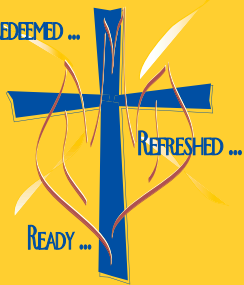


CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

REDEEMED ...



# THE CONVENTION DAILY

Michigan District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

98th Michigan District  
Convention

Concordia University  
Ann Arbor

June 25-28, 2006

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## 125TH ANNIVERSARY THANK OFFERING

The Board of Directors of the Michigan District, as the caretaker of the vision and mission of the District, has determined that two of the long term goals for the congregations of the Michigan District are: Intentional Mission Development and Recruiting, supporting, and deploying Professional Church Worker Students.

While the Michigan District has been blessed for many years with wonderful pastors and teachers, within ten years it will face a shortage of professional church workers due to the staffing of new mission outreach resulting from the *ABLAZE!* initiative as well as the retirement and death of our current workforce.

Even though there are over 245,000 individuals in over 375 congregations in the Michigan District, the need for intentional mission development to reach out to the lost with the saving gospel message of Jesus Christ is urgent today. There are many areas in the state in which 60% or more of the people are unchurched. It is in these areas that the District seeks to fulfill the goal of beginning new mission congregations.

"The Future is Now" provides a unique opportunity for the congregations and members of the churches to provide a



*Mr. Ronald Steinke, CEO of the Michigan District Church Extension Fund, handed President Hoesman a check in the amount of \$350,000 to cover all administrative and development costs so that every dollar that is donated will go towards the fund. He then presented a check in the amount of up to \$1,000,000. For every \$1,000,000 raised, CEF will match it with \$100,000.*

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.

To disciple the saved and evangelize the lost has been a consistent message throughout the history of the Michigan District and its congregations. While our efforts to date are commendable, there are still people who do not know of the life-changing, saving grace of Jesus. Rev. Paul Werner, Missionary at Large for the Michigan District, summarized these thoughts in 2005 when he said, "After 125 years, we've far from reached the people of Michigan. There are so many unchurched

*Continued on page 4*

**June 27, 2006  
11:05 am  
125th Anniversary  
Thank Offering  
Presentation**

**June 27, 2006  
11:45 am  
Church Extension Fund  
Supports 125th**

**June 27, 2006  
1:40 pm  
Floor Committee#2  
Lutheran Service Book**

## LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK



The Lutheran Service book is the culmination of nearly a decade of careful preparation, building on the best from both The Lutheran Hymnal and Lutheran Worship. Thoroughly tested and granted overwhelming approval at the 2004 synodical convention, LSB provides congregations a wealth of

resources, utilizing the best features of both print and digital delivery.

All of the worship services at convention are from the LSB. We thank Rev. Stephen Starke and Rev. Albert Collver for their work in coordinating and planning the worship services.

The LSB will be introduced at 17 workshops throughout Michigan in the Fall of 2006. Go to <http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=10009> for more information.

## THANK YOU MUSICIANS!



*Photo by Joel Iverson*

The Convention vocal and instrumental musicians have graced the worship services with their beautiful

gifts. We thank Scott Hyslop (organist) and Brian Altevogt (choral director) for leading and all the musicians for their service to the Lord.

Choir schedule for Wednesday:

Rehearsal	7:30 - 8:15 am
Opening Worship	8:15 am
Service of Sending	11:30 am

## THANK-YOUS!

The 125th Anniversary Committee has worked for several months, planning and implementing activities to celebrate the anniversary during the convention. We thank this dedicated group of volunteers for making this anniversary very special.



A limited number of commemorative ornaments are still available and can be purchased in the Press Room for \$10.

If you are interested in looking at, or downloading pictures from the Photo-Op Board with the 1906 Convention body, please go to the website [www.michigandistrict.org/125PhotoOp.htm](http://www.michigandistrict.org/125PhotoOp.htm). The files are categorized by date taken.

Monday night's celebration featured several presenters. You may contact Chrissy Burns at [chrissygig@aol.com](mailto:chrissygig@aol.com). Les Stahlke can be reached at [les.stahlke@shaw.ca](mailto:les.stahlke@shaw.ca).

The Second Time Around Band may be contacted via [bhoffmeier@ameritech.net](mailto:bhoffmeier@ameritech.net).

## CONVENTION INTERCESSORS

Many thanks go to Dennis Kreil of Messiah, Midland and Kendra Casasanta from Immanuel, Macomb for coordinating the prayer intercessors. We would also like to thank all of those on-site and off, for their faithful prayers.



