

Convention Workbook - Part I



“Nourished for the Journey ... Remember · Renew · Return”

**104th Michigan District Convention
Concordia University Ann Arbor
June 22-24, 2025**

Section 1: Organizational Matters 1
Section 2: District Reports 37
Section 3: Overtures 103

April 2025

Please read through the Workbook carefully. You will need this information in preparation for the Regional Assemblies which will be held on April 5 (see below). Bring your printed or electronic copy of Workbook I with you to these meetings. Your Regional Vice President may send you more information for your Regional Assemblies.

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

Following the Regional Assemblies and the Floor Committee Meetings, you will be able to access 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 Laurie Brown at 734.665.3791 ext. 233.

Convention Workbook - Part II will be available to download the first full week in June at michigandistrict.org/convention.

104th Michigan District Convention Regional Assemblies

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Metro East

Historic Trinity, Detroit ▪ 10 a.m. – Noon
1345 Gratiot Ave

Metro West

Christ Our Savior, Livonia ▪ 10 a.m. – Noon
14175 Farmington Rd

North & East

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

West

Immanuel, Grand Rapids ▪ 10 a.m. – Noon
2 Michigan St NE



Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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

Section 1 - Organizational Matters

As of February 28, 2025

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Congregations

North and East Region

#1 - Mackinac Straits Circuit – Charles B. Burhop, Visitor
DeTour Village, Redeemer – Donald P. Nemec
Drummond Island, Drummond Island – Dennis L. Dufon
Engadine, Bethlehem – Kyle I. Kuehl
Germfask, Grace – Kyle I. Kuehl
Kinross, St. Paul – Charles B. Burhop
Newberry, Trinity – Kyle I. Kuehl
Sault, St. Barnabas - Charles B. Burhop

#2 - Alpena-Gaylord Circuit – Jason L. Mandley, Visitor
Alpena, Immanuel – James D. Erickson/Joshua M. Schultz
Cheboygan, St. John – Michael W. Schaedig
Hawks (Rogers City), Faith – Jack D. Ferguson
Hubbard Lake, St. Paul – Joseph J. Llewellyn
Hillman, St. John – Jason L. Mandley
Onaway, Holy Cross – Trenton N. Wollberg
Ossineke, Good Shepherd – Jack D. Ferguson
Rogers City, Immanuel – Joseph L. Bangert
Rogers City, Peace – Jonathan A. Dueker
Rogers City, St. John – Joseph L. Bangert
Rogers City, St. Michael – Paul M. Boerger

#3 - Timberline Circuit – Frederick T. Cordts, Visitor
AuGres, St. John –
Glennie, Our Savior – Glen Bromm (SMP)
Hale, St. Paul – Dean R. Muhle
Mio, Living Water – Glen Bromm (SMP)
Oscoda, Trinity – Stephen E. Schilke (IIP)
Prescott, Faith – Edward A. Meyer
Tawas City, Zion – Gabriel J. Martin
Whittemore, Good News Ministries –

#4 - Gladwin Circuit – William C. Winter, Visitor
Clare, Prince of Peace –
Gladwin, Our Savior – Adam R. Flanck
Harrison, St. Luke - Timothy J. Sheridan
Houghton Lake, St. John – Paul Kruse
Pinconning, St. John – Gregory D. Hyatt
St. Helen, Hope – Carl R. Petzold
Standish, Bethlehem – Matthew T. Dent
West Branch, St. John – Carl R. Petzold

#5 - Midland Circuit - Daniel A. Kempin, Visitor
Alma, Peace – Thomas C. Messer
Auburn, Grace – Aaron T. Schian
Auburn, Zion – Andrew P. Menz/Seth R. Hemme
Brant, St. John – Richard E. Lewis (SMP)
Midland, Lord of New Life – Carl F. Trosien
Midland, Messiah – Edward F. Doerner/Matthew S. Lytikainen/
Dennis Kreil (SMP)/Stephen A. Lampi (SMP)
Midland, Our Savior – Gary D. Lyvere (SMP)
Midland, St. John's – Daniel A. Kempin/Joshua J. Parsons (SMP)
Mt. Pleasant, Zion – Jesse R. Greenhagen
**Mt. Pleasant, CMU Chapel (Mt. Pleasant, Zion)
Sanford, St. Paul – Christopher P. Vossler
Wheeler, Immanuel – Michael A. Podeszwa

#6 - Bay City Circuit – David A. Jung, Visitor
Bay City, Faith – James D. Chinery
Bay City, Immanuel – Adan C. Garcia
Bay City (Amelith), St. John – Gerald A. Gauthier, Jr.
Bay City (Frankenlust), St. Paul – Dennis W. Matyas/David M. Schultz (SMP)
Bay City (Monitor), Trinity – Seth C. Kaiser
Bay City, Zion – Phillip A. Baerwolf
Essexville, Pilgrim – Erwin M. Hutter

#7 - Thumb East Circuit – Matthew H. Durance, Visitor
Bad Axe, Our Savior – Kenneth D. Lueke
Harbor Beach, Zion – Matthew H. Durance
Kinde, St. Peter
Marlette, Our Savior – Timothy D. Kern
Minden City (Forestville), Trinity – Henry J. Hales
Palms, St. John – Henry J. Hales
Port Hope, St. John – David A. Dodge
Port Sanilac, St. John – Randy D. Lett
Sandusky, Peace – Bryan L. Hopfensperger/James C. Tino

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

#9 - Frankenmuth Circuit – Cameron K. Steele, Visitor
Caro, St. Paul – Cameron K. Steele
Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz – Bradley B. Hubbard/Joel C. Kaiser/
Shawn D. Fenske/Joel S. Eden
Millington, St. Paul – James R. Bruner/Timothy D. Martinal
Munger, Trinity-St. James – Jimmy K. Riley
Reese, Trinity – Daniel G. Burhop
Richville, St. Michael's – Keith Knea/Wesley S. Gillaspie
Saginaw (Frankentrost), Immanuel – Mark A. Loest/Daniel A. Wojtowicz
(SMP)

#10 - Saginaw Circuit – Paul R. Biber, Visitor
Hemlock, St. Peter – William L. Morris
Hemlock, Zion – Larry A. Warsinski (IIP)
Saginaw, Bethlehem – Michael R. Korte
Saginaw, Good Shepherd – Paul R. Biber
Saginaw (Carrollton), Messiah – Christian Q. Mundorf
Saginaw, Peace – Erik R. Schmidt/Matthew J. Hauser (SMP)
Saginaw, Holy Cross – Kurt A. Brandon
St. Charles, Nativity – Kevin C. Jones (IIP)
Saginaw, St. Mark – Kirk W. Abatelli

#11 - Flint North Circuit – Tyge C. Zucker, Visitor
Birch Run, St. Martin – Robert V. Riggs (IIP)
Bridgeport, Faith – Timothy J. Behnke
Clio, Messiah – Erik K. Cloeter
Flint, Christ the King – Brant A. Engel/Thomas W. Dunseth/
Dean G. Dumbrille
Flint, United In Christ –
Flint, Our Savior –
Flint, St. Paul – Brant A. Engel/Thomas W. Dunseth/
Dean G. Dumbrille
Flushing, Holy Cross – Tyge C. Zucker
Owosso, St. Philip – Brian F. Heidt

#12 - Flint South Circuit – Matthew C. Hein, Visitor
Burton (Flint), Pilgrim – Mark T. Matheny
Fenton, Trinity – Peter C. Ahlersmeyer
Goodrich, Christ – Kelly D. Todd
Grand Blanc, Faith – Jeffrey E. Heimsoth (IIM)/Robert G. Scott (SMP)
Linden, Hope – Paul K. Kollek (SMP)
Swartz Creek, NewLife Community – Matthew C. Hein
Flint, Lamb of God – Mark E. Pretznaw

#13 - Lapeer Circuit – Todd I. Frusti, Visitor
Davison, Trinity – Todd I. Frusti/Robert G. Geisler (SMP)
Dryden, Holy Redeemer – Evan C. Veen
Imlay City, Family of Christ –
Flint, St. Mark – Jeffrey D. Frechette, Morgan J. Garrett
Lapeer, St. Paul – Jared R. Nies
Memphis, St. Andrew – Ronald B. Roland
North Branch, New Life in Christ – Joseph S. Schierlinger
Otisville, St. Timothy – Eric E. Nevis
*Flint, Franklin Avenue Mission –

* Mission
** Satellite Site

Metro East Region

#14 - Port Huron Circuit – Gerhardt A. Doroh, Visitor
Algonac, First – John E. Greig
Armada, Our Saviour – Alexander A. Schrader
Fair Haven, St. Peter – Steven R. Hoerr
Goodells, Hope –
Lexington, St. Matthew – Christopher D. Jung
Marine City, Living Faith – Paul E. Yanke
Marysville, Light of Christ – Scott S. Magnuson (SMP)
Port Huron, Faith – Mark L. Huff
Port Huron, Trinity – Mark J. Madson
Richmond, St. Peter's – Mark J. Haller
St. Clair, Immanuel – James O. Murr/David W. DuBois (SMP)

#15 - Macomb North Circuit – Nikolai J. Gibbons, Visitor
Chesterfield, Good Shepherd – Timothy D. Storck
Clinton Twp., Cross Point – Khurram M. Khan/Farrukh M. Khan/
Amer M. Khan
Clinton Twp., St. Luke – Roderick D. Schultz
Clinton Twp., Trinity – Keith H. Lemley (IIP)/ Gary L. Richard/
Jeremy R. Ashley
Macomb, Immanuel – Charles Y. Foster/Douglas J. Bender/
Nikolai J. Gibbons
Macomb, St. Peter – Kurt R. Wenzelburger/Dante Pronati
New Baltimore, Christ – Daniel Harrison
Ray Twp (New Haven), St. John – Joshua T. Ball

#16 - Macomb Northwest Circuit – Norman A. Koy, Visitor
Romeo, Grace Fellowship – Eric W. Majeski/Michael G. Phillips (SMP)
Shelby Township, Peace – David R. Klemm
Sterling Heights, St. Paul – Walter A. Keller
Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate – Timothy R. Bollinger/
Benjamin D. Marsh (SMP)
Troy, Faith – Joseph A. Casiglia/Matthew G. Schuler/Richard J.
Grunewald (SMP)
Troy, Faith Tamil – Arul J. Alexander
Utica, Trinity – Justin Krupsky/Chad E. Wright/Nicholas T. Duerr/
Christian M. Jones/Joshua D. Britton (SMP)
Washington, Our Redeemer – Jeffrey G. Draeger

#17 - Oakland North Circuit – Paul J. Undlin, Visitor
Clarkston, St. Trinity – Paul J. Undlin, Michael D. DeVries (SMP)
Lake Orion, Good Shepherd – Benjamin G. D. Oelschlaeger
Ortonville, Prince of Peace – Mark S. Hill (deployed by Journey, Oxford)
Oxford, Journey – Daniel C. Meckes
Pontiac, St. Paul Community – Gerald H. Corbett (SMP)
Rochester Hills, Crown of Life – Terry A. Baughman (SMP)
Rochester Hills, GoodLife – David L. Prout
Rochester, St. John – Marc N. Schwichtenberg/Stephen D. Grafe/
Tyler R. Cronkright (SMP)
Waterford, St. Stephen – Robert A. Hoffman

#18 - Birmingham Circuit – Evan P. Gaertner, Visitor
Beverly Hills, Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf – Tyler A. Walworth
Birmingham, Our Shepherd – Evan P. Gaertner/Stephen W. Woodfin (SMP)/
Michael S. Vieregge (SMP)
Birmingham, Redeemer – Randall J. Schlak, James H. Greenwalt II (SMP)
Bloomfield Hills, Cross of Christ –
Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods – Mark R. Doede
Royal Oak, St. Paul – Jakob A. Andrzejewski
Troy, St. Augustine – Paul C. Monson/Franklin J. Dohanyos (SMP)
Warren, Holy Cross – Eric J. Shanburn

#19 - Macomb South Circuit – Mark W. Hetzner, Visitor
Clinton Township, All Nations – Khurram M. Khan/Amer M. Khan/
Farrukh M. Khan
Eastpointe, St. Peter's – Douglas M. Adams
Eastpointe, St. Thomas – Dietrick A. Gladden/ Richard A. VanBriggle (SMP)
Fraser, St. John – Bradley A. Smith/Joel D. Haak
Roseville, Bethlehem –
Warren, Hope – Daniel C. Howard
Warren, Trinity –

#20 - Detroit East Circuit – Harold A. Avers, Visitor
Detroit, Bethany – Christopher R. Bodley (Deployed)
Detroit, East Bethlehem – Asaph A. James/Paul W. Arndt (MAL)
Detroit, Historic Trinity – Darryl L. Andrzejewski/David P. E. Maier
Detroit, Mt. Calvary –
Detroit, Nazareth –
Detroit, Peace –
Detroit, St. Philips –

* Mission
** Satellite Site

Metro West Region

#21 - Dearborn/Detroit – Richard E. Robinson, Visitor
Dearborn, Atonement –
Dearborn, Emmanuel – Tyler Walworth/Joel R. Baseley/Paul A. Wolff
Dearborn, Guardian – Daniel W. Ramthun (SMP)
Detroit, Evergreen – William F. Danowski
Detroit, Family of God – James M. Hill/Nicholas C. Gapski/Timothy J. LeClair (SMP)
Detroit, Iglesia Luterana – Eddie Morales
Detroit, St. John – Richard E. Robinson
Detroit, St. Stephen –
Detroit, Outer Drive Faith – Eddie Morales
Wayne, St. Michael – Andrew D. Gruenhagen
Westland, St. Matthew – Bryce S. Rosche/Samuel P. Watters (SMP)

#23 - Down River Circuit – Greyson D. Grenz, Visitor
Allen Park, Mt. Hope – Paul Pollatz
Flat Rock, Community – Greyson D. Grenz
Lincoln Park, Calvary –
Southgate, Christ the King – Jason D. Cashmer/PJ Brooks (SMP)
Taylor, St. John's – Richard A. Zeile
Trenton, St. Paul – Richard J. Blythe/Benjamin A. Roberts
Wyandotte, Trinity – Greyson D. Grenz

#24 - Monroe Circuit – Mark K. Witte, Visitor
Lambertville, Christ the King – Timothy J. Loewe
Monroe, Grace – Mark K. Witte
Monroe, Holy Ghost – D. Lee Cullen
Monroe (East Ida), Immanuel – Curtis D. Garland
Monroe, Trinity – John S. Carrier (IIP)/Mark A. Duerr
New Boston, St. John's – Jeffrey E. Wade/Kyle E. Jones
Petersburg, St. Peter –

#26 - Kensington Circuit – Andrew M. Johnson, Visitor
Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes – Scott G. Sommerfeld (IIP)/Keith E. Dwyer (SMP)
Highland, Faith –
Milford, Christ – Andrew M. Johnson
South Lyon, Cross of Christ – Jake B. Bellinghausen
West Bloomfield (Union Lake), St. Mark's –
Walled Lake, St. Matthew – Paul M. Moldenhauer
Waterford (Union Lake/Pontiac), Peace - Russell S. Tkac (SMP)

#27 - Livonia Circuit – Mark E. Schumm, Visitor
Canton, Grace – Steven M. Newton
Dearborn Heights, Immanuel – Daniel P. Murray
Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross – Brian C. Dupre
Farmington Hills, Prince of Peace – Mark E. Schumm
Livonia, Christ Our Savior – Dean M. Davenport/Joel A. Werner
Northville, St. Paul – Christopher D. Fairbairn/James M. Frusti (SMP)
Redford, Hosanna-Tabor – Daniel P. Murray
Westland, Salem National – Steven M. Newton

#28 - Milan Circuit – David J. McCarty, Visitor
Ann Arbor, Peace – Kurt E. Lambart (Vacancy)
Ann Arbor, St. Thomas – Coleman K. Geraci
Belleville, Open Arms – Larry G. Courson (Vacancy)
Britton, Emmanuel – David J. McCarty
Chelsea, Our Savior – Daniel W. Pezzica
Milan, St. Paul – Coleman K. Geraci
New Boston, St. Paul's – Scott Blevins (SMP)
Saline, Christ Our King – Joseph Polzin
Ypsilanti, Faith – James A. Waddell

#29 - Ann Arbor Circuit – Bryan K. Schindel, Visitor
Ann Arbor, St. Luke – Kyle T. Weeks
Ann Arbor, St. Paul – Theodore J. Hopkins/Aaron W. Roggow
Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel – R. Gabriel Kasper/Marcus Lane/Christopher D. Troxel
Hamburg, St. Paul – Jeffrey S. Burgess
Pinckney, Trinity – Michael R. Ruhl
Whitmore Lake, Living Water – Matthew J. Canion
Ypsilanti, Cross & Resurrection – Bryan K. Schindel
*Ann Arbor, Emmaus – Christopher D. Troxel

#30 - Jackson Circuit – Zachary J. Holdorf, Visitor
Addison, Lutheran Church of the Lakes – James D. Weist
Adrian, Hope – Paul W. Herter
Adrian, St. John's – Joel H. Sarrault
Adrian, St. Matthew's –
Blissfield, Blessed Savior –
Brooklyn (Irish Hills), St. Mark's – Bryan K. Schindel/Bryan S. Varblow (SMP)
Hudson, Our Saviour –
Jackson, Redeemer – Zachary Holdorf
Jackson, Trinity – J. Derek Riddle

* Mission
** Satellite Site

West Region

#31 - Petoskey Circuit – Charles R. Hoffman, Visitor
Boyne City, Christ – Charles R. Hoffman
Charlevoix, Bethany –
Gaylord, Trinity – Kurt C. Klingbeil
Grayling, Mt. Hope – Kurt C. Klingbeil
Kalkaska, St. Paul – Thomas P. Phillips
Lewiston, Bethlehem –
Mancelona, St. Matthew – Thomas P. Phillips
Petoskey, Zion – Matthew A. Peters

#32 - Traverse City Circuit – Michael M. Goers, Visitor
Benzonia, Our Savior –
Elk Rapids, Grace – James C. Redmann
Cedar (Good Harbor), St. Pauls – Mark C. Reinsch
Glen Arbor, Bethlehem –
Interlochen, Redeemer – Jason C. Bauer, SMP
Leland, Immanuel –
Traverse City, St. Michael's – Mark E. Latham
Traverse City, Trinity – Michael M. Goers/Bruce K. Lucas

#33 - Manistee Circuit – Dennis D. Rahn, Visitor
Arcadia, Trinity –
Cadillac, Emmanuel – Brennan Woell
Manistee, Trinity – Dennis D. Rahn
Mesick, Faith – Timothy C. Selim (SMP)
Onekama (Manistee), Norwalk –
Onekama, Trinity – Jacob T. Sherry
Scottville, Our Savior – Kenneth L. Williamson/A. Peter Engblade (SMP)
Wellston, Beautiful Savior –
Ludington, St. John's – David P. Goehmann
Pentwater, Lighthouse – John G. Hansen (SMP)

#34 - Big Rapids Circuit – Paul A. Tonn, Visitor
Baldwin, Grace – Daniel H. Fielen
Big Rapids, St. Peter's – Tyson V. Bentz/Tyler D. Carter
Fremont, Redeemer – K. Frank Graves (Vacancy)
Howard City, Bethel – Richard A. Townes, Jr.
Mecosta, Chapel of the Lakes – Mark E. Gilson
Reed City, Trinity – Paul A. Tonn
Sand Lake, Resurrection – Phil Chaffee
Stanton, Hope – Alexander Sabol (EN)
White Cloud, Christ –

#35 - Capitol Circuit – William R. Wangelin, Visitor
Charlotte, First – Sean Esterline/Mark A. Gawura (SMP)/
Daniel R. Longden (SMP)
Holt, Messiah – Mark A. Werner
Holt, St. Matthew – Dean R. Poellet
Howell, Heart of the Shepherd – Samuel V. Fink
Lansing, Good Shepherd – Delwyn X. Campbell
Lansing, Living Word –
Lansing, Our Savior – William R. Wangelin/Christopher M. Deneen/
Lang Yang
Lansing, Trinity – Delwyn X. Campbell
Leslie, Grace –

#36 - St. Johns Circuit – Edward W. Filter, Visitor
Carson City, Calvary – Thomas C. Messer
DeWitt, Hope – E. Anthony Sikora
East Lansing, Ascension – Sean Q. McCoy
Fowler, St. Paul – Paul M. Clark/Lance D. Klamer
Haslett, St. Luke – A. Trevor Sutton/Michael S. Stainbrook/
Zerehaimanot Z. Yohannes/Elamin Baggog
Portland, St. Andrew – Roger K. Straub (IIM)
St. Johns, St. John's – James M. Pearl
St. Johns (Riley), St. Peter – Timothy A. Bayer

#38 - Muskegon Circuit – Dennis L. Lassanske, Visitor
Conklin, Trinity – Mark A. Oswald
Montague, St. James – Eric M. Nelson
Muskegon (Norton Shores), St. Mark – Scott Faith (SMP)
Muskegon, Trinity – Paul C. Appold
Nunica, St. Luke – Micah J. Brooks
Shelby, St. Stephen's – Kurt R. Overway
Whitehall, Faith – Matthew J. Gunia

#39 - Holland Circuit – Christopher M. Boehnke, Visitor
Coopersville, Grace – Joel F. Hoyer
Spring Lake, Lakeshore Fellowship – Christopher M. Boehnke
Grand Haven, St. John's – Aaron H. Vergin
Holland, Christ Our Savior – Russell D. Johnson
Holland, Zion – Ryan A. Wingham
Spring Lake, St. Matthew – Michael W. Hughes
West Olive, United –

#40 - Grand Rapids Northeast – Glenn E. Schaeffer, Visitor
Belding, Holy Cross – Robert V. Wagner
Grand Rapids, Immanuel – Craig L. Bickel/Thomas M. Gustafson
Grand Rapids, Messiah – Eric S. Black
Grand Rapids, Our Savior – Jeremy M. Swem/David C. Fleming
Grand Rapids, St. James – Glenn E. Schaeffer
Grand Rapids (Ada), St. Matthew – Jonathan C. Meyer/Maxx J. Fisher
Greenville, Mt. Calvary – Daniel J. Lepley/Robert B. Appold
Ionia, St. John – Richard L. Boshoven (IIP)
Lowell, Good Shepherd – Richard L. Boshoven (IIP)
Rockford, St. Peter's – Jason P. Peterson

#41 - Grand Rapids SW – Brian D. West, Visitor
Caledonia, St. Paul – Timothy J. Brand/David L. Miller (SMP)
Grandville, Bethel – Robert A. Gerke
Hudsonville, New Hope – Adam P. Kosberg
Jenison, Holy Cross – Brian D. West/Adam J. Peck
Jenison (Allendale), St. John –
Kentwood, St. Mark – Andrew P. Bartholomew
Middleville, Good Shepherd – Robert W. Wurst
Walker, The Vine – James F. Richter

#42 - Battle Creek Circuit – Karl N. Strenge, Visitor
Battle Creek, St. Mark – Christopher K. Paavola/Jack E. Langfeldt (SMP)
Battle Creek, Redemption – Karl N. Strenge
Battle Creek, St. Paul – Larry R. Gorlitz
Kalamazoo, Immanuel –
Kalamazoo, Zion – Michael W. Saylor/Timothy W. Seeber/Mark T. Couch
Marshall, Christ – David R. Moran (SMP)
Paw Paw, Trinity – John A. Bookshaw (IIP)
Portage, St. Michael – Paul R. Naumann/Daniel S. Maske
** Kalamazoo, Solid Grounds – Mark. T. Couch

#43 - St. Joseph Circuit – Michael J. Roth, Visitor
Berrien Springs, Trinity – James F. Wright
Bridgman, Immanuel – Douglas A. Kregel
Buchanan, St. Paul – Daniel S. Barz (SMP)
Cassopolis, St. Paul – Paul M. Doellinger
Coloma, Salem – Alex W. Hoffmeyer
Buchanan (Glendora), Trinity – Jonathan Liebich
Niles, St. Paul's –
St. Joseph, Trinity – Michael J. Roth/Benjamin Micheel/David A. Rutter/
Joseph T. Liss (SMP)
Sawyer, Trinity – Brandon M. Wittig
Stevensville, Christ – Martin P. Measel

#44 - South Central Circuit – Kurt P. Kuhlmann, Visitor
Albion, St. Paul – Paul R. Koehn
Burr Oak, St. John – Kurt P. Kuhlmann
Centreville, St. Paul's – Philip R. Rittner II (Vacancy)
Coldwater, St. Paul – Aaron B. Chittick
Colon, St. Paul's –
Hillsdale, St. Paul's – Sean A. Willman/Korey D. Maas/Andrew R.
Twietmeyer
Sturgis (Centreville), Salem –
Sturgis, Trinity – Lawrence K. Matro/Kaleb J. Yaeger
Three Rivers, St. Peter –
Union City, Our Savior (Dual Parish) – Peter M. Burfeind (Eng. Dist.)
*Mendon, Creator's Praise – David A. Grimm

* Mission

** Satellite Site

Ministers of Religion - Ordained

Sole/Senior Pastors

Abatelli, Kirk W. – St. Mark, Saginaw
Adams, Douglas M. – St. Peter's, Eastpointe
Ahlersmeyer, Peter C. – Trinity, Fenton
Alexander, Arul J. – Faith Tamil, Troy
Andrzejewski, Darryl L. – Historic Trinity, Detroit
Andrzejewski, Jakob A. – St. Paul, Royal Oak
Appold, Paul C. – Trinity, Muskegon
Baerwolf, Phillip A. – Zion, Bay City
Bagnall, G. Stevens – Good Shepherd, Cass City
Ball, Joshua T. – St. John, Ray
Bangert, Joseph L. – Immanuel/St. John, Rogers City
Bartholomew, Andrew P. – St. Mark, Kentwood
Bayer, Timothy A. – St. Peter, Saint Johns
Behnke, Timothy J. – Faith, Bridgeport
Bellinghausen, Jake B. – Cross of Christ, South Lyon
Bentz, Tyson V. – St. Peter's, Big Rapids
Biber, Paul R. – Good Shepherd, Saginaw
Bickel, Craig L. – Immanuel, Grand Rapids
Black, Eric S. – Messiah, Grand Rapids
Blythe, Richard J. – St. Paul, Trenton
Boehnke, Christopher M. – Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship, Spring Lake
Boerger, Paul M. – St. Michael, Rogers City
Bollinger, Timothy R. – Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township
Boyer, Michael D. – Immanuel, Sebewaing
Brand, Timothy J. – St. Paul, Caledonia
Brandon, Kurt A. – Holy Cross, Saginaw
Brooks, Micah J. – St. Luke, Nunica
Bruner, James R. – St. Paul, Millington
Burgess, Jeffrey S. – St. Paul, Hamburg
Burhop, Charles B. – St. Barnabas, Sault Ste. Marie
Burhop, Daniel G. O. – Trinity, Reese
Campbell, Delwyn X. – Good Shepherd/Trinity, Lansing
Canion, Matthew J. – Living Water, Whitmore Lake
Cashmer, Jason D. – Christ the King, Southgate
Casiglia, Joseph A. – Faith, Troy
Chinery, James D. – Faith, Bay City
Chittick, Aaron B. – St. Paul, Coldwater
Clark, Paul M. – St. Paul, Fowler
Cloeter, Erik K. – Messiah, Clio
Courson, Larry G. – Open Arms, Belleville
Cullen, Jr., D. Lee – Holy Ghost, Monroe
Dangba, Moses C. – Living Word, Lansing
Danowski, William F. – Evergreen, Detroit
Davenport, Dean M. – Christ Our Savior, Livonia
Dent, Matthew T. – Bethlehem, Standish
Dodge, David A. – St. John, Port Hope
Doede, Mark R. – Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods
Doellinger, Paul M. – St. Paul, Cassopolis
Doerner, Edward F. – Messiah, Midland
Draeger, Jeffrey G. – Our Redeemer, Washington
Dueker, Jonathan A. – Peace, Rogers City
Dufon, Dennis L. – Drummond Island, Drummond Island
Dupre, Brian C. – Shadow of the Cross, Farmington Hills
Durance, Matthew H. – Zion, Harbor Beach
Engel, Brant A. – Christ the King/St. Paul, Flint
Erickson, James D. – Immanuel, Alpena
Esterline, Sean M. – First, Charlotte
Fairbairn, Christopher D. – St. Paul, Northville
Ferguson, Jack D. – Faith, Hawks
Fienen, Daniel H. – Grace, Baldwin
Fink, Samuel V. – Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
Flanick, Adam R. – Our Savior, Gladwin
Foster, Charles S. Y. – Immanuel, Macomb
Frechette, Jeffrey D. – St. Mark, Flint
Frusti, Todd I. – Trinity, Davison
Gaertner, Evan P. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Garland, Curtis D. – Immanuel, Monroe
Garrison, Thomas B. – St. Peter/St. John, Sebewaing
Gauthier Jr., Gerald A. – St. John, Bay City
Geraci, Coleman K. – St. Paul/St. Thomas, Milan/Ann Arbor
Gerke, Robert A. – Bethel, Grandville
Gilson, Mark E. – Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta
Gladden, Dietrick A. – St. Thomas, Eastpointe
Goehmann, David P. – St. John's, Ludington
Goers, Michael M. – Trinity, Traverse City
Gorlitz, Larry R. – St. Paul, Battle Creek
Graves, K. Frank – Redeemer, Fremont
Grenz, Greyson D. – Trinity/Community, Wyandotte/Flat Rock
Greig, John E. – First, Algonac
Gruenhagen, Andrew D. – St. Michael, Wayne
Gunia, Matthew J. – Faith, Whitehall
Hales, Henry J. – St. John/Trinity, Palms/Minden City
Haller, Joshua T. – Grace, Fairgrove
Haller, Mark J. – St. Peter's, Richmond
Harrison, Daniel H. – Christ, New Baltimore
Heidt, Brian F. – St. Philip, Owosso
Hein, Matthew C. – NewLife Community, Swartz Creek
Herter, Paul W. – Hope, Adrian
Hill, James M. – Family of God, Detroit
Hoerr, Steven R. – St. Peter, Fair Haven
Hoffman, Charles R. – Christ, Boyne City
Hoffman, Robert A. – St. Stephen, Waterford
Hoffmeyer, Alex W. – Salem, Coloma
Holdorf, Zachary J. – Redeemer, Jackson
Hopfensperger, Bryan L. – Peace, Sandusky
Hopkins, Theodore J. – St. Paul, Ann Arbor
Howard, Daniel C. – Hope, Warren
Hoyer, Joel F. – Grace, Coopersville
Hubbard, Bradley B. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Huff, Mark L. – Faith, Port Huron
Hughes, Michael W. – St. Matthew, Spring Lake
Hutter, Erwin M. – Pilgrim, Essexville
Hyatt, Gregory D. – St. John, Pinconning
James, Asaph A. – East Bethlehem, Detroit
Johnson, Andrew M. – Christ, Milford
Johnson, Russell D. – Christ Our Savior, Holland
Jung, Christopher D. – St. Matthew, Lexington
Kaiser, Seth C. – Trinity, Bay City
Kasper, R. Gabriel – University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor
Keller, Walter A. – St. Paul, Sterling Heights
Kempin, Daniel A. – St. John's, Midland
Kern, Timothy D. – Our Savior, Marlette
Khan, Khurram M. – All Nations, Clinton Township
Klemm, David R. – Peace, Shelby Township
Klingbeil, Kurt C. – Trinity/Mt. Hope, Gaylord/Grayling
Knea, Keith E. – St. Michael's, Richville
Koehn, Paul R. – St. Paul, Albion
Korte, Michael R. – Bethlehem, Saginaw
Kosberg, Adam P. – New Hope, Hudsonville
Krengel, Douglas A. – Immanuel, Bridgman
Krupsky, Justin A. – Trinity, Utica
Kruse, Paul G. – St. John, Houghton Lake
Kuehl, Kyle I. – Trinity/Grace/Bethlehem, Newberry/Germfask/Engadine
Kuhlmann, Kurt P. – St. John, Burr Oak
Lambart, Kurt E. – Peace, Ann Arbor
Latham, Mark E. – St. Michael's & All Angels, Traverse City
Lepley, Daniel J. – Mount Calvary, Greenville
Lett, Randy D. – St. John, Port Sanilac
Liebich, Jonathan A. – Trinity, Buchanan
Loest, Mark A. – Immanuel, Saginaw
Llewellyn, Joseph J. – St. Paul, Hubbard Lake
Loewe, Timothy J. – Christ the King, Lambertville
Lueke, Kenneth D. – Our Savior, Bad Axe
Madson, Mark J. – Trinity, Port Huron
Majeski, Eric W. – Grace, Romeo
Mandley, Jason L. – St. John, Hillman

Martin, Gabriel J. – Zion, Tawas City
 Matheny, Mark T. – Pilgrim, Burton
 Matro, Lawrence K. – Trinity, Sturgis
 Matyas, Dennis W. – St. Paul, Bay Clair
 McCarty, David J. – Emmanuel, Britton
 McCoy, Sean Q. – Ascension, East Lansing
 Measel, Martin P. – Christ, Stevensville
 Menz, Andrew P. – Zion, Auburn
 Messer, Thomas C. – Peace/Calvary, Alma/Carson City
 Meyer, Edward A. – Faith, Prescott
 Meyer, Jonathan C. – St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
 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
 Mueller, Barry L. – Our Saviour, Armada (Vacancy)
 Muhle, Dean R. – St. Paul, Hale
 Mundorf, Christian Q. – Messiah, Saginaw
 Murr, James O. – Immanuel, Saint Clair
 Murray, Daniel P. – Hosanna-Tabor/Immanuel, Redford/Dearborn Hts.
 Naumann, Paul R. – St. Michael, Portage
 Nelson, Eric M. – St. James, Montague
 Nevis, E. Enwood – St. Timothy, Otisville
 Newton, Steven M. – Grace/Salem, Canton/Westland
 Nies, Jared R. – St. Paul, Lapeer
 Oelschlaeger, Benjamin G. D. – Good Shepherd, Lake Orion
 Oswald, Mark A. – Trinity, Conklin
 Overway, Kurt R. – St. Stephen's, Shelby
 Paavola, Christopher K. – St. Mark, Battle Creek
 Pearl, James M. – St. John's, Saint Johns
 Peters, Matthew A. – Zion, Petoskey
 Peterson, Jason P. – St. Peter's, Rockford
 Petzold, Carl R. – St. John/Hope, West Branch/St. Helen
 Pezzica, Daniel W. – Our Savior, Chelsea
 Phillips, Thomas P. – St. Paul/St. Matthew, Kalkaska/Mancelona
 Podeszwa, Michael A. – Immanuel, Wheeler
 Poellet, Dean R. – St. Matthew, Holt
 Pollatz, Paul A. – Mount Hope, Allen Park
 Polzin, Joseph W. B. – Christ Our King, Saline
 Pretznaw, Mark E. – Lamb of God, Flint
 Prout, David L. – GoodLife, Rochester Hills
 Rahn, Dennis D. – Trinity, Manistee
 Redmann, James C. – Grace, Elk Rapids
 Reinsch, Mark C. – St. Pauls, Cedar
 Richter, James F. – The Vine, Walker
 Riddle, J. Derek – Trinity, Jackson
 Riley, Jimmy K. – Trinity-St. James, Munger
 Rittner II, Philip R. – St. Paul's, Centreville
 Robinson, Richard E. – St. John, Detroit
 Roland, Ronald B. – St. Andrew, Memphis
 Rosche, Bryce S. – St. Matthew, Westland
 Roth, Michael J. – Trinity, Saint Joseph
 Ruhl, Michael R. – Trinity, Pinckney
 Sarrault, Joel H. – St. John's, Adrian
 Saylor, Michael W. – Zion, Kalamazoo
 Schaedig, Michael W. – St. John, Cheboygan
 Schaeffer, Glenn E. – St. James, Grand Rapids
 Schian, Aaron T. – Grace, Auburn
 Schierlinger, Joseph S. – New Life in Christ, North Branch
 Schindel, Bryan K. – Cross & Resurrection/St. Mark's, Ypsilanti/Brooklyn
 Schlak, Randall J. – Redeemer, Birmingham
 Schmidt, Erik R. – Peace, Saginaw
 Schrader, Alexander A. – Our Saviour, Armada
 Schultz, Roderick D. – St. Luke, Clinton Township
 Schumm, Mark E. – Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills
 Schwichtenberg, Marc N. – St. John, Rochester
 Shanburn, Eric J. – Holy Cross, Warren
 Sheridan, Timothy J. – St. Luke, Harrison
 Sherry, Jacob T. – Trinity, Onokama
 Sikora, E. Anthony – Hope, DeWitt
 Smith, Bradley A. – St. John, Fraser
 Steele, Cameron K. – St. Paul, Caro
 Stolarczyk, Steven M. – St. Paul, Unionville
 Storck, Timothy D. – Good Shepherd, Chesterfield
 Strenge, Karl N. – Redemption, Battle Creek
 Suggitt, Christopher S. – St. Paul/Good Shepherd, Pigeon/Caseville
 Sutton, A. Trevor – St. Luke, Haslett
 Swem, Jeremy M. – Our Savior, Grand Rapids
 Todd, Kelly D. – Christ, Goodrich
 Tonn, Paul A. – Trinity, Reed City
 Townes, Richard A., Jr. – Bethel, Howard City
 Trosien, Carl F. – Lord of New Life, Midland
 Undlin, Paul J. – St. Trinity, Clarkston
 Veen, Evan C. – Holy Redeemer, Dryden
 Vergin, Aaron H. – St. John's, Grand Haven
 Vossler, Christopher P. – St. Paul, Sanford
 Waddell, James A. – Faith, Ypsilanti
 Wade, Jeffrey E. – St. John's, New Boston
 Wagner, Robert V. – Holy Cross, Belding
 Walworth, Tyler A. – Our Savior Deaf/Emmanuel, Beverly Hills/Dearborn
 Wangelin, William R. – Our Savior, Lansing
 Weeks, Kyle T. – St. Luke, Ann Arbor
 Weist, James D. – Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison
 Wenzelburger, Kurt R. – St. Peter, Macomb
 Werner, Mark A. – Messiah, Holt
 West, Brian D. – Holy Cross, Jenison
 Williamson, Kenneth L. – Our Savior, Scottville
 Willman, Sean A. – St. Paul's, Hillsdale
 Winningham, Ryan A. – Zion, Holland
 Witte, Mark K. – Grace, Monroe
 Wittig, Brandon M. – Trinity, Sawyer
 Woell, Brennan A. – Emmanuel, Cadillac
 Wollberg, Trenton N. – Holy Cross, Onaway
 Wright, James F. – Trinity, Berrien Springs
 Wurst, Robert W. – Good Shepherd, Middleville
 Yanke, Paul E. – Living Faith, Marine City
 Zeile, Richard A. – St. John's, Taylor
 Zucker, Tyge C. – Holy Cross, Flushing

Associate Pastors

Appold, Robert B. – Mount Calvary, Greenville
Arndt, Paul W. – East Bethlehem, Detroit
Ashley, Jeremy R. – Trinity, Clinton Township
Baggor, Elamin M. – St. Luke, Haslett
Baseley, Joel R. – Emmanuel, Dearborn
Bender, Douglas J. – Immanuel, Macomb
Carter, Tyler D. – St. Peter, Big Rapids
Couch, Mark T. – Zion, Kalamazoo
Deneen, Christopher M. – Our Savior, Lansing
Duerr, Mark A. – Trinity, Monroe
Duerr, Nicholas T. – Trinity, Utica
Dumbrille, Dean G. – St. Paul/Christ the King, Flint
Dunseth, Thomas W. – St. Paul/Christ the King, Flint
Eden, Joel S. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Fenske, Shawn D. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Fisher, Maxx J. – St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
Fleming, David C. – Our Savior, Grand Rapids
Gapski, Nicholas C. – Family of God, Detroit
Garcia, Adan C. – Immanuel, Bay City
Garrett, Morgan J. – St. Mark, Flint
Gibbons, Nikolai J. – Immanuel, Macomb
Gillaspie, Wesley S. – St. Michael's, Richville
Grafe, Stephen D. – St. John, Rochester
Greenhagen, Jesse R. – Zion, Mount Pleasant
Gustafson, Thomas M. – Immanuel, Grand Rapids
Haak, Joel D. – St. John, Fraser
Hemme, Seth R. – Zion, Auburn
Jones, Christian M. – Trinity, Utica
Jones, Kyle E. – St. John's, New Boston
Kaiser, Joel C. – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Khan, Farrukh M. – All Nations, Clinton Township
Klamer, Lance D. – St. Paul, Fowler
Lane, Marcus J. – University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor
Lucas, Bruce K. – Trinity, Traverse City
Lytikainen, Matthew S. – Messiah, Midland
Maas, Korey – St. Paul's, Hillsdale
Maier, David P. E. – Historic Trinity, Detroit
Martinal, Timothy D. – St. Paul's, Millington
Maske, Daniel S. – St. Michael, Portage
Meckes, Daniel C. – Journey, Oxford
Mehdi-Khan, Amer – All Nations, Clinton Township
Micheel, Benjamin P. – Trinity, Saint Joseph
Peck, Adam J. – Holy Cross, Jenison
Pronsati, Dante B. – St. Peter, Macomb
Richard, Gary L. – Trinity, Clinton Township
Roberts, Benjamin A. – St. Paul, Trenton
Roggow, Aaron W. – St. Paul, Ann Arbor
Rutter, David A. – Trinity, Saint Joseph
Schuler, Matthew G. – Faith, Troy
Schultz, Joshua M. – Immanuel, Alpena
Seeber, Timothy W. – Zion, Kalamazoo
Stainbrook, Michael S. – St. Luke, Haslett
Tino, James C. – Peace, Sandusky
Troxel, Christopher D. – University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor
Twietmeyer, Andrew R. – St. Paul's, Hillsdale
Werner, Joel A. – Christ Our Savior, Livonia
Wolff, Paul A. – Emmanuel, Dearborn
Wright, Chad E. – Trinity, Utica
Yaeger, Kaleb J. – Trinity, Sturgis
Yang, Lang – Our Savior, Lansing
Yohannes, Z. Zerit – St. Luke, Haslett

SMP Pastors

Barz, Daniel S. – St. Paul, Buchanan
Bauer, Jason C. – Redeemer, Interlochen
Baughman, Terry A. – Crown of Life, Rochester Hills
Blevins, Scott L. – St. Paul's, New Boston
Britton, Joshua D. – Trinity, Utica
Bromm, Glen W. – Living Water/Our Savior, Mio/Glennie
Brooks, Patrick J. – Christ the King, Southgate
Chaffee, Phillip W. – Resurrection, Sand Lake
Corbett, Gerald H. – St. Paul Community, Pontiac
Cronkright, Tyler R. – St. John, Rochester
DeVries, Michael D. – St. Trinity, Clarkston
Dohanyos, Franklin J. – St. Augustine, Troy
DuBois, David W. – Immanuel, Saint Clair
Dwyer, Keith E. – Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
Engblade, August P. – Our Savior, Scottville
Faith, Scott M. – St. Mark, Muskegon
Frusti, James M. – St. Paul, Northville
Gawura, Mark A. – First, Charlotte
Geisler, Robert G. – Trinity, Davison
Greenwalt, James H. – Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham
Grunewald, Richard J. – Faith, Troy
Hansen, John G. – Lighthouse, Pentwater
Hauser, Matthew J. – Peace, Saginaw
Kollek, Paul K. – Hope, Linden
Kreil, Dennis J. – Messiah, Midland
Lampi, Stephen A. – Messiah, Midland
Langfeldt, Jack E. – St. Mark, Battle Creek
LeClair, Timothy J. – Family of God, Detroit
Lewis, Richard E. – St. John, Brant
Liss, Joseph T. – Trinity, Saint Joseph
Longden, Daniel R. – First, Charlotte
Lyvere, Gary D. – Our Savior, Midland
Magneson, Scott S. – Light of Christ, Marysville
Marsh, Benjamin D. – Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township
Miller, David L. – St. Paul, Caledonia
Moran, David R. – Christ, Marshall
Parsons, Joshua J. – St. John's, Midland
Phillips, Michael G. – Grace, Romeo
Ramthun, Daniel W. – Guardian, Dearborn
Scott, Robert G. – Faith, Grand Blanc
Schultz, David M. – St. Paul, Bay City
Selim, Timothy C. – Faith, Mesick
Tkac, Russell S. – Peace, Waterford
VanBriggle, Richard A. – St. Thomas, Eastpointe
Varblow, Bryan S. – St. Mark's Lutheran Church of the Irish Hills, Brooklyn
Vieregge, Michael S. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Watters, Samuel P. – St. Matthew, Westland
Wojtowicz, Daniel A. – Immanuel, Saginaw
Woodfin, Stephen W. – Our Shepherd, Birmingham

Intentional Interim Pastors

Bookshaw, John A. – Trinity, Paw Paw
Boshoven, Richard L. – St. John/Good Shepherd, Ionia/Lowell
Carrier, John S. – Trinity, Monroe
Heimsoth, Jeffrey E. – Faith, Grand Blanc
Jones, Kevin C. – Nativity, Saint Charles
Lemley, Keith H. – Trinity, Clinton Township
Riggs, Robert V. – St. Martin, Birch Run
Schilke, Stephen E. – Trinity, Oscoda
Sommerfeld, Scott G. – Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
Straub, Roger K. – St. Andrew, Portland
Warsinski, Larry A. – Zion, Hemlock

District Staff

Davis, David A. – District President
Bodley, Christopher R. – Missionary at Large in Detroit
Brandt, Mark D. – District Facilitator (N & E Region)
Granado, Ricardo – Missionary Pastor for Hispanic Ministries

Greig, John E. – District Facilitator (Metro East Region)
Johnson, Randy L. – Lead District Facilitator
Kasper, Robert E. – Director of Leadership Development
Meckes, Daniel C. – District Facilitator (Metro West Region)

Other Organizations

Bato, Dinku L. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb
Biermann, Todd A. – Concordia Center for the Family, Ann Arbor
Fouts, Bart J. – Camp Concordia, Gowen
Heise, Matthew W. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb
Nelson, Robert J. – LCMS Board of International Missions, Chaplain, US
Air Force

Philp, Paul A. – Executive Director of CUENet
Rahn, Robert L. – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb
Weber, Wilhem – The International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg
Germany, Honorary Member of Immanuel, Frankentrost

Foreign Missionaries

Erber, David M. – Nigeria
Mahlburg, Steven C. – Sri Lanka
Neuendorf, James A. – Puerto Rico

Lutheran High Schools

Keilani, Anthony M. – Lutheran High School Northwest

Stahl, Michael G. – Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw

Concordia University Ann Arbor

Duncan, Randall S.

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
Beckett, Garrick S. – Mt. Pleasant
Bowditch, Mark A. – New Era
Gizynski, Richard G. – Oak Park
Grimm, David A. – Leonidas
Heiney, Timothy M. – Big Rapids
Iqbal, Vincent – Battle Creek
Jones, Todd A. – Milan

Masih, Afzal – Byron Center
Mumme, Jonathan W. – Hillsdale
Parker, Harrison S. C. – Whitmore Lake
Rossow, Justin P. – Brighton
Talsma, Dale – Oakland Park, FL
Toman, Jason D. – Lawton
Wagner, Jacob D. – Saginaw

Emeriti

Ahlschwede, Dale C. – Birch Run
Allan, Kenneth H. – Portage
Allen, Michael S. – Essexville
Arendell, Mark W. – Washington
AuBuchon, Stanley R. – Monroe
Auernhamer, Mark E. – Bridgeport
Avers, Harold A. – Detroit
Azzam, Timothy P. – Oscoda
Bassett, Carl W. – Niles
Batsky, Thomas E. – St. Joseph
Beck, Gary L. – Flint
Bendewald, Jon D. – St. Joseph
Berlin, Mark E. – Lake Ann
Bernthal, Kenneth G. – Gaylord
Beyer, Charles E. – Bay City
Bickel, Timothy A. – Shelby Twp.
Bira, Clifford F. – Flushing
Blain, James H. – Grand Rapids
Bogda, David W. – Three Rivers
Boomhower, Patrick J. – Frankenmuth
Brammeier, Arnold H. – Detroit
Brazinsky, Thomas R. – Baroda
Brelje, Larry E. – Kalamazoo
Brueckner, Peter R. – St. Clair Shores
Brooks, John W. – Pentwater

Brunworth, Todd J. – Spring Lake
Buckhahn, Charles F. – Saginaw
Burgess, David F. – Sterling Heights
Carey, Ralph W. – Grandville
Cashmer, Terry L. – Southgate
Cate, William C. – Spring Lake
Claus, Terry A. – Milford
Collin, Richard W. – Evart
Conradt, Robert J. – Norton Shores
Cordts, Frederick T. – Au Gres
Cottam, Bertrand J. – Grand Blanc
DeMeritt, Carl F., Jr. – Ypsilanti
Diener, John H. – Wyoming
Dodge, Christopher R. – Lansing
Doroh, Gerhardt A. – Columbus
Dowding, Robert G. – Eaton Rapids
Duchene, Michael G. – Rochester Hills
Duerr, John M. – New Baltimore
Edenfield, Harry N. – Brownstown
Eggers, Robert M. – Saginaw
Eggert, James F. – Holt
Eichinger, Kurt W. – Bay City
Eisinger, Alan P. – Sterling Heights
Elowsky, Earl W. – Hillman
Evanson, E. Dale – Waterford

Farah, Ronald R. – Bloomfield
Feusse, Daniel J. – Saginaw
Filter, Edward W. – Portland
Fischer, Thomas F. – Three Oaks
Fitzgerald, Michael N. – Frankenmuth
Flynn, Daniel J. – Whitmore Lake
Fremer, Joseph – Saranac
Gaertner, Mark H. – Chesterfield
Garrison, Bradley G. – Fenton
Gatz, William A. – Jackson
Gerberding, Kieth A. – Southgate
Gray, Jr., Roosevelt – Southfield
Greunke, Martin R. – Lansing
Grimm, Dale A. – Chelsea
Grimm, Gerald E. – Warren
Gruenwald, Daniel J. – Grand Rapids
Gruetzner, James M. – West Bloomfield
Grulke, Galen E. – Howell
Guettler, Ronald H. – Royal Oak
Hackett, Thomas S. – Holland
Hagenow, Martin J. – Hemlock
Hamilton, George O. – Zeeland
Haupt, Dieter E. – Holland
Hauser, Larry A. – Bay City
Hauser, Paul A. – Saginaw
Heins, John L. – Saline
Hensler, David H. – Clio
Hessler, William W. – Saginaw
Hetzner, Mark W. – Chesterfield
Hillenbrand, Richard P. – Frankenmuth
Hinz, Clarence R. – Clinton Twp.
Hinz, Paul R. – Saginaw
Hinze, Dennis A. – Clinton Twp.
Hoese, Terry E. – Grand Rapids
Hoesman, C. William – Frankenmuth
Hollender, David E. – Caro
Hoogerhyde, Richard S. – Newaygo
Hubbard, Roger R. – Frankenmuth
Huber, David G. – Plymouth
Huner, Kenneth A. – Milan
Johnson, David C. – Jackson
Johnson, L. Daniel – Hillsdale
Jung, David A. – Pinconning
Kaiser, John C. – Columbiaville
Kassen, John E. – Oxford
Kast, Edward L. – Saginaw
Keat, James D. – Leslie
Kersten, Alfred A. – Lincoln
Kilmer, Eric S. – Marlette
Kilponen, Roger R. – Hassel
Kirchhoff, Donald G. – Ann Arbor
Kirschke, Gary A. – Wyoming
Kleimola, Dale M. – Jackson
Koeppen, Robert D. – Midland
Koessel, Eugene H. – Roseville
Kolzow, Calvin J., Jr. – Sturgis
Koppel, Alexander J. – Shelby
Kopper, Glenn P. – Holt
Kostizen, Erwin – Highland
Koy, Norman A. – Sterling Heights
Krause, Daniel L. – Lake Ann
Kroll, Micheal D. – East Lansing
Kuhl, Charles W. – Sebawaing
Laeder, Richard P. – Lansing
Lahrman, William C. – Muskegon
Larsen, Peter E. – Wyoming
Lassanske, Dennis L. – Muskegon
Loesel, Andrew E. – Pinconning
Loree, Larry K., Sr. – Pigeon
Low, M. Robert – Mesick
McDonald, Gilbert K. – Clarkston
Mann, Dennis C. – Monroe

Marshall, Robert H. – Riverview
Martin, Frank H. – Carleton
Martin, Michael R. – East Lansing
McVey, Daniel J. – Howell
Melinat, Theodore C. – Pinconning
Metcalf, James E. – Allendale
Meyer, Craig M. – Sterling Heights
Mikkelson, Robert L. – Pinckney
Monson, John R. – Troy
Moritz, Ronald C. – Marcellus
Muck, Alan D. – Manitou Beach
Mundt, Richard E. – Hemlock
Nehring, Gary L. – Albion
Neigh, Dennis J. – Greenbush
Nelson, Terry A. – South Lyon
Nemec, Donald P. – Drummond Island
Neuendorf, Donald O. – Pinckney
Newton, Robert D. – Frankfort
Nickel, Peter S. – Huntington Woods
Nieman, Ronald C. – Dryden
Nihiser, James L. – Traverse City
Nuffer, Richard T. – Williamsburg
Otten, William H. – Rochester Hills
Otto, Rodney D. – Grand Rapids
Pflug, Mark R. – Greenville
Plump, John T. – Cedar Crest, NM
Pohanka, John C. – Midland
Quardokus, Philip G. – St. Joseph
Ramthun, Marvin W. – Lapeer
Rathje, John R. – Ypsilanti
Rauh, John W. – Wentzville, MO
Reed, David H. – Sebawaing
Reich, Arthur W. – Flint
Reith, Samuel B. – Sanford
Reusch, Jon W. – West Bloomfield
Richardson, Gale D. – Wellston
Richert, Cary M. – Caledonia
Roberts, Robert R. – Bay City
Rolf, James E. – Rochester
Rossow, David E. – Swartz Creek
Rossow, Richard H. – Fenton
Rubino, Chris J. – Byron Center
Ruediger, Paul G. – Rose City
Rynearson, Rodney R. – Frankenmuth
Sattelmeyer, Glenn O. – Rochester Hills
Schinkel, John A. – Monroe
Schmitt, Frederick A. – Sterling Heights
Schneider, Paul H. – Gaylord
Schouweiler, James A. – Fremont
Schroeder, James E. – Scottville
Schroeder, Kenneth O. – Frankenmuth
Schroeder, Thomas L. – Milan
Schultz, Randall P. – Burton
Schultz, Robert J. – Freeland
Schultz, Ronald C. – Harbor Beach
Schwieger, Alan J. – East China
Sheldon, Barry C. – Lexington
Sherry, David F. – Saginaw
Sidwell, David H. – Kalamazoo
Smith, Robert W. – Frankenmuth
Sproul, John M. – Ypsilanti
Stahlhut, Stephen C. – Linden
Starke, Stephen P. – Bay City
Stauffer, W. Roger – Sanford
Stier, Lewis W. – Saint Clair Shores
Straub, John A. – Southgate
Streufert, Daniel A. – St. Joseph
Teske, Walter W. – Mesick
Thiel, Steven E. – Freeland
Thoms, Leo G. – Port Hope
Travis, Howard S. – West Branch
Trinklein, Jonathan B. – Shelby Township

Turanski, Ted N. – Lake City
Turner, James W. – Farmington Hills
Veitengruber, Donald P. – Greenville
Verity, Timothy M. – Grand Rapids
Vogeli, Mitchell R. – Chesaning
Voll, Theodore E. – West Branch
Wachholz, Dean C. – Saline
Wargo, Paul E. – Harsens Island
Webb, Charles W. – Traverse City
Weber, James E. – Frankenmuth
Weldon, John H. – Saginaw
Wendt, Ernest C. – Fenton
Wenskay, Lee C. – Pigeon
Wentzel, Wayne H. – Clarkston
Wernecke, John W. – Bay City
Wilson, Richard G. – Minden City
Winningham, David C. – Bay City
Winter, William C. – Prudenville
Wise, Kenneth M. – Clinton Township
Witto, Lawrence E. – Fenton
Wolfram, Richard J. – Howell
Wollberg, Jeffrey N. – Bellevue
Wright, Larry D. – Midland
Wurst, John F. – Lake Ann
Yops, Bradley J. – Ann Arbor
Zimmerman, Mark E. – Muskegon
Zimmerman, Russell E. – Bay City

Ministers of Religion - Ordained Roster Changes

March 1, 2022 - February 28, 2025

Pastors Who Entered the District

Ashley, Jeremy (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis) to SMP, Trinity, Clinton Twp.
Bangert, Joseph L. (Iowa West District) to Sole Pastor, Immanuel/St. John, Rogers City
Bartholomew, Andrew P. (Missouri District) to Senior Pastor, St. Mark, Kentwood
Bartz, Robert O. (Eastern District) as Emeritus
Bellinghausen, Jake B. (Eastern District) to Sole Pastor, Cross of Christ, South Lyon
Bender, Douglas J. (South Wisconsin District) to Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Macomb
Boomhower, Patrick J. (Northern Illinois District) as Emeritus
Boshoven, Richard L. (Indiana District) to IIP, St. John/Good Shepherd, Ionia/Lowell
Brandon, Kurt A. (Missouri District) to Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Saginaw
Britton, Joshua D. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to SMP, Trinity, Utica
Brockopp, Elroy D. (Missouri District) as Emeritus
Brooks, Micah J. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN) to Sole Pastor, St. Luke, Nunica
Brooks, Patrick J. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to SMP, Christ the King, Southgate
Campbell, Delwyn X. (Indiana District) to Senior Pastor, Good Shepherd/Trinity, Lansing
Canion, Matthew J. (Minnesota North District) to Sole Pastor, Living Water, Whitmore Lake
Carrier, John S. (Nebraska District) as Emeritus
Dangba, Moses G. (Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis) to Sole Pastor, Living Word, Lansing
Diener, John H. (English District) as Emeritus
Duchene, Michael G. (Florida-Georgia District) as Emeritus
Dueker, Jonathan A. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to Sole Pastor, Peace, Rogers City
Duerr, Mark A. (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Monroe
Duerr, Nicholas T. (Pacific Southwest District) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica
Durance, Matthew H. (Kansas District) to Sole Pastor, Zion, Harbor Beach
Dwyer, Keith E. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to SMP, Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
*Faith, Scott M. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN) to SMP, St. Mark, Norton Shores
Feusse, Daniel J. (Nebraska District) as Emeritus
Fink, Samuel V. (Eastern District) to Sole Pastor, Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
Fisher, Maxx J. (Missouri District) to Associate Pastor, St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
Flanick, Adam (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Gladwin
Ford, Colin E. (Candidate, South Dakota District) as Candidate
Fouts, Bart J. (Nebraska District) to Executive Director, Camp Concordia, Gowen
Gapski, Nicholas C. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN) to Associate Pastor, Family of God, Detroit
Garrett, Morgan J. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to Associate Pastor, St. Mark, Flint
Gauthier Jr., Gerald A. (Indiana District) to St. John, Bay City (Amelith)
Jesus Ricardo Granado-Lizardo (Southeastern District) to Missionary at Large, Hispanic Ministries, Michigan District
Greenhagen, Jesse R. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN) to Associate Pastor, Zion, Mt. Pleasant
Greenwalt, James H. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to SMP, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Birmingham
Greig, John E. (Southeastern District) to Sole Pastor, First, Algonac
Gruenwald, Daniel J. (English District) as Emeritus
Gunia, Matthew J. (North Wisconsin District) to Sole Pastor, Faith, Whitehall
Gustafson, Thomas M. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Grand Rapids
Haak, Joel D. (Minnesota South District) to Associate Pastor, St. John, Fraser
Hannemann, Mark T. (Nebraska District) to Executive Director, Good Friend Ministries, Traverse City
Hughes, Michael W. (Colloquy) to Sole Pastor, St. Matthew, Spring Lake
Hyatt, Gregory D. (Iowa East District) to St. John, Pinconning
Kaiser, Seth C. (Iowa West District) to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Bay City
Keilani, Anthony M. (Ohio District) to Lutheran High School Association, Rochester Hills
Klingbeil, Kurt C. (Ohio District) to Sole Pastor, Trinity/Mt. Hope, Gaylord/Grayling
Knea, Keith (Indiana District) to Senior Pastor, St. Michael's, Richville
Krengel, Douglas A. (Texas District) to Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Bridgman
Lampi, Stephen A. (Concordia Theological Seminary) to SMP, Messiah, Midland
Lepley, Daniel J. (English District) to Sole Pastor, Mount Calvary, Greenville
Lewis, Richard E. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to SMP, St. John of Marion Springs, Brant
Lytikainen, Matthew S. (New Jersey District) to Associate Pastor, Messiah, Midland
Marsh, Benjamin D. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to SMP, Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township
Meyer, Jonathan C. (Oklahoma District) to Sole Pastor, St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
Micheel, Benjamin P. (Kansas District) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Saint Joseph
Mumme, Jonathan W. (South Wisconsin District) as Candidate
Mundorf, Christian Q. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN) to Sole Pastor, Messiah, Saginaw
Murr, James O. (Northern Illinois District) to Senior Pastor, Immanuel, St. Clair
Murray, Daniel P. (SELC District) to Sole Pastor, Hosanna-Tabor/Immanuel, Redford/Dearborn Heights
Nelson, Eric M. (Minnesota South District) to Sole Pastor, St. James, Montague
Newton, Robert D. (Emeritus) as Emeritus
Overway, Kurt R. (Reinstated to the Roster) as Emeritus
Paavola, Christopher K. (Missouri District) to Senior Pastor, St. Mark, Battle Creek
Petzold, Carl R. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN) to Sole Pastor, St. John/Hope, West Branch/St. Helen

Phillips, Thomas P. (Central Illinois District) to Sole Pastor, St. Paul/St. Matthew, Kalkaska/Mancelona
 Pronsati, Dante B. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to Associate Pastor, St. Peter, Macomb
 Riley, Jimmy K. (Ohio District) to Sole Pastor, Trinity-St. James, Munger
 Rittner II, Philip R. (Indiana District) as Emeritus
 Roberts, Benjamin A. (Northern Illinois District) to Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Trenton
 Rossow, Richard H. (Florida-Georgia District) as Emeritus
 Rutter, David A. (English District) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica
 Sassaman, Roger L. (Indiana District) as Emeritus
 Saylor, Michael W. (Ohio District) to Senior Pastor, Zion, Kalamazoo
 Schave, Steven D. (Missouri District) to Executive Director of LAMP Ministry, Inc., New Haven
 Schrader, Alexander A. (Missouri District) to Sole Pastor, Our Saviour, Armada
 Schultz, David M. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to SMP, St. Paul, Bay City
 Shanburn, Eric J. (Colloquy) to Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Warren
 Stainbrook, Michael S. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to Associate Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett
 Varblow, Bryan S. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to SMP, St. Mark's, Brooklyn
 Wagner, Jacob D. (Minnesota North District) as Candidate
 Weber, Wilhelm (Lutheran Church of South Africa) to Executive Director of the International Lutheran Society of Wittenberg, Germany
 Weeks, Kyle T. (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) to Sole Pastor, St. Luke, Ann Arbor
 Weist, James D. (Montana District) to Sole Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison
 Werner, Joel A. (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO) to Associate Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Livonia
 Williamson, Kenneth L. (Northwest District) to Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Scottville
 Wright, James F. (Central Illinois District) to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Berrien Springs
 Wright, Larry D. (Indiana District) as Emeritus
 Wurst, Robert W. (Missouri District) to Sole Pastor, Good Shepherd, Middleville
 Yaeger, Kaleb J. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Sturgis
 Zucker, Tyge C. (Minnesota South District) to Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Flushing

*Not listed in the 2022 Convention Workbook

Changes Within the District

Adams, Douglas M. (Candidate) to Senior Pastor, St. Peter's, Eastpointe
 Appold, Robert B. (Emeritus) to Assistant Pastor, Mt. Calvary, Greenville
 Azzam, Timothy P. (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, Bethlehem, Lewiston
 Bender, Gary L. (IIP, Faith, Bay City) to Vacancy Pastor, St. Paul, Ann Arbor
 Bentz, Tyson V. (Sole Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison) to Sole Pastor, St. Peter's, Big Rapids
 Biermann, Todd A. (Senior Pastor, Faith, Grand Blanc) to Executive Director, Concordia Center for the Family, Ann Arbor
 Black, Eric S. (Sole Pastor, St. Paul/St. Matthew, Kalkaska/Mancelona) to Sole Pastor, Messiah, Grand Rapids
 Black, Eric S. (Sole Pastor, St. Paul, Kalkaska) to Sole Pastor, Dual Parish of St. Paul/St. Matthew, Kalkaska/Mancelona
 Bookshaw, John A. (Candidate) to IIP, Trinity, Paw Paw
 Bookshaw, John A. (IIP, Bethlehem, Lewiston) to IIP, Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta
 Brandt, Mark D. (Emeritus) to part-time District Facilitator, North and East Region
 Carrier, John S. (Emeritus) to IIP, Trinity, Monroe
 Carter, Tyler D. (Candidate) to Associate Pastor, St. Peter's, Big Rapids
 Chaffee, Phillip W. (SMP, Candidate) to SMP, Resurrection, Sand Lake
 Chinery, James D. (Sole Pastor, St. Martin, Birch Run) to Sole Pastor, Faith, Bay City
 Collin, Richard W. (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, St. Peter's, Big Rapids
 Corbett, Gerald H. (SMP Vacancy, St. Paul Community, Pontiac) to SMP, St. Paul Community, Pontiac
 Corbett, Gerald H. (SMP, St. Thomas, Eastpointe) to SMP Vacancy, St. Paul Community, Pontiac
 Corbett, Gerald H. (SMP, Candidate) to SMP, St. Thomas, Eastpointe
 Cronkright, Tyler R. (SMP, Family of God, Detroit) to SMP, St. John, Rochester
 Davis, David A. (Associate Pastor, St. Luke, Haslett) to President, Michigan District, LCMS
 Dumbrille, Dean G. (Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Flint) to Associate Pastor, St. Paul/Christ the King, Flint
 Dufon, Dennis L. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, Drummond Island Lutheran Church, Drummond Island
 Eden, Joel S. (Associate Pastor, Christ Our Savior, Livonia) to Associate Pastor, St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
 Eichinger, Kurt W. (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, St. John, Bay City
 Engblade A. Peter (Emeritus) to SMP, Our Savior, Scottville
 Frechette, Jeffrey D. (Sole Pastor, Bethlehem, Roseville) to Associate Pastor, St. Mark, Flint
 Gilson, Mark E. (IIP, St. James, Montague) to Sole Pastor, Chapel of the Lakes, Mecosta
 Gilson, Mark E. (Candidate) to IIP, St. James, Montague
 Gladden, Dietrick A. (Michigan District, deployed to Detroit) to Senior Pastor, St. Thomas, Eastpointe
 Graves, K. Frank (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, Redeemer, Fremont
 Greig, John E. (Sole Pastor, First, Algonac) and part-time District Facilitator (Metro East Region)
 Heimsoth, Jeffrey E. (IIP, Cross of Christ, South Lyon) to IIP, Faith, Grand Blanc
 Heimsoth, Jeffrey E. (IIP, St. Peter's, Eastpointe) to IIP, Cross of Christ, South Lyon
 Hill, Mark J. (Emeritus) to Associate Pastor, Journey, Oxford (deployed to Prince of Peace, Ortonville)
 Hill, Mark J. (Emeritus) to IIP, Bethlehem, Roseville
 Hopkins, Theodore J. (Professor, Concordia Ann Arbor) to Senior Pastor, St. Paul, Ann Arbor
 Jones, Christian M. (MAL, Michigan District) to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica
 Jones, Kevin (Emeritus) to IIP, Nativity, Saint Charles
 Jung, Christopher D. (Vacancy Pastor, St. Matthew, Lexington) to Sole Pastor, St. Matthew, Lexington
 Jung, Christopher D. (Sole Pastor, St. Paul Community, Pontiac) to Vacancy Pastor, St. Matthew, Lexington
 Kersten, Alfred A. (SMP, Immanuel, Alpena) to SMP, Good Shepherd, Ossineke

