

August 2020

michigan

IN TOUCH

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

GREAT COMPASSION

Jesus Broke Down the Barriers

by Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

This is an edited transcription of President Maier's address regarding the death of George Floyd. You can see the full video at: https://youtu.be/BNZ1Q9zZ_gE

Over the past months, our country has truly gone through a lot: the COVID-19 crisis, sheltering in place and the tensions that are caused by just being and living at home, and then—here in Michigan—the dams breaking, causing horrific destruction in Sanford and Midland. Fortunately, no lives were lost, but the cleanup is just beginning and will be extensive and prolonged. And now the nation as a whole is also being affected—and rightly so—by what took place with George Floyd in Minneapolis. It is to that that I would like to speak to you now.

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Photo courtesy of Elisa Schulz Photography

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The murder of George Floyd is not the only incident of something happening that was terribly wrong ... and it has affected the African and Black community, as it should **every** community. We need to be aware of that because we are all human beings. All human beings are created in the image of God. All life is precious to God! And as Christians—people belonging to God, purchased by the blood of Jesus, saved by grace through faith, and Christ-followers—we want people to belong to the one body of Christ in which “*there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus*” (Gal.3:28). There’s no one except **one**—not black or white, Jew or Gentile—but being “**one in Christ Jesus**.”

I mentioned that George Floyd was not the only incident of which we are aware: there’s also Breonna Taylor, who was studying to be a nurse in Louisville, Kentucky, and was shot in her apartment. We’ve also recently heard of Ahmaud Arbery, who was shot and murdered while jogging. Many of these things are being caught on film (phones), and so we have a wider understanding of what is taking place. It’s pricking our conscience—or should be.

I want to make sure that I say that not all police are bad, and we thank God for how they lay their lives on the line to try and maintain or bring about order. But when you put on a badge, it’s an honor and privilege and meant to defend the rights of ALL people, not just of some.

I also want to say that protests are appropriate. In fact, we are given that right. As Christians, we are to speak up against that which is wrong and to point out what is good and right. Riots, however, the destruction of property, is wrong. That illegal behavior needs to be condemned even as the murderous behavior of bad police needs to be condemned and punished.

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly

What should we, as God’s people, be thinking about or doing? I so appreciate what the prophet Micah has to say to us. He writes, “*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*” (Micah 6:8).

To act justly: to pray for justice, to exercise justice, to encourage justice—and not just for oneself, it’s for all people. In fact, God expects His children to look at those who are lost, limited, lame, lonely, sidelined, and demeaned and help them! We are to do whatever we can to extend the love of Christ as it has been extended to us even at the expense of personal sacrifice.

To show mercy and to act humbly: to walk humbly with our God means that we repent of our own sin—including wherever we have contributed to the sin of others or tried

“What does the Lord require of you but to do *justice*, and to love *kindness*, and to walk *humbly* with your God?”

(Micah 6:8)

to cover and hide our own sin. We need to closely examine our life for our sin and repent of it. And I'm not just talking racism. Is it lust? Is it that we refuse to recognize spending the right time with our family ... or, especially, with God, Who alone transforms and changes us? To walk humbly with God means to acknowledge our sin, our culpability, and to recognize that only by the blood of Jesus Christ are we cleansed and freed to be different; only through our union with Christ are we strengthened to serve Him. These truths are what took place with Christ, in Christ, on Calvary's cross.

Paul is talking to the churches in Asia Minor. I believe Ephesians is an encyclical letter—that it was written for, and made its rounds among, many of the newly formed churches in Asia Minor. This is what he has to write to them from perhaps the most famous chapter in that book—chapter two. He says, *“Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh [that's us], called ‘the uncircumcision’ by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel [those who were saved] and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world”* (Ephesians 2:11–12). That was the plight of Gentiles. That was my plight. That was your plight. We weren't in the “in” group. We weren't “in Christ.” We didn't know salvation through the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The passage continues: *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall (Ephesians 2:13–14).* That's what this carpenter from Nazareth did. He broke down—totally dismantled, destroyed—the dividing wall, the barrier wall that separated Jew and Gentile ... and, if you will, black and white and yellow, whatever the color might be, whatever the nationality or ethnicity. *“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility”* (Ephesians 2:14–16).

God's Heart

This is what Christ our Lord has done for us. We were once far off and have been brought near. Those who do not yet know Christ **are far off**, whatever their color or nationality or ethnicity and, by God's love and grace, need to be brought near. **This is God's heart.** It is His design and desire.

If you want to know what the two **major** groups are today,

it's not black and white, it's not those privileged and unprivileged—and by the way, I think “privilege,” and specifically, white privilege, does exist. The two major groups are those who know and believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord and those who don't! And those who do know Christ have been given the blessed opportunity of letting their light shine *“before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16).

This is **not** a matter for politicians to solve—may God bless them as they try to rule justly; they deserve our prayers. This is certainly **not** a matter for media or there will be many biases. **This is really a matter for the child of God.** We, God's children, know what's right: that we are to act justly, to show mercy, to walk humbly with our God.

God's Intent

I think we begin to see a glimpse of God's intent on Pentecost and what took place there. I want to remind you of part of what took place in Acts chapter two: *“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven,”* believers from every nation under heaven. And when this sound, the sound of the rushing wind, occurred, *“the multitude came together and they were bewildered.”* Why? *“Because each one was hearing them [the disciples] speak in their own language”* (Acts 2:5–6).

Now, there's much that could be said there, because that is a miraculous happening! But I think another commentary is that each of us need to find someone else that we can talk to; learn their love language, maybe even their physical language, in order that we can point them to the enormous love of God, to the reality of Christ—Who He is and why He came, and to the power of that message (Gospel) which frees from enmity and racism and every other sin that can be mentioned.

The text continues by describing how they were amazed and marveled and said, *“Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?”* And then it lists the nations: *“Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes”*—there are the two groups again—*“proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God”* (Acts 2:7b–11).

A Picture of the Church

Friends, isn't that what we should be doing: telling, reporting, sharing the mighty deeds of God? I know we're all busy.

