastoral care skills.

If your congregation is interested in this important ministry or needs more information regarding the grant, please contact Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper at 888.225.2111 ext. 230 or robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org.

Disaster Response

The District Disaster Relief Coordinator, Travis Grulke, works closely with Rev. Gary Richard and Rev. Paul Hinz as the

LERT

training and LERT coordinators for the Michigan District. Trinity, Utica and Trinity, Clinton Township have taken on a large portion of our LERT efforts with the District. We have provided trainings at these locations, and both congregations have an active group of lay leaders that assist in providing direction for future trainings and initiatives when it comes to LERT and disaster relief. Feel free to reach out to Travis, Pastor Richard, or Pastor Hinz if you have any questions or desire for your congregation to get involved in Disaster Response. Also, make sure you visit our table in the ministry tent for more information. The District website maintains links to other disaster response sites that provide information

for individual and congregational involvement, including financial support, personal involvement, and other aspects of meeting the needs of those affected by disasters.

Parish Nurse/Health Ministry

Parish Nursing/Health Ministry is committed to promoting and supporting physical, emotional, and mental health as part of the Christian stewardship of the whole person. The Michigan District Parish Nurse Committee has been established to promote congregational health ministry and parish nursing among congregations within the District.

Functions of parish nurse/health ministry

- **Integrator of faith and health.** Health is not the absence of disease. Health is a holistic way of living that includes healthy spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational life. The parish nurse seeks to promote an understanding of the relationship between faith and health by lifting up lifestyle practices as a matter of stewardship and faith.
- **Health educator.** Provides opportunities for individuals and groups to learn about health issues.
- **Health counselor.** Discusses health concerns, answers questions, encourages healthy lifestyle.
- **Referral advisor/liaison.** Provides referrals to health care and social services resources in the community.
- **Health advocate.** Helps members of the congregation or community obtain needed health-related services. Empowers people with information/resources to make wise healthcare decisions.
- **Home health visitation.** Provides home-health visitation upon request to offer support and encourage safety, adherence to healthy lifestyle behaviors. Does not replace home health care services which are ordered by a physician.
- **Developer of support groups.** Facilitates the development of support groups for the church and community.
- **Volunteer coordinator.** Recruits, prepares, and oversees congregational volunteers who help those in need.

Qualifications for a parish nurse

- Registered nurse, licensed in Michigan, functioning under the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Practice for Parish Nursing.
- Member in good standing of a congregation.
- Person of spiritual maturity.
- Two or more years of nursing experience.
- Completion of a recognized parish nurse preparation program, which consists of 35 contact hours.

Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse Preparation Courses

- Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon
Distance Learning format available
Contact: Carol A. Lueders Bolwerk, Program Director
Parish Nurse Ministries
Email: carol.lueders.bolwerk@cuw.edu
Phone: 262.243.4233

Resources

- Parish Nurse Newsletter
This is a quarterly publication created by LCMS World

Relief and Human Care. To receive the e-newsletter, visit www.lcms.org/enews. Enter your address, password, and then select the “caring for others” folder to find the Parish Nurse Newsletter.

Websites

- <http://www.lcms.org/health/parishnursing>
- <http://www.michigandistrict.org/congregations/christian-care/parish-nurse>

Meetings

- Annual gathering of Parish Nurses with professional presentations. Information in District e-news.

District Contact

- Christie Hansard, Parish Nurse
Synodical District Representative
Faith, Grand Blanc
Email: parishnurse@faithgb.org

Prison Ministry

Michigan District congregations are encouraged to initiate Christ-centered, caring ministry to inmates and their families utilizing existing programs and training or developing their own. Over the past triennium, these ministries have continued:

- Rev. Charles Burhop serves as a visitor to correctional institutions in the Upper Peninsula and may be contacted directly if a particular inmate needs to be visited.
- Immanuel, Grand Rapids has a joint chaplaincy and congregational ministry to a nearby correctional facility.
- Other LCMS pastors who have a working relationship with a local correctional facility are encouraged to list contact information on the District website. Please contact Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper at the District Office, robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org.
- Several congregations are involved in prison ministry by connecting to inmates as pen pals, and also providing ministry to families of inmates. There are specific procedures as anyone begins this ministry, and some training is needed. For more information you may contact Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper at the District Office, robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org.

Church Extension Fund

Greetings from the Management and Board of the Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District (“CEF”). We are pleased to provide this update since the last Michigan District Convention in 2015.

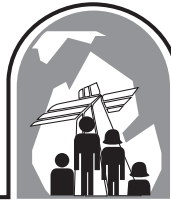
Background: CEF is one of five “extension funds” that serve the LCMS in the United States. An extension fund allows individuals and congregations to invest their funds, which are then used to make loans and mortgages to congregations, schools, church workers, and other LCMS entities that want to build or improve facilities. With total assets of \$264 million at December 31, 2017, CEF is the largest of the four extension funds that are “District-Based” (i.e., serving the needs of one District). The remaining fund is the Lutheran Church Extension Fund or “LCEF” which is “Synod-Based” and serves the remaining Districts that do not have their own extension fund. CEF has been blessed to serve the Michigan District for 117 years!

Leadership Changes: In 2016, former CEO Ron Steinke announced his retirement after 22 years of faithful service. Jim Saalfeld, a former CEF Board member (2003-2015) and Board Chairman, was chosen as the next CEO beginning December 2016. John Bates, a 33-year CEF veteran and then CEF’s Vice President & CFO, was elevated to the new stand-alone position of President. Along with Paul Wills (CEF’s Vice President – Marketing), this group constitutes the Executive Management Team for CEF. But the Executive Management Team cannot do the job alone, and is blessed with 10 additional CEF employees who faithfully serve the mission of CEF and help expand the Kingdom right here in the Michigan District.

Key Metrics: CEF has been blessed with 15,000 investors that help create the resources CEF uses to assist Michigan churches and schools buy, build, and expand their facilities. The following is a snapshot of CEF’s key financial metrics for the past three fiscal years:

	2017	2016	2015
Total Assets	\$264,301,513	\$268,539,272	\$264,719,123
Net Loans Receivable	\$147,202,578	\$155,828,755	\$162,605,760
Investor Notes Payable	\$206,510,581	\$211,196,879	\$207,918,388
Deposits & Investments (Reserves)	\$106,456,436	\$97,527,210	\$91,202,388
Net Assets (Equity)	\$57,349,908	\$56,781,503	\$56,144,862
Capital Ratio	21.70%	21.14%	21.21%

Two takeaways from these highlights are (i) that CEF is fiscally sound, and (ii) that CEF has contracted somewhat—due primarily to the “Great Recession” that hit the Michigan economy in 2008. Over the past 10 years, loan activity was significantly impacted as many congregations curtailed or deferred expansion plans, and focused on paying down their mortgage debt. This reduction in loans and loan demand resulted in CEF’s assets contracting as well. However, after 10 years, we are finally seeing signs that this trend has bottomed out and is rebounding. In fact, CEF observed a



Church Extension Fund

\$13.4 million increase in new loans approved in 2017. And many of these new projects are to improve Lutheran elementary schools located here in Michigan.

The final metric noted above is CEF’s capital ratio. The overall strength of a financial institution is often measured by assessing the capital ratio (i.e., dividing CEF net assets by total assets). Many banks and credit unions commonly operate with a capital ratio in the range of 10 – 12%. CEF total net assets stood in excess of \$57 Million at the year of 2017, thereby providing it with a very strong capital ratio of 21.7%. This measurement provides our investors with a high level of confidence as they place their savings dollars and investments with CEF.

Grants & Financial Support: One benefit of having a “District-Based” extension fund is that CEF can directly support the congregations, schools, and many ministries of the Michigan District with grant dollars. In fact, over the past three years, CEF has provided more than \$2 million in grants and sponsorships that touched every church, school, and RSO in the Michigan District, as well as the Michigan District itself. Here are some examples of CEF’s Grant Programs:

- **Technology Grant & Loan Program:** CEF granted congregations \$1,000 plus an additional 10% of the money expended for technology upgrades (computers, screens, etc.).
- **Aesthetic Grant & Loan Program:** This program, which ended 2017, provided an initial \$2,000, plus reimbursement of an additional 10% of funds expended over \$2,000, for improvements to the “curb appeal” of facilities to help our organizations leave a positive impression with visitors and those looking for a church home or new school for their children.
- **Lutheran Education Grant & Promotional Interest Rate Program:** This program, which is currently underway, focuses on promoting our Lutheran day schools. These schools can apply for a \$25/student grant. In addition, CEF is offering a promotional rate of 4% over the current published interest rate for LCMS students in grades K-12 when they open a new 5-Year Fixed Rate Note. Additional details on this grant and promotional interest rate note offering can be found on CEF’s website at www.mi-cef.org.

Services: For over 100 years, CEF's primary mission has been to help build churches and schools. While that mission remains the same, the needs of congregations have changed significantly over the last 100 years. In this ever-changing world, CEF is focused on using some of its funds to not only help build churches, but help build up churches by offering specialized services. A few examples are listed below:

- Excel In Giving is an electronic funds transfer service that enables parishioners to make automatic contributions, tithes, and tuition payments. Regular electronic payments are automatically transferred from the person's bank account and deposited directly into the bank account at the church, school or organization. Over 120 congregations in the Michigan District are utilizing this service, provided at no cost due to CEF underwriting the fees. Statistics show that churches that use automated giving experience more consistency in giving and an overall increase in giving. CEF will be rolling out a new and improved program in 2019.
- Gift Planning Services is provided free of charge to the churches of the Michigan District and their members. CEF deploys a full-time gift planning counselor to help with estate planning that encourages members to leave a legacy for their family, their church, or another LCMS or Christian ministry. In addition, proper estate planning will result in more dollars going to Lutheran families and charities as opposed to paying for probate or more taxes.

CEF Board of Trustees: The CEF Board of Trustees consists of nine members: three rostered church workers and six laypersons. At the 2018 Michigan District Convention, four CEF Board seats will be voted on. There are three lay seats with incumbents running for re-election: Mr. Tim Haberling (Vice Chairman), Mr. Jeff Roscoe (Treasurer), and Mr. David Eberhard. These three individuals have served CEF well during the past 6 years, and they are all willing to serve for an additional term. One other seat is being vacated by the Rev. Joel Hoyer (Grace, Coopersville) who faithfully served CEF for 12 years. A sincere "Thank You" is extended to Pastor Hoyer who not only served on the Board, but took on a leadership role as the Secretary of CEF Board for six of those 12 years.

CEF - Going Forward: CEF has surely been blessed! But as we move forward, CEF is aware that the world is changing and there may be new, different and/or better ways to do things. So in 2018, CEF will be working with a consultant to help develop a long-term strategic plan. CEF's primary mission will not change. But we will be asking ourselves if there are new or better ways we can fulfill our mission of providing resources to help expand the Kingdom in the Michigan District.

We are thankful for the great support for CEF's ministry from our investors, congregations and schools, RSOs, and professional church workers in the Michigan District!

James R. Saalfeld
Chief Executive Officer

Commission on Deacon Qualifications

The Commission on Deacon Qualifications (CDQ) carries out its duties under the supervision of the Office of the President. We give thanks to God for His hand of favor upon the church and the congregations served by more than 60 trained deacons. The mission of the CDQ is to oversee the instruction of deacons and Pre-SMP students and offer recommendation of candidates to the District President, who then issues a license so that candidates may serve a congregation.

A deacon is a well-trained layman who serves only under a supervising pastor and through the support of a sponsoring congregation. Over the course of more than two decades, the CDQ has outlined and designed a program of study for the training of deacons in the Michigan District. Each of the 13 seminars includes a minimum of 24 contact hours with a qualified instructor. Courses in Lutheran doctrine, Old and New Testament, Christian care-giving, evangelism, education, church history, Lutheran worship, leadership, office of the ministry, Greek, and homiletics are offered, along with other learning events and an internship. (While these seminars are designed to prepare deacons and Pre-SMP students, anyone may audit a course.)

The policies of the CDQ, as well as seminar information, are available on the District website. Contact information for Chris Brown, registrar, is also available there.

The members of the CDQ are Rev. Todd Frusti (Ordained), Mr. Dale Vorwek (Commissioned), Mrs. Chris Brown (Lay), Mr. Bill Storm (Deacon), and Rev. Dr. John Herzog (Faculty). Ex-officio members are Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper (District President's Office), Rev. Dr. Robert Schultz (Dean of Instruction), and other faculty members.

Since the passage of R13-02A at the 2016 Synodical Convention, "To Regularize the Service of Licensed Lay Deacons," requiring Deacons who are "publically" serving in "Word and Sacrament Ministry" to seek ordination through SMP Colloquy, or through a residential route at one of our seminaries, we have formalized two additional categories of well-trained servants for the Lord's church:

- **Credentialed Deacons:** These are men who have completed the course of study, have a supervising pastor and a sponsoring congregation, but do not serve "publically" (Sunday morning worship) in "Word and Sacrament" ministry, but serve in a variety of other capacities to expand the reach of their pastor among the membership and the community.
- **Ministry Assistant Program:** These are women who have gone through the core of our training and then select specific additional courses to focus their training to best suit their respective interests or needs for ministry leadership in their congregations.

Again, in compliance to R13-02A, some 26 of Michigan District's 60+ Deacons have participated in a one-week intensive course at the Ft. Wayne Seminary (February 18-23,

2018) in preparation for their SMP Colloquy process toward ordination. Upon successful completion of this process, these men will be called and ordained pastors of the LCMS.

At present, our average class size is 21 students in each seminar as we continue to train and equip faithful servants for the Church and her mission. Our tireless effort will be to provide a growing number of capable Credentialed Lay Deacons, along with Ministry Assistants. Whenever the need of the congregation requires that a man be “Licensed for Word and Sacrament (public) Ministry,” we will do so; and should the need of the congregation persist and no ordained pastor found to serve, that Licensed Lay Deacon will be directed to seek ordination through SMP colloquy. **Please pray for more and more men and women to participate in this training!**

Communications Department

Over the past triennium, the Communication Department continued to align its communication strategies, avenues, and staff to support the four critical targets of the District, as given by the Board of Directors: Great Commission, Great Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Workers. The team includes a Communication Directors, Web/Media Director, part-time Art Director, and part-time Copyeditor/Staff Writer/Photographer. Together, they produce and support all of the content found in the *Michigan In Touch* Blog and printed supplement, *Michigan Minute* Enews, District website, email, webinars, and Social Media outlets. Here are a few indicators of the range of connections made:

- Over 4,700 **Michigan Minute** subscribers receive the weekly enews. Subscribe at: michigandistrict.org/enews
- The **Michigan In Touch** supplement to **The Lutheran Witness** is published 11 times a year with a circulation is 3,800. The printed version is only available to those who subscribe to The Lutheran Witness. Check out how you can receive yours at a discounted rate for individual and bulk subscriptions at michigandistrict.org/connect/publications/lutheranwitness.
- See the Social Media Report on page 48 for an updated report and statistics on Social Media outlets, website, blog, and webinars.

