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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ABLAZE! TORCH RELAY: For the Heart of Michigan**

The *Ablaze! Torch Relay: For the Heart of Michigan* is an eleven day relay that

travels 515 miles through the heart of Michigan June 18 through June 28. The relay will feature nearly one hundred runners each taking a leg of the relay as the route travels in the shape of a heart through the state of Michigan. There will be 11 different community rallies along the relay route each sponsored by a different congregation. Noted youth speaker, Rev. Bill Yonker, and Christian singer and songwriter, David Paul Britton, will be involved in the various rallies.

Stops along the route include St. Joseph, Paw Paw, Kentwood, Big Rapids, Midland, Frankenmuth, Bad Axe, Port Huron, downtown Detroit, Walled Lake and Ann Arbor. Rallies will have various activities. The rallies are open to local communities and will include food, music and family friendly activities.

The first rally, a free Gospel Music Concert sponsored by Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Joseph, Michigan, will take place Thursday, June 18, 5:30 p.m. at Silver Beach Shadowland Pavilion in St. Joseph. The first runner begins the first leg of the 515 route on Friday, June 19 at noon.

The purpose of the relay is to engage with and give encouragement to thousands of people across the state of Michigan through running and rally events. Michigan continues to face challenging times! We want the Church to bring hope and encouragement to people in Michigan. Jesus offers comfort and peace *For the Heart of Michigan*.

This is the third annual *Ablaze! Torch Relay*. To date 150 runners and nearly 5,000 people have participated.



The *Ablaze Torch Relay: For the Heart of Michigan* is sponsored by congregations in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. *Ablaze!* is a mission of the LCMS to reach 100 million people with the Gospel of Jesus by the year 2017, the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

For more information about the relay, the rallies or to download print ready images visit [www.ablazerelay.org](http://www.ablazerelay.org).

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