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Prayer for the Church in Times of Social Unrest

by James Metcalf

Dear Father in Heaven,
How can we breathe unless your Spirit gives us breath?
How can we pray unless your Spirit speaks to us?

In Adam we have all been one, one huge rebellious man; We all have fled that evening voice that sought us as we ran. We fled thee, and in losing thee we lost our brother too; Each singly sought and claimed his own; each man his brother slew. ⁽¹⁾

Dear Jesus, our brother,
“We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
By the things that we have done and the things we have left undone ...
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.” ⁽²⁾

The sister of color, the brother with skin of brown or black
We have seen as the other, we have set a load on their backs
A load we would not carry nor help them to bear,
While priding ourselves that we are not like our fathers, the Pharisees!

We are so proud—proud to be Americans! Proud of these words:
“We hold these truths to be self-evident,
That all men are created equal,
That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights,
That among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” ⁽³⁾

Yet we do not treat them as equal in your sight — these your dear children,
Our sisters of color, our brothers with skin of brown or black.
Ha! We even think you, Jesus, looked like an Englishman
When you are a Palestinian! If we saw you, we would be afraid of you.

We are afraid of our sisters and brothers of color and so we make them afraid.
We send our children to good schools and theirs to poor schools.
We pay their parents poorly and our families well.
We reserve the best housing for ourselves and move out if they move into our neighborhoods.
We treat a few well enough to salve our own consciences, but not to save our consciences.

We piously want to think we are better when we’ve been given every advantage in this life
And withheld those easy advantages from your darker-hued children —
We blame them for our own failure to love our brothers and sisters as ourselves.

We righteously think we can sweep the speck from the eyes of those we have
forced to do poorly
And do not imagine the beam that blocks our eyes from your light!
A mighty beam that reaches back to when our ancestors settled on these
shores,
A beam that reaches back to the beams of your holy cross,
A beam that reaches back even further to the calloused heart of Cain—
each man his brother slew!

Father, forgive us! We know not what we do!
Or do we know exactly what we do, and do not do?
When knee or noose strangles the breath of life from our brother's body,
When we fail to provide adequately for our sisters and brothers and then blame them?

We are afraid of your children of color.
Because we are afraid of your judgment on our satisfied and calloused lives, a judgment so richly earned.
The horrible words, "*I never knew you.*"⁽⁴⁾
They will rise with you on Judgment Day to tell us what we did and did not do.

Father, forgive us!
Jesus, forgive us!
Spirit, return to us and give us the breath of life in hope
That our sister and brother of color will seek the blessing of being the gentle peacemaker,
The blessing we have spurned.

Together we will seek justice!
Together we will love mercy!
Together we will walk humbly with you, our God.

Dear Father, we do not deserve your forgiveness.
We have sinned as our fathers have sinned!
Can our sisters and brothers of color forgive us for choking the breath of life from their bodies?
To whom can we turn but to you, O Lord?

O Spirit, turn us and we shall be turned!
Turn our hearts to our sisters, to our brothers of color!
Open our eyes Lord! Open our eyes to see you coming to us in skin of brown or black
Asking only for a cup of cold water, a breath of fresh air.

O Spirit of the living Jesus, may your Light from above shine upon us.
In your light may we see light, the light of the truth
That we are brothers and sisters all, that "*we are one —*
And our life has just begun."⁽⁵⁾ Jesus, the Christ, has come!

***Thou camest to our hall of death,
O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,
To drink for us the dark despair
That strangled our reluctant breath.***

***How beautiful the feet that trod
The road that leads us back to God!
How beautiful the feet that ran
To bring the great good news to man!***⁽⁶⁾ ■

*Rev. James Metcalf, emeritus, resides in Allendale. He has served as an
Intentional Interim Minister for the Michigan District, LCMS.*

1. *In Adam we have all Been One* by Martin Franzmann 2. LSB Divine Service Setting One and Two
3. The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America 4. *Matthew 7:23* ESV
5. *Sons of God* by Ray Repp 6. *O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth* by Martin Franzmann

What the Church CAN Do

by David Davis

Wow.

Racial strife. Social chaos. Economic disorder. Political rancor. Persistent pandemic. Debilitating lockdown.

What should the Church do? What should YOUR church do? What should YOU as church do?

It is time for the Church to (still) be the Church. What do we do? The Apostle Paul gives some suggestions in Ephesians 6:10–18.

THE BELT OF TRUTH

We Christians seek and then act on the truth: biblical truth, historical truth, scientific truth. All truth is God's truth.

From ancient times we know that the first casualty in war is truth.

As Christians, we must seek the truth. What is the truth of the virus? What is the truth about racial division? What is the truth of violence by one group against another? What is the truth about the impact of the dissolution of marriage? What are true causes and solutions for poverty?

What is the true hope for people?

We Christians do not simply swallow pronouncements of politicians and the pontifications of media outlets. We do not blindly accept “what everyone is saying.”

Comb the statistics for yourself. Investigate primary sources. Consult opinions divergent from your own.

We seek truth and strap it on.

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Having been declared righteous through the blood of Jesus, we Christians and our churches seek to set things right.

Where someone is hurting, we help. When someone is lonely, we visit. When someone is hungry or thirsty, we supply what they need. When someone is being treated unfairly or wrongly, we speak up and step in.

We seek to set things right: marriages, families, neighborhoods, relationships.

(Check out N.T. Wright's *Surprised by Hope*.)

“We go forth with the *power* of God's good Word to make an *eternal difference* in a dying world.”

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

If truth is the first casualty of war, fear is the first strike against its soldiers. And it is hard for soldiers to make good decisions when they are afraid.

As Christians, we are clear-minded. We keep the conviction of our safety firmly fixed our heads. As a friend says, “We fight **from** victory not **for** victory.” Or as the Apostle Paul, who lived in the pagan, brutal world of the Roman Empire, wrote: “*We are **MORE THAN conquerors through him who loved us.***”

We do not give in to fear. Politicians want you to be afraid of the other side. Marketers want you to be afraid that you are missing out on something they have to sell. The news media seemingly wants you to be afraid of everything (a virus, singing in church, people of a different skin tone, the weather, pharmaceuticals, other nations, our nation) except them. That little voice inside you wants you to be afraid of what goes bump in the night.