The communications team continues to collaborate and provide services towards District events and conferences in the form of committee consultation, printed material, graphic design, writing, copyediting, online registration, photography, videography, and event tech support.

During 2016–17, and in support of the **Here We Stand** Campaign and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the team created and produced material and communication resources, as well as provided support for the Crafted Daily Bible Reading Program, Hearts for Jesus (which supported the A2E Sports Camp/VBS), Summer Community Events, and the 500th Anniversary Worship Service. The team also created the District’s *Thanks to You* campaign in 2016 highlighting innovative ministry and, in 2017, produced its first *Giving Tuesday* campaign in support of Professional Church

Worker Scholarships.

In 2018 and beyond, the team looks forward to stewarding its current publications with excellence, exploring new opportunities in the ever-changing digital media landscape, and offering communication education and consultation for church workers and congregation leaders. Our content strategy across all communication channels will continue to tell the story of congregations that are working together, launching new initiatives, and are filled with *People of Hope ... Vigorously making known the love of Christ* in their communities.

Congregation Mission And Ministries

The Congregation Mission and Ministries Department (**Deployed staff**) focuses on supporting, encouraging, resourcing, and networking for effective ministry the congregations of the District and those who serve in them, primarily Ministers of Religion – Ordained and Commissioned, but also lay leaders and workers. Conferences, workshops, seminars, training, and other opportunities are provided through the Department for church workers and congregations to be equipped for ministry and encouraged to live as God’s Forgiven and Forgiving Family. Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper serves as Director of the Congregation Mission and Ministries Department.

The 366 congregations and 6 missions of the District are served by three Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators (CMMFs): Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper serves the **Metro Zone**, Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram serves the **North Zone**, and Rev. Galan Walther serves the **Southwest and Thumb Zones**.

We bid farewell and Godspeed to **Dr. Bruce Braun**, as he retired in 2017. We welcome to our team **Mr. Travis Grulke** as the new Superintendent of Lutheran Schools in the Michigan District. We also welcome **Rev. Todd Jones**, who will focus his expertise and energy to support new mission starts in the three zones, and develop a strategic process of continuing education toward a mission mindset for all our ordained and commissioned workers.

CMMFs have regular contact with their assigned congregations, most often with the pastor, and periodically with staff and lay leadership teams in the congregations. CMMFs provide a process for the congregation to plan, organize, and implement action steps and strategies which the congregation determines, and which expand the effectiveness of the congregation. **Almost one-third of District congregations** received direct assistance in some ministry process that required more than one visit from our staff this past triennium.

Additional ways CMMFs provide assistance are through: **encouragement** in ministry for pastors and ministry staff; congregation **assessment** for church health and effectiveness; **governance**, structure, and organizational issues; **staffing** needs and evaluation; and **resourcing** specific areas of ministry (i.e., family life, stewardship, evangelism, elder training, lay leadership development, etc.) to strengthen local ministry or identify potential future ministry opportunities.

Resourcing congregations and ministries can also be done through **webinars**. All our webinars are archived on our Michigan District website and may be downloaded at no cost to assist you.

An intentional effort to provide resources to congregations occurs when the congregation experiences a **vacancy** in the pastoral office. The Circuit Visitor, the CMMF, and the District President meet with congregations as the call process begins, providing a wonderful opportunity to walk together during this important time. 28% of District congregations received assistance in evaluating their ministry and staffing needs in the calling process of professional church workers in the past triennium.

In the reality of daily life in the church, **conflict** does occur. The Circuit Visitors and CMMFs often work together to identify and address these situations before they escalate to divide congregations and impair ministry. In the past triennium, 18% of District congregations received help as they dealt with internal conflict. If additional assistance is needed, there are organizations available to assist (Ambassadors of Reconciliation, etc.), as well as the process identified in the bylaws of Synod.

A way to reduce the likelihood of destructive conflict is to encourage **healthy relationships** within the congregation. In the same way that a healthy lifestyle influences our bodies toward better health, so healthy relationships within congregations encourage healthy ministries. The Scriptures have much to say about how, as God's redeemed children, we are to live in relation to one another. Healthy Congregations workshops provide the framework for congregations to discuss how we live and serve together in a loving and compassionate community of faith.

Because congregations can benefit from other congregations who have or are facing similar situations in their ministries, CMMFs link and **network** congregations with one another in order to learn from or share resources with one another and provide a bigger impact for God's work in the community.

Michigan District **conferences** provide a setting for fellowship, learning, and refreshment where pastors, teachers, and other church workers may gather to grow in skills and enhance their ministry. Similarly, Directors of Christian Education and Directors of Family Life in the Michigan and Ohio Districts meet together to grow in ministry skills and fellowship.

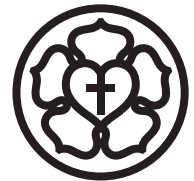
The Congregation Mission and Ministries Department also tries to help congregations look toward future ministry endeavors. The Michigan District has made available a **demographics** resource whereby congregations can study the population, economic, and cultural trends of the area around them. *MissionInsite* is a free online program that provides instant and unlimited access to community information for congregations. It moves beyond the static reports to a powerful "discovery tool" for exploration and "out-of-the-box" thinking about church ministry, church planting, church growth, and outreach.

Several areas of the Congregation Mission and Ministries Department are highlighted in other reports included in this workbook: Michigan District Lutheran Schools (preschools, elementary schools, and high schools), Family Life, Stewardship, Chaplaincy, Intentional Interim Ministry, the Deacon program, Committee on Mental Illness, Parish Nursing and health ministry, and Church Work Student Aid.

What a blessing it is to share ministry together throughout the Michigan District in congregations, schools, and other ministry settings, Living as God's Loved and Compassionate Community of faith!

Development Department

Here We Stand Campaign Overview, Highlights, and Progress



Here We Stand

After receiving approval to proceed with approximately 93% of the delegates at the 2015 Michigan District Convention voting in favor, the **Here We Stand (HWS)** campaign has progressed steadily and successfully during the past two and a half years. The 2015 Convention delegates approved the following four HWS campaign initiatives:

- Professional Church Worker Scholarships
- Innovative Missional Ministry
- Michigan District Endowment
- International Ministry

A goal of \$10 million was set: \$3 million for each initiative, except for International Ministry, which has a \$1 million goal.

The campaign began in the fall of 2015 with the "quiet phase," when several individual donors were asked to participate and become the foundational gifts of **HWS**. Then, during the month of January, 2016, 45 **Campaign Circuit Coordinators** (2 circuits had two coordinators) were trained via four regional workshops led by President Maier and Campaign Director Ray Zavada, where they learned about their role as pastoral leaders of the campaign in their circuit.

The four **Circuit Coordinator Workshops** were followed by an additional 24 **Congregational Workshops** in February, March, and April of 2016 that were strategically located (80 miles maximum driving distance for those attending) throughout the Michigan District. These informational workshops, also led by President Maier and Ray Zavada, were designed to give both pastoral and lay members of congregations the information they would need to make informed decisions about their respective congregation's participation in the campaign when the congregational phase began in the fall of 2016. Approximately 750 people attended these 90-minute workshops. The Michigan District extends a sincere thank you to everyone who attended a Circuit Coordinator or Congregational Workshop, and a very special thank you to the congregations who hosted one

of these 28 total workshops.

Following the Congregational Workshops, several congregations made early commitments to the campaign, but the congregational phase received its official kick-off in mid-October at the Michigan District All Pastors' Conference. Following this conference, several more commitments were received, and the campaign was fully operational as both the donor phase and the congregational phase were now in place.

In addition to the financial component of the *Here We Stand* Campaign, several other campaign opportunities were developed to not only complement the fund development aspect of the campaign, but to also bring significant attention to the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The following campaign events and activities have enhanced the total campaign in terms of awareness and financial progress.

District-wide 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation Worship Service – On October 15, 2017, the Breslin Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing was filled with about 13,000 people of all ages to celebrate this historic anniversary in the Lutheran Church. A special thank you goes to Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper, the many members of his planning team, and the Michigan District staff who worked diligently for nearly three years to make this event possible. In addition to the planning team, literally hundreds of volunteers worked before and during the worship service to make this experience a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. There are far too many people to thank individually, but we'd like to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who had a part in this amazing experience. As a result of the Worship Service offering, over \$60,000 was received for the initiatives of the HWS campaign.

Crafted by Truth Bible Reading Program – Through the leadership of Rev. Dave Davis, the one-year Bible reading program using the YouVersion app was born and has become a very exciting and successful component of *HWS*. This Bible reading program, open to everyone, was developed to encourage students to read the Bible in one year from the date they committed to participate. It was a wonderful blessing to see the number of participants grow from month to month into several thousand, and then see another number grow as readers began to complete their one-year Bible reading commitment. It is not too late to begin this program, and we would encourage many more to begin reading the Bible through the YouVersion app.

Hearts for Jesus/Kids to Camp – Through the generosity of 61 Michigan District churches and schools, as well as several individuals, \$31,317.84 was raised to send children to the four week-long A2E urban Sports Camps/VBS programs throughout the 2017 and 2018 summer months. Two camps took place in Detroit, one in Pontiac, and one in Benton Harbor.

Reformation 500 Challenge – This five-month walk/run/bike challenge to reach or surpass 500 miles of exercise was broadly participated in throughout the congregations of the Michigan District as a means of improving personal fitness

and participating in the *HWS* campaign. Although we do not have data on which congregations and how many individuals participated in this activity, we are aware that many were involved to help raise funding for *HWS* and their respective congregations or schools.

Here We Ride Bike Event – Approximately 80 riders of all ages participated in this August, 2017 daylong event hosted by Bethany, Charlevoix. Riders went as far as 75 miles to raise funds for *HWS* and their home congregation or school. A special thank you goes to Rev. Matthew Peters from Zion, Petoskey and to Circuit 31 for their efforts in coordinating this outstanding event along with a great team from Bethany.

A campaign of the magnitude of *HWS* could not occur without excellent leadership. This begins with the Michigan **District Board of Directors** for their support of *HWS* from the onset and throughout the campaign in the form of encouragement, guidance, and personal gifts.

HWS is blessed with an outstanding **Campaign Steering Committee** under the leadership of Rev. Rob Appold from St. Matthew, Ada. This team, comprised of nearly 25 individuals, and representing a large cross-section of the Michigan District, attended numerous meetings over the past three years and provided outstanding leadership to numerous aspects of the campaign, including hosting events, encouraging congregational participation, providing wisdom and insight, meeting with donors, and making personal gifts. In addition to Pastor Appold, the Campaign Steering Committee was comprised of President Maier, our two Michigan District past presidents (Rev. Dr. C. William Hoesman and Rev. Dr. John Heins), the four Michigan District Regional Vice Presidents, as well as several other pastoral and lay leaders (including Mr. Jack Kidwell, who served as Chairman of the last Michigan District campaign, *The Future is Now*), and key Michigan District staff members who did the vast majority of the behind-the-scenes work.

The **Michigan District Church Extension Fund** has also been a phenomenal partner in the *HWS* campaign. The partnership began with President/CEO Mr. Ron Steinke during the early and formative periods of the campaign, and after Mr. Steinke's retirement in 2016, the partnership has continued with the new CEO, Mr. James Saalfeld, and new President, Mr. John Bates. CEF has impacted the campaign in many generous ways, such as providing a \$350,000 grant to cover all campaign expenses, allowing 100% of every campaign gift to be allocated to its designated campaign initiative. They also provided a 10% match for all campaign funds received up to a total match of \$1 million. CEF provides a \$100,000 match for every \$1 million in cash received. CEF was also the sole sponsor of the 500th Anniversary Worship Service at the Breslin Center, providing \$100,000 to cover the costs of renting and having the event at the Breslin Center. The Michigan District is grateful to CEF for this and for their many other kind and generous acts of support throughout the years.

Please review the following information for an update of many aspects of the *Here We Stand* campaign:

By the Numbers Report through March 7, 2018

\$5,386,042.72	Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals
\$4,099,483.05	Cash received which includes \$300,000 CEF Matching Funds
\$971,712.17	Outstanding commitments (pledges)
1,207	Total Contributors
1,089	Individual Contributors
118	Congregations Contributing
32%	% of Michigan District Congregations currently participating
7,334	Participants in the “Crafted By Truth” Bible Reading Program
862	Participants who have completed the Bible Reading Program
\$1,082,901.44	Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships
\$1,920,648.76	Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry
\$ 793,964.28	Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment
\$1,273,680.75	Total given/pledged for International Ministries

Student Aid Report

For information on Student Aid see page 64.

International Ministry Support

For information on International Support see page 45.

District Budget Report

The vast amount of time since the 2015 Convention has been used to implement and administer the *Here We Stand* campaign. However, here is some additional information about the multiple responsibilities of the Development Department.

Acts2Enterprise (A2E) receives significant monetary support from Development Department fundraising efforts. For example, each of the four summer Sports Camps/VBS programs are funded through Development initiatives, such as direct fundraising from individuals, congregations, foundations, and from the Michigan District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, which provided a \$25,000 grant in 2016 for the camps. The annual Spring Appeal is dedicated to help fund A2E, having raised \$93,106 in the last three years. The Development Department provides significant funding support for the overall budgetary needs of A2E.

Christmas Appeal – In addition to the Spring Appeal to support A2E, an annual Christmas Appeal is also conducted. Two of the past three Christmas Appeals supported Professional Church Worker Scholarships, and one appeal supported International Ministry. Collectively, the past three Christmas appeals raised a total of \$39,230 for their intended purposes.

Congregational Capital/Debt Reduction Campaigns – Since the 2015 Convention, the Development Department, upon request, provided capital/debt reduction campaign

consultation to eight congregations. Each implemented campaign was personalized and designed around the interests of the requesting congregation, and encouraged each congregation’s campaign steering committee to provide their campaign’s leadership. Congregations who were assisted since the 2015 Michigan District Convention include:

Good Shepherd, Cass City	Grace, Coopersville
St. Mark, Flint	St. Paul, Milan
Trinity, Monroe	St. Michael, Portage
Trinity, St. Joseph	St. Paul, Unionville

Michigan District Endowment – Fulfilling the broad mission and vision of the Michigan District requires funding from multiple sources of revenue. One of those key sources of District funding is an Endowment Fund authorized by the Michigan District Board of Directors to receive gifts which will support multiple aspects of District ministry. The Endowment Fund may receive gifts that are restricted for specific purposes, as well as unrestricted gifts which the Michigan District may designate for other purposes that support District outcomes.

