

# The future is Now

In partnership with

**Fan into Flame**



*“In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”*

*1 Timothy 6:19*

**125<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**  
THANK OFFERING



# The Michigan District-LCMS

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## *Our Beginnings*

Formally organized as a part of the present day Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1881, the Michigan District has a rich history. Pioneer missionaries started in the Saginaw Valley with schools and churches in 1828 to disciple the saved and evangelize the lost. Pastor Friedrich Schmid became the first Lutheran Pastor in the territory of Michigan in August of 1833. In addition to the training and ordaining of individuals to assist him in mission outreach, he started numerous mission churches and organized the “First Michigan Synod.” It was organized to provide a cooperative spirit on the part of Michigan Lutheran Pastors and was often referred to as the “Mission Synod.”

*“The focus is to provide resources so that we can stay about the business of planting churches and staffing them so that the Church and the Michigan District will continue to grow, not the for the sake of its own growth, but that it will reflect additional souls won for Jesus Christ.”*

*C. William Hoesman  
President  
Michigan District-  
LCMS*

## *And Today*

Now, over one hundred twenty five years later, the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a network of Lutheran congregations and ministries that are interdependent, dynamic, effective and growing in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This network of congregations that now totals 389 individual mission outposts still seeks to fulfill those early purposes of discipling the saved and evangelizing the lost. The Michigan District is here to assist the congregations to achieve goals and objectives that individually they could not accomplish. The mission, still today as it was 125 years ago, is to bolster congregations and their ministry, to encourage them and equip them to disciple the saved and evangelize the lost.

## *Vision and Goals*

The Board of Directors of the Michigan District-LCMS, as the caretaker of the vision and mission of the District, has determined that three of the long term goals for the congregations of the Michigan District should further what our forefathers started in the early 1800’s. Those goals, which are the basis of the 125th Anniversary Celebration, are:

- ◆ Intentional Mission Development
- ◆ Recruiting, Supporting and Deploying Professional Church Worker Students
- ◆ Partnering with LCMS World Mission in *Fan into Flame*, the capital campaign in support of the *Ablaze!* movement

While the Michigan District celebrates 125 years of ministry outreach in the state of Michigan, *The Future is Now* in partnership with *Fan into Flame* campaign will prepare us for our future. Although the Michigan District has been blessed for many years with wonderful pastors and teachers, within these next years we 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.

The District seeks to confront this challenge now through increasing financial support to those who choose the professional church work field.

Even though there are over 224,000 individuals in 372 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 50% or more of the people are unchurched. It is in these and other areas that the District seeks to fulfill the goal of beginning new mission congregations.

LCMS World Mission has initiated a bold and inspiring initiative to seek new funds above budget to provide for critically needed mission programs that will help reach the lost locally, District-wide, here in our nation and around the world that will help all those committed to the *Ablaze!* movement's goals. This program, entitled *Fan into Flame*, seeks to engage all congregations across each of our Synod's 35 districts. This will provide an opportunity for all LCMS Lutherans to consider an increased level of support for mission outreach programs that will bring the Good News to the world's unsaved.

*There are many areas in the state in which 50% or more of the people are unchurched.*

*The Future is Now* in partnership with *Fan into Flame* provides a unique opportunity for the congregations and members of the Michigan District to bestow a 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.

The goal of *The Future is Now* campaign for the Michigan District-LCMS is to raise \$13,000,000. This campaign will directly support three of the District's objectives:

- I. Intentional Mission Development: \$5,000,000
- II. Recruiting, Supporting and Deploying Professional Church Worker students: \$5,000,000
- III. LCMS World Mission – *Fan into Flame* international ministries: \$3,000,000

The Michigan District Board of Directors, through individuals and local congregations, seeks your assistance in the fulfillment of these outcomes for the District through our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The celebration is designed to praise God for the opportunity and impact of ministry over the last 125 years and to provide His people a way to return thanks for the abundant blessings they have received, thus ensuring that the legacy begun so many years ago will be here for future generations.

## *Intentional Mission Development - Objective I*

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 in 2005, summarized these thoughts when he said, "After 125 years we've far from reached the people of Michigan. There are so many unchurched 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.

*"Your generosity is spoken of in 2 Corinthians 9:7-15. Your gift has helped; in return we give all praise, glory, honor, and thanks to our God. He has provided the Michigan District with the ability to help those studying for the vocation and dedicating their lives to the work of the Lord."*

*- Gregg & Sue Pavelski,  
St. Louis*

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*That is what the 125 year history of the Michigan District is about ... bringing people to Jesus.*

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Each and every day throughout the Michigan District there are stories about individuals and families coming to know the love of their Savior through the message of the Gospel. While this certainly happens in existing churches, the new mission congregations begun throughout the Michigan District seek to bring people into a close relationship with Jesus through this new congregation. Since 1985, there have been over 40 successful mission starts with many stories of how the Holy Spirit touched the hearts of new believers through this Gospel outreach. Currently, there are three new intentional mission developments created by the District each year through congregational giving. Unfortunately, the annual mission collection from congregations has decreased from the levels of several years ago. As such, the District's ability to continue creating three new mission starts per year is in jeopardy.

