

Fall 2026

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IN TOUCH

A publication of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
and Church Extension Fund

Do You Know
JESUS?

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Consider the Singular, Not the Plural

by Rev. David A. Davis

Here in the Michigan District, we highlight being “*People of Hope: Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ.*” But a “people” consists of individual “persons;” to be a people of hope, each of us must be a person of hope.

Are you? Or are you discouraged? Secularization. Decline in the Church. Moral decay. Injustice. Racism. Runaway technology. Too much to do and not enough time. Bills to pay.

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“Many things may come against you in life, but ultimately they do not matter because ultimately you have life.”

Discouraged indeed? Cynical too? Maybe angry? Even afraid? Remember your hope. Not just *our* hope. *Your* hope. Jesus. Crucified. Risen. Reigning. Returning. Really!

Peter describes this hope as a *living hope*. See 1 Peter 1. It is a hope that is both alive and about living. Jesus lives victorious over sin (your sin), the enemy (your enemy), and death (your death). Because he lives, you too shall live. Really. Many things may come against you in life, but ultimately they do not matter because ultimately you have life. Your hope in Christ is about life. You do and will live.

This changes everything. It becomes a *transforming hope*. It changes you and your outlook during the vicissitudes of life. “*If God is for us, who can be against us?*” (Romans 8). Make sure you understand that here “us” includes “you.” This hope puts to flight anger, fear, selfishness. This hope leads to a different sort of life, one filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Looking up to God’s hope for you in Christ keeps you from looking down on life and the people in yours. You can be positive. You can be chill. You can be joyful. Your living hope transforms the sort of person you are.

And this same hope then leads to an *expressed hope*. People will wonder about you. People will be intrigued about you. People will inquire about you. “Why so hopeful?” Not your 401K and CDs. Not your habits and health. Not your intellect and career. Not your traditions and heritage.

Jesus.

We tell them about Jesus. We tell them about how He loves, saves, provides, understands, forgives, guides, and reigns. We tell them, as they sang in the ‘80’s, “*My future’s so bright I gotta wear shades.*” By living out distinctively hope-filled lives, we win the opportunity that Peter wrote about in 1 Peter 3:15, “*Always [be] prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*” The *living and transforming hope* comes to fruition when it becomes *expressed hope*.

As Christians we are indeed a *people of hope*. Fear, discouragement, cynicism, and the like have no place in our lives, at least no lasting place. Not only have they no lasting place for *us*, they have no lasting place for *you*. Christ’s hope for the world is more precisely a hope for the people of the world, the individuals of the world, the persons of the world. *People of hope*? Yes, but only if we are individually a *person of hope*. ■



Rev. David A. Davis serves the Michigan District, LCMS as its president.

Rested and Recharged for Mercy Work



Photo courtesy of Deaconess Christie Hansard

The Concordia Deaconess Conference (CDC) took place this past summer at St. John's Lutheran Church in Dublin, Ohio. This annual conference allows deaconesses to gather for worship and fellowship, confession and absolution, celebration, conversation, and collective rest. *"Oftentimes, it can be difficult for caregivers to slow down and become the recipients of selfless care. Being at St. John's was such a gift, as the people there cared for the deaconesses (and their guests) in many and various ways. This was done via meals, childcare, and providing spaces for worship and learning,"* says Deaconess Amanda Mumm, who works for the CDC in Illinois.

The theme for this year's conference was *In View of God's Mercy: The Devotional Life in Christ*, based on Romans 12:1–2. Approximately 100 deaconess sisters from all over the world came together for the Conference, where they studied the book of Psalms together with Dr. Reed Lessing. The chaplain was CDC's Spiritual Counselor, Pastor Adam Steinbrenner. Of special note this year was the variety of breakout sessions offered.

Deaconess student Jenny Jaroneski described how the conference blessed her: *"This year's CDC was such a gift to me as a deaconess student. Deaconesses young and old, from near and far, came together to rejoice in the gifts God gives and the privilege we have to serve others in our vocations. The relationships formed with women whose wisdom, experience, and deep love for mercy work provide lasting encouragement to me on this formational journey. I learned so much from hearing deaconesses share the different ways God has led them to serve—congregational ministry, service organizations, even grant writing. Worshipping, singing, and participating in corporate confession together deepened the experience. It was a wonderful chance to grow, learn, and simply be together in the blessings of this merciful vocation. I am already looking forward to next year's conference where, God willing, I will have the privilege of signing the constitution and officially joining the CDC."*

Michigan District Commissioned Minister Advocate,

Luke Esselman, remarks: *"The Deaconess ministry in the Michigan District continues to be one of the pillars of our LCMS commissioned workers-ministry specialists. They always exemplify the humble attitude of Christ-like servants in all they do. The sisterhood they share within the District, as well as the fellowship and growth in organizations like the CDC, are examples all our workers could benefit from emulating."*

Deaconess Christie Hansard, RN, BSN, the Michigan District Mental Health Case Manager and Parish Nurse Coordinator, added: *"The conference provided valuable opportunities for us to grow professionally and spiritually through presentations focused on mercy work, congregational care, and being faithful women serving within the Church. One of the greatest blessings was reconnecting with fellow deaconesses, sharing ideas and resources, vocational blessings and challenges, and being reminded that we are not alone. I came home encouraged, equipped with new practical tools for ministry through our Bible study on the Psalms, and renewed in my calling to serve Christ and His people through parish nursing, mental health support, and works of mercy."*

Michigan District Director of Leadership Development, Rev. Dr. Paul Biber, says, *"In 1 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul reminds us of the importance of the variety of gifts and service in the Church. We are so blessed in the Michigan District to have many deaconesses using their gifts and talents to advance the Kingdom and we are thankful for opportunities like this for them and for all our church workers to grow in faith and service. As we work together, we want to celebrate and encourage continued growth for our church workers and our lay leaders, who God may be leading to consider one the many avenues of service in our Church."*

Deaconess training programs are available at Concordia University Chicago, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. To learn more about Deaconess Ministry and the Concordia Deaconess Conference, visit concordiadeaconessconference.org. ■



Friendship and Food **for the Neighbors**

On June 14, 2026, Living Word, Lansing officially opened its Friendship Food Ministry—a mobile food pantry used to not only supply the community with food, but also to check in on them. Below is a transcription of Rev. Moses Dangba's speech on opening day:

Thank you and welcome to this exciting celebration of the opening of Friendship Food. What a joyful and exciting day as we praise God for this ministry. Through it we will practically participate in sharing Christ's love to our neighbors.