When a gift is given to the Michigan District Endowment Fund—whether to an existing fund or one that the donor establishes—the initial gift never goes away. It is a perpetual gift because the principal never is used. Only the earnings, or a designated portion of the earnings, are used for current or future ministry purposes in the Michigan District. As the Endowment Fund increases over time from investment growth and/or from new funds being added, the likelihood of additional funds being available for ministry purposes also increase.

The result of a well-funded Endowment is more—and better funded—Michigan District ministry. An Endowment Advisory Council (EAC) appointed by the Michigan District Board of Directors monitors the Endowment Fund. The EAC watches over the investment of the Endowment funds to insure the investment strategy is being adhered to, resulting in acceptable levels of growth, or loss, within the current market capability. The EAC meets four times each year to review the fund status and to make any necessary adjustments to continue to stay in line with the approved investment strategy and maximize fund growth. The EAC oversees an Endowment that is currently valued at approximately \$3 million.

Endowment Fund allocations are made in the following manner: Student Aid (39%), Missions (36%), Special Purposes (19%), and Unrestricted (6%). During the past three years, 320 students from Michigan District congregations have received scholarships to support their studies to become professional church workers at a Concordia University or Seminary. Endowment funds, in part, aided each of these students.

The Michigan District Endowment Fund is a perpetual fund which is prepared to receive gifts during a person’s lifetime or as part of a legacy gift. These gifts include, but are not limited to:

Bequests from wills or trusts	Gifts of real estate
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Charitable lead trusts
Beneficiary designations
Charitable remainder trusts
Cash gifts

Gifts of stock
Retirement plan gifts
Gifts of life insurance
Gift annuities

Anyone wishing to learn more about the Michigan District Endowment Fund, or considering making an immediate or planned gift to the Fund, is encouraged to contact the Development Department at the Michigan District Office.

Family Life

In the midst of a culture that no longer embraces God's values, many families are struggling under the pressures and burdens of everyday life as they face significant challenges in communication, sexuality, finances, and faith. These families are looking for help. Families, that is, the individuals within them—husbands and wives, parents and children, younger and older, single and divorced, widow and widower—are looking for hope. Not just a fig leaf that things will get better, not a wishful desire for improvement, but solid, firm, sure hope—the hope that “does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5). Strengthening the families according to God's design in Holy Scripture continues to be a significant challenge in ministry. Gathering families of all shapes and sizes around Word and Sacrament, where they receive the tremendous blessings God has for His people in His Son Jesus Christ, continues to be the goal toward which the Michigan District strives in the area of family life. We want District congregations to be resourced for ministry so that the lives of many—both young and old—can be blessed both now and in eternity.

Ministry opportunities and resources for individual congregations seeking to give support for families have been provided by the Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators as they have worked with their assigned congregations. In addition, several task forces, standing committees, and volunteers at events, involving over 125 professional church workers and laity, have provided more formal opportunities for both professional church workers and congregation leaders and members to be better equipped to carry out ministry to children, youth, adults, and families in their local congregations.

In the past triennium, many opportunities under the broad heading of “Family Life” were sponsored or supported by the Michigan District:

In the area of **Family Ministry**, the fourth Family Friendly Partners Network process was completed. Approximately 10% of District congregations have completed this training and equipping process. Moving forward, other opportunities for resourcing congregations in this area will be offered. The *Special Friends Camp* was offered annually in the summer for mentally impaired youth and adults. What a wonderful opportunity for youth and adults with developmental disabilities to enjoy the beauty of God's creation as they learn of Him who created them and loves them in Jesus. A second Special Friends Camp opportunity for those on the west side of the state is being planned. Events in partnership

with Concordia University Ann Arbor included quarterly *Family Connections* gatherings of family, youth and/or children's ministry workers and students in the Family Ministry study program, as well as *Forums and Symposiums* and other family ministry training opportunities.

In the area of **Children's Ministry**, print and web-based *resources*, as well as Vacation Bible School, Sunday school, and keeping children safe *workshops* for those involved in children's ministry were provided to the congregations of the District as requested.

In the area of **Youth Ministry**, the annual *Junior High Youth Gathering*, held in Frankenmuth, provided opportunities for youth in grades 6–8 to grow in their faith through study and worship times, and live their faith in service activities and fellowship. The triennial *High School Youth Gathering* at Mackinac Island provided the opportunity for youth in grades 9–12 and their adult leaders, as well as those in their early college years, to grow in and live out their faith under the theme *Fortress*, a fitting theme connecting with the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Training opportunities for adults working with youth were included at both the Junior High and High School Youth Gathering. Also, annual *retreats* were held for Directors of Christian Education and Directors of Family Life in the Michigan and Ohio Districts. In addition, the first Tri-district conference involving workers in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan Districts was held this past February. Michigan District congregations also participated in the *LCMS National Youth Gathering* in New Orleans, La., under the theme, “*In Christ Alone*”. The next national gathering will be held in Minneapolis, Minn. in 2019. Youth and adults representing the District received leadership training at the annual *Council of Lutheran Youth Fellowship Representatives (CLYFR)* and are available to participate in youth events in congregations or circuits. Also, *Connor Lukas*, a member at Faith, Port Huron, has served on the National Lutheran Youth Fellowship Board of Directors. Thank you, Connor!

In the area of **Adult Ministry**, the triennial *Lutheran Adult Gathering* on Mackinac Island provided opportunities for fellowship and growth under the theme, “*In the Presence of the Caring Creator*.”

Also in the past triennium, the District partnered with *Camp Arcadia* to provide *Pre-confirmation Retreats* in the month of October for congregations to include as part of their confirmation ministry.

Families, as they always have, come in all sizes, shapes and configurations. The church, God's family, gathered around Word and Sacrament, has the unique opportunity to provide support for all families. In the next triennium, the Michigan District will continue to provide resources for congregational use and encouragement for professional and lay leaders providing support for families within congregations and opportunities for celebrating support for families, through...

... The ongoing service of Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitators;

- ... Resources and links on the Michigan District website, as well as workshops and training events for congregations;
- ... Training opportunities for those involved in children's, youth, and family ministry;
- ... Consultants equipped to assist congregations in the areas of Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry;
- ... "Real. Present. God." – LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minn., in 2019;
- ... The Lutheran Adult Gathering on Mackinac Island in October of 2018 (theme: *Proclaiming our Caring Creator*), and October of 2020;
- ... District Junior High Youth Gatherings in Frankenmuth;
- ... District High School Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island in 2020.

In Ephesians 3:14–21, St. Paul prays for the Ephesians that they may grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. That is the desired outcome of family ministry, to connect people with Jesus Christ. *The purpose of Family Ministry in the Michigan District is "Building homes and relationships where faith in Christ is nurtured and shared in congregations and beyond—encouraging and resourcing ministry to, by, and with children, youth, and adults."* Each congregation is different. But all people are in need of the hope that is ours in Jesus. May God bless our efforts to minister to families—and the children, youth, and adults who comprise those families—in the name of Jesus, that they may be a blessing to each other, to those around them and to the next generation.

"I pray that out of His (the Father's) glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and establish in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:16–19).

Intentional Interim Ministry

Interim refers to a time between. It is the time between what has been and what will be. In congregations, it is the time between resident pastors. It is a time following saying good-bye to a pastor who no longer serves the congregation, letting go of his ministry, and getting ready to say hello to another pastor. It is a time of uncertainty between the past and an unknown future. It is a time of anxiety, anticipation, and hope.

The good news is that, rather than just maintaining itself and urgently seeking a new pastor, this in-between time provides an opportunity for renewal, congregational development, and spiritual growth. It is a period when a congregation can come to a better understanding of its ministry, grow in effectiveness, and commit to faithfulness in mission with the new pastor it calls under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Further, when a congregation becomes vacant, the entire Church rises to assist it. The Circuit Visitor coordinates ministry, the Congregation Ministries/Ministry support Facilitator assists with the self-study, and the District

President prepares the call list. All are available for consultation. In addition, dozens of congregations during the past three years have chosen the option of an intentional interim pastor for the time between resident pastors.

More than 50 District pastors have received District-sponsored introductory training for serving congregations with intentionality during an interim and are involved in continuing education events twice a year. 34 men have been newly trained in the last triennium. In addition, 15 of them have taken 60 hours of education currently conducted by the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors through the Continuing Education Department at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. or similar recognized education. In addition, they completed six months of monitored field work, being recognized as having completed basic education according to national standards. This is in accordance with the guidelines of Synod's Council of Presidents.

The Michigan District and Indiana District jointly conduct training of intentional interim pastors, and Continuing Education Contact Hours are given to participants by Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind. Because of the recognized need for providing greater assistance to congregations during vacancies, and seeing that it is a prime time for renewal, there is an increasing use of specially trained intentional interim ministers throughout Synod.

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper serves as Michigan District Director of Intentional Interim Ministry. Retired pastors and other pastors of the Michigan District who may be available and who would like to know more about this ministry or participate in it, should contact Rev. Kasper at the District office. Congregations that would like to know more about this ministry, or would like to consider it when they face an interim, should also contact him at 888.225.2111 ext. 230 or robert.kasper@michigandistrict.org.

Lutheran Day Schools Department

School Statistics 2017/2018

- Free-standing early childhood centers – 69 (3,629 Students)
- Early childhood centers in our elementary schools – 67 (4,214 Students)
- K-8 elementary schools – 69 (7,488 Students)
- High schools – 6 (1,393 Students)

Our 144 schools are serving 16,712 students and their families!

State of the Schools

As you probably know, we've had a couple changes since the last convention. Bruce Braun, who did an amazing job as our Superintendent of Schools, retired in 2017. Travis began his ministry here in Michigan this past August. Although he served as the Superintendent for the Ohio District the previous four years and has experience leading at the District level, he recognizes that Michigan has its own unique challenges and opportunities. He has new relationships to build

with our workers, schools to visit, and state regulations to learn.

Also new to the District since last convention is Chuck Winterstein who serves on a part-time basis working with our schools going through accreditation. He also assists with the overall strengthening of our principal leadership.

We recognize our Lutheran schools continue to face many obstacles that can hinder sustained growth and success. Some of these are: declining membership in our Lutheran congregations, financial struggles of salaries and healthcare, continuing demands on curriculum development and extra-curricular areas, lack of involvement from younger families in the life of the church/school, and the decrease of synodically-trained, effective, and passionate educators willing to serve at our Lutheran schools.

Despite these challenges, the majority of our schools are using the gifts God has entrusted to them in extraordinary ways. We have a number of talented administrators and directors throughout our district, and our teacher commitment and dedication to professional growth has never been higher. Our efforts to work together as a powerful body of Lutheran schools is why we continue to have an immeasurable impact on students and families throughout the communities we serve. We thank the Good Lord every day for the great joy of teaching and reaching His little ones (and not so little ones)!

NLSA

National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) is the greatest tool we have to improve our schools and create positive change. To have a team of educators spend several days at your facility using the self-study process that has been completed to evaluate every area of your program is incredibly valuable and rewarding. We strongly encourage all of our schools to go through the NLSA process. Our district commission meets to evaluate the progress of each school towards completing their School Action Plan. Chuck Winterstein does a fantastic job leading our accreditation efforts. The new Evidence-Based Early Childhood Accreditation Process will be available for our schools this fall. It is our hope that many more of our freestanding centers look to become accredited. A list of accredited schools can be found on our website.



Early Childhood Cabinet

We have a gifted and talented group of ladies serving on our Early Childhood Cabinet. We are grateful for this group that keeps us on our toes! They organize our annual workshops and directors' conference, answer licensing questions, and are always ready to answer Travis's questions when it comes to the fun world of early childhood ministry. Kelley Fehn

is our Michigan District Early Childhood Consultant. She is a wonderful blessing to the directors and early childhood centers throughout our District.

School Committee

Twice a year, principals representing the different regions throughout the District gather at our office to meet with Travis to discuss Lutheran education. This committee is a 'think tank' of leaders who assist in advising our District leaders on future initiatives and also communicate with their fellow principals how we can continue to work together as a District. We truly have some of the best administrators in the country!

Hearts for Jesus

Hearts for Jesus is our annual project to support missions throughout the District, Synod, and beyond. This past school year, we supported the work of Lutheran Special Education Ministries. This coming school year we will put our efforts toward the work of LAMP. All schools and congregations are encouraged to participate. Look for updated information on our website this fall.



Principal Meetings / Principal/Director Conferences

Meetings with our high school and elementary school administrators are held several times throughout the year in the many regions throughout the state. This gives our principals a chance to collaborate and work together on issues they all face as school leaders. We also hold a summer conference for our principals to work on professional development opportunities. Early childhood directors gather with the principals in the winter for our annual Snow Tire Conference for professional development, fellowship, and sharing of best practices.

Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools (MANS)

We are blessed with a strong partnership with the nonpublic schools throughout the state. MANS is an organization that we are a part of to continue the efforts of supporting initiatives at the state congressional level. We also take part in their conferences that bring together our educators and leaders for professional growth and development. Travis and Chuck both serve on the MANS Board of Directors.



Moving Forward

Our Lutheran schools are a wonderful blessing and a significant part of the ministry taking place here in the Michigan District. Below are a few areas of focus where we are looking for the Lord's guidance on moving forward to expand His Kingdom:

- Our schools will thrive when we have gifted leaders

who take risks, influence change, empower their staff to do great things, build relationships with the families in their church/school/community, and have a servant heart. We need to continue to find ways to support our school leaders, provide ways for them to learn and grow, and recruit the next generation to lead our schools. This is a significant focus.

- Many of our schools have a large number of families that are not a part of our Lutheran congregations. The number of students/parents in our schools who are unchurched or ‘de-churched’ is growing. How do we get families actively engaged in the life of our congregations? How do we reach out to the next generation? We are aging as a District and as a Synod. We need to find ways to use our schools as they were intended... to share the Gospel—not only with the little ones they serve, but with their families. Collaborating, sharing best practices, and taking risks by trying new ideas should be a focus of our church/school ministries when it comes to making disciples.
- Our schools need to be the ‘School of Choice’ in their community. That starts with the teachers. Our District is blessed with many talented educators. We need to continue to support them through professional development opportunities to be their very best, provide them with opportunities to collaborate, improve curriculum, and share innovative practices. We continue to pursue the very best educators to fill our vacancies; our schools will only be as great as the teachers we have leading our classrooms.
- We have a large group of free-standing early childhood centers that are not associated with our elementary schools. Those ministries are many times out on an island. It is our goal to change that. We are developing a plan to have one of our early childhood leaders in our District visit each of our 69 free-standing centers over the next two years. We are also creating a Google Group to connect all of our directors (both from our free-standing centers and those in our elementary schools) in a way that allows them to collaborate, ask questions, seek advice, and share best practices. Early childhood education is vitally important to the future growth and stability of our Lutheran schools and congregations.
- Working with our state legislature is going to be top priority in the coming years. We will be walking alongside MANS to build relationships with congressional leaders to further policy that supports our nonpublic schools. Much can be done to expand school choice initiatives that bless our Lutheran schools. It is important that we are actively involved in making that happen.

