

Why Now? ... Why Us?

The congregational phase of *The Future is Now* campaign is in full swing. Your congregation may have already set its goal and made its commitment to the Thank Offering as one of the early responding congregations. If so, we, at the Michigan District, would like to thank your congregation for its commitment and thank you for helping your congregation reach its goal over the next several years.

As your congregation reaches its goal, you will be helping the Michigan District reach its campaign goal of \$13,000,000 for planting new mission congregations and providing church worker scholarships within the District and assisting international ministries throughout the world through LCMS World Mission.

The questions before us are why is the Michigan District asking the congregations of the District to participate in *The Future is Now* and why now? The following paragraphs will answer that question.

I Timothy 6:19 tells us, "In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age ..." Sometimes it is easy to forget that the privilege we have of worshipping in our congregations occurs because someone took a step in faith at perhaps a time that was similar to the challenging circumstances we face today. Our predecessors' commitment to the Church twenty-five, fifty, or even more years ago laid the firm foundation that allows the nearly 380 congregations of the District to serve its members and communities today.

The Future is Now is providing the same opportunity for us to lay a firm foundation for the generations that will follow. In the past 25 years alone, the District has planted over 40 congregations. That time period has also provided a sufficient number of well-trained pastors, teachers, and other church workers to serve the congregations and schools of the Synod. There has also been great progress through the work of LCMS World Mission in



reaching the unchurched in other regions of the world that were previously unreachable.

What will be said about the next 25 years? Will churches continue to be planted? Will there still be sufficient well-trained church workers? Will the unchurched throughout the world hear the message of the Gospel? We will determine the answers to those questions by the foundation we lay today.

Our Great Commission responsibility is a great responsibility, one that we simply cannot take lightly or for granted. With 60% of Michigan's population and about two-thirds of the world's population void of a relationship with the Savior, the decisions and actions we take today will have a profound impact on the future of the Church.

It is now our turn. Please prayerfully consider how you can personally help impact the future of the Church as we go forward with the congregational phase of *The Future is Now* because the future IS now.

For more information about *The Future is Now*, to schedule a speaker, or to make a gift directly to the Michigan District, please contact the Development Office at 888.225.2111 or visit www.michigandistrict.org.

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Vice President of Development