Lambart, Kurt E. (IIP, Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison) to Vacancy Pastor, Peace, Ann Arbor
 Lambart, Kurt E. (Candidate) to IIP, Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison
 Latham, Mark E. (Candidate) to Sole Pastor, St. Michael's, Traverse City
 Lemley, Keith H. (Emeritus) to IIP, Trinity, Clinton Twp.
 Lemley, Keith H. (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, St. Thomas, Eastpointe
 Lemley, Keith H. (IIP, GoodLife, Rochester Hills) to IIP, St. John/Immanuel, Rogers City
 Liss, Joseph T. (SMP, St. Paul, Niles) to SMP, Trinity, Saint Joseph
 Maas, Korey D. (Candidate) to Assistant Pastor, St. Paul, Hillsdale
 Maier, David P. E. (Candidate) to Associate Pastor, Historic Trinity, Detroit
 Meckes, Daniel C. (Associate Pastor, Journey, Oxford) and part-time District Facilitator (Metro West Region)
 Messer, Thomas C. (Sole Pastor, Peace, Alma) to Sole Pastor to Peace/Calvary, Alma/Carson City
 Meyer, Edward A. (Immanuel, Bridgman) to Sole Pastor, Faith, Prescott
 Mueller, Barry L. (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, Our Saviour, Armada
 Nieman, Ronald C. (Emeritus) to IIP, Bethlehem, Roseville
 Overway, Kurt (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, St. Stephen's, Shelby
 Philp, Paul A. (Director, CUS/ deployed to Michigan) to Executive Director of CUENet
 Pollatz, Paul A. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, Mount Hope, Allen Park
 Prout, David L. (IIP, Immanuel, Dearborn Heights) to Sole Pastor, GoodLife, Rochester Hills
 Richter, James F. (Missionary at Large, Michigan District) to Sole Pastor, The Vine, Walker
 Riddle, J. Derek (Sole Pastor, Peace, Rogers City) to Sole Pastor, Trinity, Jackson
 Riggs, Robert V. (Emeritus) to IIP, St. Martin, Birch Run
 Riggs, Robert V. (IIP, Holy Cross, Saginaw) to Emeritus
 Riggs, Robert V. (Emeritus) to IIP, Holy Cross, Saginaw
 Rittner II, Philip R. (Emeritus) to Vacancy Pastor, St. Paul's, Centreville
 Rutter, David A. (Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica) to Assistant Pastor, Trinity, Saint Joseph
 Sassaman, Roger L. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, St. Paul's, Centreville
 Schilke, Stephen E. (Emeritus) to IIP, Trinity, Oscoda
 Schindel, Bryan K. (Sole Pastor, Cross & Resurrection, Ypsilanti) to Senior Pastor, Cross & Resurrection/St. Mark's, Ypsilanti/Brooklyn
 Schuler, Matthew G. (Senior Pastor, Journey, Oxford) to Associate Pastor, Faith, Troy
 Seeber, Timothy W. (Senior Pastor, Zion, Kalamazoo) to Assistant Pastor, Zion, Kalamazoo
 Sommerfeld, Scott G. (Vacancy Pastor, St. Paul, Ann Arbor) to IIP, Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
 Sommerfeld, Scott G. (IIP, Living Water, Whitmore Lake) to Vacancy Pastor, St. Paul, Ann Arbor
 Straub, Roger K. (Vacancy Pastor, Calvary, Carson City) to IIP, St. Andrew, Portland
 Trosien, Carl F. (Emeritus) to Sole Pastor, Lord of New Life, Midland
 Troxel, Chistopher D. (Associate Pastor, Trinity, Utica) to Associate Pastor, University Lutheran Chapel, Ann Arbor
 Twietmeyer, Andrew R. (Sole Pastor, Messiah, Grand Rapids) to Associate Pastor, St. Paul, Hillsdale
 Vergin, Aaron H. (Sole Pastor, St. Mark's, West Bloomfield) to Sole Pastor, St. John's, Grand Haven
 Warsinski, Larry A. (Emeritus) to IIP, Zion, Hemlock
 Watters, Samuel P. (Emeritus) to SMP, St. Matthew, Westland
 Weldon, John H. (Emeritus) to IIP, St. John, Pinconning
 Wilhelm, Jeffrey M. (Sole Pastor, Mt. Calvary, Greenville) to Vacancy Pastor, St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
 Woell, Brennan A. (Sole Pastor, St. Luke, Nunica) to Sole Pastor, Emmanuel, Cadillac
 Wolfram, Richard J. (Emeritus) to IIP, Heart of the Shepherd, Howell
 Yang, Lang (Associate Pastor, St. Michael's, Richville) to Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Lansing

Transferred to Other Districts

Allmann, Robert F. (Emeritus) to Kansas District
 Bakker, Jonathon J. (Senior Pastor, Zion, Mt. Pleasant) to South Wisconsin District
 Bartz, Robert O. (Emeritus) to Ohio District
 Bartz, Robert O. (Emeritus) to Eastern District
 Bender, Gary L. (Vacancy, St. Paul, Ann Arbor) to Ohio District
 Benjamin, Scott E. (Emeritus) to English District
 Berg, Peter M. (Emeritus) to English District
 Boos, Antonio C. (Associate Pastor, Faith, Troy) to Missouri District
 Bruns, Benjamin (Candidate) to Indiana District
 Carrier, John S. (Emeritus) to Nebraska District
 Cerchez, Marin (Sole Pastor, St. John, Jenison) to Southeastern District
 Cornwell, Simeon J. (Candidate) to Indiana District
 DeVries, Phillip M. (Sole Pastor, Messiah, Saginaw) to SELC District
 Eichberger, Timothy M. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Elliott, Peter W. (Associate Pastor, St. John, Fraser) to Northwest District
 Flory, Mark S. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Ford, Colin (Candidate) to Southeastern District
 Fulmer, Daniel R. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Garber, Alexander C. (Associate, St. Peter, Eastpointe) to Texas District
 Grannis, Michael J. (Sole Pastor, Calvary, Lincoln Park) to Minnesota South District
 Gray, Barton (Emeritus) to Missouri District
 Griffin, Marvin A. (Emeritus) to Southern District
 Hall, Matthew A. (Candidate) to Iowa East District
 Hannemann, Mark T. (Executive Director, Good Friend Ministries, Traverse City) to Nebraska District
 Hansen, Michael A. (Associate Pastor, St. Matthew, Walled Lake) to Pacific Southwest District

Heiden, Michael L. (Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Macomb) to Pacific Southwest District
 Kade, Timothy P. (Candidate) to Pacific Southwest District
 Koltz, Gary E. (Sole Pastor, GoodLife Community, Rochester Hills) to Florida-Georgia District.
 Krach, James M. (Sole Pastor, Our Savior, Gladwin) to Florida-Georgia District
 Krueger, James F. (Sole Pastor, Holy Cross, Saginaw) to North Wisconsin District
 LaFeve, Joshua C. (Sole Pastor, Immanuel, Leland) to South Wisconsin District
 Lewis, Bertram B. (Emeritus) to Ohio District
 Loeschke, David R. (Emeritus) to Nebraska District
 Lutz, Michael J. (Emeritus) to Southeastern District
 Mackie, Roger L. (Emeritus) to North Wisconsin District
 Mews, David M. (Associate Pastor, Guardian, Dearborn) to Montana District
 Moyer, Jonathan J. (Sole Pastor, Faith, Highland) to SELC District
 Pahlkotter II, Henry G. (SMP Candidate) to Iowa East District
 Peterson, Ryan R. (VP of Administration/Campus Chief Executive, Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Minnesota South District
 Phifer, Phillip L. (Sole Pastor, Trinity, Paw Paw) to Texas District
 Potts, Daniel A. (Senior Pastor, Trinity, Monroe) to Nebraska District
 Pronsati, Andrew M. (Sole Pastor, Peace, Ann Arbor) to Minnesota South District
 Reese, Ryan D. (Sole Pastor, Trinity, Warren) to Northern Illinois District
 Roper, R. William (Emeritus) to Southeastern District
 Schave, Steven D. (Pastor, LAMP Ministry) to Missouri District
 Schulz, Charles R. (Professor, Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Professor of Theology, Northern Illinois District
 Schwartz, John W. (Senior Pastor, St. Paul, New Boston) to Southern District
 Sherrill, North P. (Associate Pastor, Our Savior, Grand Rapids) to Rocky Mountain District
 Snider, Merelyn (Emeritus) to Rocky Mountain District
 Spence, Kenneth M. (Emeritus) to Eastern District
 Steeh, Edward J. (Emeritus) to English District
 Tinetti, Ryan P. (Sole Pastor, Trinity, Arcadia) to Missouri District
 Van Dellen, James H. (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District
 Walther, Galan D. (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District
 Weirauch, David M. (Candidate) to Indiana District
 Weist, James D. (Candidate) to Montana District
 Wellhousen, Austin M. (Associate Pastor, St. Matthew, Walled Lake) to Minnesota South District
 Wilhelm, Jeffrey M. (Emeritus) to Florida/Georgia District
 Zabrocki, Lee H. (Emeritus) to Indiana District

INACTIVE

Inactive – Candidate Status

Adams, Douglas M. (9/19/2022)	Gizynski, Richard G. (5/20/2024)
Beckett, Garrick S. (1/23/2024)	Jones, Todd A. (1/1/2025)
Bookshaw, John A. (4/1/2024)	Maier, David P. E. (10/1/2022)
Bowditch, Mark A. (11/16/2023)	Rathje, John R. (1/1/2024)
Bruns, Benjamin (4/17/2023)	Starner, Matthew L. (6/26/2023)
Cornwell, Simeon J. (12/18/2022)	Toman, Jason D. (1/8/2025)

Inactive – Emeritus

Allmann, Robert F. (5/1/2023)	Kersten, Alfred A. (9/30/2024)
Appold, Robert B. (5/22/2023)	Kilponen, Roger R. (2/1/2024)
Arendell, Mark W. (6/30/2022)	Kleimola, Dale M. (8/21/2023)
Azzam, Timothy P. (9/2/2024)	Kolzow, Cavlin J. (7/22/2024)
Azzam, Timothy P. (7/11/2022)	Koppel, Alexander J. (5/1/2024)
Beck, Gary L. (6/1/2023)	Lemley, Keith H. (1/1/2024)
Berg, Peter M. (11/12/2024)	Lewis, Bertram B. (1/2/2025)
Berlin, Mark E. (6/2/2023)	Loree, Sr., Larry K. (6/12/2023)
Brooks, John W. (12/31/2022)	Mackie, Roger L. 6/13/2022)
Brunworth, Todd J. (5/9/2022)	Mikkelson, Robert L. (3/12/2023)
Collin, Richard W. (2/8/2023)	Nelson, Terry A. (7/1/2022)
Cordts, Frederick T. (9/1/2023)	Neuendorf, Donald O. (8/15/2022)
Dowding, Robert G. (1/1/2024)	Nieman, Ronald C. (1/1/2024)
*Eggert, James F. (1/31/2022)	Rathje, John R. (10/31/2024)
Eichinger, Kurt W. (10/1/2022)	Richardson, Gale D. (10/30/2023)
Eisinger, Alan P. (7/25/2022)	Riggs, Robert V. (8/1/2022)
Engblade, A. Peter (1/1/2024)	Rubino, Chris J. (8/5/2024)
Filter, Edward W. (7/1/2022)	Schilke, Stephen E. (2/7/2022)
Fischer, Thomas F. (7/1/2022)	Sherouse, Jr., M. Samuel (1/1/2024)
Flory, Mark S. (9/16/2022)	Sidwell III, David H. (1/24/2024)
Gruelke, Galen E. (6/22/2022)	Sproul, John M. (5/1/2022)
Hauser, Paul A. (1/1/2023)	Stier, Lewis W. (7/1/2024)
Hetzner, Mark W. (2/20/2023)	Trinklein, Jonathan B. (1/16/2024)
Hill, Mark J. (8/28/2023)	Vogeli, Mitchell R. (7/1/2024)
Jones, Kevin C. (1/1/2024)	Voll, Theodore E. (7/25/2022)
Jung, David A. (9/1/2022)	Webb, Charles W. (12/31/2023)

Weldon, John H. (9/2/2024)
Wilhelm, Jeffrey M. (1/1/2024)
Wise, Kenneth M. (7/1/2023)
Wolfram, Richard J. (3/15/2023)

*Not listed in the 2022 Convention Workbook

Resigned From Roster

Auxter, Robert C. (10/27/2022)
Buday, Jacob P. (9/28/2023)
Dykstra, Kevin J. (2/17/2023)
Helms, Steven C. (2/21/2025)
Hooper, William J. (6/23/2022)
Starner, Matthew L. (10/13/2023)
Wentzel, Michael W. (6/11/2024)

Called To Glory

Arndt, Warren B. (2/7/2025)
Aumann, Roger F. (4/6/2023)
Balzer, James G. (2/1/2024)
Beiderwieden, Theodore W. (4/9/2024)
Boecler, Paul A. O. (12/15/2022)
Brinley, George W. (11/8/2022)
Brockopp, Elroy D. (2/1/2025)
Burow, E. Paul (3/12/2024)
Clemons, Daniel F. (1/30/2024)
Cordes, Darowin E. (2/4/2025)
Etheridge, Sr., Daryl H. (1/31/2025)
Fleming, James E. (2/2/2025)
Fritz, Jeffrey M. (12/24/2023)
Hill, Mark J. (2/19/2025)
Janetzke, Douglas K. (11/19/2022)
Koehler, Charles J. (09/15/2024)

Krueger, Dale B. (9/22/2022)
Maier, Paul L (2/27/2025)
Mann, Robert H. (12/3/2023)
Morrison, Rodney L. (7/24/2023)
Pollatz, Raymond R. (6/15/2022)
Sassaman, Roger L. (9/29/2024)
Scherbarth, Ray E. (6/23/2022)
Schreiber, John R. (4/14/2022)
Shuta, Richard J. (1/4/2025)
Seng, Dan L. (1/20/2024)
Shrouse, Jr., M. Samuel (11/14/2024)
Sparks Steven E. (1/12/2024)
Teuscher, Michael L. (5/12/2024)
Traugott, Frederick W. (10/7/2022)
Walsh, Jeffrey B. (11/21/2024)
Young, Paul V. (1/30/2024)

New Missions Added

Ann Arbor, Emmaus (1/22/2023)

Congregations Added

Walker, The Vine Church (5/21/2024)

Congregations Disbanded

Detroit, Charity (12/1/2024)
Grand Rapids, Mt. Olive (5/23/2022)
Posen, St. Paul (10/23/2023)
Saint Ignace, Hope (9/26/2024)
Warren, Peace (5/1/2024)

Congregations Merged

Peace, Ludington to Our Savior, Scottville (8/1/2023)
Our Redeemer, Taylor to St. John's, Taylor (1/1/2024)

Ministers of Religion - Ordained Anniversaries

In 2022

60 Years

Edward Kast

50 Years

Dale Ahlschwede
Robert Allmann
Stanley AuBuchon
Timothy Eichberger
Jack Ferguson
Kenneth Graves
Dennis Lassanske
Michael Lutz
Ronald Moritz
John Pohanka
Walter Teske
Ted Turanski
Dean Wachholz
Mark Zimmerman

40 Years

Timothy Azzam
John Bookshaw
John Duerr
James Erickson
Joseph Fremer
Paul Herter
Richard Hillenbrand
David Jung
Eugene Koessel
Roger Mackie
David Maier
Daniel McVey
Peter Nickel
Paul Ruediger
Frederick Schmitt
David Sherry
W. Roger Stauffer
Michael Teuscher
Timothy Verity
Rick Wolfram
Jonathan Trinklein

25 Years

James Balzer
Mark Gilson
Charles Koehler
Edward Meyer
Paul Monson
Gary Nehring
Mark Reinsch
Marc Schwichtenberg
David Sidwell
James Turner
James Weist

In 2023

60 Years

Charles Beyer
Ronald Farah
Theodore Melinat
Lawrence Witto

50 Years

Gilbert McDonald
Richard Mundt
Robert Roberts
William Winter

40 Years

Robert Appold
Gary Beck
John Carrier
Carl DeMeritt
Alan Eisinger
Daniel Gruenwald
Paul Hauser
Timothy Heiney
Mark Hetzner
Robert Kasper
William Lahrman
Randy Lett
David Reed
Samuel Reith
Robert Riggs
Ronald Schultz
Barry Sheldon
Stephen Starke

25 Years

George Bagnall
Timothy Bickel
Mark Haller
Stephen Schilke
Mark Schumm
James Weber

In 2024

60 Years

John Rauh
Glenn Sattelmeier
Richard Shuta
Donald Veitengruber

50 Years

Peter Berg
Glenn Kopper
Stephen Stahlhut

40 Years

Michael Allen
David Davis
Harry Edenfield
Thomas Fischer
Bradley Garrison
Mark Hannemann
Steven Helms
Roger Hubbard
Larry Matro
James Schouweiler
Jeffrey Walsh
Bradley Yops

25 Years

David Bogda
David Dodge
Eddie Morales
E. Enwood Nevis
Paul Philp
Dean Poellet
J. Derek Riddle
Michael Saylor
E. Anthony Sikora

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned

March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2025

District Staff

Esselman, Luke M. – Ann Arbor, Commissioned Ministry Advocate
Gruke, Travis G. – Ann Arbor, Superintendent of Schools

Principals

* Baerwolf, Paul R. – Dearborn, Emmanuel
* Briggs, Cynthia M. Teschendorf – Reese, Trinity
Bringold, Levi R. – Fraser, St. John
Brown, Cynthia A. Haller – Harbor Beach, Zion
* Brown, Erika P. Heimsoth – Saint Johns, St. Peter
Brown, Mark A. – Clinton Township, Trinity
* Buck, Mary Lynn McNally – Flint, St. Paul
Burgess, Robert M. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Burk, Daniel R. – Westland, St. Matthew
Chaveriat, Charles A. – Richville, St. Michael's
* Diroff, Jayne K. Kregel – Monroe, Holy Ghost
Dummann, Matthew D. M. – Dearborn, Guardian
* Feenstra, Bradley D. – Muskegon, Trinity
Francik, Christopher D. – Royal Oak, St. Paul
* Gurney, Adrienne A. Thompson – New Boston, St. John's
Hackbarth, Tracey J. Norenberg – Monroe, Trinity
* Hagenow, Eric M. – Hemlock, St. Peter
Johnson, Gregory K. – Portage, St. Michael
* Klauer, Susan E. Goebel – Auburn, Zion
Knoll, Leah M. Schiefer – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
* Langlois, Tonya M. Fleming – Rogers City, St. John
LaPerriere, Sandra J. Weig – Macomb, St. Peter
Massey, Bradley R. – Midland, St. John's
Matyas, Valerie E. Irion – Bay City, St. Paul
McLoughlin, Janet M. Wooden – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Nelson, Michael A. – Shelby Township, Peace
Neumeyer, Joel K. – Macomb, Immanuel
Palka, Susan E. McCreddie – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
Pehlke, Todd M. – Rochester, St. John
Pifer, Christine A. Gentz – Northville, St. Paul
Reinbold, Tricia K. Mallory – Sturgis, Trinity
* Riley, Barbara A. Alyea – Millington, St. Paul
Singleton, Lisa A. – Jackson, Trinity
Smith, Kyle J. – Traverse City, Trinity
* Speers, Chelsea M. Heap – Holt, St. Matthew
Swazey, Angela N. Kelly – Wayne, St. Michael
* Vincent, Heath D. – Bay City, Immanuel
Volkert, Bruce R. – Utica, Trinity
* Webb, Neil F. – Stevensville, Christ
* Weston, Ashlea J. – Manistee, Trinity
Wilson, Brenda S. Frank – Saginaw, Bethlehem
* Wolter, Roger W. – Saginaw, Holy Cross
* Yoder, Jennifer A. Gremel – Unionville, St. Paul
Zeddies, Michael F. – Saginaw, Immanuel

Assistant Principals

Baarck, Stephanie L. Kroeger – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Fritsche, Christopher R. – Macomb, Immanuel
Keup, Joel A. – Saginaw, Peace
* Indicates principal/teacher or assistant principal/teacher
* Kopper, Jill M. – Clinton Township, Trinity
* Lucas, John K. – Utica, Trinity
* Wascher, Erin M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz

Educators in Lutheran Elementary Schools and Early Childhood Centers

Abraham, Jennifer L. Marter – Saginaw, Immanuel
Abraham, Rachel M. – Bay City, St. Paul
Adams, Grace K. – Clinton Township, Trinity
Andrzejewski, Rachel M. – Macomb, St. Peter
Angott, Donna L. Renkert – Utica, Trinity
Armbrecht, Louis W. – Dearborn, Guardian
Arrick, Mary S. Petzold – Northville, St. Paul
Bach, Lisa A. Rude – Millington, St. Paul
Ball, Rebecca L. Bierlein – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Balzer, Jo Ann Grote – Sturgis, Trinity
Barnes, Susan M. – Macomb, Immanuel
Bartels, Elizabeth R. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Bartlett, Krista A. – Macomb, Immanuel
Becker, Kimberle L. Wright – Lansing, Our Savior
Bender, Emilie R. Howe – Clinton Township, Trinity
Benter, Cassandra L. Irwin – Rochester, St. John
Bickel, Reagan B. Geno – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Bierlein, Heather M. Shirley – Richville, St. Michael's
Bierlein, Mary B. Bauer – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Blackwell, Judith J. Radtke – 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
Boyer, Stephanie A. Riggs – Sebawaing, Immanuel
Briggs, Jessica A. Hecht – Utica, Trinity
Brink, Yvette M. Healy – Sebawaing, Immanuel
Bronner, Jill J. Stamm – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Brooks, Jacquelin R. Walsh – Southgate, Christ The King
Burhop, Heather G. Schmelz – Saginaw, Immanuel
Carlton, Ruth M. Kell – Milford, Christ
Chaplin, Heidi U. Klemm – Shelby Township, Peace
Charogoff, Carolyn E. Milz – Monroe, Trinity
Childers, Frances M. Cashmer – Southgate, Christ the King
Clark, Lori D. Pettiford – Rochester, St. John
Contreras, Andrew J. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Conway, Samantha M. Poet – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Cramer, Courtney P. Daniel – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Cronkright, Brandi L. Mitti – Rochester, St. John
Daniell, Sheri L. Gross – Utica, Trinity
Darling, Renae A. Kragenbrink – Saginaw, Peace
Davenport, Chandler A. – Monroe, Trinity
Degg, Pamela J. Drzyzga – Bay City, Zion
Delmotte, Karen M. Reichenbach – Utica, Trinity
Deneen, Matthew W. – Unionville, St. Paul
Dent, Andrea J. Guse' – Bay City, St. Paul
DeVoy, Tanya M. Walsh – Macomb, Immanuel
DeYarmond, Sara M. Benington – Lansing, Our Savior
Dickinson, Matthew T. – Traverse City, Trinity
Donal - Fisher, Karyn M. – New Boston, St. John's
Drinan, MacKenzie W. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Dunsmore, Sharon K. Bruns – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Earle, Sarah E. Fish – Bay City, Trinity
Eifert, Mary M. Webb – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Efird, Rebecca L. Difatta – Southgate, Christ the King
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
 Eyster, Timothy K. – Richville, St. Michael's
 Faszholz, Mark A. – Utica, Trinity
 Fehn, Kelley J. Werdeeman – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Fehn, Lynn A. Knoll – Saginaw, Good Shepherd
 Felten, Daniel L. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Felten, Jolyn R. Daenzer – Utica, Trinity
 Fisk, Katrina A. Blackwell – Manistee, Trinity
 Foiles, Lisa M. Stange – Bay City, Faith
 Fritsche, Kirsten K. Schueler – Macomb, St. Peter
 Frobels, David P. – Rochester, St. John
 Gakstatter, Kari S. Streeter – Bay City, Immanuel
 Gallagher, Megan J. – Bay City, Trinity
 Garcia, Justin N. – Bay City, St. Paul
 Gehm, Rebecca A. – Richville, St. Michael's
 Genthner, Clinton F. – Jackson, Trinity
 Genthner, Richard G. – Reed City, Trinity
 Gilson, Grace P. – Rochester, St. John
 Glumm, Julie K. Boes – Saginaw, Bethlehem
 Godbold, Ellen E. Stamm – Grand Rapids, ISJ Academy
 Goers, Bethany L. Ketcher – Traverse City, Trinity
 Gontjes, Abigail G. Rynearson – Westland, St. Matthew
 Gorney, Stephanie D. Weiss – Harbor Beach, Zion
 Gross, Nancy D. Waldrop – Monroe, Trinity
 Grothaus, Timothy A. – Rochester, St. John
 Grupe, Michele S. Rebant – Utica, Trinity
 Guenther, Amy L. – Saginaw, Peace
 Guse' Sr., Paul B. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Gust, Clara F. Gaffke – Harbor Beach, Zion
 Hagenow, Margaret A. Schroeder – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Hambaum, Patricia S. Stange – Reese, Trinity
 Hansell, Christopher G. – Jackson, Trinity
 Hawkins, Wendy A. Knox – Utica, Trinity
 Hecht, Annie R. Buchanan – Portage, St. Michael
 Hegenauer, Diane L. Heyl – Wayne, St. Michael
 Heinert, Karla S. – Dearborn, Guardian
 Heins, Dawn R. Landmesser – Royal Oak, St. Paul
 Hindenach, Deanna J. Brill – Paw Paw, Trinity
 Hoeft, James M. – Dearborn, Guardian
 Hoepfner, Carrie E. Severin – Richville, St. Michael's
 Holzer, Katie A. Hermann – Southgate, Christ the King
 Homrich, Kaeleen R. Sugden – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Iliff, Melissa L. Kerns – Saginaw, Holy Cross
 Jackemeyer, Sarah M. – Berrien Springs, Trinity
 Jahnke, Lisa K. Turner – Saginaw, Holy Cross
 Jakubs, Alison J. Schmidt – Saint Joseph, Trinity
 Janetzke, Kristen S. Billig – Rochester, St. John
 Jung, Sara M. Anderson – Rochester, St. John
 Johnson, Andrea E. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Johnson, Leah J. Livo – Southgate, Christ the King
 Jones, Amanda R. Kajjala – Flint, St. Paul
 Kaschube, Elizabeth M. Ueckert – Muskegon, Trinity
 Keller, Michael T. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Kelly, Kimberly A. – Saint Joseph, Trinity
 Kern, Kimberly L. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Keuning, Hannah R. – Utica, Trinity
 Keup, Aaron W. – Reed City, Trinity
 Kiehl, Peter J. – Utica, Trinity
 Kitzman, Laura A. Benson – Wayne, St. Michael
 Koboldt, Mary E. Dietzel – Saginaw, Peace
 Kolusk, Diane L. Priskorn – Wayne, St. Michael
 Konkel, Lynnette S. Jensen – Southgate, Christ the King
 Korte, Faith C. – Lansing, Our Savior
 Kosciuk, Sarah D. – Macomb, Immanuel
 Kowalke, Julie A. – Macomb, St. Peter
 Krause, Jennifer L. Dietrich – Richville, St. Michael's
 Krieger, Ruth A. Dubke – Berrien Springs, Trinity
 Krueger, Brendan J. – Saginaw, Bethlehem
 Kundinger, Debra J. Bach – Sebawaing, Immanuel
 Kurien, Rebekah L. Bullock – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 LaFontaine, Cindy R. Havemeier – Grand Blanc, Faith
 Laingren, Bailey R. Bosman – Southgate, Christ the King
 Lanning, Chantal M. Kulczycki – Macomb, Immanuel
 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
 Leinberger, Timothy D. – Macomb, St. Peter
 Lepley, Wendi M. Rittersdorf – Conklin, Trinity
 Lindenfelser, Lynn M. Duhl – Dearborn, Guardian
 Lindhurst, Katryne M. Adas – Utica, Trinity
 List, Jessica R. Helwig – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 List, Katherine A. Miller – Lansing, Our Savior
 Lyon, David R. – China, Shanghai, Concordia International
 MacKinnon, Kasey R. Gugel – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Makowski, Rebecca L. – Saginaw, Peace
 Manthei, Gregory W. – New Boston, St. John's
 Markiewicz, Hannah R. Volz – Sebawaing, Immanuel
 Massey, Elaine L. Holmes – Midland, St. John's
 Matasovsky, Dina C. Cristante – Wayne, St. Michael
 Mazur, Tammy E. M. – Lansing, Our Savior
 McCollister, Allison M. Drake – Dearborn, Guardian
 McGrath, Janis M. Movsesian – Macomb, St. Peter
 Meier, Jessica L. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Meier, William F. – Wayne, St. Michael
 Mick, Beth A. Kah – Rochester, St. John
 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
 Mort, Sarah B. – Berrien Springs, Trinity
 Mueller, Dawn M. Klein – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Myers, Paula M. Heddle – Utica, Trinity
 Nelson, Gary R. – Rochester, St. John
 Newman, Katherine G. – New Boston, St. John's
 Neumeyer, Karen B. Koenig – Rochester, St. John
 Neumeyer, Scott R. – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Newton, LaRayne S. Stanek – Richville, St. Michael's
 Nimtz, Wendy E. Blus – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Novak, Julie M. Spurgat – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 O'Meara, Elizabeth E. Plaehn – Macomb, Immanuel
 Osbron, Paige K. Pomroy – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Palmreuter, David W. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Parks, Trevor A. – Reese, Trinity
 Pearson, Kathryn L. Kraai – Saginaw, Peace
 Pelltier, Carol A. Rivera – Macomb, St. Peter
 Pett, Ellen C. Helmreich – Bay City, Immanuel
 Pett, Royden D. – Saginaw, Peace
 Pfeiffer, Linda M. – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Pfund, Susan E. Grush – Rochester, St. John
 Piasecki, Allison J. Leach – Rochester Hills, Crown of Life
 Pichan, Thomas A. – Wayne, St. Michael
 Pierce, Deborah A. – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Pike, Kamie L. Reinbold – Reese, Trinity
 Pittman, Janel D. Weisenbach – Saginaw, Peace
 Plopper, Sydney A. – Macomb, Immanuel
 Pomroy, Courtney L. Wahl – Southgate, Christ The King
 Priem, Sadie N. McDaniel – Bay City, Zion
 Reck, Jennifer D. Glahn – Muskegon, Trinity
 Reddeman, Rachel – Dearborn, Guardian
 Reed, Taylor K. – Fraser, St. John
 Reinert, Daniel M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Reinking, Martha B. Meineke – Utica, Trinity
 Rich, Mary B. Aufdemberge – Rochester, St. John
 Richardson, Brenda C. Koglin – Fraser, St. John
 Riley, Melinda L. Geer – Macomb, Immanuel
 Rinkinen, Jenna E. – Traverse City, Trinity
 Riske, Angela C. – Auburn, Zion
 Ristow, Beth A. Aufdemberge – Monroe, Holy Ghost
 Roberts, Gerald M. – Grand Rapids, Our Savior
 Rockwell, Lori L. Laux – Saginaw, Immanuel
 Rohde, Molly J. Helmreich – Richmond, St. Peter's
 Rossi, Jennifer S. Haglund – Saginaw, Peace
 Saleska, Candice O. Noelker – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz

Samsell, Christopher N. – Bay City, Immanuel
 Sarkkinen, Amy A. – Sturgis, Trinity
 Schaeff, Natalie M. Yurgens – Saginaw, Peace
 Schaffer, Joel P. – New Boston, St. John's
 Scheeres, Maribeth – Fraser, St. John
 Scheiwe, Wendy A. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Schettenhelm, Karla J. Witt – Livonia, Christ Our Savior
 Schilling, Rebecca A. Massel – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Schmidt, Kurt E. – Royal Oak, St. Paul
 Schmit, Steven P. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Schoenknecht, Paul R. – Saginaw, Immanuel
 Schroeder, Katherine L. – Macomb, Immanuel
 Schultz, Amy J. Schinkel – Alpena, Immanuel
 Schurig, Kathy A. Fritz – Shelby Township, Peace
 Schwaegerle, Judy L. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Schwark, Sadie A. Nier – Fraser, St. John
 Sellers, Tammy L. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Sharman, Ian M. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Sheppard, Loren K. Popke – Utica, Trinity
 Sherry, Patrice N. Giltrop – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Siekmann, Timothy C. – Utica, Trinity
 Singer, Connie L. Ziegler – Millington, St. Paul
 Smith, Jennifer M. – Utica, Trinity
 Smith, Jennifer M. Schaedig – Traverse City, Trinity
 Smith, Rebecca E. – Saginaw, Bethlehem
 Smith-Hubbell, Mary-Bethany A. Atkins – Saginaw, Peace
 Spiehs, Shawna L. Voelker – Utica, Trinity
 Splattstoesser, Kelsey E. Baarck – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Steffens, Heather A. Dorn – Stevensville, Christ
 Stockmeyer, Heidi M. – Clinton Township, Trinity
 Stoelting, Daniel D. – Traverse City, Trinity
 Stoelting, Lara D. Birnstein – Traverse City, Trinity

Strieter, Hope B. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Strieter, Rachel M. Westendorf – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Tausz, Lydia G. – Grand Rapids, Our Savior
 Teltow, Kelly N. Laeder – Macomb, St. Peter
 Theimer, Jessica L. Strefling – Midland, St. John's
 Thomas, Julie R. – Royal Oak, St. Paul
 Toman, Laura K. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Tomashewsky, Suzanne B. Birkholz – Bay City, Trinity
 Topel, Matthew – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Topel, Samantha J. Schroeder – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Topel, Wendy S. C. VanBreda – Fraser, St. John
 Valente, Elizabeth A. Mooney – Jackson, Trinity
 Wagner, Erin R. St. Bernard – Fraser, St. John
 Wallace, Jeffery L. – Stevensville, Christ
 Walter, Teresa I. Holle – Millington, St. Paul
 Walters, Paulette E. – Sturgis, Trinity
 Wargo, Nicole N. Hurttgam – Macomb, St. Peter
 Wascher, Charridan A. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Weber, Carol A. Kamasis – Millington, St. Paul
 Weidner, Christina M. Hile – Reese, Trinity
 Weiss, Rebecca A. Lehenbauer – Fraser, St. John
 Welch, Jennifer J. – Grand Rapids, Immanuel
 Wentzel, Katrina A. – Stevensville, Christ
 Weston, Amy J. Osborne – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Williamson, Katie L. Widstrand – Fraser, St. John
 Wilson, Elizabeth E. Nimtz – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
 Winston, Valerie J. – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Winterstein, Jill N. Topham – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Wolter, Anthony V. – Hemlock, St. Peter
 Worm, Maralyse K. Bedroske – Portage, St. Michael
 Wyman, Kelly A. Blomstrom – Bay City, St. Paul

Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit

Looker, Paul J. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
 Lorenzen, Micah J. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit

Principals in Lutheran High Schools

* Angers, Kristine A. Martz – Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High
 Baughman, Kristina L. Schulenburg – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High
 Northwest
 Brown, Justin T. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
 Meyers, Lisa H. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 Reincke, John M. – Macomb, Lutheran High North

* Indicates Principal/Teacher

Assistant Principals in Lutheran High Schools

* Cmeyla, William P. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 * Hardy, Timothy D. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 * Klausmeier, Jacob A. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest

* Indicates Assistant Principal/Teacher

Educators in Lutheran High Schools

Abraham, Caleb J. G. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 Baglow, Ryan T. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
 Brandt, John E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Brauer, Jennifer L. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
 Braun, Douglas J. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
 Brown, David C. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
 Brown, Jared S. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Cooper, Amy M. Morton – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 Cooper, Benjamin P. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 Cruz, Melissa K. Waldie – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 Davis, Jeffrey M. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
 Doyle, Barbara E. Stoll – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 Dumar, John E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Ebel, Anne M. Frank – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Ebel, Hannah J. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
 Ebel, William H. Jr. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Elliott, David W. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
 Ellison, Robert H. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Eschmann, Paul D. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 Felten, Mark G. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Fink, Kelly L. Wiegand – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
 Greve, Timothy M. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Grobelny, Cheryl A. Hoscheit – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Guenther, Douglas D. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
 Gutenkunst, Gary A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Hackbarth, Samuel O. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Haupt, Natalie A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Hiddings, Michael – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Horvath, Brian R. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Jagoda, Pamela J. Mendieta – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Jolliff, Katherine S. Gramzow – Macomb, Lutheran High North
 Klausmeier, Veronica M. Danne – Rochester Hills, Lutheran
 High Northwest
 Kleine, Racheal A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North

Kosmatka, Amy B. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Kusch, David S. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Leapley, Elizabeth G. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Lower, Joseph W. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Mandziara, Nicole L. Schlessman – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Meyer, David J. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Montney, Matthew R. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Mueller, Lindsay E. Meyer – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Neumeyer, Paul L. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Phillips, Anne M. Hoft – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Pollatz, Brian M. – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Ruth, David G. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Schaidt, Lauren A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Seta, Savannah J. Diroff – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Sievert, Rachel J. Mussell – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High

Smith, Eric R. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Stahlecker, Karla M. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Stange, Jessica A. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Sugden, Rebecca J. Eifert – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Thompson, Steven L. – Wyoming, West Michigan Lutheran High
Unger, Allison M. Meineke – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Unger, Daniel E. – Westland, Lutheran High Westland
Volkert, Marianne E. Kuschmann – Rochester Hills, Lutheran High Northwest
Weilnau, Jeanette N. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Wenzelburger, Garrett – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Wesley, Ryan E. – Macomb, Lutheran High North
Winningham, Patrick A. – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Winter, Elizabeth A. Turanski – Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High

Directors of Christian Education

Avery, Ryan J. – Macomb, Immanuel
Busse, Donald R. – Trenton, St. Paul
Esselman, Luke M. – Coopersville, Grace
Grenz, Melinda S. Scott – Wyandotte, Trinity
Grube, Aaron E. – Kalamazoo, Zion
Hollman, Linda M. Kirchner – Livonia, Christ Our Savior
Jung, Scott L. – Holland, Zion
Kempin, Karen L. Chance – Midland, St. John's
Martinal, Rebekah E. Wrase – Adrian, Hope
Nelson, David A. – Ann Arbor, St. Luke

Nelson, Holly M. Smith – Shelby Township, Peace
Revard, Stephanie R. Weldon – Birch Run, St. Martin
Rupe, Dawn M. Ruelle – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
Schultz, Josiah D. – Gladwin, Our Savior
Schutt, Kim D. – Trenton, St. Paul
Siebarth, Jolene R. – Jenison, Holy Cross
Welte, John A. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
Wilson, Steven R. – Rochester, St. John
Zander, Joel R. – Grand Blanc, Faith

Directors of Christian Outreach

Bode, Timothy A. – Southgate, Christ the King

Deaconesses

Brand, Lisa A. Amb – Bay City, Immanuel
Bulgrien, Rachel R. Finck – Harbor Beach, Zion
Dashkevicz, Shirley J. – Hemlock, St. Peter
Hansard, Christie L. Rowe – Grand Blanc, Faith
Kern, Hanna M. Hoffbeck – Marlette, Our Savior
Musa, Rahel – Haslett, St. Luke

Neuendorf, Christel A. – Saint Louis, LCMS Board for International Mission
Polk, Norma P. – Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel
Rice, Diana Lei – Hartland, Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society
Yakimow, Miriam R. Sailer – Hamburg, St. Paul

Directors of Family Life

Berry, Jenna R. Lipinski – Macomb, Immanuel
Brazeal, Andrew J. – Utica, Trinity
Brown, Alexandra R. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Davis, Stephanie L. – Utica, Trinity
Horning, Brian C. – Petoskey, Zion
Kittleman, Joshua B. – Livonia, Christ Our Savior
Kruger, Anna C. – Midland, St. John's
Ressler, Amanda F. – Clarkston, St. Trinity

Ribar, Vicki L. Booker – Fenton, Trinity
Schultz, Megan B. – Ann Arbor, Michigan District, LCMS
Simon, Zane A. – Caro, St. Paul
Walsh, Hannah R. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Walsh, Kimber L. Richard – Jackson, Redeemer
Witto, Gregory P. – Saline, Christ Our King
Wright, David M. – Lansing, Our Savior

Directors of Parish Music

Beethe, Nathan A. – Auburn, Grace
Bowdish, Grant A. – Battle Creek, St. Mark
Coomer, Hannah E. – Grand Haven, St. John's
Dexter, Johanna L. Hilfiker – Jenison, Holy Cross
Duncan, Amy J. Miles – Ann Arbor, ULC
Eifert, Jonathan D. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Hansen, Ankara T. Greenwood-Armstrong – Saginaw, Good Shepherd
Hansen, Maxwell A. – Saginaw, Good Shepherd

Heinlein, Brian J. – Hemlock, St. Peter
Kutch, Michael R. – DeWitt, Hope
McManus, Austin J. – Dearborn, Guardian
Penhallegon, Gabriel C. – Chelsea, Our Savior
Peters, Mark G. – Leland, Immanuel
Russell, Charles P. – Macomb, St. Peter
Winterstein, Thomas J. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Zieschang, Zachary M. – Dearborn, Emmanuel

Parish Assistants

Krueger, Richard C. – Grand Rapids, Messiah
Tedesco, Kimberly J. Richalt – Lapeer, St. Paul

Director of Church Ministries

Baumann, Russell G. – Montague, St. James
Seehafer, Tyler N. – Ann Arbor, St. Paul

Special Ministries

Anderson, Lisa M. Klute – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Armbrecht, Carol M. Jeske – Saginaw, Peace
Bickel, Randall J. – Birch Run, St. Martin
Bolwerk-Heien, Anne C. – Walled Lake, St. Matthew
Fanta, Amy L. Carrier – Detroit, Camp RD, Inc.
Geikas, Sarah M. Kaufman – Bay City, Immanuel
Horak, John B. – Lansing, Our Savior
Johnson, Christine A. Eberhard – Eastpointe, St. Peter's
Kirchenberg, Mark R. – Manistee, Trinity
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
Moro, Martin L. III – Ann Arbor, MOST Ministries
Nimtz, Mark A. – Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Paul, Gregory L. – Royal Oak, St. Paul
Schimm, Peter A. – Bay City, St. John
Sievert, Benjamin D. – Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Wieneke, Lori S. MacKay – Grand Rapids, St. Matthew

Lutheran Special Education Ministries

Hoch, Robert M.
Kasper, Holly E. Burggraf
McGhee, Stacy J.
Schumacher, Linda L. Laux

Schumacher, Richard W. Jr.
Scott, Kimberly A. Albrecht
Thomas, Terri M. Smith
Tucker, Lori D. Hegler

Concordia University Ann Arbor

Chuhran, Kyle B.
Refenes, James L.
Schumacher, Joshua S.

Candidates

Auxter, Annalyse M.
Barker, Autumn M. Carter
Bauer, Todd D.
Bienz, Clinton E.
Boewe, Amy E. Marasus
Carr, Allison J. Guse
Clements, Taylor N. Kaniuk
Corker, Lynn N.
Croucher, Sarah R. Steffe
Davis, Elizabeth M.
Demo, Maida R. Sevon
DeSimpelare, Susan M. Nobis
Drinane, Nicole R. Lovasz
Eberhard, Charlotte F. Mueller
Enge, Heidi A. Seiter
Felten, Michael J.
Ferguson, Rose E. Meinert
Flanick, Meghan L. O'Hara
Flegler, Samantha M. Brown
Geraci, Rachel C. Fickenscher
Gerken, Terri N. Neer
Goehmann, Heidi L. Weirich
Grage, Glenn G.
Harbaugh, Kara E. Garvelink
Hardy, Kristin E. Hirt
Hartfield, Kathryn J. Sattler
Heissenbuettel, Brenda M.

Hessler, Lindsey S. Raney
Hildebrand, Laura A. Giger
Hinze, LeRae I. Mossner
Hire, Matthew J.
Hoerner, Miriam J. Stock
Hohnstadt, Kyra M.
Huth, Daniel R.
Johnson, Emily D. Chapman
Keinath, Julie L. Hooper
Knea, Sara J. Wells
Koch, Matthew P.
Lagalo, Ruth J. Heinlein
Lovett, Jillian K. McNally
Mead, Katherine A. Tucker
Mehltreter, Andrew W.
Merz, Jessica L. Stoltenberg
Meyer, Kelly M. Grabarczyk
Mueller, Scott R.
Nett, Alyssa R. Gipp
Newell, Johanna F. Eschmann
Noelker, James E.
Patron, Mika A.
Petzold, Julian H.
Philp, Sharon D. Meier
Rachow, Joel W.
Reiser, Sandra K.
Rogner, Andrea M. Weiss

Rush II, James G.
Schaedig, Kelli R.
Scheske, Melissa M.
Schultz, Jane E.
Schultz, Sarah M.
Siemen, Rachel K. Gehm
Steinke, Eric D.
Streeter, Amber E.
Szwarc, Elizabeth S. Parrish
VanTol, Rebecca S. Reed
Vecsernyes, Evelyn L.
Wade, Christine L. Koenig
Wangelin, Kristin J.
Weiss, Bethany A.
Wentzel, Anne C. Natzke
Werner, Courtney M. Dykema
Wert, Emilyann P. Pool
Zimmerman, Anna L. Reincke
Zucker, Denys M. Erickson

Emeriti

Allen, Ronald M.
Altevogt, Lester L.
Anders, Brian L.
Anderson, James C.
Annas, Michelle L. Platts
Argue, Joanne R. Prudek
Arnett, Gregory S.
Attenberger, David F.
Aubuchon, Barbara A. Hoefft
Aufdemberge, Erwin J.
Aufdemberge, Theodore P.
Aughe, Kent J.
Barrie, Pamela M. A. Wilson
Beckman, Katherine S. Krieger
Behm, Constance R. Rengstorf

Bender, Edgar L.
Bender, Michael H.
Bergkoetter, Molly A. Schechte
Beringer, Daniel W.
Beringer, Gloria L. Gehner
Berns, Nancy E. Jung
Berthold, Ann L. Williams
Bira, Carolyn I. Spatz
Bird, Terry L. Smith
Bishop, Mary J. Lutz
Blake, Sharon E. Rachow
Block, Marajeane A. Palmreuter
Blomquist, Barry E.
Brand, Susan L. Gibson
Brandon, Katherine J. Schneider

Brandon, Kevin J.
Brandt, John M.
Brandt, Susan R.
Braun, Bruce N.
Brautnick, Janice M. McGorman
Bremer, David A.
Bresemann, Linda G. Houren
Bresemann, Perry A.
Brown, David E.
Brunk, Donna J.
Buchinger, Lori A. Haines
Buchinger, Steven L.
Buescher, Barbara A. Wiltenburg
Bunke, James E.
Bunkelman, James O.

Campbell, Gary H.
 Carlton, Joann M. Wiesehan
 Carrier, Lori J. Grimshaw
 Carroll, Dorothy M. Bartusch
 Case, Susan G. Grau
 Ceplecha, Paula I. North
 Choroba, Katherine J. Kuhl
 Christian, Robert J.
 Clark, Dennis W.
 Clark, Mary E. Williams
 Claus, Donna M. Oppermann
 Colley, Ann M. Fisher
 Conger, Norene J. Hass
 Covell, Mary A. Hein
 Cowan, Beth A.
 Davis, Kathryn R. Koenig
 Davis, Leanne S. Schlaefke
 Davis, Terry M.
 Dean, Karen A. Werth
 Decheim, Sandra E. Niemi
 Dembeck, David E.
 Dickinson, Melinda S. Bathke
 Dietrich, Clifford A.
 Dobler, Lori A. Holey
 Doeblner, Lynda M.
 Dohrmann, Jane M. Bergman
 Draves, Thomas J.
 Dressler, Ronald L.
 Drinan, Lori J. Weir
 Dunklau, Edward H.
 Dunklau, Linda J. Bork
 Eckert, Lorraine R. Kissau
 Edenfield, Marilyn J. Kluck
 Earley, Karen L. Gross
 Eisenman, Barbara M. Kade
 Eisman, Kathleen S. Ott
 Ernst, Timothy L.
 Eyster, Carol M. Simmons
 Faerber, Janise M. Lehl
 Faszholz, Gary W.
 Fechik, Carol A. Voss
 Finkel, Linda L. Callender
 Fischer, Karen E. Murphy
 Fish, Dale W.
 Fischer, Dennis H.
 Florip, Eunice E. Merz
 Foerster, Robert C.
 Frank, George C.
 Fredrich, Peter D.
 Freudenburg, Benjamin F.
 Fricke, John M.
 Fritz, Beverly A. Knuth
 Frusti, Kathleen H. Robertson
 Frusti, Timothy M.
 Fuller, Lynne E. Erikson
 Gallagher, John J.
 Gast, Carolyn R. Fischer
 Gast, Frederick J.
 Gehrs, Kathleen A. Sandfort
 Geil, Jean R. Hendrich Sundell
 Gengler, Constance C. Koester
 Genig, Dennis K.
 Gerds, Fredrick A.
 Gerlach, Eileen K. Altenburg
 Gerlach, John W.
 Gibson, Lisette L. Lueker
 Gierach, Raymond C.
 Gioe, Christopher M.
 Gioe, Louise E. Scheueman
 Goehmann, Rodney P.
 Goetz, Lois A. Mortensen
 Grays, Jean M. Overgaard
 Green, Sheila M. Patchett
 Gremel, Bruce A.
 Greve, Karen L. Faszholz
 Greve, Wendy F. Fischer
 Grimm, Ellen K. Dedert
 Gruber, Mary M. Janssens
 Grupe, Larry R.
 Gulliver, Holly A.
 Hall, Carl G.
 Hanke, Elsie C. Hessemann
 Harris, Valerie J.
 Hass, Kenneth E.
 Hauser, Janet L. Johnson Stoll
 Havers, Brenda E. Krzyske
 Heck, David P.
 Heck, Zonna L. King
 Helmreich, Harry J.
 Hermann, Randi S. Rush
 Hessler, Dorothy E. Scheck
 Hilken, John C.
 Hilsabeck, Janet E. Roberts
 Hinck, Barbara A. List
 Hinck, John T.
 Hiske, Beverly G.
 Hoch, Arthur G.
 Hoch, Judith L. Bohl
 Hofmeister, Kurt R.
 Hoerauf, Karen F. Strickert
 Hollrah, Deanna S.
 Hooper, Susan L. Repp
 Hopp, Jerry L.
 Hoskey, Brenda L. Otto
 Hurd, Loraine K. Einspahr
 Jackson, Kristen M. Nagy
 Jacques, Krista E. Pfeiffer
 Jammer, Bonnie M.
 Jansen, Mari-Beth Ingalls
 Jaremba, Marcia S. Sonnenberg
 Jones, Katherine A. Schafer
 Kacmar, Dawn S. Gerike
 Kalmes, Michael W.
 Kaschinske, Kenneth A.
 Kasper, Deborah L. Brandt
 Kayser, Doris A.
 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.
 Knuth, Fred F.
 Koch, Beverly J.
 Kohtz, Roger O.
 Kolb, Arlene C.
 Kolberg, Deborah L. Ziebart
 Kooi, Patti J. Walter
 Koschmann, Mark E.
 Kosman, Paul K.
 Kosmatka, Bruce J.
 Kovtun, George G.
 Kratz, Dean E.
 Krause, Alan C.
 Krause, Beth E. Appold
 Krause, Sandra L. Grousnick
 Kressbach, Frederick M.
 Krone, James R.
 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.
 LaRocque, Janet E.
 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, Vicky L. Schreiner
 Livo, Gilbert R.
 Lockhart, Carol E. Jennejahn
 Lockhart, Susan J. Smith
 Looker, Mark S.
 Louden, Sandra J. Hyatt
 Lucas, Cindy L. Doede
 Lucas, Krista M. Kuhl
 Lukacs, Katherine D. Hoops
 Machemer, Susan M. Teske
 Mahler, William A.
 Marino, Quentin M.
 Martin, Kathy A.
 Marton, Kenneth R.
 Matzke, Sally L. Ebert
 McClatchey, Rita I. Simanis
 McNally, Brian D.
 McNeil, David A.
 McQueen, Carla J. Wardin
 Meseke, Steven D.
 Meyer, David J.
 Meyers, Anita G. Steufert
 Miles, Robert G.
 Milnikel, Jennifer J. Engel
 Milroy, Lori J. Pless
 Minda, Keith A.
 Moehring, David P.
 Moehring, Mary M. Bahr
 Moerer, Lucille P.
 Mohlenhoff, Richard W.
 Moilanen, Karen K. Hemming
 Moritz, Lorelle R. Baumgart
 Muck, Susan K. Thumm
 Mueller, Robert K.
 Mueller, Walter O.
 Muhl, Carol M. Anderson
 Nelson, Geraldine E. Menth
 Nemeck, Carol A. Stabler
 Neuhart, Norma D.
 Neumann, Gary J.
 Neumeyer, Dennis K.
 Neumeyer, Marsha J. Jastram
 Nieman, Lenore K. Kelly
 Nihiser, Jane A. Wollenburg
 Nobis, Judy A. Hospodar
 Nobis, Lloyd B.

Noel, Marie A. Fetterer
Nuffer, Patricia Squibb
O'Boyle, Sharilyn M. Specht
Olsen, Matthew W.
Olson, John R.
Opel, Robert Warren
Ott, Donna J. Paris
Otto, Jane M.
Otto, Phyllis F. Foreman
Packard, Trudy G. Stafne
Pagano, MaryAnn Sembach
Pagels, Doris E. Meyermann
Pagels, James D.
Palmer, Rachel M.
Paselk, Renate E. Erhardt
Pauli, Elaine E.
Pawlitz, Carol J. McCollum
Pawlitz, Gary L.
Pedersen, Fred R.
Pfannkuch, Darrell L.
Pfeiffer, Ann M. Kaiser
Pickelman, Maureen R.
Pittman, Eric G.
Prechel, Dennis O.
Precht, Kenneth P.
Priehs, Karen L. Kvorika
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
Rapson, Andrea K. Beck
Rashid, Janet M. Schott
Rathje, Lynda L. Scarr
Rauschert, Cynthia K. Appold
Rawson, Kathleen N. Glade
Reinhardt, Karen S. Krohe
Riske, Ralph H.
Ritz, Wanda L.
Rochlitz, David W.
Rockensuess, Larry H., Sr.
Rolf, Cheryl J. Hahn
Rosentreter, Kathy E.
Roth, Carlyn J. Hodde
Roth, James A.
Roth, Leslie D.
Rudick, Annette K.
Rudick, Barbara A. Klug
Rudy, Sally L.
Samsell, Alva L.
Sasse, Linda K. Maitland
Schalk, Linda S. Hopp
Schamber, Bonnie L. Struck
Scheiwe, Jean R. Rodammer
Scheiwe, Warren A.
Schiefer, Mark T.
Schiemann, Kathleen R. Wardin
Schilling, Timothy R.
Schimm, Naomi R. Rush
Schley, Margaret J. Trautman
Schmidt, Dennis M.
Schmidt, Paul M.
Schmidt, Sandra J. Toennies
Schmit, Harvey M.
Schmucker, Calvin F.
Schneider, Janis E.
Schnuell-Ruth, Karen D. Ragsdale
Schoenherr, Barbara I. Jammer
Schollmeyer, Robert C.

