



# The Convention Daily

Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
104th Michigan District Convention

Monday, June 23, 2025

## A Spirit-Filled Start to the 104th Michigan District Convention

Under the theme *Nourished for the Journey: Remember, Renew, Return*, the 104th Michigan District Convention opened on Sunday, June 22. Braving the high temps, attendees enjoyed visiting more than 40 exhibitors in the Ministry Tent and a picnic dinner graciously served by St. John, Rochester.



The afternoon concluded as convention goers took a walk across the bridge on the campus of Concordia University Ann Arbor, to the Opening Worship Service in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Participants gathered to hear God’s Word, sing God’s praise, give thanks, join together in prayer, and celebrate the Lord’s Supper. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, delivered the sermon.

The evening closed with “Sundaes on Sunday,” a time of fellowship and ice cream hosted by Concordia University Ann Arbor Alumni on the courtyard lawn.



## Welcoming Our Convention Essayist

Dr. Joel D. Biermann is the Waldemar A. and June Schuette Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. (CSL). He earned his B.A. from Concordia College, Ann Arbor in 1983 and an M.Div. from CSL in 1987. After serving as pastor in two congregations, Biermann returned to the Seminary in 1998 as a graduate student. He completed his Ph.D. in 2002 and joined the faculty at CSL.



Outside of his Seminary responsibilities, Biermann serves local congregations as invited and has helped produce material for congregational small group Bible studies. He also has worked on similar study material through Lutheran Hour Ministries and Concordia Publishing House, and has authored three books. He is a frequent speaker at LCMS District and congregational gatherings and conferences. Biermann and his wife, Jeannalee, live in St. Louis. have three adult children and nine grandchildren.

### Possible Evening Session

Please note in the convention agenda that a possible 8 p.m. Monday evening session may occur. If the evening session is necessary, an announcement will be made prior to the end of today’s afternoon session.

### In Case of Emergency

For injury or illness requiring emergency health responders, call 911. If another type of emergency should arise, please call Campus Security at 734.358.1340.

### Meal Tickets Available

A few meal tickets are still available. See Jennifer at Registration this morning in The Nest or later this afternoon in the Press Room after 11 a.m. Breakfast \$12 Lunch \$17, Monday dinner (very limited number) \$30. These prices include tax. Cash or check only.

### Today’s Choir Practice

The choir practice for the Memorial Service will take place at the front half of lunch today at 12:15 p.m.

### Today’s Thank You

**Lutheran Benefits & Lutheran Trust**-partial workbook sponsor.

**Church Extension Fund** - Morning and afternoon break

**Fellowship Development** - Name tag sponsors

**Wellspring Lutheran Services** - Annual sponsor

Thank you to the following congregations who provided meals:

Breakfast: **St. Paul/Christ the King/Ephphatha, Flint**

Lunch: **Christ Our Savior, Livonia**

Dinner and Entertainment: **St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth**

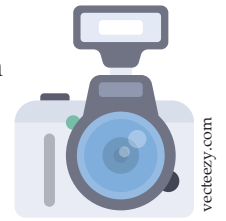
**St. Paul Lutheran School, Ann Arbor** - For sharing facilities, ice, and equipment.

### Convention Committee Members

Mr. O. Dennis Sohn, Chairman  
 Mrs. Laurie Brown, Vice Chair  
 Rev. Christopher Garcia, Worship Chair  
 Rev. Joseph Polzin, Elections Floor Committee Chair  
 Rev. Eric Majeski Nominating Committee Chair  
 Rev. David Davis, District President  
 Rev. J. Derek Riddle District Secretary  
 Chad Woltemath, Convention Manager  
 Miss Debbie Hughes, Ministry Tent Arrangements  
 Mrs. Debby Fall, Communications  
 Mrs. Linda Ekong, Website/Presentations  
 Mr. Jerry Novak, CUA A Representative  
 Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper, District Representative

### Special Photos Today

A full convention photo will be taken from the stage tonight at 5:50 p.m. You will be asked to stand up and move towards the center and smile for the camera. All CUA A alumni will raise their bandanas. Alumni also are asked to meet in front of the Chapel on their way to dinner at 6:15 p.m. for an alumni photo.



### Campus Housing

Please place your room key in the envelope and leave it on the desk or dresser when you leave. Be sure to check out by Tuesday at 8 a.m. If you are staying overnight on Tuesday, you must be out of your room on Wednesday morning by 7:30 a.m.

### Looking for a Bible Reading Plan?

Developed by the Michigan District for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, the Reformation Reading Plan on YouVersion can be translated into 51 languages and has an all-time high of 65,329 readers. Over 9,000 have completed the plan. Check it out in the YouVersion app or online at *YouVersion.com*.

### District Staff Installations

During the Installation Service on Tuesday afternoon, the Michigan District will install Deaconess Christie Hansard, RN, BSN. Hansard serves as the Michigan District Parish Nurse Representative as well as the Case Manager for Mental Health resources for Commissioned and Ordained Church Workers. Rev. Dr. Scott Yakimow, Director of Mission Development, collaborates with district facilitators, executives, the President’s Office, and others to increase the capacity for mission development within the Michigan District and beyond by engaging with congregations and workers in the district through networking and resourcing.



## Black Ministry to Celebrate Anniversary

*Empowering and Advancing the Next Generation*

The Black Clergy Caucus of the Lutheran Church is meeting this summer in Dallas, TX to move forward in preparation of the 150 Years in Ministry Anniversary that will take place in Greensboro, NC on July 20, 2027. Based on a 5-fold vision, the Black Ministry Caucus operates by these broad goals: Communication, Ministry Focus, Ownership, Recruitment, and Revitalization. The Caucus is an autonomous organization that provides spiritual direction, leadership, fellowship, and support for pastors and congregations. It is an organization of ordained black clergy in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, striving to empower the African American Lutheran Church to minister (w)holistically in the areas of: Evangelism, Ministerial Support, Education, Economic Development, Political Involvement and Awareness, Youth Development, Fellowship, and Recruitment. To learn more, visit [bcc-lc.org](http://bcc-lc.org).

## District Podcast Network

The Michigan District Podcast Network was created to present Christian hope from a Lutheran perspective. This network is composed of 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. Check it out at [michigandistrict.org/podcasts](http://michigandistrict.org/podcasts).

## On Your Tables Today

The Michigan District 2024 Annual Report has been distributed. This comprehensive document will help you understand the work of the District staff and includes a financial summary. Please take these home to your congregation. If you are a guest, please request a copy from the Press Room.

## Board of Directors Meet & Greet Today

**In the Manor | 12:15 p.m.**

Bring your lunch and join us for a casual Meet and Greet with the Michigan Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, connect, and learn more about the important work they are doing in our District.



## Monday Highlights

**Prayer Walk**  
Chapel  
7 a.m.

**Registration**  
Cardinal's Nest  
7–10:45 a.m.  
Press Room  
11 a.m.–6:15 p.m.

**District President's Address**  
Convention Hall/Gymn  
9:45 a.m.

**Board of Directors Meet & Greet**  
Manor  
12:15 p.m.

**Essay/Bible Study**  
Convention Hall  
Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann  
2 p.m.

**Group Photo**  
Convention Hall/Gym  
5:50 p.m.

**CUAA Alumni Group Photo**  
Chapel lawn  
6:15 p.m.



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