Like a fireman who straps on his helmet and fearlessly rushes into danger, the Church serves fearlessly. We go into ravaged cities and clean up. We gather with and pray for enemies (more on that in a bit). As heirs to eternal life, we carry out our assorted vocations as policeman, school teacher, scientist, doctor, nurse, student, neighbor or friend, boldly blessing and helping where God has placed us without a thought of our own safety.

THE SANDALS OF THE GOSPEL

People need good news. Desperately.

Guilty people need to hear about forgiveness. People on the outside looking in need to hear about welcome. Discouraged people need to hear about strength for the day.

The Church and its people are an invading force of good news. The solution is not a new drug. The solution is not a new social policy. The solution is not a change in authority. The solution is not a new car or a better degree or a week’s vacation.

The solution is a new heart, a new mind. The Bible labels that repentance. More than a turning away from evil, repentance is the gift of a new way of thinking. We Christians take that good solution with us wherever we go as we announce the invitation of Jesus and His Kingdom.

The Church goes into the world with proclamation of life, forgiveness, reconciliation.

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Satan is wicked. He is a liar. He is a murderer. **He is the enemy.**

He wants us frightened, angry, embittered. He wants us discouraged, distracted, disinterested. He wants us caught up in the things and the stuff of the world. He wants us to not realize what great peace and power come from the cross of Jesus.

We lift up the shield of faith to quench every last one of the flaming arrows of temptation he shoots our way. Like our Jesus, Who resisted the temptations of the Evil One, we continue to trust in the truth of the Word of God and march forward in the Kingdom’s advance.

The shield of faith protects us against the real enemy. Our enemy is not flesh and blood—people of a different skin tone, people of a different political party, people with a different point of view. Our enemy is Satan and his powers and principalities who are exerting their last gasps of eternal battle against the Prince of Peace.

Our protection is the shield of faith: confidence in a crucified, risen, ruling, and returning Savior.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

The Word of God: powerful, effective, productive, life-changing, saving, encouraging.

There is no more helpful thing that the Church, its congregations, and its people can do than to let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly. We read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Word of God. It changes us from the inside out. And it sends us out to proclaim it to others.

It is our one offensive weapon. A peculiar weapon, to be sure. Unlike the weapons of the world, God’s double-edged sword means life and flourishing.

We do not rely on the power of the government. We do not rely on the power of force. We do not rely on the power of either the majority or the minority.

We go forth with the power of God’s good Word to make an eternal difference in a dying world.

AND PRAYER

Read Ephesians 6:10–18. It says what I have just said ... more concisely.

It concludes with a call to prayer.

What does the Church, its churches and its people do?

We pray. Fervently. Exhaustively. Extensively. Persistently. Confidently. Joyfully. ■

Rev. David A. Davis serves as the Senior Pastor at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Haslett and as the 3rd Vice President of the Michigan District, LCMS. Rev. Davis and his wife, Sallie, have four grown daughters. He has an interest in and history of stirring things up.

What *Color* is an *Iris*?

by Paul Naumann



Spring flowers are a beautiful thing to behold. Yellow forsythias are among the first harbingers of colorful new life, along with crocuses, hyacinths, daffodils, and tulips. Next come the lilacs, which are nearly always fuchsia in color, but sometimes white. Now, as my wife and I take our morning walks, we are cheered on by an infinite variety of colorful irises standing on their stalks as if watching a parade. There are surely as many colors among them as there are colors in a rainbow. In fact, the Greek word for rainbow is iris.

You may or may not be familiar with the names of flowers, but chances are you know the word “iris” as also a part of the human body, particularly that part of our eye that gives it color. So much are eyes capable of having an exceptional variety of color that they too are named using the Greek word for rainbow. Along with all the variety of eye color, humans have a wide variety of hair and skin color that is consistent with the variety God built into His creation.

Jesus reminds us that God is the one who has so beautifully clothed the flowers of the field that even King Solomon in all his glory was not any more splendidly arrayed (Matthew 6:29), and God is the one who has made each and every human being, with all the distinctive variety of features and characteristics that humans have. The same Creator God who delights in variety in the flowers and plants and in the animal kingdom also delights in differences among humans and so has made us each unique. We are so very grateful and delighted that God did not make the world in black and white, and we should then be equally grateful and delighted that God did not make people in black and white either. He made us all uniquely special and different from one another, and we celebrate that rainbow-like variety among us humans of every skin, eye, and hair color, as well as our wonderful variety of facial features, ethnic identities, cultures, and languages.

As St. John in the book of Revelation describes his vision, God in heaven was seated on a throne from which emanated lightning and thunder. Seated with Him were twenty-four elders clothed in white with golden crowns representing all God’s people of both Old and New Testaments. Around God’s throne was a rainbow, and standing before His throne “*a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language*” worshiping God and saying, “*Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created*” (Revelation 4:3, 11; 7:9).

Let us remember these things as we pray for our fallen world that is so fractured by fighting among ourselves, and so polarized with prejudice, racism, and discrimination against each other. Remember this beautiful rainbow image of heaven as you pray, “*Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven,*” and then do your part to celebrate human diversity, embrace human dignity, and champion human equality. All of us are not the same, but all of us are equal. Every human has been created equally in the image of God, and all of us are those whom He loves and for whom He gave His Son Jesus to live, die, and rise again. “*He Himself is our peace, who has . . . destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility*” (Ephesians 2:14). We look to Him as our healer, and our only hope. ■

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann currently serves as Senior Pastor at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Portage, Mich. During his over twenty-five years of ministry, Naumann has been active in positions in the Circuit, District, and Synod, working especially in the areas of Youth Ministry, Outreach, Worship, Campus Ministry, and Small Group Ministry. He has been published in various periodicals and has been a speaker at a number of seminars and workshops.

“Every human has been created equally in the image of God, and all of us are those whom He loves and for whom He gave His Son Jesus to live, die, and rise again.”