Schroeder, Dorothy J. Succop
Schroeder, Kenneth W.
Schuck, Kathleen A. Alatalo
Schultz, Mark A.
Schultz, Patricia A. Nagel
Schumacher, James L.
Schwecke, Shirley D. Stuewe
Schwecke, Steven A.
Sebold, Marcia L. Mueller
Sheldon, David A.
Siefker, Roy D.
Skov, Neil M.
Smith, Alice E. Kratt
Smith, Gail H. Graham
Snyder, Brigid A.
Sohn, Kristine K. Reimann
Sonntag, Connie L. Kundinger
Sorgatz, James F.
Sorgatz, Marian A. Helmreich
Sprow, Keith R.
Stark, Debora A. Willing
Stathakis, Carol B. Schnake
Steffens, Mark C.
Stevenson, Betty J. Potts
Stordahl, Jean A. Weigt
Streeter, Kim E.
Stresman, Kenneth C.
Stresman, Kevin D.
Strohacker, Charles J.
Sturgess, Jacqueline M. Montabeau
Sturm, Raymond T.
Sundermann, Dianne S.
Taggart, Linda J. Lapinsky
Taylor, Marcia D.
Topel, Timothy L.
Topel, Stanley R.
Trinklein, Rebecca M.
Trinklein, Susan M. Blattner
Truog, David J.
Truog, Susan L. Carroll
Twork, Clara J.
Ulmer, Laurie L. Bonzchowski
Unger, Andrea L. Walters
Unger, Michael E.
Van Dellen, Carol A. Harriman
Vanick, Edward W.
Verseman, Dennis H.
Voelz, Robert T.
Vogtmann, Janet L. Roth
Volz, Karen R. Nitz
von Fange, Susan D.
Vorwerk, Dale H.
Voss, Sharon L.
Waak, Vera C. Lovercamp
Waltz, David E.
Walz, Christine J.
Ward, Donna J. Feltner
Warnick, Harriet H. Lange
Warnick, Howard J.
Washburn, Debra S. Kohler
Watson, Marie C. Buvelot
Weber, Karlton R.
Wedde, Deborah D. Keller
Weier, Kent G.
Wegener, Luanne S.
Wegener, Thomas L.
Weisenbach, Janice L. Dove
Weismantel, Paul O.
Weiss, Jared L.
Weiss, Muriel J. Pingel
Wellander, Ronald E.
Werderman, Amy L. Rohde

Werschky, Sharon L. Schnitker
Wesenberg, Deborah L.
Westendorf, Karen S. Renkert
Wheeler, Julie A. Bittner
White, Pamela K. Ochs
Wiersig, Christine C. AuBuchon
Wiersig, W. Dan
Wilke, Nancy E.
Wilks, Myril A.
Williams, Allan A.
Williams, Elizabeth V.
Williams, Janice L. Spates
Wills, Paul R.
Wisnieski, Rebecca R. Rosso
Witchger, Ann G. Gerstacker
Witte, Dennis E.
Witte, Lucie E. Stelter
Wittig, Evelyn D. Sell
Wittrock, John H.
Wolf, Charles H.
Wood, Janice M.
Wrase, William R.
Wrobleski, Richard E.
Young, Brian A.
Zappitell, Kathleen M. Gerber
Zehnder, James W.
Zehnder, W. Sherrill Moeckei
Zink, Charlene J. Little

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned Roster Changes

March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2025

Entered the District Through Graduation or Colloquy

Adams, Grace K. (Ann Arbor) to Clinton Township, Trinity
Andrzejewski, Rachel M. (Cq. Seward) to Macomb, St. Peter
Bickel, Reagan B. Geno (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Brown, Justin T. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Cronkright, Brandi L. Mitti (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester, St. John
Ellison, Robert H. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Gehm, Rebecca A. (Mequon) to Richville, St. Michael's
Hackbarth, Samuel O. (Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Hohnstadt, Kyra M. (Mequon) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Homrich, Kaeleen R. Sugden (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Hemlock, St. Peter
Iliff, Melissa L. Kerns (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Holy Cross
Jackemeyer, Sarah M. (Ann Arbor) to Berrien Springs, Trinity
Johnson, Leah J. Livo (Seward) to Southgate, Christ the King
Jolliff, Katherine S. Gramzow (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Macomb, Lutheran High North
Jung, Sara M. Anderson (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester, St. John
Kasper, Holly E. Burggraf (Cq. Seward) to Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries
Krueger, Brendan J. (River Forest) to Saginaw, Bethlehem
Leapley, Elizabeth G. (Seward) to Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
LaPerriere, Sandra J. Weig (Cq. Seward) to Macomb, St. Peter
Massey, Madison N. (Ann Arbor) to Macomb, St. Peter
Newman, Katherine G. (Mequon) to New Boston, St. John's
Prisby, Tyler M. (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Reddeman, Rachel (Ann Arbor) to Dearborn, Guardian
Schaeff, Natalie M. Yurgens (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Saginaw, Peace
Schroeder, Lydia E. (Ann Arbor) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul
Schwark, Sadie A. Nier (Mequon) to Fraser, St. John
Sherry, Patrice N. Giltrop (Cq. Ann Arbor) to Hemlock, St. Peter
Splattstoesser, Kelsey E. Baarck (Seward) to Bay City, Zion
Tausz, Lydia G. (Cq. River Forest) to Grand Rapids, Our Savior
Teltow, Kelly N. Laeder (Ann Arbor) to Macomb, St. Peter
Volz, Hannah R. (Ann Arbor) to Sebewaing, Immanuel

Newly Rostered Directors of Christian Education

Buelow, Janis M. W. (Seward) to Utica, Trinity

Newly Rostered Deaconesses

Bulgrien, Rachel R. Finck (Fort Wayne) to Harbor Beach, Zion
Dashkevicz, Shirley J. (Fort Wayne) to Hemlock, St. Peter
Hansard, Christie L. Rowe (Fort Wayne) to Grand Blanc, Faith
Yakimow, Miriam R. Sailer (Fort Wayne) to Hamburg, St. Paul

Newly Rostered Directors of Family Life

Davis, Stephanie L. (Ann Arbor) to Utica, Trinity

Newly Rostered Directors of Parish Music

Coomer, Hannah E. (Ann Arbor) to Grand Haven, St. John's
Hansen, Ankara T. Greenwood-Armstrong (Irvine) to Saginaw, Good Shepherd
Hansen, Maxwell A. (Irvine) to Saginaw, Good Shepherd
Penhallegon, Gabriel C. (Ann Arbor) to Chelsea, Our Savior

Transferred from Other Districts

Armbrecht, Carol M. Jeske (Northern Illinois District) to Saginaw, Peace
Ballantyne, Lynn C. (California-Nevada-Hawaii) to Trinity, Monroe
Bienz, Clinton E. (Indiana District) as Candidate
Boewe, Amy E. Marasus (Oklahoma District) as Candidate
Bolwerk-Heien, Anne C. (Ohio District) to Walled Lake, St. Matthew
Brand, Lisa A. Amb (Minnesota South District) to Bay City, Immanuel
Dobler, Lori A. Holey (South Wisconsin District) as Emeritus
Ebel, Hannah J. (Ohio District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Elliott, David W. (Pacific Southwest District) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Ennis, Jacob D. (Central Illinois) to Macomb, Immanuel
Esselman, Adele T. Bohnert (Missouri District) to Saint Joseph, Trinity
Flanick, Meghan L. O'Hara (Missouri District) as Candidate
Francik, Christopher D. (Kansas District) to Royal Oak, St. Paul
Fritsche, Christopher R. (Texas District) to Macomb, Immanuel

Fritsche, Kirsten K. Schueler (Texas District) to Macomb, St. Peter
Hessler, Dorothy E. Scheck (California-Nevada-Hawaii District) as Emeritus
Kayser, Doris A. (Mid-South District) as Emeritus
Kern, Hanna M. Hoffbeck (English District) to Marlette, Our Savior
Kiehl, Peter J. (Florida-Georgia District) to Utica, Trinity
Klausmeier, Veronica M. Danne (Southeastern District) as Candidate
Knea, Sara J. Wells (Indiana District) as Candidate
Korte, Faith C. (Indiana District) to Lansing, Our Savior
Kutch, Michael R. (Minnesota South District) as Candidate
Laingren, Bailey R. Bosman (Indiana District) to Southgate, Christ the King
Pfeiffer, Linda M. (South Wisconsin District) to Eastpointe, St. Peter's
Reed, Taylor K. (Ohio District) to Fraser, St. John
Reinbold, Tricia K. Mallory (Nebraska District) to Sturgis, Trinity
Reinking, Martha B. Meineke (Iowa District East) to Utica, Trinity
Riley, Barbara A. Alyea (Ohio District) to Millington, St. Paul
Rinkinen, Jenna E. (South Wisconsin District) to Traverse City, Trinity
Rockwell, Lori L. Laux (Eastern District) to Saginaw, Immanuel
Russell, Charles P. (Mid-South District) to Macomb, St. Peter
Schave, Kimberly L. Carr (Missouri District) to Ann Arbor, Concordia University
Schultz, Jane E. (Texas District) as Candidate
Schultz, Josiah D. (Pacific Southwest District) to Gladwin, Our Savior
Scott, Kimberly A. Albrecht (Indiana District) to Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries
Siebarth, Jolene R. (Missouri District) to Jenison, Holy Cross
Sievert, Rachel J. Mussell (Northern Illinois District) to Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Strieter, Hope B. (Northern Illinois District) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Traska, Keith A. (Minnesota South District) to Saint Joseph, Trinity
Volkert, Marianne E. Kuschmann (Northern Illinois District) as Candidate
Weiss, Bethany A. (Ohio District) as Candidate
Winston, Valerie J. (Northern Illinois) to Eastpointe, St. Peter's
Winterstein, Jill N. Topham (Indiana District) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Winterstein, Thomas J. (Indiana District) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Witte, Dennis E. (Rocky Mountain District) as Emeritus
Witto, Gregory P. (South Wisconsin District) to Saline, Christ Our King
Zieschang, Zachary M. (Nebraska District) to Dearborn, Emmanuel
Zucker, Denys M. Erickson (Minnesota South District) as Candidate

Transferred Within the District

Armbrecht, Louis W. (Macomb, St. Peter) to Dearborn, Guardian
Arrick, Mary S. Petzold (Candidate) to Northville, St. Paul
Ashley, Jeremy R. (Clinton Township, Trinity) to Clinton Township, Trinity (Ordained)
Berry, Jenna R. Lipinski (Candidate) to Macomb, Immanuel
Britton, Joshua D. (Utica, Trinity) to Utica, Trinity (Ordained)
Clark, Lori D. Pettiford (Reinstated) to Rochester, St. John
Cmeyla, William P. (Saginaw, Peace) to Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Cody, Katelyn G. Sievert (Candidate) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Cooper, Amy M. Morton (Candidate) to Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Cruz, Melissa K. Waldie (Bay City, Trinity) to Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High
Donal - Fisher, Karyn M. (Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross) to New Boston, St. John's
Drinane, Nicole R. Lovasz (Candidate) to Westland, St. Matthew
Duncan, Amy J. Miles (Candidate) to Ann Arbor, ULC
Eifert, Jonathan D. (Richville, St. Michael's) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Eifert, Mary M. Webb (Sebewaing, Immanuel) to Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Eising, Emma C. (Reed City, Trinity) to Royal Oak, St. Paul
Esselman, Luke M. (Coopersville, Grace) and Ann Arbor, Michigan District, LCMS
Felten, Jolyn R. Daenzer (Candidate) to Utica, Trinity
Glumm, Julie K. Boes (Bay City, Zion) to Saginaw, Bethlehem
Godbold, Ellen E. Stamm (Candidate) to Grand Rapids, ISJ Academy
Guse', Paul B., Sr. (Bay City, St. John) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Hambaum, Patricia S. Stange (Bay City, St. John) to Reese, Trinity
Hiddings, Michael (Midland, St. John's) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
Hoch, Robert M. (Emeritus) to Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries
Hoeft, James M. (Redford, Hosanna-Tabor) to Dearborn, Guardian
Jones, Amanda R. Kaijala (Candidate) to Flint, St. Paul
Kittleman, Joshua B. (Ann Arbor, Concordia University) to Livonia, Christ Our Savior
Klauer, Susan E. Goebel (Shelby Township, Peace) to Auburn, Zion
Kosciuk, Sarah D. (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) to Macomb, Immanuel
Kutch, Michael R. (Candidate) to DeWitt, Hope
Lepley, Wendi M. Rittersdorf (Candidate) to Conklin, Trinity
Lustila, Gerald J. Jr. (Bay City, St. Paul) to Sturgis, Trinity
Marsh, Benjamin D. (Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate) to Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate (Ordained)
Matyas, Valerie E. Irian (Saginaw, Immanuel) to Bay City, St. Paul
McCollister, Allison M. Drake (Northville, St. Paul) to Dearborn, Guardian

Moro, Martin L. III (Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries) to Ann Arbor, MOST Ministries
 Nelson, Michael A. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) to Shelby Township, Peace
 Neumeyer, Paul L. (Macomb, Immanuel) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
 Parrish, Elizabeth S. (Candidate) to Clinton Township, Trinity
 Pichan, Thomas A. (Redford, Hosanna-Tabor) to Wayne, St. Michael
 Pierce, Deborah A. (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) to Eastpointe, St. Peter's
 Polk, Norma P. (Candidate) to Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel
 Ressler, Amanda F. (Trenton, St. Paul) to Clarkston, St. Trinity
 Ristow, Beth A. Aufdemberge (Reinstated) to Monroe, Holy Ghost
 Saleska, Candice O. Noelker (Candidate) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Schmidt, Kurt E. (Candidate) to Northville, St. Paul
 Schmidt, Kurt E. (Northville, St. Paul) to Royal Oak, St. Paul
 Schoenknecht, Paul R. (Millington, St. Paul) to Saginaw, Immanuel
 Schultz, David M. (Bay City, St. Paul) to Bay City, St. Paul (Ordained)
 Schwaegerle, Judy L. (Redford, Hosanna-Tabor) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Seehafer, Tyler N. (Candidate) to Ann Arbor, St. Paul
 Siemen, Rachel K. Gehm (Candidate) to Ann Arbor, Michigan District, LCMS
 Simon, Zane A. (Shelby Township, Shepherd's Gate) to Caro, St. Paul
 Splattstoesser, Kelsey E. Baarck (Bay City, Zion) to Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
 Steffens, Heather A. Dorn (Saint Joseph, Trinity) to Stevensville, Christ
 Stoelting, Daniel D. (Candidate) to Traverse City, Trinity
 Unger, Allison M. Meineke (Candidate) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
 Vincent, Heath D. (Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High) to Bay City, Immanuel
 Volkert, Marianne E. Kuschmann (Reinstated) to Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit
 Weiss, Rebecca A. Lehenbauer (Candidate) to Fraser, St. John
 Zeddies, Michael F. (Emeritus) to Saginaw, Immanuel

Transferred to Other Districts

Auger, Jr., Robert G. (Emeritus) to Missouri District
 Bakker, Anne E. K. (Candidate) to South Wisconsin District
 Belli, Mark J. (Dearborn, Guardian) to Minnesota South District
 Belongia, Nathan J. (Dearborn, Guardian) to North Wisconsin District
 Biermann, Heather L. (Candidate) to Missouri District
 Blake, Jennifer L. (Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High) to Texas District
 Brenner, Mark D. (Saginaw, Immanuel) to South Wisconsin District
 Brenner, Renee C. Jenista (Reinstated) to South Wisconsin District
 Buelow, Janis M. W. (Utica, Trinity) to Indiana District
 Buesing, Richard G. (Reinstated) to Missouri District
 Esselman, Adele T. Bohnert (Saint Joseph, Trinity) to Missouri District
 Cashmer, Leah F. (Candidate) to Northern Illinois District
 Cody, Katelyn G. Sievert (Candidate) to Nebraska District
 Cody, Robert D. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) to Nebraska District
 Dressler, Kelly L. (Hemlock, St. Peter) to Mid-South District
 Gallert, Frederick D. (Emeritus) to Rocky Mountain District
 Geyer, Stephen H. (Emeritus) to Southern Illinois District
 Grams, Susan E. Ripke (Candidate) to Kansas District
 Grese, Susan J. Turner (Emeritus) to Northern Illinois District
 Griffin, Shirley A. Grayson (Emeritus) to Southern District
 Hackbarth, Richard O. E. (Emeritus) to Iowa District East
 Hausch, Michael F. (Emeritus) to English District
 Heine, Mary L. Nielsen (Emeritus) to Nebraska District
 Heins, Joseph M. (Sebewaing, Immanuel) to Texas District
 Heissenbuettel, Monica M. Frank (Candidate) to English District
 Kayser, Doris A. (Candidate) to Mid-South District
 King, Carole R. (Candidate) to South Wisconsin District
 Lahrman, Sherri L. (Sturgis, Trinity) to Indiana District
 Lanning, Joyce A. Owen (Emeritus) to Pacific Southwest District
 Lewis, Lori J. Kell (Candidate) to Missouri District
 Locke, George M. (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District
 Loren, John M. (Candidate) to Texas District
 Lustila Jr., Gerald J. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Mackie, Ruth E. Garchow (Conklin, Trinity) to North Wisconsin District
 Major, Cynthia C. Schluckebier (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Masengarb, Virginia R. Ungrodt (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District
 Massey, Elizabeth K. (Candidate) to Rocky Mountain District
 Massey, Madison N. (Macomb, St. Peter) to Florida-Georgia District
 McCain, Jean A. Geipel (Emeritus) to Missouri District
 Mellecke, Judith E. (Traverse City, Trinity) to Missouri District
 Oldenburg, Craig S. (Emeritus) to Southern District
 Oldenburg, Mary K. Brown (Emeritus) to Southern District
 Pfeil, Nathanael J. (Candidate) to Iowa District East
 Phifer, Jennifer J. Millerwise (Candidate) to Texas District

Pidososny, Mary L. Fenske (Emeritus) to South Wisconsin District
 Plourde, Randall J. (Big Rapids, St. Peter's) to North Wisconsin District
 Preuss, Micah D. (Candidate) to Southern Illinois District
 Schave, Kimberly L. Carr (Ann Arbor, Concordia University) to Missouri District
 Schimm, Alisha D. Bohnert (Candidate) to English District
 Schroeder, Lydia E. (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) to Ohio District
 Schultz, Andrea J. Harder (Candidate) to North Wisconsin District
 Shirley, Tessa J. Bidinger (Candidate) to North Wisconsin District
 Siebarth, Pamela A. Hahn (Emeritus) to Rocky Mountain District
 Smith Jr., James F. (Emeritus) to Indiana District
 Spanos, Esther M. Giese (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) to Indiana District
 Spear, Alexandra R. (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) to Northern Illinois District
 Strang, Donna J. Reidenbach (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Strang, William J. (Emeritus) to Florida-Georgia District
 Stanley, Lisa S. (Bay City, St. Paul) to Ohio District
 Swartz, Dawn L. Gilmore (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) to Missouri District
 Swartz, Joshua D. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) to Missouri District
 Traska, Keith A. (Saint Joseph, Trinity) to Minnesota South District
 Trent, Keith (Saginaw, Peace) to Ohio District
 Tschudy, Joy N. Doerr (Candidate) to South Wisconsin District
 Tschudy, Matthew D. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) to South Wisconsin District
 von der Lage, Ruth A. Meseke (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) to Indiana District
 Weaver, Hannah F. Bjornstad (Reese, Trinity) to Minnesota South District
 Weiss, Jeffery D. (Candidate) to Indiana District
 Werling, Anna C. (Sebewaing, Immanuel) to Missouri District

INACTIVE

Inactive – Candidate Status

Alexander, Jason L. (Grand Rapids, ISJ Academy) 06/30/2023
 Auxter, Annalyse M. (Northville, St. Paul) 06/15/2023
 Barker, Autumn M. Carter (Fenton, Trinity) 04/21/2022
 Bauer, Todd D. (Rochester, St. John) 09/09/2022
 Brandt, Alayna J. (Grand Rapids, Our Savior) 06/08/2022
 Carr, Allison J. Guse (Utica, Trinity) 05/25/2022
 Cashmer, Leah F. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 08/01/2023
 Cody, Katelyn G. Sievert (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 06/01/2023
 Drinane, Nicole R. Lovasz (Westland, St. Matthew) 06/30/2023
 Duncan, Amy J. Miles (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) 08/15/2023
 Eberhard, Charlotte J. Mueller (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 06/12/2023
 Etheridge, Kimberly D. (Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes) 06/07/2022
 Felten, Michael J. (Oxford, Journey) 5/30/2024
 Ferguson, Rose E. Meinert (Flint, St. Mark) 08/31/2023
 Flegler, Samantha M. Brown (Saginaw, Good Shepherd) 05/29/2022
 Godbold, Ellen E. Stamm (Kentwood, St. Mark) 06/05/2023
 Grage, Glenn G. (Bay City, Faith) 08/19/2022
 Grams, Susan E. Ripke (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) 06/15/2024
 Harbaugh, Kara E. Garvelink (Grand Rapids, Our Savior) 06/30/2023
 Heissenbuettel, Monica M. Frank (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 08/01/2022
 Hildebrand, Laura A. Giger (Stevensville, Christ) 06/15/2023
 Hoerner, Miriam J. Stock (Utica, Trinity) 06/15/2023
 Hohnstadt, Kyra M. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 06/15/2023
 Hoskey, Brenda L. Otto (Millington, St. Paul) 06/10/2022
 Hueseman, James I. (Jenison, Holy Cross) 11/03/2022
 Kayser, Doris A. (Grand Rapids, Messiah) 05/04/2022
 King, Carole R. (Clinton Township, St. Luke) 04/30/2023
 Loren, John M. (Paw Paw, Trinity) 02/12/2023
 May, Karlie A. (Ann Arbor, St. Paul) 06/30/2023
 McDonald, Andrea M. Armstrong (Bay City, Faith) 06/15/2022
 Mead, Katherine A. Tucker (Macomb, Immanuel) 08/14/2023
 Mueller, Scott R. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 09/15/2023
 Nett, Alyssa R. Gipp (Midland, St. John's) 08/15/2023
 Patron, Mika A. (Auburn, Grace) 08/31/2024
 Petzold, Christina C. Schoenknecht (Millington, St. Paul) 08/01/2023
 Petzold, Julian H. (Saginaw, Valley Lutheran High) 6/30/2022
 Pfeil, Nathanael J. (Saginaw, Holy Cross) 05/31/2023
 Phifer, Jennifer J. Millerwise (Paw Paw, Trinity) 06/22/2024
 Preuss, Micah D. (Lansing, Martin Luther High) 07/16/2022
 Prisby, Tyler M. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 06/09/2023
 Rachow, Joel W. (Lapeer, St. Paul) 06/30/2024
 Rogner, Andrea M. Weiss (Macomb, Immanuel) 06/10/2024
 Schultz, Sarah M. (Traverse City, Trinity) 12/18/2022

Shirley, Tessa J. Bidinger (Albion, St. Paul) 05/01/2022
Siemen, Rachel K. Gehm (Ann Arbor, Michigan District, LCMS) 04/18/2023
Steinke, Eric D. (Adrian, St. John's) 08/31/2022
Streeter, Amber E. (Grand Rapids, ISJ Academy) 06/15/2023
Szwarc, Elizabeth S. Parrish (Clinton Township, Trinity) 03/01/2025
VanTol, Rebecca S. Reed (Bay City, St. John) 06/30/2024
Weiss, Jeffery D. (Saint Joseph, Trinity) 02/16/2024
Werner, Courtney M. Dykema (New Boston, St. John's) 07/01/2022
Wert, Emilyann P. Pool (Grand Rapids, Our Savior) 06/30/2024

Inactive – Emeriti Status

Anders, Brian L. (Clinton Township, Trinity) 08/15/2022
Auger, Jr., Robert G. (Bad Axe, Our Savior) 05/20/2024
Aughe, Kent J. (Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods) 02/02/2025
Bird, Terry L. Smith (Saint Joseph, Trinity) 07/31/2022
Brown, David E. (Clinton Township, Trinity) 09/01/2018
Bunkelman, James O. (Monroe, Trinity) 08/14/2022
Ceplecha, Paula I. North (Candidate) 08/01/2022
Davis, Leanne S. Schlaefke (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/31/2023
Drinan, Lori J. Weir (Saginaw, Peace) 06/14/2024
Eyster, Carol M. Simmons (Reese, Trinity) 06/30/2024
Faerber, Janise M. Lehl (New Boston, St. John's) 06/30/2022
Grimm, Ellen K. Dedert (Montague, St. James) 06/01/2023
Gruber, Mary M. Janssens (Monroe, Holy Ghost) 08/15/2022
Harris, Valerie J. (Utica, Trinity) 06/15/2022
Heck, Zonna L. King (Big Rapids, St. Peter's) 07/01/2024
Hinck, Barbara A. List (Westland, St. Matthew) 06/30/2022
Holtzen, Richard O. (Monroe, Trinity) 06/15/2024
Hooper, Susan L. Repp (Grand Blanc, Faith) 07/31/2022
Hoskey, Brenda L. Otto (Candidate) 12/19/2023
Jackson, Kristen M. Nagy (New Boston, St. John's) 06/15/2023
Jammer, Bonnie M. (Auburn, Zion) 06/15/2022
Kosman, Paul K. (Sturgis, Trinity) 07/01/2022
Kressbach, Frederick M. (Macomb, Immanuel) 06/15/2022
LaRocque, Janet E. (Bay City, Immanuel) 07/31/2022
Lucas, Cindy L. Doede (Monroe, Trinity) 07/31/2024
Lucas, Krista M. Kuhl (Traverse City, Trinity) 06/15/2022
Lustila, Gerald J. Jr. (Sturgis, Trinity) 04/27/2023
Machemer, Susan M. Teske (Fraser, St. John) 07/31/2024
Major, Cynthia C. Schluckebier (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/31/2023
Nuffer, Patricia Squibb (Williamsburg, Hands of Mercy) 10/14/2021
O'Boyle, Sharilyn M. Specht (Utica, Trinity) 06/15/2024
Oldenburg, Craig S. (Gowen, Camp Concordia) 03/27/2024
Oldenburg, Mary K. Brown (Gowen, Camp Concordia) 03/27/2024
Prisby, Kelly R. Knight (Macomb, Immanuel) 06/17/2022
Schultz, Mark A. (Dearborn, Emmanuel) 06/30/2024
Siebarth, Pamela A. Hahn (Monroe, Holy Ghost) 06/15/2023
Smith, Gail H. Graham (Westland, St. Matthew) 06/30/2023
Snyder, Brigid A. (Utica, Trinity) 06/15/2022
Sohn, Kristine K. Reimann (Lansing, Our Savior) 06/30/2024
Stathakis, Carol B. Schnake (Birmingham, Our Shepherd) 06/15/2024
Sturgess, Jacqueline M. Montabeau (Eastpointe, St. Peter's) 06/15/2022
Topel, Timothy L. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 06/30/2024
Trinklein, Susan M. Blattner (Shelby Township, Peace) 07/31/2023
Voelz, Robert T. (Southgate, Christ the King) 06/15/2023
Washburn, Debra S. Kohler (Macomb, St. Peter) 06/15/2024
Weber, Karlton R. (Rochester Hills, Lutheran High School Association of Greater Detroit) 06/30/2024
Wedde, Deborah D. Keller (Berrien Springs, Trinity) 06/15/2022
Weisenbach, Janice L. Dove (Ann Arbor, Concordia University) 06/30/2024
Wheeler, Julie A. Bittner (Reese, Trinity) 07/31/2024
Witchger, Ann G. Gerstacker (Ann Arbor, Lutheran Special Education Ministries) 06/30/2023
Zeddies, Michael F. (Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz) 07/31/2024

Reinstated to the Roster

Bach, Lisa A. Rude 05/03/2022	Lewis, Lori J. Kell 09/19/2023
Brenner, Renee C. Jenista 02/07/2024	Schultz, Andrea J. Harder 09/19/2023
Buesing, Richard G. 11/15/2023	Wentzel, Anne C. Natzke 11/15/2023
Earle, Sarah E. Fish 11/15/2023	

Resigned from Roster

Backus, Traci L. Fulghum 11/09/2022
Barger, Anna C. Nielsen 09/09/2024
DeLage, Deborah L. Knight 12/14/2024
Duerr, Lynn C. Ballantyne 09/07/2022
Gruenhagen, Heather S. Thomson 03/16/2024
Hinrichs, Thomas P. 05/22/2022
Korbely, Marie A. Engelhardt 02/06/2025
Loucks, Autumn M. Hyder 06/11/2024

Morey, Karlie A. May 09/20/2024
Pakkala, Deborah L. Falck 03/20/2024
Prisby, Kelly R. Knight 12/10/2024
Prisby, Tyler M. 07/25/2024
Schian, Ruth E. Eichinger 04/27/2022
Schmit, Abigail R. Werner
Tomaszewsky, Andrew C. 07/27/2024
Vincent, Rebecca C. Timm 07/26/2024

Removed from Roster

Alderson, John 07/04/2022
Alexander, Jason L. 08/08/2024
Brandt, Alayna J. 02/06/2023
Eising, Emma C. 10/15/2024
Ennis, Jacob D. 10/17/2023
Etheridge, Kimberly D. 02/06/2023
Ferguson, Steven J. 10/15/2024
Graham, Melissa 06/21/2022
Haines, Renee L. Schoenknecht 02/06/2023
Headapohl, Virginia A. Randall 06/23/2023
Holtzen, Richard O. 08/14/2024
Hueseman, James I. 08/08/2024
Johnson, Paul M. 02/10/2023
Keller, Connie J. Witt 04/22/2024

Kern, Heidi S. Loesel 08/08/2024
Krueger, Bethany A. Daenzer 10/17/2023
McDonald, Andrea M. Armstrong 02/15/2025
McMahon, Petrea L. Schwahn 02/06/2023
Rahn, Kalera 11/14/2022
Rankin, Patricia A. Alderman 06/23/2023
Riske, Elizabeth J. Primeau 08/08/2024
Roth, Sarah C. 08/08/2024
Osborne, Matthew D. 06/10/2022
Petzold, Christina C. Schoenknecht 08/08/2024
Seymour, Kathryn L. Schwecke 08/08/2024
Smith, Mallorie M. 05/01/2023
Wyly, Jeaneen T. 02/06/2023

Called to Glory

Bauer, Nancy K. Kiel 06/29/2023
Bergant, Virginia A. Albers 02/03/2023
Bickel, Elaine C. Petzold 01/10/2023
Dickhudt, Robert J. 06/25/2023
Difatta, David C. 11/01/2024
Grimpo, R. Dwain 02/12/2025
Groll, David H. 07/29/2024
Gugel, Ruth E. Krengel 07/23/2024
Havrilsak, Laura A. Hart 07/01/2022
Himmler, Marvin M. 10/19/2022
Hurd, James A. 07/20/2023
Jones, Karen B. Peterson 05/12/2023

Kell, Delmar A. 08/01/2023
Kell, Mary L. Brubaker 06/09/2023
Moldenhauer, Herbert C. 11/28/2023
Nieman, Anna E. Kanning 01/11/2023
Rolf, Elda C. Elbert 03/01/2022
Stresman, Shirley M. Koeppen 11/20/2024
Thunder-Haab, Keturah A. 03/16/2023
Yelden, Susan I. 05/07/2023
Wallace, Shirley M. Eggerding 06/08/2024
Wuertz, Duane W. (01/05/2025)
Zill, Steven E. 10/06/2022

School Openings

Hubbard Lake, Small Wonders Academy (1/2023)
Marlette, Our Savior Lutheran School (9/2022)

School Closings

Chelsea, Lambs of Our Savior Christian Preschool (5/2024)
Ionia, St. John Lutheran Preschool (9/2023)
Jenison, Daily Shepherd Child Care Center (8/2023)
Kalkaska, St. Paul Preschool (5/2024)

Lansing, Martin Luther High School (8/2022)
Marlette, Our Savior School and Preschool (6/2024)
Pinconning, St. John Preschool (5/2024)
Redford, Concordia Lutheran School (6/2024)

Ministers of Religion - Commissioned Anniversaries

In 2022

50 Years

Campbell, Gary H.
Freudenburg, Benjamin F.
Gengler, Constance C. Koester
Greve, Wendy F. Fischer
Hall, Carl G.
Kern, Dennis L.
Klausmeier, Caroline L. Hartwig
Livo, Gilbert R.
Unger, Michael E.

40 Years

Angott, Donna L. Renkert
Beringer, Gloria L. Gehner
Buchinger, Lori A. Haines
Bunkelman, James O.
Dumar, John E.
Goetz, Lois A. Mortensen
Harris, Valerie J.
Heck, Zonna L. King
Hilsabeck, Janet E. Roberts
Jacques, Krista E. Pfeiffer
Krieger, Ruth A. Dubke
Louden, Sandra J. Hyatt
Lukacs, Katherine D. Hoops
Moro, Martin L. III
Nelson, Gary R.
Pakkala, Deborah L. Falck
Rapson, Andrea K. Beck
Refenes, James L.
Topel, Timothy L.
Walter, Teresa I. Holle
Walters, Paulette E.

25 Years

Barrie, Pamela M. A. Wilson
Brand, Susan L. Gibson
Croucher, Sarah R. Steffe
Gross, Nancy D. Waldrop
Kosmatka, Amy B.
Krause, Jennifer L. Dietrich
Mackie, Ruth E. Garchow
Mazur, Tammy E. M.
Oldenburg, Mary K. Brown
Pehlke, Todd M.
Schaffer, Joel P.
Schwecke, Shirley D. Stuewe
Sturm, Raymond T.

In 2023

50 Years

Bickel, Elaine C. Petzold
Doebler, Lynda M.
Kratz, Dean E.
Kruse, Lavern R.
Moehring, David P.
Pagels, Doris E. Meyermann
Schiemann, Kathleen R. Wardin
Voelz, Robert T.
Witte, Dennis E.

40 Years

DeLage, Deborah L. Knight
Drinan, Lori J. Weir
Engelhard, Cynthia M. Elston
Frusti, Timothy M.
Guenther, Douglas D.
Hermann, Randi S. Rush
Hollman, Linda M. Kirchner
Jansen, Mari-Beth Ingalls
Kosman, Paul K.
Lanning, Joyce A. Owen
Looker, Paul J.
Lucas, Cindy L. Doede
Martin, Kathy A.
Paselk, Renate E. Erhardt
Schmidt, Sandra J. Toennies

25 Years

Baughman, Kristina L. Schulenburg
Blackwell, Judith J. Radthke
Chaplin, Heidi U. Klemm
Fuller, Lynne E. Erikson
Glumm, Julie K. Boes
Jagoda, Pamela J. Mendieta
Jones, Katherine A. Schafer
Jung, Scott L.
Kleine, Racheal A.
Kruger, Nancy E.
Mick, Beth A. Kah
Mueller, Scott R.
Nobis, Judy A. Hospodar
Pidzosny, Mary L. Fenske
Valente, Elizabeth A. Mooney
Wargo, Nicole N. Hurttgam
Weisenbach, Janice L. Dove
Winter, Elizabeth A. Turanski

In 2024

50 Years

Allen, Ronald M.
Attenberger, David F.
Dean, Karen A. Werth
Dunklau, Linda J. Bork
Gast, Frederick J.
Hanke, Elsie C. Hesemann
Hass, Kenneth E.
Hinck, John T.
Looker, Mark S.
McQueen, Carla J. Wardin
Meyers, Anita G. Steufert
Priehs, Warren W.
Quade, Karen J.
Rademacher, JoAnn A. Zimmerman
Riske, Ralph H.
Schiefer, Mark T.
Strohacker, Charles J.
Taggart, Linda J. Lapinsky
Ward, Donna J. Feltner
Werderman, Amy L. Rohde
Wilke, Nancy E.

40 Years

Anders, Brian L.
AuBuchon, Barbara A. Hoeft
Auger, Robert G. Jr.
Balzer, Jo Ann Grote
Bode, Timothy A.
Bremer, David A.
Buescher, Barbara A. Wiltenburg
Burgess, Robert M.
Clark, Dennis W.
Earley, Karen L. Gross
Eisman, Kathleen S. Ott
Eyster, Timothy K.
Faerber, Janise M. Lehl
Frusti, Kathleen H. Robertson
Holtzen, Richard O.
Kolberg, Deborah L. Ziebart
Mueller, Robert K.
Palka, Susan E. McCreadie
Paul, Gregory L.
Volz, Karen R. Nitz
Washburn, Debra S. Kohler
Wedde, Deborah D. Keller
Williams, Janice L. Spates
Winston, Valerie J.
Zappitell, Kathleen M. Gerber

25 Years

Brauer, Jennifer L.
Doyle, Barbara E. Stoll
Eyster, Carol M. Simmons
Felten, Daniel L.
Francik, Christopher D.
Gulliver, Holly A.
Hoeft, James M.
Kacmar, Dawn S. Gerike
Keup, Joel A.
Laubsch, Jennifer M.
Laux, Elizabeth A. Krenz
Lindenfelser, Lynn M. Duhl
Monroe, Kelly M. Muehlbrandt
Wascher, Charridan A.
Witchger, Ann G. Gerstacker

Officers

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President (2026)
1st Vice-President: Rev. Peter K. Lange (2026)
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Benjamin T. Ball (2026)
3rd Vice-President: Rev. Dr. Scott Murray (2026)
4th Vice-President: Rev. Nabil S. Nour (2026)
5th Vice-President: Rev. Christopher S. Esget (2026)

6th Vice-President: Rev. Dr. John C. Wohlrabe, Jr. (2026)
Secretary: Rev. Dr. John W. Sias (2026)
Chief Administrative Officer: Mr. Felix Loc (Appointed)
Chief Financial Officer: Mr. Nathan Haak (Appointed)
Chief Mission Officer: Rev. Kevin D. Robson (Appointed)

Michigan District

Rev. David A. Davis, President (2025)

1st Vice-President: Rev. Dean M. Davenport (2025)
2nd Vice-President: Rev. Darryl L. Andrzejewski (2025)
Secretary: Rev. J. Derek Riddle

3rd Vice-President: Rev. Craig L. Bickel (2025)
4th Vice-President: Rev. Erik K. Cloeter (2025)
Treasurer: Mrs. Bonnie L. Mann (Appointed)

Michigan District Circuit Visitors

1. Charles B. Burhop
2. Jason L. Mandley
3. Frederick T. Cordts
4. William C. Winter
5. Daniel A. Kempin
6. David A. Jung
7. Matthew H. Durance
8. Thomas B. Garrison
9. Cameron K. Steele
10. Paul R. Biber
11. Tyge C. Zucker
12. Matthew C. Hein
13. Todd I. Frusti
14. Gerhardt A. Doroh
15. Nikolai J. Gibbons

16. Norman A. Koy
17. Paul J. Undlin
18. Evan P. Gaertner
19. Mark W. Hetzner
20. Harold A. Avers
21. Richard E. Robinson
23. Greyson D. Grenz
24. Mark K. Witte
26. Andrew M. Johnson
27. Mark E. Schumm
28. David J. McCarty
29. Bryan K. Schindel
30. Zachary J. Holdorf

31. Charles R. Hoffman
32. Michael M. Goers
33. Dennis D. Rahn
34. Paul A. Tonn
35. William R. Wangelin
36. Edward W. Filter
38. Dennis L. Lassanske
39. Christopher M. Boehnke
40. Glenn E. Schaeffer
41. Brian D. West
42. Karl N. Strenge
43. Michael J. Roth
44. Kurt P. Kuhlmann

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Region

Metro East: (2025)
West: (2025)
Metro West: (2028)
North & East: (2028)

Ordained

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Paul C. Appold
Joel H. Sarrault
Dennis W. Matyas

Commissioned

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Lori S. Wieneke
Daniel R. Burk
Jennifer L. Krause

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Alicia Winget
O. Dennis Sohn
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David P. E. Maier (2028)

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Rebecca Holnagel (2028)
Kurt C. Kuck (2028)
Timothy H. Haberling (2025)
Jeffrey T. Roscoe (2025)
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Metro West:
North & East:
West:

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Michael D. Boyer
Ryan A. Winningham

Commissioned

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Patrick A. Winningham
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Laypersons

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Philip M. Krauss II
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Jennifer Haberling

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Ordained

Daniel W. Ramthun
Robert E. Kasper

Commissioned

Christie L. Hansard
Andrea E. Johnson
Stacy J. McGhee
Dawn M. Rupe

Laypersons

Lauren Kelly

Ex-Officio

Rev. David A. Davis

Commission on Deacon Qualification

Ordained

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Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper, Advisory
Rev. Kenneth A. Huner

Laypersons

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Mrs. Ruth Richert-Martin

Mr. G. Michael McCain
Rev. Michael J. Roth

New/Revised Constitution Committee

Rev. Theodore E. Voll, Chairman
Rev. Arnold H. Brammeier

Mr. Aaron J. Baylis
Mr. Keith Altenburg

District Legal Counsel

Mr. Mark W. Doran

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Stewardship Committee:

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Junior High Gathering Planning Committee:

Mr. J. Chuck Anderson, Mrs. Nola Auernhamer, Rev. Joel Eden, Mrs. Rose Ferguson, Mr. Daren Kaschinske, Mrs. Janelle Meckes, Mr. Tyler Schlitzkus

Senior High Gathering Planning Committee:

Mr. J. Chuck Anderson, Rev. James Bruner, Mrs. Kristin Hardy, Rev. Aaron Roggow, Mrs. Jennifer Rossi, Mrs. Stephanie Rummel, Ms. Bernadette VanOverbeke

Lutheran Adult Gathering Planning Committee:

Rev. Bill & Kristin Wangelin (Lansing), Keith & Kim Waller (Detroit area), Katrina & Daren Kaschinske (Frankenmuth), Katie & Chris May, Chad Woltemath (MI District office)

School Accreditation Committee:

Mr. Levi Bringold, Mrs. Cynthia Brown, Mr. Robert Burgess, Dr. Kyle Chuhnan, Mrs. Mary Eifert, Mr. Travis Grulke, Mr. Gregory Johnson, Mr. Todd Pehlke, Mr. Kyle Smith

Early Childhood Cabinet:

Mrs. Greta Bower, Mrs. Kelley J. Fehn, Mrs. Courni Holst, Mrs. Kathryn Pearson, Mrs. Emily Ritchie, Ms. Jennifer Welch

State Basketball Committee:

Mr. Justin Garcia, Mr. Travis Grulke, Mr. Eric Hagenow, Mr. David King, Mr. Matthew Korte, Mr. Joel Neumeyer, Mr. Scott Neumeyer, Mr. Timothy Siekmann, Mr. Jeffrey Young

State Track Committee:

Mr. John Boldt, Mr. Travis Grulke, Mr. David King, Mrs. Jennifer Krause, Mr. Timothy Siekmann, Mr. Eric Smith

Finance Committee:

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Kathleen A. Graham – Assistant to the District Archivist
Rev. Norman A. Koy – Call List Support
Hannah M. MacAfee – Receptionist / Administrative Assistant
Rev. Donald O. Neuendorf – Project Assistant to the President
Rev. Peter S. Nickel – Call List Support
Martha F. Wohlfeil – Administrative Assistant – President's Office

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Debra R. Cameron – Event Coordinator / Accountant
Stacy L. Furgerson – Assistant Business Manager
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Adele S. Werner – Video Journalist / Digital Media Manager

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Rev. Mark D. Brandt – District Facilitator – North & East Region
Rev. John E. Greig – District Facilitator – Metro East Region
Rev. Daniel C. Meckes – District Facilitator – Metro West Region

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Rev. Kenneth A. Huner – Dean of Instruction – Michigan School of Missional Formation
Deaconess Christie L. Hansard – Mental Health Case Manager / Parish Nurse Coordinator
Peter E. Prochnow – Director of Worship Arts & Community Engagement
Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram – Stewardship Education

Mission Strategy

Rev. Christopher R. Bodley – Missionary at Large to Detroit
Dr. Ingrid Draper – A2E Educational Coordinator
Rev. J. Ricardo Granado – Missionary Pastor for Hispanic Ministries
Julie Nielsen-Schmidt – Lutheran Chaplain – Michigan Medicine

Section 2 - District Reports

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Circuit Visitors' Reports

Circuit #1 – Mackinac Straits

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Charles B. Burhop

Since the last convention, the new circuit configurations have taken effect and the Mackinac Straits Circuit now consists of the seven Upper Peninsula Michigan District congregations. Rev. Roger Kilponen and Rev. Donald Nemic, who were serving Upper Peninsula congregations, have retired during this triennium.

The brothers of Circuit #1 meet together with our brothers in Circuit #2 on the first Tuesday of most months. TAMSAC (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.

Detour Village, Redeemer

At Redeemer, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered. Redeemer serves the people of the small community of DeTour Village. A seasonal lay-led midweek Bible study is offered, and almost all of the members attend regularly. Regular weekly services are held at 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Drummond Island, Drummond Island

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).

Kincheloe, St. Paul

God With Us; and through us with others. St. Paul is a very small but active gathering of God's people. 7-10 people attend the Sunday morning service. An LWML group meets regularly, and the ladies of the congregation provide Mother's Day Baskets for women staying at the Diane Pepler House (a domestic violence shelter) in Sault Ste. Marie and also provide school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Newberry, Trinity/Engadine, Bethlehem/Germfask, Grace

At Trinity, Bethelhem, and Grace the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered. Trinity, Newberry; Bethlehem, Engadine; and Grace, Germfask have continued as a triple parish. Rev. Kyle Kuehl and his organist travel on Sunday mornings serving all 3 congregations. Once a month the congregations meet together at one of the 3 congregation sites for worship and fellowship starting at 10 a.m.

Sault Ste. Marie, Saint Barnabas

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 in varying numbers. Saint

Barnabas is not just a campus ministry. Members of all ages hear the Word and receive the Sacraments each and every Sunday morning and Saturday evening. Weekly evening services are also held during Advent and Lent. Members of Saint Barnabas serve the community by volunteering with Friends of the Library, War Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and other community groups.

So that's the seven congregations and three pastors of Circuit #1. Two of the pastors are currently serving three congregations on Sundays and have an organist that travels along with them to each congregation. Rev. Roger Kilponen is also living in our circuit and helps the other pastors however he is able. The Mackinac Straits Circuit extends from Germfask to Sault Ste. Marie, down to Detour, and across the channel to Drummond Island.

Circuit #2 – Alpena

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Jason Mandley

Circuit Two of the Michigan District consists of Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Montmorency, and Alpena counties in Northeast Lower Michigan.

Alpena, Immanuel

Immanuel celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2024 with a variety of dinners, guest speakers, and activities, remembering its history and the faithfulness of the Lord. The event was highlighted by a formal community-wide event at the Apex in April with a son of the congregation, Rev. Jeffery D. Nickel of Clarence, New York, serving as guest speaker. Upon the retirement of Rev. Alfred Kersten in 2022, Immanuel secured Deacon James Wolf in 2024. The congregation continues to be served by Rev. James D. Erickson and Rev. Joshua M. Schultz. Immanuel school, under the direction of Mr. James Grulke as principal, continues to increase in enrollment, serving 150 students from preschool to 8th grade. Plans to begin a Lutheran high school in Alpena are being explored in the future. Immanuel continues to actively encourage MOST ministry mission trips, sending 18 members to Orange Walk, Belize, in August 2023 and is planning to send 18 again to Panama for a construction project in July of this year. Finally, the congregation continues to reach out into the northeast Michigan counties with a recorded television worship service each Sunday at 7:30 and 10 a.m. over our local station, WBKB. The Lord has blessed Immanuel as we are privileged to "proclaim, teach, and live Christ in all things."

Cheboygan, St. John

St. John Lutheran Church is proclaiming God's Word and administering the Sacraments according to His Word. The Holy Spirit is touching the lives gathered at St. John with the love of Christ Jesus.

St. John is a faithful worshipping and Bible-studying community. The congregation continues to be blessed with dedicated elders and church council. This past year saw St. John move to one Divine Service from two and it has

continued to be a huge blessing. Another huge blessing is the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper. St. John continues to do its best to be mission minded. We continue with support for Right to Life and various local missions. We are quite involved with LERT and with the needs of Orphan GrainTrain of Michigan. We support seminary students and various missionaries. This past year St. John worked hard to establish a Seminary Endowment Fund to perpetually help fund future pastors.

Hawks, Faith

Faith is a small congregation with a large sense of mission and purpose. They have shown that a small congregation can do big things. In the past three years they have given \$38,000 to projects outside of their congregation. They also host an outdoor mission festival every summer. Along with the other churches in Presque Isle county, they are exploring how they can do together what they cannot do separately.

Hillman, St. John

Despite the challenges of serving in a rural area with declining and aging population, St. John, Hillman has experienced some joys in the past three years. In the past year we have had three adult Baptisms and last summer we had our largest VBS attendance in several years. Our preschool continues to do well. We are looking at how to navigate changing times and surroundings, figuring out where changes can be made and what must be retained to remain faithful to God's Word. Even though we do not have the attendance we had years ago, we are seeing new faces in our pews. For this we thank God for His goodness to us.

Hubbard Lake, St. Paul

St. Paul operates a preschool and has been involved in Centershot, a ministry that combines Bible study and archery.

Onaway, Holy Cross

Holy Cross is served by Rev. Trenton Wollberg.

Ossineke, Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd is a small but dedicated congregation that has experienced some growth in the past three years. Pastor Al Kersten had served them until his retirement in September of 2024. Right now, pastors and deacons from the area are serving them, preaching there on a rotating basis. They are praying that God will give them a faithful shepherd in His time and in His way. Although in Alpena County, Good Shepherd does serve the Lutherans in northern Alcona County.

Posen, St. Paul

Since 1878, a small but dedicated group of Lutheran Christians made St. Paul, Posen their spiritual home. With many of the saints being called to the Church Triumphant, only three members remained. Thus, it became necessary to close the congregation. The final service was held on October 22, 2023. We thank God for the work done in this place and that the three remaining members have found new spiritual homes.

Rogers City (Moltke), Immanuel

Immanuel celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2023 with a

special celebration. Former pastor Rev. Eric Voigt served as the guest preacher. After a long vacancy, Rev. Joseph Bangert was installed as pastor in May of 2024.

Rogers City, Peace

Peace welcomed its new pastor, Rev. Jonathan Dueker, in July of 2024. Peace has come up with a strategic plan for growth which includes starting a contemporary service and focusing on more community involvement.

Rogers City, St. John

St. John shares a pastor with Immanuel, Moltke. St. John celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2023. Guest preacher was Rev. Galen Grulke, a son of the congregation. St. John also operates a Lutheran day school. St. John welcomed its new pastor, Rev. Joseph Bangert, in May of 2024.

Rogers City (Belknap), St. Michael

St. Michael is served by Rev. Paul Boerger. They celebrated their 150th anniversary in August of 2023. Guest preachers were District President Rev. David Davis and regional Vice President Rev. Erik Cloeter.

Circuit #3 – Timberline

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Frederick Cordts

Au Gres, St. John

The St. John congregation continues its Word and Sacrament ministry, ably served by Rev. Bill Winter and Rev. Ted Voll as they proceed in calling their new pastor. The brothers and sisters continue their strong support of missions and effort to reach out to the community through activities such as VBS, Christ's Kids youth ministry, youth catechism, weekly backpack food program to local schools, and sponsorship of Red Cross blood drives.

Glennie, Our Savior

Our Savior finds itself blessed with a faithful core of worshipers who continue to support its mission. Along with other recent enhancements to the church, an outdoor pavilion has been erected to further opportunities for fellowship. Weekly services include Sunday school for toddlers and young children. Bible studies are offered on Monday afternoons, bringing new people to Christ, some to confirmation, and fellow membership.

Hale, St. Paul

St. Paul continues her mission to proclaim the Word of God and offer our Savior's forgiveness in the Holy Sacrament. At the same time, the congregation looks to the future, making physical improvements inside and outside the church building. Besides Sunday school and Bible Studies, St. Paul offers fellowship and activities such as Chair Volleyball for seniors. Retired educators provide tutoring for local students.

Mio, Living Water

The Holy Spirit continues to bless Living Water, Mio. 2024 marked the 25th Anniversary for Living Water; their celebration this past summer culminated with an outdoor pig roast.

Members partner with ministries such as Lydia's Gate women and children shelter, Love Inc., and His Love. The congregation continues to host its unique Centershot Ministry featuring archery and a chance to introduce school-age children to the Gospel. Important to note: half of the children served through this outreach never owned or read a Bible.

Oscoda, Trinity

Trinity continues to be served by a dedicated core of parishioners, led by Rev. Steve Schilke, working to keep the congregation moving forward. Most of her volunteers are retired yet actively serve. Along with Sunday worship and Bible study, members enjoy the opportunity to attend several mid-week Bible studies as well.

Outreach opportunities include Trinity's large bell choir—made up of Trinity members as well as people of other congregations—and community activities, especially during the holidays, gathering food and gifts for the needy. The congregation continues to pray for young families and youth.

Prescott, Faith

The brothers and sisters of Faith continue to be blessed in Word and Sacrament. Their church family continues to grow in faith, resulting in the desire to reach out to the community, including a renewed commitment to daughter congregation Good News Ministries, sharing the services of Pastor Meyer as well as providing volunteers for Good News' much-needed food assistance program.

Tawas City, Zion

The faithful at Zion continue to be blessed with the opportunity to join in receiving God's Word and Sacrament and enjoy Bible study and fellowship each week, led by Rev. Gabe Martin.

In an effort to reach out to the community, Zion has hosted educational seminars attracting the community, led by professionals lecturing on subjects such as [Social] Security, Medicare, Nutrition 101, career opportunities for young people, and topics on healthcare in conjunction with Covenant Hospital.

Whittemore, Good News Ministries

Good News continues its valuable ministry to the community by providing spirited Sunday worship led by Rev. Ed Meyer, much-needed monthly food drives, senior food boxes, adult Bible study, three full weeks of VBS, God's Kids for youth, and faith-themed movie nights.

God has blessed this ministry for many years with exactly what it needs—His love and grace and a purpose—to proclaim the life-saving Gospel in Jesus.

Circuit #4 – Gladwin

Circuit Visitor: Rev. William Winter

Clare, Prince of Peace

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.

Average Weekly Attendance: 25

Baptized Members: 78

Confirmed Membership: 48

Gladwin, Our Savior – Rev. Adam Flanick, Pastor

Our Savior is served by Pastor Adam Flanick, who has been there for almost three years, a product of our St. Louis Seminary. He is well-loved and is an excellent pastor. Our Savior remains the largest congregation in the Gladwin Circuit, and has recently installed a new DCE, Mr. Josiah Schultz.

The congregation of Our Savior remains steadfast on the cutting edge of their witness and use of God's Word and Sacraments.

Harrison, St. Luke – Rev. Timothy Sheridan, Pastor

Timothy has served St. Luke for 4.5 years, a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind. during the COVID pandemic. Timothy has served with excellence and wisdom in an eclectic environment. He conducted the funeral for our brother pastor, Rev. Rod Morrison, former pastor of Hope, St. Helen in the summer of 2023.

The congregation of St. Luke remains steadfast on the cutting edge of their witness and use of God's Word and Sacraments.

Houghton Lake, St. John – Rev. Paul Kruse, Pastor

This is Paul's sixth year at St. John, having come to us from Bay City area. Within the last three years, Paul has taken responsibility for shepherding three men of our congregation who have entered into training for the ministry of the LCMS—two deacons-in-training and one SMP vicar. These men have been doing their practical work in the congregation of St. John since the spring of 2024.

Since May of 2024, St. John has been in prayer for the preparation of opening a Christian child care center. The parsonage at St. John is in the process of remodeling to serve as the building for the center.

The congregation of St. John remains steadfast on the cutting edge of their witness and use of God's Word and Sacraments.

Pinconning, St. John – Rev. Greg Hyatt, Pastor

St. John, Pinconning has been in our circuit for three years and is now served by their newly installed pastor as of the fall of 2024, Rev. Greg Hyatt. The congregation of St. John had to close their school during the Summer of 2024, but they are working hard in the community to find a way to reopen sometime.

Pastor Hyatt has settled in quite well in the congregation and is active in our circuit with our brothers of the Gladwin and Timberline circuits.

The congregation of St. John, Pinconning remains steadfast on the cutting edge of their witness and use of God's Word and Sacraments.

Standish, Bethlehem – Rev. Matthew Dent, Pastor
Matthew has been pastor of Bethlehem for 11 years ... outstanding in his field ... literally! He does a fine and faithful job in ministry in the middle of farm country in Standish as their dedicated pastor and servant.

The congregation of Bethlehem remains steadfast on the cutting edge of their witness and use of God's Word and Sacraments.

St. Helen, Hope

The members at Hope, St. Helen are looking forward to celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2026.
Average Worship Attendance: 30 (weekly)
Baptized Membership: 105
Confirmed Membership: 82

West Branch, St. John – Rev. Carl Petzold, Pastor
Hope, St. Helen and St. John, West Branch became a dual parish in the spring of 2020 and were assigned a candidate from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Rev. Carl Petzold has served Hope and St. John extremely well, bringing in many new members since his installation in the spring of 2023. People love him and his calm, smooth demeanor.

The congregations of Hope, St. Helen and St. John, West Branch remain steadfast on the cutting edge of their witness and use of God's Word and Sacraments.

Circuit #5 – Midland

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Daniel Kempin

Alma, Peace

Under the capable and stable leadership of Pastor Tom Messer, Peace continues to provide biblically faithful and liturgically sound Word and Sacrament ministry to the community of Alma. Peace is now in a dual parish relationship with Calvary, Carson City.

Auburn, Grace

Grace, Auburn, under the leadership of Pastor Schian and Kantor Beethe, strives to share GRACE by Growing in God's Word, Reaching out in love, Announcing God's forgiveness, Calling the lost, and Encouraging everyone. With this in mind, we have two weekly Divine Services, weekly Matins, many Bible studies, Continuing Education through CTSFW, Youth Service Corps (a joint middle school youth group with Trinity, Monitor), Grace Quilters (who make quilts for Orphan Grain Train), regular congregational meals, large print Bible production center, Food of Faith (a Bay City ministry that feeds the homeless), Grace Your Closet (a free clothes closet open to the community), and other community-oriented events like Trunk or Treat and the Easter Egg Hunt. We praise God from whom all blessings flow as we continue serving Him with gladness in 2025 and beyond!

Auburn, Zion

Zion is served by Pastor Andrew Menz and Pastor Seth Hemme. The congregation is working towards some possible additions to both the church and school facilities.

A growth in biblical stewardship has been a great blessing to the people of God at Zion. As always, they strive to better know and show Christ's love.

Brandt (Marion Springs), St. John

In January of 2024, Rich Lewis was ordained and installed as the pastor of St. John. The congregation continues faithful ministry and is always seeking opportunities to support the mission in their community.

Midland, Lord Of New Life

After celebrating 10 years in its "new" church building in 2024, Lord of New Life continues its traditional form of Word and Sacrament ministry under the leadership of Rev. Carl F. Trosien, who has served the congregation since June 2018, following the retirement of Rev. Kurt Eichinger. Pastor Trosien was installed as the pastor of Lord of New Life in September 2024. The congregation has been involved in a Bible study of the entire Holy Scriptures. The members of the congregation have also been involved in a number of outreach programs, like the food, hygiene items, and paper product collection for the North Midland Family Center.

In addition to this, at the Midland County Fair each year, the congregation has been involved with the "Be a Match" organization to find donors for bone marrow patients.

Midland, Messiah

Messiah continues to be very active in community outreach through its community care ministries—His Hands Auto Care; Pivot Point Job Creation: Used Appliance Repair and Sales; The Bridge Community Food Center; and Kid's Creek Early Care and Education Preschool and Childcare. New ministries include Gateway Healthcare Clinic, serving uninsured and under-insured members of the community with quality healthcare; and a hospitality ministry through a newly renovated Journeys Coffee Shop on the Messiah campus. In addition, the Bridge Food Center moved to an expanded and newly renovated facility on South Saginaw Road, which allows for an expanded selection of food and grocery offerings. Sunday morning worship continues with three Sunday morning services and Kid's Creek Sunday school. Messiah is served by Senior Pastor Ed Doerner, Pastor Matt Lytikainen, Pastor Dennis Kreil, SMP, and long-time staff member, Pastor Steve Lampi, SMP, who was ordained in 2024. Messiah is also blessed with many dedicated staff members and volunteers, and they thank God for each of them.

Midland, Our Savior

Our Savior is served by Pastor Gary Lyvere. They continue to seek ways to be of service to the community and a witness to the Lord Jesus.

Midland, St. John's

St. John's continues to be served by pastors Dan Kempin and Josh Parsons, with director of family life Anna Kruger, and music director Karen Kempin. St. John's is blessed to support a Lutheran day school under the direction of principal Brad Massey.

Mount Pleasant, Zion

Zion Lutheran has had a dynamic ministry over the past three years. The campus ministry at Central Michigan University and Zion Lutheran's preschool have been ministries of focus. Christ the King Lutheran Chapel has been serving college students, providing them with Word and Sacrament ministry, weekly Bible studies, social outings, LCMS-U retreats, and campus outreach opportunities. This last August, Pastor Jesse Greenhagen was installed as the associate pastor to oversee this campus ministry. Zion Lutheran's preschool program is another major ministry supported by the church. The preschool program has grown to its full capacity with the existing infrastructure. Current plans are being made to expand the preschool with added infrastructure and teachers. Upon Senior Pastor Jon Bakker's acceptance of a call to Concordia University Wisconsin, the congregation has entered the call process to receive a new senior pastor.

Sanford, St. Paul

St. Paul continues working to reach our community in ministry. Pastor Vossler has been building up our church band (consisting of congregation members of all ages) with assistance from our music director, with the goal of playing during worship services monthly. Our band and choir put on semiannual concerts for Christmas and Easter as a way to bless our congregation and community during those special seasons. During the summer, our band especially takes the lead in providing music for our monthly outdoor worship services. Deacon Barnard continues to organize our annual Wild Game Dinner, which brings in a large crowd from the community to hear a faith-based message. Additionally, he leads monthly services at local nursing homes. With assistance from a newer member who is a rostered (though not currently called) Lutheran teacher, we have begun the process of refocusing our youth ministry to better support and build up our youth and their families. As we approach the 5-year anniversary of both the pandemic and the flood that changed the landscape of our community, we pray for God's blessings on our continued ministry to those whom He has placed in front of us.

Wheeler, Immanuel

Immanuel is served by Pastor Michael Podezswa and continues faithful ministry while seeking opportunities to reflect the Mission of our Lord.

Circuit #6 – Bay City

Circuit Visitor: Rev. David Jung

Bay City, Faith

Faith Lutheran Church and School had a very good 2024 based on various parameters. They called Pastor Jim Chinery in July 2024 and finished the year with healthy worship attendance and school enrollment. Goals for 2025 include implementing a capital campaign, working with the State of Michigan regarding the GSRP program, and working to call an SMP pastor to serve as a vicar in the upcoming school year.

Bay City, Immanuel

In the last triennium, Immanuel saw the retirement of

Rev. Kevin Jones and the installation of Associate Pastor Chris Garcia as senior pastor. He reports he has had a good transition with his staff in his new role. In January of 2025, Deaconess Lisa Brand accepted the call to be director of family life ministry with the congregation. Mr. Vincent started his second year as principal. Immanuel has seen roughly a 15% increase of people attending worship. Long-time members are noticing new faces that are not only popping in for a weekend here or there, but guests that are becoming more regular and inquiring about membership. Immanuel continues to not only provide excellent Lutheran education in Bay City but continues to meet community needs through their emergency food pantry.

Bay City (Amelith), St. John

St. John gives an "Amen" to Christ for His work among us. There were fruitful blessings with several Baptisms and new adults confirmed through our Didache class. Our mission remains to be rooted in God's Word, grow in Christ's love, branch out to serve, and bear fruits of faith, whether through our chicken BBQ, Vacation Bible School, another school year, the well-received Oktoberfest, being open to host township voting, providing a training event by "Voices of Care," caroling to shut-ins, the startup of youth group, various collections for those in need, or a Stewardship pledge drive. "Amen" to it all, and amen takes us back to God with us. He is far more gracious and good as promised by the Gospel anchored in His Holy Word and Sacraments. *"To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen"* (Ephesians 3:21).

Bay City (Frankenlust), St. Paul

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, Bay City (Frankenlust) is currently in a period of healthy growth. The demographics of regular worshippers include a good mixture of all age ranges, with an especially strong "baby boom." St. Paul focuses on these family strengths especially with its P-8 school and its association with Valley Lutheran High School. Recent growth has led to the addition of a second full-time pastor in 2024. With a strong emphasis on family, worship, and education, St. Paul is blessed to be situated in a vibrant and peaceful environment in love toward Christ and service to neighbor. To God alone be the glory.

Bay City (Monitor), Trinity

Since 1880, Trinity, Monitor has served the greater Bay City/Saginaw Valley region with the love and truth of Christ. Since its onset, this "hardy and hearty" congregation has placed the religious education of the next generation at the forefront of its ministry. We at Trinity Monitor simply love to share Jesus with our members, families, students, and the world! More than 50% of our current school enrollment comes from non-members. Monitor is a founding member of Valley Lutheran High School Association and treasures its ongoing relationship with this vibrant ministry. In this past year, we have engaged in a new GSRP program on our campus to be included with our traditional Lutheran Preschool-8th grade as another opportunity to connect with community families and invite them into our flock.

In the past two years, Pastor Kaiser has completed over 100 home visits with members in an effort to foster fellowship and unity in our church as we step forward together into the future. The congregation has also engaged in a group effort with Grace, Auburn in both junior youth (YSC) and senior youth (The GATE) programs. We look forward to sending a group to participate in the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Planted in the middle of crop land in the middle of “The Mitten,” Trinity, Monitor sees fields of opportunities growing all around us. We seek to faithfully continue our long and rich heritage in the growing of the Kingdom of God and bringing in the harvest in our community and beyond.

Bay City, Zion

Zion Lutheran Church and School is committed to sharing Jesus’ love and caring for all. We are working through a strategic planning process to prepare us for where the Lord leads in the coming years. We are excited about a new principal who is committed to a collaborative and caring environment for our students and families we are privileged to serve. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to celebrate our 125th anniversary as a congregation and we are committed to sharing the Good News of sins forgiven and life restored in our community and wherever the Lord leads us.

Essexville, Pilgrim

Pilgrim, Essexville is in a strong position to do the work the Lord has given us to do in our community. Our partnerships with the Orphan Grain Train and the Bay Area Community Food Pantry continue to challenge our members to meet the needs of those who need a helping hand.

The effects of the pandemic downturn in weekly attendance seem to have been reversed in that we continue to have a steady attendance at our services as well as a growing number of people from our congregation, our community, and beyond, who join us weekly online for our services. Bible study is well attended by many of our members. Our facilities are in good shape and all is well.

Circuit #7 – Thumb East

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Durance

Bad Axe, Our Savior

Our Savior, Bad Axe has had an interesting three years since the last convention. Its DCE of 20 years retired last November, and its current pastor will be retiring at the end of June. We have been in the calling process and, God willing, will have a new pastor by the time of this convention. Our Savior also engaged in a major renovation of the parsonage, as well as exterior renovations to the church and education building. We continue our weekly radio ministry and have sponsored two pop-up food pantries for the local community. Into this next triennium, Our Savior will continue to be faithful in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in word and deed.

Harbor Beach, Zion

Zion continues to minister to the community of Harbor

Beach with God’s Word and the means of grace under the leadership of Pastor Matthew Durance, who was called in 2022. Zion called Rachel Bulgrien as Deaconess in 2023, and she has been assisting with youth group activities and a women’s Bible study is being added. Zion’s parochial school continues to thrive, and there have been several families who have joined the church because of the school. Zion continues to offer two Bible studies throughout the week (Tuesday and Sunday) and three services throughout the week (Tuesday evenings, Saturday evenings, Sunday morning).

Kinde, St. Peter

St. Peter Kinde observed its 150th anniversary in 2024. Its pastor had retired in 2023 and the church has been served by the pastor from Bad Axe since then. St. Peter continues to have a successful weekday Sunday school attended by member and non-member children. Though small, St. Peter has many faithful families who support the work of the Gospel in that place.

Marlette, Our Savior

Our Savior, Marlette rejoices in the Lord’s gifts of grace and mercy this triennium! After making the difficult decision to close the day school, a homeschool cooperative has begun meeting once each week in the school building. They meet for chapel before continuing with their scheduled activities. It is a small group of 6 families, but the number of children is growing. God be praised! Through the homeschool co-op, Christian education is thriving in Marlette! Our Savior has started a men’s group. One Saturday per month, we meet for Matins before going out to do works of service for our neighbors. Sometimes, we fix things around church. Sometimes, we help our widows or older members with jobs at home. We are also looking for ways to serve our community.

Minden City (Forestville), Trinity

The St. John, Palms and Trinity, Forestville dual parish, because of Sunday service time constraints, has a combined Bible study Wednesday afternoon. A combined VBS takes place at Trinity along with combined mid-week Lenten worship services.

Palms, St. John

The St. John, Palms and Trinity, Forestville dual parish, because of Sunday service time constraints, has a combined Bible study on Wednesday afternoons. A combined VBS takes place at Trinity along with combined mid-week Lenten worship services.

Port Hope, St. John

St. John, Port Hope, lies just southeast of the point of Michigan’s “Thumb.” A rural community of only about 300 people, St. John’s membership includes souls from the surrounding communities of Port Austin, Kinde, Harbor Beach, and beyond. The Ladies Aid is very active in sponsoring seasonal dinners, events, and charitable giving; and the high school youth have traveled numerous times to the Higher Things Lutheran Youth Conferences. St. John follows the historic liturgies as found in LSB, and is very active in the community, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

crucified, risen, and active through His people.

Port Sanilac, St. John

St. John continues to be God's light in Port Sanilac, providing Word and Sacrament ministry, served by part-time undershepherd Rev. Randy Lett. Through its "St. John Cares" outreach ministry, members seek to fill needs in the community through their ingatherings projects. Their summer worship services are frequented by vacationing visitors, warmly welcomed by the members.

Sandusky, Peace

Peace Lutheran Church in Sandusky has been actively seeking to increase its education opportunities. Education has always been a strong foundation in the congregation and we are seeking ways to increase our education outlets as well as new means of stretching that education beyond the congregation. Using a podcasting app has been fruitful and opened new doors for us. The preschool has begun offering an all-day option after learning of the need in the community. Class size limit was reached and we now have families on an enrollment waiting list. We offer the only Christian preschool in the community and are honored to teach the Good News of Jesus to these young children! Thanks be to God.

Circuit #8 – Thumb West

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Thomas Garrison

Caseville (Pigeon), Good Shepherd

Founded in Caseville in 1972, Good Shepherd celebrated 50 years of God's grace and mercy in June 2022. The anniversary service included former pastors of Good Shepherd and a combined choir from St. Paul, Linkville and Good Shepherd. Good Shepherd and St. Paul are celebrating ten years as a dual parish in 2025. During August, the Cheeseburger Festival is held for 10 days in Caseville, with tens of thousands of people attending. Good Shepherd's pastor, Rev. Chris Suggitt, has participated in the annual parade of the festival with Huron County Right to Life for several years, "speaking the truth in love" and praying that by their witness the Lord would soften hard hearts to see that all life is precious.

Cass City, Good Shepherd

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. A son of the congregation, Ian Habicht, is at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. studying for pastoral ministry. Good Shepherd sponsored a Life Seminar featuring Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, for teens and their parents. Good Shepherd was also the site for the Thumb Mini Youth Gathering, which was attended by teens from around the region featuring Rev. Peter III as speaker and seminars by LCMS pastors in the Thumb. The congregation has an active Sunday school and youth program which has included attending Higher Things conferences. We thank our Lord for 80 years of His grace on our congregation!

Fairgrove, Grace

Grace, Fairgrove was formed in 1949 and, since then, has served God's people in this community through His Holy Word and Sacraments. The congregation's foundation is the writings of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being its cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). It has been and always will be a place where sinners find forgiveness offered to them in the waters of Holy Baptism, the preached Word of God, and the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Supper. On November 10, 2024, Grace celebrated its 75th anniversary with Rev. Will Weedon as guest preacher. For several years the parish has reached out to the community by sponsoring a free clothing and school supply giveaway during the summer. In the fall, Grace has held "A Holy Conversation," inviting guest speakers such as Rev. David Petersen, Rev. Robert Bennett, and Rev. Weedon to speak on theological and practical faith subjects as Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions tell us to do, by "means of the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren."

Pigeon (Linkville), St. Paul

Founded in Linkville in 1894, St. Paul continues to be a place where sinners find refuge as the crucified and risen Jesus Himself comes to us in Baptism, the preached Word, and His very body and blood of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins. This is according to God's Word which is eternal and unchanging, proclaimed by the prophets and the apostles, and revealed to us in the Bible. God's Word and Sacraments are therefore the solid foundation upon which St. Paul is built and sustained. St. Paul holds to the doctrine of the historic Christian faith as set forth in Scripture and confessed in the Book of Concord 1580, not bending to the shifting winds of current culture but rather boldly confesses: The Word of the Lord endures forever. For that Word delivers Christ Jesus who is the cornerstone of all our hope. In February 2025, the congregation sponsored a seminar led by Doxology titled, "In His Image: Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture" which was well attended. The parish has a very active Sunday school and youth group as well as men's and women's groups.

Sebewaing, Immanuel

Work in the Kingdom continues at Immanuel, Sebewaing. We continue to operate our school, Christ the King, with our sister congregation, St. Paul, Unionville. Our principal, Mary Eifert, took a call so we have an interim principal, Jen Yoder. Two of our teachers celebrated teaching milestones. Yvette Brink celebrated 15 years in the ministry and Matt Deneen celebrated 10 years. Chuck McGathy continues to lead our youth in our Collide program. Immanuel hosted a Circuit Convocation on October 5, 2024. Pastor Steve Starke was the keynote speaker. We also had presentations by Deaconess Sandra Rhein and some of our local pastors. Our assisting pastor, Rev. Charles Kuhl, celebrated his 90th birthday. He continues to visit shut-ins and teach public school confirmation class for us. We rejoice in the gifts that Christ gives us through Word and Sacrament as we gather to receive Him.

Segewaing (Kilmanagh), St. John

For 149 years, St. John has continued to serve the Lord by

faithful worship and by reaching out into our surrounding communities to serve those in need. The congregation sponsors a “Blessing Box” that is filled with food and is in continuous use by our community. Currently, we have 10 students enrolled in area Lutheran schools and many others maturing in Christ as they attend two different public school districts. Our congregation has a rich heritage of worship and we are blessed by our skilled and faithful organists Jeanette Bach and Cindy Volz as they lead us in singing the Lord’s songs. Plans are being formed to celebrate the congregation’s 150th anniversary in 2026.

