



Dear Fellow Redeemed

Greetings in the name of our risen, victorious and ever-present Lord Jesus Christ! Following our celebration of the Ascension of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, we happily anticipate the days of summer that await us. Each day is a gift from the hand of our God. He promises to be with us, to bless us with forgiveness, abundant life in Him and the sure hope of eternal life. This brings peace that passes understanding and frees us to live each day for the furtherance of His Kingdom. The familiar text of **Acts 2:42** comes to mind where we are reminded that the early church continued to devote “themselves to the **apostles’ teaching** and to the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer.**” This text and the

season that stretches before us covers very nicely three particular areas to relate to you.

This issue of *Michigan In Touch* has a special **vacation** focus “Taking God With You Wherever You Go”. It is good, it is refreshing and it is renewing to be blessed with taking a vacation. In addition to the excellent **children’s pull-out section** included in this issue, my encouragement to you is to seek out any LCMS congregations that are near where you are vacationing and have an “**Acts 2: 42 experience**” with God’s people there. The Lord surely blesses such efforts with the joy of fellowship with those who are at worship and work where they live. It also builds an appreciation for your home congregation! Congregation information is readily available in the *Lutheran Annual* or at www.michigandistrict.org. Click on “Directories” and then “Congregation Finder.” Type in the City and State and a list of churches will appear. As you plan for a wonderful vacation, please include the joy of worship with others in the vast fellowship of District and beyond.

At this time of year we are also thankful for pastoral candidates whose **vocation** is the Office of the Holy Ministry. Recently, the **pastoral candidates were placed** into their initial call by the Council of Presidents, LCMS. It is a joy to share with you that the Michigan District received **11 pastoral candi-**

dates and we were assigned **10 vicars**. Throughout Synod, there were requests for 242 pastoral candidates with 223 candidates available, leaving 19 positions unfilled. We thank and praise God for the candidates coming to the Michigan District and celebrate throughout Synod for the Lord’s sending forth laborers into His harvest. May we also be very aware

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that, even in these days the supply did not meet the demand. In the days to come, the demand is going to increasingly exceed the supply. Let us therefore pray the Lord of the Harvest to lead many to pursue church work vocations.

Finally, the **63rd Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod** with the theme “One Message – *Christ!*” will convene July 14 in Houston. Our Michigan District delegation of a layperson and a pastor from each of our 44 circuits is already hard at work studying the Convention Workbook and preparing for representing the Michigan District.

The purpose of Convention can also be described in **Acts 2:42 terms**. The coming together of all the delegates for this Convention will enable inspiring worship and blessed fellowship, not only in renewing and making new acquaintances, but in laboring together to serve our Lord and extend His Kingdom. The delegates will also conduct the business of the Church through overtures and resolutions. The mission of the Church is central in all that is done. The Floor Committees will present issues such as elections, fellowship, worship, communion, Christian witness, appropriate roles in pastoral ministry, finance, dispute resolution, Synodical organization, and pastoral preparation. A **pre-Convention meeting** is planned for Saturday, **June 23** to review the Convention Workbook and make other preparations. By various means, delegates will, God-willing, arrive at the opening of the Convention on Saturday, July 14 and be blessed throughout the following week while serving on your behalf. Please **include the Convention in your prayers**, individually and as congregations, that the Lord would work mightily among and through us for our nurture and for the extension of His Kingdom.

In Him with you,
C. William Hoesman