Today is more than just launching a new ministry. But it is the beginning of a new opportunity to share the love of Jesus Christ with our community and to serve our neighbors in His name.

As we celebrate today, I would like to share this moment that touched my heart and it inspired me to God's call for Friendship Food ministry: About a year ago, I visited a grandmother who was raising 12 grandchildren. During my visit, I learned that

“May this Friendship Food be a *living witness* to *Christ's compassion* in our community that will point people to the *Savior* who gave His life for us.”

the whole water system in the entire house was not working. The basement was flooded, and both the bathroom and the kitchen sink were not working. I asked her, “How are you living here? Where do you cook? And where do you use the restroom?”

Her answer broke my heart. She told me, “Pastor, during the day we would go to a nearby store, and at night [we] would simply figure it out.” That day with tears in my eyes I left. And seeing their struggle reminded me that Christ's love must go beyond the pulpit preachings on Sundays. And this experience inspired me to pray about how our congregation could come together in sharing the love and compassion of Christ with those who are hurting, who are struggling, who are trying to put food on the table for their families within our communities.

Today, we celebrate God's answer to those prayers. Friendship Food will always share the love of Christ by providing food, compassion, and hope to our neighbors. Our prayer is that every family we serve will experience not only practical help, but also the love and care of Jesus Christ.

And truly, I'm so grateful for our District's support for this vision. This grant will 100% be invested to serve the needs of our neighbors. I also want to thank all the church's leaders, volunteers, and friends for their prayers and support to make this ministry possible.

As we celebrate Friendship Food today, let us remember why we do this. Because Jesus first loved us. Through His death and His resurrection, He has given us forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life. Because of His great love, we are called to love and serve others.

May this Friendship Food be a living witness to Christ's compassion in our community that will point people to the Savior who gave His life for us.

Thank you for being here, thank you for your prayers, and thank you for partnering with us in God's mission. May God bless Friendship Food and all who are served through it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

After the heartbreaking visit Rev. Moses Dangba mentioned, he and a team from Living Word attended Beyond the Breakwater, where they got practical ideas on how to go about helping people in their community. They applied for a Michigan District grant and visited similar ministries to see them at work and learn.

Dangba says they're currently sharing Christ's love by serving 25–30 households, not including children, each week with food and other essential groceries: “It has been a wonderful opportunity to care for our neighbors while sharing the hope of the Gospel.”

Rev. Dr. Scott Yakimow, Director of Mission Development for the Michigan District, says: “God has guided Pastor Dangba and his congregation in amazing, jaw-dropping ways. As immigrants to the United States, they have heard God's call to serve their neighbors in significant ways, even as they are living in new circumstances. They are examples of what living the faith looks like, and I'm thrilled to be able to serve God alongside them.” ■

To learn more about Michigan District Grants, michigandistrict.org/grants.



Photos courtesy of Rev. Moses Dangba



Photos courtesy of Heidi McClelland Photography

Bringing Hope to Children in Need

by Mary R. Kulczak

"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to keep."

Every night, children around the country go to sleep without a bed to rest in. They may sleep on floors or couches due to their family's unstable housing situations, economic conditions, or custodial arrangements. Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a national non-profit organization, hopes to solve this problem by building beds for children and teens in need. Through partnerships with churches and organizations, they have been building beds since 2012.

Christ Our King, Saline recently partnered with the Monroe County chapter of *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* by hosting a one-day build. They invited community and congregational members to participate, welcoming the eager volunteers on a sunny Saturday morning.

"I appreciate everybody coming out today and joining us on this day of community service, building these beds and getting them out there in the community," said Tim Taylor, president of the Monroe County, Michigan chapter.

Greg Witto, Director of Family Life Ministry at Christ Our King, was able to assemble a task force and enlist over 100 people from the church and community for Growing in God's Love, an intergenerational weekend event that combines sharing and service. He learned of the organization and was excited to partner with them.

In addition to the 30 beds that were built that weekend, the quilt ministry donated 30 handmade quilts to be given to the children who receive these beds.



"It's amazing. A lot of people don't realize what the conditions are for a lot of these kids," Taylor said. *"There's a lot of co-bedding, a lot of sleeping on mattresses on the floor because folks can't afford proper sleeping conditions for their kids, or they grew up in a household with blended families where they had more kids than beds available. It definitely impacts them. It impacts their ability to go to school and be well rested. It impacts their safety. It impacts their ability to go forward in life achieving milestones. So the more beds we can put out there for these kids, the better futures they're going to have."*

Christ Our King's theme verse for 2026 is from Hebrews 10:23–25: *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."* ■

Mary Rose Kulczak is a writer for various publications. She frequently writes on faith and family, and currently serves as the communications chairperson at Christ Our King Lutheran Church in Saline, MI. She is a wife and mother of three adult sons, and caretaker to a spoiled golden retriever.

Christ Our King, Saline's community project was supported in part with a grant from Church Extension Fund.



The Challenge of Absence

by Darryl L. Andrzejewski

There is a challenge in pastoral ministry that few people see.

Years ago, when most families were in worship nearly every Sunday, it was relatively easy for a pastor to notice when someone was missing. If a faithful worshiper was absent for three or four weeks, it stood out immediately. Their empty pew became noticeable. Their absence was felt. A phone call, a visit, or a simple conversation often followed.

Today, however, attendance patterns have changed. Many faithful Christians who once worshiped three or four times a month now attend once or twice. Others are away for travel, sports, family obligations, work schedules, illnesses, or simply the rhythms of modern life. The result is that it has become much harder to visually track who has been absent and for how long.

What sometimes feels like four or six weeks away to a member may not appear unusual from the pastor's perspective because attendance patterns have already become less frequent. A pastor may genuinely think, "I saw them recently," only to discover that "recently" was more than a month ago.

This creates painful misunderstandings. Members may feel hurt that their absence was not noticed. Pastors may feel discouraged because they deeply care, yet they are trying to shepherd hundreds of souls whose attendance is

no longer regular enough to reveal obvious gaps.

None of this means people matter less. In fact, the opposite is true. Every pastor wants to know when his people are struggling, drifting, hurting, or absent. But as attendance becomes increasingly sporadic, the visual cues that once helped pastors recognize those concerns have faded.

Perhaps this is a reminder for all of us. The church was never meant to be a collection of individuals each waiting to be noticed. We are a family. We bear responsibility for one another. We encourage one another. We reach out to one another. And we recognize that pastors, while called to shepherd the flock, are not omniscient.

If you have been away, let your pastor know. If you are struggling, reach out. If you miss someone in worship, call them. The Body of Christ works best when every member cares for every member.

