

The Future is Now

In partnership with



Formally organized as a part of the present day Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1881, the Michigan District has a rich history. Pioneer missionaries started in the Saginaw Valley with schools and churches in 1828 to disciple the saved and evangelize the lost. Pastor Friedrich Schmid, the first Lutheran Pastor in the territory of Michigan, started numerous mission churches and organized the “First Michigan Synod.” It was organized to provide a cooperative spirit on the part of Michigan Lutheran Pastors and was often referred to as the “Mission Synod.” Now, over 125 years later, the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a network of Lutheran congregations and ministries that are interdependent, dynamic, effective and growing in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This network of congregations that now totals 389 individual mission outposts still seeks to fulfill those early purposes of discipling the saved and evangelizing the lost.

In the next few pages, we would like to introduce you to, *The Future is Now* in partnership with *Fan into Flame* a joint campaign which seeks to carry out the mission of the Michigan District. This year, the Michigan District is partnering with LCMS World Mission in a joint effort to share the Gospel message in Michigan and throughout the world.

Our Goal

In celebration of 125 years of blessings, the Michigan District established the following three initiatives for *The Future is Now*:

- ◆ Intentional Mission Development: \$5,000,000
- ◆ Recruiting, Supporting and Deploying Professional Church Worker Students: \$5,000,000
- ◆ Partnering with LCMS World Mission in *Fan into Flame*, the capital campaign in support of the Ablaze! Movement: \$3,000,000

The Future is Now in partnership with *Fan into Flame* provides a unique opportunity for the congregations and members of the Michigan District to bestow a wonderful thank offering for the blessings received from our Lord. Each of us should rise to these continuing challenges, and make a difference for the future that can only happen through shared purpose and common goals.

Intentional Mission Development – Objective I

The need is great for intentional mission development in Michigan. There are many areas in the state in which 50% or more of the people are unchurched. This represents about 6 million people. It is in these areas that the district seeks to begin new missions. Since 1985, there have been over 40 successful mission starts reporting many stories of how the Holy Spirit touched the hearts of new believers. Currently, there are two to three new intentional mission developments started by the district each year through congregational giving. Maintaining and increasing this level of mission starts is difficult with decreased funding levels. As such, the district's ability to continue this trend is



in jeopardy. Through this campaign, the Michigan District seeks to raise \$5,000,000 to begin 10 additional mission starts over the next five years including one urban mission start, and place funds into the Michigan District Endowment Fund for Mission Development.

Since 1991, Grace Lutheran Fellowship of Romeo had envisioned the planting of a new mission church. This became a reality when, on September 26, 2004 with 175 in attendance, Family of Christ Lutheran Church held its first service. The congregation approved a building program in the summer of 2007. By October, Family of Christ was breaking ground on its very first worship center, (left). Family of Christ is one of many new mission churches that have been successfully planted in the Michigan District.

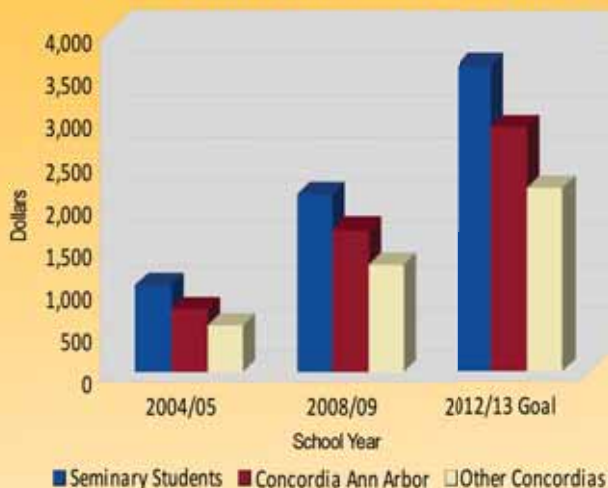
Michigan District Percentage of Unchurched by County

Unchurched %	# of Counties
70% and Up	16
50 - 69.9%	48
30 - 49.9%	6
10 - 29.9%	2

Compiled from the book, Religious Congregations & Membership in the United States 2000 published by Glenmary Research Center, Tennessee.

Professional Church Worker Support – Objective II

Financial Aid Provided to Each Student



In past years, the financial support to assist those who have answered the call has been far below the cost of tuition and expenses. The campaign seeks to address these financial issues by raising \$5,000,000 to substantially increase the financial support offered to professional church work students and to fortify the Michigan District Endowment for Professional Church Workers.

