



Dear Fellow Redeemed

As this issue of *Michigan In Touch* goes to press, plans are well under way for the upcoming Michigan District Convention, June 25-28, at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. The Convention Theme, “**Celebrating God’s Faithfulness: Redeemed ... Refreshed ... Ready ...**” is the organizing principle for our gathering. In Philemon, the fifth verse, Paul writes of hearing, “about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.” We thank and praise God for the opportunity to celebrate the faith of those who have gone before us in the life and ministry of the Michigan District. As we gather, we shall be privileged to recognize that faith in one another as we celebrate His presence

among us. May our hearts will be filled with joy in anticipation of the opportunity of service in our time as we begin the next 125 years together.

Registrations are running slightly ahead of our previous conventions. Thank you for such a spirit of preparation and cooperation. Pre-convention regional meetings and the floor committees met and Workbook II will be mailed in early June. There is much excitement as we look forward to the **opening worship service** on Sunday evening, June 25, at 7:00 p.m. All are invited!

As attention is given to 125 years of God’s faithfulness, we praise God for the many faithful laymen and church workers who have worked together in service of our Lord. The convention topic/essay will focus around the **Priesthood of Believers** and the **Office of the Ministry**. The presentations will include reflection and discussion in small groups among lay delegates, pastoral delegates and advisory delegates. The electronic voting pads will be used in these discussions as well.

A **125th anniversary dinner** and program is planned for Monday evening, June 26, under a tent behind the Manor on Concordia’s campus. There are also plans during the course of the convention to gather for an old-time group convention photo.

Recently the District Board of Directors adopted ethics documents for congregations and professional church workers. Convention business will include attention to implementation of these documents throughout the district. The documents outline **principles of conduct** for congregations and church workers which will, under God’s blessing, facilitate development of relationships that result in more effective ministry.

Attention will also be given to the new hymnal being presented by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod entitled the “**Lutheran Service Book**.” Material from the new hymnal will be included in the several worship services to introduce us to it.

Another facet of convention business will include introduction of the **125th Anniversary Thank Offering**, “**The Future Is Now**.”

As in past conventions, plans are being made for a **ministry tent** filled with news of mission and ministry that is occurring throughout the Michigan District and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Ministries of the District, Recognized Service Organizations, Mission Societies and other groups will be presented for our edification, celebration and participation. We are privileged to serve together and pray that the Lord bless our mutual ministries.

The second major issue of this column is to share the news of pastoral candidates for ministry and their **placement**. In late April, the Council of Presidents and the placement officials from each Seminary met and the great news for the Michigan District is that all 12 requests for a pastoral candidate were filled! We thank and praise God for the gifts that He grants to the church through these men. On Call Night they presented themselves saying, “Here am I Lord, send me.” We welcome them to the congregations and ministries of the Michigan District. The potential of this group of 12 fine pastoral candidates is great. It shall be our privilege to work with them and to see the goodness of the Lord at work through them. It is also a joy to report that the 11 requests for vicarage assignment were all filled.

There is much that is exciting in the life of our church in these days. Gathering together in convention and celebrating the gifts of pastoral candidates are but two among the many reasons for which we thank and praise our God. May His Spirit fill our hearts with joy as we celebrate these and the many other gifts that He grants us.

In Him with you,
C. William Hoesman