And perhaps most importantly, let us treasure the gift of regular gathering around Word and Sacrament. The more consistently we are present, the more deeply we know one another, the more quickly we notice one another's needs, and the more faithfully we can bear one another's burdens in the name of Jesus. ■

Rev. Darryl L. Andrzejewski is the Senior Pastor at Historic Trinity, Detroit.



Mighty Waters Unite Hundreds of Michigan Youth on Mackinac Island

by Rebecca Thomas

For three days, Mackinac Island became much more than one of Michigan's favorite vacation destinations—it became a place for youth and adults to connect with each other and with God. From June 28–30, high school students and adults transformed Mission Point Resort into a place of worship, friendship, and spiritual growth as hundreds of people came together for the Michigan District High School Gathering.

This year's Gathering welcomed 784 participants, including 601 high school youth and 183 adults representing 67 congregations from the Michigan, Ohio, North Dakota, and North Wisconsin districts. Another 82 people—including committee members, volunteers, speakers, District staff, sponsors, and family members—helped make the event possible. Together, they created a vibrant community of faith, a place to serve, and an experience unlike any other.

More than 40 years of faith and fun

The district gathering event is held a year after the LCMS Gathering, which was in New Orleans, La., in 2025. It is designed to bring the same type of environment and opportunities to a location closer to home, often at a lower price point, to make the experience accessible to all Michigan students.

Pastor Bob Allmann spearheaded the creation of the Michigan District High School Youth Gathering more than 40 years ago after attending the Synod event.

"It's held once every three years, so realistically, once in your lifetime is usually all that you can go to a national youth gathering. They are so tremendous. I saw how my

children were blessed and the youth in my congregation. You couldn't find the words to express the blessing they were," said Allman. After returning to Michigan following a Synod youth gathering, Allman wanted to start a Michigan District youth gathering.

From the very beginning, the Michigan High School Gathering has called Mackinac Island's Mission Point home.

A theme that connects

This year's theme, Mighty Waters, centered on Jesus' words in John 4:14:

"Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Few places could illustrate that message better than Mackinac Island. Surrounded by the Straits of Mackinac, participants were constantly reminded of both the beauty and power of God's creation. The calm shoreline invited moments of peace and reflection, while the vast expanse of water demonstrated incredible strength. Yet throughout

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Photo by Adele Werner/Michigan District, LCMS



Alien Fellowship by Adele S. Werner

*A*t the Bavarian Inn Lodge ... We got 176 rooms to house you. And they were saying ‘Chuck, stop growing; we’re not going to have enough room!’” said Chuck Anderson, Coordinator of the Jr. High Youth Gathering, during the final mass event this year.

Over 553 junior high youth and their chaperones from Lutheran churches throughout Michigan gathered in Frankenmuth from July 28–30 for this year’s Michigan District Jr. High Youth Gathering. Participants grew around the theme Alien Fellowship. Based on 1 Peter 3:15b, students rejoiced knowing that, although we’re aliens in this world, we’re not alone. The event consisted of mass gatherings, servant events, sectionals, and a special evening devotion at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church.

During mass gatherings, students sang, danced, and laughed to songs played by the Swenless band. They played games from 9 Square in the Air to Gaga Ball to Chess. A special video game was commissioned to be played by students.

A highlight of these mass gatherings were messages from the keynote speaker, Dean Swenson: “As

Christians, we carry the name of Jesus. The word Christian means ‘someone who belongs to Christ.’ That your lives represent Him... How you live out your life and your conduct is important. Sometimes one of the clearest ways to represent Jesus is to say ‘God, I need your help. Show me how to live like you.’”

On Wednesday, students followed two different tracks. The youth in the first track started their morning by participating in servant events at organizations local to Frankenmuth, Saginaw, and the surrounding areas. The second track began with sectionals about sharing their faith, listening, disagreeing well, and living out their lives as Christ followers. After a delicious chicken dinner provided by the Bavarian Inn for lunch, the two tracks swapped.

The day ended with devotions at the historic St.



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LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Lutheran Hour Speaker Serves as Keynote for LLL Men's Retreat

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler served as speaker on Sept. 10–13 at the International Lutheran Laymen's League Men's Retreat at Camp Arcadia.

The theme for the 2026 retreat was "Live to Tell about It" (1 Peter 3:15). During his three sessions, Dr. Zeigler discussed how to "be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in you, doing it with gentleness and respect."

Zeigler began serving with LHM as Speaker of The Lutheran Hour in October 2018. Prior to that, he served as pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church (2014–2018) and assistant pastor at Timothy Lutheran Church (2012–2014), both in St. Louis. Before becoming a pastor, he



Photo courtesy of John Raffie

served as an aircraft maintenance officer in the Air Force.

Zeigler grew up in a military family, living throughout the U.S., from North Dakota to Alabama, Virginia to Colorado. His family moved eleven times before he finished high school in Springfield, Mo. He graduated from the U. S. Air Force Academy in 2001 with a general engineering degree and served 5 years in the Air Force. He left active duty in 2006 to prepare to be a pastor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, completing a Master of Divinity in 2010 and a Ph.D. in 2014.

He continues to serve part-time as an Air Force Reserve officer at Scott Air Force Base, Ill., and as a guest instructor at Concordia Seminary.

Zeigler and his wife, Amy, have four children. Amy enjoys being a homeschool and Sunday school teacher, cooking, crafting, and being a catalyst for events aimed at strengthening bonds between family and friends.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Transformed
in **CHRIST**
Romans 12:2

Save The Date!

42nd Biennial LWML National Convention
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,
July 8–11, 2027

Save The Date!

Oklahoma City Convention Center
100 Mick Cornett Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73109

FOR THE FRUITS OF HIS CREATION.
THANKS BE TO GOD!
FOR HIS GIFTS TO EVERY NATION.
THANKS BE TO GOD!
FOR THE PLOWING, SOWING, REAPING, SILENT
GROWTH WHILE WE ARE SLEEPING.
FUTURE NEEDS IN EARTH'S SAFE-KEEPING.
THANKS BE TO GOD!
—LSB 894

Michigan District

www.lwmlmichigan.org



Celebrating 125 years of Church Extension Fund!

Earlier this year, CEF celebrated a milestone event, our 125th anniversary! It all started as an idea that when a church body invests in itself, the Kingdom grows. This idea is still alive and relevant today. The Lord has truly blessed the mission of CEF over these 125 years.