My First Year (Almost)

By the time the District Convention meets in June, I will have been in my position for almost a year. I’ve enjoyed visiting all of our elementary schools and high schools this past school year. Hopefully, I don’t forget too many names!

I encourage each of our pastors, teachers, administrators, and congregational leaders to never hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions, concerns, thoughts, or just want to discuss ministry challenges. I’m grateful that President Maier doesn’t chain me to my desk; he has given me the freedom to be out at our schools/congregations. I’ve had a chance to get on campus at every one of our elementary and high schools. I have been encouraged by the dedicated workers we have throughout our District.

I’m also very thankful for the work of everyone in our office. I especially want to lift up Carol Williams and Jennifer Rumberger. They support our schools in so many ways behind the scenes and make me look good even when I don’t deserve it!

I look forward to continuing to partner with you in fulfilling our Lord’s great commission. May God’s love continue to flow *to* you and *through* you...

Serving Him,
Travis Grulke
Superintendent of Schools

Michigan District Archives

Archival Mission Statement

Our mission is to collect, preserve, and make available institutional records about the history, administration, and congregations of the Michigan District, LCMS. The Lutheran church in Michigan has a rich history to preserve; what a blessing that our district finds its preservation an important task.

To accomplish our mission, the archive maintains a collection of historical materials aimed at preserving the history of the Michigan District for future reference and research. This collection includes proceedings from past district conventions, minutes of district board meetings, financial reports, personal papers and correspondence, past issues of the Michigan Lutheran & Michigan in Touch, photographs, and files on Michigan congregations. These materials are continually updated, catalogued, and preserved.

Archive Location, Access, and Use

The archive is located in a secured room in the Zimmerman Library on the campus of Concordia University in Ann Arbor. Access is by appointment only.

The district office can obtain past records from the archive, and congregational historians sometimes use the archive to find information for anniversary booklets or celebrations.

The Michigan District Archive does not maintain genealogies, family history records, or congregational records of official acts. These records may be found in other locations:

- Baptismal, marriage, or burial records can usually be found at the appropriate congregation or, in the case of disbanded congregations, at the Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis (concordiahistoricalinstitute.org).

For congregations that have merged, records should be available at the continuing parish.

- Michigan District school records, including transcripts from Lutheran High East, can be found at Lutheran High Northwest. Their phone number is 248.852.6677.

Use of the archive for historical research about Michigan District history is welcomed. For an appointment, please contact district archivist, Barbara Laughlin Adler, at adlerb@cuaa.edu. She can help with congregational archives or with preparing to celebrate a major anniversary.

A booklet of guidelines for your congregation’s archive will be available at the convention and upon request. More information can be found at www.michigandistrict.org/about/archive. We ask that each congregation designate an archivist/historian who will be responsible for maintaining the proper environment for congregational records. Please complete the form at the end of this report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Laughlin Adler, LTD, PhD
Archivist, Michigan District-LCMS

Kathleen Anne Graham, BS-Library Science
Assistant Archivist

Your Congregational Archive

Congregations are asked to submit to the District Archive the following types of materials: congregational histories, special installations, dedications, anniversary booklets, pastoral biographies, and any significant press clippings. These materials may be sent directly to the archive at the address below, or they can be sent to the District Office (3773 Geddes Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105), in care of the Archive.

Congregations that permanently disband are required by Synodical Bylaws (Handbook, 3.207j) to transfer all records (registers of official acts, minutes, and other historical materials) to the district office. From there, essential records will be transferred to Concordia Historical Institute. If you know of any such records, please contact us with the information.

We recommend that each congregation of the district have its own archivist/historian who is charged with preserving the history of the congregation.

We would like to maintain a listing of all congregational archivists and historians throughout the district, so that we can assist them whenever possible. If this individual is just getting started, we can provide them with some initial training and resources.

Please send contact information (by post or email) for your parish:

Name and location of your Congregation:

Your Congregational Archivist/Historian
Name:

Address:
City/State/Zip:
Email address:

Send to: Barbara Laughlin Adler, Archivist
Michigan District, LCMS
4090 Geddes Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Or email this information to: adlerb@cuaa.edu

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Committee Mission Statement The purpose of the District Stewardship Committee is to serve the church by promoting stewardship resources. It will articulate biblical stewardship principles and review and recommend resources to the congregations for the stewardship programming.

Growing Stewardship Education in our Michigan District Congregations

In order to assist our Michigan District congregations in experiencing the full counsel of God’s Word regarding being God’s stewards...

- The committee has made available yearly stewardship education and training via presentations and workshops around the district. We thank many congregations who hosted these events and invite others to let us know if you are interested in being a presentation site.
- A list of stewardship Bible verses appropriate to each Sunday in the Church Year is available on the District website for congregational bulletins, powerpoint presentations, and teaching use.
- In cooperation with stewardship advisors, a new, yearly stewardship emphasis is made available free of charge to every Michigan District congregation on the district website.
- In response to the 2015 Michigan District Convention Resolutions 2-06 and 2-07, presentations, resources, and encouragements were made to district congregations to financially support the work of our Synod and to build an ethic of tithing.

John E. Herrmann Award – This award is given annually by the Michigan District in memory of Rev. John E. Herrmann, one of Synod’s most dynamic stewardship leaders, to an individual in the Michigan District who has exemplified daily stewardship living in his/her church and community. The winner’s congregation receives a \$1000 gift to be used in furthering the congregation’s stewardship goals. The winner is recognized by the District Stewardship Committee during a church service in the winner’s home congregation. The past triennium’s awards were given to:

- 2016 Judith Root
Immanuel, Wheeler
- 2017 Gordon Mueller
Faith, Bay City
- 2018 Fred Becker
Atonement, Dearborn

The committee is currently developing new criteria for

this award in order that congregations, schools, and individual(s) may be included as recipients in the future.

District Stewardship Leaders Conference (DSLCL):

The Michigan District participates in the annual District Stewardship Leaders Conference held in Tempe, Az. each February. The conference is made up of the stewardship leaders of LCMS Districts, along with synodical and seminary personnel, to create and implement stewardship strategies for the LCMS. Each year, a member of the committee and Rev. Dr. Rick Wolfram, the Michigan District Stewardship Executive, attend the conference. In addition to his position in the Michigan District, Rev. Wolfram also serves on the steering committee for the DSLCL. He has helped bring many biblically and doctrinally sound stewardship materials to our Michigan District.

Stewardship Committee Members

Rev. Dr. Rick Wolfram – District Representative

Rev. Bill Roper – JEH Award (9/30/18)

Mr. Ron Chewning – Devo Leader (9/30/18)

Rev. Steve Schilke – Secretary (9/30/18)

Rev. John Duerr – (9/30/18)

Rev. Dan Meckes – Chairperson (9/30/18)

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Daniel C. Meckes, Michigan District Stewardship Committee

Commission for Church Worker Care

NEW NAME! NEW NAME! READ ALL ABOUT IT! The mission of the **Commission for Church Worker Care**, formerly the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support, is to enrich the whole person’s health (emotional, spiritual, physical, financial, and relational) of professional church workers through promotion, education, referral assistance, and advocacy. Our continuing efforts include the sponsoring of parish nursing and conducting pre-seminary interviews. We also host conferences and webinars such as the one featuring Rev. Dr. Bruce Hartung on the need for congregations to consider forming “Worker Support Teams” as a way to encourage and support our professional church workers. Our Commission is always open to new ideas and ways to keep our church workers healthy and involved in God-pleasing ministry! Do let us know! Current projects of the commission include:

- Hosting retirement planning workshops for all professional church workers every other year. (The last one took place in January, 2018);
- Offering discounts to church workers attending a Financial Peace University seminar;
- Continuing to work on a program to help with the needs of our seasoned servants;
- Collaborating with Grace Place Lutheran Retreats to help support holistic health retreats in Michigan, as well as encouraging and supporting our workers to participate in the retreats;
- Providing resources, potential counselor contacts, and counseling for professional church workers through the District website;
- Providing resources for congregations to use as they support the ministries of professional church workers.

Sower’s Fund

The Sower’s Fund of the Michigan District, LCMS was initially established in February 1992 as a result of needs that developed from time to time, for which there were no budget funds available. These were various emergency needs of professional church workers who had nowhere else to turn.

This fund is used for the immediate assistance of health care or shelter issues, to provide counseling services, etc. Requests for funds come to the President’s Office usually through the Circuit Visitor, Congregation Mission and Ministry Facilitator, or the Superintendent of Schools. They are made aware of special emergency needs where there is no immediate assistance to be found from the local congregation, city, state, federal, etc.

This assistance has been a tremendous blessing in providing help for the needs of our church workers in times of crisis in their lives or ministry, helping to relieve the stress and difficulty that our workers face in such times. Aid is offered confidentially. We thank and praise God for the continued strong support for the Sower’s Fund and for the kindness of all who contribute.

Michigan District Student Aid Program

The Michigan District LCMS Student Aid program is designed to provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships to

- members of Michigan District LCMS congregations,
- preparing for and intending to enter full-time church work (as defined as any position available through the Board of Assignments of the Synod),
- at one of the seminaries of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or one of the colleges or universities of the Concordia University System.

Annual distributions are based on the available funds for the year and the number of eligible students. A three-tier system is used. Students attending one of the two seminaries receive aid at the highest rate; students attending Concordia University Ann Arbor or Concordia University Mequon receive aid at the middle rate, and students attending one of the other eight CUS schools will receive aid at the base rate.

The Student Aid Program administration falls under the Congregation Ministries Department of the District with the guidelines being approved by the Endowment Advisory Council. More detailed guidelines and the required forms can be found at www.michigandistrict.org/pcw/future/financial-aid.

The charts below show the student aid amounts and number of students for the past three school years.

Student Aid Distribution

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Seminary Students	\$2,500	\$2,750	\$3,000
CUAA	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,400
9 CUS Schools	\$1,500	\$1,650	\$1,800

Students Receiving Aid

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Seminary Students	40	46	45
CUAA/Mequon	39/15	37/9	31/6
8 CUS Schools	15	20	18
Total Students	109	112	100

Section 3 - Overtures

Overture	Title	Page
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2-07	To Amend the Church Extension Fund Bylaws to clarify commencement of Board member's terms, to reduce the required number of Board meetings, and to allow use of remote communication at meetings	22
2-08	To Amend the Church Extension Fund Bylaws to clarify the purpose and scope of entities that CEF may serve, and to afford standard indemnification to all persons serving CEF	24
2-09	To Amend the Church Extension Fund Bylaws to confirm CEF's continued and uninterrupted operations in the event that the Michigan District no longer exists	26
2-10	Bylaw Clarification Regarding Circuit Realignment	27
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1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-01
3 SUBJECT: To Affirm the Priesthood of All Believers in Christ and
4 Therefore Their Call as Missionaries
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Luther’s Small Catechism affirms that no one can “by their own reason or strength
7 believe in Jesus Christ, or come to Him,” but rather “the Holy Spirit calls (each) through the Gospel,
8 enlightens (each) with His gifts, sanctifies and keeps (each) in the true faith,” and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope states, “Here the words of Christ
11 apply which testify that the keys were given to the church and not merely to certain individuals:
12 ‘Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst’ [Matthew 18:20] (Tappert,
13 331), and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The Holy Spirit through St. Peter in 1 Peter 2:9 states that all true believers in Christ are
16 “a royal Priesthood,” and again through St. John in Revelation 5:9–10 that “He (Christ) purchased
17 men (people) for God from every nation and made them a kingdom and priests to serve our God,” in
18 fulfillment of His intent as stated in Exodus 19, “Although the whole earth is mine, you will become a
19 kingdom of priests and a holy nation,” and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Our Lutheran Confessions (AP XIII) when speaking about the Sacraments also affirm that
22 the priesthood of the church is not a ministry of “sacrifice” but rather of “proclamation,” and further
23 states that the “Priesthood of the New Testament is a ministry of the Spirit” (AP XXIV), and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, The stated purpose of the “royal priesthood” is “... that you (we) may declare the praises
26 of Him who called you (us) out of darkness into his marvelous light,” therefore be it
27

28 **Resolved**, That every baptized believer in Christ be encouraged to fulfill his priestly office and
29 mission of prayer for others and proclamation of the Gospel in their own context, and be it further
30

31 **Resolved**, That those uniquely called to the Office of the Holy Ministry, who serve as pastors in their
32 respective congregations, tirelessly seek to train, equip, encourage, and motivate the entire
33 “Priesthood” under their care to more effectively and eagerly serve as a “Kingdom of Priests” in their
34 community and world, and be it further
35

36 **Resolved**, That our congregations and church workers be encouraged to share strategies and best
37 practices of evangelism and contextualized Kingdom expressions of the Gospel through God’s
38 priests (through submissions to the Michigan District’s “Story Bucket”), in order to encourage and
39 train others; and be it further
40

41 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District provide online and in-person training opportunities for use in
42 congregations throughout the District, as well as providing access to synodical and other
43 recommended resources, and be it finally
44

45 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District LCMS in convention memorialize this resolution to the Synod for
46 consideration in its 2019 convention.
47

48 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-02
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Personal Evangelism
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Jesus sent his disciples into the world be his witnesses; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Jesus declared that His followers would be His witness to “Jerusalem and in all Judea and
9 Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8); and

10 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul reminds us that we cannot believe in Him whom we’ve not heard. We cannot
11 hear unless someone is sent out to proclaim (Romans 10:14–17); and
12
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Synod in convention has repeatedly encouraged congregations to place evangelism of the
15 lost as a top priority (1989- To Intensify and Prioritize Mission, RESOLUTION 1-01; 1992- To Accept
16 and Apply Mission Blueprint for the Nineties, RESOLUTION 1-01; 2004- To Affirm Mission 21st
17 Century Response to Great Commission, RESOLUTION 1-01A; 2004-To Promote “Mission Outpost”
18 Attitude, RESOLUTION 1-02); and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Called workers set the example for personal witnessing; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Congregations often experience an increase in guests to their worship services when the
23 pastor consistently spends time each week cultivating relationships and sharing the faith in the
24 community; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Pastors and called workers are often limited in their opportunity for personal witnessing
27 by finances and time constraints due to expectations of their ministry; therefore be it
28

29 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention affirms the importance of personal witnessing for
30 the salvation of the lost and participation in the Gospel; and be it further
31

32 **Resolved**, That the District provide training and resources to assist called workers and lay leaders in
33 personal witnessing and the promotion of personal witnessing among the members of our
34 congregations; and be it further
35