Wednesday Morning Schedule:

9:30	Rev. John Bjorgaard
10:15	Dennis Kreil

Walk-ins are STILL welcome!

**June 27, 2006**  
**2:15 pm**  
**New Congregation**  
**and**  
**Mission Plants**

**June 27, 2006**  
**3:03 pm**  
**Power goes off due**  
**to storm which also**  
**floods Ministry Tent**

**June 27, 2006**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Service of**  
**Installation**

**June 27, 2006**  
**8:00 pm**  
**Convention**  
**Group**  
**Photo**

## OFFICE OF THE MINISTRY/ PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS SESSION TWO: WHY?

On Tuesday morning, Rev. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer continued part two of his presentation with the question “Why?”

Why is it so important that we understand what the Bible says about the relationship between the pastoral office and the priesthood of all believers? This can be answered by focusing on the 2001 synodical resolution 1-02 ... because a clear and unified understanding of this position will greatly enhance our efforts to carry out the Great Commission under God’s grace and blessing, and a failure to understand and embrace this position will greatly hinder our ability to carry out God’s mission in a unified and God-pleasing way.

Quoting Martin Luther, Dr. Lehenbauer stated, “God can certainly use us to deliver His Word to other people, and in fact, Luther says that that is the reason God keeps us alive rather than taking us straight to heaven.” C.F.W. Walther goes on to state, “Through Holy Baptism, each Christian has obtained not only the authority, power and right, but also the high, holy obligation ... of rousing himself to care and to help so that others maybe brought to Christ. It is certainly true that not everyone is a pastor or a bishop in the Christian congregation. God is a God of order. For order’s sake, the congregation calls only one (or a few) to publicly administer – in the name of all – the rights of the spiritual priesthood. But just as in the construction of a church building, many workers are needed ... all Christians must lend a hand ... every Christian in it (church) is a missionary, sent out by God into his own circle to convert others to Christ.” Lay persons, who do not stand in the public office, often have very glorious gifts to utilize as a fellow laborer in God’s vineyard.

Dr. Lehenbauer shared an email he received from a woman who was searching for a church home and had questions about the LCMS. She noted that there was a man in her office that shared his faith in Christ with her



*Small group discussion facilitated by Galen Walther followed Dr. Lehenbauer’s presentation .*

and gave her a New Testament. By the power of the Holy Spirit working through the Word, the Gospel broke through.

He concluded with the thoughts of pastors and laypersons working together to make this kind of witness and as Luther stated, “God lets us live (and what a glorious reason it is!): that we may bring others to faith as he has done for us.”

On Wednesday morning, Dr. Lehenbauer will conclude this three part presentation by answering the question, “How?”

## MEN WITH A “MISSION”



*Rev. Galen Grulke, Rev. Lynn Witt, Rev. Robert Barber, Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Rev. Mark Bowditch, Rev. Paul Werner.*

**June 27, 2006  
9:30 pm  
Evening Prayer**

**June 28, 2006  
8:15 am  
Memorial  
Service**

**June 28, 2006  
10:55 am  
Cross-Cultural  
Ministries**

**June 28, 2006  
11:30 am  
Service of  
Sending**

*Continued from page 1*

folks who don't know Christ, they would be lost forever unless we reach them with the Gospel." That is what the 125 year history of the Michigan District is about, bringing people to Jesus.

The Michigan District has a wonderful history of men and women who have answered the call of Matthew 9:37-38, "Then he said to his disciples 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" In 2004, almost 200 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. Rev. Galen Grulke from Heart of the Shepherd echoes those words, "With more mission churches being planted and those reaching out to those that do not know Jesus Christ, we need more and more full time church workers." While we clearly need additional students, the financial support to assist those who have answered the call in past years has been far

below the cost of tuition and expenses. In the past five years the support has averaged about \$400 per student. "The Future is Now" campaign seeks to address these issues.

The goal of the "Future Is Now" is to raise \$10,000,000. Four million will be used to fund eleven new mission starts and four million will be used to financially support professional church worker students. The remaining two million is anticipated to add to the Michigan District Endowments for professional church workers and mission starts.



*Jack Kidwell, chairman, presents the 125th Anniversary Thank Offering - "The Future is Now." Seated are honorary co-chairs, Rev. John Heins and Rev. Richard Schlecht .*

## 125TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION PHOTO



*Photo by Joel Iverson*