In the late spring and early summer, I started digging into the historical archives we maintain as well as those from the Michigan District. I was familiar with the broad story of how CEF came to be, but the details were always a little fuzzy. After hours of research, plenty of patina on my hands, and the help of AI, I was able to fill in many of the gaps in the story.

- It appears that there were already funds being lent to Lutheran congregations before the official incorporation in 1901. One church, Immanuel – St. Clair, was one of the first congregations to receive support to build their sanctuary. How Immanuel came to be is part of the “genesis story” of CEF.
- Our first trustees were Rev. Herman Speckhard (Holy Cross – Saginaw), Rev. Emanuel Mayer (St. Lorenz – Frankenmuth), Mr. John Schroeder, Mr. Michael Helmreich (St. Paul – Bay City), and Mr. John Ruff (Port Huron/St. Clair). If you have any information on any of these men, we would love to learn more about their stories!
- CEF was integral in supporting fledgling church plants all over the State of Michigan, and beyond! I found references to congregations in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, and an investment from a congregation in Los Angeles, California!
- Michigan CEF predates the first synodical version of an extension fund which was organized a year later (1902).



Rev. Herman Speckhard



Rev. Emanuel Mayer



Mr. John Ruff

With this rich history behind us, we are humbled to carry on the work that our founding trustees began 125 years ago. While there have been many changes since our humble beginnings in 1901, the constant is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and the rich blessings he has poured out upon CEF, the ministries and churches of the Michigan District (and beyond!), and the parishioners who have trusted us with their funds to help Build the Kingdom. We look forward to what God has in store for the next 125 years of serving ministries in Michigan!



Andy Sohn
Senior Vice President - Strategy & Marketing

Debt Isn't a Four-Letter Word

How Smart Borrowing Can Strengthen Your Ministry

For many church leaders, the word “debt” carries an almost instinctive bad taste - a sense that borrowing represents a failure of faith or financial discipline.

That instinct is understandable, but it rarely tells the whole story and is often wrong.

Over the past 125 years, Church Extension Fund has walked alongside hundreds of Lutheran churches, schools and ministries across Michigan through seasons of growth, seasons of challenge, and everything in between.

Armed with that experience, we've come to an important conclusion: **Not all debt is created equal, and for many congregations, responsible borrowing is one of the most powerful tools to advance ministry.**

A Biblical Foundation for Faithful Stewardship

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents. A master entrusts his servants with resources before departing on a journey. Two of the servants put those resources to work and they multiply. The third “plays it safe” and buries his talent in the

ground. What he thought was a conservative and safe approach was rebuked! The master's words are striking: *“You should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.”*

This lesson is about faithful stewardship (Matt 25:27). The lesson applies to both investments and loans. The resources God entrusted to us are meant to be activated, not merely protected. Good stewardship isn't only about what we save - it's about what we do with what we've been given.

Understanding Good Debt

Good debt is purposeful. It enables action to carry out ministry - like a repaired roof that keeps the congregation safe from damage, a renovated

fellowship hall that draws the community in, a new HVAC system that makes worship comfortable year-round. Good debt is structured, manageable, and tied to a clear outcome that serves the mission of the church.

Bad debt, by contrast, is reactive. It is taken on without a plan, on a whim, without realistic repayment expectations, or without alignment to ministry goals. The distinction isn't the borrowing itself - it's the intention and the structure behind it.

Cash Flow and the Power of a Line of Credit

Consider a common scenario: your congregation has launched a capital campaign. The pledges are coming in, the vision is clear, and your members are excited. But pledges sometimes take months and years to collect. Meanwhile, the contractor needs to be paid, and supply costs are going up.

Rather than depleting your savings or emergency reserves, a CEF **line of credit** can bridge that gap. You draw on it only as needed and repay it as pledges are fulfilled. Your contractor is paid, supply costs are controlled, and your congregation's savings plan stays intact. This is not reckless borrowing. It is strategic stewardship. Lines of credit can also be a wise tool for managing

seasonal cash flow to provide breathing room during seasonal giving slowdowns or unexpected costs between budget cycles.

Loans as a Ministry Tool

Term loans allow congregations to tackle larger capital needs (accessibility upgrades, deferred maintenance, facility expansions) without waiting years to save up the full cost. In many cases, the ministry impact of acting now far outweighs the cost of interest paid over time. If a congregation waits five years to repair a deteriorating fellowship hall, what ministry opportunities were lost in the meantime (not to mention making the repair more costly)? Responsible borrowing can close that gap, and the return (measured in lives touched by the Gospel) is real.

Growing What You Have: CEF Investment Tools

Borrowing wisely is only one side of the equation. Equally important is putting your congregation's reserves to work rather than letting them sit idle. CEF offers investment tools

specifically designed for the needs of Lutheran ministries.

Term Notes allow congregations to invest funds at a fixed rate for a set period of time, while keeping the investment returns consistent. For congregations building toward a future building project or capital need, a

Ministry Reserve Note provides both growth and flexibility, ensuring that a portion of funds becomes accessible at regular intervals without sacrificing the benefits of longer-term rates.

For readily accessible funds, **Extension Plus accounts** offer interest earnings with the ability to withdraw as often as needed - a strong option for contingency reserves or funds tied to an active capital campaign. Together, these tools allow a congregation to grow its resources intentionally, matching each dollar to the timeframe and purpose it serves.

A Trusted Partner for Lutheran Ministries in Michigan

At CEF, we don't simply process loan applications. We understand

the unique calling and financial landscape of each congregation. We sit with church leaders, listen to their plans and needs, and help them discern the right financial tools for their season of ministry - whether that's a line of credit, a term loan, interest-bearing investment options, or some combination of all three.

The master in the parable didn't rebuke his servants for putting resources to work. He rebuked the one who 'played it safe' and did nothing. Let CEF help your congregation put its resources to work - wisely, faithfully, and in service of the mission God has placed before you.

Contact CEF today to explore how responsible borrowing and CEF investment tools can strengthen your ministry's next chapter.

Andy Sohn
Senior Vice President
Strategy & Marketing



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"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

Matthew 25:21



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This year, keep 10% of your church's investments at **CEF**.

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Key Takeaways from the Michigan District Board of Directors

The Michigan District Board of Directors (BOD) met for its annual Education Retreat and Meeting Sunday, August 2, through Tuesday, August 4, 2026 in Port Huron and St. Clair, Mich. The BOD, along with spouses and special guests, met late Sunday afternoon to tour the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron, which will be the new venue for the Michigan District convention in 2028. Dinner and fellowship followed after the tour.

