

#miLCMSpastors

On the Mountain with Elijah & in the Valley of Life 1 Kings 19:11-12



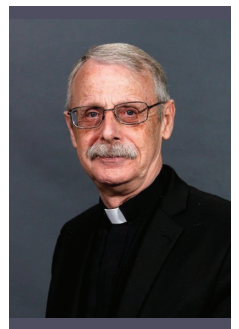
Michigan District, LCMS presents
West Pastors Conference
May 6–7, 2025 | Traverse City, Mich.

Conference Center Wifi: Great Wolf Conference
password: WolfConference
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Speaker

Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard holds a B.A. in History (Carthage College), a M.Div. (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne), a M.A. in Hebrew Bible (University of Notre Dame), and a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible/Judaica, with minors in New Testament and Liturgics (University of Notre Dame). He was ordained in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1984.

Gard served as a parish pastor from 1984 to 1988, when he was commissioned as a Lieutenant-Junior Grade in the Navy Reserve. During his years of military service, Gard also served from 1989–2014 at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW) as a professor of Exegetical Theology, Dean of the Graduate School, and Dean of Military Chaplaincy Programs. From 2014–2019, he served as President of Concordia University Chicago (CUC). Following his retirement from CUC, he has returned to CTSFW a guest professor.



The Lord has permitted him to serve the Gospel by ministering to civilian and military personnel, leading a growing University with international outreach, teaching Hebrew to future LCMS pastors, serving as an author and speaker across the country, comforting grieving families on 9/11, and providing spiritual guidance to countless parishioners, military personnel and families, and students.

He and his wife Annette have three children and one grandchild.

Tuesday, May 6, 2025


- 10 a.m. Divine Service at Trinity, Traverse City
- 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Registration | White Pine Pre-Function
- 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Exhibits open | White Pine Pre-Function
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch | White Pine Ballroom
- 12:45 p.m. Welcome | Rev. Michael Goers
- 12:50 p.m. Wellspring | Mr. David M. Gehm
- 12:55 p.m. Church Extension Fund | Mr. Jim R. Saalfeld, Mr. John H. Bates, Mr. Andrew O. Sohn
- 1:15 p.m. **Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard | Where is that “still small voice” of wisdom calling us to Jesus? On the mountain?
Or in the valley?**
- 2:25 p.m. Break
- 2:50 p.m. **President’s Report | Rev. David A. Davis**
- 3:50 p.m. Lutheran Heritage Foundation | Rev. Robert Rahn - Vietnamese Book of Concord
- 4 p.m. Free Time
- 5:15–9 p.m. Bar Open – *Sponsored by Church Extension Fund*
- 6 p.m. Dinner & Gemütlichkeit

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 7:30–10:30 a.m. Exhibitors | White Pine Pre-Function
- 8:30 a.m. Devotion | Rev. Mark Latham
- 8:40 a.m. Compassion Ministry Report | Mr. Tony Nelson
- 8:45 a.m. **Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard | Listening for that “still small voice” in the deafening echoes of the mountain and in
the cacophony of competing voices in the valley.**
- 10 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. **Rev. Dr. Daniel L. Gard | One Lord, one faith, one baptism—and one “still small voice” for the one Bride of Christ**
- 11:30 a.m. Closing Devotion | Rev. Brennan Woell
* The 2025 West Pastors Conference worship offering will be supporting Love Thy Neighbor.

➔ CONFERENCE SURVEY

What did you think about this year's conference? Please tell us! A survey will be emailed to you following the conference or you can use the QR Code at right. Please be sure to complete it and share how you have been encouraged, enriched, and refreshed. Thank you!



CONNECT WITH THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT ...

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Calendar of Events

May

- 13-14 South and East Pastors Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 14-15 Circuit Visitors Conference
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 19 Board of Directors
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 19 Board of Directors Listening Event, N&E Region
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 20-21 North and East Pastors Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 31 State Track Meet
Concordia University Ann Arbor

June

- 4, 9, 11 Next Generation Pastors
Saginaw, Grand Rapids, Troy
- 18-20 FLAME
Ann Arbor Regent, Ann Arbor
- 22-24 Michigan District, LCMS Convention
Concordia University Ann Arbor

July

- 19-23 National Youth Gathering
New Orleans, LA
- 28-30 Higgins Lake Conference
Ralph A. MacMullan Conf. Center, Roscommon

August

- 3-5 Board of Directors Retreat
Zion, Holland
- 6 Early Childhood Directors Day
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 7 Early Childhood Educators Conference
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 10-12 Best Practices Heartland
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 12-14 Junior High Gathering
Harvey Kern Pavilion, Frankenmuth

September

- 2-3 Emeriti Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 17-18 Circuit Visitors Conference
Peace, Ann Arbor
- 22-25 Transitional Interim Conference
Michindoh, Hillsdale

October

- 6-8 All Pastors Conference
Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls
- 13-15 Ministry Specialist Conference
Drury Inn & Suites, Grand Rapids
- 21 Board of Directors
Historic Trinity, Detroit

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Church Extension Fund



Thank you to Trinity, Traverse City for hosting our Divine Service.

Please Note:

Hotel check-in is 4 p.m. Check-out is 11 a.m.

Cell Phones - Please don't forget to turn your cell phones to silent during sessions.

Evaluations - You will receive an email asking you to fill out an online evaluation following the conference. Thank you for your feedback!



As we approach the 2025 Michigan District Convention, we invite you to join us in prayer! Our goal is to have over 7,000 members of the Michigan District lifting up the preparations, pre-convention meetings, and all attendees—both before and throughout the three days of the convention. Will you join us? Sign up to receive a prayer packet via email, complete with prayer prompts and more!



www.michigandistrict.org/conventionprayer