Sebewaing (Bach), St. Peter

The Lord continues to bless the people of St. Peter in our rural setting in our 113th year of ministry under God’s grace. The members continue to be sacrificial in their stewardship. We 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. This year, 2025, marks the 21st year of St. Peter’s successful dual parish arrangement with St. John’s, Kilmanagh.

Unionville, St. Paul

St. Paul is a wonderful group of people gathered around and bound together by God’s Word and Sacraments. In this year of 2025, we thank the Lord for His grace to us as a congregation for 149 years. St. Paul is committed to the Christian education of our members of all ages. A large part of that commitment is our school, Christ the King Lutheran School (or CTK). For roughly the past 25 years, we have operated our school jointly with Immanuel, Sebewaing. Through that partnership we have continued to be able to provide quality Christian education for the children of the Unionville/Sebewaing area. In 2024, St. Paul was the site of a joint Vacation Bible School in partnership with CTK which saw 99 students celebrating the faith and salvation they have in Christ Jesus. The congregation reaches out to the community in this and other ways. Rev. Steve Stolarczyk leads the congregation in online Daily Prayer devotions where the story of God’s grace as recorded in Scripture impact the lives and stories of the members and others who watch the broadcast. Christ has been faithful to our members! To paraphrase the Apostle John, if all the stories of our congregation were written down, the entire world could not contain all the books. But each of those books would tell the same story: God’s continued blessing through times of joy and times of grief, through times of plenty and times of hardship, through times of upheaval and times of consistency. God continues to call, gather, and keep people in the faith through His Word and Sacraments and to lead and guide each of us in our daily callings. Wherever God takes us in the future, we look ahead with confidence in His daily blessing.

Circuit #9 – Frankenmuth

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Cameron Steele

Caro, St. Paul

We are thankful for our Lord’s guidance and blessing over the last triennium. We spent a large amount of time exploring

our congregation’s strengths and areas of need using a Faith and Life Survey of our membership. This in-depth study led us to understand our need to call a Minister of Family Life. Zane Simon arrived in August 2024, and we are already seeing the fruit of his ministry. For instance, we have begun a men’s ministry called “The Forge,” which has already had good participation. Since our last Michigan District Convention, our staff also changed in another way. Miriam (Mimi) Galsterer, who served our congregation as church secretary for 48 years, retired. She has always been such a blessing to St. Paul; we thank God for her. Our new administrative assistant is Lynn LeBlanc, and she is carrying on the same caring, faithful service to the congregation.

Ever since the hardships of the COVID pandemic, we have been livestreaming our services and have discovered that we have a faithful and growing “audience” of worshipers each week. We are thankful to have a dedicated team of volunteers who make this happen and we have a couple of technologically gifted members who have helped us to improve the quality of the livestream experience.

Our congregation has increased its reach into our community by helping families through our own food bank and through our community food bank in Tuscola County. In January of 2025 we applied for a grant through Thumb Community Health Partnership, which we will use to assist our community members who struggle to pay their utilities. Pastor Steele has participated in Tuscola County’s Overdose Fatality Review Panel (OFR). The goal of the OFR is to discover where we, as community leaders, can see places to intervene to prevent overdose deaths.

Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz

Over the past three years, St. Lorenz has been grateful for the grace and goodness of God. Our Lutheran identity rests in the fact that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Our courageous and compassionate staff and volunteer leaders are working hard sharing the love of Jesus through our church and school ministries. We are also intentionally focused on community outreach initiatives serving those in need in and around our community. On the radar is a possible campaign and building project to expand our school administration area, preschool, elementary, and middle school. We are also pleased and proud to support our Michigan District’s hope-filled and Gospel-centered strategic initiatives of healthy church workers, healthy congregations, great compassion, and great commission ministry!

Saginaw (Frankentrost), Immanuel

In the past three years, Immanuel, Frankentrost (Saginaw) has remained a faithful witness to our resurrected Lord by distributing His gifts of Word and Sacrament to God’s people, while also sharing His grace and peace with others through acts of mercy. During the preceding triennium, the congregation offered an additional service on Wednesday evenings. Multiple Bible studies were started or continued, with the addition of a women’s Bible study (WinGS) and a men’s Wednesday morning Bible study. Our school received

renewed Lutheran school accreditation. We found ourselves with a principal/teacher vacancy which is now filled for the 2025–2026 school year. Large-print and small-format (lighter weight) hymnals were made available to assist those needing them in worship. Services began to be regularly posted on a YouTube channel, and the church/school website was redone. The annual “Trost Trot” 5k was initiated and a completely new Park Hall was completed. Attendance at our annual Living Nativity returned to pre-pandemic numbers with nearly 3,000 visitors during the first weekend in December 2024. God has blessed Immanuel in many other ways, and when we consider His blessings we are encouraged for the future.

Millington, St. Paul

St. Paul, Millington continues to rely on God for His abundant grace and the ability to share that grace in the name of Jesus the Christ. In 2022, we celebrated our 125th anniversary with various activities and guest preachers. We welcomed home several sons of the congregation who are now serving the Church as pastors, as well as some of the pastors who served at St. Paul. We continued to livestream one service a weekend even as we continued to encourage people to return to in-person worship and Bible study in a post-COVID decade. Our in-person and Bible study attendance has improved slightly from 2022. We also have been able to offer some additional home group Bible studies. The various aspects of ministry through St. Paul are supported by volunteerism and financial giving. We continued to educate members of our needs and opportunities to be engaged in the work we share. God always provided enough help and finances, although it was often a “wait and see” how members would be the conduit of God’s resources. We face an uphill challenge as expenses continue to climb and finances continue to shrink. The largest portion of our ministry is through our school. It is a great blessing, but it requires a lot of commitment through the traditional areas of time, talent, and treasures.

Our school ministry has provided many blessings to the congregation and community. The school choirs, Joyful Noise and Free Spirit, sang monthly during the school year in our Sunday worship services. Both choirs and our beginning and advanced band played for our annual Christmas Concert along with our adult choir and handbells. A school Christmas program is also a well-attended event each December, allowing the children to share the message about our Savior. In addition, various art and other projects have been displayed throughout the building and at Frankenmuth Credit Union in Millington, highlighting the great work of our students. Numerous times, groups of students have sent cards or made personal visits to share the love of Jesus with members and people in our community.

Over the past several years, both school families and church families were invited to read the Bible together. Each year we had a different focus. We have read from a specific book each month for a year, then utilized a reading schedule that focused on different Old Testament characters each month and then on New Testament characters. We also created a

wall of participation slips showing the number of individuals or family units that spent time in God’s Word together for each monthly challenge.

Several social ministries provided love and mercy in the name of Jesus Christ through lunches provided for the Saginaw Rescue Mission once a month; a collection of baby bottles and baby supplies for the pro-life ministry called Positive Alternatives in Caro; Christmas gifts provided for families through a Giving Tree; hundreds of quilts made for various needs locally and world-wide; and an ingathering for health kits.

Our campus has undergone many upgrades to make it more energy-efficient for future generations. We also rallied to pre-fund much of our needed sanctuary repairs that we had hoped would begin in 2024 but will not take place until 2025. We continue to pray for God’s guidance, and that He will provide far more than we can ask or imagine as we seek to fulfill our mission statement: We are God’s servants, saved by grace, through faith, commissioned to share the Word of Christ to all.

Munger, Trinity-St. James

- Called and installed a full-time sole pastor, Rev. Jimmy K. Riley.
- Improved outdoor recreation area (The Gove) with a covered pavilion for congregational and community use.
- Enhanced and expanded our community involvement with seasonal food baskets, lunches and dinners, seasonal children activities, and the annual Munger Potato Festival.

Reese, Trinity

- Recognized the retirement of Julie Wheeler and Carol Eyster after a career of service in Lutheran Education, as well as Vickie Bull, after a career in Childcare.
- Served as the Michigan District’s “Set Apart to Serve” Pilot Congregation and focused on encouraging our youth to consider church work vocations.
- Continued to support various missions, including Rev. Adam Lehman and the Puerto Rico FORO, Orphan Grain Train, and the Luther Academy.

Richville, St. Michael’s

St. Michael’s congregation gives thanks to God for His abundant blessings to our church and school in the last three years. In June of 2024, pastor Keith Knea was installed as senior pastor, joining pastor Gillaspie to serve the congregation. The primary work of God’s Church continues with the ministry of Word and Sacrament and works of compassion and kindness that are shared with our community. St. Michael’s school is blessed with a fine staff and supportive families so that children continue to receive Christ-centered education.

Circuit #10 – Saginaw

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Paul Biber

As a new circuit visitor, the last three years were filled with

just trying to get my feet under me. We had four of our nine congregations vacant and four other congregations also dealing with call processes. Assisting with calls has been the bulk of my time as circuit visitor. Below is a brief summary of the congregations in the Saginaw Circuit:

Hemlock, St. Peter

St. Peter completed a major expansion to their church facilities, adding a music room, a fellowship hall, office space, a youth room, and other meeting rooms. They also added a track for their school and are looking at their next phase of expansion. Their school has been growing, and they are beginning the process of separating previously combined classes to accommodate the increased enrollment. They have also requested an associate pastor from the seminaries this spring.

Hemlock, Zion

Zion is the fourth of our congregations that has had a vacancy, with the retirement of Pastor Paul Hauser. They were served by an Intentional Interim Pastor who agreed to remain serving in a vacancy capacity. They have extended multiple calls that have been declined but continue to thrive and grow as a ministry in the vacancy. As Hemlock looks to be a community ready to expand significantly, Zion will have plenty of opportunities to reach their new community members.

Saginaw, Bethlehem

Bethlehem has continued to serve our community through their school ministry. Though they have been faithfully served by their senior pastor, they have been calling an associate for the entire triennium. Despite being short-staffed, they continue to be a recognized light of Christ in the community.

Saginaw, Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd, due to retirement and departure of multiple staff, reconfigured their positions and called two new graduates of CU Irvine to serve as directors of parish music, while also serving in youth and children's ministry. They also added a Stephen Ministry Program that has 11 trained ministers and 4 trained leaders. The addition of a prayer garden through memorial gifts has opened up the property to the surrounding community.

Saginaw, Holy Cross

Holy Cross was served by an Intentional Interim pastor for 18 months. While dealing with some issues that were discovered in the vacancy, the interim pastor worked well to bring the congregation together. I believe they are a much stronger congregation now as they continue to bless the city of Saginaw through their school. They welcomed their new pastor in 2024.

Saginaw (Carrollton), Messiah

Messiah also went through a vacancy with the departure of their pastor who took a call to Wisconsin. They were served in the vacancy by Pastor Mike Stahl of VLHS. Their leadership really stepped up to keep the ministry to members going through the vacancy. They welcomed a new pastor (a graduate from CTSFW) in summer of 2024.

Saginaw, Peace

Peace also saw some turnover in staff and has reconfigured their responsibilities to make the best use of their staff. Their church serves just inside the city limits and their school is in the township, giving them many diverse opportunities for ministry. They expanded their ECC in 2018 and it continues to grow and have a great Gospel outreach into our community.

Saginaw (Freeland), St. Mark

St. Mark saw the departure of their (semi-retired) assistant pastor this triennium. Like many of our congregations, they have an ECC that reaches out to their community. Pastor Abatelli has also assisted me in the circuit: given the number of vacancies that we have dealt with, he agreed to serve as "Winkel Czar," helping to keep our monthly gatherings lively and on topic.

St. Charles, Nativity

After many years of faithful service, Pastor Mitch Vogeli retired in the summer of 2024. Nativity requested but did not receive a new graduate last year and has resubmitted their request this year. In addition, they requested and received an Intentional Interim Minister who continues to serve them and guide them in evaluating their ministry and the needs from an incoming pastor.

Circuit #11 – Flint North

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Tyge Zucker

Birch Run, St. Martin

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.
Friday Fish Fries
Childcare Ministry
Pastoral vacancy as of July 2024

Bridgeport, Faith

Continues to provide Christ-centered childcare as well as a monthly community food distribution in Bridgeport. They have begun to hold a yearly neighborhood carnival as a way to get to know their neighbors. Faith has sent multiple mission teams to Alaska and Detroit and celebrated their 75th anniversary as a church.

Clio, Messiah

God is good! And we remain blessed! Since our last report we celebrated 31 baptisms, including individuals and households, with people ranging from newborn to 66 years of age. We also confirmed the faith of 37 people, ranging in age from 13 to 83. This represents a slower season of growth, but we remain committed to our mission to Make More & Better Disciples for Jesus Christ. As such, we have significantly increased participation in our various Bible studies, as well as grown our fellowship and hospitality opportunities. And we continue to make capital improvements, including a most recent total kitchen remodel. *Soli Deo gloria!*

Flint, Our Savior

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.
Average Worship Attendance: 28

Baptized Membership: 153
Confirmed Membership: 137

Flint, St. Paul/Christ the King Deaf

Deaf Missions established support groups and Bible studies for the Deaf. The St. Paul School celebrated 100 years of Lutheran education. A Chime Master bell system was purchased. Mission Committee hosts Thanksgiving dinner and other various meals for the international students from Kettering University. They also offer Bible study for students.

Flint, United in Christ

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.
Average Worship Attendance: 27
Baptized Membership: 125
Confirmed Membership: 105

Flushing, Holy Cross

Welcomed new pastor December 2023. Started “No Tricks, Just Treats” in 2022, connecting with 800–1000 people each Halloween/Reformation Day. Started “No One Alone Thanksgiving” meal for 50+ people who would otherwise have been alone. They hosted an Ordination service for a son of the congregation!

Owosso, St. Philip

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.
Average Worship Attendance: 42
Baptized Membership: 95
Confirmed Membership: 85

Circuit #12 – Flint South Circuit Visitor: Rev. Matthew Hein

Burton, Pilgrim

Over the past three years Pilgrim has been blessed with faithful servants and steady, gradual growth in worship attendance and membership. In 2022, they slowly recovered from COVID effects and saw the return of their social ministries. Pilgrim’s VBS program impacted around 15 visitors who were exposed to the Gospel. They joined a mentoring program at their local public elementary school that introduced several parents to the congregation. Technology updates better enabled online access to Bible classes and meetings. In the summer of 2023, Pilgrim’s VBS program reached more new people, and they gathered over 120 people for a Reunion Picnic. In 2024, Pilgrim dedicated a new crucifix to adorn the sanctuary, continued to reach out through their VBS program, and dedicated a new pavilion on the property. They’ve hired a part-time office assistant, providing staff office support for the first time in almost ten years. Pilgrim gives thanks to God for continuing to bless their ministry, all for His glory!

Fenton, Trinity

In the last three years, God has continued to use Trinity to be a beacon of hope in the Fenton and surrounding areas. After coming out of the pandemic with a fresh outlook on what ministry might look like, Trinity has worked to embrace ministry that intentionally celebrates being together as one

family of faith. Alongside their two Sunday worship services, this focus on life together has created a congregational ethos that has proved beneficial in building relationships and serving as an avenue to bring people into membership. Since 2022, Trinity has brought in 51 new members, alongside additional opportunities for Baptisms of both adults and children. Some highlights of these last three years include over 25 youth confirmed in the church, intentional gathering times for moms’ groups and dads’ groups, \$500,000 raised to help pay down their debt (in addition to increased giving), a refocused VBS that engages their community, an additional lay-led Bible study for men, a weekend women’s event that had over 60 in attendance, and a wonderful celebration with the Flint South Circuit with over 100 people in attendance. God be praised!

Flint, Lamb of God

Lamb of God gives thanks be to God for sustaining and growing them over the past three years (from 66 to 89 average worship attendance), especially through new member classes each year, Baptisms and weddings, etc.

Lamb of God continues to be actively involved supporting Franklin Avenue Mission (FAM), cooking and serving alongside their sister congregations in Circuit 12. During the FAM vacancy, Pastor Pretznaw has been part of a rotation of brother pastors from the Flint Tri-Circuit providing a welcoming, prayerful presence at the FAM for the dinner guests, as well as leading Thursday Evening Worship. They’ve held a VBS each year, reaching 40–60 children who learned about Jesus and made relationships while doing crafts and having fun (bounce house, water slide, a petting zoo, and pony rides). LOG also continues to hold their Children’s Christmas Worship Service with youth telling the story of Jesus’ birth in word and song. In addition, LOG has organized a yearly trip to Comerica Park for individuals and families to build relationships while watching a Detroit Tiger’s game. They are looking forward to collaborating with other congregations in Circuit 12 in children, youth, and family ministry opportunities.

Goodrich, Christ

Over the past three years, Christ has continued to receive from Jesus’ gracious hand as His Gospel has been proclaimed and the gift of His Sacraments administered. Small steps forward have been taken in ministry including adding several new members and becoming healthier financially by God’s grace.

Grand Blanc, Faith

The past three years have seen significant changes at Faith. In January 2024, their senior pastor of 16 years—Rev. Dr. Todd A. Biermann—accepted a call as director of the Concordia Center for the Family. As a result, the congregation called Rev. Jeffrey Heimsoth as Intentional Interim senior pastor. This has allowed them to look at who they are and how they might uniquely serve the Lord in their community and the world. At the time of this writing, Faith is in the process of calling a senior pastor.

Many members of Faith who had been absent since COVID struck have returned. Faith is also seeing many visitors. They

were blessed with six Baptisms in 2024 and, as of February, have already had five for 2025. Faith is active in the Franklin Ave. Mission in Flint, but the congregation is also looking to better connect with the people of the community, focusing on the ALICE population. They are excited to see what the future holds in store for them and the work God has planned for them in His Kingdom.

Linden, Hope

Over the last three years, Hope has continued to see a regular weekly worship attendance ranging between 40–70. To help keep people connected, Hope has invested a significant portion of its ministry to in-reach, encouraging regular church attendance and care for their shut-ins. Hope continues to have two weekly Bible studies and an education hour on Sunday mornings.

Hope continues to actively reach out to the community of Linden, especially their public schools, with Pastor Kollek serving on the school advisory board and several members serving as mentors at Hyatt elementary. Hope continues to offer an after-school program for 75+ middle school students (devotion, games, crafts, and other activities). Hope hosts the Linden High School baccalaureate service, offers coffee and donuts to Linden/Argentine school staff and community first responders, participates in numerous community events, and has been active in support of local organizations (the local food bank, LMA, American Legion, VFW, Pay It Forward). The strong relationships built with local schools and police have led to multiple opportunities for prayer and requests for spiritual counsel during tragic events. Hope's women's guild is once again active, the women's quilting group continues to provide items for Flint missions and children in Haiti, while several dog ministry teams are also active in all of our schools and community.

Swartz Creek, NewLife Community

By God's grace, NewLife has experienced great blessing the past three years. Their worshipping community and membership continue to grow steadily. The congregation completed a significant process that clarified its unique identity, mission, and values. In partnership with Church Extension Fund, a new addition to the NewLife facility was completed, providing much needed flexible space that has allowed NewLife's children and family discipleship to thrive. NewLife has strengthened its partnerships within the Flint South Circuit, with Franklin Avenue Mission in Flint, with My Brothers Keeper (men's homeless shelter) in Flint, and with missionaries Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf in Puerto Rico. As NewLife nears its 30th anniversary, they are eager to continue welcoming neighbors across the greater Flint area into relationship, centered in Jesus, in the neighborhoods where they live, work, and play.

Circuit #13 – Lapeer

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Todd Frusti

Davison, Trinity

Trinity, Davison continued to share Jesus through worship, Bible studies, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and

several local outreaches. The members of Trinity actively serve others through providing meals (and worship) at a local homeless shelter, annually creating hundreds of quilts, collecting needed items for a local food pantry, and serving together to help when needs arise.

In June of 2023 we embarked on a much-needed renovation of our lower level that would take one year. During VBS week of July of 2023, our facilities were hit by a severe hailstorm. With hundreds of holes in our flat roofs, our main level would be unusable for the next year until all of the roofs were repaired. With the exception of the worship area, all of our facilities were unusable for about twelve months. Adjustments were made and we did as much ministry as possible in the remaining space.

God is good. We are thankful for the Lord's blessings throughout the past triennium and look forward in faith to His future blessings and opportunities.

Dryden, Holy Redeemer

Through the blessings that the Lord provides, Holy Redeemer is able to share the Love of Jesus Christ within the community. With the Good News of Jesus Christ as our center, we are able to show that love to the community in numerous ways besides the Word and Sacrament ministry that is always at the heart of this congregation's ministry. The congregation operates a preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children three days a week. We have been actively supporting the community by the works of Linked Hearts, a food bank supported by the five churches in Dryden. Our congregation has many ways to support the local community needs by supporting the Refugee Homeless Shelter of Lapeer, The Pregnancy Center of Lapeer, and the Reach the Forgotten Prison Ministry. We provide the use of our parking lot each day to the community schools of Oxford, Lapeer, and Imlay City to provide a safe place for parents and children to wait for the bus. Each year, Holy Redeemer hosts a Vacation Bible School to provide a chance to minister to the children in the community. The Lapeer County allows a prayer walk through each public school and Holy Redeemer has been given the opportunity to weekly walk through the Dryden High School and pray for the school, students, teachers, and all others that serve the school. We also host and provide a community outreach by having an annual corn roast to invite the community to come meet the members of the church and enjoy a bit of food and fellowship with each other.

Flint, St. Mark

St. Mark, Flint called Pastor Morgan Garrett from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He was ordained June 16, 2024, and was installed as Associate Pastor of St. Mark June 23.

St. Mark continues to find ways to serve the community, particularly the community at Kearsley High School, which is just down the block. We were there to aid Kearsley High during a recent explosion and fire which was isolated to the unoccupied new addition to the building. St. Mark serves as an evacuation location for the high school, but since the event was quickly isolated, no evacuation was necessary. Still, we were ready to serve.

Beginning February 2025, St. Mark agreed to deploy Senior Administrative Pastor Jeff Frechette to serve as Part Time Missionary at Large to Franklin Avenue Mission, which serves the needy community on Flint's eastside with hot meals twice per week, as well as food pantry, clothing closet, and personal items distribution. Our hope and prayer is that this arrangement will be a blessing to both St. Mark and Franklin Ave. Mission, expanding ministry opportunities to serve both communities with the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Imlay City, Family of Christ

Average Worship Attendance: 32 (weekly)

Baptized Membership: 54

Confirmed Membership: 54

Lapeer, St. Paul

Average Worship Attendance: 189 (weekly)

Baptized Membership: 1,122

Confirmed Membership: 730

Memphis, St. Andrew

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.

Avg worship attendance: 25

Baptized members: 50

Confirmed members: 40

North Branch, New Life In Christ

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.

Avg worship attendance: 28

Baptized members: 108

Confirmed members: 108

Otisville, St. Timothy

Average Worship Attendance: 71 (weekly)

Baptized Membership: 191

Confirmed Membership: 169

Circuit #14 – Port Huron

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Gerhard Doroh

Algonac, First

Pastor John Greig has brought new life to the congregation with intentional community outreach. The church houses a community clothing bank and hosts monthly community suppers. John serves part-time as a District Facilitator.

Armada, Our Saviour

Pastor Alex Schrader was installed in Dec 2024, following the retirement of Pastor Sam Sherouse. New eyes and ears for reaching the community. People are excited to follow his leadership.

Fairhaven, St. Peter

Pastor Steven Hoerr brings solid Word and Sacrament ministry to this country older congregation. The congregation is witnessing growth. Active lay involvement. Sunday school is offered each week as grandparents are bringing the grandchildren to worship. This has resulted in the parents coming to worship.

Goodells, Hope

Vicar William Warsinski (SMP Ft. Wayne) serves under the supervision of Pastor William Otten. The Lord continues to use this small church to reach people for Jesus. Vicar Warsinski is a son of the congregation (deacon for many years). When ordained, he will be the first resident pastor serving Hope.

Lexington, St. Matthew

Pastor Chris Jung (wife Amanda is in the Deaconess program) was installed in 2024. Good fit, new life. Children's and women's ministries. Several community involvement projects.

Marine City, Living Faith

Pastor Paul Yanke is seeing a slow but steady growth in membership and worship. Several community outreach events. Karen Yanke provides leadership with the children's ministries. Midweek children's program called Blast continues to grow. Community food and clothing bank housed in their building.

Marysville, Light of Christ

Pastor Scott Magnuson and the congregation are involved in several community mercy projects, including Spero pregnancy counseling. Mission trips to Guatemala.

Port Huron, Faith

Pastor Mark Huff seeing growth. Church is debt free. Added full-time family life youth position. Food pantry (3,000 served). Involved in Operation Transformation and local pregnancy. Mission teams to Central America and looking at Africa.

Port Huron, Trinity

Pastor Mark Madson installed Vicar John Pegg (SMP St. Louis), son of the congregation since COVID. 150th anniversary. Active in community mercy projects.

Richmond, St. Peter's

Pastor Mark Haller continues to lead the congregation as new members/ growth in worship. Back to pre-COVID numbers and more. Debt free in 2023. 150th anniversary in 2022. Deacon Howard Harkness and full-time youth [director] Amanda Franchek (Grief Share). John Summers leads Bible class and seniors programs. Principal Heather Haller is seeing continued growth (started with 28+ preschool, now at 120+ and growing). Outdoor pavilion/classroom/worship area was added. Mission teams to Dominican Republic, exploring Africa. Active intentional community outreach. Pastor serves as a chaplain to the public safety groups.

St. Clair, Immanuel

Pastor James Murr joined Pastor Dave Dubois (SMP) as Senior Pastor. Replaced Al Schwieger who retired. 125th anniversary in 2023. Community recognized preschool. Hosted a circuit convocation event in September.

Circuit #15 – Macomb North
Circuit Visitor: Rev. Nikolai Gibbons

Chesterfield, Good Shepherd

Over the past three years, Good Shepherd has been led well in Word and Sacrament by Pastor Tim Storck. They have faithful, traditional services rooted in the Divine Service along with regular Bible study offerings. The Bible study attendance has grown over the year. They also have a congregation-wide effort to read through the entire Bible at home.

Their food pantry is a blessing for the Chesterfield community and is increasingly needed. Good Shepherd has also had combined events with Christ, New Baltimore in an effort to promote area fellowship and enjoy time together.

Clinton Township, Cross Point

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.
Average Worship Attendance: 14
Baptized Members: 20
Confirmed Members: 20

Clinton Township, St. Luke

St. Luke continues to do faithful Word and Sacrament ministry along with regular Bible studies and Catechism classes.

Clinton Township, Trinity

Over the past three years, Trinity has continued to be a beacon of faith and community. Under the leadership of Pastor Ken Wise, the church maintained a strong focus on worship, offering a blend of contemporary and traditional services. After his retirement, Pastor Gary Richard and Pastor Jeremy Ashley have continued to lead well for the people at Trinity. The congregation has been actively involved in various outreach programs, including food drives and community service projects, reflecting their commitment to serving others. Trinity Lutheran is known for its great school, preschool, and daycare. Additionally, the church has embraced technology, enhancing their online presence to stay connected with members and reach a broader audience. Overall, Trinity Lutheran Church remains a welcoming and dynamic place for worship, learning, and fellowship.

Macomb, Immanuel

Over the past three years, Immanuel Lutheran Church and School has continued to be a cornerstone of the community. The church has maintained a variety of worship services, including traditional, modern, and midweek options, along with livestreams to accommodate remote participation. They have also focused on community engagement through various events and programs, fostering a sense of belonging and support among their members. Community events include Night to Shine, Egg Hunt, Trunk n Treat, and Living Nativities.

A significant milestone for Immanuel was the retirement of Pastor Michael Lutz in February 2023, after nearly 40 years of dedicated service. His leadership saw the church grow significantly, both in membership and in its outreach efforts. The church has continued to build on his legacy,

emphasizing education through its preschool and K-8 school, and maintaining a vibrant, active congregation.

Under Pastor Chad Foster's leadership, Immanuel has become a church known for its teaching and discipleship. Online teaching content is enjoyed around the world with over 50K watches and views annually. The school continues to have excellent educational offerings in the preschool and K-8 and the build, completed in 2019, continues to be a great blessing for Immanuel and the community.

Macomb, St. Peter

Over the past three years, St. Peter Lutheran Church and School has continued to thrive as a vibrant community hub. The church has maintained its traditional worship services on Saturdays and Sundays, along with a modern worship service on Sunday mornings. They have also embraced technology by offering livestreams of their services, ensuring that members can participate remotely. The church has been active in community outreach and engagement, hosting various events and programs to support both spiritual growth and social connection among its members. There is excitement for a growing pastoral staff, excellent worship and music ministries, mission trips, VBS, youth ministry, and outreach opportunities.

In addition to its worship services, St. Peter has focused on enhancing its educational offerings. The school has continued to provide a robust curriculum for its students, emphasizing both academic excellence and spiritual development. The church and school have worked together to create a supportive environment for families, offering resources and activities that cater to all age groups. This commitment to education and community has helped St. Peter Lutheran remain a cornerstone in Macomb, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose among its congregation members.

St. Peter is launching a new major capital campaign to increase the school size to three classes per grade, along with a brand-new modern gym facility. This campaign, Building Together, began its promotional and pledge push in Feb 2025.

New Baltimore, Christ

Over the past three years, Christ Lutheran Church, has had growth and community engagement under the leadership of Pastor Daniel Harrison, who was ordained and installed in July 2021. The church has continued to offer traditional, reverent worship services and continues to keep a strong emphasis on the Catechism and Bible study. They have added new sound and video equipment to offer livestream and recorded options. They have also expanded their community service efforts, working together to assist those in need and to share the love of Christ with their neighbors, along with shared fellowship events with Good Shepherd in Chesterfield.

Christ Lutheran is very excited about the relaunched Sunday school, which has been operational for about a year now since being dormant for over a decade. The Sunday school has continued to grow over the year. In addition, Christ has

had new member classes going strong for the last couple of years, welcoming many new members to the congregation. They have had at least eight Baptisms over the past couple of years. For a smaller congregation in New Baltimore, they are extremely thankful for the Lord's work among them. All glory to God alone!

Ray, St. John

St. John continues to do faithful Word and Sacrament ministry.

Circuit #16 – Macomb Northwest

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Norm Koy

Romeo, Grace Fellowship – Rev. Eric Majeski

Grace continues to live out its mission of “Bringing God’s grace to life” in our local communities. We are grateful to serve at-risk kids in partnership with a local public elementary school through Kids Hope. Grace was able to send a mission team to Ensenada, Mexico, to build a family home with Homes of Hope. Grace has been blessed with a vibrant student ministry drawing kids from our surrounding communities. This has led to a successful launch of a Young Adult gathering as well. Finally, and most recently, Grace launched five initiatives for the next five years as a roadmap for continued mission and ministry at Grace.

Shelby Township, Peace – Rev. David Klemm

Peace installed a new principal last year as school attendance continues to grow. We added a second Kindergarten class and are blessed that preschool is at capacity. Many campus improvements continue to be made: refresh of the gym, sanctuary, and furniture in all classrooms. Technology and security have also been upgraded. VBS continues to grow as we reach out into the community. We thank the Lord for continued congregational growth and the new opportunities to share God’s love.

Shelby Township, Shepherd’s Gate – Rev. Timothy Bollinger

The people of Shepherd’s Gate have experienced God’s grace in remarkable ways over the past three years. In 2022, we launched a building campaign that includes plans to tear down our current worship center and construct a brand new one, along with a new gathering space. We are excited to break ground this year, with a projected completion date in the summer of 2026. Additionally, we remain deeply involved in our community, having expanded our annual Step Out and Serve weekend into what is now known as Step Out and Serve 365. This initiative provides ongoing service opportunities for our members to engage in community outreach throughout the year.

Sterling Heights, Saint Paul – Rev. Walter Keller

On March 2, 2025 the congregation held a service of praise and thanksgiving on the occasion of their 150 Anniversary. On April 27, 2025 a retirement celebration was held for Pastor Keller.

Troy, Faith – Rev. Joe Casiglia

Over the past three years we have been excited to see God continue to grow and bless His Kingdom through the ministry happening at Faith. Our FOR Campaign continues to be a major way that Faith engages our community with the love of Jesus. To date, we have given away over \$300,000 to local ministries and non-profits in Metro Detroit that are focused on loving people in the name of Jesus. We partnered with a local ministry, House of Hope, which ministers to people living in mobile home communities, to help launch a new ministry location in Sterling Heights. We’ve led mission trips to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. In Guatemala we’ve begun a new partnership with a local school that is providing educational and nutritional support for their local community. We began a new family mission trip experience that has allowed us to serve families in the community of Gwinn, Mich. Our ministries in our local community continue to grow as well. Each of the past three years, our VBS ministries, along with our children’s and student ministries, have continued to increase, along with our weekend worship attendance. In February 2025, Pastor Matt Schuler joined our congregation. Over the past three years, Faith has baptized 19 adults and 130 children. December of 2025 will mark Faith’s 60th anniversary.

Troy, Faith Tamil – Rev. Arul Alexander

Faith Tamil continues to reach out the community with the Gospel.

Utica, Trinity – Rev. Justin Krupsky

In 2024 our in-person worship grew by over 70 people a weekend with 42 Baptisms. Our day school grew once again and has over 527 students enrolled. Our youth ministry reached over 260 students this past year and our children’s ministry reached over 1,000 children through VBS and Trunk or Treat. This past year we connected with over 16K people with our in-person discipleship ministries, 1.6K being brand new. We have 14 active small groups and we welcomed 96 new members through our adult confirmation program. We continued our shut-in ministry to 42 individuals each month, along with providing grief share to 37 people and we now have 20 active Stephen ministers. Our online ministry has continued to expand. We now have over 2,200 subscribers to our YouTube page and over 2,500 followers on Facebook and another 1,000 on Instagram while reaching over 200,000 individuals through social media. Through our social ministry we continue to serve over 2,000 meals a week to the hungry in our community. To God be the glory as we continue share Christ’s story with love.

Washington Township, Our Redeemer – Rev. Jeffrey Draeger

On September 25, 2022 the Our Redeemer family came together to celebrate our church’s 75th anniversary. Past and present members, as well as members of our community, joined the celebration. We were blessed to have Rev. James Gruetzner (Emeritus), who served the church for 35 years, join us in praising God for His multitude of steadfast blessings over Our Redeemer’s 75 years of ministry. We continue to reach out to our community with the love of

Christ through events such as our yearly Lenten Fair, Easter Egg Hunt, church picnic, Advent dinners, Lenten dinners, Bible studies, Life Ministry, and many LWML and women's events. Our vacation Bible school has continued to grow and hosts over 150 children each year. Most of these children are from outside of our church family. It is exciting to share with them the depth of the love that the Savior has for them. In 2023 we took advantage of an opportunity to participate in a community project to help build a Veterans Memorial Park in Washington Township. The park gives visitors a space where they can go to rest, remember, and pray and is a short walk from our church. We continue to be blessed with the opportunity to be witnesses of God's love and compassion to over 110 preschoolers and their families through our Little Lambs Preschool ministry. We praise God for all the good things that He provides us so that we can share His goodness with those in our community and point them to Him! Pastor Draeger will retire 7/2025.

Circuit #17 – Oakland North **Circuit Visitor: Rev. Paul Undlin**

Clarkston, St. Trinity

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, and many family events. We also have a full-size baseball field that is utilized extensively in the warmer months by various teams and a multi-church softball league. We have a walking trail through our forested grounds and are looking to put benches and Bible passages on the trail for spiritual growth of those walking the paths. We support the ministries of St. Paul, Pontiac and continue to sponsor a seminarian. Our congregation offers opportunities to various community sports teams, AA, and other community groups. Regular blood drives, ingatherings for Oxford Pregnancy Center, and serving as a voting precinct are a few of the cooperatives we have with community endeavors.

We are served by our Senior Pastor, Paul Undlin, and have an SMP, Pastor Mike DeVries, who serves not only St. Trinity but also does pulpit supply for the churches in our area. In this last triennium we stepped out in faith and added a Director of Family Life position and Mandi Ressler was installed in October of 2023. Our preschool program was completely revamped, offering greater flexibility to families, and we run two full classrooms each year. Worship attendance has rebounded significantly in the last triennium and has seen 10-15% growth year-over-year for the last three years. The livestreaming of our services has been a boon for our members who may not be able to join us in person and has helped guests and visitors to feel more comfortable. We have been able to greatly expand our "service area" beyond Clarkston through the use of technology. By God's grace, our congregation has grown in so many ways as we serve

God and community with His love.

Lake Orion, Good Shepherd

In the triennium, Good Shepherd has experienced growth and change. We have seen a few key staff member turnovers, including our church administrator, preschool administrator, and custodian. Our preschool has continued to expand, adding a 2-year-old classroom this past school year and enrolling 107 students. The church's membership and attendance has also continued to tick up as we add members through Baptism, adult confirmation, and a small number of transfers. Lastly, the most recent and significant change in the last three years has been this congregation's ability to reassume its mortgage. In 2019, the difficult decision was made to allow CEF to assume ownership of the building while the congregation rented the facility and regrouped. Happily, in November of 2024, the congregation was able to emerge from its rental and re-acquire the building from CEF. This would not have been possible without the continued blessing of God on the life and mission of this congregation.

Ortonville, Prince of Peace

Average Worship Attendance: 19
Baptized Membership: 54
Confirmed Membership: 48

Oxford, Journey

In the last triennium, God has continued to use His mission and ministry at Journey to build partnering relationships inside and outside of the Oxford Community with six different social ministry organizations. We have continued to "recover" from COVID in worship and serving number all along while maintaining a strong online presence. Our preschool continues to have full enrollment numbers, and we seek to engage those parents and students to be in worship and study of God's Word (VBS has steadily increased numbers each year). Due to the generosity of so many of our sister congregations in the Michigan District, we have been able to sustain the outreach of "Caring for Oxford" in assisting over 200 individuals in our community with their mental health care costs caused by the tragic November of 2021 Oxford High School shooting.

We have seen our share of change in leadership but, as God has been faithful in the past, we know He will be faithful in the future. Our Lead Pastor, Matt Schuler, accepted a call and our lay leaders have stepped up to not only make sure that God's mission and ministry is maintained, but also to seek to continue to grow. Our former Family Life Minister, Mike Felten, made the decision to enter seminary this past year and we know that he will be a blessing to the church at large for many years in the future.

Indeed – we are "Better Together."

Pontiac, St. Paul Community

Rev. Jerry Corbett was installed as Vacancy Pastor in February 2024 and as Sole Pastor in July 2024. This past year has witnessed a renewed hope and life at St. Paul. We have seen renewed growth in both our discipleship ministry

and compassion ministry. Our average weekly attendance has grown from 8 to 34 people. We were blessed with 23 Baptisms, 19 new family members last year. 15 of our young people attended a 4-week First Communion Class and received the Lord's Supper in October. We consistently see God's hand at work in the community here in Pontiac. We have updated the old church building into our new Youth room. The entire basement is set to welcome our 8–15-year-olds into a Christ-centered area. A safe place to hang out and make friends. For this we give thanks and praise to Jesus.

Likewise, our compassion ministry has experienced much larger growth and a greater need. Our Father's Hands Food Pantry and Family Clothing Closet serve over 500 people a month. This is up from 100 people in 2022 and 265 people in 2023. We are always looking for donations of non-perishable foods and it is harder to find clothes. If you would like to get your congregation involved with clothing or food drive, please contact our church office. We serve a hot meal ever Wednesday night, which is sponsored by local LCMS congregations. Our numbers range anywhere from 50-60 people on any given Wednesday.

Bible studies on Wednesday nights, women's prayer group on Fridays at noon, fellowship activities once a month, and VBS programming in the summer. St. Paul is a congregation that has a lot of needs, to which we look to our sister congregations for help. The need for volunteers, food donations, and monetary assistance is constant to keep our mission here in Pontiac ongoing.

Contact the church office if you would be interested in furthering God's ministry here at St. Paul in a very tangible way.

Rochester, St. John

As our St. John mission motto (based on Jesus' prayer in John 17:21–23) proclaims ONE IN JESUS ... REACHING MANY, we have continually seen Him having His way among us over the past three years! Through five weekly opportunities to worship and celebrate our Savior's presence through Word and Sacrament via traditional praise and modern praise offered in two very different worship venues on our campus (as well as online), we praise the Lord for steadily increasing attendance—now surpassing pre-COVID numbers—as well as more and more people growing weekly through small and large group Bible studies on and off campus. The Lord also continues to open doors to the mobilization of our family to serve in very tangible, compassionate ways in our community and beyond through ongoing acts of service, all aimed at sharing the love of Jesus. Whether through new efforts of community food distribution through a recently acquired mobile food pantry, relational witness, compassionate care, prayer ministry, or Church Has Left The Building multisite serve days, Kingdom impact in our community continues. Ongoing tithes and offerings have never been stronger, enabling a beyond generous outpouring of financial support for local St. John's mission and ministry, as well as mission partnerships in Pontiac, Detroit, and South Africa! However, by far the biggest blessing of the past three years has been the amazing ongoing surge of enrollment in

our school ministry (Pre-K–8th grade)! To meet the need, we have prayerfully made a huge investment in this future, having just completed a multi-year campus expansion and renovation plan that included a 15-classroom two-story preschool and middle school addition. With all of this has come an ongoing testimony of God's faithful work through the celebration of more and more Baptisms of new students and adults as well as the largest influx of new member families in our 105-year history! All to say, we have so many reasons to give thanks for the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus, who truly is at work having His way among us!

Rochester Hills, Crown of Life

The preschool has had full classes in both the 3's and 4's. Our young 5's program enrollment has been the highest it has been and already close to full for the '25-'26 school year. The church has two worship services with different worship styles. We have been blessed with returning guests, new members, and Baptisms. In the summer of 2024, Crown of Life celebrated the burning of their mortgage. We have also had the opportunity to host the first immersion of PLI (Pastoral Leadership Institute) Detroit. Moving forward, Crown of Life is looking at possibly adding another full-time staff member in the area of Family Life Ministry and taking a look at how we could possibly support an LCC Comfort Dog.

Rochester Hills, GoodLife

Average Worship Attendance: 26

Baptized Membership: 43

Confirmed Membership: 42

Waterford, St. Stephen

St. Stephen has had many things happen over the past few years. The church was able to pay off its mortgage last December. Giving from the congregation has been excellent for several years now, and beginning this year (2025) the church will donate all of the offerings collected on the fifth Sunday of the month to local organizations and non-profits that benefit the community. The church has also started to support Lutherans in Africa and the School of Lutheran Theology in Nairobi, Kenya, along with Issues, Etc., and Doxology, the Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel.

The church has been hosting outside speakers to come in and speak about contemporary issues facing the Church. These events have been funded by a generous family in the congregation. St. Stephen will be hosting two events in 2025, Major Jonathan Turnbull on Sunday, March 30, and Doxology's "In His Image," with Rev. David Fleming and Dr. Beverly Yahnke, who will be addressing teachers and lay members about children who are struggling with transgenderism in school.

Circuit #18 – Birmingham Circuit

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dr. Evan Gaertner

Beverly Hills, Our Savior – Deaf – Rev. Tyler A. Walworth Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf is remaining strong in these difficult times. We recently hosted the International Lutheran Deaf Association, which continues to support

outreach to the Deaf community in the United States and throughout the world. We also support St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf at Emmanuel, Dearborn—the only Lutheran Deaf School that is available in Michigan. Our members are steadfastly receiving the gifts of our Lord in Word and Sacrament through ASL every Sunday. We also host and support special services for the Deaf Community throughout Michigan through St. Martin Deaf Education Ministries (Ephphatha). We give thanks to God for Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church in Beverly Hills, who continues to give us a place to worship every Sunday at no cost to us. What a testimony to Christ! We pray that the Lord would continue to bless us as we receive and give Christ and Him crucified in the Deaf community.

Birmingham, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer – Rev. Randy Schlak and Rev. James Greenwalt
Redeemer is celebrating its 100th anniversary throughout 2025! On November 24, 2024, we had a worship service at Churchill’s Cigar Bar in Birmingham, where Redeemer had its very first worship service on November 23, 1924. We will continue throughout the year to highlight different ministries each month through our 100th Anniversary wall display and special coffee hours. On May 10, 1925, a small chapel was dedicated on the corner of Lincoln and Ann streets and, under the guidance of Rev. Theodore Wuggazer, Redeemer’s early congregation began to grow. In 1938, the congregation voted to transfer its membership from the English District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to the Michigan District. This step provided needed financial support and, within two years, the parish numbered 120 communicants. In 1962, Rev. Duane Wuggazer, son of Rev. Theodore Wugazzer, joined the pastoral staff of Redeemer and, after the untimely death of his father in 1966, became senior pastor. As ministries were expanded, new professional staff members were added to meet the needs for spiritual growth and care. Since that time, the congregation has been sustained and nurtured by the ministry of Pastor Duane, who was joined in ministry by Reverend Randall Schlak in 1998. Redeemer continues to be a vibrant congregation where God’s love in Jesus Christ inspires us to invite neighbors and friends to sit down with us at His table. He reassures us that there is a place for everyone to feast on the abundant gifts of His grace and mercy. On June 1, 2025 we had a 100th year celebratory church service and were honored to have Pastor Mark Wuggazer, third generation pastor, lead worship.

Birmingham, Our Shepherd – Rev. Dr. Evan Gaertner, Rev. Steve Woodfin, Rev. Mike Viergege.
Our Shepherd celebrated 75 years of ministry in 2024 with the theme “Welcome Home.” This anniversary year provided us the opportunity to celebrate how God has provided a spiritual home for people. It also encouraged us to examine how we will continue to be a congregation that provides a warm welcome to all. We renovated our narthex as part of the celebrations with a vision to provide welcome to all. We replaced the solid wall separating the sanctuary from the narthex with a glass wall. Our church, school, and childcare trust in the work of God to be present with us yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Our school remains a strong place of

ministry and entrance for families to live life together in the congregation. The family elder program, with over 40 men involved, is a vibrant method to connect households to one another and to opportunities to serve God with their gifts.

Bloomfield Hills, Cross of Christ

This congregation has found a strong spiritual identity in small group ministry through its vacancy pastors. The congregation has found remarkable development of lay leadership through its vacancy. The congregation has coalesced around a grass-roots developed vision for building relationships with each other and our savior Jesus via worship, discipleship, and outreach. The congregation patiently waits for the Holy Spirit to lead a shepherd to them.

Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods – Rev. Mark Doede

The last three years have been marked by various forms of outreach to the community. We are providing more opportunities for preschool students and their families, most of whom are not members of our congregation, to participate in services and other church activities. We have added a Friday morning “toddler playtime” for members of the community who are looking for a chance to have their toddlers play with others. VBS has been restarted after a rather lengthy COVID-induced pause, and participation has drawn primarily from the community. We recently received a sizable gift to further fuel our outreach efforts. In 2024, we began a Chronological Bible Read-Through plan with brief daily videos. We have also begun “A Year in the Confessions” as published in the October 2024 issue of *The Lutheran Witness* with review of each month’s reading at our scheduled Bible studies. Our music program has been blessed by the return of a bell choir, an enthusiastic adult choir, the start of a children’s choir, and a new piano.

Royal Oak, St. Paul – Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski

Over the last three years, St. Paul celebrated its 150th year of ministry in the heart of Royal Oak. With the approval and recognition from the Michigan History Center, we have been designated as a historical landmark for the state of Michigan. As the first Lutheran church in Oakland County history, we count ourselves blessed. We also have begun church and school capital campaign activities with plans to refortify the foundations of the church building, rebuild new church offices, redesign the welcome center, and reseal our school gymnasium windows.

Troy, St. Augustine (SALT) – Rev. Paul Monson, Rev. Franklin Dohanyos

SALT Church seeks to be the friendly, welcoming church “where everyone knows your name.” Each week a service is offered with contemporary liturgy and songs, as well as two services with traditional liturgy and hymns. The congregation is blessed with extraordinary, professional-class musical talent. The preschool is doing well, sharing the love of Jesus with the little ones. Pastor Paul Monson will celebrate 20 years at SALT in October of 2025. The congregation reaches out to the community with bi-monthly seminars on issues people face in life. “Harvest is Plentiful”

is a new endeavor led by Pastor Franklin Dohanyos, to reach out to the unchurched and those without a church via videos, podcasts, and online education, using various social media platforms. “Love for Others” is another ministry led by Pastor Dohanyos that endeavors to support the feeding and well-being of our members. “Love for Others” provides food and gas cards, as well as providing emergency medical and prescription needs, shelter, overdue utility payments, etc.

Warren, Holy Cross – Rev. Eric Shanburn

In 2022, Holy Cross’ beloved pastor of 20 years Rev. Alan Eisinger retired. Pastor Shanburn was installed in April of 2023. The challenges facing Holy Cross were an aging congregation (many funerals), the continued effects of COVID-19, few active families with children, financial difficulties, demographic changes in Warren, and the transition to new leadership. We have since increased our ministry to children, started a youth ministry, started a men’s ministry, started a seniors’ ministry, revamped our women’s ministry, refocused our elder team, established a new events team and a mission/evangelism team, reviewed our membership, reorganized our building and properties plan, and conducted a church-wide financial audit. We have one Sunday worship time, with children, youth, and adult Bible study before church. We also have a midweek prayer service and Bible study. We recently formed a praise band that leads Sunday worship music once a month. We continue to have a robust choir and handbell choir. We continue to see visitors and new members join.

Circuit #19 – Macomb South Circuit Visitor: Rev. Mark Hetzner

Clinton Township, All Nations

In the last year, All Nations was blessed with one adult Muslim man’s Baptism. All nations is growing. Five new members joined All Nations and will soon be confirmed. We are reaching out to many ethnic groups in are area by conducting home Bible studies where the host invites non-believers. Three teens will start confirmation classes in March.

Eastpointe, St. Peter’s

For 178 years the communion of saints has gathered in and around the city of Eastpointe. This once-frontier wilderness is now a busy city near 9 Mile and Gratiot. During this time, some 10 generations of Lutherans have been born, baptized, confirmed, married, and buried at St. Peter’s. This tradition of gathering families from all walks of life continues at St. Peter’s. In 2022 we called a new pastor to lead us. Over the coming years, we have taken steps to engage the community along the Gratiot corridor from 9 Mile to 14 Mile. The Early Childhood Center has added a full GSRP class, and our other classrooms are full. The day school has grown to single classrooms K-thru 4th grade in 2024 and looks to be single-graded up to 7/8 grade in the 2025 school year. The 2024–2025 school year saw 100 students enrolled in K-8. The congregation welcomed 50 new members from Peace, Warren when their congregation closed. We have baptized 25 children and 15 adults these past three years, with more adults and children enrolled in new member classes for the

upcoming year. Church and Bible study attendance have grown as St. Peter’s members learn what it means to be a disciple of Christ as they partake of Word and Sacrament. As one member says, “the Holy Spirit is on the move and St. Peter’s is waking up.” To God be the glory for preserving St. Peter’s through difficult times that we may be a tool to reach the lost in our community, church, and home at a time such as this.

Eastpointe, St. Thomas

In September 2024, Rev. Dietrick Gladden was installed as pastor at St. Thomas, ushering in an era of continued community service and faith-nurturing ministries. During the year and a half call process following the retirement of Rev. Mark Hetzner, the congregation was faithfully served by two vacancy pastors – first Rev. Jerry Corbett and then Rev. Keith Lemley, along with many other staff members and lay volunteers who continue serving to this day. In December, Rev. Hetzner was invited back by Pastor Gladden (and the congregation) to serve as visitation pastor (Emeritus).

A list of some of the more notable ministries includes: weekly worship that continues in person and online (since pre-pandemic days), Faith Hope Love (FHL) small group Bible fellowships, a clothing closet that serves 100+ people each month, a community food pantry, distribution of 80+ holiday meals three times each year, and a quarterly (excluding the summer) Saturday of free food and entertainment for the community (called S.A.S.S. – Soup And Sandwich Saturday).

Community ministries hosted on the STL campus include a GSRP preschool, AA, AL-Anon, youth sports programs, and (added in 2025) I-can (afterschool) Tutoring.

Fraser, St. John

Worship: The Lord has continued to bless us with excellent attendance. Four adults have been baptized in the past three years, as well as numerous children through our grade school. Staffing changes have taken place. Pastor Peter Elliot accepted a call out of state; Pastor Joel Haak accepted the call to be associate pastor and was installed on 3/12/23. Mr. Mel Machemer, music director for the past 37 years, has announced his retirement, and St. John is in the process of filling that position upon his retirement. We praise God for the blessings that God has poured out on us through the service of Pastor Elliot and Mr. Machemer.

School: St. John School has flourished. Our enrollment has increased each of the last four years, with a waiting list for enrollment in several grades. Our childcare program has expanded greatly over the triennium. Two significant retirements have taken place. Mrs. Sue Machemer retired at the end of the 23–24 school year after more than 25 years of full-time service plus some earlier part-time service at St. John. Mrs. Wendy Topel is retiring at the end of this school year after 35 years of service at St. John. We praise God for the blessings of our school and those who have faithfully served.

Roseville, Bethlehem

After Rev. Jeffrey Frechette accepted a call to the Flint

area in 2022, Bethlehem called Rev. Mark Hill as IIM. His ministry continued from September 2022 through August 2023. Rev. Ron Nieman then served as IIM from October 2023 through December 2023. During that time period, the congregation entered into conversations exploring some type of joint ministry with St. Peter's, Eastpointe.

Bethlehem entered 2024 under the direction of Deacon Brad Thomas (on loan to Bethlehem from St. Peter's) and Rev. Mark Hetzner, Circuit Visitor. An agreement was reached about midyear as to what Bethlehem needed to do in the exploration process and how St. Peter's and Pastor Douglas Adams would assist. In 2025, Deacon Thomas enrolled in the SMP program and has been installed as a vicar at Bethlehem (under the supervision of Rev. Adams) and the congregation has entered into the exploratory stages of the LCMS Revitalization process. The two congregations currently are worshipping jointly on Wednesdays during Advent and Lent, and Rev. Hetzner visits Bethlehem monthly to host a Communion service.

Warren, Hope

Hope has been blessed with growth over the last three years. Our Sunday service averages 160 members, and our Wednesday night service averages 52 members. We provide a meal to the community after every Sunday morning service and before every Wednesday night service. Our food bank ministry feeds on average 150 people a Thursday. Thank you, Trinity, Utica, for your partnership in this area. We have brought new staff on to meet the growth in our mission field and are excited to see what God has in store for His church.

Warren, Trinity

In April 2024, Pastor Ryan Reese left Trinity and took a call in Illinois. Pastor Lewis Stier from Trinity, Utica came in and assumed responsibility for the care of congregation. Pastor Stier agreed to conduct services and preach one time each month. The rest of the Sundays, with the help of Pastor Hetzner (CV), were covered by other local pastors and deacons in our circuit.

Pastor Stier retired from full-time ministry in July and was contracted by Trinity, Warren to be the "Business Agent" until the end of June 2025.

For the past three years, Trinity, Warren has been the host location for the Macomb Winter Warming Shelter. This is an overnight shelter for the homeless in the community, giving them a clean and warm place to stay the night. A hot meal is served every night and a sack lunch is offered when the guests leave in the morning. There are ten local churches hosting a week of volunteer service for the twelve weeks of operation.

On February 23, 2025, the congregation unanimously voted to move forward with closing down the congregation because it is no longer fiscally feasible to continue operating as an LCMS congregation. Pastor Stier agreed to stay on and direct the closing process.

Average Weekly Attendance: 8-10

Baptized Membership: 88
Confirmed Membership: 66

Warren, Peace

In 2024, four youth were confirmed, and the church closed in May 2024. All debts were paid, and the building was sold. Remaining assets were distributed to Lutheran ministries in metro Detroit. Pastor Gizynski is now serving through Hope, Warren.

Circuit #20 – Detroit East Circuit Visitor: Rev. Harold Avers

Detroit, Bethany

- Bethany increased its social media presence via streaming after the 2-year global pandemic
- Bethany began a 5th Sunday Jazz Service for the community
- Bethany established a Sewing Center for internationals and Detroit residents through a partnership with POBLO and Wayne County Community College
- Bethany has hosted spring and fall Shark Tank Competitions in which local entrepreneurs are able to pitch their idea to a panel of judges who are entrepreneurs
- Bethany became a member of the Detroit Public School Faith-Based Community Partners association
- Bethany became an educational and community partner with Ron Brown Academy. This partnership provided the opportunity to provide monthly character talks to the middle school grades
- Bethany began an outreach to boys 8-17 to provide cultural, emotional, physical, and spiritual development
- Bethany established an English as a Second Language class 1 day a week for 2 hours with newly arrived immigrants
- Bethany hosted its first International Advent by Candlelight Service
- Bethany became an outreach site for 40 Plus Double Dutch Women

Detroit, East Bethlehem

I would like to THANK OUR LORD FIRST for without His Grace and loving kindness all this cannot happen. I would like to thank God for our partnership with GFAGC (Gifts for All God's Children) because without their generosity we would not be able to provide all these events along with the gifts to the children. We continue our ministry to the children in our community through our CKC (Connecting Kids to Christ) Center: Virtual Sunday school every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. under the leadership of Cormellon Dixon and our faithful teacher-volunteers who bring the saving Word of truth to these children. Our CKC Tutoring Program offers in-person tutoring at East Bethlehem Tuesday and Thursday and one day a week at Marian Law Academy (Detroit Public School) as well as Virtual Tutoring. We have 4 weeks of summer Bible camps at East Bethlehem: A2E Sports Camp, 3 CKC Bible Camps, and STEAM Camp. Trips to St. Clair, Greenfield Village, and Belle Isle. GFAGC sponsors children from East Bethlehem to a week of overnight camp

at Wildwood Ranch in Howell. We are so thankful for the Lord's provision of all our dedicated workers who make such a difference in the lives of these children.

A Valentine's party, an Easter fair, Backpack Jamboree, East Bethlehem Church Picnic, Harvest Festival, CKC Christmas Party (all these are yearly events); a Passover feast for the children (2024), walk-through-the-Bible dioramas by the children who are being tutored (2024). At present, Pastor Paul Arndt continues as vacancy/interim pastor for Peace, Detroit. He will be returning to Kenya, Africa twice in 2025 to teach/train African men who are studying to be pastors at the Lutheran School of Theology outside of Nairobi, Kenya. He will be accompanied by his wife, Faye.

Detroit, Historic Trinity

Historic Trinity is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year with the theme "Our Hope for Years to Come," together with our vision: Surrounded by saints before us, we persevere to make heaven bigger tomorrow by sharing Jesus on earth today.

Working with filmmaker Keith Famie, we've produced two PBS documentaries in the past three years. *Detroit: The City of Churches* won four Emmys and was one of PBS' largest fundraising documentaries ever, and was followed up with the sequel *Detroit: The City of Faith*.

Our sanctuary is arguably the most beautiful Lutheran cathedral in all of America, and is host to thousands of tourists every year. The chancel is crafted after the *Te Deum*, and it is estimated that in Rev. Andrzejewski's ten years as head pastor, he has shared the gloriously faithful depth of the 1600-year-old *Te Deum* to over 15,000 visitors, including 2,200 visitors in December 2024 alone.

In the past three years, the generosity of our people has blessed the world around us as we continue to support and partner with ministries in the city of Detroit: Family of God, The Luke Clinic, Thurkill Elementary, Chrysler Elementary, Detroit Area Agency on Aging, etc.

A silly photoshopped image of Detroit Lions coach Dan Campbell over our stained-glass window of the prophet Daniel has become a wildly successful connection to the tens of thousands of Lions tailgaters that pass by our church every Sunday morning home game, with a team of welcoming HT members gathered around a table that reads: "Dan Campbell Deserves His Own Window: CHANGE MY MIND." We have distributed thousands of 3x5 Dan Campbell stained-glass magnets to Lions fans all over Metro-Detroit and beyond (including Dan Campbell himself), and have had wonderful and challenging conversations that often begin with this question from strangers: "How do you know Dan Campbell is good enough to be a saint?" The Lord has certainly blessed us with unique ways to discuss faith with strangers!

Detroit, Mt. Calvary

On May 22, 2022, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church culminated its centennial anniversary with a festive worship service.

Former members and current community friends attended. Rev. Dale Meyer, recently retired President of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, was the guest preacher. A formal banquet and program at the Vintage House in Fraser followed.

In 2021, the Michigan District issued a call to Dietrick Gladden and assigned him to shepherd Mt. Calvary and Charity Lutheran Churches. Recently, Pastor Gladden accepted a call to St. Thomas, Eastpointe. Currently, Rev. Nicholas Gapski serves as a part-time minister.

Other events included an annual Christmas program in which we distributed Christmas gifts from Gifts For All God's Children to Head Start and community families. Mt. Calvary provided simple crafts and art projects for young children and served a light lunch for the families. We reached over 250 people with the Christmas Gospel at these December events.

We also provided an annual Easter Fair for the Head Start and community families. Mt. Calvary provided the Easter story in an Arch Book and provided simple crafts, served a light lunch for everyone, and distributed Easter baskets. We reached approximately 250 people at these pre-Easter events.

Mt. Calvary supports the efforts of the Detroit Lutheran Laypersons Council (city Lutheran churches) and helps plan the annual Unity Picnic for the Detroit Lutheran churches.

For the 2023–24 and 2024–2025 school years, we have initiated an outreach to the Head Start children in our building by providing a Friday Treat bag for the students as they leave the building on the Fridays when the Head Start is in session (2–3 times each month). The bag includes a small snack item, coloring sheets with a religious theme, and an occasional invite to attend worship, and reminders about the "Community Closet" that is open to Head Start and community families on the third Saturday of each month since it began in May of 2024. A "Warming Tree" has also appeared in the hallway by the church entry during December of 2023 and 2024 with hats, gloves, scarves, etc. for the taking as any of the families has a need. This year the tree is staying available throughout the winter season.

The "Community Closet" is a new venture that began in May of 2024 and has been accepting donations from members and friends as well as the Head Start families. Household items, clothing, and occasional food donations are available at no cost for anyone who is in need. The closet is open on the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. –1 p.m.

Detroit, Nazareth

Continuing Word and Sacrament ministry.

Average Worship Attendance: 15

Baptized Members: 38

Confirmed Members: 38

Detroit, Peace

Peace has been a fixture on Detroit's Eastside for almost

a century. It continues to hold service every Sunday, even though it does not have a full-time pastor. With the greatly appreciated help of area retired and mission pastors, we have a communion service almost every week. The deacons conduct service without communion when no pastor is available. We continue to serve our congregation and our neighborhood with a weekly food pantry, clothing closet, and Bible study. We have VBS in the summer. We are currently in the process of examining our role as a mission outpost, with monthly congregation meetings. We have also reached out to our nearby Lutheran congregation to discuss ways we can assist each other in continuing our service to God and to our neighbors. With God's help, we look forward to maintaining our role as a resource for those we serve.

Detroit, St. Phillip's

As we look back on the last three years, we have truly been blessed with God's grace and favor. We survived the flood in our fellowship hall, which we were able to raise funds and renovate to a beautiful banquet facility. We've opened up a state-of-the-art computer lab for our senior citizens ministry and youth outreach programs. We have partnered with GFAGC, making it possible to go out into the community to have an outreach program for 40 youths. This has made it possible to provide Christmas gifts, Easter baskets, and back-to-school backpacks. We've increased our membership to 20 new members. During our renovation of the church, we were able to have worship services in our parking lot, and Rev. Dr. Bertram B. Lewis, Sr., made it possible for the sick and shut-ins to have service with us by creating YouTube services, which are still available. We have our weekly potluck Bible studies on Wednesday afternoons; Pastor Lewis and the elders would visit the the sick and shut-ins to provide Communion every two weeks; and in November 2024 we celebrated 90 years of blessings, with 102 members young and old in attendance. Rev. Dr. Bertram B. Lewis, Sr. retired in December 2024 and we are now blessed with Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, Jr. as our vacancy pastor. One thing St. Philip's family and friends always say: "WHEN PRAYERS GO UP, BLESSING ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS COME DOWN. IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN."

Circuit #21 – Dearborn/Detroit

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Richard Robinson

Dearborn, Atonement

After God called Rev. Steven Sparks home, Atonement Lutheran Church has faced challenges in continuing its ministry in a changing Dearborn community. With declining attendance, they can no longer sustain the building while carrying out God's work. After much prayer and discernment, they have decided to disband and turn the building over to the Michigan District.

The Closing Service will be held on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Please keep the members and friends of Atonement Lutheran Church in your prayers during this time of transition.

Dearborn, Emmanuel / Beverly Hills, Our Savior, Deaf

Emmanuel is committed to traditional worship and school ministry, reaching its community through a classic curriculum designed to enhance student learning and critical thinking.

As part of its mission, Emmanuel serves the Deaf community through St. Martin School for the Deaf, founded by the Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society. The school provides a bilingual ASL and English environment for students in PreK-8, helping each child develop the God-given talents entrusted to them.

Detroit, Evergreen

Pastor William Danowski has faithfully served Evergreen Church throughout his entire pastoral ministry. Though their numbers are small, their spirit remains strong. He is deeply committed to both the church and school, serving with dedication and love, and is cherished by his congregation and students.

Detroit, Family of God/St. Stephen/Pan de Vida

Pastor Jim Hill has led Family of God through challenging times and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, has helped transform it from a storefront ministry into a beautiful worship sanctuary. The attached facility now serves hundreds of homeless and struggling individuals in Southwest Detroit. Alongside Tim LeClair and newly called Nick Gapski, they have partnered with St. Stephen to provide a home for the rapidly growing Hispanic ministry, Pan de Vida, under its new pastor, Ricardo Granado. God is doing amazing work in Southwest Detroit!

Dearborn, Guardian

Guardian Church and School has remained deeply connected to its evolving community. Under Pastor Mews' leadership until his call, the school successfully navigated the transition, now guided by Pastor Dan Ramthun.

As Guardian moves forward in the call process, they remain steadfast in their mission, trusting God's plan as they continue to serve through their members, school, and staff.