36 **Resolved**, That congregations demonstrate personal witnessing as a priority of their church by
37 encouraging their workers to spend time on a weekly basis in the community; and be it finally
38

39 **Resolved**, That congregations be encouraged to include funds in their budget to be used at the
40 discretion of the pastor, and when possible, all called workers, to support their efforts for personal
41 witnessing in the community.
42

43 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-03
3 SUBJECT: To Affirm the Efficacy of the Word and Sacraments Apart from
4 Ordination
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Recent conversations regarding the service of Licensed Lay Deacons have referenced a
7 concern whether the Sacrament of the Altar or the Sacrament of Baptism administered by a
8 Licensed Lay Deacon (non-ordained) was really “valid” or efficacious, and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, There is still much disagreement whether AC XIV and its reference to “regular call”
11 inherently assumes ordination, and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Ordination is not a divine institution (Church and Ministry, Thesis VI), but rather an
14 apostolic custom for good order and is to be encouraged in the church; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Walther writes, “Now that forgiveness has been procured, as stated, not only has a
17 minister a special commission to proclaim it, but every Christian, male or female, adult or child, is
18 commissioned to do this. Even a child’s absolution is just as certain as the absolution of St. Peter,
19 yea, as the absolution of Christ would be, were He again to stand visibly before men and say: ‘Thy
20 sins are forgiven thee.’ There is no difference; for mark you! it is not a question of what man must
21 do, but what has been done by Christ” (170)–**Walther’s 17th evening lecture in Law and Gospel**.
22 And again, “Making the power and validity of the divine means of grace itself dependent on the right
23 ordination is doubly abominable, since ordination is only a human, namely, a church [ordinance], not
24 however a divine ordinance. By making God’s business dependent on human institutions one
25 nullifies God’s commandment through man’s commandment, [and] therefore places the latter above
26 the former.” –**Walther, C.F.W., The Congregation’s Right to Choose Its Pastor, August 1861**; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, AC XV states that, “With regard to church usages that have been established by men it is
29 taught among us that those usages are to be observed which may be observed without sin and
30 which contribute to peace and good order in the church...” (In this instance ordination) “...Yet we
31 accompany these observances with instruction so that consciences may not be burdened by the
32 notion that such things are necessary for salvation. Moreover, it is taught that all ordinances and
33 traditions (example: ordination) instituted by men for the purpose of propitiating God and earning
34 grace are contrary to the Gospel and the teaching about faith in Christ,” and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, AC VIII states that “the Sacraments are efficacious even if the priests who administer
37 them are wicked men, for as Christ himself indicated, ‘The Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat,’” and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, Some among us have even discouraged our laity from witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus
40 Christ, but rather leave that to the ordained, thereby hindering the Royal Priesthood of God from
41 carrying out their divine mandate and privilege (Matthew 28:19, 1 Peter 2:4–10), and
42

43 **WHEREAS**, Many hearts of faithful believers have been burdened or held hostage by the false
44 teaching that ordination adds anything to the preached Word or the Sacraments; therefore be it
45

46 **Resolved**, That we affirm the efficacy of God’s Word and Sacraments because they are the Means of
47 God’s Grace among us through which His Spirit alone works saving faith and the forgiveness of sins
48 through Christ Jesus quite apart from the character or position of the individual administering them
49 so long as they have been appointed (called) to do so by the gathered saints of God in Christ; and be
50 it further
51

1 **Resolved,** That in the rare instances when the administration of the Word and Sacraments is not
2 done by an ordained pastor, for the sake of good order in the church, communication and counsel
3 should be made with the District President and the Circuit Visitor; and be it further
4

5 **Resolved,** That we affirm and give thanks for the divine institution of the Office of the Holy Ministry
6 and give hearty thanks and honor for those who have been ordained (set apart) to serve in that Holy
7 Office; and be it further
8

9 **Resolved,** That every believer in Christ faithfully, boldly, and confidently proclaim the saving Gospel
10 of the Crucified and Risen Jesus Christ, knowing that God's Word through them "will not return
11 empty, but will accomplish what He (I) desire(s) and achieve the purpose for which He (I) sent it,"
12 (Isaiah 55:11) namely, the salvation of souls for whom Christ died; and be it finally
13

14 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District LCMS in convention memorialize this resolution to the Synod for
15 consideration in its 2019 convention.
16

17 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-04
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Building Bridges to the Community Through
4 Contextualization
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Jesus sent his disciples into the world be His witnesses; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Jesus declared that His followers would be His witness to “Jerusalem and in all Judea and
10 Samaria, and to the end of the earth” Acts 1:8; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul reminds us that faith comes from hearing the Word of the Lord (Romans 10:17;
13 and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther, in the *Freedom of the Christian* (1520), called for us to “give ourselves as
16 a Christ” to our neighbor, just as Christ gave himself to us; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The Formula of Concord in article X affirms the congregation’s right to adapt its practices
19 “as at any time may seem to be most profitable, beneficial, and salutary for good order, Christian
20 discipline, evangelical decorum, and the edification of the church” and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul teaches us that for the lost to hear the Word of the Lord it must be spoken in a
23 manner that is consistent with their cultural context (1 Corinthians 9:12–23); and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, To be effective communicators of the gospel, we need to be aware of our cultural biases
26 and those of our listener, and be able to adapt method and medium through which the Gospel is
27 shared without changing the content of the message; therefore be it
28

29 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District continue to encourage the use of demographic resources such
30 as the online tool MissionInsite to aid ministries in understanding their community’s culture; and be
31 it further
32

33 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District offer training opportunities for professional workers and lay
34 members to increase their ability to bridge the cultural divide between their ministry and their
35 community without compromising God’s Word; and be it further
36

37 **Resolved**, That congregations seek to better understand their communities so that they may adapt
38 their methods of outreach to better present the Gospel in its purity; and be it further
39

40 **Resolved**, That pastors, professional church workers, and laity get involved in their local communities
41 to build bridges that will support efforts to share the Gospel; and be it finally
42

43 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District LCMS in convention memorialize this resolution to the Synod for
44 consideration in its 2019 convention.
45

46 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-05
3 SUBJECT: To Affirm the Tension Between Unity in Theology and Mission
4 and Diversity In Practice
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul affirms the need for the Gospel to remain unaltered and uncompromised in 1
8 Corinthians 15 and Galatians 1:9; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Our church body was organized around the common confession of faith from Scripture as
11 it has been articulated in the Unaltered Book of Concord; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul reminds us that faith comes from hearing the Word of the Lord (Romans 10:17;
14 and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul teaches us by His example to proclaim the Word of the Lord in a manner
17 consistent with the cultural context of the lost, saying in 1 Corinthians 9:19–23: "For though I am free
18 from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as
19 a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being
20 myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one
21 outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those
22 outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to
23 all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share
24 with them in its blessings"; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Our Lutheran Confessions affirmed true unity in theology is not dependent upon unity in
27 practice: "It is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached in
28 conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance
29 with the divine Word." It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that ceremonies,
30 instituted by men, should be observed uniformly in all places. (Article 7, Augsburg Confessions); and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, The Solid Declaration in article X affirmed the congregation's right to adapt its practices
33 "as at any time may seem to be most profitable, beneficial, and salutary for good order, Christian
34 discipline, evangelical decorum, and the edification of the church."; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Our church body has debated numerous resolutions in convention that have sought to
37 reconcile the tension either by watering down the doctrines of the faith or limiting Christian freedom
38 of practice; therefore be it
39

40 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention affirms the importance of maintaining unity
41 among us by being diligent to hold steadfast to Scriptures and the Confessions; and be it further
42

43 **Resolved**, That we affirm the need and right for each congregation and school to adapt outreach
44 techniques, teaching styles, to most effectively communicate the unchanging Gospel message within
45 its cultural context; and be it further
46

47 **Resolved**, That we affirm the freedom that is ours in Christ for each congregation to adapt the music
48 and liturgy in worship to fit the culture of the saints who gather for worship; and be it further
49

1 **Resolved,** That we celebrate the unity that is ours by the Holy Spirit through a common confession
2 and encourage, support, and celebrate the freedom in practice that is ours in Christ Jesus; and be it
3 finally
4

5 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District LCMS in convention memorialize this resolution to the Synod for
6 consideration in its 2019 convention.
7

8 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-06
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage the Congregations and Pastors of the Michigan District
4 In the Right Practice of Admission to the Lord's Supper
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) at its most recent Convention addressed
7 concerns regarding the Sacrament of the Altar (*To Address Questions re the Sacrament of the Altar*,
8 2016 Re 5-15), including encouraging right practice of the Lord's Supper; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, In the same resolution, the LCMS stated the Scriptural and Confessional basis of its
11 teaching and practice, affirming its previous statements and resolutions, including reports and
12 opinions of The Commission on Theology and Church Relations, especially in regard to closed
13 communion; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Questions and concerns continue to be raised about the lack of uniformity of communion
16 practice among the congregations of the Michigan District, particularly in regard to admission to the
17 Lord's Supper; therefore be it
18

19 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District affirm the Scriptural and Confessional basis of our Synod's
20 teaching on the Lord's Supper as stated in LCMS 2016 Res. 5-15, and particularly on the practice of
21 closed communion; and be it further

22 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District commend its members the above mentioned resolution for
23 study and discussion, and be it further

24 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District provide "proper oversight in administration of [the] Lord's
25 Supper by visitation from ecclesiastical supervisors" (2016 RES 5-15, 2nd *Resolved*); and be it finally

26 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District continue to encourage uniformity in accordance to Scripture,
27 the Confessions, and the doctrinal affirmations of the LCMS in the practice of admission to the
28 Lord's Supper among its congregations.

29 Submitted by: Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost
30 Saginaw, Michigan

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-07
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Reading of the Bible
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Scripture teaches us the way of salvation (John 20:30-31) and unleashes God's power
6 (Romans 1:16; Isaiah 55:10-11), and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the entirety of the Bible is valuable for Christian growth (II Timothy 3:16-17), and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the recent Here We Stand campaign provided a fruitful call to Bible reading through the
11 Reformation Reading Plan as part of the celebration of our Reformation heritage, and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Bible reading continues to be a crucial aspect of developing Christian character and a
14 zeal to reach others with the Gospel, and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the discipline of reading through the Bible is best established at a young age, therefore be
17 it
18

19 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in Convention gives thanks to God for the Scriptures and the
20 increased reading of them through the efforts of the Here We Stand Campaign, and be it further

21 **Resolved**, that all congregations are called upon to make reading through the Scriptures a central
22 accent of their congregation's discipleship training, and be it further

23 **Resolved**, that our congregations concentrate on making reading through the Scriptures a key aspect
24 of their youth ministry, and be it finally

25 **Resolved**, that our congregations are encouraged to use the Reformation Reading Plan provided
26 through YouVersion.
27

28 Submitted by: St. Luke Lutheran Church, Haslett MI Approved Governing Board 2/20/2018

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-08
3 SUBJECT: To Foster Relationships Among Congregations and the Families in
4 Their Lutheran Schools
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Scripture is full of examples of the blessings of children and tells us on a continual basis
7 that the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (Matthew 19:14); and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, in the Great Commission, Christ reminds the church to teach scripture to all nations
10 including children, in Matthew 28:19-20 to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in
11 the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I
12 have commanded you”; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, in Acts 2:39, Peter reminds the church the gift of the Holy Spirit and forgiveness is “for
15 you and your children”; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, many congregations of the Michigan District have had Lutheran Schools that have been
18 involved in teaching children about Christ for well over 100 years, and all of our schools have
19 developed faithful lay people, dedicated church workers, and leaders; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, these same schools seek to develop Christian disciples by integrating faith development
22 into all academic disciplines, encouraging Lutheran teachers to be role models, praying for the
23 students and families they serve, and teaching a Biblical worldview that stands in sharp contrast to
24 the culture and secular worldview taught in society; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, the wide variety of our 144 schools throughout the District serve over 16,700 students
27 and their families; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, hundreds of families who need to hear the Gospel message are on our campuses every
30 day making it essential that our congregations must be intentional about building relationships with
31 the families in their schools in order to reach the next generation of young people; therefore be it
32

33 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in its 2018 convention thank God for the congregational ministry
34 accomplished through Lutheran Schools; and be it further
35

36 **Resolved**, that congregations without a school ministry pray for their neighboring Lutheran schools
37 and investigate how they might encourage Lutheran parents in their parish to consider enrolling their
38 children in a Lutheran School as congregations consider forming associations and collaborating
39 together to increase the mission impact of Michigan District Lutheran Schools; and be it further
40

41 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District LCMS encourage “People of Hope” to help Lutheran Schools to
42 continue to grow in academic excellence, community connectedness, and spiritual effectiveness in
43 preparing future citizens of our country and heaven; and be it finally
44

45 **Resolved**, that the congregations and schools in the Michigan District LCMS make it a priority to
46 share powerful practices and develop new, creative initiatives to foster relationships among their
47 congregations and the families in their schools.
48

49 Submitted by: Michigan District School Committee

1 COMMITTEE NAME: MICHIGAN DISTRICT TARGETS IN MINISTRY
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-09
3 SUBJECT: To Commend the Lutheran Heritage Foundation on its 25th
4 Anniversary
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) is a registered Service Organization of the
7 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) founded on November 10, 1992; and,
8

9 **WHEREAS**, many Lutheran churches around the world do not have the books vital to understanding
10 the Lutheran faith because no one had translated them into their language. LHF is working to
11 change that; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS**, in more than 90 countries and 100 languages, thousands of people have come to faith in
14 Christ because they've been able to read books that include *Book of Concord*, (12 editions), Luther's
15 *Small Catechism* (86 editions) and *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* (29 editions) in their own
16 language; and,
17

18 **WHEREAS**, in the past decade, LHF has published and distributed more than 925 titles in 102
19 languages with many more in progress; and,
20

21 **WHEREAS**, over 3 million Lutheran books have been distributed to pastors, seminary students,
22 missionaries and churches – at no cost to them; therefore be it
23

24 **Resolved**, that congregations join in giving thanks and celebrating what the Lord has done from the
25 humble beginnings of Dr. Robert Rahn's basement to its world wide expanse; and be it further
26

27 **Resolved**, that November 10th be set aside to commemorate this work of translation by offering
28 prayers and financial support; and be it finally
29

30 **Resolved**, that this resolution be submitted to the synodical convention for LCMS support in this vital
31 mission.
32

33 Submitted by: St. Peter's Lutheran Church Eastpointe, MI 48021

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-01
3 SUBJECT: Term Limits of Synodical President
4

5 **WHEREAS**, in many of our districts throughout Synod, District Presidents are term limited; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, offices of presidents in district are not called nor biblically mandated, but rather elected as
8 our governance structure, therefore be it
9

10 **Resolved**, that the office of Synodical President be term limited to no more than 4 consecutive three
11 year terms.
12

