



Dear Fellow Redeemed

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ whose passion we observe during the final days of this Lenten season in anticipation of a glorious Easter celebration.

This issue of *Michigan In Touch* covers several wonderfully significant events in **the life of our Lord Jesus**. We observe Holy Week early in April this year followed by Easter on April 12. Then, in this brief two-month span of the Church year, we also celebrate Ascension and the Festival of Pentecost. Additionally, events such as confirmations (from Palm Sunday through Pentecost), graduations, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day are also celebrated! The opportunity before us in these events and observances is that we can reflect on

the depth of the love of our Lord Jesus in the giving of His life, His glorious resurrection, and His gift of the Spirit on Pentecost. May this enable us to share His love in the lives of people challenged by all the current realities and challenges.

The sharing of His love and faith often occurs first in our family context, whatever that may be for each of us. It certainly also extends into our Christian family.

Deuteronomy 6 comes to mind. It is a description of **passing on the faith in family**. This references passing on the faith from generation to generation. It also includes the blessing of older generations learning from the younger as well! This issue provides a very helpful focus on passing on the faith in families.

There is much joy in gathering together as God's family. This is the case regarding the recently completed round of 15 **Congregational Workshops** for presenting the Congregational Phase of *The Future Is Now*. Meeting with you throughout the District has been an encouragement as pastors and people have come together to consider an opportunity of a response of thanksgiving for God's goodness. My prayer is that God bless you as your congregation considers its involvement. The goal is to plant missions, provide church

work student aid, and enable international ministries. We anticipate an update at the District Convention this summer.

Speaking of the Convention, planning and preparation is well underway. The **Michigan District Convention** is scheduled for June 28 – July 1 at Concordia University Ann Arbor. A recent mailing included registration forms and general information. We look for-

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ~ Deuteronomy 6:6-7

ward to gathering in Convention under the theme “Celebrate Jesus.” In the challenges of this current chapter in history the thought is “back to the basics.” We celebrate Jesus “for” us. Additionally, we celebrate Jesus “with” us in the midst of this current context. We look forward to Dr. Reed Lessing and his presentation and discussion centered around Philippians chapter 2.

In preparation for the upcoming Convention, each region of the District will gather for **Regional Pre-Convention meetings**. Delegates from the four regions of the District will gather to share news, review Convention materials, and nominate candidates for election.

These four Regional Pre-Convention meetings are critically important particularly in this year in view of the overall election process with the election of a new District President and other elected positions. Please make every effort to encourage your congregational delegates to be present for these meetings on **Saturday, May 2**. The locations and times are listed on page 27 of this issue.

In April, **Placement** of Pastoral Candidates from our seminaries will occur. As of this writing, 13 congregations in Michigan have applied for pastoral candidates and

11 congregations have asked for a vicar. Of the congregations requesting a pastoral candidate, there are seven requests for a Sole Pastor and six requests for a position in a multiple staff context. We thank the Lord for those who heed the words, “Here am I, send me” and pray to the Lord of the harvest for His blessing of their ministry.

As all the above observances and activities come to fruition, may we be blessed with thankful hearts, that we may “Celebrate Jesus.”

In Him with You,
C. William Hoesman