The Monday Educational Meeting was held at Immanuel, St. Clair. Opening devotions were given by Rev. James Murr, Senior Pastor at Immanuel, under the theme “A Time to Build.” In the morning session, the BOD welcomed Rev. Daniel Galchutt, Chief Missions Officer of the LCMS, and Mr. Blake Warren, Interim Chief Administrative Officer of the LCMS. Their presentation to the BOD involved LCMS finances, including sources of income, expenses, opportunities, and challenges. Open and honest discussion during and after their presentation allowed the BOD to better understand the LCMS’s financial picture. The BOD also shared some of its frustrations with Synod regarding the under-representation of the Michigan District at the Synod level. The BOD also heard a presentation from Rev. Dr. Paul Biber, the District’s new Director of Leadership Development. In the afternoon session, the BOD heard reports on various ministries throughout the District. Rev. Dr. Randy Duncan gave an update on Campus Ministry throughout the state; Mrs. Jenny Jaroneski gave an update on CrossPointe Center for the Trades; and Rev. Jay Cashmer, Executive Pastor at Christ the King, Southgate, spoke about the ministry collaboration they are doing in the downriver Detroit area. Finally, the BOD heard a report from Dr. Russell Dawn, President of Concordia University Chicago, the Michigan District’s Concordia partner for this past year.

The Tuesday Business Meeting was again held at Immanuel, St. Clair. Opening devotions were given by 1st Vice President Rev. Darryl Andrzejewski. The BOD received, reacted to, and discussed the Synod Convention Report prepared by its advisory delegate, Rev. Dr. Dennis Matyas. The

BOD continued its ongoing discussion on how to best steward District finances and its financial commitment to Synod. They also reviewed ministry descriptions for its officers and reviewed the Board’s annual self-evaluation results. President Davis shared his President’s report which included progress toward his BOD-approved Outcome Indicators for 2026. He will be meeting in September with representatives of the University of Michigan to discuss the future of the recently sold Concordia University Ann Arbor property at Geddes Road. The BOD also heard reports from its Governance Committee, Finance Committee, Circuit Visitors, and the Development Office, which included a video of the recently completed High School Gathering on Mackinac Island.

Action Items the BOD approved:

- Appointed three new District Reconcilers;
- Authorized a listing agreement to potentially sell the Prince of Peace, Ortonville property;
- Memorialized to the next District Convention a rewording of Michigan District Bylaw 9.3 (pertaining to CEF);
- Asked the Governance Committee to look at and possibly revise section 1.6 and 1.7 of the BOD Policy Manual (pertaining to the District’s “Moral Owners” and “Stakeholders”);
- Thanked and gave a gift to Rev. Michael Roth for his many years of service to the District, as he was attending his last BOD meeting as Circuit Visitor Chairman;
- Welcomed Rev. Dr. Evan Gaertner from Our Shepherd, Birmingham who was recently elected as the new Circuit Visitor Chairman for the District.

The BOD’s next meeting is Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at St. Peter, Macomb. Please keep the BOD, the District Staff, and the congregations and ministries of the Michigan District in your prayers as they do the work of the LCMS here in Michigan.



Photo courtesy of Rev. Evan Gaertner

Executive Summary - 69th LCMS Regular Convention

The Michigan District was represented by 95 ordained, commissioned, and lay delegates (79 voting and 16 advisory) from our 44 circuits, who carried our desire to be people of hope, vigorously making known the love of Christ, to the Synod in Convention.

The Convention began on Saturday evening, July 18, with an inspiring opening service following the Convention theme, “Christ Is Risen Indeed.”

Rev. Matthew Harrison was reelected as Synodical President. And, as he requested, Peter K. Lange became First Vice President. Benjamin T. Ball, Alfonso O. Espinosa, Christopher S. Esget, Nabil S. Nour, and Eric C. Skovgaard were elected and ranked as Regional Vice Presidents. The only Michigan District member elected to Synod office was Rev. Korey Maas (St. Paul/Hillsdale), who will serve on the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne.

More than 374 overtures were submitted to the Convention. Ten Floor Committees processed these overtures and produced 106 resolutions for consideration. These resolutions, and a handful that were submitted from the floor, covered large and small issues. The most prominent included:

- Thanksgiving for God’s blessing on many ministries and efforts of the Synod and its agencies.
- Celebrating and encouraging the advances made in National and International Mission and the many sister church bodies around the world with which we are in fellowship.
- Answering concerns about pastoral recruitment and formation, specifying that the MDiv. and Alternate Route (RAR) programs would remain residential and not online, and encouraging Specific Ministry Pastors toward General Ministry Certification.
- Noting the closing of Concordia Ann Arbor, expressing sorrow at the closing but giving thanks for the faithful leaders of the past and present. Michigan District overtures requesting an independent post-

mortem and increased transparency were referred to the Synod Board of Directors and the Concordia University System Board of Directors for action.

- Reestablishing a Commission on Worship to begin long-range planning for the next hymnal.
- Strengthening accountability for sexual misconduct.
- Revising the Synod Bylaws to clarify the role of subsidiary agencies and corporations, defining oversight, and allowing for the creation of Special Purpose Entities that support the work of Synod.
- Requesting that the Concordia University System and the CTCTR work together to clarify the meaning of Lutheran Identity as it applies to our universities.
- Addressing the Prior Approval process, the Convention declined to require that candidates be informed of reasons for their rejection and directed that articles be published to explain the process to the Church.
- Recognizing the tension in Synod over variations in practice, the Convention requested additional study on the issues of closed Communion, public reading of Scripture, men and women in the church, organ donation, IVF, AI, and political ideologies.

In the Michigan District we say that we are “people of hope” because we recognize that we are the Church Militant, and not yet the Church Triumphant. Not everything about our church body will seem satisfactory to us. We will struggle together to arrive at agreement and concord. Nevertheless, because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead, we know that we already share in His victory and new life, and that He is still the Lord of the Church, His Bride. We give thanks for the tremendous agreement that we have in Jesus’ teaching, and we pray that the Lord will guide us to ever greater agreement in our labors to vigorously make known the love of Christ in our community, our church, and the world.



Photo courtesy of Todd and Heather Biermann

Lutheran Business Leaders Breakfast

Lutheran Business Leaders will meet on October 27 in Sterling Heights. This gathering brings together LCMS business owners, professionals, and executives committed to serving Christ through their vocations and strengthening His Church. This first breakfast gathering will feature a panel discussion on faith, work, and leadership. Join us and leave encouraged in your walk with Christ and daily vocation.