August 2020

Want Your Church to Thrive? CEF Offers Three Easy Ways to Give Back



The Excel In Giving platform has enabled Michigan congregations to enjoy steadier levels of offerings, and provided a secure and easy way for church members to honor their stewardship commitments.



*We provide all these
services because
we want to help you
and your ministries
grow and thrive.
Our mission to provide
resources stretches
far and wide!*

Church Extension Fund has been lending to Lutheran congregations and organizations in Michigan for over 100 years. Since 1901, to be exact. *The Spotlight* regularly reports on how Lutheran churches and schools rely on CEF to help finance important building and improvement projects. What you might not know, is that CEF has numerous services to allow individual church members, just like you, to have an even greater impact in helping to build God's Kingdom.

Help Your Church Earn a Cash Rebate

Here's a program that is a real 'Win—Win' for both you and your church. With CEF's new **Investment Rebate Program**, the more you and your church invest with CEF, the greater the cash rebate that your church can earn. This new CEF service, started in 2019, will pay annual rebates to qualifying Michigan District congregations that have a loan with CEF. Here's how it works:

CEF compares the total investments from your church and its members to the congregation's loan balance.

As investments grow and certain thresholds are met, the congregation earns a rebate on their CEF loan. The rate of this annual rebate increases as the ratio of total investments grows compared to the loan balance. Investment tiers are:

50% – earn a rebate equal to 0.50% of the loan

75% – earn a rebate equal to 0.75% of the loan

100% – earn a rebate equal to 1.00% of the loan

Do the math and you'll see that this can generate a lot of extra money for your church! Think how your church could use this cash infusion. There may be ministries you've dreamed about, but haven't yet had the resources to fund. Continuing to invest with CEF—and investing more—can help you make it happen.

Make Giving Easier

CEF's online giving platform, **Excel In Giving**, has enabled Michigan congregations to enjoy steadier levels of tithes and offerings. As church members use this convenient and secure service, churches have been able to smooth out the peaks and valleys in giving that can occur when many members are on vacation or when some miss services due to illness. This tool has proven extremely valuable during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Excel In Giving lets you give with just the touch of a button. You can also set up recurring gifts to happen automatically.

Excel in Giving Supports:

- ACH (electronic transfers from your account)
- Text to Give
- App Giving
- Debit or Credit Card Giving

With so many convenient options, **Excel In Giving** makes it easier than ever to provide consistent support to your congregation.

Leave a Christian Legacy

Are you looking ahead to how you can continue to bless your family and work to build the Kingdom even beyond your time on this earth? Let CEF's **Gift Planning Services** help you create a Christian estate plan. We'll bring you experienced gift planning as we've already done for hundreds of Lutheran church members throughout Michigan.

CEF, in partnership with the LCMS Foundation, regularly holds seminars and will meet personally with Lutheran families to bring a Christian perspective to estate planning. This is especially valuable as you prepare to visit with your attorney to write your will or create a revocable living trust. We'll work with you to include a Christian preamble, and discuss who you want to serve as your



The new Investment Rebate Program can help not only you, but your church. When investments with CEF attain a qualified threshold, your church can earn cash back.

estate's executors and personal representatives.

CEF will also help your estate include charitable gifts to favorite ministries, like your church or CEF.

We'll ask questions, listen, and understand how to best serve your needs. Even better, we'll provide all these services without any cost to you.

We provide all these services because we want to help you and your ministries grow and thrive. Our mission to provide resources stretches far and wide!

To learn more, please visit www.mi-cef.org or call our office at 800-242-3944.



Church Extension Fund

Church Extension Fund ■ Michigan District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-3098 ■ www.mi-cef.org

Offices: 800-242-3944

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LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Jesus Teaches

2021 Tournament of Rose Parade Entry

The general theme of the 2021 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade is DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. CELEBRATING EDUCATION. The Petal Pushers' theme for their 71st float in this annual Parade is JESUS TEACHES. As the LCMS church body operates the largest Protestant parochial school system in America, the float will be a Christian witness for a spiritual conversation. Just think of the multitude of possibilities!

JESUS TEACHES ...

- Through His Word as recorded in Holy Scripture;
- Using the Church, Christian preschools, elementary schools, high schools, universities, and seminaries;
- By way of households to teach, nurture, and extend His household.

The list is virtually endless; the most important thing is that faith in His sacrificial death for our forgiveness of sins brings life now and for eternity!

Television will provide the opportunity for the narration to describe the message of the only Christian float in the parade. From detailing, which is scheduled to start the first Saturday in December, through decorating week, from the parade staging area through the post-parade exhibit area,



Photo courtesy of LHM

thousands of Christian witness conversations are expected to occur.

The float is a self-funded project of the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. All of this in the public square is made possible by the grace and mercy of God, along with the vision of laymen who decades ago saw the Rose Parade as an opportunity for a Christian witness.

For information on how you can support the Lutheran Hour float, contact Lou Marting at 818.404.6447 or 949.770.8420.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

We say good-bye to the past and embrace the future.

**THANK
YOU** 

Thank You to our past
District Officers for
their service.

&

CONGRATULATIONS

To our newly elected Officers.

Check out the **Donate Now**
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For results on the convention, check out our web site (see at right) including: new officers, grant recipients, Mite goal.



An Uncommon Blessing by Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson

Every time I drive north on U.S. 23, north of I-96, I find myself smiling when I pass my favorite billboard. I smile because I know the person pictured, and I am humbled and honored to know his story. The same is true when I travel on I-94 just west of Ann Arbor.

Maybe you have noticed our billboards along major freeways and interstates in Michigan, or maybe you have seen some of our marketing campaigns on the internet or television. If so, you can identify with the words: *Live Uncommon*. At Concordia University Ann Arbor, our sincere desire for every student is that these words would not simply be a motto, but rather a lifestyle. As we live in the midst of an uncommon time, Concordia is committed to fulfilling our mission of “developing students in *mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the Church and the world.*” Ours is an uncommon mission and it certainly cannot be realized alone.