Detroit, Outer Drive Faith

Outer Drive Faith has faced significant challenges in recent years, including an aging infrastructure and ongoing heating issues. Through it all, Pastor Morales has faithfully led the congregation, addressing these realities with honesty while navigating the changing cultural landscape.

Standing firm on the promises of Jesus, Outer Drive Faith continues to move forward, trusting God and serving their community to the best of their ability.

Detroit, St. John

St. John has been blessed with strong leadership, dedicated members, and a dynamic Gospel-based musician whose talents span spirituals, gospel, hymns, and choral music. As a result, our Sunday morning services have grown, and our newly formed, determined Sunday school team has helped our children's ministry flourish.

With a team of tech-savvy leaders and forward-thinking facility workers, we are embracing these changing times with faith and hope for the future.

Wayne, St. Michael

St. Michael recognizes the many challenges people face in today's changing world. They are committed to welcoming and supporting those navigating life transitions such as moving, marriage, doubt, guilt, and emptiness. By offering hope and the truth of Jesus, they seek to reach those who seek Him.

They are also blessed to have a vicar set to be ordained in the summer of 2025, who will help expand their outreach. As their school continues to grow, they rejoice in the blessings of students and parents coming to Baptism, and former students returning to worship and deepening their walk with Jesus.

Westland, St. Matthew

St. Matthew is blessed to offer both traditional and contemporary worship services, supported by a congregation with a youthful and forward-thinking spirit. This mindset has kept them focused on sustaining their day school, which includes an Early Learning Center and Kindergarten through 8th grade.

Their dedication is evident in their steadfast commitment, as members faithfully shoulder most of the financial burden through their tithes and generous giving.

Circuit #23 – Downriver

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Greyson Grenz

Allen Park, Mount Hope

Average Worship Attendance: 35 (weekly)

Baptized Membership: 94

Confirmed Membership: 94

Flat Rock, Community

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!” 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, as well as providing free events like our Hall-O-ween service. Our Creative Learning Campus preschool enrollment has struggled of late but continues to provide a wonderful Christian environment for learning to our students. In 2022, Community entered into a dual parish agreement with Trinity, Wyandotte. Pastor Greyson Grenz continues to serve both congregations.

Lincoln Park, Calvary

Average Worship Attendance: 40 (weekly)

Baptized Membership: 131

Confirmed Membership: 120

Southgate, Christ the King

CTK welcomes Pastor PJ Brooks via the STM program. Pastor Brooks was ordained June 6, 2024 as Associate Pastor with a focus on family ministries. PJ’s wife Jackie Brooks teaches Kindergarten at CTK.

These past years CTK welcomed many new staff members including 8th grade teacher Leah Johnson; and 5th grade teacher Bailey Laingren, a former CTK student. We also created the Director of Digital Outreach position, designed to promote the Gospel across multiple social media platforms, and promoted Jessica Bourassa to that position. Finally, Jessica Anderson-Smith replaced our longtime childcare director last year. Jessica is a 2013 confirmand of CTK.

CTK’s second campus on 16700 Pennsylvania Road continues to serve in community outreach via the food bank, resale store, and multiple partnerships with various organizations using the campus’ resources.

Taylor, St. John’s

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. In the last three years, St. John’s has sought to carry out its understanding of Christ’s Great Commission through weekly celebration of the Eucharist, proclamation of the Gospel, and study of God’s Word. Cooperation with community organizations for homeless and food bank address human needs, and flier distribution, radio broadcast, and online presence on Facebook and YouTube have enabled us to share the Good News with others. Support of District and Lutheran Heritage Foundation, as well as a MOST ministry missionary have helped us remember to pray for the broader mission of the Church and participate in meaningful ways. Our radio ministry, *Martin Luther’s Evening Prayer*, is now heard on 20 stations coast-to-coast and our Downriver Circuit has provided generous support for the international short wave broadcast that reaches North Africa, southern Europe, and the Middle East. A major event in 2024 was the decision of the other Lutheran Church in Taylor, Our Redeemer, to merge with us, bringing better attendance (from 50 to 65) and meeting of budget goals. St. John’s is blessed to have a deacon, Dave Valenti, and deacon-in-training, JD Bauer, as well as an active elder board to assist Pastor Richard Zeile, who is completing his 24th year of service in Taylor. The congregation has determined to apply for an intentional interim minister when Pastor Zeile retires at the end of July, 2025. An active LWML chapter and 10 new members in the last two years are additional reasons to thank God for His blessings at St. John’s, which will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2028.

Trenton, St. Paul

Through 2022–2024, St. Paul continued to embrace the mission the Lord has given to her: “We Live To Know Christ And Make Christ Known.”

In 2022, St. Paul adopted “The Bridge,” a visual way of imagining our spiritual journey through the lens of Connect, Engage, Grow, and Go. This pathway is the filter through

which we see all our ministries and becomes the guiding framework for the spiritual lives of everyone at St. Paul.

We have had a number of staff additions and changes in administration, support, and youth ministry. Staff additions include calling our associate pastor, Rev. Ben Roberts, in September 2022 and raising up a Specific Ministry Pastor, Chris Harding, who was ordained and installed in June 2025. One major innovation is our AIM ministry (All-Abilities Inclusion Ministry), which started a new worship service called “Rejoicing Spirits.” Known as our “no-shush” service, this ministry aims to provide worship for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Held once a month, this lively service engages worshippers with the Gospel through music and song, sign language, puppet shows, and active participation.

St. Paul Christian Preschool continues to operate at full capacity with 200 students. Our preschool is a wonderful place for early childhood education in the Downriver area and is a great outreach into our community.

St. Paul has essentially returned to pre-pandemic levels of ministry in areas such as worship services, mission trips, and various service and connection opportunities, including our concert series that hosted our very first contemporary Christian rock concert.

We rejoice at what our Lord Jesus Christ is doing in, with, and through the people of St. Paul as the Gospel continues to change lives in Trenton and the Downriver community!

Wyandotte, Trinity

Trinity was founded in 1861. We are looking forward to celebrating 165 years in 2026. We have been blessed to have Pastor Grenz and his family for 14 years. His very talented daughter, Amelia, is our current organist until she heads off to college in the fall. Our focus at Trinity is to share the Gospel through events such as Trunk or Treat and an Easter Egg Hunt, and being of service to our community through basketball camps and a summer reading program. We have also formed a Fellowship Ministry for our older folk to come together with their friends and play games, trivia, do tours, and watch local plays. We have an annual Christmas food basket giveaway, an annual baby shower for our local Crisis Pregnancy Center, and since 2018, we have been a work site for children with mild cognitive and physical disabilities to learn skills for future employment. We also have an annual fundraiser to purchase rubber hand stamps for The Madison Center, which serves children with severe cognitive and physical disabilities. They are unable to write or sign their name; these stamps allow them to do so.

We have five youth preparing to head to New Orleans this summer for the National Youth Gathering. Once a month, our youth have been meeting up with other youth groups in our circuit. It has provided some great fellowship, learning, and more fun with a larger group present.

We are in a dual parish with Community Lutheran in Flat

Rock. We worship together a couple times a year and keep each other informed about events and group information to share with our congregations. Pastor Grenz as always is working hard to keep both churches running smoothly and, with the help of support staff, he is doing just that.

Circuit #24 – Monroe

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Mark Witte

Greetings to our sister congregations in the State of Michigan from the churches of the Monroe circuit! We rejoice in the partnership we share, and the ministry God has entrusted to us. Please accept this brief report of ministry during the past triennium.

Lambertville, Christ the King – Rev. Tim Loewe

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

Average Worship Attendance: 30

Baptized Membership: 137

Communicant Membership: 137

Monroe, Grace – Rev. Mark K. Witte

Grace continues her work of feeding the faithful here in our congregation and also in our community. Grace remains active hosting food drives and meals for the community while also being a resource for the community as a home for AA and a host for multiple election precincts. In our congregation we continue to enjoy good Bible study and our blessings in Word and Sacrament. Grace was blessed to be able to have a new roof installed and numerous necessary renovations to our facility to keep things running. We have been blessed over the last three years and look forward to Christ's continued blessings over the next three years.

Monroe, Holy Ghost – Rev. D. Lee Cullen

Holy Ghost Lutheran continued to work in the Lord's vineyards as her school grew and her members reached out into and supported the community hosting food distribution, road cleanups, life-affirming ministries, and marking, especially, 75 years of presence at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. The saints of Holy Ghost continued to visit and build up each other as members visited and delivered seasonal gifts to those members unable to join us in person as we gathered weekly for worship. God has provided generously as major building projects were completed and as He continued to provide workers for His service in the church and the school. Holy Ghost Lutheran continued and will continue to rejoice in the salvation that God has given on account of the life, sufferings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that for Jesus' sake, the Father has justified us freely by His grace through faith having called us by His Spirit through the saving name of Jesus.

Monroe (East Ida), Immanuel – Rev. Curtis Garland

Immanuel has continued to preach the Gospel and engage the community. This past year we celebrated our 175th anniversary. Over the course of the year we hosted as guest preachers the current and emeritus pastors who have served Immanuel or are sons of the congregation. We celebrated the actual anniversary day with our District President as

the preacher and a catered luncheon following the service. We continue our outreach and support of community causes through monthly roast beef dinners. These bring in between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per month, which is given directly to support local women's shelters, pregnancy centers, and at-risk programs, as well as emergent needs and relief work. We continue our community Vacation Bible School as well as our in-house adult and youth educational programs.

Monroe, Trinity – Rev. John Carrier (IIM), Rev. Mark Duerr, Rev. Dennis Mann
At Trinity Lutheran Church, the Word of God is being proclaimed and the Sacraments administered.
Average Worship Attendance: 291
Baptized Membership: 1,271
Communicant Membership: 1,016

Petersburg, St. Peter – Vicar Pete Candreva
St. Peter is served by Vicar Pete Candreva, who was called in August of 2024. This congregation had been served with a vacancy pastor prior to that and has not had a regularly called pastor for approximately two years. Since the pandemic, attendance has been down in this parish, but has seen an uptick since August 2024. The church is thankful God has provided for them since they are very much aware that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. They are currently working with the town of Petersburg and the local school district to see how they can be of service within the community.

New Boston (Waltz), St. John's – Rev. Jeffrey Wade, Rev. Kyle Jones
St. John's Lutheran Church and School has continuously reflected the light of Christ in our community since 1857. We have reflected His light by fumbling towards faithfulness in believing all the promises of Christ Jesus and tending to where He may always be found—in His Word and Sacraments. We have shown His warmth to our surrounding communities by loving them with opportunities to speak, financial support, and the time of our members as they act as the hands, feet, eyes, ears, and mouths of our Lord Jesus. We have encouraged spiritual and vocational growth by teaching children through our growing day school, continuing edification of the saints through studies on vocation, stewardship, and financial responsibility, as well as offering hands-on learning in trades ranging from baking to vehicle maintenance. St. John's continues to encourage community with Christ and with one another inside and outside of our congregation, because we understand that a lone coal quickly loses its heat. We are grateful to add three more years of Christ's blessings and work onto the joyful journey Jesus has called us on.

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 ministries with preschools. It is our prayer that the Kingdom of God would grow through our service. To God alone be all the glory!

Circuit #26 – Kensington **Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dr. Andrew Johnson**

Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton is entering a dynamic season of ministry around its newly formulated mission “to grow disciples and follow Jesus, together” and vision “God is leading us to revitalize our church, fostering deep spiritual growth and discipleship that transforms and inspires us to bring the Gospel to our community.” Together we are preparing for a new lead pastor and pursuing three Critical Targets that guide our school and church ministry: 1. Discipleship Training; 2. Member Engagement; and 3. Community Outreach. We are celebrating God's grace and are eager to once again be a beacon of hope for our local community!

Highland, Faith
Faith, Highland saw some small growth in attendance from 2021 to 2023. Faith strengthened its partnership with other circuit churches, culminating in hosting the 2024 Kensington Circuit Convocation worship and ministry fair. Due to a pastoral vacancy, their 2021–2023 statistics are included as the remainder of their report.

2021 Baptized Members – 485; 2022 Baptized Members – 484; 2023 Baptized Members – 479.
2021 Confirmed Members – 383; 2022 Confirmed Members – 387; 2023 Confirmed Members – 388.
2021 Avg. Attendance – 90; 2022 Avg. Attendance – 90; 2023 Avg. Attendance – 100.

Milford, Christ
Christ, Milford has seen the Lord bless His Church over the last three years. Since the celebration of our 75th anniversary in 2023, we have been blessed by an increased weekly attendance beyond our pre-2020 numbers. Our preschool and Kindergarten continue to serve our community and teach families about Jesus. Our congregational missions have partnered with numerous circuit congregations to increase the reach and scope of our VBS program and to put on VBS programs for other congregations in the Metro area and as far as Alaska. The annual live nativity, Journey with Jesus, has grown tremendously. It now delivers the Gospel of Jesus to more than 800 people annually, with more than half reporting no congregational home. Our elders have built up a network of elders among our circuit churches and continue to meet together bi-annually. Christ continues to be present in and lift up in prayer our community, assisting our local elementary school with winter coat drives.

South Lyon, Cross of Christ
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church has experienced a time of renewal in the last triennium. After the retirement of Rev. Terry Nelson, the congregation welcomed an interim under Rev. Jeff Heimsoth, which lasted until January of 2024. During this time, the congregation saw significant changeover in lay leadership, improvements to preschool staffing and benefits, and the installation of an electric sign. After a brief vacancy, Cross of Christ celebrated the installation of Rev. Jake Bellinghausen on March 10, 2024.

Cross of Christ has set its mind on “Becoming Community in Christ.” This has meant a renewed attention to the needs and interests of its membership, a re-evaluation of and renewed engagement between the preschool and the larger congregation, a modernization of web and communication resources, and a concerted effort to deepen connection and interaction with the LCMS congregations in our circuit. A renewed sense of vitality and energy is beginning to emerge as we strive to become a community of faith under the cross of Christ.

Walled Lake, St. Matthew

This past triennium, God has renewed our zeal and focused us with a new long-term vision. In June of 2023 the congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary. Facing the effects of post-COVID worship attendance has resulted in a downsizing of ministry staff, notably going from three full-time pastors to two, when Pastor Michael Hansen accepted a call to California. We are now dealing with a pastoral vacancy at our Wixom campus, since Pastor Austin Wellhousen accepted a call to Minnesota. Despite those challenges, our school continues to thrive, as does our Hearts and Hands Child Development Center and our International Ministry (mostly to Japanese). We were grateful to add Anne Bolwerk to the staff to help in the area of worship music leadership and technology.

Waterford, Peace

We thank the Lord for his faithfulness over the last three years since our last convention.

We have been blessed in spite of the trials of life. We have seen some new faces and lost a number of long-time members. Our circuit connections continue to be a blessing, though many pastors have received and accepted calls to other congregations.

The circuit convocation was enjoyable and we recently hosted an elder’s conference for our circuit elders that was well received.

God continues to bless our children and adults alike in Bible study and Sunday school.

We have been blessed that the Lord has met our needs and we continue to meet our budget goals and have no long-term debt.

West Bloomfield, St. Mark’s

The Lord is with us as we face a very challenging time. We give thanks for His blessings.

Over the last few years, we have experienced a pastoral vacancy and a declining and aging membership. While contributions have also declined, we are still financially sound. We are maintaining Sunday services and Bible study, although we have discontinued mid-week services.

As we face these challenges, the Lord has blessed us with several, more than dedicated visiting pastors and with the support of the district facilitator and circuit visitor who are

assisting us to navigate in these stormy waters. We also thank God for providing a core group of members who continue to support St. Mark’s efforts to spread the Gospel.

Over the last three years, St. Mark’s has continued to contribute to the development of Lutheran schools in rural Liberia, the collection and donation of hygiene products to a local food pantry, partaking in a Christmas adopt-a-family program, and the making and donation of handmade quilts. We ask our Lord for His continued guidance and blessings as we consider our alternatives.

Circuit #27 – Livonia

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Mark Schumm

Canton, Grace

- Grace continues to worship and serve our Lord as we are able.
- Bible study and worship at the church, as well as care for those who are shut in, continue.
- Grace provides a once-a-month worship service at a nearby senior living center and provides financial support for missions.

Dearborn Heights, Immanuel

Formed a dual parish with Hosanna-Tabor in May 2022. Called Rev. Daniel Murray as pastor. Rev. Murray was granted peaceful release from his call in March 2025. Immanuel is exploring options for future ministry.

Farmington Hills, Prince of Peace

Prince of Peace is served by Rev. Dr. Mark Schumm. Began Saturday morning outreach with I-9 youth sports group that is using the adjacent school soccer fields.

Continued support of Another Way Pregnancy Center and Family of God, Detroit. Grants were secured from LCMS Life Ministry and National Missions for financial support of these missions.

Prince of Peace has begun the process of replacing Pastor Schumm, who plans to retire in July 2025.

Farmington Hills, Shadow of the Cross

Served by Rev. Brian Dupre

- Has a vibrant visually impaired ministry.
- Established four separate choirs, each with differing musical styles.
- Tuesday Bible study draws 20–30 attendees each week.
- Food pantry draws people from the community each week.
- We are a culturally diverse church that welcomes all peoples and embraces our diversity.

Livonia, Christ our Savior

- Associate pastor Joel Eden accepted call to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth.
- Congregation established new staff position—Director of Christian Family Life Formation—and called Josh Kittleman to serve in this new position.

- Phil Krauss continues his Deacon training.
- Call extended, through the candidate process, to Joel Werner to serve as associate pastor.
- Fritz Quitmeyer was accepted into the SMP program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. and began his studies fall of 2024.
- Continuing to be open to Spirit-led opportunities of being a blessing to local congregations while being intentional about building relationships in our community so that we can share the love of Christ with others.

Northville, St. Paul

St. Paul is certainly blessed with active church and school families who enjoy going beyond worship and Christian education to share the message of Jesus in different settings.

- As a community of faith, we continue to send out hundreds of blessing bags monthly, to serve meals at Family of God in Detroit, to provide volunteer support at Another Way Pregnancy Center, to send members on MOST mission trips and youth to the Appalachian Servant Event every summer in North Carolina.
- We provide meals and fellowship activities for the Northville Senior apartment complex.
- The church recently replaced its original roof from 1949.
- The day school is partnering with Bluestone Children’s Center to help mainstream special needs children into traditional classroom learning.

Redford, Hosanna-Tabor

- Formed a dual parish with Immanuel, Dearborn Heights in May 2022.
- Called Rev. Daniel Murray as pastor.
- Concordia School was closed in 2024.
- Rev. Murray was granted peaceful release from his call in March 2025.
- Hosanna-Tabor is exploring options for future ministry.

Westland, Salem National

- Salem continues to worship and serve our Lord as we are able.
- Salem regularly collects food for the food bank of a sister congregation, and the congregation collects clothing, diapers, and other materials in order to assist those who have newborns but limited resources.
- Our Lord has opened the community to us through neighborhood food trucks. At the request of the local neighborhood, Salem hosts the trucks on our property with resulting respect from the neighborhood and opportunities for evangelism.
- Salem now hosts a very successful neighborhood trunk-n-treat which has also provided opportunities for evangelism.

Circuit #28 – Milan

Circuit Visitor: Rev. David McCarty

Ann Arbor, Peace

We were faithfully served by Rev. Andy Pronsati from July of 2020 to December 2024. Rev. Pronsati accepted a call to serve Redeemer Lutheran Church in Rochester, Minn.

The ministry of Pastor Andy and his wife, Katie, was a great blessing to the members of Peace and they are keenly missed. At the time of this writing, Peace is in the beginning stages of the call process. We are waiting on the Lord of the Church, trusting completely in His timing and plan. While we are waiting, this bride of Christ will not “eat the bread of idleness” (Proverbs 31:27).

Peace is blessed with strong and active lay leadership. Here are some of the ways the members love and serve their community: Peace continues her strong partnership with the Dexter Co-op (a preschool that shares our building). In the spring, Peace will host an Easter Egg Hunt for the community that is well received—4,000 eggs this year (the plastic, candy-filled variety). Also in the spring, Peace operates a soccer league for 3–6 year olds. During the summer, Peace hosts the Dexter Youth Baseball league. We are also excited to be sending 15 of our own youth to the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Currently we are partnering with Special Olympics to provide practice facilities. In the fall, we will send out over 100 quilts (handmade throughout the year) as well as donate over 100 completed shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child.

Ann Arbor, St. Thomas

- Hosted the LWML Ann Arbor Zone rally in the spring of 2023
- Participated in Milan Circuit Convocation in fall of 2024
- Participated in /coordinated for Milan Circuit Intrachurch Softball Game and Cookout – fall 2024
- Started and maintaining weekly Bible study
- Closed Freedom Christian Childcare
- Confirmations (4); Baptisms (2); Ordination (1 – Eric Shanburn, April 2023)

Belleville, Open Arms

Open Arms saw significant growth and changes over the past three years. The annual weekly church attendance grew from 48 to 84. Under the excellent leadership of Director Greta Bower, Open Arms Daycare continues to be a strong and vital part of the ministry. The past three years have seen a number of daycare families attend worship services, join Open Arms, and baptize their children into the Christian faith. This growth has enabled Open Arms to enter into the call process for the next pastor. The mission of Open Arms continues to be “Serving People. Sending Servants. Sharing Jesus.”

Open Arms has started new ministries in the last three years. The last Wednesday of the month MEAL (Meet. Eat. Always Loved) Time, a free dinner for daycare and church families, has helped build relationships. The first MEAL time was in the summer of 2022. Team Tigers backpacks with food for the weekend for students who attend Tyler Elementary School started in the summer of 2024 and now serves over 70 students. Open Arms members give VISA® gift cards to residents at the Wayne County VA hospital for “Take Out Tuesday Meals” during the Memorial Day and Veterans Day holidays. The National Day of Prayer is celebrated with prayers focused on first responders at Van Buren Fire Station

2 followed by a meal for first responders. Students from the daycare and St. Michael Lutheran School in Wayne have participated in the event.

Britton, Emmanuel

- 2022/2023/2024 – We did a Red Cross blood drive at the church as a community service activity.
- 2022/2023/2024 – We carried out a baby diaper/wipe ingathering for the Lenawee County Pregnancy Center in Adrian as an outreach/community service event.
- We had a special offering from the members of Emmanuel for the Helene/Milton Hurricane Disaster Relief. These monies were matched by funds within our congregation's finances.
- We set aside a Sunday to host a presentation by Rev. Robert Marshall of Lutheran Heritage Foundation. We had a freewill offering that was matched by Emmanuel congregation money to help expand the ministry of this Christ-centered organization.
- In 2022 we had a year-long celebration of our 160th Anniversary of the chartering of Emmanuel on the Ridge as a congregation of the LCMS. We had former Pastors of Emmanuel come and visit/preach or send a letter to be read to the assembly on Sunday morning. We also had a celebration in July that included an outdoor worship service and a church picnic.
- We did a Cross Walk on Good Friday in Tecumseh downtown area 2022/2023/2024 as a community outreach.
- We did a Trunk-N-Treat activity in 2022/2023/2024, at the Fire/Rescue Station in Britton as a community outreach event.
- In October of 2022, our congregation held a fundraiser dinner/auction for a member who was involved in a motorcycle accident. The event raised over \$7,000 for the individual and his family.
- Pastor McCarty continued serving the Britton community and Ridge Township as the Fire/Rescue Dept. Chaplain.

Chelsea, Our Savior

God has richly blessed Our Savior with a triennium of modest growth and several exciting new ministry opportunities. Our most exciting new ministry has been our homeschool ministry. Once a month, we hold a weekday Vespers service, with a Bible study and a time of fellowship for homeschool families following the service. We host weekly clubs and classes for homeschool families as well, ranging from woodworking and computer coding, to crafts and choir, to fun activities such as Lego building, role-playing games, and board games. We also host several English Country Dances and game nights throughout the year.

In 2024, we called a recent Concordia graduate, Gabe Penhallegon, to serve as our Director of Worship Arts. He has been a blessing for our congregation and has greatly enhanced the musical offerings of Our Savior.

As we continue to focus on faithfully teaching God's Word, we began a young adult Bible study for individuals between

the ages of 18–30. Pastor Pezzica also teaches a History of Church Music class for members of the Chelsea community through our local Adult Learners Institute.

Our Savior has put greater emphasis this triennium on showing compassion to community members in need. In 2024, we began distributing turkeys and meal kits for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have also seen our Angel Tree project grow each year, in which we adopt Washtenaw County families in need at Christmas time and purchase gifts for the children (and sometimes the adults as well).

Milan, St. Paul

- Started and hosted Milan Circuit Tre-Ore Service in 2023 and 2024.
- Started Vacation Bible School—held two iterations (2023, 2024), planning on 2025.
- Led coordination and planning for Milan Circuit Intrachurch Softball Game and Cookout—fall 2024.
- Confirmations (4); Baptisms (5).

New Boston, St. Paul's

- Sunday Divine Service/Wednesday Divine Service/Wednesday morning Bible study/Sunday morning Bible study
- Confirmation classes/pre-Confirmation classes
- Men's Club and Ladies Aid: These are the groups that do most of the work behind the scenes. Feed My Sheep Program: We send out meals to homebound, veterans, and people of our community who need a little assistance. We have three cook teams and several members who deliver the meals on a weekly basis.
- Summer Blast Festival: A community event featuring a Classic Car Show, with a bounce house, waterslide, magician, face painter, silent auction, food and drink, ice cream, and music. The funds to run this event come from our local businesses that donate funds to the church. In return, we put out advertisement for the businesses that donate. The local Veteran group also joins us with their information.
- Applefest: A community event held by Huron Township. We open the church to vendors to display their goods.
- Annual Flee Market
- Sauerkraut dinner: Homemade meals of pork and sauerkraut with homemade apple pie. We have dine-in meals and also takeout.
- Annual Veteran Thanksgiving Meal: Any and all veterans and families from New Boston and surrounding communities are invited to a complete Thanksgiving dinner.
- Country Christmas: Santa comes to read the nativity story. We have a chili cookoff with hotdogs and hamburgers and other fixings. We also feature a snowball (fake) fight room which the kids love.
- We also sponsor a couple of groups who meet several times during the week: Alcoholics Anonymous/Little League spring practice in the gym/Girl Scouts.

Saline, Christ Our King

Christ Our King continues to focus on the four W's of our

mission statement: Word, Worship, Witness, and Work. The congregation called and received a new Director of Family Life Ministry, Greg Witto, in April of 2024. We are blessed to be part of the ministry and mission in and around Saline. Rev. Tom Schroeder (Emeritus) continues to lead services and Bible studies at six area senior citizen facilities. He and Rev. Don Kirchhoff (Emeritus), along with several lay leaders, have started a successful Grief Share—70% of attendees are community members, 125 people in total over eight sessions. We have supported several local, national, and international ministries over the past three years.

Christ Our King's Christmas float has won first place for our category two years in a row in the Saline parade. We were able to host the Milan Circuit Convocation in October 2024 when Jason Hanson, former Lions' placekicker, spoke and encouraged our circuit in the faith. We have also been blessed to work with a couple CUA students in a Pre-Seminary or Family Life track who have done their field work at our congregation. The congregation continues faithfully in God's provided means of grace: Baptism, the Word, and the Lord's Supper. Rev. Joe Polzin has served as senior pastor since May 2021.

Ypsilanti, Faith

Faith has begun working with Cross and Resurrection and local community gardeners to start the Love Ypsilanti Mission. They are working to provide a community garden and diaper pantry to families in the community.

Circuit #29 – Ann Arbor Circuit Visitor: Rev. Bryan Schindel

Ann Arbor, Emmaus

Since 2022, Emmaus began as an idea and prayer that became a reality and new church home to connect people to the Gospel in Ann Arbor's Old West Side. Launching with five families, God has grown us to include more than 40 people, four Baptisms, and two adults confirming the faith. We walk with the people of Ann Arbor so that they can see, hear, and love Jesus, who walks with them.

Ann Arbor, St. Luke

In the last three years, St. Luke completed a lobby remodel and refresh to encourage congregational fellowship; commenced a new married ministry designed to strengthen couples in their relationships and faith; started regular GriefShare and LifeLight Bible study offerings; and began participating in Kids Hope USA, a student-mentoring program in our local schools. St. Luke also continues to be enriched by hosting the Ann Arbor Rotating Homeless Shelter for two weeks each winter. Lastly, Pastor Kyle Weeks accepted the call to serve at St. Luke, ending the congregation's pastoral vacancy.

Ann Arbor, St. Paul

In the last triennium, St. Paul Ann Arbor partnered with University Lutheran Chapel to host Emmaus Lutheran Church within the downtown (Liberty St.) campus to reach more people in Ann Arbor. St. Paul's school enrollment

continues to grow, with an infant-toddler program through eighth grade. Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins was called to serve as senior pastor of St. Paul following the retirement of Rev. Don Neuendorf. St. Paul has also commenced a building campaign to expand the school at the Earhart Road campus.

Ann Arbor, University Lutheran Chapel

We planted Emmaus Lutheran Church in January of 2023. We launched our international student ministry, *International Student Connect*, in August 2023. We had 37 Baptisms in the last 3 years, and 9 of those were college students.

Hamburg, St. Paul

St. Paul, Hamburg continues to enjoy life together as a mid-size congregation. We love to gather intergenerationally around God's Word and Sacraments and remain thankful to God for His mercy. We also give thanks for a thriving food pantry ministry, which volunteers in the congregation have faithfully stewarded, and last year marked 15 years of community food distribution at St. Paul. About 65 households are served weekly. As our community continues to grow in population, we look forward to the opportunities God will provide to connect people to Jesus.

Pinckney, Trinity

The LORD has blessed Trinity in significant ways since the last Michigan District Convention three years ago. Included in those corporate blessings are the following: 1. Strengthened and cultivated a high-trust relationship with the Michigan District; 2. Helpful collaborative ministry with our District Facilitator, Rev. Dan Meckes; 3. Development of a World Mission Thrust into Tanzania and India with a deployed Trinity congregation lay missionary through MOST ministries—and through strong participation in Samaritan's Purse outreach into the Philippine Islands, Malawi, and Belize; 4. Launched a successful *Stewardship by God's Design* emphasis with the help of capable staff from the Michigan District; 5. Raising up an SMP Candidate, Bill Hertel, to become the future pastor of Trinity; 6. Intentional outreach and human care ministries into our multi-community mission field of Pinckney, Stockbridge, Gregory, and Howell.

Whitmore Lake, Living Water

In the last three years, Living Water has welcomed a new Pastor and his family. Rev. Matt Canion was installed in September of 2022. We are serving our community in many ways. We have a vibrant MomCo (formerly MOPS) and other ways to serve individuals and families in our congregation and community.

Ypsilanti, Cross and Resurrection, The Chapel at EMU

In the last three years, Cross and Resurrection, the Chapel at EMU has continued to serve the Eastern Michigan University community as "the physical presence of Christ on Campus." We provide a place for over 1,200 students to attend many different ministries that take place at the Chapel. We have continued to be in a shared ministry agreement with St. Mark's in Brooklyn. Our SMP, Pastor Bryan Varblow, has been ordained and has finished all his classes. We have

moved our Deacon, Mike McCain, from St. Mark's to Cross and Resurrection to start our Love Ypsilanti Mission with Faith, Ypsilanti. We signed an agreement with local community gardeners to do a community garden at Faith. Love Ypsi provides a diaper pantry to a large number of families, dinners once a month, outreach to Veterans, and we are working on reaching out to refugees with ESL. It has been a very good three years!

Circuit #30 – Jackson

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Zach Holdorf

Addison, Lutheran Church of the Lakes

By the grace of God, Lutheran Church of the Lakes is united in God's mission of making disciples of all nations. Since the arrival of Pastor Jim, who was installed at the end of December, we have seen constant growth. Our average attendance has grown to about 110 during the winter seasons. We are reaching out to the community around us with a movie night, Jewish gathering, prayer service, and football fundraiser, to name a few. More importantly, we had five members from the church participating in the We Are Not Alone Conference and recently had Dr. Kasper meet with our core leadership to move forward with our mission for the Addison community. Our desire is to love our community into a relationship with Jesus.

Adrian, Hope

The worship attendance at Hope continued to remain steady in 2024 despite an increasingly elderly majority. In addition to 9 a.m. regular Sunday morning worship, the congregation continues to have good attendance at its Sunday morning adult Bible class, as well as three other Bible studies during the week. There are regular youth gatherings/activities during each month, and we are planning on taking six youth to the national youth gathering in 2025! Along with our inward Congregational ministries, we also continued our outward community reach with devotional minutes on our local radio station, October Fall Festival with other area congregations at the Christian Family Center, and sponsoring a Christmas tree with free-for-the-taking hats, scarves, mittens, and packets of hand warmers along with other community tree sponsors at the local park.

Adrian, St. John's

The past three years have seen slow and steady growth at St. John in the face of a culture that devalues families, marriage, and a devoted following of Jesus. But Jesus works well within opposition! We observed our 175th anniversary as a congregation in the LCMS with special worship services, banquets, and asking, "What's next?" We continue to develop the May Bee Festival that celebrates some of God's little creations, aka, Apis mellifera/honeybee, with educational booths, vendors of all things honey, and community fellowship. Annual community events such as the Summer Carnival and Fall Homemade Sauerkraut Supper continue. St. John completed some physical renovations and improvements of the campus properties. We are still annually participating in MOST ministry teams to Honduras and Jamaica with eyeglass clinics. 2025 sees us

in the call process for an associate pastor to strengthen and broaden our ministries of pointing to Jesus.

Adrian, St. Matthew's

St. Matthew's, Adrian has sought to continue Word and Sacrament ministry over the past three years. They have continued to strive to remain faithful to God's mission, seeking to share Jesus with their community. Pastor Daryl Etheridge faithfully served this congregation until his death in early 2025. This congregation is prayerfully considering their future.

Blissfield, Blessed Savior

Blessed Savior, Blissfield has sought to continue Word and Sacrament ministry over the past three years. They have continued to strive to remain faithful to God's mission seeking to share Jesus with their community. Pastor Daryl Etheridge faithfully served this congregations until his death early 2025. They are prayerfully considering their future.

Brooklyn, St. Mark's

St. Mark's has been blessed to partner with Cross and Resurrection in Ypsilanti. This partnership has brought stability and revitalization under the leadership of Bryan Schindel, who was installed as senior pastor. The ministry was further strengthened with the ordination and installation of Bryan Varblow, who serves as site pastor of St. Mark's. The partnership with Cross and Resurrection has given the opportunity to start a new ministry, Love Ypsilanti. The primary purpose of Love Ypsilanti is social ministry serving the community with diaper and food pantries. This ministry also offers Bible studies for people to grow in faith.

Hudson, Our Savior

Our Savior sought to continue to be faithful in Word and Sacrament ministry. They have been blessed to be served by Rev. Dale Grimm. His service to Our Savior has brought several years of stability and deeper understanding of God's word through Bible study. Over the past several years they have worked with the community to put on an Easter Egg hunt.

Jackson, Redeemer

Our focus at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson has been to remain faithful in worship, grow deep in God's Word, and serve our neighbor for the Gospel's sake. With a renewed focus, Redeemer has seen the church grow deeper in faith and has had an increase in Bible class attendance. We have been blessed to experience many new faces with a steady inflow of visitors; several families and individuals who have stepped away from regular attendance have returned and reengaged with congregational life. We have seen many Baptisms, received new members, and have encouraged many in the community and beyond through acts of service. It was a pleasure to have our facility open to several sports teams, continue our monthly work with local food pantry, encourage CUAA and District on several occasions, and host a workday called *Step out and Serve* that blessed several local ministries. We are also seeking to bolster our partnership with Trinity, Jackson pursuing various ways to serve Jackson together.

Jackson, Trinity

After a long vacancy, Trinity has been blessed with stability with the installation of Rev. Derek Riddle. With renewed vigor, Trinity has worked hard over the last couple of years to put in place a five-year strategic plan, clarifying their mission, vision, and core values. With the implementation of this plan, visible changes have been made at the school to provide a more robust ministry to families while offering a solid Christian education. Trinity is also revisiting their downtown presence to better serve the community.

Circuit #31 – Petoskey

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Charles Hoffman

Boyne City, Christ

We continue to seek to proclaim Jesus and minister to the saints in Christ. There is a strong culture of Bible study at Christ with very good attendance at both our Sunday morning and Thursday morning Bible studies. We also continue to serve our community with our Kinder Kloset (baby pantry) ministry, which gives free diapers and clothing to any area families in need.

Charlevoix, Bethany

Rev. James Redmann served in a vacancy capacity for much of this triennium. His work concluded in September of 2024. Since this time, worship services have been suspended. Another church group is now renting and utilizing the facilities of Bethany. It is expected that the members of Bethany will soon seek to close.

Gaylord, Trinity

Average Weekly Attendance: 88
Baptized Membership: 174
Confirmed Membership: 152

Grayling, Mount Hope

Average Weekly Attendance: 56
Baptized Membership: 14
Confirmed Membership: 102

Kalkaska, St. Paul

Average Weekly Attendance: 35
Baptized Membership: 378
Confirmed Membership: 299

Lewiston, Bethlehem

Bethlehem has continued to be served by several Emeriti pastors during their extended vacancy. As they continue to seek their next shepherd, ministry continues, and the people are thankful that services continue uninterrupted.

Mancelona, St. Matthew

Average Weekly Attendance: 9
Baptized Membership: 99
Confirmed Membership: 88

Petoskey, Zion

The leadership and members of Zion continue to rejoice in faithfully hearing the Word of God and sharing His love in

our community. Active participation in Bible study and a robust fellowship of believers stand as our current goals—while also being the source of ongoing strength in the Lord. The Preschool Ministry, recently having celebrated its 20th year of students, continues as a valued focus as we strive to connect those community families to Christ.

Circuit #32 – Traverse City

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Michael Goers

Benzonia, Our Savior

While the Lord sent one vacancy pastor away to serve in another part of God's kingdom, He then provided spiritual care for Our Savior, Benzonia through faithful undershepherds. Rev. Dr. Robert Newton and Rev. Dr. David Maier have provided Gospel ministry to Our Savior, along with Vicar Matt Emery, through a partnership with Trinity, Arcadia. The congregation especially reaches out to neighboring young families through community events and Bible study.

Elk Rapids, Grace

The congregation celebrated 75 years in 2024 with a celebratory service and fellowship meal on June 9. District President Dave Davis preached for the service. Pastor James Redmann continued to faithfully serve the congregation through this anniversary year and even now. Grace has been able to serve some young people seeking Confirmation and welcomed visitors during the summer months.

Cedar (Good Harbor), St. Paul

In 2022, St. Paul enjoyed getting back to normal worship practices after the easing up of COVID. Since then, they now also have a potluck meal the first Sunday of every month (Sept.–May), and on all the other Sundays they have coffee and treats after worship and before Bible class. For all St. Paul's midweek services during Advent and Lent they also have a Soup Supper before worship. In their mission efforts, they continue to support "Lutherans in Africa," the food bank at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, and have sought to increase their giving to District. Since St. Paul is located in Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore, they have visitors almost every Sunday during the warmer months. Although St. Paul currently does not have any children for a Sunday school, they have been blessed with some Baptisms, an adult confirmation, and a few new members. With the church facility, they have accomplished many repairs and updates including: a new floor on the first level; replacement of cracked windows; the painting of all exterior woodwork of the windows; new brick knee walls and a new cement slab at the front of the church; a new cement parking area for our handicapped and elderly; new paint in portions of the interior of the church; huge playground set built by our members for grandkids and visitors. Rev. Mark Reinsch serves St. Paul.

Glen Arbor, Bethlehem

Bethlehem has a new pastor—Pastor Jim Nihiser! Over half of the members attend weekly Bible study. The church also has a presence at the Glen Arbor 4th of July parade (give out water, in the past hot dogs, etc), and is active at

the Empire Area Food Pantry. For fellowship, Bethlehem is re-firing up Euchre in our fellowship hall for members and non-members.

Interlochen, Redeemer

Pastor Jason Bauer became the sole pastor as Pastor Mark Berlin retired. In the past three years, Redeemer especially served as a community center for the Interlochen/Grawn area as seniors and homeschool families enter the Redeemer doors on a weekly basis. They saw an updated facility with renovations happening throughout the building, highlighted by a beautified sanctuary. Redeemer was the site for the Circuit Convocation in August 2024, welcoming the community to hear Blake Flattley and Tanner Olson.

Leland, Immanuel

Immanuel saw Rev. Dr. Joshua LaFève, their pastor for a number of years, receive and accept a call to serve as Pre-Seminary Director and Assistant Professor at Concordia University Wisconsin. Leading up to this time of transition, Immanuel continued to see an excellent music ministry, outreach to homeschool families, and participation in the circuit youth events.

Traverse City, St. Michael's & All Angels

Rev. Mark Latham provides faithful preaching and teaching. Deacon Paul Gaudette partners with Pastor Latham in helping those recovering from addiction. The surrounding area continues to have new developments around the church, and the congregation has welcomed those who are new to the neighborhood.

Traverse City, Trinity

Trinity welcomed new people to the congregation who were looking for a church committed to teaching and preaching Christ crucified and all His Word. By the Holy Spirit, there is an ongoing renewal in the Lord's work of "opening hearts, renewing minds, and transforming lives." Trinity thanks God for the upward trends of their school and values each child's story as they desire to share God's story. Work is also done through community meals, Stephen Ministry, youth retreats, Dorcas Society, and music, for example. In addition to the many dedicated faculty and staff members, Trinity is led by Rev. Michael Goers, Rev. Bruce Lucas, and principal Mr. Kyle Smith.

Circuit #33 – Manistee

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dennis Rahn

Circuit #33 is located in Manistee, Mason, Oceana, and Wexford counties of Northwestern Lower Michigan. The Circuit is primarily rural with some relatively small cities and towns, including Cadillac, Ludington, and Manistee. The Circuit includes a Lutheran preschool and elementary school in Manistee, as well as a day care and preschool in Cadillac. The area faces ongoing economic challenges due to a lack of sufficient employment opportunities to attract a larger number of workers with young families. However, we are blessed with faithful called and lay workers who have a heart for the Gospel of Christ. The congregations of the Circuit enjoy a good working relationship with each other

as they continue to look for ways to demonstrate the love of Christ to their communities.

Arcadia, Trinity

In June of 2024, Pastor Ryan Tinetti accepted a call to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to serve on the seminary faculty. During the vacancy, Trinity has been served by Vacancy Pastor Dan Johnson, with assistance from a number of retired pastors from Northwestern Michigan. A Divine Call was accepted by Pastor Justin Rossow of Ann Arbor in March to serve as Trinity's next called pastor.

Cadillac, Emmanuel

Emmanuel is served by Pastor Brennan Woell, who was installed in August of 2022. Rev. Mark Latham, of Traverse City, faithfully served Emmanuel during the vacancy prior to that time. Emmanuel continues to provide a day care and preschool ministry to the congregation and the community. Pastor Woell was elected to his first term as Circuit Visitor of the Manistee Circuit at the Circuit Forum and will begin serving following the District Convention.

Ludington, St. John's

St. John's continues to be served by Pastor David Goehmann, who is approaching his fourth anniversary with the congregation. St. John's has established and is expanding an after-school program to minister to youth of the congregation and community. Through a number of changes in recent years, the faithful membership continues to reach out to the community with the love of Christ.

Manistee, Trinity

Trinity is served by Pastor Dennis Rahn, who has been privileged to serve at Trinity for 25 years. Trinity is blessed to support the ministry of Trinity Lutheran School, a Preschool–Grade 5 ministry, which in the past two years has experienced its most significant growth of the past 25 years. Trinity has supported a radio ministry to shut-in members of the congregation and outreach to the Manistee community since the 1950's. Pastor Rahn has had the privilege of producing that 30-minute program, *Chapel Lane*, since 2000. Trinity has faithfully livestreamed its worship services to the community since 2020, and in 2024, upgraded its livestreaming equipment.

Mesick, Faith

Faith is served by SMP Pastor Tim Selim, who is approaching his sixth anniversary with the congregation. The faithful servants of Faith boldly proclaim a God of love and forgiveness through the Christ-centered divine liturgy. The recent sale of some church property has allowed the saints of Faith to not only steadfastly continue their present ministry, but to seek additional ways to expand their ministry to the community of western Wexford County.

Onkama (Manistee), Norwalk

Norwalk continues to be faithfully served by Vacancy Pastor Jacob Sherry, who has served the past four years. The faithful saints of Norwalk remain committed to the Christ-centered Divine Service and to actively pursuing mission work to

bring the Gospel of Christ to all.

Onekama, Trinity

Trinity is served by Pastor Jacob Sherry, who is approaching his seventh anniversary with the congregation. Through the faithful proclamation of the Word, and the administering of the Sacraments in their truth and purity, Trinity continues to declare God's love in Christ to the Onekama community. With thankful hearts for all the blessings a gracious God has richly showered upon His people, the members of Trinity continue to invest in improvements and expansion of the facility and grounds.

Pentwater, Lighthouse

Lighthouse continues to be served by SMP Pastor John Hansen, who has faithfully led their Gospel ministry for more than a decade. The steadfast membership of Lighthouse continues to help this ministry thrive, as the Word is taught and preached in truth and purity. Pastor Hansen continues to provide biblically faithful and liturgically sound Word and Sacrament ministry to the community of Pentwater.

Scottville, Our Savior

Our Savior is served by Pastor Ken Williamson, who was installed in February of 2022. It has been a very eventful last three years. In July of 2023, Our Savior announced a merger with Peace, Ludington, and welcomed the members of Peace into membership at Our Savior. In 2024, the congregation welcomed the return of Rev. Dale Talsma, a son of the congregation who has faithfully served in foreign missions in Africa and South America over the past three decades. In 2025, SMP Pastor Pete Engblade was installed as Assistant Pastor.

Wellston, Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior bid farewell to Pastor Rick Richardson, who retired in October of 2023, following many years of faithful service to the congregation as a Deacon and SMP Pastor. The congregation is currently being served by retired pastors of Western and Northwestern Lower Michigan, as well as Worship Assistant Jewel Richardson.

Circuit #34 – Big Rapids

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Paul Tonn

Baldwin, Grace – Rev. Daniel H. Fienen

Grace Lutheran was chartered in June of 1976 and is looking forward to the celebration of 50 years in the coming triennium. Grace has been served by local pastors, vicars, and called pastors in her years. Her current Pastor, Daniel Fienen, has been in the pulpit since April of 2014. They continue to run a food distribution, Grace Mobile Pantry, once per month servicing over 100 per month with this pantry.

Big Rapids, St. Peter's – Rev. Tyson V. Bentz, Rev. Tyler D. Carter

St. Peter celebrated 150 years of sharing God's Word in 2020, and the school that walks hand in hand with the church celebrated 150 years in 2021. Pastor Tyson Bentz was called as pastor and installed February of 2023, and Pastor Tyler Carter was called as Associate Pastor and installed July of

2024. St. Peter added a micro high school in school year 2024–25 to accompany their pre-K–8 grade school.

Fremont, Redeemer – Rev. Dr. K. Frank Graves, Rev. Gary A. Kirschke (vacancy pastors)

Redeemer and Christ, White Cloud have signed a dual-parish agreement and are engaged in the calling process, seeking the pastor that God has in store for them. In the interim, they have been blessed with three vacancy pastors who have shepherded them. During this period, they have grown by 10 members and continue to grow. They have started a planning committee which has become their driving force for moving forward. They installed a new audiovisual system to better share their services online. They have also started multiple Bible studies throughout the year that have enabled members to continue to grow in grace and knowledge of God's love for them.

Howard City, Bethel – Rev. Richard A. Townes, Jr.

The focus of Bethel, Howard City is the proclamation of Christ crucified. All that Bethel does stems from the altar and extends outward with God's Word. Bethel's approach to ministry is solidly confessional as we teach young and old alike the ageless truths of the Bible as explained in the confessions of the Lutheran Church. This congregation's identity is deeply rooted in 16th century Lutheranism and is something we will not apologize for nor neglect because it is as pertinent today as it was then. Our junior catechumens and adult students alike are taught the fundamentals of the faith as expressed in the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Our Divine Service is unabashedly Lutheran and uses only those hymnbooks and catechisms that are approved by the LCMS in accordance with Article VI.4 of the Church's Constitution. This congregation strives to reach the lost through its faithfulness to the Holy Scriptures and adherence to the Lutheran Confessions in various ways but primarily through the face-to-face contact our members have with their neighbors. It also provides direct financial support to foreign missionaries and seminarians, as well as local charities and food banks.

Mecosta, Chapel of the Lakes – Rev. Mark E. Gilson

Chapel of the Lakes has been in transition over the last three years. Pastor John Bookshaw served them as their Intentional Interim pastor during their vacancy and helped formulate a ministry plan. Pastor Mark Gilson began as the full-time pastor in September of 2024. Ministry highlights include frozen meals available for anyone in the community with a need and cooperation with our community in providing over 300 Christmas gifts to families facing financial challenges. On March 2, 2025 we received 16 new members. Chapel of the Lakes is making an intentional effort to connect and be a blessing as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ here in Mecosta and the surrounding areas.

Reed City, Trinity – Rev. Paul A. Tonn

Trinity has served Reed City for 157 years in 2024 and continues to serve the community of Reed City with Word and Sacrament and in participating in the community. Trinity's men's group continues to be the sponsor for our

Community Christmas tree lighting, and the sponsor for “Refresh Reed City,” the annual spring cleanup of our downtown area and city flowerbeds. Other areas of outreach that Trinity has participated in are: The quilters donate over 100 quilts per year to Lutheran World Relief, the local cancer center, and other entities; Trinity members bake birthday cakes for youth who reside at Eagle Village, which is a facility that equips and serves children, youth, and families that are delinquent or have been impacted by trauma. Trinity celebrated the retirement of their mortgage in March 2025, and is looking at how they can continue to be a light in the community, and how they can continue to be a blessing to the members, school families, and community. Trinity Lutheran School celebrates 144 years in 2024/25, and is eagerly anticipating its 150th anniversary in 2030/31.

Sand Lake, Resurrection – Rev. Philip W. Chaffee (SMP) Resurrection celebrated the installation of Pastor Chaffee in October 2023. Since then, their attendance has grown by about 15%; Bible study attendance has grown by 70%. They are actively pursuing some avenues for community evangelism efforts and have expanded their charitable giving to the communities with a noisy offering going to institutions like Pregnancy Resource Services, hurricane and wildfire victims, Bible translators, community assistance, etc. They are in a period of self-evaluation as well to see how best they are able to invite, incorporate, and invigorate new members and younger members into their community.

Stanton, Hope – Rev. Alexander Sabol Hope, Stanton is part of a dual parish partnership with the English District congregation Holy Trinity (Lakeview), under the care of Rev. Alexander Sabol since December 10, 2017. They are a small rural church with a committed congregation. There is a midweek Bible study as well as midweek Advent and Lenten services. They also have a food bank which serves numerous families in the area each week. Hope and Holy Trinity enjoy their partnership and celebrate it by having joint services together throughout the course of the year.

White Cloud, Christ – Rev. Terry E. Hoese, Rev. M. Robert Low (vacancy Pastors) Christ, White Cloud has signed a dual-parish agreement with Redeemer, Fremont. They have been blessed with pastoral care by two retired pastors who have maintained personal relationships with church members. They also have a pastor from Pakistan who fills in and is called to minister to the Arab population in Grand Rapids. They are currently in the process of updating the church with new carpet and painting. They have been able to install a new sound system that can Bluetooth to hearing aids. They now have two organists, which allows them to split the music schedule. They are investigating the Rooms For Refuge program to see if they are able to host families beyond the financial support that is currently being given. They have been supporting Lutheran Bible Translators; Camp Concordia, Gowen; Evergreen Lutheran School in Detroit; Lutheran World Relief; International Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids (Pastor Masih); and the Methodist Church Food Pantry (Bonnie’s House) in White Cloud.

Circuit #35 – Capitol

Circuit Visitor: Rev. William Wangelin

The Capitol Circuit consists of churches in and to the south of Lansing and meets monthly on the second Tuesday with our brothers to the north in the St. John’s Circuit #36. In addition to worship with Holy Communion, an exegetical study, and casuistry at every circuit meeting, we also read and discussed the following resources: “Wonderfully Made” (John Kleinig), “Post-Christian: A Guide” (Gene Veith Jr.), “I Will Grieve for the Suicide” (Peter Preus), and “The Great DeChurching” (Davis/Graham).

The Circuit Convocation brought the two circuits together for a Lutheran night at the Lugnuts in downtown Lansing, which included an ingathering for the Greater Lansing Food Bank, a meal on the Tailgate Terrace, and a visible presence in the community which we serve, attended by 545 Lutherans from 11 congregations.

Charlotte, First Lutheran – Rev. Sean Esterline, SMP Pastor Dan Longden, SMP Pastor Mark Gawura First Lutheran’s goal is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to love the town of Charlotte, and to serve its people. With a variety of Bible studies for children, youth, and adults, the congregation has seen good growth this past triennium and welcomed several new members. Their service to the community includes a childcare/preschool and annual ham and turkey giveaway.

Holt, Messiah – Rev. Mark Werner Messiah’s mission is to seek the lost, grow the found. A variety of Bible studies include Crossways. They operate the Messiah Child Development Center. Their services are at 8:30 a.m. (traditional) and 11 a.m. (contemporary), both available on livestream and with Holy Communion at each service.

Holt, St. Matthew – Rev. Dean Poellet The mission of St. Matthew is to know Jesus and let Him be known by reflecting God’s love, teaching our children, and serving the community. The congregation operates Holt Lutheran School, led by Principal Chelsea Speers. K-8 enrollment is 86. The Son Shine Early Childhood Center serves 53 little ones. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. Sundays including livestream. The worship service is interpreted into American Sign Language.

Howell, Heart of the Shepherd – Rev. Sam Fink Pastor Sam Fink was installed at Heart of the Shepherd on March 12, 2023. With a desire to Grow in grace, Give with joy, and Go on a mission, the congregation worships at 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school and adult Bible studies at 9 a.m. They offer small groups, children and youth ministry, and operate a child development center.

Lansing, Good Shepherd – Rev. Delwyn X. Campbell Good Shepherd joined forces with Trinity, Lansing, to form a dual parish in 2022. Rev. Delwyn X. Campbell was installed as pastor of both congregations at a joyful celebration on April 28, 2023. In ministry for 60 years, Good Shepherd seeks to gain people for God, gather around Word and

Sacrament, and grow in Christ. Their Tuesday community dinners continue to provide assistance to the community as a witness to God's grace.

Leslie, Grace – Vacant

After several years of pulpit supply, Grace entered a creative partnership with St. Luke, Haslett, who provided alternating in-person and digital preaching and pastoral care, supplemented with area pastors. This arrangement maintains Word and Sacrament ministry as the congregation prayerfully determines viability and next steps.

Lansing, Living Word – EIT Pastor Moses Dangba

Living Word worships at 4 p.m. on Sundays at Trinity, Lansing, with worship elements in English, Arabic, and Swahili as they reach out to the African immigrant communities of Lansing. Having completed his vicarage and requirements for the EIT program, Moses Dangba was ordained and installed as pastor of Living Word on October 8, 2023, in a multi-ethnic celebration of God's goodness. He and his wife Alice traveled to their home country of South Sudan in August 2024 and established the Living Word Orphanage in coordination with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan.

Lansing, Our Savior – Rev. William Wangelin, Rev. Christopher Deneen

With a mission to learn, live, and share Christ, OSL operates as "churchschool," focusing on inter-generational ministry, Christian education, and missional living. In addition to weekly traditional services at 8:30 and contemporary services at 10:30 a.m., twice a month they hold the Connect Service (an interactive, station-based service for young families) and a Hmong Service. Our Savior Lutheran School, which has 200 K–8 students and 65 enrolled in early childhood, now has a ministry dog named Onyx as a part of its student support services. Principal Matthew Couser was named Principal of the Year 2024. A summer camp of 200+ campers ensures they have year-round ministry to kids and families. Outreach ministries include the Easter Egg Hunt, Living Nativity, CityServe, MSU Friendship House, OSL Food Bank, South Africa Missions, Hmong Ministry, and more.

Lansing, Trinity – Rev. Delwyn X. Campbell

After forming a dual parish with Good Shepherd, Lansing, Rev. Delwyn Campbell was installed on April 28, 2023. Sunday services are at 8:45 a.m. and distinctively use The Lutheran Hymnal. Services are posted on YouTube. SMP Pastor Bob Dowding retired recently, yet continues to be active in the congregation as pastor emeritus. The congregation operates Trinity Lutheran Child Care Center which provides a safe and caring place for children ages 6 weeks up to 6 years old, Monday through Friday.

Circuit: #36 – Saint Johns Circuit Visitor: Edward Filter

Carson City, Calvary

Average Worship Attendance: 18
Baptized Membership: 63

Communicant Membership: 41

In September of 2022, Rev. Thomas Messer was installed as pastor at Calvary. Pastor Messer was the pastor at Peace, Alma from the Midland Circuit and became Calvary's pastor upon the signing of a dual-parish agreement earlier in 2022.

DeWitt, Hope

Hope, led by Rev. Dr. E. Anthony Sikora, continues to be a light in the darkness of our world. Over the last three years we have seen significant growth in membership and average worship attendance. After a long recovery from COVID, Pastor Sikora returned to full duties the summer of 2022. In February of 2023, having completed its sanctuary renovations, Hope celebrated with a rededication service. That same year, after 25 years of service, Hope's organist retired. In 2024, Hope called Mr. Michael Kutch to serve as Associate Director of Parish Music. He was installed in January of 2025. The people of Hope continue to gather around our Lord's Word and Sacrament, mindful of His mission to our community and the world. Hope continues to support various mission opportunities while inviting others to join us in regular worship.

East Lansing, Ascension

Much like Pastor Sean's impressive beard, Ascension continues to grow. We have been abundantly blessed with a growing segment of young families filling the building with sounds of (mostly happy) children. Along with our Deacon, Jim Phillips, and our music director, Alix Jenkins, we have brought in an exquisite soprano from the MSU music department who enlivens our worship with her talents. We are currently in the process of developing a clear focus for our outreach efforts and how best we can serve our community.

Fowler, St. Paul

Average Worship Attendance: 70

Baptized Membership: 137

Communicant Membership: 105

St. Paul, Fowler has continued to maintain a strong Lutheran presence in the community. Through the teaching and preaching of Christ's Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments, God has continued to add new members and families to our congregation over the past few years. We are blessed to be able to offer traditional worship services with a strong music ministry led by our Kantor, Pastor Lance Klamer. Committed to the work of Lutherans for Life and led by Rev. Paul Clark, we also maintain an unwavering pro-life commitment as we continue to proclaim the sanctity of human life.

Haslett/Lansing, St. Luke

Our congregation focuses on helping people in Knowing the Peace and the Power of the Cross through worship, group life, and personal Bible reading. Through an ever-more informed and intimate relationship with Jesus, we form people who love to tell others about Jesus. During the past three years, our congregation has continued to develop its two-campus (Meridian Campus in Haslett and Christ Campus in downtown Lansing) and multiethnic ministry. St. Luke is home to a large number of newcomers from Africa (especially from the DR Congo and Sudan). Major outreach

ministries include our Little Lambs Preschool, a community kitchen that serves neighbors 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, including services in Arabic and Swahili. 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 Senior Pastor Trevor Sutton, Associate Pastor Zerit Yohannes, Associate Pastor Michael Stainbrook, Assistant Pastor Elamin Baggor, and Deaconess Rahel Musa. Our congregation includes 897 baptized members and 733 confirmed members. Our average attendance is 489.

Portland, St. Andrew

Over the past three years, St. Andrew has been a congregation in transition. Its pastor for 34 years, Pastor Ed Filter, retired in June of 2022. In September of that year, the congregation entered into the Intentional Interim Process with IIM Pastor Roger Straub. The IIM process was essentially completed the following year, with St. Andrew exploring several possibilities for its future. In October of 2023, St. Andrew celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Pastor Filter returned to preach for the Service of Praise and Thanksgiving. In 2024, St. Andrew began the process of raising up a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) from within the congregation. In September of 2024, Mark Haworth began two years of study and training as Vicar in the SMP process through Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, leading to ordination in the fall of 2026 as St. Andrew's next pastor. Pastor Straub has continued to serve St. Andrew as Transitional Vacancy Pastor and as on-site mentor to Vicar Mark. Though in transition, St. Andrew has maintained a strong and faithful Word and Sacrament ministry to its members. Wee Grow Christian Preschool remains strong; the congregation has also remained connected with, engaged, and active in the Portland community.

St. Johns, St. John's

Worship

St. John's has experienced steady growth in worship attendance over the last three years. We average 130 attendees at worship each Sunday. Our adult Bible study on Sundays averages 21 participants. Our most recent new member class completed in February of 2025 brought eight new members into our church family.

Outreach

We have focused heavily on community outreach efforts. Our Good News Kitchen ministry serves free lunches to the community on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. We served 17,574 meals in 2024. In October of 2024, Pastor Jim Pearl took responsibility for leading The Basic Needs Center. The Basic Needs Center is a community ministry that is biblically based located in downtown St. Johns. Twelve members of St. John's Lutheran now volunteer regularly there. We provide food for over 600 individuals each month. We collected and sent \$6,000 to Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School in Asheville, NC to assist them in response to the destructive flooding that took place there. We collected

and sent \$5,000 to Palisades Lutheran Church in Pacific Palisades, CA in response to the devastating Palisades Fire that destroyed the homes and businesses of many church members there.

In the summer of 2024, seven church members participated in a mission trip to Guatemala City, Guatemala. This was the first mission trip sponsored by St. John's in several years.

St. Johns, St. Peter

St. Peter Lutheran Church and School continues serving those in our midst with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and reaching out to others with the same. Our school is currently pre-K through 8th grade, and we now have high schoolers meeting at St. Peter for classes through Wittenberg Academy. Mrs. Erika Brown continues serving as principal.

Circuit #38 – Muskegon

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dennis Lassanske

Conklin, Trinity

Trinity, Conklin has been served faithfully for 33 years by Pastor Mark Oswald who retired in April, so Trinity is now working through this transition period with an Intentional Interim pastor. For the past couple years, they have joined with Grace, Coopersville and St. Luke, Nunica to have a joint Youth Group that meet together on a regular basis. This partnership has been a blessing for all three congregations. For the 2024/25 school year, Trinity Lutheran School has begun a co-op program with area homeschool families. Those homeschool children come to Trinity each Wednesday morning for chapel, music, and a couple of classes. They also took part in our Children's Christmas worship. This has worked out very well and we even have a waiting list of homeschool families that would like to be a part of this program for the next school year. Trinity continues to have special mission projects that they have supported over the past 30 years, including the Adopt-A-Student program at CTSFW Theological Seminary; Dwelling 1:14 mission organization; Point of Grace Academy in Kenya; Worship Anew; Lutherans For Life; Women at Risk International; the food pantry of St. Luke, Nunica; Lutheran World Relief; and other mission groups.

Montague, St. James

St. James, Montague celebrated its 150th anniversary with numerous special Sundays and activities during the year of 2022. There were monthly celebrations in which previous pastors came and preached. Pastor Brooks retired at the end of 2022. The congregation was served by Intentional Interim and vacancy pastor Rev. Mark Gilson during the following year. God led the congregation to call Rev. Eric Nelson from Minnesota, and he was installed as pastor on April 20, 2024. The congregation continues to grow and flourish with a youth and education leader, Russel Bauman. Recently they have formed a joint youth ministry with Faith, Whitehall. They are continuing their support of missionaries and look forward to continuing their ministry into the community. The congregation also supports a preschool program in their building.

Muskegon (Norton Shores), St. Mark

In the last three years, the St. Mark church family, our staff, leaders, and congregation members have worked hard to create a church culture of 'Loving God and Loving People' in our journey of faith. Our team has had numerous outreach events, such as our Homecoming Kick-off to welcome everyone back post-COVID, Oktoberfest dinners, movie nights, Chick-fil-A food trucks, ice cream food trucks and a bike rodeo in collaboration with the local police department. Our student ministry team has created celebration points in our student's lives by offering Bibles to our students during worship, blessing backpacks to propel students in their mission field at the local schools and involve them in serving on Sundays. Adults are growing in faith through increased participation in various short-term Bible studies like Pub Theology, Bible Book Club, and weekly Bible classes. The people of St. Mark continue to invest in our community by painting and collecting items for children at local schools, making supper packs for Kids Food Basket, and sending quilts to LWR. Considerable time and effort have been spent building our infrastructure to equip and enhance our ministry in A/V, sound, and security. St. Mark is committed to our mission of "Together with faith we can connect, grow, and serve." Rev. Scott Faith, SMP serves as pastor of the congregation after completing the required program for ordination and was installed in the past triennium.

Muskegon, Trinity

Trinity, Muskegon was founded in 1885 and is preparing to celebrate its 140th year in ministry in 2025. May God be praised. The congregation has gone through the Five-Two training to help the congregation identify and focus on outreach to younger families and children. Trinity continues to support West Shore Lutheran School (grades K-8), preschool and daycare. They have added a Children's Ministry Director to focus on young families that are contacted through the West Shore Lutheran School, preschool and childcare programs. They have continued food support ministry to the community and have expanded frozen food ministry distribution to help school families beyond the support of local food pantry ministries in Muskegon. They actively serve at the Mission for Area People. The congregation continues to provide support annually to five missionaries serving in various locations in the world. This year they are preparing to send a short-term mission team to Kenya, through His Arms Children's Project.

Nunica, St. Luke

In 2022 the vacancy in the pastoral office was served by Rev. Mark Gilson and Rev. Dennis Lassanske until Rev. Micah Brooks was called in June from the Ft. Wayne Seminary to serve the congregation. The ministry outreach includes VBS, community food truck, community picnic, Care Cabinet, community cookoff, and Veterans' Day brunch. Youth ministry has grown and operates jointly with Trinity, Conklin and Grace, Coopersville with 19 involved. They were able to send a delegation of 9 to the District Junior High youth gathering. Security cameras have been added and additional improvements to building (air conditioning) and grounds are in process for the coming year. The ministry at St. Luke continues to grow with an average of about 100

in worship weekly. They have begun planning for their 125th year in 2027.