13 Submitted by: Immanuel Lutheran Macomb, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-02
3 SUBJECT: To Affirm the Renaming and Encourage the Continued Work of
4 the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support (CMGS) was established to serve as
7 an extension of the Office of the District President; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The CMGS was so named to be in alignment with a similar commission under the
10 President of Synod; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The synodical Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support has disbanded and its
13 responsibilities have been absorbed into the Office of National Mission; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The CMGS in the Michigan District continues to serve the important function of
16 encouraging and educating both congregations and church workers toward greater spiritual,
17 emotional, relational, physical, and financial health, and interacts with synod-wide health and
18 wellness programs and coordinates with other districts of Synod; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, The term “Ministerial” among some of the District’s constituents has a definition limited
21 to those in the Pastoral Office; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Congregations and ministries of the Michigan District have a wide variety of ordained,
24 commissioned, and lay workers who serve faithfully and need encouragement and education for
25 greater overall health; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, An appropriate name change for the Commission would better describe its task and the
28 scope of its task; therefore be it
29

30 **Resolved**, The Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support be renamed as the Commission for
31 Church Worker Care; and be it further
32

33 **Resolved**, That the Commission for Church Worker Care be commended for its faithful work of
34 encouragement and education toward greater overall health of church workers, whatever their role in
35 ministry; and be it finally
36

37 **Resolved**, That congregations and ministries of the Michigan District be encouraged to establish
38 their own committee for church worker care and make use of the educational materials and
39 programs provided through the Michigan District’s Commission for Church Worker Care in an effort
40 to encourage and increase the overall health of all those who serve as workers in their midst.
41

42 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-03
3 SUBJECT: To Amend the Bylaws of the Michigan District Regarding
4 Nominations for District Board of Directors
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 4.7.1 states that “Each district may adopt regulations for the nomination and
7 election of its president; the nomination, selection, election, ranking, and succession in case of vacancies
8 of its vice-presidents; and the nomination or selection of any regional officers or regional board of
9 directors members, as long as these provisions do not conflict with the Bylaws of the Synod,” and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, The 2015 Convention of the Michigan District amended the District’s bylaws to remove its
12 nominating committee from the nominating process for regional Board of Directors positions, in order
13 to comply with Synod’s bylaws as they stood, and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The 2016 Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod amended Synod Bylaw 4.7.2 to
16 allow nominating committees to be employed in the election of regional Board of Directors positions,
17 and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, The District’s nominating committee has been helpful in developing Board of Directors slates
20 in the past, especially in providing for the re-nomination of incumbent Board members who are eligible
21 for another term, therefore be it
22

23 **Resolved**, that Michigan District Bylaws 5.5, 5.6 and 5.13 be amended as follows:
24

25 **5.5 Time of Elections**

- 26 a. The election of the President, the vice presidents, the Secretary, approximately one-half of the
27 Board of Directors, and the ratification of the circuit visitors shall take place at each District
28 convention. At alternate conventions a District member shall be elected to serve on the LCMS
29 Committee for Convention Nominations.
30
- 31 b. Regional assemblies shall nominate for all positions with the exception of President, Secretary,
32 Treasurer, ~~the Board of Directors~~ and the Church Extension Fund Board of Trustees.
33
- 34 c. At their regional assemblies prior to the convention held in even-numbered years, the Metro
35 East Region and the West Region shall nominate for the Board of Directors.
36
- 37 d. At their regional assemblies prior to the convention held in odd-numbered years, the Metro
38 West Region and the North and East Region shall nominate for the Board of Directors.
39

40 **5.6 Nominating Committee**

- 41 a. The District convention shall elect a 12-member Nominating Committee consisting of one (1)
42 ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister, and one (1) layperson from each region of
43 the District, and the President shall designate the Chairman thereof. The three committee
44 members from each region shall serve as the regional nominating committee.
45
- 46 b. The Nominating Committee shall meet at the call of the Secretary.
47

- 1 c. The regional nominating committee shall draw up from its region a list of candidates and
 2 alternates for ***the Board of Directors and*** the Nominating Committee in accordance with the
 3 provisions of Michigan District Bylaws 5.6 and 5.7 and the Schedule of Elections. The regional
 4 nominating committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, as well
 5 as biographical data, and supply the regional assembly with this information. Following the
 6 regional nominations, the biographical data of persons nominated shall be transferred to the
 7 District Nominating Committee so that the District ballot may be drawn up.
 8
- 9 d. The District Nominating Committee shall draw up a list of candidates and alternates for all other
 10 District offices, namely, the Secretary and the Church Extension Fund Board of Trustees. The
 11 Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent of the persons it proposes to nominate, and
 12 transmit its final report to the Secretary no later than three (3) months before the convention.
 13 This report shall contain the occupation or profession, residency, and specific experience and
 14 qualifications for the proposed office.
 15
- 16 e. The Chairman or his designate shall submit the committee's report to the District convention.
 17
- 18 f. If between the regional assembly and the District convention a nominee becomes ineligible for
 19 election, the Elections Committee will fill the vacancy on the ballot with the person who
 20 received the next-highest number of votes.
 21
- 22 g. The convention shall have the right to alter the ballot by amendment. The amendment
 23 procedure shall include a motion, a second, and a majority vote on the amendment. Any
 24 delegate making a nomination for the floor shall have secured prior written consent and
 25 biographical data from the candidate whom he wishes to nominate as detailed in Michigan
 26 District Bylaw 5.6 c & d. This material shall then be submitted to the District Secretary.
 27
- 28 h. The Chairman shall have on hand at the convention a reserve list of nominees, approved by his
 29 committee, for use if required if a new board is to be elected. Whenever possible, however, the
 30 committee on nominations should be informed in advance if any new board is likely to be
 31 elected at a District convention, so that it may have a slate of candidates in readiness.
 32

33 **5.13 Nominations of Board of Directors.**

- 34 ~~a. Every voting congregation of a region nominating for the Board of Directors may nominate one~~
 35 ~~(1) ordained minister, one (1) commissioned minister and two (2) laypersons from its region as~~
 36 ~~candidates. (Cf. Bylaw 5.5 c. & d. for the nominating schedule.)~~
 37
- 38 ~~b. The nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary no later than four (4) months prior to the~~
 39 ~~opening of the District convention.~~
 40
- 41 ~~c. The Secretary shall notify each nominee, secure his approval in writing, and secure biographical~~
 42 ~~information for the inclusion of the four (4) ordained ministers, four (4) commissioned ministers,~~
 43 ~~and (8) laypersons receiving the most nominations on the regional nominating ballot.~~
 44
- 45 ~~d. At the regional assemblies each region shall choose by ballot two (2) ordained ministers, two (2)~~
 46 ~~commissioned ministers, and four (4) laypersons as nominees for election by the District~~
 47 ~~convention.~~
 48

- 1 ~~e. — Each voting delegate in the region may vote for two (2) ordained minister nominees, two (2)~~
2 ~~commissioned minister nominees, and four (4) layperson nominees. The two (2) ordained~~
3 ~~ministers, two (2) commissioned ministers, and (4) laypersons receiving the largest number of~~
4 ~~votes shall be candidates. The tellers shall report the results of the meeting to the chairman.~~
5
6 ~~f. — The chairman of the regional assemblies shall report to the Secretary the names of the persons~~
7 ~~nominated for the Board of Directors, along with the biographical data. The Secretary shall~~
8 ~~transmit such names to the Floor Committee on Elections.~~
9
10 ~~g. — The Committee on Elections shall recap the information provided on qualifications and~~
11 ~~experience for each candidate and shall submit such information together with the ballot on~~
12 ~~which such election is to take place.~~
13
14 ~~h. — The convention shall have the right to alter the slate at the proper time by majority amendment~~
15 ~~as outlined in Michigan District Bylaw 5.6 g.~~
16
17 and be it further
18
19 **Resolved,** That Bylaws 5.14 through 5.18 be renumbered as Bylaws 5.13 through 5.17, and be it finally
20
21 **Resolved,** That these amendments take effect following the 2018 Convention of the Michigan District.
22
23 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-04
3 SUBJECT: To Revoke Bylaw 2.14.5 on Ecclesiastical Supervision (A)
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod indicates: “The officers of the Synod must assume only
7 such rights as have been expressly conferred upon them by the Synod” (Art. X] A1); and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod defines the scope of the ecclesiastical supervision of the
10 President of the Synod as the officers of the Synod, all such as are employed by the Synod, the
11 individual Districts of the Synod, and all district presidents (Art. XI B1; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod defines the scope of the ecclesiastical supervision of
14 district presidents as the ordained and commissioned ministers of their districts (Art. XII 7) and
15 entrusts them with the power to suspend ordained and commissioned members from membership in
16 the Synod (Art. XII 8); and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The Synod has viewed itself as primarily congregational in nature (Constitution Art. VII 1;
19 Bylaw 1.3.3); and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, The Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) has affirmed the sole responsibility of
22 the District Presidents for ecclesiastical supervision of members in their respective districts
23 (Opinions Ag. 1970, 13-2669),
24

25 **WHEREAS**, The 2004 LCMS Convention amended the bylaws to eliminate the possibility of an
26 accuser appealing a complaint that has been terminated by a district president to the Praesidium of
27 the Synod; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, This amendment recognized the non-hierarchical nature of the Synod and affirmed that
30 complaints and accusations are best handled locally by those most familiar with the circumstances
31 and individuals involved, in keeping with the constitutional authority given only to the District
32 Presidents; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Board of Directors following the 66th Regular LCMS Convention held in
35 Milwaukee, Wisc. amended the bylaws to provide opportunity for an accuser to appeal to the
36 President of the Synod if the District President does not suspend a member of Synod; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, The bylaw was added outside a Synod Convention; and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, The decision did not allow proper discussion by the Synod in Convention and referred
41 further discussion to the Secretary of the Synod through limited discussion with the Council of
42 Presidents; and
43

44 **WHEREAS**, There was no consensus among the Council of Presidents, in fact, significant
45 disagreement among the COP members; and
46

47 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Board of Directors approved Bylaw 2.14.5 without any conversation with the
48 COP; and
49

50 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.5 is in conflict with the Constitution of the Synod Article XI B1; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Permitting an appeal of an accusation or complaint against a member of the Synod after
2 a district president has terminated the matter undermines the ecclesiastical supervision of the
3 District President, tends to centralize power for ecclesiastical supervision in the President of the
4 Synod, and requires the accused to defend him or herself twice (before the District President and the
5 President of the Synod], placing the accused in double jeopardy; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The necessity of the accused potentially having to defend more than once costs an
8 immense amount of time, energy, emotion, and money-resources that are best expended upon
9 ministry needs; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Misuse of an appeal by an accuser to the President of the Synod at best might be
12 described as mischief and at worst described as harassment, defaming the good name of a member
13 of the Synod and bearing false witness; therefore be it
14

15 **Resolved**, That the 2019 LCMS Convention be memorialized to remove Bylaw 2.14.5; and be it
16 further
17

18 **Resolved**, That the 2019 LCMS Convention reaffirm the method of ecclesiastical supervision
19 adopted in the Bylaw changes by the 2004 convention.
20

21 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-05
3 SUBJECT: To Revoke Bylaw 2.14.5 on Ecclesiastical Supervision (B)
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The 2016 Synodical Convention assigned the Secretary of Synod (SOS), the Council of
7 Presidents (COP), and the Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) the responsibility to address
8 resolution 12-14 which, if adopted, would have allowed a member of Synod to appeal to the
9 Synodical President should the accuser not be satisfied with the District President's ruling on the
10 matter; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Without a consensus of and without further conversation desired and asked for by the
13 COP, the LCMS Board of Directors approved and added bylaw 2.14.5 to the 2016 Handbook, which
14 allows the accuser to appeal the decision to the Synodical President who may choose to launch a
15 formal investigation of the charges; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.5 interferes with the ecclesiastical supervision responsibilities assigned to the
18 District President by Articles XII 7 and 8; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.5 changes the fundamental nature of membership in Synod by creating an
21 additional layer of ecclesiastical supervision for the individual member of Synod; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.5 promotes the expansion of conflict by engaging the national synodical office
24 in a dispute that had been addressed by the District President; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.4b provided a path of appeal for the accuser allowing the matter to remain a
27 local issue while honoring the concern of the accuser; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, The CCM has affirmed the sole responsibility of the district presidents for ecclesiastical
30 supervision of members in their respective districts (Opinions Ag. 1970,- 13-2669),
31

32 **WHEREAS**, The 2004 LCMS Convention amended the bylaws to eliminate the possibility of an
33 accuser appealing a complaint that has been terminated by a district president to the Praesidium of
34 the Synod; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, This amendment recognized the non-hierarchical nature of the Synod and affirmed that
37 complaints and accusations are best handled locally by those most familiar with the circumstances
38 and individuals involved, in keeping with the constitutional authority given only to the District
39 Presidents; and
40

41 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS Board of Directors approved Bylaw 2.14.5 without conversation with the COP;
42 and
43

44 **WHEREAS**, Bylaw 2.14.5 is in conflict with the Constitution of the Synod Article XI B 1; and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, Permitting an appeal of an accusation or complaint against a member of the Synod after
47 a district president has terminated the matter undermines the ecclesiastical supervision of the
48 district president, tends to centralize power for ecclesiastical supervision in the President of the
49 Synod, and requires the accused to defend him or herself twice (before the District President and the
50 President of the Synod], placing the accused in double jeopardy; and
51

1 **WHEREAS**, The necessity of the accused potentially having to defend more than once costs an
2 immense amount of time, energy, emotion, and money-resources that are best expended upon
3 ministry needs; therefore be it further
4
5 **Resolved**, That the 2019 LCMS Convention be memorialized to remove Bylaw 2.14.5; and be it
6 finally
7
8 **Resolved**, That the 2019 LCMS convention reaffirm the method of ecclesiastical supervision
9 adopted in the Bylaw changes by the 2004 convention.
10
11 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-06
3 SUBJECT: To Revoke the Requirement that District Presidents Acquire
4 Approval of the Council of Presidents to License new Licensed
5 Lay Deacons
6

7 **WHEREAS**, 2016 Synod Convention Resolution 13-02A enabled many Licensed Lay Deacons (LLD) to
8 become Specific Ministry Pastors by colloquy, and removed the LLD designation from many who did
9 not fit the description, and allowed LLDs to continue to be licensed and deployed when the needs of
10 congregations and availability of men to serve them requires it; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Res. 13-02A unwisely demands that district presidents license men as LLDs only with the
13 approval of the national body of the Council of Presidents (COP); and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, This new requirement adds a layer of bureaucracy and increases the volume of
16 paperwork and meeting time for individual district presidents as well as the COP; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, This requirement transfers ministry decisions from district presidents, who are officers of
19 Synod and who best know the needs of individual congregations and ministry resources available
20 (such as interim ministry, vacancy pastors, multipoint parishes, and LLD), to large, distant
21 committees who do not; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, This requirement adds to an atmosphere of distrust of local church leaders,
24 authoritarianism and polarization of the COP and national Praesidium, and violates the constitutional
25 principle that Synod is advisory, not hierarchical; therefore be it

26
27 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention memorialize the 2019 Synodical Convention to
28 revoke the Res. 13-02A requirement that district presidents must acquire the approval of the Council
29 of Presidents to license new Licensed Lay Deacons; and be it finally

30
31 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District LCMS in convention memorialize this resolution to the Synod for
32 consideration in its 2019 convention.