The *Here We Stand* campaign is an uncommon blessing—and in particular, an uncommon gift to our Concordia students. Through the generosity of faithful congregations and individuals, students preparing for service to Christ in the Church have been and continue to be encouraged in their educational pursuits through professional church worker scholarships. Every dollar makes a difference. Every prayer is heard by our Almighty God. Every word of encouragement gives hope to a student in the midst of a challenging or overwhelming semester. On behalf of our entire Concordia community—thank you.

We recently completed an uncommon semester. Like others in higher education, we moved our face-to-face classes online for the second half of the spring semester. Students who lived on campus moved home. The plans of many were disrupted and the dreams of some were put on hold. However, in the midst of it all, and *still* in the midst of it all, as we plan to welcome students back to campus in the coming weeks, our God is faithful.

Our God is *Unchanging*. This is our campus theme for the upcoming 2020-21 academic

year, prayerfully and deliberately chosen by campus ministry student leaders back in April and May. This one-word theme is based on Hebrews 13:8: “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*” As a campus, we will keep our eyes on Jesus.

Of course, our students still have the same concerns that other students at similar institutions have about the future. But what makes a Concordia experience unique? The Concordia experience centers on being rooted in *someone*, rather than something. It centers around the actions of Jesus, rather than the actions of self. While we celebrate commencement, championships, and completed courses, we first celebrate Christ Jesus, who is “first in everything.”

This is truly uncommon. As is your commitment to our students through prayer, encouragement, and financial support. Thank you for being an uncommon blessing.

Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson serves as the Vice President of Administration of Concordia University Ann Arbor.

To donate to Professional Church Worker Scholarships through the *Here We Stand* Campaign visit herewestand.michigandistrict.org/donate.

Professional Church Worker Scholarships Awarded for the 2019-2020 School Year

Seminaries - 38 students

CUAA/CUW - 36 students

Other CUS Schools - 18 students

Total of \$253,050 in District Scholarships Awarded



Here We Stand Campaign Surpasses \$7 Million Milestone by Ray Zavada

I am quite sure you will not disagree with what I am about to say ... **What a year!** How do you even begin to explain, let alone comprehend, the events of 2020? The COVID-19 pandemic is obviously at the center of much that is affecting our lives now. The number of illnesses and deaths caused by the virus is overwhelming. And so are the lost jobs, business closures, food and supplies shortages, and the *Stay Home, Stay Safe* order which affected our schools and congregations. We also witnessed our investments take a serious hit from a stock market crash.

This just touches the surface of what we have been facing—and in some cases continue to face—as a direct result of the virus. I wonder if anyone else misses sports as much as I do.

Then the flooding from the breached dams changed the lives of literally thousands in mid-Michigan. And not too long after that catastrophe, the death of George Floyd in Minnesota sparked countless protests against civil injustices throughout our state and country.

This is enough bad news and turmoil to last a lifetime, yet we experienced all of this in less than half a year! It seems we all crave good news about something ... anything.

In the midst of all these challenges, by God's Grace and the generous hearts of His people, the **Here We Stand Campaign (HWS)** continued to advance steadily. **Around June 1, the campaign surpassed the \$7 million milestone in total gifts and commitments received.** Again, we thank God for this glimpse of good and encouraging news and thank all the individuals and congregations of the Michigan District who helped the campaign reach this new milestone.

But **HWS** is far from over. The Congregational phase continues through the end of 2021—approximately another 18 months. What happens during these final months will have a significant financial impact on future Michigan District mission and ministries, and we invite you to prayerfully consider participating and helping the campaign make a strong finish.

Whether you are reading this as an individual or as a representative of a congregation, if you have not yet participated, please prayerfully consider becoming involved soon. If you have already participated, please consider a new gift, or perhaps extending your current pledge another year or two as many have already.

On behalf of the many in Michigan and around the world who will benefit from your generosity, please consider becoming a participant for the first time or even a second time. With your continuing help, we can continue to share a little bit of good and encouraging news in the months ahead as new milestones are reached and more lives are impacted for the sake of the Gospel.

Please know that we would welcome your support of any or all of the campaign initiatives, and we encourage you to support what you are most passionate about in your service to our Lord.

Thank you, stay safe, and continued blessings.

To give to the Here We Stand Campaign, visit herewestand.michigandistrict.org/donate or call Linda Ekong at 734.213.4265 to make a gift over the phone.



A "By the Numbers" look at the **Here We Stand Campaign**

(through June 8, 2020)

\$7,031,773.98	Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals
\$6,723,809.50	Cash received which includes \$600,000 CEF Matching Funds
\$246,284.26	Outstanding commitments (pledges)
\$1,337,414.78	Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships
\$2,993,504.89	Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry
\$1,022,322.17	Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment
\$1,616,851.92	Total given/pledged for International Ministries

Bible verse: **Psalm 71:17–18**

"O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come."

herewestand.michigandistrict.org



Here We Stand

CLW Mission Focus Event

The Council of Lutheran Women (CLW) is hosting a Mission Focus event on September 28, 2020 at Faith, Troy. All area churches and groups who are interested in exploring local mission organizations are welcome to attend. During the event, the organizations will give a 10-minute presentation, officers will be elected, and scholarship recipients will be announced. An ingathering will also take place—please visit clwmichigan.org to find a list of items to bring. A buffet luncheon will be served and a freewill offering will be collected. Please register to attend at clwmichigan.org. For more information, contact Vice President of Human Care Barbara Hoffmeier at 248.756.3035 or bhoffmeier3@gmail.com.

Necessity is the Mother of Invention

POBLO has 43 International Friendship Centers (IFCs) in 10 LCMS Districts. In these centers they teach classes such as English and sewing, and help foreign women acclimate to the US. But classes have all been suspended due to the governor's ordinance and the national emergency. Students are confined to their houses. Many of them are going through financial difficulties as their husbands work in restaurants or are taxi drivers.

As we believe God is in control and He knew what was coming, He prepared POBLO's IFC in Dearborn, Mich. to start offering sewing classes as part of its program. Volunteers from local churches taught the classes.