Shelby, St. Stephen's

St. Stephen's is a rural congregation near Shelby, Mich. The congregation was served part-time by pastor Rev. Alexander Koppel until his retirement in 2024. The faithful gather each Sunday and the congregation hosts an outdoor service in summer as an outreach to the community. The congregation called Pastor Kurt Overway in 2024 to serve as their pastor part-time. They host a weekly Bible study and are planning renovations to the sanctuary and upgrades to the church building. The congregation has shown some growth this past year.

Whitehall, Faith

The congregation was served by area clergy under the guidance of the circuit visitor during a sudden vacancy in the pastoral office. Faith received their new pastor, Rev. Matt Gunia, in February of 2023. Pastor Gunia is leading efforts to make the congregation stronger through visitation and an emphasis on daily Bible reading. During a vacancy at St. James, Montague, pastor Gunia was involved in a joint confirmation program. Faith is partnering with nearby St. James to make each congregation's youth program stronger. The youth will be attending their first Higher Things retreat this summer.

Circuit #39 – Holland

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Chris Boehnke

Coopersville, Grace

Grace has been researching various ways for our church to transition to our next pastor after the retirement of Pastor Joel Hoyer planned for 2026. He will have shepherded Grace as its first pastor for 32 years. After much prayer and presentation by our "Greener Pastor" transition team, the church has decided to go with an Intentional Interim Pastor before we start the call process.

Grace has embraced a successful partnership with the Michigan District, contracting our DCE Luke Esselman as the District's Commissioned Minister Advocate. Luke has adjusted well to his added responsibilities and has been instrumental in developing a partnership with Trinity, Conklin and St. Luke, Nunica for our youth groups that has been very successful. The congregation also invested heavily in our youth recently with a budget that includes trips for our confirmation students to the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter, and for our Senior High youth to attend the National Youth Gathering, and a separate servant event also at the Creation Museum.

Grand Haven, St. John's

St. John Lutheran Church and School continues to gather around Jesus' Word and Sacraments and proclaim His salvation to a world in need. At our school, God's children grow in faith and are equipped for a lifetime of service. In our congregation, God continues to gather new members into His Kingdom, both from the school and from the community. In 2024, we adopted a new congregational

vision statement to guide us in our life and service together: A loving family of faith sharing God's Word, strengthening families, and raising up the next generation in Christ. Just recently, through a generous gift, we added a new science lab to our school. And we are excited that several of our staff members are being trained as facilitators for Concordia Center for the Family (CCF). At St. John, we rejoice in all of God's blessings in Christ!

Holland, Christ Our Savior

The congregation continues to be blessed with many volunteers. A Hand2Hand Ministry to a local grade school was taken on full-time in 2020 and has continued to prosper with the prayers and support of so many congregational volunteers and an outpouring of gifts of food and money, as well as willing workers. There is a fervent desire to read, study, and meditate upon the Word of God with three ongoing weekly Bible studies as well as a Book of Concord Reading Group. We just completed reading and studying the whole counsel of God from The Lutheran Study Bible Genesis–Revelation, 2022–2024. We also have a very active LWML and ladies' group that sews, quilts, and does many other projects. Divine Service is on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. All services are streamed live over Facebook and our YouTube channel each Sunday and posted afterwards on all our social media outlets. The Word of God goes out daily through Scripture readings, meditations, and prayers posted on our YouTube Channel, Facebook, X, and LinkedIn. Our YouTube Channel, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church LCMS Holland Mi, currently has 292 subscribers. These formats on YouTube and Facebook are serving not only our shut-in members but also many members who desire an ongoing devotional life. Contacts made through our streaming services, devotionals, and Bible reading have brought several individuals into the church. We are working locally to serve a group of Bangladeshi Christians. The Saturday morning men's Bible class continues in Genesis into next year.

Holland, Zion

Over the past triennium, Zion has seen new disciples baptized, both young and old, and has laid to rest some significant longtime faithful members. One notable disciple that entered the church triumphant was Rev. John Westra, who had been Zion's pastor 1996–2012, whose ministry still bears fruit. Zion has slowly invested in its facility and grounds over many years, and for the past few enjoyed its transformed Upper Room teaching space to gather and grow in God's Word. In 2024, Zion installed a new organ to replace the long-serving but failing previous one. The new sounds have brightened worship to the Lord. Zion continues to serve the community in many ways, generously giving food, goods, and money to local and church-body ministries. God has been faithful to Zion during its 132+ years as a congregation, and God will continue to do Gospel ministry here for many more.

Spring Lake, Lakeshore Lutheran Fellowship

In October we celebrated Lakeshore's 30th anniversary in our building as the Lord has been at work through the Gospel and the Sacraments and with His people to accomplish our mission: Joyfully Connecting People to the Love of Jesus.

In the last three years, we've seen a slow but steady growth in our worship attendance with an increasing number of visitors. Over 20 new members have joined Lakeshore with a handful more preparing to join. Lakeshore put in a new parking lot that was paid for with raised funds. God's people are growing in faith through various Bible studies and five Community Groups. Every six weeks, Lakeshore serves about 110+ families through our Household Necessities Pantry. Seven high-school students are raising funds and preparing to go the National Youth Gathering this summer. Lakeshore has continued its support for a mission in Honduras and is preparing to work with Children's HopeChest to partner with a Lutheran Church in Ethiopia. Pastor Chris will publish a book with Zulon Press in a few weeks, titled: *The Christian Faith: The Original Evangelical View*, as a discipleship resource and to promote Lutheran theology to the wider evangelical church.

Spring Lake, St. Matthew

In November 2024, St. Matthew observed its 55th anniversary of ministry in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. Truly, the Lord has been gracious to us, sustaining us in faith with His Word and Sacraments. In gratitude to God, we celebrated this anniversary by sharing out of the abundance of blessings He has granted to us in an offering in support of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society. Highlights from the celebration included a visit by Rev. Dr. Timothy Quill and a live video conversation with Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, rector of the seminary in Novosibirsk, and his wife, Elena. Earlier in 2024, Rev. Michael Hughes was installed as pastor of St. Matthew. This occasion gave opportunity for our congregation to exercise our gifts in hospitality to many guests, including several area pastors who faithfully served us in the time when we were without a pastor. Also in 2024, we shifted from preschool ministry to childcare ministry, expanding our services to more infants and younger children, even as we continue to reach out in Christ's name, offering weekly chapel services for these little lambs. Our life together is strengthened by weekly worship—every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening—and Bible study on Sunday and Tuesday mornings. Our choir and bell choir frequently aid us in our worship, and we have been blessed to hear Advent and Lenten organ recitals by our gifted organist, Joanne Jansen. We enjoy regular times for play, too: weekly "Coffee and Company" fellowship in the commons area and a monthly euchre and games night. We have discovered it is not just fun and games, as the Lord has used these gatherings as entry points for guests to become friends.

West Olive, United

About 20+ people meet for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Tom Hackett is one of the key pastors who serves them by preaching the Word, conducting the liturgy and providing pastoral care. Christ Evangelical (English District) continues to meet at the United building for worship at 8 a.m.

Circuit #40 – Grand Rapids Northeast Circuit Visitor: Rev. Glenn Schaeffer

Belding, Holy Cross

Holy Cross, Belding has been served by Pastor Robert Wagner since 2009. The congregation continues to serve

two community dinners each year, a Swiss steak dinner in the spring, and a turkey dinner in the fall. A group of 5–9 women meet every other Thursday to sew quilts which are sent to many parts of the world, sowing seeds of concern and offering prayers for many in dire need. We reach out to a local senior assisted living home in Belding a few times each year with a luncheon and devotion. Our Bible studies have much discussion and always seem to have snacks. A potluck dinner follows our 10:30 a.m. service on the second Sunday of each month. Hmm. It seems we like food.

Grand Rapids, Immanuel

Immanuel, Grand Rapids has been blessed in wonderful ways over the past three years. Pastor Thomas Gustafson, his wife Emily, and their family have joined us in downtown Grand Rapids. We have also rebounded after the passing of EIIT Seminarian Leon Budibuende and are preparing some members of our French Fellowship group from Central Africa to enroll in the St. Louis Seminary's EIIT program.

Our Human Needs ministries in downtown Grand Rapids continue to provide opportunities to share the love of Jesus. Whether through serving our homeless neighbors at our Saturday morning breakfast or partnering with Mel Trotter and the "Bridge of Hope" to support families seeking hope and growth, we remain dedicated to sharing the hope we have in Jesus.

Additionally, over the past three years, we have witnessed growth in our men's and women's ministries here at Immanuel, with the hope of fostering greater connections within our Grand Rapids circuit.

Grand Rapids, Messiah

Messiah continues to be richly blessed by God in countless ways. We welcomed a new Pastor, Eric Black, who has been here just over a year. The congregation is looking both at revitalizing ministries that were interrupted by COVID and exploring new ways to reach out into our surrounding community. In the same vein, we are ever trying to better connect with our preschool families and further support our wonderfully gifted preschool staff in educating their students as well as sharing the love of Christ. We are excited and hopeful about all that God is doing for us and through us.

Grand Rapids, Our Savior

We give thanks to God for His great blessings as God's Word is being faithfully proclaimed and the Sacraments administered. Pastor North Sherrill was released from his call in June 2022 to move to Denver, Colorado. In 2023, Mrs. Kara Harbaugh resigned from her call as principal at Our Savior School to stay at home with her daughters. Ms. Julia Habrecht was subsequently appointed headmaster of the school, and she has accelerated the implementation of classical education. After many years of fundraising, the congregation signed a contract in June 2024 with Buzard Pipe Organ Builders for the construction and installation of a pipe organ.

Grand Rapids, St. James

St. James is a congregation where people gather, grow and

go. We gather for divine worship, Bible studies, and as service groups (e.g. LWML, Friends in Faith, Men's Group). We grow in our Christian faith as the Holy Spirit nurtures the fruits of faith in us. We go as individuals, as the light of Christ in our various vocations and, as a congregation, we serve our neighbor through our semi-annual Second-Best Sale, block parties, and providing resources for our local food bank, shelters, and a Pregnancy Resource Center. We also "Go" into the world in that we support Pastor Schaeffer's teaching ministry in Rwanda, and we provide resources for 20 unwed Rwandans and their children. Additionally, we continue to work in partnership with Immanuel Lutheran Church to have ISJ Academy where we provide Bible-based, Christ-centered education to students from preschool through 8th grade.

Grand Rapids, St. Matthew

We celebrated the retirement and years of dedicated service of Rev. Robert Appold in May of 2023. In December of that same year, Rev. Jonathan C. Meyer was installed as Senior Pastor after years of the call process. In October of 2024, Rev. Maxx Fisher was installed as Associate Pastor for Community Connection. We also retired our decades-long mortgage in the spring of 2024. Praise be to God for His goodness!

Greenville, Mount Calvary

Rev. Jeffrey Wilhelm served as pastor at Mount Calvary for 18.5 years. In July 2023, he became an intentional interim pastor of another congregation. After several calls were declined, Mount Calvary was blessed to have Pastor Dan Lepley accept the call to be our Senior Pastor. Additionally, Pastor Rob Appold accepted our call as an Assistant Pastor at Mt. Calvary.

Lowell, Good Shepherd /Ionia, St. John

Good Shepherd, Lowell and St. John, Ionia became an official dual parish in 2022 and began an Intentional Interim Ministry. Nine months later, the parish issued a call to a pastor, but the call was declined. The congregations then decided to pursue a "Cathedral Model" (or "Hub and Spoke") Ministry in which they would form a partnership with a larger congregation in the area. Meanwhile, St. John's preschool closed and had a shuffle in leadership. The parish continues to pursue a relationship with a possible "Hub" congregation and prays that, in God's timing, a partnership will be formed. The dual parish is engaged in a serious conversation concerning outreach and mission.

Rockford, St. Peter's

The spiritual formation of children is a top priority of our congregation. We believe there is no greater key to a child's physical, mental, and emotional development than a close relationship with Jesus. We continue to operate a preschool. The rich heritage of our worship service, combined with the deep truths of ancient hymns, is a much-needed anchor in seas of change. Our choir adds special music to many of our services, and we utilize their talents and those of others, both to introduce new songs to the church, and to enhance the music we already know well. Our new organ was installed in the last week of August 2024.

Circuit #41 – Grand Rapids Southwest
Circuit Visitor: Rev. Brian West

Caledonia, St. Paul – Rev. Dr. Tim Brand, Rev. David Miller
Weekly Worship Attendance: 138
Baptized Membership: 408
Confirmed Membership: 408

Grandville, Bethel – Rev. Robert Gerke
Weekly Worship Attendance: 41
Baptized Membership: 53
Confirmed Membership: 53

Hudsonville, New Hope – Rev. Adam Kosberg
Over the past three years, New Hope has been throwing things against the wall hoping something will stick. We have changed confirmation a couple times and have settled on confirmands using *Guided By Truth*, published by CPH, and journaling through the Psalms. The reviews are raving: “it feels less like homework.” We have also experimented with Sunday morning Bible study and are settled right now on an adult study going through various 5–7 week studies. It seems to be sticking but may also be sliding down the wall a little bit. God has blessed us with a handful of Baptisms and weddings, along with a few new faces. Starting a ministry partnering with Hand 2 Hand has been a blessing for us and we hope also for the high school students at Godfrey-Lee East Lee High School.

Jenison, Holy Cross – Rev. Brian West, Rev. Adam Peck
The last three years were a season marked by prayer, reflection, dreaming, and planning. As Holy Cross looks to the future of living out Jesus’ command to make disciples while bringing blessing to the community around us, it celebrates several strategic ministry partners who, in partnership, have allowed our influence to spread well beyond our own walls. We are also celebrating the strategic rollout of a new vision and strategy, giving us a pathway to see more people embrace the surprisingly better life of Jesus.

Jenison (Allendale), St. John – Mr. Jeff Ulicney (SMP)
Weekly Worship Attendance: 19
Baptized Membership: 31
Confirmed Membership: 14

Kentwood, St. Mark – Rev. Andrew Bartholomew
Pastor Andrew Bartholomew accepted the call to serve as our next senior pastor in the fall of 2022, thus ending our search. He and his family joined us in the summer of 2023. We had some challenges to overcome in our preschool. God was with us through those tough moments, and He’s shown His faithfulness. We’re expecting record enrollments in the years to come. Through our ministry partners, our congregation has some great opportunities for outreach and evangelism. St. Mark is ready to get back on track towards following the Great Commission.

Middleville, Good Shepherd – Rev. Robert Wurst
Good Shepherd, Middleville serves Barry County as the

sole LCMS congregation. She was served faithfully by Rev. Peter Berg and enjoyed God’s rich blessings under his faithful shepherding. Rev. Berg retired from full-time ministry in late 2024. The congregation then called Rev. Robert Wurst. He was installed in January 2025. We give God thanks and praise for His faithfulness to us. His Word and holy Sacraments sustain us day by day. To Him be all the glory! Amen.

Walker, The Vine – Rev. Jim Richter
The Vine Church continues in Word and Sacrament ministry by the grace of God. This past June we were able to charter, with 99 people present in worship. In August we celebrated the 5th year since Pastor Jim Richter was installed as church planter and officially called and installed him as pastor of The Vine Church. We continue to be active in personal witness as disciples make disciples where they live, work, and play. We continue to be active in outreach together as a congregation serving the community through after-school mentoring and tutoring, public safety chaplaincy, facilitating Walker Community Collaborative, and serving at numerous festivals and community activities.

Circuit #42 – Battle Creek
Circuit Visitor: Rev. Karl Strenge

Battle Creek, Redemption
Redemption has been served by Karl Strenge for the last 22 years. He is also the circuit visitor for circuit 42.

Battle Creek, St. Mark
Pastor Chris Paavola and Jack Langfeldt continue to serve at St. Mark.

Battle Creek, St. Paul
Pastor Larry Gorlitz continues to serve St. Paul very well. He has stabilized a congregation which was quickly shrinking and dealing with steep debt which he came to a few years ago. The congregation has paid off their debt this year.

Kalamazoo, Immanuel
Immanuel has been vacant for a little more than a year. Josh Grotelueschen has accepted the call to Immanuel. He will not arrive until August, though. He wants to fulfill National Youth Gathering commitments he made to his congregation in Wisconsin.

Kalamazoo, Zion
Pastor Michael Saylor has been at Zion for almost 2 years. He is working to bring the congregation closer to the LCMS. He has brought in the “new” Synodical hymnal, joined regularly at Winkels, and restored other practices. Attendance of members and first-time visitors is up.

The presence of a vicar and a deaconess intern (husband and wife) has been a great blessing to the congregation and the campus ministry at Western Michigan and Kalamazoo college. Presently, Zion has been asked by Concordia University Chicago to host another deaconess intern.

Marshall, Christ

Pastor David Moran serves at Christ. He came in as an SMP after an unsuccessful series of call lists. Dave's goal for the next few years, before his own retirement, is to prepare the congregation to be ready to call a pastor to lead the congregation into the future.

Paw Paw, Trinity

The congregation is served by John Bookshaw. John is doing a great job helping the congregation be prepared to call a new pastor.

Portage, St. Michael

St. Michael's is doing well. Their school is thriving and growing rapidly. Pastor Paul Naumann was able to take a sabbatical in which he retraced the footsteps of his LCMS pastor forebearers, including a trip to Cuba, where his grandparents met. Deaconess Caitlin Worden is presently a contract worker helping with youth.

Paul will be retiring in the next few years, although there is no date set for his retiring. St. Michael would like to call a pastor who would become senior pastor before Paul's retirement. This is the transition they practiced when they called Paul as he took over from Pastor Allen.

Circuit #43 – Saint Joseph

Circuit Visitor: Rev. Michael Roth

Berrien Springs, Trinity – Rev. James Wright – Pastor

Mr. Michael Shembarger – Principal

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 toward the Lord, its love towards each other and our community. Throughout the last few years, the members of Trinity have come to see God's hand working in our congregation. Many things have changed; however, we have learned that the importance of our faith and family has not changed. In those divinely-given gifts, we have found strength and encouragement, even in an uncertain future. The day school and daycare continue to grow as parents seek Christian education for their children. Trinity continues to work to encourage its members and those of the community to seek the Lord in Word and Sacrament. In doing so, we look to fulfill the Lord's instruction to become fishers of living men.

Bridgman, Immanuel – Rev. Doug Kregel – Pastor

Barbara Ackerman – Director of Early Childhood Development Center

God continues to bless our ministry as we continue to Teach the Faithful, Reach the Lost, and Care for All.

Buchanan, St. Paul – Rev. Daniel Barz – Pastor

St. Paul has been serving the Buchanan community for 90 years. Pastor Barz is "semi-retired." This arrangement has worked well for both the congregation and for him as regular services, studies, and visits are still possible. An outdoor service followed by a car show and community picnic is part of the community outreach. In all things, we seek to share Jesus with our family, friends, and community. Discussions

are taking place with St. Paul, Niles to consider a dual-parish partnership.

Buchanan (Glendora), Trinity – Rev. Jonathan Liebich – Pastor

Trinity is a rural congregation and for over 100 years has offered Word and Sacrament ministry. A highlight every year at Trinity is the last Sunday in June, when we worship outside and encourage people to drive their tractors 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 actively shares Christ beyond our walls in our community in Southwest Michigan. God has richly blessed Trinity, Glendora and we rejoice to be part of cultivating the Lord's Harvest.

Cassopolis, St. Paul – Rev. Paul Doellinger – Pastor

Amy Wiggins – Director of Open Arms Child Development Center

St. Paul remains a strong, healthy, vibrant communion of saints in the heart of Cass County. Weekly worship along with Bible study, Sunday school, and catechesis provide an environment for continued growth and nurturing in the Christian faith. Open Arms Child Development Center serves the community with preschool and childcare in a Christian environment. St. Paul operates a food pantry that is open to the public on the third Saturday of each month. Food baskets are also delivered periodically to needy families in the area. A weekly service and Bible study is held at two local nursing home facilities. Community outreach and involvement remain an ongoing effort. Support for foreign and domestic missions includes seminary student adoption, foreign aid, and contributions to LCMS World Relief and Human Care. The Ladies' Circle of St. Paul is active in the congregation, LWML zone, and community with works of mercy, financial donations, and quilting. The crucified, risen, and ascended Lord Jesus continues to daily and richly to bless His people at St. Paul. *Soli Deo Gloria.*

Coloma, Salem – Rev. Alex Hoffmeyer – Pastor

Lisa Streu – Preschool Director

Salem has been steadily moving forward in the work of God's kingdom. God continues to do His work. We have continued to welcome new members from our community, and have continued to serve our community through our preschool and our various outreach events. We are equipped to continue growing in this service. We have been blessed with new leaders and a renewed vigor to serve God's will in every part of life. We also plan to renew our involvement in local events, including our local Glad-Peach Festival, the Soup Suppers at our local Senior Center, and the community Trunk or Treat that we now host in our field. In addition, we will be increasing our support of the local food pantry and other local missions. In everything, Salem strives to be a

congregation that reflects Christ in everything we do.

Niles, St. Paul's – Vacant

St. Paul's, Niles continues to joyfully gather around Word and Sacrament where we as God's children have the privilege of receiving His gifts of grace through weekly worship. Multiple opportunities are available for growth in the faith of its members and engagement of that faith with our neighbors. We continue to seek and build relationships in our community. We support a 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. We encourage and support the local pregnancy care center, Life Plan, through prayer, donations, and participation in activities. The Center for the Homeless in South Bend greatly appreciates our help to offer food baskets at Thanksgiving for clients who have graduated from their programs to sustain a home and a living in the community as well as our monthly support. With 70% of the community unchurched, there is an abundance of outreach opportunities. St. Paul's is very thankful for the fellowship of all its members and their service to the body of Christ and the community, and we pray for God to continue to bless our ministry together for another one hundred years. Currently, we are in dialog with St. Paul, Buchanan regarding a dual-parish partnership. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

St. Joseph, Trinity – Rev. Michael J. Roth – Sr. Pastor

Rev. Benjamin Micheel – Associate Pastor

Rev. David Rutter – Assistant Pastor/Director of Music Ministry

Rev. Joseph Liss – Assistant Pastor/7th and 8th grade Teacher

Scott Kizer – Deacon

Amy Roth – Principal

Jennifer Reynells – Director of Early Childhood Center

Trinity has been enjoying the blessings of God for 158 years. From the beginning, we have operated a Christian day school. Today we also have an early childhood center. We look forward to celebrating the centennial of our current church building this year. We are active in community outreach and ministry, assisting with food, clothing, and shelter for those in need. Our congregation has been active in supporting a church plant in Nuba Mountain, Sudan, and assisting Pastor Roth in teaching at seminaries in South Sudan and South Africa. We are looking forward to many blessings in the years ahead as we continue to proclaim Christ in word and deed.

Sawyer, Trinity – Rev. Brandon Wittig – pastor

Jennifer Lockman – Director of Preschool and Daycare

We have a single service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings with a Bible study at 10:45 a.m. One of our stalwart continuing ministries is through our quilters, who faithfully make quilts each Tuesday that are sent out to various places all over the world with Lutheran World Relief, as well as several being auctioned off each year to raise funds for the continued work of the church. God continues to bless the people at Trinity week by week with His gifts! We are

looking at ways to better serve and connect with the Sawyer community in the future.

“Precious in His Sight,” Trinity's Early Childhood Center, has continued to be full to the brim with children, with waitlists for both our childcare and our preschool classes. Through several grants for employment, we are hoping to hire more childcare workers and expand our capacity to care for the children of the community and share with them the Word of God.

Stevensville, Christ – Rev. Martin Measel – Pastor

Neil Webb – Principal

Our church and school continue 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 Visitor: Rev. Kurt Kuhlmann

Albion, St. Paul

St. Paul is stable after a two-year vacancy about six years ago. New people are attending but not necessarily joining as members. A second, informal worship service has been added three years ago that has drawn back in almost a dozen members to more regular worship and has been the choice for another dozen new faces.

Additionally, a once-a-month Saturday service is offered—small attendance but a couple more members attending who aren't present on Sunday mornings. The congregation is challenged to find staffing for ministry to children, youth, and their families, as two individuals have attempted to meet the needs of that role but didn't work out. The music ministry is enriched by the talented contributions of two people who are new within the last three years. Consideration is being made for “who's next” as the pastor anticipates full retirement within the next three years. Would the congregation be best served by trying to re-enter the vicarage program, trying to promote a member to the SMP program, or calling an assistant pastor for a transitional couple years before the present called servant concludes ministry at St. Paul?

Burr Oak, St. John

St. John has shared the Good News of the love of God to the people of Burr Oak since 1864. Pastor Kurt Kuhlmann has led the faithful people at St. John for 30 years this June. Pastor Kurt also serves St. Paul's, Colon as vacancy pastor and as Circuit Visitor for circuit 44.

During the past three years, the congregation has started online worship with the addition of new sound and video equipment, as they continue to worship in person at 8 and 10:45 a.m. each Sunday morning. St. John has the only Sunday school in Burr Oak, as well as an active youth group. Vacation Bible School is held each summer. And as Burr Oak has the “Heritage Festival” each year, St. John plays an integral part in the four-day event in July. St. John hosts the talent show, participates in the parade, operates a booth at the midway encouraging people

to hear about Jesus and leads the Community Worship Service every three years. Along with the Heritage Festival monthly meetings at St. John, Pastor Kurt is part of the Chamber of Commerce which also meets at St. John's. St. John's Feed My People food pantry is the only food pantry in Burr Oak. People come from all over St. Joseph County to take advantage of the food pantry.

St. John's outreach is not just to local people in Burr Oak. St. John has a very active LWML group, supporting missions around the world. The church supports Changing Footprints and OCC which also has a global reach.

The youth group is making plans to attend the 2025 National Youth Gathering in NOLA. They have hosted several Dinner Theaters, Holiday Craft Bazaars and Trivia Nights as fundraiser. They are excited to experience being in the presence of 20,000+ other Lutheran youth and to learn more about their life in Christ Jesus.

Centreville, St. Paul's

St. Paul's, Centreville has experienced the tragic loss of Rev. Roger Sassaman. He was filling the vacancy and then was called to a part-time ministry at St. Paul's. He was called home several months later.

Rev. Phillip Rittner from the Fort Wayne area was covering the pulpit (his wife is Deaconess Kathy Rittner at the Seminary) when the call to be the part-time pastor was extended. He was installed in October of 2024.

St. Paul's is working toward several property improvement projects in order to serve God and the people of Centreville better.

Coldwater, St. Paul

St. Paul, Coldwater has focused its ministries in two main areas over the last three years. We have been doing improvements to our physical location in hopes of making our facility a more welcoming and comforting place to worship God and we have dedicated ourselves to having a positive impact in our community, in order to establish relationships that will allow us to share the Good News of Jesus with our neighbors.

At our facility, we have installed a new sound system, new lights, screens, and an assisted listening system. We have repainted our narthex, bought new furniture, and replaced our old, dangerous stair railing with a new, functional, and beautiful one. We have almost raised enough money to replace the carpets, and plan on continuing into the sanctuary and reupholstering our pews. We have also hired Amy Linscott as our deaf interpreter for one service each month.

We have been raising money for local ministries with Nelson's Chicken dinner sales, community yard sales, and collecting needed items for local and international use. In the past three years our efforts have supported Beginnings Care for Life, Jacob's Well, the Healing Hill of Hope, the local health clinic, the Children's Museum, and the Branch County Food Pantry. We have collected over 400 Shoe boxes for Samaritans Purse, over 360 pairs of shoes for Changing

Footprints, made 13 quilts for the local men's shelter, and restarted our neighborhood outreach day: Neighborfest.

Colon, St. Paul's

St. Paul's, Colon is vacant. Pastor Kurt Kuhlmann serves the congregation and will be installed as vacancy pastor in the near future. While in recent years St. Paul's has experienced a radical exodus from the church, the faithful few continue to support the mission and ministry of the church to the good people in the "Magic Capital of the World."

Several former members and new members have joined in the fellowship at St. Paul's. The church makes its presence known in Colon in many ways. In 2023 a new automated/animated sign was erected near the street and can be seen from M-86. Words of encouragement as well as church events are displayed on the sign. St. Paul's takes part in "Magic Week" activities by hosting meals for magicians and the public several nights during the week. St. Paul's has won first place in the 4th of July parade contest for the past several years. And the birth of our Savior is proclaimed every year at the Christmas in Colon parade, as St. Paul's is the only church participating in the December parade.

Original windows and entrance doors were replaced in 2024 with new, efficient ones in the sanctuary and the members are diligently raising money to replace the old windows in the fellowship hall.

Trunk-or-Treat, Valentine's Day Pancake Dinner, Trivia Nights are just some of the ways St. Paul's' members encourage the community to join us. The ongoing quilt ministry (Piece Makers) has produced thousands of quilts for Lutheran World Relief as well as given the hand-tied quilts to local people in need. Changing Footprints and Operation Christmas Child are other ways St. Paul's spreads the love of Jesus Christ to people who need to hear the Good News locally and throughout the world.

Hillsdale, St. Paul's

In August of 2022, St. Paul's extended a call to Rev. Dr. Corey Maas to serve as an Assistant Pastor. Pastor Maas, a history professor at Hillsdale College, often assists in preaching, teaching, and presiding at the altar both at St. Paul's and other area parishes. Then, in May of 2023 the parish called Rev. Andrew Twietmeyer to serve as their Associate Pastor. Both calls reflect the growth St. Paul's has experienced over the last five years. Some of that growth is attributed to transfers into the parish from families who have moved to town; however, the balance has come in the form of adult converts. Adult Baptisms and confirmations have become a regular occurrence.

Serving alongside Revs. Maas and Twietmeyer is Rev. Sean Willman, who has been at St. Paul's since 2019. In addition to these pastors, Rev. Eric Kilmer, Emeritus, and Rev. Dr. Jonathan Mumme, professor of religion at Hillsdale College, are active in assisting at St. Paul's.

Opportunities to study God's Word and share in fellowship

with the family of Christ are offered regularly and attended with joy. Of course, the true life of the parish and the faithful who gather here is centered in the gifts of God freely given in Word and Sacrament at every Divine Service. Sunday morning and Wednesday evening worship are well attended, in addition to regular Matins and Vespers services. The Lord continues to bless St. Paul's in Hillsdale, calling His saints to come unto Him, that they might receive rest for their souls.

Mendon, Creator's Praise Ministries

Creator's Praise Ministries has worked to become a trusted contributor within the community. In many ways, this congregation has been a leader in Christian outreach in the village of Mendon and throughout southern Michigan. From sharing the message of the empty tomb in its annual Easter Egg Hunt to the Village of Bethlehem Live Nativity to hosting the regional Christian music festival "Revive Fest," Creator's Praise Ministries is planting seeds of the Gospel and living a life of praise to our Creator. Creator's Praise Ministries is a small congregation with limited resources pursuing a Great Commission vision with Holy Spirit zeal.

Sturgis (Centreville), Salem

Salem has been in vacancy for over 40 years. The congregation is being served by students and faculty from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. Rev. Paul Hopkins and a graduate student fill the pulpit and continue Word and Sacrament ministry to the people in the Sturgis/Centreville area.

Sturgis, Trinity

Trinity, Sturgis continues to faithfully proclaim the Gospel and administer the Sacraments rightly. Our worship attendance remains fairly consistent (about 160 each weekend), even though we seem to have more gray hairs than we once had.

In 2023 we welcomed Mrs. Tricia Reinbold to Trinity as our new principal. In 2024 we celebrated the retirement of Pastor Cal Kolzow, Jr. after 32 years of faithful service as our Associate Pastor. In 2024 we welcomed Pastor Kaleb Yaeger, a recent graduate from CTSFW, as our Associate Pastor. In 2025 we will say farewell to our Administrative Pastor, Larry Matro, as he will retire in June after 5-plus years here.

Special events that we have had in the past three years include having a float in our community's parade, a presence at the Family Fun Fest, a Patriotic Sing-Along, Trunk or Treat, and most recently, a Wild Game Night that included wild game treats prepared by our hunters.

The future looks bright. Pastor Yaeger will lead our church and school faithfully and energetically. We hope to also have one or two more called teachers added to our school staff. We are also in the process of rewriting our constitution and bylaws to resemble a board-model rather than our current policy-based one.

Three Rivers, St. Peter

St. Peters, Three Rivers continues to emphasize our Comfort Dog Ministry with Lutheran Church Charities. Our dog,

Jude, joins pastor and deacon on home and institutional visits. Our homebound members are especially appreciative. While we receive several new members each year, we also bid farewell to numerous lifelong members who are now with the Lord.

This year we celebrate the 25th year of service for our organist, Rosie. We are also dedicating our first outside flagpole supported by memorial gifts. A special service of dedication will take place on Memorial Day weekend. God continues to bless our Gospel ministry for which He receives all honor and praise.

Union City, Our Savior

Our Savior is being served by Rev. Peter Burfeind. They are in a dual parish with a congregation of the English District in Marshall, Mich. Rev. Burfeind also serves as the Circuit Visitor for the English District and is a chaplain in the United States Armed Forces.



In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches (congregations), communities, and world.

The vision of the Michigan District is that our congregations are filled with people of HOPE! Our living hope, indeed our joyful and confident life and witness to the world, comes from the transforming power of the Gospel and the resurrected Christ who has graced us with *“an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for ALL who believe in Him as Savior and Lord” (1 Peter 1:4).*

This living hope inspires our dependence on, devotion to, and commitment to the Word of God, worship, prayer, and each other, and moves us to take the love of Christ to our family, friends, neighbors, community, and the world in word and deed.

To fulfill this mission and vision, the District ministry has been organized around four key targets: Great Commission, Great Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Church Workers. To support these efforts, the District staff is structured under four strategic areas: Mission Strategy, Leadership Development, Education, and Support Services. Staff activities align with these strategies as demonstrated in the following reports.

Lutheran Schools

Travis Grulke

School Statistics 2024/2025

Free standing EC Centers – 61 (2,846 Students)
 Independent EC Centers – 3 (207 Students)
 EC Centers in our Elementary Schools – 62 (3,478 Students)
 K-8 Elementary Schools – 66 (8,210 Students)
 High Schools – 5 (1,401 Students)



We are blessed with the opportunity to share the Gospel on a daily basis and serve 16,142 students and families!

You can learn more about our Lutheran schools on our District Website—michigandistrict.org

You can also follow some of the fun things taking place in our schools on our Michigan Lutheran Schools Facebook Page—facebook.com/lutheranschools

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 toward completing their School Action Plan. Kyle Chuhuran is our NLSA Commissioner and does an excellent job supporting our schools during the accreditation process. Our Synod School Ministry office rolled out a new online format for NLSA this school year moving all schools in the future to this new system which will be a blessing when the quirks are worked out in the years to come!

Early Childhood Committee

We have a gifted and talented group of ladies serving on our Early Childhood Committee. We are grateful for this group who keeps us on our toes! They organize our annual workshops, directors' conferences, 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 who also serves as the director at St. Peter, Hemlock. She is a tremendous blessing to the directors and early childhood centers throughout our District.

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 MOST Ministries and will bless LeadaChild (leadachild.org) in the 25/26 school year. All schools and congregations are encouraged to participate. Since 1972, we have blessed ministries sharing the Gospel with more than 1.8 million dollars!



District State Athletic Competitions

Our District hosts four separate athletic state championships throughout the school year for our Lutheran school students. This past school year we had 400+ 5th-8th graders running in our State Cross Country Meet, eight girls' teams competing in our State Volleyball Championship, 16 teams participating in our State Basketball Tournament, and over 1000+ student-athletes competing in our Regional and State Track Meets.

Principal Meetings and 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 at Higgins Lake for our principals to work on professional development opportunities. EC directors gather with the principals in the winter for our annual Snow Tire Conference for professional development, fellowship, and sharing of best practices. We also started a conference just for our EC directors in August the day before our annual early childhood conference that gathers all our early childhood educators from around the District.

Partnering with Neighboring Districts

FLAME is a partnership with the Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, South Wisconsin, North Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, and Central Illinois Districts to identify and



encourage future administrators in our Lutheran schools. This has continued to be a great collaboration with our seventh group of educators meeting in June 2025. We also had our 2nd Connections Conference with the Indiana and Ohio Districts in November 2024 gathering close to 1,500 educators in Fort Wayne for worship, professional development, fellowship, and a little bit of fun. We plan to host this again in 2027.

Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools (MANS)

We are blessed with a strong partnership with 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 rely heavily on MANS to be our advocate at the

state level and for the many ways they support nonpublic schools. Travis and Kelley Fehn both serve on the MANS Board of Directors; Travis is also on the executive team serving as treasurer.

Moving Forward

Our Lutheran schools are 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.

- We continue to face challenges in finding gifted/ talented educators to serve in our Lutheran schools. The teacher shortage has been a reality for the last several years. There is a need to focus on supporting and retaining our current educators and to identify teachers in our communities who could serve in our Lutheran schools. We will move forward in our efforts to be creative in finding the next generation of teachers and school leaders to serve in our Lutheran schools. *The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*
- 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. 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 powerful practices, and taking risks by trying new ideas will be encouraged for all our congregations/schools so they can maximize their impact in the communities they serve.
- We are beginning to look at a variety of ways to expand our Lutheran schools, and that can be done in ways that differ from the 'typical' Lutheran school setting. Micro-schools, collaborating with homeschool educators, and looking at the GSRP (Universal Pre-K) opportunities with the state are a few examples. These new ventures are outside the norm for most Lutheran schools but provide new models for education allowing us to partner with families in the education of their children.
- The Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools (as stated previously) is a partner in ministry that allows us to have a voice in Lansing. We will continue to advocate for our nonpublic schools building relationships with congressional leaders to further policy that supports Lutheran education. Much can be done to expand School Choice initiatives in our state. We will be actively involved in making that happen.

Commissioned Ministers and Lay Workers

Luke Esselman

Our Workers by the Numbers

Total workers (commissioned non-teacher and lay): 245+

Serving in: 132 Congregations

DCE: 51

DFLM: 23
Deaconesses: 22
DPM: 17
DCM: 4
Parish Assistants: 4
DCO: 3

Additionally, over 100 lay workers are serving (some part-time, some full-time) in Youth, Children's, Family, Adult, Holistic Care, Communications, Women's, and other specialized ministry.

District Critical Target—HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

In the first 18 months of the position, the District Commissioned Ministry Advocate has walked alongside/ worked with *19 separate congregations* to support their current workers and/or in the call process as they prayerfully prepared for a new Kingdom worker to be a part of their church family. Within this and the work of the education/ commissioned ministry office in the District, *21 workers* took new calls into congregations in the District (between September 2023 and February 2025).

District Critical Target – HEALTHY CHURCH WORKERS

Four major efforts in supporting the commissioned ministers and lay workers are:

Clusters – Ministry clusters are collaborative support gatherings for workers of various backgrounds and training. Ministry is difficult and often extremely wearing on individuals; by doing ministry life together, we are able to bear each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2) and stand together in the love and work of Christ. There are five of these clusters throughout the state (the fifth just added in the last year) and they meet monthly for discussion, encouragement, and simply to spend time together.

Conference – In October 2024 we held the Ministry Specialist Conference at Camp Arcadia for workers of the Michigan District. Rev. Dr. Jeff Leininger joined the 55 attendees to discuss the many vocations that God calls us to in life and how we balance these to stay healthy but also be the most effective stewards of what God has given us. It was an outstanding conference planned by the Mid-Michigan cluster group.

Advocacy Team – As a way to learn from the wisdom of workers within our District and best advocate/work on everyone's behalf (for the sake of the Kingdom), the Commissioned Ministry Advocate formed a District Advocacy Team in 2024. This team has been able to give advice, be a sounding board, use their individual gifts/ experience to help workers and pray for the workers of the District. The Advocacy Team is comprised of eight workers (plus the Commissioned Ministry Advocate) and they meet (usually via Zoom) quarterly.

Individual Visits – One of the most important pieces of the Commissioned Ministry Advocate's support of our District's workers are the in-person visits to workers throughout the District, at or near their congregations. In the first 18 months of the position, the Commissioned Ministry Advocate connected with 115 commissioned ministers and lay workers in the District, emphasizing their value, hearing

about their passion in ministry, and being someone they can relate to and connect with in the District Office.

Future Efforts

We pray for the growth of both the cluster system and the Ministry Specialist conference, and hope that workers see the value in these opportunities. Workers throughout

the District have expressed a heartfelt appreciation that President Davis and the Michigan District have intentionally recognized, valued, and put resources toward commissioned ministry and lay workers in the District. We all pray that this good, Kingdom work can continue in congregations and with pastors who work hand-in-hand to the glory of God.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Development

Rev. Robert Kasper

Five Foci of the Strategic Plan for Leadership Development in the Michigan District, LCMS:

1. Intentional care, support, and continued professional, spiritual, and personal growth of existing commissioned and ordained workers.
 - a. Robust professional conferences for ordained and commissioned workers
 - b. The work of the Commission for Church Worker Care (worker-wellness)
 - c. PALS (Post-seminary Applied Learning and Support)
 - d. PLI (Pastoral Leadership Institute)
2. Lay leadership development
 - a. Webinars for lay leaders: elders, governance, evangelism, community engagement, etc.
 - b. Deacon training (Michigan School of Missional Formation)
 - c. Provide a list of “Strategic Partners in Mission” for helpful resources/training
3. Non-professional conferences framed to develop new leaders for the mission of God
 - a. Theological Conference
 - b. Jr. and Sr. High Gatherings
 - c. Lutheran Adult Gathering
 - d. Circuit Convocations
4. Identify short-term mission opportunities (local and global) for individuals and teams of students and adults to engage in meaningful ministry and thereby experience the joy and challenge of the Holy Spirit working in and through them serving others.
 - a. Identify and work with strategic partners (examples below)
 - i. M.O.S.T. Ministries (Mission Opportunities Short Term)
 - ii. Gifts For All God’s Children
 - iii. Orphan Grain Train
 - iv. Camp Restore Detroit
 - v. Beyond the Breakwater – Messiah, Midland
 - b. Circuit convocations for community engagement
 - c. Great Compassion/Great Commission component to every conference
5. Young Leaders Task Force to intentionally engage/partner with the LCMS *Set Apart to Serve* initiatives to identify, encourage, and motivate another generation of church work professionals.
 - a. Podcast interviews with commissioned and ordained

workers to “tell their story.”

- b. Leverage materials from *Set Apart to Serve* and promote their use at all conferences.
- c. Continue high scholarship support for students in CUS schools and seminaries.

Conferences: Pastors’ Conferences and Commissioned Conferences

Annual theme set for all conferences to consider/apply as their respective committees plan and select speakers, etc.

- 2023 “Read your Bible” (2 Timothy 3:16)
- 2024 “Reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5)
- 2025 “We Are Not Alone” (1 Kings 19)

This brought clarity, focus, and alignment for our mission together in the Michigan District and gave us a common language as we served together across the District in Mission and Ministry.

Case Management for Mental Health for Ordained and Commissioned Church Workers

Deaconess Christie Hansard

Recognizing the growing need for mental health support among church workers, the Michigan District established a Mental Health Case Management position to provide guidance, advocacy, and financial assistance for mental health resources for the commissioned and ordained church workers. The well-being of all church workers is crucial, as they are often at the forefront of providing pastoral care and spiritual leadership while facing their own personal and professional challenges.

Since its inception, there has been a profound impact on church workers within our district. In the past year alone, over 75 one-on-one health connections have been established, ensuring that those in need receive the appropriate resources, referrals, and ongoing support. Additionally, more than 40 church workers have received financial assistance for mental health services, demonstrating the Michigan District’s commitment to caring for those who dedicate their lives to serving others.

Deaconess Christie Hansard, who serves in this role, has been active with speaking engagements, talking, teaching, and/or presenting some form of Christ-centered whole-person human care. These engagements have been instrumental in raising awareness about mental health

challenges among church workers, reducing stigma, and encouraging a proactive well-being lifestyle.

The Michigan District remains dedicated to listening to the needs of its church workers and responding with tangible support and resources. By providing access to Christ-centered mental health care, financial assistance, and educational opportunities, the district ensures that those who serve others receive the care and encouragement they need to thrive in their ministry and personal lives.

District Contact

Deaconess Christie Hansard, RN, BSN, CM, Parish Nurse
Synodical District Representative and Chair
Email: christie.hansard@michigandistrict.org

Commission for Church Worker Care

Rev. Dan Ramthun

The mission of the **Commission for Church Worker Care** 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. 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.
- 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 and potential counselor contacts for professional church workers
- Providing resources through the District website for congregations to use as they support the ministries of professional church workers
- Conducting pre-seminary interviews – Over the last triennium we have conducted 2 interviews for colloquy, 17 for SMP, 20 for MDiv, 2 for RAR and 3 for EIIT

Director of Worship Arts & Community Engagement

Peter Prochnow

Peter Prochnow connected many churches to their communities by encouraging and supporting them as they move towards God's main mission of the Church—to serve and love those in each church's community. Over 190 leaders and lay people attended the "Beyond the Breakwater" gatherings in 2024 alone!

In addition, preliminary and regular follow-up meetings at the attendees' churches and communities also are available through the "Let's Go Fishing, No Hooks" visits, helping church leaders experience another avenue with immediate interaction with people and places of business in their community. This starts by visiting and asking people what they think are felt unmet needs in their community.

Prochnow connected and implemented top experts to help churches with a variety of worship needs. He also quickly solved a variety of urgent worship situations, usually with a last-minute position needing to be filled or a major media issue. The District received amazing positive feedback after each Community Worship Network session—these are events for worship leaders, musicians, and anyone interested in worship and music to come together, learn, and grow.

The Hymnal Project

New resources have been created including additional hymn adaptations (recordings and written charts) in violin and piano, additional LoFi, additional organ/vocal, meditative piano/vocal, New Orleans Gospel Jazz, and other styles. Resources continue to be used by many churches in the district and outside of the district, with around 10,000+ downloads a month on the website and over 500,000 downloads on other platforms. Other ministries such as Synod's KFUE radio station and podcasts, The Lutheran Hour radio show, The Armed Forces Network, Fort Wayne Seminary, and many other ministries, churches, and organizations are using the resource.

Michigan School of Missional Formation: (Deacon/Ministry Assistant Program Training)

Deacon Al Renard

Deacon/Ministry Assistant Census 2025

Deacons (Credentialed ¹)	27
Deacons (Licensed ²)	0
Deacon Candidates ³	8
TOTAL	35

Ministry Assistants (Credentialed ¹)	2
Ministry Assistant Candidates ³	1
TOTAL	3

¹ Credentialed: Those having completed their education certificate and continuing education, requested by their congregation to serve in this manner, have a supervising pastor, interviewed by the Commission on Deacon Qualifications, and approved by the Michigan District President.

² Licensed: A licensed deacon is one who is credentialed and, for a limited and specified period of time, receives authorization from the Michigan District to serve in the absence of an ordained pastor.

³ Candidate: Those who have completed their education certificate and are lacking one or more of the requirements listed in footnote 1.

Purpose:

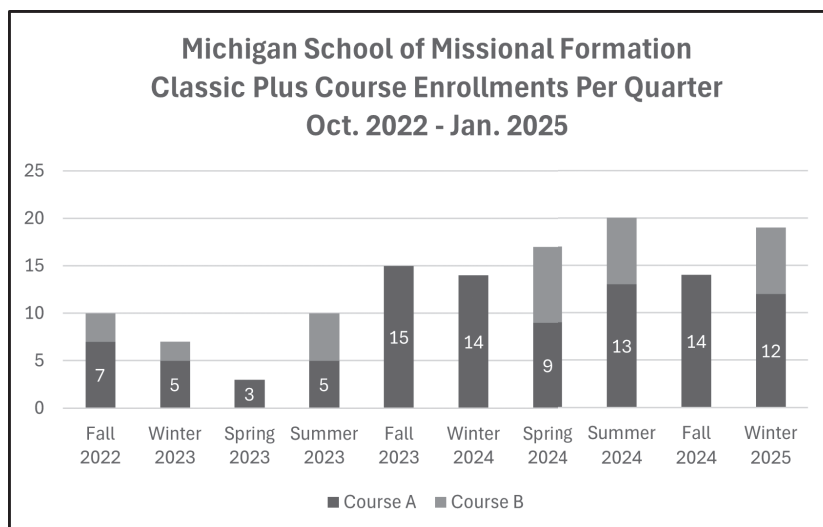
The Michigan School of Missional Formation, Lay Leadership Training (MSMF) is established by the Michigan District, LCMS to train Deacons, Ministry Assistants, those preparing to enter the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program, and those interested in furthering their abilities as laity, serving in their local congregations. The Commission on Deacon Qualifications (CDQ) manages this school. To learn more, see the Michigan School of Missional Formation – Lay Leadership Training webpage on the Michigan District website (michigandistrict.org/missional/).

Recent History:

Beginning in 2021, in-person classes were no longer held, and the plan was to change the Deacon and Ministry Assistant training completely over to the *Kairos Program*, an accredited Master of Arts degree in association with Kairos University. Several students, those with four or less classes remaining, were allowed to be grandfathered into the previous program. Hybrid classes with a combination of videos and Zoom meetings were offered and they could meet their requirements for deacon credentialing by the end of 2022.

As a result, the student population dwindled. To right the ship, at the end of 2022, in the Fall Quarter,

		Quarters													
		Fall 2022	Winter 2023	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Fall 2023	Winter 2024	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Fall 2024	Winter 2025				
Courses	Old Testament Survey	7													
	Doctrine I	3													
	New Testament		5												
	Teaching the Faith		2												
	Leadership			3											
	Lutheran Worship				5										
	Church History				5										
	Greek I					15									
	Greek II						14								
	Christian Caregiving							9							
	Office of the Ministry							8							
	Proclaiming the Word								13						
	Doctrine II								7						
	Outreach									14					
	Doctrine I												12		
Teaching the Faith													7		
Total Number of Students per Quarter		10	7	3	10	15	14	17	20	14	19				



the *Classic Plus* program was instituted. This program is a certificate program organized by the Commission on Deacon Qualifications, which features in-person classes in combination with Zoom sessions in between.

Class enrollment had been small compared to pre-2021. That is, 5 students on average per course compared to 10/15 students per course before. If you added the active students together in both the Classic Plus and Kairos programs, there would have been a potential of 8 to 15 students per class, assuming some students took two classes per quarter. The good news was that the Greek I and Greek II classes held in the Fall 2023 Quarter and Winter Quarter of 2024 had an enrollment of 15 and 14 students respectively.

So, beginning in the Fall Quarter of 2023, we were once again experiencing growth. Ten new students were added in 2023, and eleven students were added in 2024. Already in February 2025, six students have been added. With this growth, there are now enough students to once again have in-person classes attended by 8 to 15 students.

Michigan School of Missional Formation New Students October 2022 - February 2025

	2023	2024	2025 (As of Feb.)
Classic Plus Program			
Deacon:	5	4	1
Ministry Assistant:	0	0	2
Pre-SMP:	0	0	0
General / Preparing for Seminary:	3	4	2
Kairos Program			
Deacon:	1	2	1
Ministry Assistant:	1	1	0
Total:	10	11	6

Michigan School of Missional Formation Active Students

Another way one can picture the Michigan School of Missional Formation is through its Active Student statistics.

	Number of Students		
	January 2024	January 2025	Change
Classic Plus Program			
¹ Deacon Training:	11	13	2
Ministry Assistant Training:	0	0	0
Pre-SMP Training:	0	1	1
Not Committed:	2	1	-1
² Personal Growth:	0	3	3
Total:	13	18	5

¹Two students completed Classic Plus Program Dec. 2024 lowering the number of active students by two.

²The students in this category are taking courses to prepare for the SMP entrance exams.

	Number of Students		
	January 2024	January 2025	Change
Kairos University			
^{3,4} Deacon Training:	5	6	1
⁵ Ministry Assistant Training:	1	0	-1
Pre-SMP Training:	0	0	0
Not Committed:	0	0	0
Total:	6	6	0

³One student graduated August 2023, another September 2023 and another June 2024 lowering the number of active students by three.

⁴One of the new students is currently in the SMP program and pursuing a MA degree to enhance his education.

⁵The one Ministry Assistant student is taking a leave of absence.

	Number of Students		
	January 2024	January 2025	Change
Classic Plus and Kairos			
Total Active Students:	19	24	5

Growing Educational Opportunities:

The Michigan District is developing an on-line e-learning site, "Michigan District eLearning." On the home page are two categories, the first being, "On-Demand Programs" which encompasses the "Lay Deacon Program" and "Mission Catalyst Program." The second category is "Our Mini Courses".

The “Lay Deacon Program” category leads to the Michigan School of Missional Formation (MSMF) which is the Michigan District’s training arm for Deacons, Ministry Assistants, and provides training for those preparing to enter one of our seminaries’ SMP or EIIT programs. In addition, all the courses are open to anyone desiring to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding as they serve in various ways in their congregations.

Michigan School of Missional Formation Faculty 2025		
Faculty Member	Programs Supporting	
Rev. Dr. Paul Biber	Clasic Plus	
Dcs Christie Hansard	Clasic Plus	
Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins	Clasic Plus	
Rev. Ken Huner	Clasic Plus	Kairos Faculty Mentor
Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper	Clasic Plus	Kairos Faculty Mentor
Rev. Marcus Lane	Clasic Plus	
Dr. Gary Pawlitz		Kairos Faculty Mentor
Rev. Aaron Roggow	Clasic Plus	
Dr. Harv Schmit	Clasic Plus	

Kairos University Graduates	
Since the Program's Inception in the Michigan District - 2021	
Graduate	Current Status
Alfred Renard, MA - 2022	Deacon, Registrar MSMF
William Bible, MA - 2022	Student CSL
John Pegg, MA - 2023	SMP Student CSL
Ronald Zucarro, MA - 2023	Student CSL
Brian Vloch, MA - 2024	Deacon

Commission on Deacon Qualifications

- Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper Director of Leadership Development
- Rev. Todd Frusti Chairman
- Rev. Ken Huner Dean of Instruction
- Kathy Schurig Ministry Assistant Program Director
- Deacon Al Renard Registrar
- Deacon Chris Townley Secretary/Treasurer

Parish Nurse/Health Ministry

Deaconess Christie Hansard

The Parish Nursing/Health Ministry is dedicated to promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of individuals as part of the Christian stewardship of the whole person. This ministry emphasizes a holistic approach to health, recognizing that physical well-being is deeply connected to emotional and spiritual health. Through education, advocacy, and direct care, parish nurses work within congregations to provide guidance, support, and health-related resources to their communities.

The Michigan District remains committed to advancing congregational health ministries and parish nurses within its churches. To further this mission, Parish Nurses and Health Ministers gathered in person on February 24, 2024 in Frankenmuth for a time of fellowship, learning, and collaboration. This meeting provided an opportunity for professional growth, networking, and the exchange of best practices to enhance health ministries across the district.

In addition, we held an online continuing education session on March 28, 2024, with the support of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHH). This virtual gathering allowed participants to expand their knowledge on current health topics and share valuable insights into integrating healthcare and our LCMS faith-based practices.

A key annual event for parish nurses and congregational health leaders is the Annual Parish Nurse and Congregational Health Ministries Conference. The 33rd Annual conference took place on May 14–15, 2025, at Concordia University Wisconsin. This conference featured professional presentations from healthcare and faith-based leaders, equipping attendees with valuable tools and strategies to further their health ministry and enhance their services to their congregations. The Michigan District was a vital part of this equipping by providing each Parish Nurse Representative with the book called, “*The Gift of Empathy.*” To further the resources for these nurses, the Michigan District also provided a copy of the Bible study “*Feed my Lambs.*” Through these

gatherings, the Parish Nurses and Health Ministers were able to foster growth, education, and strong connections with other health ministry professionals in their districts and beyond in their communities and their neighbors.

Stewardship Committee

Rev. John Duerr

Stewardship Committee Mission Statement *The purpose of the Michigan District Stewardship Committee is to serve the Church by researching, developing, and promoting biblical stewardship resources.*

Stewardship Resources Provided to the District:

- Beginning in 2023 the committee began promoting and leading *Stewards by God's Design* (SBGD) weekend retreats for district congregations. This effort was developed by stewardship leaders Rev. Dr. Wayne Knolhoff, Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram, and the late Rev. Stu Brassie with a grant by Church Extension Fund and with support from the Michigan District. It was piloted through the Michigan District Stewardship Committee and is being offered to all congregations of the Michigan District. The weekend retreat introduces the congregation to a whole-life stewardship approach and has met with good results in the five congregations where weekends have been held. More information is available through Rev. Dr. Richard Wolfram at the district office.
- Stewardship Bible verses linked to each Sunday in the A, B, C, and 1-year Church Year Calendar have been fully updated and are available for your congregation's bulletin, projection, and teaching use. These resources are available on the district website.
- In collaboration with Mr. Ron Chewning of Stewardship Advisors, the Stewardship Committee yearly provides 3-week stewardship materials to the congregations of the Michigan District free of charge on the district website.
- In the fall of 2022, the committee made available through the district website a 9-part Bible study series entitled, "*Leading Through Chaos.*" This was a one-year, monthly devotional for use at Church Council, Board of Directors, and other leadership meetings to engage the congregation's leadership in stewardship education. As the title suggests, Christian stewardship is a light that shines the brightest during times of confusion and chaos. The curriculum was well received and downloaded over 200 times.

Steward Leadership Development and Education

During the past triennium, the committee has devoted significant time to studying the historic LCMS understanding of stewardship by reviewing two books published together in the CPH *Concordia Heritage Series: A Theology for Christian Stewardship*, by T. A. Kantonen, and *The Chief Steward*, by J. E. Herrmann. The result was an increased urgency to provide materials to inform and educate congregations in the gift that biblical stewardship is to the Church.

Too often stewardship is seen and used in the Church as merely a fundraising tool, rather than a joyous, whole-life

endeavor to steward all of the gifts that the Lord has given into our care. The goal of the committee in the next triennium is to develop materials that are appropriate for social media, podcasts, blog sites, and accessible through the district website. The committee has titled this endeavor *John Herrman Education Materials*, to remember the work of this pioneer in our Synod's history.

John E. Herrmann Award

This award is given annually by the Michigan District Stewardship Committee in memory of Rev. John E. Herrmann, one of Synod's most dynamic stewardship leaders, to an individual, church, or school in the Michigan District that has exemplified daily stewardship principles and teaching in ministry and their community.

District Stewardship Leaders Conference (DSLCL)

The Michigan District participated in the annual District Stewardship Leaders Conference held in Tempe, Ariz. and Plano, Texas each February/March. The conference is attended by 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.

Stewardship Committee Members

Rev. Douglas M. Adams
Rev. Daniel C. Meckes
Mrs. Julia A. Burgess
Rev. Andrew P. Menz
Mr. Ronald J. Chewning
Mrs. Laura L. Thomas
Rev. John M. Duerr
Rev. Dr. Richard J. Wolfram

The committee would also like to thank Rev. Stephen E. Schilke for his many years of service on the committee.

Student Aid Program

Hannah MacAfee

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 who are
- 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. SMP students received an increase to their base distribution rate as of the 2023–2024 academic year. Students attending one of the two seminaries receive aid at the highest rate; students attending Concordia University

Ann Arbor or Concordia University Wisconsin receive aid at the middle rate, and students attending one of the other CUS schools receive aid at the base rate.

More detailed guidelines and the required forms can be found at www.michigandistrict.org/studentaid.

The charts below show the student aid amounts and number of students for the past four school years.

Student Aid Distribution

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Seminary Students	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
SMP	\$1,050	\$5,250	\$5,250
CUSA/CUW	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,800
Other CUS Schools	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100
Total Amount Given	\$197,225	\$227,180	\$245,730

Students Receiving Aid

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Seminary Students	39	41	40
CUSA/CUW	22	22	24
Other CUS Schools	10	16	16
Total Students	71	79	80

Student Loan Payment Assistance

Chad Woltemath

The Michigan District continues to experience several of its church workers servicing significant student aid debt, sometimes with salaries below District compensation guidelines. In 2019, we began partnering with Ministry Focus, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Ministry Focus is a grassroots volunteer organization that strives to help alleviate the burdensome educational debt of pastors and other called workers. The Michigan District has funded \$177,500 in grants for both ordained and commissioned workers since the program's inception:

January	Recipients	Award	Total
2020	15	2,500.00	37,500.00
2021	15	2,500.00	37,500.00
2022	7	2,500.00	17,500.00
2023	4	2,500.00	10,000.00
2024	13	3,000.00	39,000.00
2025	12	3,000.00	36,000.00
			<u>\$177,500.00</u>

Grants were less in 2022 and 2023, most likely due to payment relief from the Federal government due to COVID. Applications are generally due December 31 of each year and can be found at ministryfocus.org/. Church workers with student loans should also be familiar with the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, which can forgive student indebtedness after 10 years of payments. Church workers (ordained, commissioned, and lay) that have student loans can find more information on the program at studentaid.gov/pslf/.

Transitional Interim Ministry – TIM

(formerly known as Intentional Interim Ministry)

Rev. Robert Kasper

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 for the congregation 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 the 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. TIM pastors have served more than 20 congregations in the Michigan District over the last triennium and worked to bring healing, course correction, and missional affirmation.

On average, 25 pastors are involved in continuing education events twice a year and eight men have been newly trained in the last triennium.

The Michigan District continues to identify, train, and provide continuing education for these capable leaders as they serve in this unique and valuable ministry.

The Michigan and Ohio Districts jointly conduct training of Transitional Interim Pastors, and Continuing Education Contact Hours are given to participants by Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. 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 Transitional Interim ministers throughout Synod.

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper serves as Michigan District Director of Transitional 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.

MISSION STRATEGY

Acts 2 Enterprise (A2E) Ministry - Detroit

Rev. Christopher Bodley

The mission endeavors and scope of activities of A2E include the following:

A2E has been a member of the Detroit Public Schools Faith-Based Partnership. This partnership has entailed working with principals of Detroit Public Schools to support the educational mission to students and families. This partnership has included providing a chaplain presence in the schools; providing tutorial support to students; providing uniforms to students facing the obstacles of acquiring uniforms; and providing monthly character talks to the middle school students.

A2E became a partner with Hope Care Beyond. We assist in facilitating work with the A.L.I.C.E. (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) population. Hope Care Beyond assists with housing, food, health care, and technology. It works to identify, manage, and remove barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment for long-term success. A few of the support services include: clothing and interview wear, utility assistance (limited), and transportation.

A2E hosted a Cultural IQ conference to assist Detroit congregations in creating bridges with residents and community stakeholders by understanding the culture, the environmental context, and the history to build relationships in order to effectively accomplish the objective of demonstrating Christ-likeness to its neighbors.

A2E established a Sewing Center in partnership with POBLO and Wayne County Community College. The sewing center provided 12 weeks of training, one day a week for three hours. The objective has been to educate and cultivate the skills of the participants to operate sewing machines—both traditional and industrial—so that they may possess a skill which can serve as a source of income as an entrepreneur or for employment with a local employer. This outreach has been used to listen and learn from the participants to build friendships. Participants in this outreach have included people from Ecuador, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mexico City, Nigeria, and the city of Detroit.

A2E mission efforts extended to entering the marketplace by providing Shark Tank Competitions which are hosted twice a year. Shark Tank participants pitched their business idea to local judges who are entrepreneurs and partners with A2E. The judges evaluate the business

concept, the marketing plan, the targeted customer, and sustainability. The judges also connect the participants to local organizations which can increase their productivity and longevity. The top three finalists are awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place financial prizes. The objective of the Shark Tank is to become a team to the participants and to convey God's concern for their faith, family, and future.

A2E initiated being a facilitator for English as a Second Language classes to internationals who have recently arrived in Detroit. This mission was begun through a partnership with POBLO. These classes occur once a week for two hours. Through compassion and friendships, students learn the basics of English in order to become acclimated to American culture and better positioned them for employment. In demonstrating Christ-like compassion there has been attendance of relationship-building gatherings and it has led to our international neighbors attending worship services. The countries which are represented include Angola, Cameroon, the Congo, Mexico, and Rwanda. The languages represented are French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

A2E reconvened its weeklong Summer Sports Camp in the summer of 2023. Due to the global pandemic of 2020 and 2021 the health of the residents was a priority. Community confidence and overcoming the trauma of the pandemic has increased. The sports camp of 2023 saw approximately 60 participants and 2024 celebrated 98 participants.

Chaplaincy

Rev. Randy Johnson

Michigan District Chaplaincy flows from the Good News in Christ Jesus and Christian compassion to 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.

Chaplains currently serving full time are:

Julie Nielsen-Schmidt – University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor

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 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, please contact Rev. Randy Johnson at randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org or 313.522.6424.

Deaf Ministry

Rev. Tom Dunseth

Full- and part-time workers and volunteer workers for Deaf Ministry in the Michigan District

- Rev. Thomas Dunseth: District Missionary at Large to the Deaf and pastor at St. Paul, Flint/Christ the King Deaf
- Rev. Brant Engel: Pastor at St. Paul, Flint/Christ the King Deaf
- Tyler Walworth: Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Beverly Hills
- Deaconess Diana Rice: Lead teacher at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf
- Deaconess Rebecca Catchpole; Deaf woman from St. Louis seminary DIT program who volunteers at mission sites and events.
- Hannah Fecher: Teaching aide at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf
- Lisa Foiles, LCMS teacher at Immanuel, Bay City and interpreter at St. Paul.
- Michelle Osterhout: Deaf Lutheran Member of Our Savior in West Bloomfield and helps with interpreter training workshops.
- Rev. Tom Phillips from St. Paul, Kalkaska volunteers to help the Deaf ministry at Trinity, Traverse City.
- Kaye Wolfe: LWML advocacy

Changes/ Challenges

- We lost deaconess Anna Barger as interpreter within the District, but others have risen up to help. Qualified Lutheran interpreters are hard to find and congregations



Deaf children during lesson at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf



The Church Interpreter Training Academy holds an annual workshop at St. Paul, Flint

within the District struggle to serve their Deaf members without regular interpretation of Sunday morning Divine Service.