33
34 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-07
3 SUBJECT: To Amend the Church Extension Fund Bylaws to clarify
4 commencement of Board member’s terms, to reduce the
5 required number of Board meetings, and to allow use of
6 remote communication at meetings
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
9 (“CEF”) is governed by a Board of Trustees (the “Board”) comprised of nine elected members (the
10 “Trustees”); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, CEF desires to modify or clarify provisions of its Bylaws to increase interest in service as a
13 Trustee of the Board, and to enhance participation in Board meetings; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, CEF desires to clarify that Trustees elected at a Michigan District Convention are not required
16 to attend an installation ceremony at such Convention as the elected Trustees may not be present at
17 such Convention; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, CEF desires to reduce the number of mandated annual Board meetings from six to four to
20 better address the actual operational needs of CEF; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, CEF desires to allow Trustees or members of a committee designated by the Board (a
23 “Committee”) to participate in meetings by way of conference telephone or other means of remote
24 communication; therefore be it
25

26 **Resolved**, that the requirement set forth in CEF’s Bylaws for a Trustee to attend an installation
27 ceremony at Michigan District Convention in which a Trustee is duly elected is hereby deleted in its
28 entirety and no such requirement shall exist; and be it further
29

30 **Resolved**, that the number of annual mandated Board meetings is reduced from six meetings to four
31 meetings; and be it further
32

33 **Resolved**, that Trustees or members of any Committee may participate in meetings by way of
34 conference telephone or other means of remote communication as allowed under Michigan law; and be
35 it finally
36

37 **Resolved**, that the “Membership” and “Meetings” sections of CEF’s Bylaws be amended in the following
38 manner [deleted words stricken and new language highlighted for reference]:
39

40 **II. MEMBERSHIP**

41
42 The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall consist of nine (9) elected trustees.
43

- 44 5. All trustees elected at the Convention ~~shall be inducted into office in an installation ceremony at~~
45 ~~the Convention and~~ shall begin their terms of office on the first of October following induction.
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1 **IV. MEETINGS**

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1. The Church Extension Board of Trustees shall schedule regular meetings as the business of the Board shall require, but not less than ~~six~~ **four** times per year.

* * *

5. A member of the Church Extension Board of Trustees or of a committee designated by said board may participate in a meeting by means of conference telephone or other means of remote communication if all individuals who are participating in the meeting can communicate with the other participants.

Submitted by: Board of Trustees – Church Extension Fund

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-08
3 SUBJECT: To Amend the Church Extension Fund Bylaws to clarify the
4 purpose and scope of entities that CEF may serve, and to
5 afford standard indemnification to all persons serving CEF
6
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
9 (“CEF”) has been blessed with financial resources to be used to extend the Kingdom to many
10 organizations as outlined in the “Purpose” section of CEF’s Bylaws; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, CEF desires to clarify the “Administration” section of its Bylaws to ensure that there is no
13 confusion regarding the purpose and scope of entities that CEF may serve; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, CEF also desires to clarify that all persons serving CEF (trustees, officers, employees,
16 volunteers, etc.) are afforded the standard legal protection of indemnification consistent with Michigan
17 law; therefore be it
18

19 **Resolved**, that the “Administration” section of CEF’s Bylaws be amended to cross reference the Purpose
20 section of CEF’s Bylaws to avoid any confusion regarding the purpose and scope of entities that CEF may
21 serve; and be it further
22

23 **Resolved**, that the “Administration” section of CEF’s Bylaws be amended to provide that all individuals
24 who serve CEF shall be afforded standard indemnification provisions that are consistent with Michigan
25 law; and be it finally
26

27 **Resolved**, that the “Administration” section of CEF’s Bylaws as so resolved above is hereby amended as
28 follows [deleted words stricken and new language highlighted for reference]:
29

30 **I. PURPOSE**
31

32 The purpose of the Church Extension Fund is to administer a fund and acquire assets to assist by
33 loans, grants, or otherwise, primarily to the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri
34 Synod, congregations of the Michigan District, individuals serving as professional church workers
35 within the Michigan District, LCMS schools and colleges, entities and associations qualifying as
36 Michigan District recognized service organizations, entities and associations qualifying as Lutheran
37 Church-Missouri Synod recognized service organizations, and entities owned and/or operated by
38 member congregations. The Church Extension Fund may also assist other LCMS Districts, through
39 their respective Church Extension Funds, by purchasing or participating, in whole or in part, in loans
40 or investments, of other LCMS Districts or the Lutheran Church Extension Fund of the LCMS. The
41 purpose for which funds and assistance may be provided shall include, but not limited to, acquiring
42 property, erecting buildings, purchasing equipment, acquiring housing and supporting projects and
43 the operations of the above. The primary purpose, however, of the Church Extension Fund shall be
44 to contribute to the ministry and purposes of the Michigan District and its member congregations.
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V. ADMINISTRATION

1. The Church Extension Fund may, in its corporate name, take, hold and manage all property, real and personal, notes, bonds, mortgages, land contracts, leases, evidences of indebtedness, loans and property and assets devised, bequeathed, transferred, leased, or conveyed to them the Church Extension Fund absolutely or in trust for the use and benefit of the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod by whose representative body they are elected for the purposes outlined in Section 1 of these Bylaws.

* * *

9. The corporation, by adoption of a resolution in accordance with its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1987, shall, to the fullest extent permitted under Michigan law, have the power to indemnify those persons serving in the position of, or at the request of the corporation, as director, officer, trustee, committee member, employee, or agent against expenses, including attorney fees, judgments, penalties, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by a person in connection with any actions, suits, or proceedings, formal or informal, relating to the service of said individual on behalf of the corporation if such person acted in good faith and in a manner that the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the corporation or its members, or with respect to any criminal action or proceeding if the person had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct engaged in was unlawful. The corporation, through its Board of Trustees, shall have such further or other authority to indemnify trustees, officers, employees, or agents consistent with the provisions of Michigan law and specifically consistent with the provisions of Public Act 170, Michigan Public Acts of 1987.

Submitted by: Board of Trustees – Church Extension Fund

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-09
3 SUBJECT: To Amend the Church Extension Fund Bylaws to confirm CEF's
4 continued and uninterrupted operations in the event that the
5 Michigan District no longer exists
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the primary purpose of Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District of the Lutheran
8 Church-Missouri Synod ("CEF") is to contribute to the ministry and purpose of the Michigan District and
9 its member congregations; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, CEF is a Michigan church trustee corporation duly authorized under the laws of Michigan,
12 separate and distinct from the legal entity known as the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-
13 Missouri Synod (the "Michigan District"); and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, despite its separate existence from the Michigan District and its ability to serve the
16 congregations that are currently members of the Michigan District, CEF's Bylaws do not contemplate
17 continuing operations in the event that the Michigan District no longer exists (e.g., Synodical
18 reorganization, regionalization, decentralization, etc.); and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the elimination of the Michigan District could therefore jeopardize the ongoing operations of
21 CEF including more than 15,000 investor accounts and 500 loans; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, CEF desires to enhance its Bylaws to allow for the continued and uninterrupted operation of
24 CEF in the event that the Michigan District no longer exists; therefore be it

25
26 **Resolved**, that CEF's Bylaws be amended to provide for the continuation of CEF's operations to serve the
27 congregations that are or were members of the Michigan District in the event the Michigan District no
28 longer exists for any reason whatsoever; and be it finally

29
30 **Resolved**, that the "Relationship to the Michigan District" section of CEF's Bylaws is hereby amended to
31 add the following new subsection 3 [new language highlighted for reference]:

32
33 **I. RELATIONSHIP TO THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT**

- 34
35 1. The Church Extension Fund shall be subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Michigan
36 District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod insofar as said Constitution and Bylaws do not
37 conflict with the laws of the State of Michigan.
38
39 2. In the event of the dissolution of the Church Extension Fund as a Michigan Church Trustee
40 Corporation, all property and assets to which it holds title, or over which it has control, shall be
41 transferred forthwith to the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or to its
42 nominee.
43
44 3. In the event that the Michigan District no longer exists, then references to the "Michigan District
45 of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod" or the "Michigan District" in these Bylaws, and
46 references to actions thereof, shall be deemed to mean, respectively, the congregations that
47 comprised the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and their actions in
48 convention or at a meeting of such congregations.
49

50 Submitted by: Board of Trustees – Church Extension Fund

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-10
3 SUBJECT: Bylaw Clarification Regarding Circuit Realignment
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Synodical Bylaw 5.1.2. states, “Districts shall establish visitation circuits according to
7 geographical criteria.”; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has ruled that the word “District” in
10 Synodical Bylaw 5.1.2. refers to a district convention. It has also ruled that a district convention
11 may by resolution or bylaw delegate the decision on visitation circuit creation or realignment to
12 that district’s Board of Directors; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, The final decision regarding visitation circuit realignment has been made by the
15 Michigan District Convention, not the Board of Directors, since at least 1994. And the 2003
16 Michigan District Convention added bylaw 14.4 to the Michigan District Bylaws: “Circuits
17 are created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.”; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, The 2015 Michigan District Convention subsumed Bylaw 14.4 under Bylaw 3.2:
20 “Regions shall consist of a group of circuits created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention
21 resolution.”; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, This has led to some confusion regarding who is authorized to create, align, and/or
24 realign visitation circuits; therefore be it
25

26 **Resolved**, That the final decision regarding visitation circuit realignment continue to be made by
27 the Michigan District Convention, not the Board of Directors.; and be it finally
28

29 **Resolved**, That, for the sake of clarity and in order to avoid confusion between the role of the
30 Board of the Directors in determining electoral circuits (Synodical Bylaw 3.1.2.a.) and the role of
31 the District Convention in establishing visitation circuits (Synodical Bylaw 5.1.2.), it is
32 recommended that the following be added to the Michigan District Bylaws: Bylaw 1.3., e., 1.
33 “Visitation circuits are created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.”
34

35 Submitted by: Michigan District Board of Directors

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-11
3 SUBJECT: Visitation Circuit Realignment
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, According to Synodical Bylaw 5.1.1, “A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that
7 “walks together” for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service,
8 coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of greater congregational participation in God’s
9 mission.”; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Visitation circuits also serve as the structure for representation at national conventions of
12 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. As noted in Synodical Bylaw 3.1.2., “Voting delegates shall
13 consist of one pastor and one layman from each electoral circuit. (a) An electoral circuit shall consist
14 either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors
15 on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member
16 congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000.”; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District currently has 43 visitation circuits, with the potential of 86 delegates.
19 However, five visitation circuits don’t meet electoral circuit requirements, which, unless exemptions are
20 granted or those visitation circuits are combined to make an electoral circuit, could reduce delegates to
21 as few as 76; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, The congregations of the Michigan District have a right to be well represented at national
24 conventions, while maintaining existing visitation circuit relationship as much as possible; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, The Visitation Circuit Realignment Proposal maintains existing visitation circuits as much as
27 possible, while increasing visitation circuits from 43 to 46; and increasing delegates to the national
28 convention from 86 to 92, with only one exception requested; therefore be it

29
30 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District approve The Visitation Circuit Realignment Proposal (see page 28).

31
32 Submitted by: The Michigan District Board of Directors

Visitation Circuit Realignment Proposal
Attachment for Overture 2-11
Approved by the Michigan District Board of Directors 1/23/18

The Task

To bring to the 2018 Michigan District Convention a proposal regarding how Michigan could best maximize its representation at the 2019 Synodical convention.

Pertinent Synodical Bylaws

Synodical Bylaw 3.1 National Conventions, 3.1.2. Voting Delegates states:

*Voting delegates shall consist of one pastor and one layman from each electoral circuit.
(a) An electoral circuit shall consist either of one or two adjacent visitation circuits, as shall be determined by the district board of directors on the basis of the following requirements: each pair of delegates shall represent from 7 to 20 member congregations, involving an aggregate confirmed membership ranging from 1,500 to 10,000.*

Synodical Bylaw 5.1 Visitation Circuits

5.1.1 A visitation circuit is a network of congregations that “walks together” for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service, coordination, resources, and counsel—all for the sake of greater congregational participation in God’s mission.

5.1.2 Districts shall establish visitation circuits according to geographical criteria.

Michigan District Representation at Synodical Conventions

The last major overhaul of Michigan District visitation circuits occurred at the 1994 Michigan District convention, which expanded the number of visitation circuits from 41 to 44, though the original proposal was for 47. The 2012 Michigan District convention reduced the number of visitation circuits to 43.

If all visitation circuits met electoral circuit requirements (see Synodical Bylaw 3.1.2. above), Michigan could have sent 86 delegates (one pastor and one layperson from each electoral circuit) to the 2016 Synodical convention. However, since five visitation circuits did not meet the electoral circuit requirements, the Michigan District Board of Directors made 40 electoral circuits from our 43 visitation circuits for the 2016 Synodical Convention, by combining adjacent visitation circuits as electoral circuits (20/21, 33/34 and 37/40) and by seeking and receiving one exemption for a visitation circuit that did not meet the electoral circuit requirements. In addition, two delegates were unable to attend for which no alternates had been appointed. So Michigan ended up with 78 voting delegates.

Taking into consideration changes in the number of congregations and communicants in visitation circuits, there remain five visitation circuits (20, 21, 34, 37, and 44) that, according to the 2016 statistical report, do not meet electoral circuit requirements. Unless a visitation circuit realignment occurs, the Michigan District Board of Directors will need to either seek an

exception for those five circuits to be eligible electoral circuits; or combine those five visitation circuits with adjacent circuits in order to make electoral circuits that meet the requirements. This could reduce the Michigan District Representation at the Synodical convention to 78 voting delegates.

The Michigan District currently has 367 congregations. If visitation circuits were realigned based only on the minimum requirement of 7 congregations in an electoral circuit, the maximum number of visitation circuits would be 52 and the maximum number of delegates that Michigan could send to a Synodical convention is 104.