So when the pandemic happened, POBLO already had a whole crew of seamstresses who started making personal protective masks. Orders came in from individuals, families, the elderly in nursing homes and assisted living centers, senior homes, businesses, and local health care facilities.

Requests were made to POBLO's mission partners, individuals, and LWML ladies. Fabric and supplies came pouring in and the LWML, with great love and compassion, started making masks.

Fourteen students were making masks six days a week while staying at home. With the proceeds from the sale of the masks, they could buy groceries and pay their bills. This also gave POBLO the opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus; it gave these students the understanding of who we are as God's people and as a nation. Refuge for Nations is an independent community outreach project of POBLO Ministries. The Michigan District, LCMS has partnered with POBLO and provided a grant to purchase five industrial sewing machines. This has increased our

LERT Teams Deliver Flood Buckets

Michigan District Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) delivered 400+ Flood Buckets and a couple hundred Hygiene Kits to St. John, Midland in early June. Volunteers collected buckets and kits from several congregations and key leaders met at Trinity, Clinton Township to load up the materials. From there they drove to Grand Rapids to fill up the rest of the truck and make the delivery to St. John. It was all done in one day.



Photo courtesy of Travis Grulke

capacity to expand the training program to reach people who do not yet know Jesus.

POBLO

shares the love of Jesus by feeding the hungry, sharing in their hurt and pain, and by connecting during the pandemic time of loneliness and uncertainty.

POBLO students also made isolation gowns for local hospitals. POBLO's skilled workers have the willingness to work and the LWML and other church members come forward to coach, train, and minister to immigrant women at the International Friendship Centers. POBLO also thanks its partner, Wayne Community College, for providing free sewing certification classes to these students.

For more information, visit poblo.org or contact Cynthia Khan at Cynthia@poblo.org or Cynthia@refugeforations.com.



Photo courtesy of POBLO

Deaf Interpreter Training

This past winter, the Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society together with Lutheran Friends of the Deaf held a church interpreter training workshop for local Michigan interpreters. Concordia University Ann Arbor kindly hosted this event.

It was a great success! Fourteen church interpreters and students from interpreter training programs of southeastern Michigan and northern Indiana spent the day in classroom and chapel sharpening their skills in interpreting the Word of God for Deaf people. Not only did interpreters leave the workshop better equipped to interpret Christian concepts and Bible verses, but the Deaf mission staff of the Michigan District also

made many new contacts which may be called upon to interpret in district congregations that have Deaf ministries. For upcoming workshops, visit elms-deaf.org or contact Rev. Thomas Dunseth at twdunseth@gmail.com. For more information on Deaf Ministry in Michigan, visit michigandistrict.org/deafministry.



Photo courtesy of Rev. Tom Dunseth

Special Recognition

Andrzejewski Installed



Photo courtesy of Jakob Andrzejewski

In June, Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski (pictured center) was ordained at Historic Trinity, Detroit and installed as pastor of St. Paul, Royal Oak. This historic church was established in 1873, and its school is over 100 years old. Rev. Andrzejewski is the 19th pastor of St. Paul. As the new pastor, Rev. Andrzejewski's priority is relying on God's leadership and guidance. He has been praying for this ministry since childhood. As a seminary student receiving his first call, or placement, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School were an answer to his prayers.

Andrzejewski looks forward to connecting and being available to not only his congregation, but also the Royal Oak community. Since his brother is a firefighter, the fire department next door to the church was a pleasant surprise for him. The fire and police departments and the Royal Oak city government are on his list of people to connect with.

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School is ecstatic to welcome Rev. Andrzejewski and his wife, Rachel.

Wilhelm Inducted

Mount Calvary, Greenville is pleased to announce that Holly Wilhelm was inducted as its new Director of Youth & Family Ministry on Sunday, June 14. Holly earned a master's degree in Elementary Education in 2014 and has been working as an elementary school teacher since that time, primarily at Grant Christian School. She has also been an active member in the Lutheran Church (Michigan District) since 1986, and most recently attended the 2019 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis as an adult leader. Holly will lead and coordinate Youth and Family Ministry (to include preschool through teens), including Sunday school, mid-week activities, special events, and will also serve on the child-care ministry team. Mount Calvary is looking forward to further improving its outreach and support to youth and families in the Greenville area, especially during these unprecedented times.



Photo courtesy of Mount Calvary, Greenville

Protecting the Innocent by Brandon Raikes

When people think of an unborn baby, sometimes they think of just a little blob of tissue in the mother's womb, not the entire life that the baby will live, all the people that this life will affect, or all the emotions that this child will feel. That "little blob" could grow up to save lives, change the world, or invent the cure to cancer. God has a plan for that specific life. That "little blob" is alive.

When I was in my mom's womb, my mom went on a dolphin excursion. The dolphins seemed very interested in my mom's stomach, and when she asked why, the worker told her that the dolphins could hear two heartbeats and were curious. A heartbeat is an amazing thing. The heart, when it beats, sends blood throughout the body, and that blood keeps you alive. I was alive.

Everyone is alive before they are born. Psalm 139:13 says, "For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb." This is talking about how God created us in the womb, and how we were still alive then. Unborn babies are alive. In fact, some doctors will "abort" a baby at the end of pregnancy or as the child is being born, when that child is very much alive. We do not have the right to take away their life.

Some pregnant mothers claim that they have the right to have an abortion because it is "their body, their choice" but it is not their body. They are not killing themselves. There is an entirely different person inside of them and

they do not have the right to take their life away. Exodus 20:13 says "You shall not murder," and that is what abortion really is: the murder of an innocent child.

If somebody murders a pregnant woman, they are charged with two murders: the mom and the unborn child. If the unborn child is counted as being alive in some court cases, why is it not counted in abortion cases? Charging someone with two murders makes sense. In the one action of murder, two lives were taken, two stories ended, and two people died. Abortion being legal does not make sense. In both cases, murder happened, and people need to remember that, whether you can see them or not, a person is a person.

All in all, abortion, said plainly, is the murder of an innocent child and is not justified. It is our job to protect the innocent. It is not the mom's body. It is the unborn child's life.