- Funding remains a challenge, especially for development and recruitment of students at St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf.

Advances

- St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf now has five students and several preschool students. This school has changed the lives of the children who enroll by giving them language and hope in Jesus Christ.
- Online Lutheran resources for Michigan District interpreters will soon be available that offer standardized and theologically correct signs for most parts of the Sunday morning services in our congregations.
- Online worship and Bible study have expanded for Michigan Deaf Lutherans and friends who can't come to church on Sunday.
- The Church Interpreter Training Academy (CITA) is now an annual program/workshop offered at different congregations in the Michigan District who have or desire Deaf ministries.
- Michigan District has built a team of volunteers and workers for Deaf ministry within the District that works together to advance our Lutheran Gospel mission. No other district in the LCMS has such a focused group of talent to serve the Lord's Deaf children.
- A partnership with the Communication Access Center of Flint, a Deaf advocacy organization, has launched a holistic health outreach program at St. Paul, Flint and Messiah, Clio. These programs offer Deaf people a weekly meal and program with presentations that focus on physical, mental, and spiritual health. The name of the program is *Healthy You and Me*, and it uses Bible stories to introduce Jesus Christ to many who have never 'seen' the Gospel before. The Flint program has as many as 25 weekly attendees and the Clio group as many as 12.
- Christ the King Lutheran Church of the Deaf begins once a month Deaf worship with 20 Deaf people.

Opportunities

- A recent grant from the national LWML has made it possible to expand the Church Interpreter Training Academy to more locations, as well as produce more interpreting resources for interpreters to increase their skills in interpreting the Sunday morning services.
- *Healthy You and Me* is talking with other Deaf advocacy centers and Michigan District congregations to expand the program to Traverse City and Dearborn.
- The sky is the limit with St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf, including students from other states and countries. There is just no other school like St. Martin, where Deaf children have individualized, Christ-centered education. We hope to expand our advertising and outreach.

Deaf Ministry Events

- Weekly online Bible study in American Sign Language led by Pastor Tyler Walworth.
- Deaf Bible study offered by Rev. Thomas Dunseth every other month at Trinity, Traverse City.
- Christ the King Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Flint offers a weekly Bible study and new member class that studies the Small Catechism. Current attendance is 12.
- Annual Deaf Mission Festival with St. Lorenz in Frankenmuth, 4th Sunday of August (attendance: 35–55).
- 2025 will see three Deaf mission events at District Congregations using the new Jesus film in American Sign Language.
- A Holy week seder meal/service is held annually at St. Paul, Flint with an average of 60 local Deaf people.
- The Church Interpreter Training Academy signing workshop that was held at St. Paul, Flint in June 2024 brought in District congregation interpreters and local community interpreters desiring to receive CEUs.
- Michigan District Deaf Ministry and Our Saviour Lutheran Church of the Deaf hosted the International Lutheran Deaf Association convention in Dearborn, Michigan. Deaf Lutherans and Lutheran Church Workers for the Deaf came from all over the country to attend this event.
- A Deaf Advent in Frankenmuth has become an annual attraction. This event includes dinner at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth and evening prayer and St. Lorenz school chapel.
- Annual southeast and central Michigan Deaf Christmas worship held at St. Paul in Flint.

International Missions

During the last triennium, the Michigan District continued to support international mission work through the international component of the *Here We Stand* initiative.

LCMS World Missions – the District supported the following international missionaries from 2022–2024:

Rev. David and Joyce Erber – Africa (\$67,500)
Rev. Steven & Martha Mahlburg – Sri Lanka (\$45,000)

James and Christel Neuendorf – Puerto Rico (\$67,500)
Caitlin Worden Ramírez – Dominican Republic (\$45,253)

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 and individuals from 2022–2024:

Christian Outreach for Africa – South Africa (\$143,000)
Other South Africa support (\$7,523)
Concordia Center for the Family – Ethiopia (\$252,000)
Lutheran Bible Translators – Living Water Project (\$15,000)

The Michigan District continued its support of the Confessional Lutheran Church of South Africa (CLCSA), through Christian Outreach for Africa, under the knowledge and encouragement of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod International Center. CLCSA was admitted into altar and pulpit fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod at the 2019 Synodical Convention.

The Michigan District especially values its relationship with Mission Opportunity Short Term (MOST Ministries). We have encouraged and enabled people to be involved with this key partner.

In 2023 we instituted the **Mission Igniter Grants** to enable congregations to explore international work. To date we have supported congregation international work with \$113,723.75 in Mission Igniter grants.

Church Extension Fund

James Saalfeld

Greetings from Church Extension Fund. We are pleased to provide this update since the last Michigan District Convention.

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 to congregations, schools, church workers, and ministries. With total assets of \$260 Million, CEF is the largest of the four extension funds that are “district based” (i.e., serving the needs of one district). CEF currently holds investor funds totaling \$200 Million held by approximately 8,000 investors. CEF has been blessed to be the “preferred provider of ministry loans within the Michigan District” for 124 years!

Management: CEF is served by 13 employees who faithfully serve the mission of CEF and help Build the Kingdom in Michigan. CEF is led by its Chief Executive Officer, Jim Saalfeld, who has served in this role for more than 8 years and previously served on the CEF Board of Trustees for 12 years. John Bates, a 41-year CEF veteran, serves as CEF’s President and Chief Financial Officer. Andy Sohn, who serves as CEF’s Vice President - Strategy & Marketing, rounds out CEF’s Executive Management Team. Jim, John, and Andy will be present during the convention to answer any questions you may have.

Board of Trustees: The CEF Board of Trustees consists of nine members: three rostered church workers and six laypersons. During the convention, four CEF Board seats will be voted on. There are three open lay seats, and one rostered worker seat held by an incumbent: Rev. Eric Majeski (Grace, Romeo). Pastor Majeski has been a wonderful addition to CEF’s Board, and we support his election for a new term. The three lay seats are being vacated due to term limits: Tim Haberling (Immanuel, Grand Rapids), Jeff Roscoe (Faith, Bay City) and David Eberhard (Historic Trinity, Detroit) have all served 13 years. CEF has been richly blessed to have these Lutheran leaders provide a combined 39 years of leadership and service to CEF! They will be greatly missed.

Key Metrics: The following is a snapshot of CEF’s key financial metrics for the past three fiscal years:

	2024	2023	2022
Total Assets	\$259,184,459	\$256,482,714	\$264,762,318
Total Loans Receivable	\$163,438,669	\$162,670,556	\$146,444,450
Investor Notes Payable	\$199,173,737	\$199,005,919	\$213,590,231
Deposits & Investments (Reserves)	\$ 94,183,997	\$ 90,954,300	\$112,148,135
Net Assets (Equity)	\$ 59,604,480	\$ 57,108,416	\$ 50,715,689
Capital Ratio	23.00%	22.27%	19.16%

Two takeaways from these highlights. First, CEF is financially sound. The final metric noted above is CEF’s capital ratio. The overall strength of a financial institution is often measured by assessing its capital ratio (i.e., dividing net assets by total assets). Many banks and credit unions commonly operate with a capital ratio in the range of 10-12%. CEF’s total net assets stand in excess of \$59 Million, providing it with a very strong capital ratio of 23.0%. This metric should provide investors with a high level of confidence as they place their savings and investments with CEF.

Second, while new church starts in Michigan are not at the level they once were, CEF continues to serve an important role in helping our ministry



Church Extension Fund

partners improve and enhance their facilities. Currently, CEF has over 440 loans outstanding in the District.

Grants & Services: While CEF’s core business is to receive investments and fund loans, CEF has been blessed with solid fiscal results that allows it to do even more. CEF often uses its positive results to make grants and provide services to our Lutheran partners in Michigan. This is a unique benefit of a District-based extension fund.

Over the past 10 years, CEF has provided an average of \$1.3 Million annually in grants and services that benefit Lutheran churches, schools, and ministries in Michigan, as well as the Michigan District itself. Here are two recent examples of CEF’s Grant Programs:

- Convocation Grant: Partnering with the Michigan District, grants of \$5,000 per Circuit were provided in 2024 to create an event to share the love of Christ with the community. Nearly all Circuits participated with thousands being touched by our Michigan District congregations.

- Ministry Worker Wellness Grant: Partnering with the Mighty Fortress Foundation, CEF offered \$2,500 per ministry to promote worker wellness in 2023 with rest/relaxation events, team building, and wellness-centered events. Coming on the heels of the pandemic where ministry workers were stretched and challenged in many new ways, this program proved hugely popular. More than \$250,000 was awarded to Michigan ministries to promote ministry worker wellness.

On the service side, CEF underwrites services that we know are needed by our partners in the Michigan District. A few examples are listed here:

- Excel In Giving is an electronic funds

transfer service that allows automatic contributions and tuition payments directly from bank accounts or credit cards to a ministry. Statistics show that churches using electronic giving experience both increased and more consistent giving.

- **Gift Planning Services** are provided free of charge to the churches of the Michigan District and their members. CEF partners with the LCMS Foundation to deploy a full-time Gift Planning Counselor, Julie Burgess, to help with gift planning and legacy giving.
- **Investment Rebate** provides an annual cash rebate to borrowing ministries who also invest with CEF (both the ministry and its members). CEF has provided annual rebates—some as much as \$30,000—to congregations and ministries whose members are investors at CEF.

CEF - Moving Forward: CEF celebrates its 125th anniversary next year. We celebrate the foresight of Lutheran leaders who created a fund that would eventually help build hundreds of Lutheran churches and schools in Michigan! Moving forward, CEF is aware that the world is constantly changing and there will be new and different ways to help Build the Kingdom. While we adapt to these changes, know that CEF’s primary mission will not change. And with God’s blessing, CEF will endure—having already faced pandemics, world wars, a depression, and multiple recessions. God is surely good! The ‘Parable of the Talents’ applies when it comes to CEF. God entrusted CEF with many talents that have been multiplied into even more talents over the years to bless Lutheran ministries throughout Michigan.

We are thankful for the great support of CEF’s ministry from our investors, congregations, schools, ministries, pastors, lay leaders, and ministry workers in the Michigan District!

James R. Saalfeld
Chief Executive Officer

Communications Department

Debby Fall

Over the past triennium, the Communications Department has worked closely with District staff, the Board of Directors, and various committees and commissions developing digital and print media for District initiatives, projects, and event planning.

Robust Digital and Print Media

Centered around the District’s Critical Targets—Great Commission, Great Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Workers—since 2022, the Communications team has developed content for the District’s website. From 2022–25, 72 resources have been added to the resource library and over 150 event pages and registrations have been created. We published 205 blogs, 73 podcast episodes, and 36 *Michigan In Touch* issues, and produced 252 YouTube videos and 26 video playlists. The District’s social media regularly reaches an audience of over 9,400 followers on Facebook (facebook.com/miLCMS), 1,606

on Instagram (instagram.com/miLCMS), and 3,075 on X (x.com/miLCMS).

The District E-newsletter is published weekly on Tuesdays and sent to over 5,700 individuals. Subscribe or submit your announcement at michigandistrict.org/about-us/publications/weekly-newsletter/. Currently, over 11,000 individuals have subscribed to our email listserve for news and events.

Michigan In Touch (MIT) is no longer published as a supplement to the *Lutheran Witness*. The District has partnered with Church Extension Fund (CEF) on a quarterly standalone printed publication. The first joint issue was published in April 2025. The publication continues to share news and articles of how God is working in our congregations, organizations, and through strategic partners. CEF expanded its content from the monthly Spotlight to include a letter from CEO Jim Saalfeld. MIT will continue to be sent to its subscribers, various church members, church workers, and CEF investors. The publication continues to offer faith-enriching content, inspiring stories, and practical resources. You can learn more or submit your articles at michigandistrict.org/mit.

Special Projects

Hymnal Project

A group of artists, arrangers, and liturgists led by Peter Prochnow, are commissioned through the Michigan District, LCMS to create several new hymn arrangements based on the original music. These are intended to facilitate enhanced worship in a multitude of modern musical contexts.

The spirit of the project is simple: Hymns are arranged with various instrumentations and made available free of charge, in the form of a lead sheet and reference recording, so whether you learn by reading or by hearing, you can easily implement these arrangements and modify for your context without cost.

Since 2020, there have been 433,000 visits to thehymnalproject.com website. Out of those visits, 354,000 have been unique. Pageview counts were 882,000. Out of the many countries who have visited the website, the United States ranks number one with 56.7% visits; United Kingdom 13.2%; Nigeria 5%, Canada 4%, India 3.57%, and the Philippines 3.29%. Michigan still ranks number one among states visiting the site, followed by Texas, California, and Florida. The streaming service analytics reveal the music has been listened to 626,992 times.

Digital Footprint Initiative

The Digital Footprint Initiative (DFI) was developed by the Michigan District to improve a ministry’s visibility on the web. To date (or from 2022–2025), 26 congregations have been served. The web presence portion of the DFI includes a free audit of your existing website, technical assistance in the backend maintenance of the congregation’s domain, and features a choice of three website templates that ensure the site meets today’s

design aesthetic and is functional. The templates are responsive, adjusting for mobile viewing and desktop viewing. To learn more, visit michigandistrict.org/dfi.

Pictorial Directory

Since 2022, the District has sought to have an online photo directory of all of its pastors. This has been accomplished by using Instant Church Directory (instantchurchdirectory.com). All pastors, active and emeriti, are listed in the directory. Since the 2022 convention and through several pastors' conferences, we have been taking photographs to fill in the directory and keep it updated.

2024 Circuit Convocations

The Communications Department assisted in promoting circuit convocations in 2024. To encourage circuits to plan a great event, the District partnered with Church Extension Fund to provide up to \$5,000 to each circuit for its convocation (circuits could work together and combine grants). The grants were directed to convocations that focus clearly on mission outreach.

The result was exceptional. All but four circuits of the District participated. Twelve of the events included serving in the form of ingatherings, eight of the events centered on celebration, and 18 events were centered around a theme and brought in one or more speakers.

\$5 Million Campaign

The communications department, in partnership with the Michigan District President and Development offices, facilitated numerous emails and videos to help raise \$5 million for Concordia University Ann Arbor (in 10 days, \$3.75 million was raised). Through communication pieces, the department supported efforts to keep the University open by engaging with congregations and individuals in Michigan and throughout the United States.

2025 and Beyond

As 2025 unfolds, the Communication team looks forward to supporting the District staff and Board of Directors' annual initiatives.

The team is also working to expand its current podcast on Apple Podcasts and Spotify. The Michigan District is launching a podcast network to enhance collaboration and visibility for podcasts created by and for LCMS content creators in Michigan. This network will be composed of five new shows produced by the Michigan District, along with a curated collection of podcasts from fellow members, pastors, and church workers, covering topics relevant to the Church and our theology.

A new website redesign is in the works that will better articulate the District's priorities for strategic mission, leadership development, parochial education, and support services. It will also feature new ways to engage its church workers and members towards deeper spiritual formation and evangelism. The team is committed to joyfully celebrating God's work through the District congregations

while actively seeking new ways to share the inspiring ministry stories filled with *People of Hope—Vigorously proclaiming the love of Christ*.

The District communications team includes Debby Fall (Director), Linda Ekong (Art Director/Webmaster), Elisa Schulz (Staff Writer/Copy Editor/Photographer), and Adele Werner (Video Journalist/Digital Media Manager).

Development Department

Laura Thomas

Transition

Longtime Assistant to the President - Development, Ray Zavada, completed 15 years of service to the Michigan District on July 31, 2022. On the heels of two successful campaigns led by Zavada, *The Future is Now* and *Here We Stand*, the District had a one-year gap in development leadership. In July 2023, Laura Thomas joined the District staff as Director of Development, having previously served in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as Director of Donor Relations and Alumni at Concordia University Ann Arbor and Senior Gift Officer at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo.

Final Here We Stand Campaign Update

The *Here We Stand* campaign was lengthened by six months with an expected close in June 2022. The effects of COVID-19 caused congregations to shift primarily to livestream and other types of worship that resulted in changes in communication and giving. Contact was made in early 2024 to ask donors to complete pledges by May 1. There are three remaining open pledges. In recognition of Ray Zavada and numerous volunteers and donors across the District, we praise God for the faithfulness and resilience of all those who participated in reaching and exceeding the goals of the campaign.

\$10,388,962.56	Total Gifts Received
\$ 21,736.67	Outstanding Pledges (3)
1,686	Total Contributors
1,504	Individual Contributors
182	Congregations
\$1,737,413.61	Total Given/Pledged for PCW Scholarships
\$4,585,438.98	Total Given/Pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry
\$1,360,199.81	Total Given/Pledged for Michigan District Endowment
\$2,705,910.16	Total Given/Pledged for International Ministries
\$3,000,000.00	Professional Church Worker Scholarship Campaign Goal
\$3,000,000.00	Innovative Missional Ministry Campaign Goal
\$3,000,000.00	Michigan District Endowment Campaign Goal
\$1,000,000.00	International Ministries Campaign Goal

Renewed Focus on Congregation Commitments

With the transition to a new Director of Development in 2023, there is a stronger and renewed focus on supporting the commitment process and stewarding of congregation commitments to the District. Congregations provide the majority of the District budget at an average of 63% of the annual total budget. Timeliness of communication with congregations is essential since fiscal years across the District are on two cycles: mid-year and year-end. The Development Department sends an initial mailing and a follow-up mailing with instructions and giving history so that congregation leaders have time to make decisions and send commitment forms to assist the District budgeting process.

The Director of Development prepared a plan to visit circuit meetings to discuss the renewed focus with pastors. As of February 28, 2025, the Director of Development has attended 16 circuit meetings including 22 circuits, 123 pastors, and 169 congregations. Questions posed regarding the commitment process and the best way to share information about District resources provided ample feedback for serving our pastors and congregations better. As a result, commitment forms have been updated, an instructional commitment process video for new pastors will be recorded, short videos about the call process and other important resources will be recorded and shared with congregations, and congregation community engagement survey responses will help members to see their collective service and support for local ministries, as requested.

In addition, the Director of Development schedules “District 101” presentations for District Sundays at congregations that are scheduled with pastors after circuit meeting visits. This presentation includes history, structure, governance, and leadership responsibilities of the District and staff, and resources available to all congregations and church workers. As of February 28, 2025 the Director of Development has presented to 764 people in 26 congregations across the District, which resulted in over 30 post-event contacts.

The Development Department introduced a new global grant-seeking tool in 2024, resulting in at least two congregational ministry grant applications.

Increased Focus on Sustainable Giving

Sustainable giving is the backbone of a healthy organization. The Michigan District works with individuals, organizations, and foundations who give regularly through annual appeals, major gifts, planned gifts, digital giving, and other types of gifts. Donors may give unrestricted gifts or give to a variety of different areas of support including special funds such as Professional Church Work Scholarships, Missions, Michigan District Endowment, Acts 2 Enterprise (A2E), and Michigan District Youth Gatherings. Michigan District/CEF/ LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor Julie Burgess works with congregations and individuals to present gift planning seminars, establish congregation endowments, and help individuals with estate and gift planning. The Development Department also works with organizations and individuals to secure event sponsorships. The following

charts detail annual gift revenue for the District:

Appeals

\$38,251 (2 appeals)	Total raised through appeals in 2022
\$36,681 (2 appeals)	Total raised through appeals in 2023
\$49,547 (3 appeals)	Total raised through appeals in 2024

Other (unsolicited individual and foundation gifts, investment revenue, sponsorships)

\$971,206.76	Other gift income in 2022
\$683,608.41	Other gift income in 2023
\$514,872.52	Other gift income in 2024

The Michigan District purchased an upgraded digital giving platform (JustGiving) connected to the District’s current customer relationship management and fund accounting software provider (Blackbaud). The platform will be implemented in 2025 to provide a more user-friendly experience for donors and assistance to congregations without access to a fundraising platform.

Development Consultations and Resources

The Director of Development is available for congregation and organization consultations. Since July 2023, seven congregations and three organizations have contacted the Director for consultations regarding annual and capital campaigns. The Director continues to build a resource file for capital campaign referrals.

The Michigan District Concordia University Ann Arbor Initiative

In February 2024, students at Concordia University Ann Arbor were notified of significant program, property, and equipment reductions proposed on the Ann Arbor campus. The Michigan District Board of Directors advocated for a “pause” in those actions. The District immediately began a campaign to raise funds to eliminate the estimated \$5 million annual deficit for the 2024–2025 academic year in exchange for the Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor (CUWAA) Board of Regents agreeing to keep the campus “materially the same.” The CUWAA Board agreed to discuss the “pause” at its February 29, 2024 meeting. The District’s campaign reported the following results on the District website leading up to the meeting:

\$ 681,641.00	480 donors	2/21/2024
\$ 775,762.00	577 donors	2/22/2024
\$1,872,777.00	684 donors	2/23/2024
\$1,978,198.00	768 donors	2/24/2024
\$2,168,211.00	838 donors	2/25/2024
\$2,499,361.00	957 donors	2/26/2024
\$3,082,938.00	1,158 donors	2/27/2024
\$3,708,143.00	1,427 donors	2/28/2024
\$3,753,885.00	1,503 donors	2/29/2024

On March 1, 2024 the CUWAA Board Chair announced that “Concordia University Ann Arbor will continue its momentum forward for the 2024–2025 academic year and prayerfully beyond.” Pledges and contributions continued with the following District website updates:

\$3,779,218.00	3/22/2024
----------------	-----------

\$3,784,177.00	3/28/2024
\$3,805,431.00	4/09/2024
\$3,828,200.00	5/01/2024
\$3,884,538.00	5/28/2024
\$3,893,948.00	6/13/2024

At the August 6 Michigan District Board of Directors meeting, the board reviewed the impact of CUWAA decisions and continuing actions to reduce the CUAAs campus and determined that standards put forth by the District Board had not been met. As a result, the Michigan District Board of Directors voted against directing the raised funds to support CUAAs operating expenses in the 2024–2025 academic year. Options for rescinding unpaid or partial pledges and redesignation of gifts were presented to donors who were directed to a selection form on the Michigan District website. Approximate redesignations and rescindments are as follows:

\$1,100,000.00	Scholarships for current CUAAs students
\$ 600,000.00	Michigan District Student Scholarships
\$ 80,000.00	CUAAs Operating Fund
\$ 295,000.00	Local Congregations (donor choice)
\$ 175,000.00	Other Michigan District Funds

\$1,500,000.00 Pledges rescinded

A more detailed report for the Michigan District Concordia University Ann Arbor Initiative is available from the Michigan District VP of Finance’s office.

Disaster Response

Debby Fall

Over the course of the last triennium, the Michigan District has shared information on how to become engaged in disaster response by connecting to the various organizations that responded to the war in Ukraine, hurricanes, tornados, and wildfires. These organizations included LCMS Disaster Response, Orphan Grain Train-Michigan, and various LCMS districts in which the disasters occurred. To learn more, visit michigandistrict.org/disasterresponse or subscribe to the District weekly E-newsletter at michigandistrict.org/about-us/publications/weekly-newsletter/ for notifications when needs arise.

The District no longer offers training to become part of the LCMS certified Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). We now refer individuals to contact the LCMS LERT Ministry. More information can be found at lcms-lert.org.

District Facilitators

Rev. Randy Johnson

Over the past three years there has been a transition from Congregations Mission and Ministry Facilitators, who were all full-time and covered three zones, to District Facilitators who now are regional. This team is made up of three part-time facilitators and one full-time facilitator. This transition has allowed for better interaction between the facilitators and pastors and congregations. In the past year, we have had

a total of 1,092 interactions with pastors and congregations. These interactions are made through phone, email, zoom, or physical visits to the facility. These interactions were for call process, strategic planning, assisting in vacancy, grant applications, staffing issues, conflict resolution, demographic studies, and finding resources to assist congregations and pastors in their mission and ministry.

The facilitators have worked with circuit visitors, congregations, and pastors to form several dual parishes and assisted in the forming of many partnerships for various types of interactions. Some examples of these partnerships are multi-church Bible studies, multi-church youth activities, and multi-church youth confirmation classes.

We have developed partnership podcasts to more fully explain the ways in which partnerships may be able to function. We have developed some outlines for possible governance models that may allow congregations to function more efficiently.

We continue to look for ways to bring congregations and ministries together for the furthering of God’s kingdom here in the Michigan District and to eternity and beyond!

Michigan District Archives

Barbara Laughlin Adler/Kathleen Graham

Archival Mission Statement

Our archival 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 maintenance an important task.

To accomplish our mission, the archive manages a collection of historical materials of the Michigan District for future reference and research. This collection includes proceedings from past district conventions, minutes of district board meetings, personal papers and correspondence, past issues of the *Michigan Lutheran* and *Michigan in Touch*, photographs, congregational scrapbooks, and files from Michigan congregations. These materials are continually updated, catalogued, and properly stored.

Archive Location, Access, and Use

The archive is housed in the Michigan District Office building on Geddes Road in Ann Arbor. Access is by appointment only.

The District office sometimes requests and obtains information from the archive. Congregational historians sometimes use the archive to find information for anniversary booklets or celebrations.

The Michigan District Archive does not maintain congregational records of official acts, genealogies, or family history records. These records may be found in other locations:

- Baptismal, marriage, or burial records can usually be found at the pertinent congregation. In the case of disbanded

congregations, records can normally be found 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 is welcomed. For an appointment, please contact district archivist, Barbara Laughlin Adler, at the archive's email: archives@michigandistrict.org. She can help with planning a congregational archive, or with planning to celebrate a major anniversary.

The archive staff regularly corresponds with Concordia Historical Institute staff, as well as the public who are researching historic records. We reply to approximately 3–4 inquiries per month. Typical requests are for clergy biographies, baptism, marriage or burial records, parish constitutions or construction plans, parish anniversary questions, and donations of possible archival materials (old hymnals, pastors' sermons, Michigan Lutheran collections, etc.).

Recently, our assistant archivist, Kathy Graham, created a historical booklet, "*History of Michigan District Presidents*"—brief biographies of all district presidents to date. She is also compiling data and researching the possible digitization of all extant *Michigan Lutheran* and *Michigan in Touch* publications.

More information can be found at michigandistrict.org/about-us/presidents-office/district-archives/.

Please complete the form at the end of this report. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Laughlin Adler, LTD, Ph.D.
Archivist, Michigan District-LCMS
Kathleen Anne Graham, B.S.-Library Science
Assistant Archivist

Your Congregational Archive

The Michigan District Archive would like to continue collecting significant publications from congregations. Please submit the following types of materials to the District Archive: Congregational Histories / Special Installations / Dedications / Anniversary Booklets / Pastoral Biographies, and any significant press clippings. These materials may be sent directly to the Michigan District Archive at the District Office (3773 Geddes Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105).

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, using this form:

Name and location of your Congregation:

Your Congregation's Assistant/Archivist/Historian

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:

Send to: Barbara Laughlin Adler, Archivist
Michigan District, LCMS
3773 Geddes Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Or email this information to:
archives@michigandistrict.org

Prison Ministry

Rev. Randy Johnson

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.

- Some 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. Randy Johnson at randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org.
- Currently there are no congregations involved in prison ministry. There are specific procedures as anyone begins this ministry, and some training is needed. For more information, you may contact Rev. Randy Johnson at randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org.
- You may also contact Rev. Randy Johnson at randy.johnson@michigandistrict.org and he can give you contact information for all the chaplains who are employed by the State of Michigan to serve the inmates at their facility.

Sower's Fund

Laurie Brown

The Sower's Fund of the Michigan District, LCMS was initially established in February 1992. The fund was created out of love and care to support professional church workers with needs that developed from time to time. The Sower's Fund was established as there were no budget funds available/set aside for such a need.

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, District 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, or federal government, 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.

Statistics from the previous triennium:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Number of People Who Received Financial Help</u>
March – December, 2022	10
January – December, 2023	12
January – December, 2024	12
January – February, 2025	0

We thank and praise God for the continued dedicated support for the Sower's Fund and for the kindness of all who contribute.

Section 3 - Overtures

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* Late Submission

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-01
3 SUBJECT: To Affirm and Appreciate the Efforts of the Commission
4 on Constitutional Matters and Emphasize That Their
5 Researched Opinions are Solely Recommendations to
6 the Leadership That Appointed the Commission.
7
8 **WHEREAS**, The forming of committees and commissions by leadership groups, whether
9 national or local are good and right to do; and
10
11 **WHEREAS**, The forming of the Commission on Constitutional Matters to assist the President
12 of the Synod in the exercise of his responsibilities to maintain our Synod's fidelity to the
13 Word of God and to our Confessions (3.9.3) is a good and right thing to do; and
14
15 **WHEREAS**, The Commission on Constitutional Matters exists to interpret the Constitution,
16 Bylaws, and resolutions of the Synod and ensure fidelity to them (3.9.2) is a good and right
17 thing to do to; and
18
19 **WHEREAS**, The reports of the Commission on Constitutional Matters are listed as opinions to
20 the leadership that appointed it (3.9.2.2.a,b,& c); therefore be it
21
22 **Resolved**, That the efforts of the Commission on Constitutional Matters be appreciated and
23 its opinions be emphatically pronounced as solely recommendations to the leadership which
24 appointed the Commission.
25
26 Submitted by: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warren, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-02
3 SUBJECT: Biographical Synopsis – Lay
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has adopted a policy of collecting and distributing
7 information concerning pastoral and commissioned ministers candidates and called pastors by
8 means of the Ordained Minister Information Form (OMIF) and the Commissioned Minister
9 Information Form (CMIF); and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through its various districts, disseminates this
12 information to congregations and others entities of Synod, during the call process; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereafter Michigan
15 District) has ordinarily followed this procedure for the assistance of the calling congregation; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, This information provides a more expansive understanding of the service and aptitude of
18 an individual for a particular position or office; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, There is no uniformity to the information provided concerning the lay candidates who are
21 presented for election to various positions and offices of the Michigan District or its Recognized
22 Service Organizations (RSOs); therefore be it

23
24 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District develop and implement a brief information form concerning the
25 lay candidates for any position or office of the Michigan District or its RSOs which are to be elected
26 during a Michigan District convention to the voting delegates of the Michigan District; and be it
27 further

28
29 **Resolved**, That this information be made available at least 3 weeks prior to all voting for said offices
30 or positions.

31
32 Submitted by: Kensington Circuit, #26

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-03
3 SUBJECT: Information for Voters – OMIF
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has adopted a policy of collecting and distributing
7 information concerning pastoral candidates and called pastors by means of the Ordained Minister
8 Information Form (OMIF); and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through its various districts, disseminates this
11 information to congregations and others entities of Synod, during the call process; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereafter Michigan
14 District) has ordinarily followed this procedure for the assistance of the calling congregation; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, This information provides a more expansive understanding of the service and aptitude of
17 an individual for a particular position or office; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, The majority of the electoral body of the Michigan District in convention has no ability to
20 access said information on their own; therefore be it
21

22 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District make available the OMIF, or any equivalent document,
23 information of all pastoral candidates for any position or office of the Michigan District or its
24 Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) which are to be elected during a Michigan District
25 convention to the voting delegates of the Michigan District; and be it further
26

27 **Resolved**, That this information be made available at least 3 weeks prior to all voting for said offices
28 or positions.
29

30 Submitted by: Kensington Circuit, #26

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-04
3 SUBJECT: Realignment of Circuits
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, St. Stephen, Waterford has grown close to the ministries of the Kensington circuit, and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The Kensington Circuit is at risk of losing its electoral status due to congregations
9 shrinking and closing; therefore be it

10
11 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention ratify the transfer of St. Stephen, Waterford from
12 the North Oakland Circuit to the Kensington Circuit.
13

14

15 Submitted by: Kensington Circuit, #26

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-05
3 SUBJECT: To Revise RSO Requirement of 100% LCMS Board
4 Membership
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The 2016 Synodical convention created a task force to review the current structure
8 and recommend the best model for the Synod’s relationship to RSOs (Recognized Service
9 Organizations); and

10 **WHEREAS**, The Task Force was charged, among other things, “to ensure that all
11 recommendations maintain the important relationships with the organizations that are
12 recognized by the Synod;” and

13 **WHEREAS**, The 2019 Synodical Convention adopted the recommendation of the Task Force in
14 Resolution 4-06a*; and

15 **WHEREAS**, This resolution thoroughly revised and redefined the structure and expectations of
16 Synodical RSOs; and

17 **WHEREAS**, An unintended consequence of adopting such a large and sweeping change in a
18 single resolution was that some long standing Synodical RSOs found themselves post facto to be
19 no longer qualified; and

20 **WHEREAS**, The language of bylaw 6.2.2a, adopted in 2019 resolution 4-06a, states that any
21 WSO (Witness Service Organization-new subcategory) must now have 100% of its Board of
22 Directors hold membership in an LCMS congregation; and

23 **WHEREAS**, An organization involved in mission or service in areas without LCMS representation,
24 or that desires to expand into regions without LCMS churches would find it invaluable to recruit
25 board members who better understand the mission context; and

26 **WHEREAS**, It is not reasonable to expect an RSO to reject a qualified board member when that
27 board member may not even be in the proximity of an LCMS congregation; and

28 **WHEREAS**, This requirement has forced RSOs to choose between proudly partnering and
29 affiliating with the Synod, and pursuing the mission goals for which they exist; be it therefore

30 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention memorialize the Synod to revise the 2019
31 bylaw change so as to remove the requirement in Bylaw 6.2.2a that a WSO have board
32 membership of 100% LCMS congregation members; and be it further

33 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention commend the work of the many and various
34 service organizations and their support of the Gospel proclamation; and be it finally

35 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention express the earnest desire that longtime and
36 faithful RSOs not be needlessly severed from affiliation with the LCMS.

37 Submitted by: Midland Circuit, #5
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-06
3 SUBJECT: To Call for the Publication of the Council of Presidents Manual
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The Council of Presidents of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is expected to have
6 policies that guide both the corporate work of the Council and the individual work of its members
7 (synodical bylaw 3.10.1.2); and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Those policies have been codified in a manual distributed to the Council’s members, but
10 not available for public viewing; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, That private manual is often cited to defend the actions and positions taken by district
13 presidents; therefore be it
14

15 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention direct the Council of Presidents to make public
16 their manual; and be it further
17

18 **Resolved**, That the Council of Presidents Manual be available on the website of the Lutheran
19 Church—Missouri Synod in the “Document Library”; and be it finally
20

21 **Resolved**, That the manual available online be the most recent iteration, as updated periodically by
22 the Council.
23

24 Submitted by: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairgrove, MI
25 Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt, MI
26 St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Johns, MI
27 Good Shepherd, Cass City, MI
28 St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI
29 Circuit Forum of Thumb West Circuit, #8

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-07
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Presidential Visitation
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The president of each district of Synod is called upon, "In his ministry of ecclesiastical
6 supervision [to] visit the congregations of the district," (synodical bylaw 4.4.4) at least once every
7 triennium for specific duties outlined in same bylaw; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The same bylaw allows the use of circuit visitors and vice-presidents to assist the
10 president in this visitation responsibility; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The president also "shall supervise the doctrine, the life, and official administration on
13 the part of the ordained and commissioned ministers who are members through his district or are
14 subject to his ecclesiastical supervision," (synodical bylaw 4.4.5); and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The same bylaw allows the use of circuit visitors to assist the president in this supervisory
17 responsibility; therefore be it
18

19 **Resolved**, That the President of the Michigan District be encouraged and supported by the Michigan
20 District Board of Directors in his assigned task of visitation and supervision of both congregations
21 and ministers in his district; and be it further
22

23 **Resolved**, That the President of the Michigan District be encouraged by the Michigan District Board
24 of Directors to make wider use of the duly elected circuit visitors and vice presidents in his
25 aforementioned tasks; and be it further
26

27 **Resolved**, That the President of the Michigan District be discouraged by the Michigan District Board
28 of Directors from making use of other district staff (District Facilitators, Mission Strategists,
29 Leadership Developers, etc.) for the aforementioned tasks; and be it finally
30

31 **Resolved**, That the President of the Michigan District give visitation reports to the Michigan District
32 Board of Directors at each of its regularly scheduled meetings, and that those reports be published
33 in the minutes of said meetings.
34

35 Submitted by: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairgrove, MI
36 St. Peter Lutheran Church, Saint Johns, MI
37 Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt, MI
38 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City, MI
39 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI
40 Circuit Forum of Thumb West Circuit, #8

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-08
3 SUBJECT: To Walk Together in Conformity With Synod Resolution 13-
4 02A (2016)
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture and our Lutheran Confessions teach that our Lord gave the keys of the
8 Kingdom to the whole Church, that is the royal priesthood of all believers, (Matt. 16:15-19; Matt.
9 18:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9; Augsburg Confession [AC] Article XXVIII, paragraph 10; Smalcald Articles
10 [SA], Section III, paragraph 7; Treatise [Tr] paragraph 11; see also Walther’s Church and
11 Ministry/Office); and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The explanation to the Small Catechism of the LCMS teaches that “only those who are
14 called as pastors are given the responsibility to exercise it (the authority of the keys of the kingdom)
15 publicly, that is on behalf of the church (SC q. 344, pg. 319); and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The Augsburg confession teaches, “Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach
18 in the church, or administer the Sacraments, without rightly ordered call” (AC XIV); and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, The practice of licensing lay deacons for temporary service in certain difficult
21 circumstances was approved by the LCMS in 1989 Res. 3-05B as a means to address the need for
22 regular preaching of the Word and administration of the Sacraments by utilizing trained and
23 supervised laymen to serve “temporarily” in Word and Sacrament ministry when “no pastor [is]
24 available,” “in exceptional circumstances or in emergencies” (1989 Res. 3-05B, Nomenclature,
25 Guidelines 1 b); and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, 1989 Res. 3-05B repeatedly references temporary service for deacons when no pastor
28 is available in emergencies and exceptional circumstances, but in some cases deacons have served
29 for years regularly preaching and administering the Sacraments; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, Synod resolution 13-02A (2016) requires all license lay deacons to apply for a particular
32 route towards ordination; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, According to the Michigan District Deacon Policy manual, A Deacon may consecrate the
35 elements in the Public Worship of a congregation only after being licensed for Word and Sacrament
36 Ministry; and with the permission/direction of the Supervising Pastor and sponsoring congregation
37 the use of licensed lay deacons for the purpose of preaching and administering the sacraments
38 continues to be promoted within the Michigan District (Pg. 12); and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, Such practice is contrary to the spirit of Synod Resolution 13-02A; and
41

42 **WHEREAS**, Such use continues to be the cause significant dissension in the LCMS over the Synod-
43 approved practice of licensing laymen to preach and administer the Sacraments while under the
44 supervision of an ordained pastor; and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, It has been resolved, (Res. 13-02A, 2016) that the LCMS recognizes that “emergency
47 knows no rule” and that no Synod action can or should prevent a congregation from taking the steps
48 necessary to provide for the Word to be proclaimed in time of emergency, while at the same time,
49 every congregation of the Synod is required to address matters involving the Office of the Public
50 Ministry in a way that is consistent with its subscription to Scripture and the Confessions, as well as
51 its agreement to abide by the Synod’s Constitution; and

1 **WHEREAS**, The congregations of the Michigan District need to move forward together with our
2 brothers and sisters in ministry with deep concern for fidelity to the word of Christ as we confess it
3 and for faithfulness in the mission that Christ has given to His Church; therefore be it
4
5 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District give thanks to God for those men who
6 have recognized the need for continued Word and Sacrament ministry in difficult contexts; and be it
7 further
8
9 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in fidelity to the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions, fully
10 conform with Synod Resolution 13-02A (2016) and direct all current Licensed Lay Deacons as well
11 as all students within the License Lay Deacon training program, to pursue those synodically
12 approved routes toward ordination; and be it further
13
14 **Resolved**, All current License Lay Deacons who are serving Word and Sacrament ministry shall by
15 December 31, 2025 make
16 (1) application to one of our seminaries for admission into an alternate route program, or
17 (2) application for entrance into an SMP program, or
18 (3) application to the regional colloquy committee for admission to the SMP roster; and be it
19 further
20
21 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District phase out the training of License Lay Deacons for Word and
22 Sacrament Ministry by December 31, 2025; and be it further
23
24 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District continue to raise up qualified men to be
25 trained for service in congregations as ordained ministers of the Gospel; and be it finally
26
27 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District and her congregations support our existing seminaries in Fort
28 Wayne and St. Louis, with their prayers, financial donations, and promotion of their service to the
29 Church of Christ.
30
31 Submitted by: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairgrove, MI
32 Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt, MI
33 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City, MI
34 St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Johns, MI
35 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI
36 Circuit Forum of Thumb West Circuit, #8

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-09
3 SUBJECT: To Declare the Commission on Constitutional Matters
4 Unconstitutional
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod controls and supersedes bylaws and all other rules and
8 regulations of the Synod (Art XIV); and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Synod grants specific powers to the Synod in convention to form
11 corporate entities which shall have legal powers (Art IV); and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The Synod Constitution has limited synodical governance to executive (Art X and XI) and
14 legislative powers (Art IV and XIV), specifically excluding any judicial power; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The congregations of the Synod have reserved all grants of judicial power; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has no Constitutional grant of power; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, The Commission on Constitutional Matters has been created by the Synod in Convention
21 through Bylaws; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, The Synod in convention exceeded its legislative powers when it created the Commission
24 on Constitutional Matters by granting it judicial powers, through its acts in a judicial manner through
25 its interpretations and reviews and the publication of its “opinions;” and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, The congregations of the Synod have limited the Synod in convention’s legislative powers,
28 specifically “The Synod in convention may adopt bylaws that are consistent with and do not
29 contradict the Constitution of the Synod” (Art XIV); and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, The Commission on Constitutional Matters exists to exercise judicial functions, being the
32 interpretation of the Synod’s governing documents (3.9.2 and 3.9.2.2) and through the publication
33 of “opinions;” and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, The Synod in convention has exceeded its limited powers under Art XIV, as the
36 Commission on Constitutional Matters role is not consistent with the Constitution of the Synod by
37 exercising judicial powers; and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, The Synod in convention has exceeded its limited powers under Art XIV, as the
40 Commission on Constitutional Matters role contradicts with the Constitution of the Synod by
41 exercising judicial functions, and furthermore, the Synod is not an ecclesiastical government
42 exercising legislative or coercive powers . . . (Art VII); therefore be it
43

44 **Resolved**, The Commission on Constitutional Matters is unconstitutional; and be it further
45

46 **Resolved**, Bylaw 3.9.2 shall be stricken; and be it further
47

48 **Resolved**, All additional references to the Commission on Constitutional Matters in the Synod’s
49 governing document shall be likewise stricken; and be it finally

- 1 ***Resolved***, All opinions, and any other pronouncements, of the Commission on Constitutional Matters
- 2 be stricken and void.
- 3
- 4 Submitted by: Birmingham Circuit, #18

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-10
3 SUBJECT: Certified Accuracy and Trustworthiness of
4 Official Call Documents Prepared by the
5 Calling Entities That are Members of the
6 Michigan District of the LCMS
7
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) states that one of the
10 objectives of the LCMS is to “Provide evangelical supervision, counsel, and care for pastors, teachers,
11 and other professional church workers of the Synod in the performance of their official duties”
12 (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Article III, Objectives, Objective 8., page 12); and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the LCMS states that one of the objectives of the LCMS is to “Provide
15 protection for congregations, pastors, teachers, and other church workers in the performance of
16 their official duties and the maintenance of their rights (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Article III, Objectives,
17 Objective 9., page 12); and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the LCMS states that one of the objectives of the LCMS is to “Aid in
20 providing for the welfare of pastors, teachers, and other church workers, and their families in the
21 event of illness, disability, retirement, special need, or death” (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Article III,
22 Objectives, Objective 10, page 12); and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the LCMS defines membership in the LCMS as follows: “Membership in
25 the Synod is held and may be acquired by congregations and individuals, ministers of religion –
26 ordained and ministers of religion – commissioned, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess
27 and accept the confessional basis of Article II. A. Voting Members, All organized congregations that
28 have joined the Synod hold voting membership. B. Individual Members, Individual members of the
29 Synod, who are nonvoting except for those pastors exercising the vote of a member congregation
30 and installed to a member congregation, are the following: 1. Pastors, ordained ministers, called and
31 installed to a member congregation [etc.]” (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Article V, Membership, page 12);
32 and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the LCMS defines its relationship with the Districts of the Synod as
35 follows: “This Constitution is also the constitution of each district of the Synod; however, each
36 district is at liberty to adopt such bylaws and pass such resolutions as it deems expedient for its
37 conditions, provided that such bylaws and resolutions do not conflict with the Constitution and
38 Bylaws of the Synod” (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Article XII, Districts of the Synod and Their Regulations,
39 Item #2, page 16); and
40

41 **WHEREAS**, The Constitution of the LCMS obligates the District President of the Michigan District, and
42 all other Districts of the Synod, to “Sign all examination papers and certificates of ordination, and, in
43 general, all official papers and documents of their district” (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Article XII, Districts
44 of the Synod and Their Regulation, Item #9. d., page 17); and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the LCMS define “Concordia Plan Services” (CPS) in the following manner:
47 “Concordia Plan Services is a controlled entity of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod created to
48 manage the Concordia Plans” (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Bylaws 1.2, Definition of Terms, (d) *Concordia*
49 *Plan Services*, page 22); and

1 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the LCMS define the term “Ecclesiastical supervision” as follows: “The
2 responsibility primarily of the President of the Synod and district presidents, to supervise on behalf
3 of the Synod the doctrine, life, and administration of its members, officers, and agencies” (*LCMS*
4 *Handbook 2023*, Bylaws 1.2, Definition of Terms, (j), page 22); and

5
6 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the LCMS define the relationships of the congregations, national body,
7 districts, and circuits in the following manner: “The Synod, including its component parts, also serves
8 as the structure through which congregations carry out certain functions that can be performed
9 more effectively and efficiently together with other member congregations” (*LCMS Handbook 2023*,
10 Bylaws 1.3, Synod Relationships: Congregation, National, District, Circuit, 1.3.3, page 24); and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, In the legal opinion of the Michigan Law Firm, Abbott, Thomson, Mauldin, Parker, Beer, and
13 Rick, PLC, the formal Call Papers now in use by the Michigan District, and throughout the Synod,
14 represent legally binding contracts between the calling entities and the professional church workers
15 who are being called; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, In some cases the aforementioned Call Papers presented to professional church workers
18 who were called to serve calling entities within the Michigan District have resulted in the
19 professional church workers not receiving the pay and/or benefits noted in the official call papers
20 presented to them by the calling entities; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, In at least one case of each of the following examples, the pay and/or benefits noted
23 above have included benefits such as a housing agreement, CPS health insurance benefits, CPS
24 pension benefits, as well as, CPS disability and survivor insurance, all of which were specified in the
25 original Call Papers only to result in the calling entities refusing to provide the housing agreement,
26 CPS health insurance benefits, CPS pension benefits, and CPS disability and survivor benefits that
27 were specified in the original Call Papers that the calling entities officially presented to LCMS
28 professional church workers; therefore be it

29
30 **Resolved**, That the President of the Michigan District, or his designee, certify in writing that all the
31 benefits provided in official Call Papers that are presented by all calling entities within the Michigan
32 District to rostered LCMS professional church workers to be accurate and trustworthy; and be it
33 further

34
35 **Resolved**, That the President of the Michigan District, or his designee, sign a “certificate of
36 authenticity” prepared to provide assurance to the called LCMS professional church workers that the
37 pay and benefits specified in the official Call Papers provided by a calling entity within the district are
38 in fact accurate and may be trusted to be executed as stated by the calling entity; and be it further

39
40 **Resolved**, That the President of the Michigan District, or his designee, present the rostered
41 professional LCMS church workers with said “certificate of authenticity” before proceeding to install
42 any rostered professional LCMS church worker into his/her new place of service; and be it further

43
44 **Resolved**, That the “certificate of authenticity” be prepared in such a way as to reduce the need for
45 either the called church worker, or the calling entity, to use the informal or formal efforts of
46 reconciliation (*LCMS Handbook 2023*, Bylaws, 1.10, Dispute Resolution of the Synod, pages 39-54);
47 and be it further

1 **Resolved,** That the “certificate of authenticity” be prepared in such a way as to reduce, or eliminate,
2 the need for either the called church worker, or the calling entity, to use legal actions to resolve
3 breach of contract situations; and be it further
4

5 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District President, or his designee, retain an official copy of the
6 “certificate of authenticity” together with all the official Call Papers provided by any calling entity to
7 any rostered LCMS professional church workers for any called positions within the Michigan District;
8 and be it further
9

10 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District President, or his designee, after establishing the above noted
11 “certificate of authenticity,” along with all the processes that may be needed to provide such a
12 “certificate of authenticity,” then advocate with the Synodical President, the Presidium, the Council
13 of Presidents, and the Synodical Board of Directors to have such a “certificate of authenticity”
14 become a regular practice for all Synodical agencies and Recognized Service Organizations; and be it
15 further
16

17 **Resolved,** That Concordia Plan Services, as a controlled agency of the LCMS, be encouraged to assist
18 the Michigan District, and the LCMS, in preparing such a “certificate of authenticity” for any pay
19 and/or benefits that CPS is involved in providing to any LCMS rostered professional church workers
20 through the calling entities of Synod; and be it finally
21

22 **Resolved,** Such a “certificate of authenticity” be provided by the Michigan District President to all
23 rostered professional church workers whose formal Call Papers from calling entities that are under
24 the ecclesiastical supervision of the Michigan District President be presented to said rostered
25 professional church workers starting on January 1, 2026, and henceforth, until the official Call
26 Papers of the LCMS are rewritten to provide documents that are accurate and trustworthy in both
27 their legal and theological statements.
28

29 Submitted by: St. Joseph Circuit, #43

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-11
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Partnerships With English District
4 Congregations
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The English District was established in 1911 to receive the congregations of the English
8 Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States into the German LCMS, and continues as a non-
9 geographic district with 158 congregations in the US and Canada, including 23 congregations
10 currently in Michigan; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, The number of congregations and the size of congregations across the synod are
13 generally decreasing, and new strategic partnerships are necessary for coordinated ministry and
14 mission outreach; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District is encouraging a greater cooperation between congregations,
17 fraternal bonds among pastors, and more strategic partnerships and collaboration to make a greater
18 Kingdom impact in its geographic area; therefore be it
19

20 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District encourage all LCMS congregations within the geographical
21 parameters of the Michigan District to work together and foster greater cooperation and mutual
22 support in carrying out the mission of the Church, regardless of district affiliation; and be it further
23

24 **Resolved**, That the English District congregations be invited and welcome to participate and
25 collaborate with the geographical district congregations nearest them, including circuit events,
26 conferences, mission projects and community outreach efforts; and be it finally
27

28 **Resolved**, That the pastors of the Michigan District and English District be encouraged to foster a
29 spirit of collegiality and partnership with each other, for the strengthening of all congregations and a
30 greater impact for the Kingdom of God.
31

32 Submitted by: Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-12
3 SUBJECT: Information for Voters – CMIF
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has adopted a policy of collecting and distributing
7 information concerning Commissioned Ministers candidates and called pastors by means of the
8 Comissioned Minister Information Form (CMIF); and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through its various districts, disseminates this
11 information to congregations and others entities of Synod, during the call process; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereafter Michigan
14 District) has ordinarily followed this procedure for the assistance of the calling congregation; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, This information provides a more expansive understanding of the service and aptitude of
17 an individual for a particular position or office; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, The majority of the electoral body of the Michigan District in convention has no ability to
20 access said CMIF information on their own; therefore be it
21

22 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District make available the CMIF information of all commissioned
23 minister candidates for any position or office of the Michigan District or its Recognized Service
24 Organizations (RSOs) which are to be elected during a Michigan District convention to the voting
25 delegates of the Michigan District; and be it further
26

27 **Resolved**, That this information be made available at least 3 weeks prior to all voting for said office
28 or position.
29

30 Submitted by: Kensington Circuit, #26

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-13
3 SUBJECT: Information for Voters for DP Nominations
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has adopted a policy of collecting and distributing
7 information concerning pastoral candidates and called pastors by means of the Ordained Minister
8 Information Form (OMIF); and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, through its various districts, disseminates this
11 information to congregations and others entities of Synod, during the call process; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereafter Michigan
14 District) has ordinarily followed this procedure for the assistance of the calling congregation; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The office of District President of the Michigan District is considered a called office, and a
17 “pastor of pastors;” therefore be it
18

19 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District make available the OMIF information, or an equivalent
20 documentation, of all candidates for the office of Michigan District President to the voting delegates
21 of the Michigan District; and be it further
22

23 **Resolved**, That this information be made available at least 3 weeks prior to all voting for said office.
24

25 Submitted by: Kensington Circuit, #26

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Administration
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 1-14
3 SUBJECT: To Ensure the Sustainability of Concordia Plan Services
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Healthcare costs are increasingly burdensome to congregations and schools; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Plan Services (CPS) provides an invaluable service to the LCMS; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The pool of workers available to enroll in CPS is relatively small; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, A larger pool of workers contributing to the overall plan should decrease costs; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, There are other church bodies with whom we agree in biblical morality and medical
15 ethics; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Our doctrine permits us to cooperate in externals with other church bodies in non-
18 doctrinal matters; therefore be it
19

20 **Resolved**, That the Synod in convention would change the Bylaws so that Synod Board of Directors
21 and Concordia Plan Services can work with other church bodies to increase collective worker
22 enrollment in order to decrease overall cost and ensure sustainability; and be it further
23

24 **Resolved**, That the Synod in convention would appoint a task force to submit recommendations and
25 considerations for reducing the cost at next convention, including the possibility of combining with
26 other church bodies with whom we agree in biblical morality and medical ethics; and be it further
27

28 **Resolved**, That the Synod Board of Directors would seek out other church bodies who align with us in
29 externals to this end; and be it finally
30

31 **Resolved**, That the LCMS would retain a majority representation on the CPS Board.
32

33 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-01
3 SUBJECT: To Condemn "Stone Choir" and Call Proponents
4 of Its Teachings to Repentance
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Twitter/X personalities Corey J. Mahler (@CoreyJMahler) and Ryan "Woe" Dumperth
7 (@treblewoe) began releasing episodes of the Stone Choir podcast on Oct. 19, 2022, to tackle
8 issues relevant to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) that, in their judgment, the
9 pastors and leadership of the LCMS were not addressing, leaving Mahler and Dumperth to
10 function as "the very stones" who must "cry out" because the clergy are silent (Luke 19:40); and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, These issues on which the pastors and leadership of the LCMS are accused by the Stone
13 Choir hosts of remaining silent include the ostensible necessity of the reintroduction of racial
14 segregation; the ostensible sinfulness of interracial marriage; the ostensibly pernicious nature of the
15 Jewish race today; and the ostensibly fictitious nature of the Jewish Holocaust perpetrated by the
16 National Socialists during World War II; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, None of Stone Choir's positions on these aforementioned issues is taught in Holy Scripture,
19 and indeed their positions on these issues cause great offense to many Christians of good will; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Stone Choir hosts Mahler and Dumperth are active on Twitter/X, and Stone Choir listeners
22 are likely to be influenced not only by what Mahler and Dumperth teach on the Stone Choir podcast,
23 but also by what they post on Twitter/X; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, On Twitter/X, Corey Mahler and Dumperth, among other outrageously offensive behaviors,
26 openly praise Adolf Hitler, call for the genocide or deportation of Jews, Muslims, and blacks from
27 the United States, and condemn as sin the practice of interracial marriage and adoption, causing great
28 offense to Christian consciences; and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Through their activity on the Stone Choir podcast and on Twitter/X, Mahler and Dmnpert
31 have sought to associate confessional Lutheranism with devotion to Adolf Hitler, opposition to the
32 Jewish race, and a desire for segregation of blacks from white society; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, Mahler and Dumperth have publicly denounced all pastors of the LCMS as "either apostate
35 or derelict" and on their podcast and on Twitter/X have attempted to turn their listeners against
36 their pastors, including through the use of threats, intimidation, and harassment of pastors, their
37 wives, and their families; and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, pastors, their wives, and their families have been threatened, intimidated, and harassed
40 in several LCMS districts, to the extent that district and synodical presidents have condemned such
41 speech; and
42

43 **WHEREAS**, Mahler is excommunicated and therefore under discipline and Dumperth is no longer a
44 member of an LCMS congregation and is therefore beyond the reach of church discipline, yet both
45 usurp the Pastoral Office through public "sermons" and teachings; therefore be it
46

47 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention publicly condemn the Stone Choir podcast and its
48 hosts, Corey J. Mahler and Ryan Dumperth, for the offense they cause by their public devotion to Adolf
49 Hitler, their stirring up of antipathy toward our Jewish and black neighbors, their denunciation as sin

1 of that which God has not called sin, and their open hostility toward the pastors and leadership of the
2 LCMS; and be it further
3

4 **Resolved,** That the laity of the Michigan District be warned against the Stone Choir podcast and its
5 hosts, and that the pastors of the Michigan District be encouraged to admonish members of their
6 congregations whose approval of such racist and anti-Semitic beliefs has become known; and be it
7 further
8

9 **Resolved,** That pastors of the Michigan District who are found to be promoting the Stone Choir
10 podcast or its hosts be brought under discipline by their ecclesiastical supervisor for the offense they
11 cause thereby; and be it further
12

13 **Resolved,** That qualified pastors and teachers of the LCMS be encouraged to examine the teachings
14 of Stone Choir according to the norm of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions,
15 demonstrating from clear and firm testimonies of the same how Stone Choir is in error; and be it
16 further
17

18 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention recognize that the laxness and lukewarmness of the
19 teaching and practice of the LCMS has provided fertile soil for such errors of teaching and wickedness
20 of life, and that whatever suffering has been inflicted upon the pastors and people of the LCMS
21 through such false teachings is to be received as a chastisement of God for our sins and as an
22 occasion for heartfelt repentance; and be it finally
23

24 **Resolved,** That the LCMS in convention be memorialized to condemn the Stone Choir podcast and its
25 hosts and followers, to take action against pastors who promote the same, and to repent of the sins
26 for which God has allowed Stone Choir and its followers to arise within the LCMS.
27

28 Submitted by: St. Johns Circuit, #36

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-02
3 SUBJECT: Encourage Regular Use of Confession and Absolution
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The practice of Confession and Absolution is firmly established in our Lutheran
7 Confessions, cf. the Augsburg Confession, Article 25, “Confession in the churches is not abolished
8 among us; for it is not usual to give the body of the Lord, except to them that have been previously
9 examined and absolved. And the people are most carefully taught concerning faith in the absolution,
10 about which formerly there was profound silence. Our people are taught that they should highly prize
11 the absolution, as being the voice of God, and pronounced by God’s command. The power of the
12 Keys is set forth in its beauty and they are reminded what great consolation it brings to anxious
13 consciences, also, that God requires faith to believe such absolution as a voice sounding from
14 heaven, and that such faith in Christ truly obtains and receives the forgiveness of sins,” and, “Our
15 people are taught that they should highly prize the Absolution as being God’s voice and pronounced
16 by God’s command—when the pastor absolves us—that is, says, “I forgive you all your sins”—he
17 speaks with Christ’s authority and on His behalf” [Explanation of the Small Catechism 2017, pages
18 309–310]; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Our Lutheran Confessions include Confession and Absolution as one of our Sacraments,
21 considering it “the third Sacrament”, [Apology to the Augsburg Confession Article XIII, paragraph 4],
22 “Now Baptism, the Eucharist, and Absolution are true Sacraments; for they are commanded of God,
23 and have the promise of grace, which in reality belongs to, and is the New Testament;” therefore be
24 it
25

26 **Resolved**, That the congregations and pastors of the Michigan District esteem and regularly practice
27 Confession and Absolution in their Services; and be it further
28

29 **Resolved**, That the officiants of said Services treat reverently the general confession of the
30 congregation, allowing opportunities for examination and sincerity among the congregants, as well as
31 speak reverently the comforting words of Absolution, just as they speak during the administration of
32 Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, allowing the congregants to receive the words of Absolution gladly
33 and gratefully; and be it finally
34

35 **Resolved**, That the words of the Confession of sins and Absolution be regularly used from our LCMS
36 approved hymnals, to the end that such regular repetition implants the words firmly into the memory
37 of each congregant, available for times of crisis when meaningful and comforting words are needed.
38

39 Submitted by: St. Joseph Circuit, #43

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-03
3 SUBJECT: Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states in Article II of its constitution:
7

8 Article II Confession

9 The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

- 10 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule
11 and norm of faith and of practice;
- 12 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated
13 statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles'
14 Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the
15 Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the
16 Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord; therefore be it

17
18 **Resolved**, That the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined solely by the Scriptures and Lutheran
19 Confessions; and be it further

20
21 **Resolved**, That the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that adds moral, ethical,
22 cultural, legal, or political requirements or preferences to the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but
23 first and foremost according to article IV of the Augsburg Confession: “Our churches teach that
24 people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or words. People are freely
25 justified for Christ’s sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that
26 their sins are forgiven for Christ’s sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God
27 counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 and 4)”; and be it further

28
29 **Resolved**, That the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that uses traditions and rites
30 as the primary foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but according to article VII of the
31 Augsburg Confession: “The Church is the congregation of the saints in which the Gospel is purely
32 taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church it is enough
33 to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. It is not
34 necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same
35 everywhere. As Paul says, ‘One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all’ (Ephesians
36 4:5-6)”; and be it further

37
38 **Resolved**, That the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that venerates Martin Luther
39 or places Lutheranism in a particular ethnic category, but according to the Large Catechism: “This we
40 ask [Thy Kingdom come], both in order that we who have accepted it may remain faithful and grow
41 daily in it and in order that it may gain recognition and followers among other people and advance
42 with power throughout the world. So we pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, many may come into the
43 kingdom of grace and become partakers of salvation...” (LC, The Lord’s Prayer, 52); and be it further

44
45 **Resolved**, That the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined not in a manner that limits Christian freedom
46 in matters of organization and practices, but according to article XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession:
47 “It is necessary that the doctrine of Christian freedom be preserved in the churches. In other words,
48 the bondage of the Law is not necessary in order to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the
49 Galatians, ‘do not submit again to a yoke of slavery’ (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the
50 Gospel to be preserved, namely that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain
51 observances or acts of worship devised by people...It is proper to keep such ordinances just so long

1 as consciences are not burdened to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if
2 they are changed without offending others” (51, 52, 56), and according to article X of the Formula of
3 Concord, Solid Declaration: “As soon as Christian freedom is weakened and human traditions are
4 forced on the Church with coercion, as though it were wrong and a sin to omit them, the way is
5 already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human traditions are multiplied and regarded as divine
6 worship, not only equal to God’s ordinances, but even placed above them” (15); and be it further
7

8 ***Resolved***, That the term “Lutheran Identity” be defined and affirmed as adherence to the Scriptures
9 and Lutheran Confessions alone, understanding that “the churches will not condemn one another
10 because of differences in ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one has less or more of them” (FC
11 SD X 31), and rejoicing in the Evangelical Lutheran foundation of grace alone, faith alone, Scripture
12 alone, and Christ alone as the foundation of the Lutheran confession; and be it finally
13

14 ***Resolved***, That all policies and bylaws of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod regarding “Lutheran
15 Identity,” including “Lutheran Identity and Mission Outcomes Standards,” be examined and brought
16 into conformity with the Scriptures and the Confessions mentioned above.
17

18 Submitted by: Holland Circuit, #39
19 Grace, Coopersville, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-04
3 SUBJECT: Lutheran Identity
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, According to the Confessions of our church, "Lutheran Identity" is centered in what we
7 believe, teach, and confess namely; Christ alone, Grace alone, Faith alone, and the Scriptures alone;
8 and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Augsburg Convention Article VII. [THE CHURCH] DECLARES, "...It is enough to agree
11 concerning the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments. It is not necessary
12 that human traditions or rites and ceremonies, instituted by men, should be alike everywhere. It is as
13 Paul says, "One faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all," etc. (Eph. 4:5, 6).¹ ACVII; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The constitution of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod [*LCMS Handbook – 2023*
16 *Update Edition*] clearly states in Article II entitled "Confession" that, "**The Synod, and every member**
17 **of the Synod, accepts without reservation:** 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as
18 the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice; 2. All the Symbolical
19 Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of
20 the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the
21 Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the
22 Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of
23 Concord;" and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, The constitution of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod [*LCMS Handbook – 2023*
26 *Update Edition*] in Article V "Membership" already requires that, "Membership in the Synod is held
27 and may be acquired by congregations and individuals, ministers of religion – ordained and
28 ministers of religion – commissioned, of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who confess and accept
29 the confessional basis of Article II;" and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, "Lutheran Identity" as applied by a recent CUA Task force report, seems to be measured
32 as much by externals such as specific symbols, artifacts, liturgy, worship styles and resources,
33 clerical dress and human actions as by the pure teaching of the Gospel and the right administration
34 of the sacraments; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, Such focus on externals in defining and applying "Lutheran Identity" runs the risk at the
37 least of diverting attention from the essential ministry of the Gospel and at worst replacing the very
38 Gospel itself with a new "Law" that seeks to enforce uniformity in outward practice; and
39

40 **WHEREAS**, LIMOS (Lutheran Identity and Mission outcome standards) as godly and edifying as the
41 practices they identify may be; when used to correct, admonish, or even require conformity to stated
42 standards of "Lutheran Identity" contained within it conflict with what is taught in our Lutheran
43 Confessions; be it therefore
44

45 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District place before the 2026 Synodical convention a resolution
46 reaffirming the definition of "Lutheran Identity" as already listed in the Scriptures, Our Lutheran
47 Confessions and Synodical Constitution namely that:

48 (1) Lutheran Identity is found in the right teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the
49 Sacraments not in the uniformity of human rights, ceremonies or traditions instituted by men

¹ Tappert, T. G. (1959). [*The Augsburg Confession: Translated from the Latin*](#) (p. 32). Fortress Press.