The Michigan District has a wonderful history of men and women who have answered the call into the ministry. In 2008, over 148 Michigan District professional church work students attended our seminaries, universities, and colleges. Yet the need for professional church workers at this time in the history of the church cannot be overstated. With the anticipated shortfall of workers due to the additional outreach opportunities of synod-wide mission development and retirements, the Michigan District is encouraging more men and women to enter into full-time ministry.



International Ministries – Objective III

The third initiative of the campaign seeks to raise money for international ministries. In light of the fact that two out of every three people in the world today have no relationship with Christ, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its 30 partner and sister churches worldwide have initiated the *Ablaze!* movement to reach 100 million people with the Gospel by the year 2017. By resolution at the 2004 Synod Convention, LCMS members, pastors, congregations, and allied organizations endorsed *Ablaze!* to deliver hope and spiritual renewal by communicating the saving message of the Gospel.



Fan into Flame is the capital fundraising campaign endorsed by the 2004 Synodical Convention that will secure \$100,000,000 in new money (over and above current LCMS World Mission budget) to help reach the *Ablaze!* goals. The first major campaign of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 25 years, *Fan into Flame* will touch all districts and congregations, helping LCMS Lutherans take a quantum leap in their ability to minister to the lost.

Our comprehensive program will not only allow the District to secure funds in support of its ministry needs, but it will afford all Michigan District members the opportunity to fund ministries here at home, across the country, and around the world through one gift through this collaborative program.

Through this joint effort, we hope to:

- ◆ Add Missionaries in the field
- ◆ Provide funding for new ministry starts, leadership training centers, and new schools
- ◆ Build new seminary facilities
- ◆ Respond to opportunities and emergencies

World events are opening doors to the Gospel at a rapid pace in places where it has been hindered by political, social, and geographic limitations. Our intention is to supply LCMS World Mission with funding support for their global outreach efforts through our joint campaign. The Michigan District is honored to be able to help reach the lost throughout the world as we work to share the gospel with the lost throughout our District.

Unrestricted donations in 2009 will be allocated as illustrated in the chart to the right.

To support *The Future is Now* in partnership with *Fan into Flame* please forward your donation payable to Michigan District, to:

Michigan District, LCMS
3773 Geddes Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

For more information visit
www.michigandistrict.org/g3.html.



Congregational Orientation Workshops

Monday, February 9

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
6820 East Main Street
Cass City, MI 48726
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, January 30

Wednesday, February 11

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
808 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Monday, February 2

Sunday, February 15

Immanuel Lutheran Church
351 Wilson Street
Alpena, MI 49707
2:30-4:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, February 6

Monday, February 16

Trinity Lutheran Church
1003 South Maple Street
Traverse City, MI 49684
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, February 6

Wednesday, February 18

Trinity Lutheran Church
19778 US 10
Reed City, MI 49677
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Monday, February 9

Thursday, February 19

Trinity Lutheran Church
721 Pine Street
Paw Paw, MI 49079
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Monday, February 9

Monday, March 2

Faith Lutheran Church
12534 Holly Road
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, February 20

Thursday, March 5

Peace Lutheran Church
8260 Jackson Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Monday, February 23

Sunday, March 8

Grace Lutheran Church
630 North Monroe Street
Monroe, MI 48162
2:30-4:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, February 27

Tuesday, March 10

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
5125 Cascade Road SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, February 27

Tuesday, March 17

Our Savior Lutheran Church
7910 E St. Joe Hwy.
Lansing, MI 48917
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, March 6

Thursday, March 19

Immanuel Lutheran Church
47120 Romeo Plank Road
Macomb, MI 48044
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Monday, March 9

Sunday, March 22

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
14175 Farmington Road
Livonia, MI 48154
2:30-4:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, March 13

Thursday, March 26

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
1100 Lone Pine Road
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Monday, March 16

Monday, March 30

St. John Lutheran Church
155 North Fairview Street
West Branch, MI 48661
6:30-8:30 p.m.
RSVP by Friday, March 20

District congregational staff, lay leaders, and congregation members are invited to attend these workshops.

RSVP your attendance to Jenna Szpara at the Michigan Office at 888.225.2111 or jenna.szpara@michigandistrict.org. Please provide your name, congregation, and which workshop you will be attending.