This essay was written by 8th grader Brandon Raikes from St. John Lutheran School in Rochester. It earned 1st place in the Lutherans for Life of Michigan Life Issues Contest, in the Elementary Essay Division.



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Jesus Broke Down the Barriers continued from page 3

I know we all have lots on our table, or never-ending to-do lists. But I think that God is afoot, using what has been evil for His purposes, endeavoring to work all things together for good. He is allowing us to see and repent of our sins, joyously receive His forgiveness and absolution, and also His strength for a changed way of living. He is surely drawing our attention, through these circumstances, to consider how we can be a part of the healing for our communities, state, and country.

Notice in Acts, at the Pentecost gathering, the many different nations and colors of people and ethnicities that are represented. That's really the beginning of the New Testament Church. Now, however, I also want to take you to the culmination of the Church—when Christ returns and we are with Him in glory. This picture is found in Revelation chapter seven. "After this," the apostle John writes, "I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7:9).

We see that picture in Acts—the beginning of the Church; and here, in Revelation, we see the Church Triumphant with her Lord in heaven. This is a picture of all God's people in glory! Look at what John is seeing: people of every color, of every tribe, of every tongue, of every ethnicity, of every nation gathered before the lamb of God. If this is what the church looks like at the beginning and at the end, friends, we have the privilege and opportunity—and the command from God—to go and find **His** lost ones, to proclaim the Gospel, to disciple the nations! We are to recognize that those individuals—"of every color, of every tribe, of every tongue, of every ethnicity, of every nation ..."—are all greatly loved human beings made in the image of God, and quite possibly brothers and sisters in Christ! It doesn't matter what they look like! God so loved **the world** that he gave His one and only Son. This is what God expects of His people: that we love, even as we have been loved. That we pursue and stand up for justice, recognize the great mercy of God that was extended to us, and now diligently, concertedly, extend God's love and mercy and grace to others as we walk *humbly* with our God.

What We Can Do

So what can we do? There are a number of things, but I would encourage these three:



Photo courtesy of Elissa Schlotz Photography

Pray

Please pray. God "*is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us*" (Ephesians 3:20). The Church is this great picture: We see all the nations gathered there, and we are in Christ. Paul, in Romans chapter six, talks about how in our Baptism we were joined with Christ. And there's a number of truths there.

- a. One is that, joined to Christ, we have a brand new identity. We are Christians, belonging to Christ: "*And it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me*" (Galatians 2:20).
- b. Secondly, joined to Christ, we have His power to overcome sin and to live a changed life and to walk in a different way (Romans 6). What a joy, what a privilege and what a responsibility.
- c. And thirdly, in Christ—and this is where all of us are brought together—barrier walls are taken down by Christ Himself and we are one people.

And that's how we should look at it: either you're saved or not. And if you're not, it doesn't matter your color or social status or economic wellbeing. If you're not saved, you need Jesus. No politician and no newspaper and no politics are going to help change that! Only Christ can—

and you bear Him. Plus, we have the Word—the power of God unto salvation, and Christ's presence—He has promised never to leave or forsake us—to make a difference.

So please pray. And remember 2 Chronicles 7:12 and 14. God is telling Solomon, yes, I'm going to come to this temple you have built for me, and I'm going to dwell there. And I'm going to hear the prayers of my people. He says to Solomon, "*I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice ... if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land*" (2 Chronicles 7:12, 14).

We need healing in our land. And although it's easy to point out the sins of others, we need to look at our own selves and see what we need to confess and repent of and also what we can do. And if we have sinned, maybe by not talking about the issues that we need to, then let's talk! If it's that we have separated ourselves from others then let's step out ... across the fence line, across any barrier, and reach out to others, that **everyone**—through the opportunities that God would give us—hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the world, and see this Good News in the acts of love that we perform. So pray.

pray, listen, and then act. We need to call out for change. We need to stand for what is right. We need to work for it.

Listen

We also need to **listen**. I appreciate a brother member of the Council of Presidents who said, “Remember, that’s what grandma always used to say: God gave us two ears and one mouth for a reason.” We’re to listen, we’re to step across the line and not just wait for people to come to us. We’re to understand where other people are coming from. I mentioned earlier that I do believe that there is such a thing as white privilege. This much I know from talking with people of color: I have never, as they have, had to tell my sons, “If the police pull you over for anything, you are the most polite person in the world. Make sure your hands are always seen. Always agree. Give no reason for any reaction that would cause them to suspect you that they might use violence against you.” And to have to tell my sons that every time they left the house . . . friends, that’s not right!

God loves **everyone**. And we need to demonstrate that love. We need to listen. We need to step across the aisle with a message of reconciliation and work to take down the barrier walls. It’s not that just certain people need to be treated specially, but rather that EVERYONE is to be loved and made to feel special as we have been in Christ Jesus.

Act

So **pray, listen, and then act**. We need to call out for change. We need to stand for what is right. We need to work for it. And we need to do this with a message of reconciliation. Paul is speaking in 2 Corinthians 5: “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18–19). God has committed the power and message of the Gospel to us.

NOW is the time to pray!

NOW is the time to listen!

NOW is the time to act! . . . as what we are by grace: God’s people, God’s representatives in this world.

Friends, may we unwaveringly carry out these resolves knowing that **in Christ** we have our identity, we have our strength, and we know and rejoice in God’s design for the Church—that all come to be saved, that all come to the knowledge of the truth. May we daily recognize that we are the instruments that God has chosen to bear the message and the power of the Gospel.

Prayer

Would you join me in a word of prayer?

Gracious heavenly father, we do thank You in Jesus’ name for the privilege and opportunity of knowing that You will

hear and answer our prayer for His sake; and praise and thank You, Holy Spirit, that You are the One Who has called us out of darkness into God’s marvelous light, applying the righteousness of Christ to our account so that we are Your children. We are in Christ and have been called to recognize that there is one body and to work so that there are no divisions, that all are welcome.

Help us to recognize those who are saved and be thankful; and help us to recognize those who are not saved so that we do everything possible, as did Jesus who crossed the great divide of eternity and came to this earth. Thank You, Jesus, for taking upon Yourself human flesh that You might demonstrate God’s love for all and pay for the sins of all.