- 1 (2) Lutheran Identity is found in the acceptance of The Scriptures of the Old and the New
- 2 Testament as the written inerrant Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of
- 3 practice
- 4 (3) Lutheran identity is found in the acceptance of all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical
- 5 Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God
- 6
- 7 Submitted by: Holy Cross, Flushing, MI
- 8 Flint South Circuit, #12

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-05
3 SUBJECT: To Give a Clear Definition of What Lutheran Identity Is
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The term Lutheran identity is used without having a concrete definition, nor having
7 Scriptural or Confessional references; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) is united on Lutheran identity; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, The sinful nature of man's corruption permeates us to look inward; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, In the absence of a definition various interpretations and meanings are created; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, In the absence of a definition it could lead our congregations, our schools, and our
16 associations to be confused about what it means to be Lutheran; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Without a definition of Lutheran identity it could be used as a reason to shut down
19 congregations, and institutions for not being "Lutheran enough;" and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Without a clear definition it could lead to micromanaging ceremonies and rites; leaving no
22 Christian liberty for cultural circumstances, demographics, spectrum disorders, diversities,
23 challenges, and those in persecution; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, Without a concrete definition it could be used inappropriately, unethically, unjustly,
26 tyrannically, and unloving; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, It has led to staying true to God's Word versus loving our neighbor; and
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Martin Luther states, "For in the absence of love doctrine cannot remain pure; nor can
31 hearts be held together in unity (Luther's works, v. 24: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John);"
32 therefore be it
33

34 **Resolved**, We, the LCMS, strive to keep love in our doctrine and practice so our hearts can be held in
35 unity (Colossians 3:14, 1 Corinthians 13), hold Lutheran identity stands as this, we believe and
36 confess...
37

38 ...that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9).
39

40 ...that the Old and New Testaments are God's inspired Word and the only infallible rule of faith and
41 practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
42

43 ...that the Book of Concord (The Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed, the
44 Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise
45 on the Power and Primacy of the Pope, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the
46 Formula of Concord), is the true exposition of Holy Scripture and doctrine.

1 ...that in the means of grace (the Word of God, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper) God hands out His
2 forgiveness to us (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 14:22-25, John 20:22-23).
3
4 ...that the theology of the cross is paramount over the theology of glory¹ in practice (e.g.
5 ceremonies, rituals, styles); thus, the focus is on Jesus, who is present in the Word and the
6 Sacraments (Isaiah 29:13, Isaiah 53, John 13:31-32, 17:1-5, AC Article; XV and XXIV, 28-29).
7
8 ...that the difference in ceremonies, order of service, or music (whether classical to modern songs),
9 affirms Lutheran identity is based on God's Word and Sacraments, not man-made rules or styles
10 (Colossians 2:13-19, Isaiah 29:13).
11
12 ...that Lutheran theology is not about either staying true to God's Word or showing love for our
13 neighbor, but both staying true to God's Word and loving our neighbor, for if we do not love our
14 neighbor where they are in life then we are not staying true to God's Word (Matthew 22:37-40,
15 Luther's works, v. 24: Sermons on the Gospel of St. John)".
16
17 ...that Lutheran theology is for everyone, not just Lutherans (Psalms 105:1-4, Matthew 28:19-20,
18 Mark 13:10, 16:15, Luke 24:46-48).
19
20 ...that our churches reflect the diversity of people we serve (e.g. rural, inner cities, large or small
21 churches) and strive to practice God's Word in our context knowing all practices, unintentionally,
22 tends to amplify certain doctrines over other (Colossians 2:13-19, Matthew 15:1-9).
23
24 ...that unity does not mean uniformity (1 Corinthians 10:31-32, Colossians 2:16-19).
25
26 Submitted by: St. Mark Lutheran, Saginaw, MI

¹ The theology of the cross recognizes sin and suffering and relies on God's grace, which points to the cross, and resurrection of Christ. Whereas the theology of glory focuses on doing more in our efforts and practice to reach, obtain, lead, or make valid God's grace or favor. (Forde's, Gerhard, On Being a Theologian of the Cross: Reflections on Luther's Heidelberg Disputation, 1518)

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2-06
3 SUBJECT: To Pause and Correct the Deficiencies in the *Lutheran Identity*
4 *and Mission Outcomes Standards*
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The purpose of *Lutheran Identity and Mission Outcomes Standards* (LIMOS) was to find
8 Lutheran identity for accreditation in mission and outreach; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Those involved diligently and in great effort of their time developed LIMOS to improve the
11 mission and outreach of our Universities; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, We do not want those efforts to go to waste and have LIMOS fall short in reaching its
14 purpose; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, There are deficiencies and problems with various questions, such as:

- 17 • Lack of clarity, comprehension, and understanding in the definitions to prevent confusion.
18 (e.g. one term, “Lutheran Identity” is not defined, allowing the interviewer and interviewee to
19 define it in their own opinions and how they believe it should be applied).
- 20 • Jargon and other unclear vocabulary are present. (e.g. the word high Christology, does not
21 state the standard of how high. Including the words, “To transmit Lutheran values more
22 effectively” but does not define who and what values need to be transmitted?)
- 23 • There must be more than one plausible answer to the question. Yes and no questions, do not
24 give an accurate picture of the interviewee. (e.g. “Does the mission statement mention Jesus
25 Christ?” The answer could be no, but could say, “Lord and Savior”).
- 26 • The phrase, “explain” is used as a “catch-all” just in case the first answer is not what the
27 interviewer wanted, or the question is not worded correctly which creates a
28 misunderstanding.
- 29 • Word redundancy presents a few issues. (e.g. “mission statement, core identity statement,
30 and/or values and goals statements”).
 - 31 ○ It confuses and loses the original meaning of the words.
 - 32 ○ It creates a stream of consciousness in the participants to try to convince the
33 participants of a purpose that is not there or to pursue another area or idea.
 - 34 ○ It shows there is no clear understanding of where a phrase should be, so it is put in
35 multiple places “just in case,” because it lacks an understanding of the purpose.
- 36 • Inherited bias and assumptions are present. (e.g. “How is the commitment to the church’s
37 heritage and unity reflected in the use of liturgies, hymnals, and hymnody?” leaves the
38 assumption and bias of what the participants think is enough of the “heritage” to be
39 committed to. They can pick and choose the level of commitment based on how he/she feels
40 that day or skew the results because of a previous prejudice. It also begs for the ethical
41 question dilemma).
- 42 • Lack of checks and balances in the assessment to ensure an honest review (i.e. sources with
43 no gain or loss in the subject matter); and
44

45 **WHEREAS**, These problems and deficiencies create a lack of trust in how LIMOS could be used;
46 therefore be it

- 1 **Resolved**, Because of the problems in LIMOS, it should be withdrawn in its use until these issues are
2 addressed; and be it further
3
- 4 **Resolved**, That a review of LIMOS questions be done by research scholars, to improve and remedy the
5 issues in it; and be it further
6
- 7 **Resolved**, That the review and corrections be presented to the Concordia University System President,
8 the presidents of Concordia University Saint Paul, Concordia University Chicago, Concordia University
9 Nebraska, Concordia University California, Concordia University Wisconsin, and the Council of
10 Presidents; and be it finally
11
- 12 **Resolved**, That the review and corrections be made fully transparent to the members of the Lutheran
13 Church—Missouri Synod.
14
- 15 Submitted by: St. Mark Lutheran, Saginaw, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-07
3 SUBJECT: To Define and Affirm Lutheran Identity
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states in Article II of its constitution:
7

8 Article II Confession

9 The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

10 1. The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament as the written Word of God and the only
11 rule and norm of faith and of practice;

12 2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated
13 statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the
14 Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg
15 Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large
16 Catechism of Luther, the Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord.
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Lutheran Identity was used liberally and legalistically in the actions of the CUW Regents in
19 the 'reimagining' of Concordia Ann Arbor; therefore be it

20
21 **Resolved**, That the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined solely by the Scriptures and Lutheran
22 Confessions; and be it further

23
24 **Resolved**, That the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that adds moral, ethical,
25 cultural, legal, or political requirements or preferences to the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but
26 first and foremost according to article IV of the Augsburg Confession: "Our churches teach that
27 people cannot be justified before God by their own strength, merits, or words. People are freely
28 justified for Christ's sake, through faith, when they believe that they are received into favor and that
29 their sins are forgiven for Christ's sake. By His death, Christ made satisfaction for our sins. God
30 counts this faith for righteousness in His sight (Romans 3 and 4)"; and be it further
31

32 **Resolved**, That the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that uses traditions and rites
33 as the primary foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran confession, but according to article VII of the
34 Augsburg Confession: "The Church is the congregation of the saints in which the Gospel is purely
35 taught and the Sacraments are correctly administered. For the true unity of the Church it is enough
36 to agree about the doctrine of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments. It is not
37 necessary that human traditions, that is, rites or ceremonies instituted by men, should be the same
38 everywhere. As Paul says, 'One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all' (Ephesians
39 4:5-6)"; and be it further
40

41 **Resolved**, That the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that venerates Martin Luther
42 or places Lutheranism in a particular ethnic category, but according to the Large Catechism: "This we
43 ask [Thy Kingdom come], both in order that we who have accepted it may remain faithful and grow
44 daily in it and in order that it may gain recognition and followers among other people and advance
45 with power throughout the world. So we pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, many may come into the
46 kingdom of grace and become partakers of salvation..." (LC, The Lord's Prayer, 52); and be it further
47

48 **Resolved**, That the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined not in a manner that limits Christian freedom
49 in matters of organization and practices, but according to article XXVIII of the Augsburg Confession:
50 "It is necessary that the doctrine of Christian freedom be preserved in the churches. In other words,
51 the bondage of the Law is not necessary in order to be justified, as it is written in the Epistle to the

1 Galatians, 'do not submit again to a yoke of slavery' (5:1). It is necessary for the chief article of the
2 Gospel to be preserved, namely that we obtain grace freely by faith in Christ, and not by certain
3 observances or acts of worship devised by people...It is proper to keep such ordinances just so long
4 as consciences are not burdened to think that they are necessary to salvation, or to regard it as sin if
5 they are changed without offending others" (51, 52, 56), and according to article X of the Formula of
6 Concord, Solid Declaration: "As soon as Christian freedom is weakened and human traditions are
7 forced on the Church with coercion, as though it were wrong and a sin to omit them, the way is
8 already prepared for idolatry. In this way, human traditions are multiplied and regarded as divine
9 worship, not only equal to God's ordinances, but even placed above them" (15); and be it further
10
11 **Resolved,** That the term "Lutheran Identity" be defined and affirmed as adherence to the Scriptures
12 and Lutheran Confessions alone, understanding that "the churches will not condemn one another
13 because of differences in ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one has less or more of them" (FC
14 SD X 31), and rejoicing in the Evangelical Lutheran foundation of grace alone, faith alone, Scripture
15 alone, and Christ alone as the foundation of the Lutheran confession; and be it finally
16
17 **Resolved,** That if adopted, this Overture is memorialized and sent onto Synod for the 2026 Synodical
18 Convention.
19
20 Submitted by: Immanuel, Grand Rapids, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-08
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage Young People to Enter Church Worker
4 Vocations
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord states that, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few,” and commands
8 his church to “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”
9 (Matt. 9:37-38); and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has a long, rich history of educating men and women
12 towards church work vocations that continues to this day; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, There is an apparent dearth of young people seeking to enter church work vocations,
15 especially Lutheran School Teachers and Pastors; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, Most church workers attribute their vocational decisions to mentors and other church
18 work leaders throughout their lives; therefore be it

19
20 **Resolved**, That each and every church worker in the Michigan District be encouraged to set a goal of
21 encouraging at least one individual per year towards professional church worker training; and be it
22 further

23
24 **Resolved**, That every congregation in the Michigan District seek to support both in encouragement
25 and finances the sending of young people to such institutions as train these workers; and be it
26 further

27
28 **Resolved**, That every educational institution of the Michigan District be urged and encouraged to
29 require its teachers to complete the Synod’s colloquy program; and be it further

30
31 **Resolved**, That every church worker be encouraged to conduct oneself in word and deed in such a
32 way that actively (and passively) encourages young people to seek church work vocations; and be it
33 finally

34
35 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District memorialize the Synod in convention to adopt a similar
36 resolution.

37
38 Submitted by: Bay City Circuit, #6

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-09
3 SUBJECT: To Condemn Abortion In the State of Michigan
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Mankind is created in the Image of God (Gen. 1:27); and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, God commands his people not to murder (Ex. 20:13); and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, A human life begins at conception, when a living sperm and living egg combine to create a
11 unique living individual; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Abortion in all forms is the cessation of human life outside of the judicial order of corporal
14 punishment; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The residents of the State of Michigan, using the national overturning of *Roe v. Wade* as a
17 catalyst, proposed and voted for the *Reproductive Freedom for All* to be enshrined into the state
18 constitution in 2022; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Said constitutional policy not only allows for a radical increase in access to abortion in
21 Michigan, but also opens other problematic legal precedents such as the erasure of parental
22 consent and the absence of data tracking that informs citizens of the number of abortions
23 occurring in the state; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, Many church workers and congregation members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
26 have been reluctant to speak openly about this issue within ecclesial settings, likely contributing to
27 the passage of these and other public policies; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Abortion is a moral issue and not simply a political distinction; therefore be it
30

31 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention condemn abortion in all forms during any period
32 of pregnancy, including by chemical means (e.g. levonorgestrel pills, ulipristal acetate pills, and other
33 pills and devices that are advertised as contraceptives yet carry abortifacient qualities); and be it
34 further
35

36 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District and their members be encouraged to
37 support publicly such services and organizations that seek to prevent abortions and care for
38 mothers and fathers (e.g. Lutherans for Life, Right to Life, Embrace Grace, Rachel's Vineyard, etc.);
39 and be it further
40

41 **Resolved**, That the congregations of the Michigan District and their members acknowledge that
42 supporting anti-abortion legislation both in word and deed (i.e. ballot measures, petition signings,
43 Life Sundays, etc.) does not in itself transgress any regulations regarding church involvement in the
44 political realm; and be it further
45

46 **Resolved**, That the Synod in Convention be memorialized to proffer this overture, expanding its
47 whereas to include other states; and be it further
48

49 **Resolved**, That at its passage this resolution be sent to the Michigan legislature with an
50 accompanying letter from the District Board of Directors expressing our belief in the sanctity of

1 human life; and be it finally

2

3 ***Resolved,*** That at its passage the Michigan District in convention observe a moment of silence
4 followed by a prayer of lament for the millions of human beings killed by abortion in Michigan.

5

6 Submitted by: Bay City Circuit, #6

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-10
3 SUBJECT: Closed Communion
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The Sacrament of the Altar is “the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the
6 bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink” (Small Catechism
7 VI); and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul teaches that whoever “eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an
10 unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine
11 himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without
12 discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself” (1 Corinthians 11:27-29); and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, To receive the Lord’s Supper in a congregation is a confession of faith and a sign of
15 fellowship with all those who commune, as St. Paul writes, “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it
16 not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body
17 of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one
18 bread” (1 Corinthians 10:16-17); and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, St. Paul identifies pastors as “stewards of the mysteries of God” (1 Corinthians 4:1) and
21 St. Peter exhorts pastors to “shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight” (1
22 Peter 4:2); and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in convention has approved and encouraged many
25 times the practice of closed communion (see 2019 Res. 4-11A); and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in convention has acknowledged that “the practice
28 of inviting all baptized believers who merely affirm the real presence while neglecting to address the
29 necessity of unity of confession, is not consistent with the biblical and confessional position of the
30 Synod” (see 2013 Res. 4-10); and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, The District Presidents of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod are to “exercise
33 supervision over the doctrine, life, and administration of office of the ordained and commissioned
34 ministers of their district” (Synod Constitution, Article XII 7) and “see to it that all resolutions of the
35 Synod which concern the districts are made known to the districts and are carried out by them”
36 (Synod Constitution, Article XII 9.a); and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in convention approved “that the district president
39 be encouraged to address the congregation’s administration of the Lord’s Supper in his visits” and
40 “that those practices which are not in harmony with the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions be
41 addressed fraternally and evangelically” (see 2013 Res. 4-10); therefore be it
42

43 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention recognize the Scriptural and practical necessity of
44 practicing closed communion; and be it further
45

46 **Resolved**, That all pastors in the Michigan District faithfully practice closed communion in their
47 congregations; and be it finally
48

49 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District President see to it that all pastors in the district practice closed
50 communion, in accordance with 2013 Resolution 4-10.

1 Submitted by: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairgrove, MI
2 Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt, MI
3 St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Johns, MI
4 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City, MI
5 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI
6 Circuit Forum of Thumb West Circuit, #8

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Doctrine
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 2-11
3 SUBJECT: To put Confessional Subscription Into Practice During
4 Upcoming Triennium
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Confessions are in accord with the Word of God; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The ordained clergy of our congregations have made these confessions their own; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The ordained clergy of our congregations have made a solemn promise before God and
11 man to “perform the duties of [their] office in accordance with these Confessions, and that all [their]
12 preaching and teaching and [their] administration of the Sacraments will be in conformity with Holy
13 Scripture and these Confessions;” and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, In these last days of this transitory world, many false and misleading doctrines have been
16 introduced and have crept into our land; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The answers to the questions of our day concerning “Lutheran Identity” are certainly to be
19 found in the Lutheran Confessions; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, It is good and pleasant when brothers dwell in unity (Psalm133:1) and true unity is found
22 in agreement with the Will of the Father and the teaching of His Son (Matthew 12:50, John 6:40);
23 and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting to remember the 450th anniversary of the publication of the Formula of
26 Concord during the upcoming triennium; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, Synod in convention adopted Resolution 6-07A, “To Recommend and Implement
29 Rigorous Program of Study in Circuit *Winkels*;” therefore be it
30

31 **Resolved**, That The Lutheran Confessions be encouraged and promoted as devotional aids and study
32 materials for the people of our district by our district officials; and be it further
33

34 **Resolved**, That the Spring Regional Pastors Conferences of 2027 A.D. be devoted to the study of the
35 Formula of Concord for the edification of our ministry and to the honor of those who wrote and
36 subscribed to this blessed confession 450 years ago; and be it finally
37

38 **Resolved**, That, each circuit in our district, in preparation for these conferences and in accordance
39 with Synodical Resolution 6-07A, devote significant time and effort during their *Winkels* in the first
40 half of 2027 A.D. to the study of the Formula of Concord.
41

42 Submitted by: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairgrove, MI
43 St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Johns, MI
44 Hope Lutheran Church, DeWitt, MI
45 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cass City, MI
46 St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI
47 Circuit Forum of Thumb West Circuit, #8

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-01
3 SUBJECT: To Express Lament, Sympathy and Thanks Regarding
4 Concordia University Ann Arbor
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The congregations and people of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
8 Synod have treasured a close relationship with Concordia University Ann Arbor since its founding in
9 1963; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor merged in 2013 with
12 Concordia University, Wisconsin taking on financial responsibility; and the Districts surrounding
13 Concordia University, Ann Arbor, including the English District, as well as the Michigan District Church
14 Extension Fund, all contributed financial support; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, Plans approved in 2024 have substantially and materially reduced operations of the Ann
17 Arbor campus; and that despite the heroic efforts by President David Davis, the Michigan District
18 Board of Directors, many donors and others to delay drastic changes so that better plans might be
19 explored and implemented; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, These changes have resulted in the loss of employment for a number of staff, negatively
22 impacted students and their family, caused anger and distrust of Synod and the university's
23 leadership among alumni and many others, and damaged the once close and treasured relationship
24 between Concordia University Ann Arbor with the congregations and people of the Michigan District;
25 therefore be it

26
27 **Resolved**, The congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod here
28 in convention express lament over the actions of President Erik Ankerberg and the majority of the
29 Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor; and be it further

30
31 **Resolved**, The congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod here
32 in convention express our sympathy with the many that have been adversely affected by these
33 actions; and be it further

34
35 **Resolved**, The congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod here
36 in convention express thanks to President David Davis, the Board of Directors, the many donors, and
37 others who worked behind the scenes for their valiant effort to keep the Ann Arbor campus materially
38 the same, while addressing the issues; and be it finally

39
40 **Resolved**, The congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod here
41 in convention express gratitude to the faithful staff of Concordia University Ann Arbor, notably former
42 Vice President of Administration Ryan Peterson and Campus Chaplain Randy Duncan.

43
44
45 Submitted by: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-02
3 SUBJECT: To Express Lament, Sympathy and Thanks Regarding
4 Concordia University Ann Arbor
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The congregations and people of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
8 Synod have treasured a close relationship with Concordia University Ann Arbor since its founding in
9 1963; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia University Ann Arbor merged in 2013 with
12 Concordia University, Wisconsin taking on financial responsibility; and the Districts surrounding
13 Concordia University, Ann Arbor, including the English District, as well as the Michigan District Church
14 Extension Fund, all contributed financial support; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, The intent as described by former Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor
17 President Patrick Ferry was “not to see us as two universities, but to see us as Concordia... one heart
18 together... one university with two distinct wonderful residential campuses” (“In the Room Where it
19 Happens,” spring 2023); and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Ann Arbor was listed as one of the fastest growing private colleges in
22 the state of Michigan, with the 2024–25 school year on track to be the highest enrollment in its
23 history; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, The majority of the Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor
26 approved in 2024 President Erik Ankerberg’s plans that have substantially and materially reduced
27 operations of the Ann Arbor campus; and that despite the heroic efforts by President David Davis,
28 the Michigan District Board of Directors, many donors and others to delay drastic changes so that
29 better plans might be explored and implemented; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, These changes have adversely effected enrollment, hurt the public reputation of
32 Concordia University Ann Arbor, resulted in the loss of employment for a number of staff, negatively
33 impacted students and their family, caused anger and distrust of Synod and the university’s
34 leadership among alumni and many others, and damaged the once close and treasured relationship
35 between Concordia University Ann Arbor with the congregations and people of the Michigan District;
36 therefore be it

37
38 **Resolved**, The congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod here
39 in convention express lament over the actions of President Erik Ankerberg and the majority of the
40 Board of Regents of Concordia University Wisconsin and Ann Arbor; and be it further

41
42 **Resolved**, The congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod here
43 in convention express our sympathy with the many that have been adversely affected by these
44 actions; and be it further

45
46 **Resolved**, The congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod here
47 in convention express thanks to President David Davis, the Board of Directors, the many donors, and
48 others who worked behind the scenes for their valiant effort to keep the Ann Arbor campus materially
49 the same, while addressing the issues; and be it finally

1 ***Resolved,*** The congregations of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod here
2 in convention express gratitude to the faithful staff of Concordia University Ann Arbor, notably former
3 Vice President of Administration Ryan Peterson and Campus Chaplain Randy Duncan.

4

5

6 Submitted by: Kensington Circuit, #26

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-03
3 SUBJECT: To Support and Clarify the Prior Approval Process
4
5

6 **Rationale**

7 Since the 2013 Convention, appointments to theological faculties at all universities and
8 seminaries, as well as all college, university, and seminary presidential appointments, have been
9 subject to the prior approval process. While the convention in 2013 amended the bylaws to delegate
10 the responsibility for prior approval to specific groups (see bylaws referenced below) the bylaws did
11 not, and still do not, stipulate how the process of prior approval should be carried out. Over time this
12 has led to questions as to the standards used to evaluate candidates as well as the process utilized
13 by the prior approval panels. In the hopes of building trust and relieving any undue criticism of the
14 panels and the process, the following overture aims to increase transparency for the process and
15 standards used by the panels as well as ensuring clear communication between the panels, the
16 candidates, and the Synod.

17
18 **WHEREAS**, One of the expressed purposes of Synod is to “recruit and train pastors, teachers, and
19 other professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continuing growth” (Art. III.3);
20 and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, Synod has the responsibility to oversee that training; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, Synod has designated that responsibility to the prior approval panels outlined in various
25 bylaws (3.6.6.1, 3.10.5.7.3, 3.10.6.8.2, 3.10.6.9.2); and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, Those panels have responsibility not only to work in behalf of the Synod but also are
28 responsible to the Synod; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, Those under consideration for theological professorships and other such positions as
31 require prior approval have ordinarily been ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry or have been
32 commissioned and/or consecrated into an auxiliary office of the Church; and

33
34 **WHEREAS**, Those under consideration for aforementioned positions have also been examined and
35 approved for service on the roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and

36
37 **WHEREAS**, Those individual members of Synod have, by virtue of their membership in the Synod,
38 agreed to the confessional basis as outlined in Art. II, as well as recognize and affirm the validity of
39 Bylaws 1.6–1.8; therefore be it

40
41 **Resolved**, That the District in convention give thanks to the Lord of the Church for using the Synod
42 and its agencies to preserve and enlarge the workers of the harvest; and be it further

43
44 **Resolved**, That District in convention give thanks to those engaged in the various prior approval
45 processes for being engaged in difficult and important work; and be it further

46
47 **Resolved**, That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to do the same; and be it
48 further

1 **Resolved,** That District in convention memorialize the Synod to require that process used by the
2 various panel to carry out the responsibility entrusted to it by the Synod be made transparent and
3 publicly available; and be it further
4

5 **Resolved,** That District in convention memorialize the Synod to stipulate that unless those under
6 consideration by the prior approval panels are found to be in violation of their ordination,
7 commissioning, consecration, or installation vows that their approval be assumed; and be it further
8

9 **Resolved,** That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate that if those
10 under consideration are thought to be in violation, that the candidate be given every opportunity to
11 clarify their position to the panel; and be it finally
12

13 **Resolved,** That District in convention memorialize the Synod in convention to stipulate that if such a
14 violation be found that the panel would, with the appropriate District President as that individual's
15 ecclesiastical supervisor, engage in the appropriate processes to restore the erring brother or sister
16 so that one deemed unworthy to teach at one of the Synod's institutions not be permitted to remain
17 on the roster or serve a congregation and thus lead that congregation to err or become out of step
18 with Synod.
19

20 Submitted by: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI
21 Ann Arbor Circuit, #29

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-04
3 SUBJECT: A Call for Concordia University Wisconsin Ann Arbor Leadership
4 to Accountability and Repentance
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA), was founded in 1963 by The Lutheran Church—
8 Missouri Synod (LCMS), and since 2013 has been governed by the CUWAA Board of Regents; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, On Feb 8, 2024 a majority of the CUWAA Board of Regents (BOR) voted to unilaterally take
11 action and President Ankerberg announced in a Feb 13 email to significantly reduce operations, enact
12 staff reductions and dispose of property, facilities and equipment; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the Eighth Commandment requires truthfulness in all our dealings with others, and the
15 Ninth and Tenth Commandments protect us from all evil desires which lead to the breaking of all the
16 other commandments; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The May 31, 2024 from the CUWAA Task Force Report states, “In the first week of April, the
19 Subcommittee contacted the Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana District Presidents, the English District
20 Bishop, the LCMS Board of Directors, the Concordia University System Board, and the Michigan District
21 Extension Fund, to determine (a) whether, and to what extent, each entity would be willing to make an
22 initial “launch” contribution toward an independent CUAA by December 31, 2024, and (b) whether,
23 and to what extent, each entity would be willing to commit to ongoing annual support for an
24 independent CUAA. Per the Resolution, other CUS schools were not approached to serve as financial
25 partners for the Ann Arbor campus (p. 24);” and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Mr. James Saalfeld, CEO of MI District CEF, wrote on June 14, 2024 in his CEO Update,
28 “The report then states CEF failed to respond to this inquiry. This is not true. First, CEF was never
29 contacted as alleged in the report. Second, CEF’s rich history of supporting CUAA makes the
30 implication that CEF was indifferent without merit.” (<https://mi-cef.org/news/List/CEO-Update>); and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the Ohio District Board of Directors of the LCMS wrote to the CUWAA Board (June 14,
33 2024), “No dialogue with the Ohio District President or Board of Directors ever occurred. While
34 Michigan may have responded affirmatively, Ohio did not have the opportunity to consider it.”
35 (https://oh.lcms.org/images/documents/BOD/2024-06-14-OH-BOD_RESPONSE-LTR-CUWAA.pdf); and
36

37 **WHEREAS**, Follow-up correspondence in July 2024 with all parties indicate that all hold to their
38 previous statements or have no further comment; therefore be it
39

40 **Resolved**, That the CUWAA Board of Regents and responsible Administrators be held to account for the
41 above false statement and libel, by repenting in writing to all MI-CEF and Ohio District constituents
42 confessing the sin and admitting the defamation of reputation of the harmed; and be it further
43

44 **Resolved**, That the President of Synod, the Presidents of Ohio and Michigan Districts and the CEO of
45 the MI-CEF stand prepared to grant holy absolution at the appropriate Synodical and District
46 Conventions to the CUWAA Board Officers and President who state their repentance and desire to
47 relate in forthright honesty with one another; and be it finally
48

49 **Resolved** That the CUS oversee the CUWAA Board initiate a good faith effort by September 2025 to
50 rebuild trust and confidence among its disenfranchised supporters and the effort be widely publicized
51 to the Synod via the LCMS Reporter, and Concordia Wisconsin social media and printed
52 communication venues.
53

54 Submitted by: Grand Rapids Northeast Circuit, #40
55 Grand Rapids Southwest Circuit, #41
56 Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI
57 Trinity Lutheran Church, Muskegon, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-05
3 SUBJECT: To Restore Autonomy to Concordia University Ann Arbor
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, On September 30, 1962, Lutherans from across Michigan gathered on the grounds of the
7 former Earhart estate in Ann Arbor to install the cornerstone of a building that would soon become
8 the centerpiece of a new college. The motto inscribed on the cornerstone, "That in All Things Christ
9 Might Have Preeminence"; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Lutheran Junior College, later Concordia College and now Concordia University
12 Ann Arbor opened in 1963 with 236 students and 24 instructors; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Through its years many have been trained and faithfully served the Church as pastors,
15 teachers, organists, family life ministers and faithful lay leaders including district presidents
16 and synodical officers; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, In 1976 CUAA (then Concordia College) replaced the Senior College for training pre-
19 ministerial students; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, There is a great and growing need for servants of Christ and His Body, the Church as
22 witnessed by synod's current *Set Apart to Serve*, the LCMS church work recruitment initiative;
23 and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, CUAA is located in the largest district of the LCMS and is close to other large districts
26 with a number of Lutheran high schools; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District was able in a short time to raise over \$3,500,000 in pledges of
29 support for continuing full programs for the 2024-25 academic year; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, Under the partnership with CUW much was spent for major renovations and
32 enhancements to the CUAA campus including to residence halls, the student union, athletic
33 fields, and the dining hall; and

34
35 **WHEREAS**, Additional academic programs, campus improvements and recruitment efforts
36 resulted in CUAA becoming one of the fastest growing colleges in the Midwest reaching 1081
37 students for the 2017-18 academic year and 1359 students for 2022-23; and

38
39 **WHEREAS**, Cuts in programs during the 2024-25 academic year and more planned for the
40 following year quickly and dramatically reduced the student population; therefore be it

41
42 **Resolved**, That the president of CUW and its Board of Regents, the CUS and any other concerned
43 entity work toward an autonomous CUAA at its original (south) campus; and be it further

44
45 **Resolved**, That work be done to immediately restore pre-ministerial, Lutheran teachers diploma
46 and church music programs; and be it further

47
48 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District working with the Michigan District Church Extension Fund and
49 other synodical districts, especially the English District, the Ohio District and the Indiana District,
50 develop plans for funding CUAA; and be it further

- 1 ***Resolved,*** That those districts work to encourage enrollment in church worker programs at CUAA
2 along with other programs of interest; and be it further
3
4 ***Resolved,*** That an autonomous CUAA work with CUW in providing classes, housing and spiritual care for
5 students of the medical (north) campus; and be it finally
6
7 ***Resolved,*** That this overture from the 2025 Michigan District Convention be brought before the 2026
8 synodical convention.
9
10 Submitted by: St. Joseph Circuit, #43

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-06
3 SUBJECT: To Seek Historic Site Designation for the Chapel of the Holy
4 Trinity of CUAA
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, On September 30, 1962, Lutherans from across Michigan gathered on the grounds of
8 the former Earhart estate in Ann Arbor (which includes Earhart Manor, a designated historic
9 site) to install the cornerstone of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, This cornerstone bears the motto for Concordia, “That in All Things Christ Might Have
12 Preeminence”; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Sunday school students across the Michigan District collected coins in chapel banks to
15 fund the pipe organ for the chapel; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The stained glass windows of the chapel bear witness to the Trinity and were
18 produced by the studio of Gabriel Loire of Chartres, France; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, The Chapel of the Holy Trinity has stood for over 60 years as a landmark along the
21 Huron River and has hosted worship and cultural events for the college, the Church and the
22 community; therefore be it
23

24 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District Convention support the seeking of Historic Site Designation
25 for the Chapel of the Holy Trinity of CUAA; and be it further
26

27 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District Convention supports the establishment of a preservation
28 organization, which shall be organized by the Michigan District Board of Directors by the end of
29 the 2025 calendar year, to apply for Historic Site Designation and to support its preservation;
30 and be it finally
31

32 **Resolved**, That interested people, including delegates of this convention, school alumni,
33 students and parents be invited to join this preservation organization.
34

35 Submitted by: St. Joseph Circuit, #43

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-07
3 SUBJECT: Giving Thanks for Leaders who Developed CUW/CUAA
4 Partnership
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, In July 2013, a strategic partnership between Concordia University Ann Arbor and
8 Concordia University Wisconsin became official; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, under this partnership the CUAA campus underwent major renovations and
11 enhancements, including to residence halls, the student union, athletic fields, and the dining
12 hall; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, additional academic programs, campus improvements and recruitment efforts
15 resulted in CUAA becoming one of the fastest growing colleges in the Midwest reaching 1081
16 students for the 2017-18 academic year and 1359 students for 2022-23; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry, past president of CUW, and the Rev. Dr. David Maier, past
19 president of the Michigan District, were instrumental in developing this strategic partnership;
20 therefore be it
21

22 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District in convention give thanks to God for the benefits brought by
23 this partnership; and be it further
24

25 **Resolved**, they thank God especially for the work of Dr. Ferry, Dr. Maier and all others involved in
26 developing and carrying out this partnership; and be it finally
27

28 **Resolved**, that the assembly rise and join in singing the Doxology as an expression of thanksgiving.
29

30 Submitted by: St. Joseph Circuit, #43

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-08
3 SUBJECT: To Commend the Leadership who Helped CUAA Thrive for a
4 Decade
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, In November 2011, leaders from CUW, CUAA, Synod, the Michigan District, and Church
8 Extension Fund met on CUAA's campus to discuss a possible merger of CUW and CUAA to save CUAA
9 from closure and extinction; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The leaders involved were able to achieve that merger when the Higher Learning
11 Commission of North Central Association approved CUW's acquisition of CUAA, effective July 1,
12 2013; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, For over a decade this merger resulted in the flourishing of CUAA, with an expansion of
15 programs and facilities, record growth in enrollment, a greater community impact, and most
16 importantly the spiritual development of students in the Christian faith, resulting in numerous
17 students being converted and baptized through the work of the Holy Spirit, choosing church work
18 careers, and having a greater desire to embrace the Christian Faith and our Lutheran Confession;
19 and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, The CUW President Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry and Michigan District President David Maier had
22 an instrumental role in rallying others around the common vision for CUAA's flourishing, and Rev. Dr.
23 Ryan Peterson, in the role of Vice President for Administration at CUAA had an instrumental role in
24 carrying out that vision by leading the dedicated staff at the CUAA campus in partnership with those
25 at CUW supporting them; therefore be it
26

27 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in Convention give thanks to God for the mission and ministry of
28 Concordia University Ann Arbor since its founding in 1963, and especially for the years of flourishing
29 as a result of the merger with CUW; and be it further
30

31 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District in convention commend Rev. Dr. Patrick Ferry, Rev. Dr. David
32 Maier, and Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson for their remarkable efforts to see CUAA flourish for a decade, for
33 their communication of the vision and their encouragement and support of the many remarkable
34 staff who helped the merger take place, to the glory of God; and be it finally,
35

36 **Resolved**, That upon adoption of this resolution, the Michigan District in convention stand and give
37 thanks to God by applauding these three servants of the Word and all those who served CUAA during
38 the 10 years of the merger.
39

40 Submitted by: Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI
41

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-09
3 SUBJECT: To Strengthen our Process for Supporting our Concordias
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, at the 2022 Michigan District Convention, Resolution 2-0Sa was considered. It read (as
7 amended before it was voted on):
8

9 ***WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities have long been beloved and treasured
10 by the members and member congregations of The Lutheran Church—
11 Missouri Synod and a vital part of the communities in which they are
12 located; and*

13
14 ***WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities have historically been at the very
15 heart of our Synod’s stated identity and purpose {Synodical Constitution,
16 Article III Objectives (3) Recruit and train pastors, teachers and other
17 professional church workers and provide opportunity for their continued
18 growth; and (5) Aid congregations to develop processes of thorough
19 Christian education and nurture and to establish agencies of Christian
20 education such as elementary and secondary schools and to support
21 synodical colleges, universities, and seminaries}; and*

22
23 ***WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities not only exist to train professional
24 church workers but also to train Christian laymen and laywomen who will be
25 godly and influential leaders in their workplaces, communities, churches,
26 and families; and*

27
28 ***WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ calls His followers to be salt and light in the
29 world at large and not only in safe, homogeneous communities {Matthew
30 5:13-16}; and*

31
32 ***WHEREAS**, Our six remaining Concordia Universities (on seven residential
33 campuses) give our Synod a valuable foothold in increasingly diverse,
34 multicultural, and urban settings where the Church’s presence is in many
35 cases not especially prominent in the 21st century; and*

36
37 ***WHEREAS**, Our Concordia Universities, by their very existence, have the
38 potential to bring the mission field to our Synod’s doorstep and to provide
39 safe places for difficult theological and cultural issues to be openly and
40 honestly engaged; and*

41
42 ***WHEREAS**, three of our Concordia Colleges and Universities have
43 unfortunately closed their doors in recent years (Selma in 2018, Portland in
44 2020, and Bronxville in 2021); and*

45
46 ***WHEREAS**, Our Synod is filled with many generous givers and donors with
47 the means and/or the desire to lend needed financial support to our
48 Concordia Universities if called upon to do so; and*

49
50 ***WHEREAS**, Our God Himself is “able to do far more abundantly than all that*

1 we ask or think” (Ephesians 3:20), even though we may not always be
2 immediately able to identify a viable solution; therefore be it
3

4 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District investigate opportunities for how it can
5 provide support (prayer, church worker and other student recruitment,
6 financial, etc.) to help ensure the continuation of the residential campus of
7 Concordia University Ann Arbor {CUAA} located within its own District; and
8 be it finally
9

10 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District memorialize to the 2023 Synodical
11 Convention the previous Whereases and the following resolves:
12

13 **Resolved,** To affirm our commitment, as far as humanly possible, not to
14 allow any more of our remaining Concordia Universities to close their doors
15 before first exploring all possible avenues to assist them to remain open
16 and to continue to fulfill their missions; and be it further
17

18 **Resolved,** To instruct synodical leadership to refuse to take any future
19 action(s) with respect to our six remaining Concordia Universities without
20 being fully transparent with the professional church workers and the lay
21 membership of the entire Synod's congregations, namely, regarding any
22 course of action being considered, prior to any such course of action being
23 carried out, and without first giving the members and member
24 congregations of the Synod every opportunity to
25 respond to such a potential course of action in generosity and/or with
26 creativity; and be it finally
27

28 **Resolved,** To be encouraged to further unite behind a renewed commitment
29 to keep the doors of our six remaining Concordia Universities open as long
30 as our gracious God sees fit, to His glory, honor, and praise.
31

32 and
33

34 **WHEREAS,** This Resolution was addressed by the Synodical President as “canned, it has been going
35 around to a number of districts ... is false, contains material error” (minutes surrounding 2-05,
36 from the 2022 Michigan District convention proceedings, page 43); and
37

38 **WHEREAS,** This Resolution was subsequently defeated by the Convention. Then, sadly, eighteen
39 months later the majority of the CUW Board of Regents undertook the ‘reimagining’ of Concordia
40 Ann Arbor; therefore be it
41

42 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in convention recognizes that the actions of the majority of the
43 Board of Regents showed the need for the 2022 Resolution 2-0Sa; and be it finally
44

45 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District memorialize to the 2026 Synodical Convention the WHEREAS
46 statements listed in 2022 Resolution 2-0Sa with the following resolves:
47

48 **Resolved,** To affirm our commitment, as far as humanly possible, not to allow
49 any more of our remaining Concordia Universities to close their doors or
50 significantly reduce operations on a campus before first exploring all possible
51 avenues to assist them to remain open and to continue to fulfill their

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missions; and be it further

Resolved, That Administrations of Concordia University System schools should not ask newly elected Boards of Regents to undertake significant actions (such as we saw the CUWAA Administration undertake in regards to Concordia Ann Arbor), until the Regents have been trained as required under Synod Bylaw 3.10.6.2.l(d); and be it finally

Resolved, To instruct synodical leadership to refuse to take any future action(s) with respect to our remaining campuses of the Concordia University System schools without being fully transparent with the professional church workers and the lay membership of the entire Synod's congregations, namely, regarding any course of action being considered, prior to any such course of action being carried out, and without first giving the members and member congregations of the Synod every opportunity to respond to such a potential course of action in generosity and/or with creativity.

Submitted by: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-10
3 SUBJECT: Dissolving "Partnerships" with Non-Lutheran Universities
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has overhauled their formerly known *Deacon/Pre-SMP &*
7 *Ministry Assistant Training Program*, (now called *Michigan School of Missional Formation*)
8 and partnered with *Kairos University* (formerly Sioux Falls Seminary, a private Baptist
9 Seminary), where Lutheran students are given "Lutheran" mentors, with the intent that
10 those who complete the Kairos Program will *then* enter the LCMS Specific Ministry Pastor
11 program; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod already has several established routes
14 for the ordination of candidates; therefore be it
15

16 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District dissolve partnership with Kairos University and refrain
17 from entering into any such partnerships in the future.
18

19
20 Submitted by: Monroe Circuit, #24

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-11
3 SUBJECT: Seminary Preparation
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5

6 **WHEREAS**, the total number of individuals within the pastoral ministry of the Lutheran Church—
7 Missouri Synod has become an issue of significant issue to the health and continuation of the
8 Synod; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, various entities, congregations, seminaries and districts have proposed a variety of
11 pathways, programs, and other methods of increasing the number of pastors available to service
12 our denomination; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, many of these alternatives have created strife, confusion, angry, and unrest among clergy
15 and laity alike due to the lack of a consistent expression and evaluation of the qualifications
16 necessary to serve in pastoral ministry; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Synod in convention has articulated residential pastoral training as the “gold
19 standard,” which implies a set of minimum qualifications for pastoral ministry; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the Holy Scripture provides several lists of qualifications in 1 Timothy and Titus; therefore
22 be it
23

24 **Resolved**, that the Michigan District petition the Synod's seminaries to produce a set of “minimum
25 qualification standards” that can be utilized for evaluation across pathways, programs, and all other
26 methods of preparation for the pastoral ministry; and be it further
27

28 **Resolved**, that this information be made publicly available to all Districts within one (1) year of this
29 petition; and be it finally
30

31 **Resolved**, that this “minimum qualification standard” be upheld from all pathways, programs, and
32 other methods leading to pastoral ministry in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod that in
33 accordance with Psalm 133, we may be brothers dwelling together in unity.
34

35 Submitted by: Christ Lutheran Church, Milford, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-12
3 SUBJECT: To Request Transparency From CUWAA
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5

6 **WHEREAS**, The common goal of the Concordia University System is to develop Christian leaders for
7 the church, community, and the world; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Concordia University in Ann Arbor, MI has been developing Christian leaders for the
10 church, community, and the world since 1963; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, In a report dated February 1, 2024, CFO Colleague, a financial consultancy for higher
13 education institutions, analyzed recent financial performance for the university and concluded:
14 The structural deficit for the combined entity of CUW and CUAA requires immediate and substantial
15 attention. ... It is difficult to see a way forward for CUAA, given its enormous deferred maintenance
16 needs, inadequate NTR per student and the use of net tuition to fund athletic costs. ... The time is
17 now to craft a multi-year plan that addresses these clear challenges. (CUAA TASK FORCE REPORT
18 ISSUED: MAY 31, 2024, pgs. 6-7); and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.4 states, "All mission boards, commissions, and governing boards may
21 appoint standing committees of specialists to provide professional or technical assistance to the
22 board or commission and may delegate certain responsibilities to such committees while retaining
23 supervision. Standing committees may be made up of or include non-board or commission members.
24 The creation of standing committees shall be reported to the President and the Board of Directors of
25 the Synod;" and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, In response to the CFO Colleague Report, the Board of Regents, on February 29, 2024,
28 adopted a resolution for "a special subcommittee to explore the possibility of the Ann Arbor
29 campus applying for self-governance within the Concordia University System" (CUAA TASK FORCE
30 REPORT ISSUED: MAY 31, 2024, pg.7); and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, members of the special subcommittee reported that their work veered outside of the
33 scope of the Board of Regents' resolution; and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, members of the subcommittee were either required to sign non-disclosure agreements
36 (NDAs) or were removed from the special subcommittee; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 1.5.3.5 states, "All agencies of the Synod shall develop policies and
39 procedures for making available official minutes of their meetings. All mission boards and
40 commissions shall develop policies and procedures to make available upon request and at a
41 reasonable price a verbatim copy of the official minutes of their meetings except for executive
42 sessions. Any member of the Synod may request a copy of any official minutes of mission boards or
43 commissions by submitting a written or electronic (via email) request to the Secretary of the Synod,
44 who shall provide such minutes according to the policy of the Board of Directors;" and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, Synod Bylaw 3.10.6.1(o) states, "In fulfilling its commonly understood fiduciary duties
47 owed to the institution, and its governance responsibilities, the board of regents shall: maintain
48 effective internal controls and operate with financial transparency, annually reviewing and approving
49 the institutional budget and providing, within 30 days of board acceptance and final issuance of the
50 institutional audit, audited financial statements and other information as specified in the policies of
51 the Synod Board of Directors and to congregations of the Synod upon request;" and

1 **WHEREAS**, congregations of the Michigan District have requested these financial statements and
2 have not received them from the CUWAA Board of Regents; and
3
4 **WHEREAS**, the congregations of the Michigan District desire to bear with CUWAA in love, eager to
5 maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:1-5); and
6
7 **WHEREAS**, the congregations of the Michigan District desire to walk as children of light and expose
8 things done in secret to the light so that Christ would shine on all things (Ephesians 8b-14);
9 therefore be it
10
11 **Resolved**, That the District in Convention formally requests CUWAA Board of Regents to rescind the
12 NDAs signed by the special subcommittee members; and be it further
13
14 **Resolved**, That the CUWAA Board of Regents make available the verbatim copies of the official
15 minutes and the video recordings of the meetings of the special subcommittee to the Secretary of
16 the Synod; and be it further
17
18 **Resolved**, That the CUWAA Board of Regents respond to the previous and all subsequent
19 congregational requests for audited financial statements; and be it finally
20
21 **Resolved**, That the district memorialize the synod to encourage transparency in the financial states
22 of the Concordia Universities and the synod at large.
23
24 Submitted by: Ann Arbor Circuit, #29
25 Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MI

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-13
3 SUBJECT: Commissioned Minister – Teacher Debt Relief Resource
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, Resolution 12-03A, “To Address Commissioned Minister – Teacher Student Debt” was
7 adopted at the 2023 Synodical Convention; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Our Lutheran schools continue to struggle to find rostered teachers to serve in the
10 classrooms; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, In 2023 there were requests for 455 teachers to be placed and only 84 placements
13 occurred; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, The reality of student loan debt and educational costs play an important role in the
16 decision whether to attend a CUS school and seek employment within the Lutheran school system or
17 not; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Many of the scholarship and debt assistance programs are not communicated to the
20 potential students and their parents for use in their decision-making process; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, A key part of *Set Apart to Serve*, the church worker formation initiative, Affirmed and
23 Strengthened in Resolution 6-01 at the 2023 Synodical convention, was that *Set Apart to Serve* and
24 their key partners are to address church worker wellness, which includes student debt,
25 compensation and benefits; therefore be it
26

27 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District produce a consolidated resource, in print and online, for use by
28 congregations, circuit visitors, pastors, teachers, youth leaders, parents, and potential future church
29 workers, containing information on District scholarships, Concordia Plan Services grants and loan
30 repayment assistance, any LCEF and CEF student loan consolidation and low interest loans
31 availability, and any other assistance available; and be it further
32

33 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District encourage congregations to establish scholarship funds and
34 student loan debt assistance programs within their congregations, and that District will be available
35 to assist them in this endeavor; and be it further
36

37 **Resolved**, That congregations be reminded and encouraged to financially support our universities,
38 seminaries, and District scholarship programs; and be it finally
39

40 **Resolved**, That we give thanks to God for our Lutheran schools and the loving, dedicated teachers
41 who serve there, and for His continued blessing on their work.
42

43 Submitted by: Flint South Circuit, #12

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-14
3 SUBJECT: To Support New Educational Endeavors
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has a long history of excellence in education at every age and stage
7 of life, so that we are proud and grateful to support 126 preschools, 66 elementary schools, and 5
8 high schools throughout our state, and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has been richly blessed by the ministry of Concordia University Ann
11 Arbor, where we have witnessed what the Holy Spirit can do in leading young men and women to
12 faith while they are preparing for many different careers; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Many are seeing an increased need for non-college education that prepares men and
15 women for fruitful service in their communities, and we recognize that this is in harmony with the
16 Table of Duties and the many “callings” or vocations to which God leads his people; *and*
17

18 **WHEREAS**, People in all fields of endeavor are called to use their labor to the glory of God and the
19 blessing of their neighbor; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Vocation education which imparts technical skills to serve others may also provide the
22 opportunity to teach the spiritual value of service, the true meaning of labor as the hands of Christ,
23 and the knowledge of the One who blessed Bezalel and Oholiab to glorify God through the labor of
24 their hands; therefore be it
25

26 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District explore opportunities to establish a Vocational or Technical
27 School, or to partner with an existing such school, which would bless those in need of honorable
28 employment, engage with and serve its community, and combine an excellent technical education
29 with the opportunity to grow in faith toward Jesus Christ and love and service to the neighbor.
30

31 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Education
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 3-15
3 SUBJECT: To Commend the Deacon and Ministry Assistant Training
4 Through the Michigan School of Missional Formation and to
5 Encourage Greater Enrollment
6
7

8 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, already in 1989, recognized the need for
9 intentional lay training programs in the synodical Districts to equip men as deacons (Resolution 3-
10 05B), and again in its 2016 national convention the Synod encouraged districts to continue such lay
11 training programs even as this resolution was framed to Regularize the service of Licensed Lay
12 Deacons (Resolution 13-02A); and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, The practice of appointing deacons has served to expand the effectiveness of the
15 ordained pastoral ministry since the earliest days of the Church, as recognized by Dr. Samuel
16 Nafzger in his address to the 1989 delegates, “The adoption of Resolution 3-05(B) does not initiate
17 a single new practice in the doctrine of the ministry of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It will,
18 however, initiate proper supervision of those practices we have long recognized as being consistent
19 with our understanding of the doctrine of the ministry,” (1989 Convention Proceedings, pg. 114);
20 and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District has been a leader in such training programs, and has been training
23 deacons for assistance to the pastoral ministry since 1989 and has continued to expand and
24 improve the quality and effectiveness of the training through the ongoing work of the Commission on
25 Deacon Qualifications; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Michigan District Deacons serve only under a supervising LCMS pastor as assistants to
28 his ministry, and in the case of a congregation where a Credentialed Deacon may need to be
29 temporarily “Licensed” for Word and Sacrament ministry because the District is unable to provide a
30 pastor (and when “emergency knows no bounds” see Res. 13-02A, 2026) then that Deacon is
31 enrolled in the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) or the Alternate Route (AR) to ordination, so that in the
32 last triennium 3 credentialed Deacons or Deacon Candidates have enrolled in studies at one of our
33 LCMS seminaries toward ordination through SMP and 2 through AR; and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, The servant leadership of well-trained and credentialed deacons has blessed many
36 Michigan District congregations and their pastors; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan District Commission on Deacon Qualification (CDQ) has worked diligently to
39 honor the requirements of both Resolution 3-05(B) 1989 and Resolution 13-02(A) 2016, and has
40 successfully developed a way (both the non-degreed “Classic-Plus” and the MA degree on the
41 KAIROS University asynchronous platform) to effectively train Lay students in the Scriptures,
42 Lutheran Doctrine, Church History, and ministry disciplines of Christian Caregiving, Christian
43 Outreach, Teaching the Faith, Lutheran Worship, basic biblical interpretation, and Leadership; and
44

45 **WHEREAS**, The Michigan School of Missional Formation utilizes ONLY our Michigan District, LCMS
46 terminal-degreed faculty who are faithful to the inspired Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions
47 drawn from them; and the MSM program of study was found to qualify as a master’s degree program
48 on the Kairos University platform so that deacon students are able to receive a Master of Arts in
49 Missional Formation in recognition of their achievement; therefore be it

1 **Resolved,** That the Michigan District in Convention thank God for the ongoing work of the
2 Commission on Deacon Qualification and the faculty of the Michigan School of Missional Formation;
3 and be it further
4
5 **Resolved,** That the training provided through the Michigan School of Missional Formation be
6 commended to the congregations of the District and each congregation be encouraged to prayerfully
7 identify one or more men from among their membership to be raised up and trained as credentialed
8 deacons and one or more women from among their membership be raised up and trained as
9 ministry assistants through said school; and be it further
10
11 **Resolved,** That the ongoing services of well-trained Credentialed deacons and ministry assistants,
12 under the supervision of ordained pastors, continue to be encouraged and celebrated in the
13 Michigan District; and be it further
14
15 **Resolved,** That with respect to Synod Resolution 13-02A (2016), the Council of Presidents continue
16 to support the district training of credentialed deacons and, in times of emergency where needed,
17 license them for Word and Sacrament Ministry, and by facilitating their entry into the SMP or AR
18 programs toward ordination, as recommended by the immediate District President who is best
19 situated to recognize the need in a particular ministry.
20
21 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 4-01
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage LCMS Congregations to Pray for the Lutheran
4 Church of Uganda
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod officially established altar and pulpit fellowship
8 with The Lutheran Church of Uganda in the former’s 2023 Synodical Convention, according to
9 Resolution 5-03; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church of Uganda and congregations of the Michigan District have
12 especially worked together through the ministry of Women of the Pearl to support the proclamation
13 of the Gospel in Uganda, the establishment of a Seminary, and the training of pastors and their
14 wives, for which there is great need; and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, we are urged in Holy Scripture “to pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out
17 laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:38), as well as to be “eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in
18 the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3); therefore be it

19
20 **Resolved**, That the District in Convention commend our partnership in the Gospel with The Lutheran
21 Church of Uganda to its congregations as a worthy cause for prayers of thanksgiving in their
22 corporate worship; and be it further

23
24 **Resolved**, That the District in Convention encourage each aforementioned congregation to commit to
25 praying for the Lord of the harvest to raise up pastors and to prosper the ministry and mission of His
26 church in Uganda through our sister congregation; and be it further

27
28 **Resolved**, That congregations and individuals be encouraged to consider supporting the work of the
29 Lutheran Church of Uganda through their time, talents, and treasure as the Holy Spirit moves them;
30 and be it finally

31
32 **Resolved**, That the District in convention memorialize the Synod in Convention to do the same.

33
34 Submitted by: Ann Arbor Circuit, #29

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 4-02
3 SUBJECT: To Exhort Members of the LCMS to Earnestly and Regularly
4 Pray for and Pursue Synodical Unity
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed for the unity of His church so that the world might believe
8 He has been sent by the Father (John 17:11, 20-23); and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul enjoins God’s people to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which
11 you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in
12 love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-3); and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture is filled with many other similar prayers for and exhortations to pursue
15 unity and reconciliation in the church (Psalm 133:1; Matthew 5:23-25; 7:1-5; 18:15-35; Romans
16 12; 15:5; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 12:12; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:4-6;
17 Philippians 1:27; 2:1-11; Colossians 3:14; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 John 4:20, etc.); and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, The first objective listed in Article III of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod’s
20 Constitution is to “Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10), work
21 through its official structure toward fellowship with other Christian church bodies, and provide a
22 united defense against schism, sectarianism (Rom. 16:17), and heresy;” and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Unity in the church is a gift from God (Romans 15:5-6) we should humbly seek from Him
25 in prayer; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Division and acrimony between Christians severely compromises the witness of the
28 church to the world and may directly impede the proclamation of the Gospel and may thereby
29 threaten the eternal salvation of numerous souls; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, Such disunity, where it is not necessary to maintain fidelity to God, the Scriptures, and
32 the Confessions, but is rather the result of human sin, tarnishes God’s name and thus violates the
33 second commandment; and
34

35 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS is frequently known even outside of the Synod for its internal conflicts and for
36 the refusal of pastors, congregations, and circuits to commune together; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, Strife and division in the church for sinful reasons are indications that the church is
39 reflecting the ways of the world rather than providing a godly alternative to it; and
40

41 **WHEREAS**, Satan, who is the father of all lies and a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44),
42 fervently desires to catechize Christians in the ways of Hell and in demonic discord that so frequently
43 marks interactions in the world; therefore be it
44

45 **Resolved**, That the District in Convention strongly urge its members to pray fervently, both in
46 corporate worship and as individuals, for the unity and health of the Lutheran Church—Missouri
47 Synod, believing that all things are possible with God; and be it further
48

49 **Resolved**, That the District in Convention exhort its members to review and renew their commitment
50 to the 8th Commandment and to self-restraint in speech and anger (James 1:19); and be it further

1 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention implore its members be quick to listen (James 1:19) and to
2 seek out opportunities to listen to and dialogue with those they disagree with, in order that mutual
3 understanding, fidelity to doctrine, harmony, forgiveness, and reconciliation might be facilitated and
4 abound among us; and be it further

5
6 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention encourage its members to employ extraordinary efforts
7 toward caution, patience, clear communication, and love when navigating issues which have
8 historically been or have the potential to be a source of division, and that all such issues be
9 approached with a posture of humility and repentance for any ways in which we have contributed to
10 disunity in the past; and be it further

11
12 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention exhort its members to resist the temptation to imitate
13 secular partisanship by lording it over each other and employing slander, coercion, secrecy, and
14 power as the default means of addressing disagreements, but rather to seek to be servants of all
15 (Matthew 20:25–28), to engage in substantive and long-suffering efforts toward reconciliation with
16 those who have something against us (Matthew 5:23–25) and to display the mind of Christ
17 (Philippians 2:1–11); and be it further

18
19 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention memorialize Synod in Convention to all the same ends; and
20 be it finally

21
22 **Resolved,** That the District in Convention memorialize Synod in Convention to organize a task force
23 representative of Synod as a whole to study and develop recommendations: 1) to clarify the
24 distinction between doctrine and adiaphora in matters which are currently the source of conflict; 2)
25 to avoid imitating patterns of secular politics and partisan ways of relating to each other within the
26 church; and 3) to address and resolve divisions of altar fellowship within the Synod where and if any
27 such divisions are not a matter of conscience borne out of doctrinal necessity, but instead stem
28 from differences of opinion or preference.

29
30 Submitted by: Ann Arbor Circuit, #29

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 4-03
3 SUBJECT: To Direct Concordia Publishing House to Prioritize Mission and
4 Distribution
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Publishing House was established in 1869 to serve the congregations of the
8 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by publishing materials that are useful to the church and faithful to
9 the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions; and

10
11 **WHEREAS** The Mission Statement of Concordia Publishing House further states that it “will develop,
12 produce, market, and distribute products and services that are faithful to the Scriptures and the
13 Lutheran Confessions and **which will effectively serve such proclamation to people throughout the**
14 **world.** All to the Glory of God;” and

15
16 **WHEREAS**, The Vision Statement of Concordia Publishing House states that they will “strive to be the
17 premier publisher and provider of choice for products and services that are faithful to the Scriptures
18 and the Lutheran Confessions,” but does not envision a role in the Great Commission purpose of the
19 Church; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Publishing House is well known for producing high quality and durable
22 materials that serve well in North American congregations that can afford them, but which are too
23 expensive for our mission partners in other nations; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, Concordia Publishing House generously offers discounts to our synod missionaries for
26 their personal books, but does not offer such assistance for bulk distribution of helpful teaching
27 materials that can be used to extend the Kingdom of God in the world; and

28
29 **WHEREAS**, Northwestern Publishing House provides us with a praiseworthy example of support for
30 the mission of the church by providing publications to Wisconsin Synod missionaries for free or for a
31 steep discount (see nph.net/multi-language-productions for an example); and

32
33 **WHEREAS**, The protection of copyrights has discouraged our missionaries from translating useful
34 materials into the languages of their mission field by making them prohibitively expensive, and has
35 hampered our missionaries in their task of reaching the lost with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ;
36 and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, Even our confessional documents and catechisms are protected by copyright from wide
39 distribution in the mission field (ex: CPH sells the Book of Concord in Spanish for \$28.99); therefore
40 be it

41
42 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District memorialize to the 2026 Synodical Convention the previous
43 Whereases and the following resolves:

44
45 **Resolved**, That Concordia Publishing House, in addition to its mission to provide products that are
46 faithful to the Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, be directed to prioritize the Great Commission
47 and seek every way to provide free or low cost materials for use by synod missionaries in their
48 congregations and communities; and be it further

1 **Resolved,** That Concordia Publishing House be directed to work in cooperation with synod
2 missionaries in the field to identify obstacles to providing affordable resources to the work of
3 mission, including possible alternatives to the current copyright agreements; and be it finally
4

5 **Resolved,** That the laborers and congregations of the synod give thanks to God for the faithful
6 authors, hymnwriters, and others who often work in obscurity to provide useful teaching material to
7 the Church, and pray God to bless the wide distribution of their labors to the glory of God and the
8 coming of His Kingdom.
9

10 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 4-04
3 SUBJECT: To Support District Missions
4
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The Four Outcomes of our Michigan District (Great Commission, Great Compassion,
7 Healthy Churches, Healthy Church Workers) begins with the Great Commission of our Lord, and the
8 desire to extend the Kingdom of God lies at the heart of our purpose as a District and as
9 Congregations; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Through the 2015 “Here We Stand” Campaign our congregations combined their efforts
12 to contribute over \$1,250,000 which enabled the District to provide one-time gifts of support to a
13 number of missionary endeavors; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Reliable and ongoing support is the most helpful in establishing flourishing mission
16 outposts and new congregation; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The LCMS decided in convention in 2023 that districts should support international
19 mission through Foros. Res. 2-07A, “To Commend Use and Attendance of FOROs.” The Synod’s
20 Latin America and Caribbean region has been using the FORO (Spanish for “forum”) model to
21 connect LCMS congregations, pastors, districts and institutions with a particular mission field, which
22 “[builds] partnerships” and “furthers the mission” in that place. This is a method of support which
23 provides reliable and ongoing support for the mission, while at the same time engaging and
24 encouraging the congregations and districts more closely in the work of mission through visits,
25 education, and short-term projects; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, Many congregations have been blessed by establishing such long-term relationships with
28 the mission outposts of the Church, in particular, Michigan District congregations and individuals
29 have given strong support to the LCMS mission of planting confessional churches in Puerto Rico; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, The Puerto Rico Mission Team is led by a Michigan District pastor, and their Foro is in
32 need of more substantial support as it continues to grow and plant additional congregations;
33 therefore be it
34

35 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District adopt the Synodically commended practice of Foro participation
36 by committing to regular support of the Synod’s Puerto Rico Mission, including a financial
37 commitment, and the appointment of a District representative (the President or his designee) to
38 attend the semi-annual Foro for encouragement and support; and be it further
39

40 **Resolved**, That the Michigan District consider where else the Latin American Foro model might serve
41 to increase and encourage our missionary support in other regions of the world and in our own
42 District, such as our historic support for MOST, Lamp, or other international missions; and be it finally
43

44 **Resolved**, That the District encourage congregations to prayerfully consider the Foro model of
45 financial support coupled with personal involvement as an opportunity to increase their own
46 connection to the work of the Holy Spirit in the Mission of the Church.
47

48 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District

1 COMMITTEE NAME: Mission
2 OVERTURE NUMBER: 4-05
3 SUBJECT: To Encourage District Congregations to Conduct Personal
4 Witness Training
5
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Christians as God’s people are to “proclaim the excellencies of him who called [us] out of
8 darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9) and maintain constant preparation “to make a
9 defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15); and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, As Martin Luther observed, it might seem “best for God to take away our breath and let
12 us die as soon as we are baptized and have begun to believe. But He lets us live here in order that
13 we may lead other people to believe, doing for them what He has done for us” (What Luther Says,
14 [CPH, 1959] number 3021; WA 12:267); and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, Christians know and interact with many non-Christians and unchurched people through
17 their vocations and daily lives (e.g., family, coworkers, classmates), people who will not hear the
18 Gospel or learn of Jesus Christ unless someone tells them; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, In this sinful world, Christians often fear to speak of Christ with others; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, Such fear can be addressed through teaching and learning not only the biblical message
23 of the Gospel but also particular ways to converse about matters of faith; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, Without intentional effort, our congregations can become places where we can talk about
26 Jesus Christ, but our homes and places of work may become places where our faith is concealed;
27 and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, The Synod in its Resolution 1-01A (2023) urged Districts “to encourage and assist
30 congregations as they train their members to tell 31 the Good News about Jesus;” therefore be it
31

32 **Resolved**, That the District encourage its pastors and other church workers to teach people to
33 engage in witness, providing frequent instruction and encouragement; and be it further
34

35 **Resolved**, That the District encourage congregations to make use of the many teaching resources for
36 personal witness, including the Spiritual Conversations (and other) series from Lutheran Hour
37 Ministries, Every One His Witness from the Synod, Joining Jesus on His Mission, and many others,
38 and instruct the District Regional Facilitators to assist congregations in finding appropriate training
39 materials and instructors.
40

41 Submitted by: Board of Directors, Michigan District