Anyone whose vocation takes them into the world of work is welcome. Careers and professions will vary widely—from business owners and executives to nurses, tradespeople, attorneys, engineers, butchers, bakers, and, yes, even candlestick makers. The profession matters less than the desire to serve Christ faithfully through your work.

For more information or to register, visit michigandistrict.org/lbl26.

Journey to Bethlehem

Immanuel, Saginaw will host its 30th Annual Living Nativity, December 4–6. This free 30-minute outdoor living nativity walks you through the ancient town of Bethlehem to pay taxes and be counted in the Roman census. You will hear the shepherds talk about the angels' proclamation, listen to the prophet talk of signs and wonders, enjoy the city alive with activity, and see baby Jesus asleep in the manger. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, visit Livingnativitytrost.com or frankentrost.org/church or Facebook (Living Nativity Saginaw, MI).



Photo courtesy of Rev. Paul Dollinger

Under the theme *Dying Church, Rising Hope*, youth and adults from several Michigan District congregations attended the Higher Things Conference at Washington University in St. Louis this summer. Congregations represented in the photo are: Good Shepherd, Cass City; St. John, Port Hope; Our Savior, Marlette; Peace, Sandusky; St. Paul, Unionville; Zion, Harbor Beach; Trinity, Reese; St. Paul, Cassopolis.

Share Jesus in 180+ Languages

Do you have immigrants living in your area or attending your church or school who need books about Jesus in their heart languages? Contact the Lutheran Heritage Foundation for FREE books about Jesus available in over 180 languages. LHF just received a huge new shipment with books in languages like Japanese and Haitian Creole (*Luther's Small Catechism*), Farsi [Iran] and Korean (*A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*), Spanish (prayer books), Arabic and Urdu [Pakistan] (*devotion booklets*). Visit LHFmissions.org to request your free books today!



Photo courtesy of Lutheran Heritage Foundation

New Retreat Site Expands Care for Church Workers

Shepherd's Canyon, a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri, has launched a new Missouri retreat site. This new, second site expands its ministry of care for pastors, missionaries, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, chaplains, worship leaders, and other full-time church workers and their spouses.

Shepherd's Canyon provides weeklong intensive counseling retreats for church workers experiencing burnout, stress, compassion fatigue, grief, conflict, life changes, sabbatical preparations, and more to help them reclaim the joy of life and ministry.

Those interested in learning more, referring a church worker, volunteering, or supporting the ministry may visit ShepherdsCanyon.org. Financial assistance is available.

Michigan District Youth Attend Christ Academy

Michigan District youth attended Christ Academy on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Christ Academy High School consists of three important elements: confessional catechesis, liturgical worship, and Christ-centered community. This tradition of learning, worship, and community provides a high-impact two-week experience for young men and women, especially for those considering a future in church work. For more information on next year's event, scheduled for June 20–July 3, 2027, please visit ctsfw.edu/christacademy.



Photo courtesy of CTSFW

L-R: Gloria Menze, Lily Menze, Paul Menze, Rachael Herman, Andrew Bayer, Linley Bayer, and the Rev. Christian Schultz, director of Christ Academy

Ministry Bus Tour

On Thursday, October 28, 2026, join Patti Jacques, Executive Director of Gifts For All God's Children, and Jenny Jaroneski, Launch & Outreach Coordinator of CrossPointe Center for the Trades, for a one-day guided bus tour of impactful ministries serving the Metro Detroit area. The itinerary includes visits to several ministries actively making a difference, such as:

- Good News Gang
- Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries Genesis House
- Family of God
- The Luke Project
- Mission City
- Camp Restore Detroit
- Gifts For All God's Children CKC Center
- CrossPointe Center for the Trades

The tour begins at 9 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Troy with a presentation about Elli's House.

Don't miss this opportunity to witness how God is working through these ministries. Register online at michigandistrict.org/bustourfall26.

Local Church Turns Creativity into Community Support

The *Chair-ity Trail* is a community outreach and fundraising event hosted by St. Stephen's, Shelby. Local artists transform Adirondack chairs into unique works of art, while area businesses sponsor and display the chairs throughout the summer, creating a self-guided "trail" for the public to enjoy.

Visitors are encouraged to explore participating businesses, vote for their favorite chair, and support the local community. At the end of the season, the chairs are auctioned, with proceeds for 2026 benefiting The Crystal Valley Care Fund.

The *Chair-ity Trail* celebrates creativity, strengthens partnerships between local businesses and artists, and provides a fun, family-friendly way to engage the community while supporting a meaningful cause.



Photo courtesy of St. Stephen, Shelby



How to Share Your Faith



Online E-Learning

Witness 101, Everyday Witness & More

One-on-one Instruction

Fishing in Your Community, no hooks!