And now, through the Gospel message, we know of our salvation, of Your great power for change in life, transformation of all lives, and a demonstration of what that is like within Your Church and our congregations. Help us to share this Good News! Lord, we pray that You would work mightily within us. We pray that we could talk about Your mighty deeds and that we would win that opportunity and privilege by reaching out to those, dear Lord, who are loved by You. We pray this all in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

Please consider these truths from God. May the Holy Spirit work mightily within your life keeping in mind that we, indeed, act justly, love mercifully, walk humbly with our God, and always shine forth the love of our great God and Savior.

As a final appeal to God’s Word, please read the following verses from *Colossians 3:8–14*: “But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” ■



Thank you and may God bless you richly.
Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier serves as president of the Michigan District, LCMS.

Calls and Roster Update

ORDAINED

Candidates Assigned to Michigan District

Mr. Jakob Andrzejewski (Fort Wayne) to St. Paul, Royal Oak
Mr. Jacob Buday (St. Louis) to St. Matthew, Lexington
Mr. Simeon Cornwell (Fort Wayne) to St. Matthew, Spring Lake
Mr. Kevin Dykstra (St. Louis) to Open Arms, Belleville
Mr. Timothy Sheridan (Fort Wayne) to St. Luke, Harrison
Mr. Austin Wellhousen (St. Louis) to Assoc., St. Matthew, Walled Lake

Vicars Placed in Michigan District

Mr. Andrew Berg (St. Louis) to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Mr. Joshua Brandmahl (Fort Wayne) to Trinity, Reese
Mr. Álvaro Duarte (St. Louis) to Trinity, St. Joseph
Mr. Adam Flanick (St. Louis) to Messiah, Clio
Mr. Ian Heinze (St. Louis) to Our Savior, Lansing
Mr. Bryce Rosche (St. Louis) to St. Matthew, Westland

Calls Accepted

Rev. Matthew Hein (Ypsilanti) to New Life, Swartz Creek
Rev. Roger Kilponen (St. Ignace) to Drummond Island, Drummond Island
Rev. Philip Penhallegon (Milan) to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
Rev. Andrew Pronsati (Trenton) to Peace, Ann Arbor
Rev. Robert Riggs IIM (Carson City) to Christ, Marshall

Change of Status

Rev. Todd Brunworth (Norton Shores) to Emeritus
Rev. Richard Collin (Ewart) to Emeritus
Rev. Larry Courson (Dexter) to Emeritus
Rev. Robert Gadeken (Reese) to Emeritus
Rev. Steven Helms (Lapeer) to Emeritus
Rev. John Kral (Bruce Twp.) to Candidate
Rev. Ron Moritz (Marcellus) to Emeritus
Rev. Donald Nemecek (Drummond Island) to Emeritus
Rev. Samuel Reith (Sanford) to Emeritus
Rev. R. William Roper (Brooklyn) to Emeritus

Called Home

Rev. Theodore Jungkuntz
Rev. David Ulm

Life Together
IN HIS PRESENCE
In Christ
In Service
With Hope

Keynote Speakers
Rev. Dr. Victor J. Belton
Rev. Christopher K. Paavola
Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

Also Featuring
Rev. William R. Wangelin - Chaplain
321 Improv - Entertainment
John B. Horak - Music

Lodging, meals, and gratuities at the Grand Hotel
\$350
per person based on quad occupancy.

Gathering registration is \$45/person.
Registration deadline is September 1, 2020.

Michigan District, LCMS presents ...
Lutheran Adult Gathering
October 9-11, 2020 | Grand Hotel - Mackinac Island, Mich.
Register at
michigandistrict.org/lag20

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Abresch, Vera (St. John, Bay City) to Suburban Bethlehem, Fort Wayne, IN
Dressler, Kelly (Trinity, Atchison, KS) to St. Peter, Hemlock
Eifert, Jonathan (Ascension, Fort Wayne, IN) to St. Michael's, Richville
Gorka, Katherine (Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Open Arms, Belleville
Johnson, Michael (Trinity, Saint Joseph) to St. Paul, Bonduel, WI
Phifer, Jennifer (Candidate) to Trinity, Paw Paw
Smith, Mallorie (Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Peace, Saginaw
Swartz, Dawn (Candidate) to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Unger, Allison (LHSA, Rochester Hills (Westland)) to Concordia University, Ann Arbor

Change of Status

Bickel, Elaine (Immanuel, Saginaw) to Emeritus
Braun, Bruce (St. Michael, Wayne) to Emeritus
Draves, Thomas (St. Paul, Ann Arbor) to Emeritus
Faszholz, Gary (Lutheran High School Association, Rochester Hills) to Emeritus
Helmreich, Harry (Trinity, Traverse City) to Emeritus
Hilsabeck, Janet (Immanuel, Macomb) to Emeritus
Hinck, John (St. Matthew, Westland) to Emeritus
Hoch, Robert (St. Peter, Macomb) to Emeritus
Klages, Kenneth (Peace, Saginaw) to Emeritus
Looker, Mark (Concordia University, Ann Arbor) to Emeritus
Lynch, Andrea (St. Michael, Portage) to Candidate
Mol, James (St. Mark, Flint) to Emeritus
Schneider, Janis (Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Ann Arbor) to Emeritus

Transferred Out of District

Abresch, Vera (St. John, Bay City) to Indiana District
Winterstein, Charles (Emeritus) to Indiana District

Transferred Into District

Carlton, Joann (Northern Illinois District) as Emeritus
Cashmer, Leah (Indiana District) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (Northwest)
Hinrichs, Thomas (Rocky Mountain District) to St. Peter, Macomb
Stoelting, Lara (Eastern District) as Candidate
Weiss, Andrea (Missouri District) to Immanuel, Macomb

Called Home

Gresens, Walter
Laeder, Leroy

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

Calendar of Events

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

AUGUST 2020

- 1-2 Here We Ride Event
- 3-5 Principals' Summer Conference
Higgins Lake
- 9-11 Board of Directors' Retreat
Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City