Additional Challenge

The calculation of the required 7-20 congregations with 1,500-10,000 communicants for an electoral circuit will be based by Synod upon the 2017 statistical report for the 2019 Synodical convention. However, the 2017 statistical report won't be available in time for consideration of visitation circuit realignment for the 2018 Michigan District convention (or other district conventions). Therefore, the following proposals used the 2016 statistical report information, updated with the latest congregation changes (i.e., the closing of Resurrection, Detroit; combination of Berea and Greenfield Peace to create Faith in Detroit; removal of Zion, Marshall).

Proposal for Michigan District Representation

SUMMARY: This proposal maintains as much as possible the existing visitation circuits, while increasing representation from the Michigan District at the 2019 Synodical convention. It will increase the Michigan District representation at the Synodical convention from 86 to 92 delegates by increasing the number of visitation circuits from 43 to 46, without needing to combine any visitation circuits to make an electoral circuit and with only two exceptions (circuit 37 has only 1,296 communicants and circuit 21 has only 1,268 communicants).

RATIONALE: One could argue that the primary purpose of visitation circuits is to be "a network of congregations that 'walks together' for mutual care, support, advice, study, ecclesiastical encouragement, service, coordination, resources, and counsel-- all for the sake of greater congregational participation in God's mission" (Bylaw 5.1.1); and not to be the basis for an electoral circuit (Bylaw 3.1.2). So, this proposal maintains as much as possible the existing relationships of pastors and congregations in their visitation circuits, while increasing Michigan District representation at the Synodical convention.

DETAILS: The proposed increase of delegates is accomplished by:

1. Making circuit 14 Port Huron into 2 circuits, which also involves moving St. John, Ray from Circuit 13 Macomb North to Circuit 14.

Current Circuit 14 has 13 congregations with 4,355 communicants

First, Algonac
Our Saviour, Armada
St. Peter, Fair Haven
Hope, Goodells
St. Matthew, Lexington

Faith, Port Huron
Trinity, Port Huron
St. Peter, Richmond
Immanuel, Saint Clair
St. Andrew, Memphis
Living Faith, Marine City
Living Hope, Ray
Light of Christ, Marysville

Proposed Circuit 14 would have 7 congregations with 1,835 communicants

First, Algonac
Our Saviour, Armada
St. Peter, Fair Haven
St. Peter, Richmond
Living Faith, Marine City
Living Hope, Ray
St. John, Ray

Proposed Circuit 14.5 would have 7 congregations and 2,660 communicants

Hope, Goodells
St. Matthew, Lexington
Faith, Port Huron
Trinity, Port Huron
St. Andrew, Memphis
Light of Christ, Marysville
Immanuel, Saint Clair

2. Making circuit 16 Macomb NW and circuit 17 Oakland into 3 circuits, which also involves moving St. Augustine Troy from circuit 18 Birmingham to circuit 16 Macomb NW and moving Grace Romeo from circuit 16 Macomb NW to circuit 17 Oakland

Current circuit 16 has 10 congregations and 8,248 communicants

Peace, Shelby
Redemption, Sterling Heights
St. Paul, Sterling Heights
Faith, Troy
Trinity, Utica
Our Redeemer, Washington
Shepherd's Gate, Shelby
All Nations, Sterling Heights
Faith Tamil, Troy

Current circuit 17 has 11 congregations and 3,893 communicants

St. Trinity, Clarkston
Good Shepherd, Lake Orion
Holy Cross, Oxford
Crown of Life, Rochester Hills
Gethsemane, Rochester Hills

Living Word, Rochester
St. John, Rochester
St. Stephen, Waterford
Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, Rochester Hills
St. Paul, Pontiac
Prince of Peace, Ortonville

Proposed circuit 16 would have 7 congregations and 6,146 communicants

Redemption, Sterling Heights
St. Paul, Sterling Heights
Faith, Troy
Trinity, Utica
All Nations, Sterling Heights
Faith Tamil, Troy
St. Augustine, Troy

Proposed circuit 16.5 would have 7 congregations and 3,195 communicants

Peace, Shelby
Our Redeemer, Washington
Crown of Life, Rochester Hills
Gethsemane, Rochester Hills
Living Word, Rochester
St. John, Rochester
Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, Rochester Hills

Proposed circuit 17 would have 7 congregations and 2,057 communicants

Grace, Romeo
St. Trinity, Clarkston
Good Shepherd, Lake Orion
Holy Cross, Oxford
St. Stephen, Waterford
St. Paul, Pontiac
Prince of Peace, Ortonville

3. Making circuit 10 Saginaw into 2 circuits, which also involves moving Peace Alma, Immanuel Wheeler and St. John Brant from circuit 5 Midland and Calvary, Carson City from circuit 36 St. Johns to the new circuit 10.5

Current Circuit 10 has 11 congregations with 6,614 communicants

Faith, Bridgeport
St. Peter, Hemlock
Zion, Hemlock
St. Philip, Owosso
Bethlehem, Saginaw
Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Messiah, Saginaw

Peace, Saginaw
Holy Cross, Saginaw
Nativity, Saint Charles
St. Mark, Saginaw

Proposed Circuit 10 would have 8 congregations with 5,350 communicants

Faith, Bridgeport
Bethlehem, Saginaw
Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Messiah, Saginaw
Peace, Saginaw
Holy Cross, Saginaw
St. Mark, Saginaw
Zion, Hemlock

Proposed Circuit 10.5 would have 7 congregations with 1,955 communicants

Peace, Alma
Immanuel, Wheeler
St. John, Brant
St. Peter, Hemlock
St. Philip, Owosso
Nativity, St. Charles

4. Making these additional changes:
 - a. Move Shepherds Gate, Shelby from circuit 16 Macomb NW to circuit 15 Macomb North in order to make the minimum number of congregations for an electoral circuit in circuit 15
 - b. Move Bethel, Howard City from circuit 37 Tri River to circuit 34 Big Rapids in order to make the minimum number of congregations for an electoral circuit in circuit 34
 - c. Move St. Philips Detroit from circuit 21 Detroit West to circuit 20 Detroit East in order to keep the minimum number of congregations in circuit 20
 - d. Move St. Paul and Prince of Peace Farmington Hills from circuit 27 Livonia to circuit 21 Detroit West in order to make the minimum number of communicants in circuit 21
 - e. Move Mt. Hope Allen Park from circuit 23 Down River to circuit 25 Dearborn in order to make the minimum number of communicants in circuit 25
 - f. Move Living Word Plymouth from circuit 25 Dearborn to circuit 27 Livonia in order to make the minimum number of communicants in circuit 27
 - g. Move Tabernacle of Praise Canton from circuit 28 Milan to circuit 27 Livonia in order to keep the minimum number of congregations for an electoral circuit in circuit 27
 - h. Move Cross and Resurrection Ypsilanti from circuit 29 Ann Arbor to circuit 28 Milan in order to keep the minimum number of congregations for an electoral circuit in circuit 28
 - i. Move St. Peters Rockford from circuit 40 Grand Rapids North Central to circuit 37 Tri River
 - j. Move Trinity Conklin from circuit 38 Muskegon to circuit 37 Tri River

- k. Move St. Peter Three Rivers from circuit 42 Battle Creek to circuit 44 South Central W in order to keep the minimum number of communicants for an electoral circuit in circuit 44
- l. Move Grace Elk Rapids from circuit 32 Traversed City to circuit 31 Petosky in order to keep minimum communicants in circuit 31

Approval Process

The Commission on Constitutional Matters has ruled that the word “District” in Synodical Bylaw 5.1.2. refers to a district convention. It has also ruled that a district convention may by resolution or bylaw delegate the decision on visitation circuit creation or realignment to that district’s Board of Directors.

The final decision regarding visitation circuit realignment has been made by the Michigan District Convention, not the Board of Directors, since at least 1994. The 2003 Michigan District Convention added bylaw 14.4 to the Michigan District Bylaws:

14.4 Circuits are created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.

The 2015 Michigan District Convention subsumed that bylaw under Bylaw 3.2:

Regions shall consist of a group of circuits created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.

It is recommended that the final decision regarding visitation circuit realignment continue to be made by the Michigan District Convention, not the Board of Directors.

For the sake of clarity and in order to avoid confusion between the role of the Board of the Directors in determining electoral circuits (Synodical Bylaw 3.1.2.a.) and the role of the District Convention in establishing visitation circuits (Synodical Bylaw 5.1.2.), it is recommended that the following be added to the Michigan District Bylaws:

Visitation circuits are created, aligned, and/or realigned by convention resolution.

Vision Casting Process

The following vision casting process is recommended:

- Aug.22 The Board of Directors approved this first draft proposal
- Sept.6 & 7 The draft proposal is shared with the Circuit Visitors for input by the end of 2017
- Sept. The draft proposal is shared with the Congregational Mission and Ministry Facilitators for input by the end of 2017
- Fall The draft proposal is shared with the Michigan District circuits for input by the end of 2017, making sure that all affected congregations are presented the information for their input
- early Jan. The Task Force reviews the input and revises the proposal as appropriate
- Jan.23 The Board of Directors finalizes an overture for the Michigan District convention; and publicizes it to the District

- May ? Floor Committee prepares a resolution
- June 24 The Michigan District convention acts on the resolution

Implementation Process for the Convention

- The circuit realignment resolution be presented early in the convention.
- If the circuit realignment resolution is approved, circuit caucuses will occur at the convention to select circuit visitors as needed
- Then, the resolution ratifying circuit visitors will occur after the needed circuit caucuses have completed their selection

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-12
3 SUBJECT: To Maintain the Current Alignment of the Midland Circuit
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is tentatively realigning her
6 circuits at the 2018 Michigan District LCMS Convention; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the proposed plan for realignment would significantly change the membership of the
9 Midland Circuit (#5) by subtracting four congregations and placing them into three different circuits; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the congregations and pastors of the Midland Circuit (#5) are thankful for, and have put forth
12 tremendous efforts in their walking together to establish significant financial and volunteer support
13 from several circuit congregations for the mission and ministries being carried out in the circuit,
14 especially the campus ministry to Central Michigan University (CMU) at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel,
15 a joint mission and ministry of the Michigan District and Zion Lutheran Church, Mt. Pleasant; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, these supportive relationships are likely to disappear over time if the congregations are
18 separated by a circuit realignment; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the movement of Zion, Mt. Pleasant into another circuit (Big Rapids Circuit, #34) as proposed
21 is additionally very likely to have a significant impact on the support that the campus ministry at Ferris
22 State University, at St. Peter, Big Rapids already received from its own circuit and another circuit with
23 which it meets; therefore be it
24

25 **Resolved**, that Zion, Mt. Pleasant not be removed from the Midland Circuit (#5); and be it further
26

27 **Resolved**, that the 2018 Michigan District LCMS Convention elect to maintain the current alignment of
28 the Midland Circuit (#5) for the sake of the ongoing and growing support of the missions and ministries
29 being carried out in the circuit, particularly the campus ministry at CMU; and be it further
30

31 **Resolved**, that the 2018 Michigan District LCMS Convention encourage the congregations of every
32 circuit to continue in their financial and volunteer support of one another's missions and ministries; and
33 be it finally
34

35 **Resolved**, that the 2018 Michigan District LCMS Convention celebrate and thank God when
36 congregations in all of our circuits walk together in fellowship for the sake of the Gospel.
37

38 Submitted by: Midland Circuit Forum

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-13
3 SUBJECT: To Consider Voting Privilege for Advisory Delegates
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the LCMS has allowed Commissioned Ministers to be Advisory Delegates and have a voice at
6 District and Synodical Conventions; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, each District, including Michigan, financially supports these Advisory Delegates to attend the
9 Synodical Convention, and the Advisory Delegates who attend are many times disappointed to find no
10 one is seeking their advice; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Commissioned Ministers now serve as Music Ministers, Directors of Outreach, Family Life
13 Directors, Directors of Christian Education, Early Childhood Directors, Worship Arts Coordinators,
14 Principals, and Teachers are currently on the Synodical Roster and members of Synod as individuals
15 serving in congregations of the Synod; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, called Commissioned Ministers have a critical ministry impacting the lives of families as an
18 outreach arm of congregations; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the financial obligation of Districts would be lessened by sending Voting Commissioned
21 Delegates at a ratio higher than the current sixty to one ratio; therefore be it
22

23 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District ask Synod in 2018 to allow Advisory Delegates to become Voting
24 Delegates at future District and Synodical Conventions; and be it further
25

26 **Resolved**, that this ratio be increased to one voting Commissioned Minister for every 120 on the
27 Synodical Roster; and be it further
28

29 **Resolved**, that this increase in ratio maintain a balance between voting Pastoral Delegates and Lay
30 Delegates while giving Commissioned Ministers voting representation; and be it further
31

32 **Resolved**, that this discussion begin at the 2019 Synodical Convention with a decision reached by the
33 2022 Synodical Convention; and be it finally
34

35 **Resolved**, that the LCMS Constitution and Bylaws be edited to reflect this change which allows
36 Commissioned Ministers to vote at future District and Synodical Conventions.
37

38 Submitted by: Michigan District School Committee

1 COMMITTEE NAME: ADMINISTRATION, STRUCTURE, & CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-14
3 SUBJECT: VOTING RIGHTS FOR COMMISSIONED WORKERS
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, commissioned workers of LCMS congregations are highly valued for their zeal and
7 faithfulness; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, all commissioned workers are theologically trained in some fashion, many even holding
10 advanced degrees; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the LCMS handbook Article V. B. describes “advisory members only” to include “Teachers of
13 the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Directors of Christian education, Directors of Christian outreach,
14 Directors of family life ministry, Directors of parish music, Deaconesses, and Parish assistants”; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, C.F.W. Walther’s tenth thesis on the Holy Ministry states, “To the ministry of the Word,
17 according to divine right, belongs also the duty to judge doctrine, but laymen also possess this right.
18 Therefore, in the ecclesiastical courts (consistories) and councils they are accorded both a seat and vote
19 together with the clergy.” *Church and Ministry* (CPH:1987), 23; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the above commissioned offices of LCMS congregations are laypersons; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, by virtue of a man-made constitution they are disqualified from representing their
24 congregations as voting delegates to conventions; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, this inadvertently creates an inconsistency between accepted theology (Walther’s theses)
27 and synodical polity (Article V. B.); and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the 2016 Synod in Convention voted 921 to 58 “To Allow Voting Privilege for Assistant
30 Pastors” (Res. 11—09), thus indicating a willingness for the LCMS handbook to better reflect Synod’s
31 theology; therefore be it
32

33 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in convention memorialize the 2019 Synodical convention to strike
34 Teachers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Directors of Christian education, Directors of Christian
35 outreach, Directors of family life ministry, Directors of parish music, Deaconesses, and Parish assistants
36 from the list of Advisory members of synod; and be it finally
37

38 **Resolved**, that congregations of the LCMS be encouraged to consider those highly educated and faithful
39 laypersons to be sent as their voting representatives to Circuit, District, and Synodical events.
40

41 Submitted by: Bay City Circuit