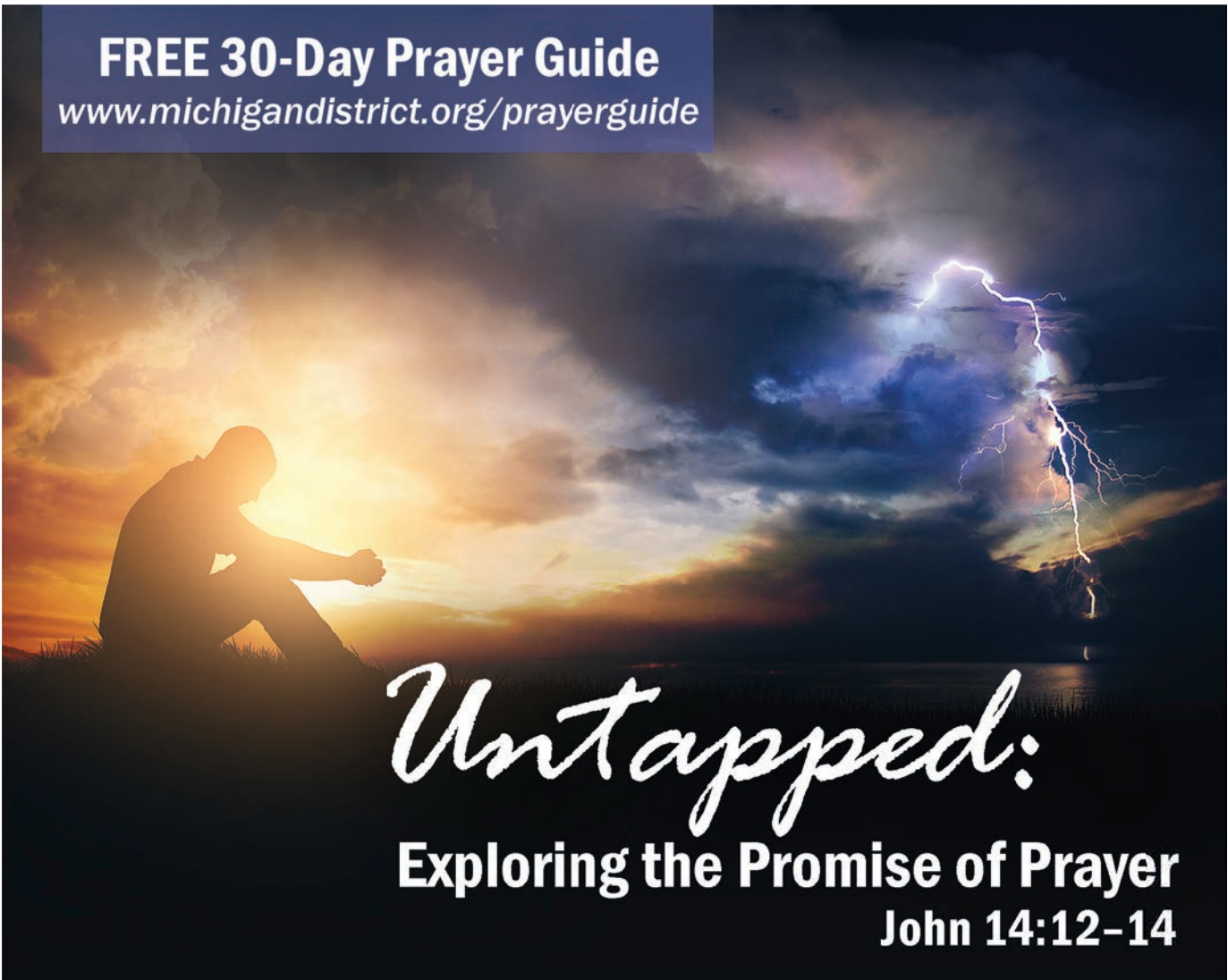
Group Experiences

Beyond the Breakwater

michigandistrict.org/shareyourfaith



FREE 30-Day Prayer Guide
www.michigandistrict.org/prayerguide



Untapped:

Exploring the Promise of Prayer

John 14:12-14



Michigan District, LCMS presents the

Ministry Summit

A Conference for Church Members and Workers

February 6, 2027 | Our Savior, Lansing, Mich.

In many areas of our lives, we seek to utilize all the resources available to us to accomplish our tasks and goals. As Christians, however, we often leave resources untapped. One great resource that God has placed at our disposal is the privilege and joy of coming to Him in prayer. Whether it is forgotten or only thought about as an option of last resort, we miss out on the promises that God has made to us as we speak to Him and submit our lives to Him in prayer. Join us as we hear from Rev. Andy Jones (Author of *10 Treasures of Learning to Pray*) and Deaconess Sylvia Witt, as well as other speakers from across the Michigan District who will help us to explore the promises of prayer.

Cost:
\$40/person
\$25 student rate
includes lunch

Keynote Speakers:
Rev. Andrew Jones
Deaconess Sylvia Witt

www.michigandistrict.org/ms27
Registration will open November 1, 2026

Introducing the New Director of Leadership Development

Rev. Dr. Paul Biber was born in Buffalo, NY. When he was 4 years old, his family relocated to Riverside, Calif., 60 miles east of Los Angeles. He attended the University of Southern California (USC) and earned both B.A. and M.A. degrees in Theoretical Mathematics.

It was during his college years that Biber felt God's call to the ministry, so after graduation he went straight to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. There he met his wife, Rebecca, who worked at the Seminary as a graphic designer, and they got married after he graduated. They have three children: Eli (20), Grace (19), and Hannah (15). Rebecca currently serves as an art teacher at St. Peter, Hemlock. The family lives in Saginaw, and Paul commutes to Ann Arbor as needed.

Biber's first call was to Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine, Wisc., where he served for 5 years. After that he served for about 10 years at St. Lucas Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Mo., followed by Good Shepherd, Saginaw, where he served for the last 10 years until receiving the call from the Michigan District, LCMS. In 2013, Biber earned a D.Min. degree in missional leadership.

One side project that is near and dear to his heart is the support of a daycare in an impoverished area of Southern Brazil, which he first got to know in 2009 during a trip with his Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI) class. The following year he brought a group of seven people from his church in Missouri so they could help finish the daycare building, and has been taking groups of various sizes ever since. They have held VBS programs for the daycare kids as well as for an orphanage in a remote area; built the second floor of the daycare building; and in the latest trip, just this year, they spent 3-4 days painting the building and strengthening relationships. In one of the trips, Biber also taught a 3-day course at the local Lutheran seminary.

His hobbies include distance running and biking. One year he rode a cumulative 5,500 miles—the distance between Saginaw and São Leopoldo, Brazil—to raise money for the daycare. The last leg of that effort was the 150-mile ODRAM (One Day



Photos by Adele Werner/Michigan District, LCMS

Ride Across Michigan). For his 50th birthday he ran 50 miles, raising funds for the same cause. Other hobbies include building stadiums out of Legos, and cross-stitching—a hobby he picked up from his mother and that feeds his mathematical mind. His current project is a 5'x7' panel depicting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

When asked what he's most excited about his new role at the District, Biber said it is the possibility of working on multiple levels of leadership development, especially lay leadership, and helping build up workers for the Church.

Welcome, Rev. Biber!

Elisa L. Schulz helps create content for the blog and other projects through her writing, editing, and photography. She also documents District events through photographs, and proofreads and edits the District's official publications.



Rev. David Krueger was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christ the King Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Flint. Pastor Krueger's knowledge of American Sign Language will help him serve Christ the King and the greater Michigan District Deaf Ministry.



Rev. Noah Dunsmore was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church/Christ the King Lutheran Chapel in Mount Pleasant on July 12, 2026.

Alien Fellowship

Lorenz sanctuary. Kids were invited to be honest before God, praying to Him for all that they need.

In between these times of learning and service, students experienced Alien Fellowship tangibly. They hung out with their youth groups in hotel rooms, at the arcade, shopping in downtown Frankenmuth, and of course swimming in Michigan's largest indoor waterpark—the Bavarian Inn Blast.

Participants describe this event as “SO MUCH FUN”—but it's more than that. It's about reminding youth during an ever-changing time in their lives that they have a never-changing God who loves them. It's showing them they have a huge community of believers *their own age* standing with them as citizens of Heaven because of Jesus. At the end of the event, our prayer is that these middle schoolers would continue to grow in their knowledge of who they are in Christ and participate deeply in the life of the Church.

continued from page 9



As for the Bavarian Inn's request, Chuck said, “Well, guess what? They got 350 (rooms) and we're going for it. To God be the glory.”

Thank you to all leaders who brought their youth to Frankenmuth for the days of fun, fellowship, and growth. A recap video is featured on our YouTube channel, @MichiganDistrictLCMS. Photos can be found on the “Youth Gatherings – Michigan District, LCMS” Facebook page. ■

Adele S. Werner is the Video Journalist / Digital Media Manager for the Michigan District, LCMS.



Mighty Waters ...

continued from page 8

the Gathering, students were reminded that even the mighty waters surrounding the island cannot compare to the life-giving water found in God's Word.



©Wirestock/Stock

Living and Learning Together

Mission Point Resort provided the perfect setting for this unique experience. Instead of simply attending a conference, students lived together in a Christian community.

Their days consisted of opening devotions and inspiring speakers, followed by breakout sessions including topics that ranged from attending college to *Stump the Pastor* and creative arts to living out faith in real life. Following lunch, the students had a chance to rest, explore the island, and play games together during free time. In the evening, the group came together again for another mass event, followed by group meeting time and late-night activities. Every day ended together with a recap and devotions before students returned to their rooms.

"The length of the gathering, variety of options, and programming/free time balance is just about perfect," wrote one adult attendee.

Adult leaders experienced the Gathering alongside their students, encouraging discussions, praying together, and watching young people grow more confident in sharing and living out their faith. Every evening included time for church groups to meet together for more in-depth conversations. Students and adults were able to share their thoughts from the day and how it applies to their lives at home.

They learned in conference rooms. They played games on the lawn and toured the island together. Songs and praise filled the Sound Stage. Friendships were strengthened through shared worship, recreation, and countless conversations and service opportunities throughout the week.

Serving Side by Side

The servant aspect is often a memorable experience for the attendees. Together, students served at the historical Heritage Village in Mackinaw City, the Icebreak Mackinaw Maritime Museum, a school located on Mackinac Island, helped out at Mission Point Resort, decorated cards and bags for youth outreach programs in Grand Rapids, and made bracelets and cards for those who are helped by Elli's House in Detroit, among various other service-learning projects.

"I just find it so refreshing to help the community that is hosting us for this wonderful week," said Kaitlyn Arnold from Christ Our Savior, Livonia.

The students weren't deterred by the work at the servant events, even when rain changed a lot of the outdoor activities. They worked hard at their assigned tasks and picked up extras as they were asked to do so.

Sharing the Experience

Reflecting on their time at the Gathering, those who completed the surveys had many positive things to say about their experience.

"Great food, resort staff was wonderful, volunteers and coordinators were amazing too," said one adult attendee.

Another shared how much they loved the Bible study leaders Sarah Salzberg and Gabe Kasper: *"Our group loved Sarah and Gabe, enjoyed the variety of the sectionals, and obviously the island is a gift in itself."*

Another hopes that more students attend in the future: *"I think that the gathering overall was excellent and I would highly recommend and encourage the youth from our church to attend the next one."*

As the final worship service concluded and participants boarded ferries for the journey home, they left with more than memories of Mackinac Island. They returned carrying renewed faith, strengthened friendships—along with some new ones—and the assurance that Jesus alone provides the Mighty Waters that refresh, restore, and renew His people. ■



Photos by Adele Werner/Michigan District, LCMS



Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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



High School Youth Gathering



Early Childhood Conference



Campus Ministry



A2E Summer Camp



All Nations Celebration

Looking Back

When you're in the moment, it's sometimes hard to see the blessings. You get distracted and move on with the busyness of life. Those moments quickly blend into days and months, often without recognizing the grace of God that connected them.

The end of the year is a natural time to look back and see the faithful blessings of God. We also thank Him for His daily love, mercy, and grace. At the same time, we can commit to continuing to spend time reading our Bible and praying, showing kindness to others, being a family, forgiving one another. These are the good things God gives us. He blesses us and more with plenty to share with others.

The Michigan District has faithful church workers and congregations that are called to serve God and care for us in all of life's moments. Every day, our work focuses on meeting their ministry needs and caring for their spiritual and personal needs. As you count your blessings at the end of the year, will you consider sending a gift to support this work?

Thank you for your faithfulness in unity and love for each other. Look back through the photos here to see some of the Michigan District highlights of 2026 and keep your

...eyes on Jesus...

Rev. David A. Davis

Rev. David A. Davis, President
Michigan District, LCMS

Yes, President Davis, I would like to support the Michigan District, LCMS!

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of : ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other _____

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/City _____

I would like my gift to support: ☐ Greatest Need (Unrestricted) ☐ General Endowment

☐ Lutheran Education ☐ Leadership Development ☐ A2E ☐ Prof. Church Worker Scholarship
☐ Mission & Ministry ☐ Church Worker Care ☐ Campus Ministry ☐ Other _____

☐ I'm considering including the Michigan District in my estate, please contact me.

To donate via credit card visit michigandistrict.org/endofyearappeal

For a listing of additional funds visit: michigandistrict.org/donate/ways-to-give

Return to:
Attn: Development Department
Michigan District, LCMS
3773 Geddes Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105



Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-3098

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

Michigan In Touch Fall 2026 Issue

Enrollment Now Open

Course Offerings:

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Center for the Trades

Apply Today!

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Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 2026

- 1 New LCMS Veteran Teacher Orientation
St. Luke, Ann Arbor
- 2 Rookie Teacher Orientation
St. Luke, Ann Arbor
- 4–6 All Pastors Conference
Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls
- 9–10 Lutheran Adult Gathering
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island
- 11 State Cross Country Meet
Huron Clinton Metropark
- 15–16 MANS Educators Conference
Grand Rapids
- 19–21 Ministry Specialist Conference
Oregon, Ohio
- 20 Beyond the Breakwater
Messiah, Midland
- 20 Board of Directors
St. Peter, Macomb
- 31 State Volleyball Championship
Lutheran High Northwest, Rochester Hills

For more information about these and other events, visit:
michigandistrict.org/events

NOVEMBER 2026

- 1 All Saints Day
- 2–3 Next Generation Pastors
Amway Grand, Grand Rapids
- 17 Beyond the Breakwater
Messiah, Midland
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 26–27 District Office Closed

DECEMBER 2026

- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2027

- 1 New Year's Day
- 12 Beyond the Breakwater
Messiah, Midland
- 19 Board of Directors
TBD

Roster updates can be found at
www.michigandistrict.org/callsandvacancies