With the enormous need for mission starts and in response to the 125 years of blessings that God has bestowed on His people, the Michigan District seeks to raise \$5,000,000 to begin 10 additional mission starts over the next five years including one urban mission start, and place funds into the Michigan District Endowment Fund for Mission Development. With your help these additional new mission starts will be a reality. In addition, through the support of the District Endowment Fund, the District will be able to continue planting two to three new mission starts per year.

With these churches being planted during this time frame in our church history, we will help to fulfill the *Ablaze!* movement goal that seeks to begin 2,000 churches by the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

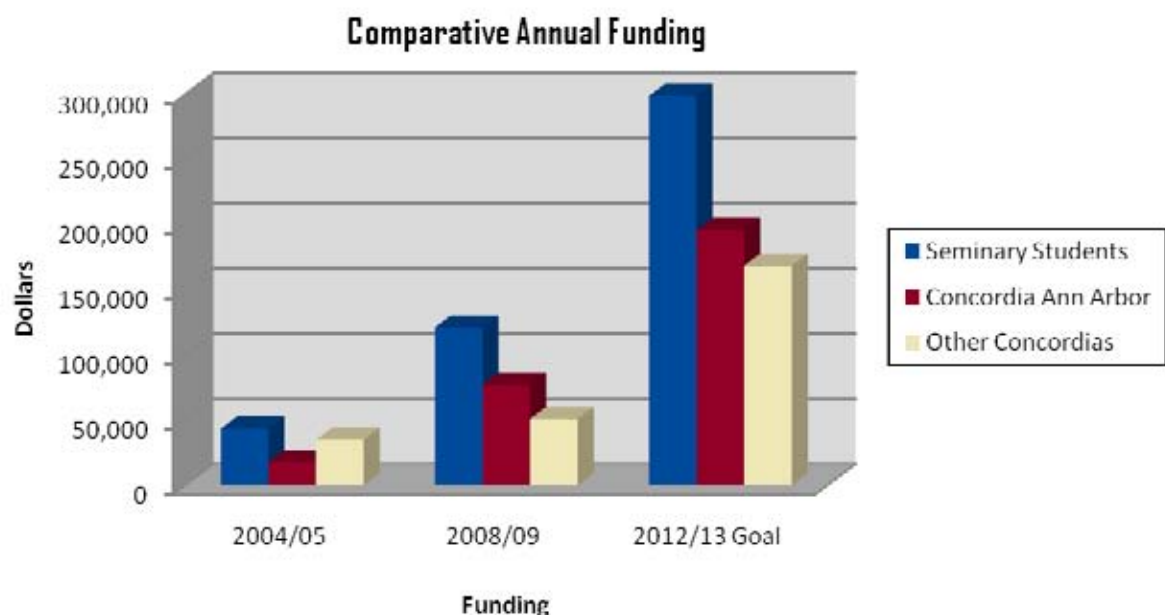
## *Professional Church Worker Support - Objective II*

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 2008, over 148 Michigan District professional church work students attended our seminaries, universities, and colleges. Yet President Hoesman has repeatedly stated, "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, Howell echoes these 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. Four years ago, support averaged approximately \$500 per student. *The Future is Now* campaign seeks to address these financial issues.

With the anticipated shortfall of workers due to the additional outreach opportunities of synod-wide mission development, retirements, and death, the Michigan District, through your support, wants to turn the tide for the next five years to encourage more men and women to follow the call the Lord offers.

The goal is to raise \$5,000,000 to substantially increase the financial support offered to professional church worker students and to fortify the Michigan District Endowment for Professional Church Workers. As you can see from the chart below, support from the campaign will multiply the current funding by three, four, or five times the current levels per year.



*“...thank you for financially supporting my education here. There is certainly no way I could do it without outside assistance. But such a situation does set up an interesting typology with the church, where no one member is completely independent or self-sufficient without the other. Instead we exist as dependent upon each other, even as we are all fully dependent on Christ.”*

*- Josh Moldenhauer,  
St. Louis*

A secondary objective of this effort is to increase the number of students, now and in the future, enrolled in Concordia University System schools, especially our own Concordia University Ann Arbor. Through the added financial incentive, our District seeks to assist Concordia University Ann Arbor with additional funding for scholarships, students, and support of individuals and congregations of our District. It is the hope of the District that many will answer the call to be professional church workers for the Lord.

It is expected that the actual costs to undertake this proposed plan to assist students identified in the next five years who will complete their education in up to nine years will be approximately \$3,000,000. The District wants to ensure its ability to support these and other future students by placing \$2,000,000 in the Michigan District Endowment Fund to assist other candidates in future years. Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer, President of Concordia University Ann Arbor recently offered this observation, “Without the support of the Michigan District, it would be difficult for a number of these young people to attend a Concordia. The result of that is empty classrooms, empty pulpits, ministry that needs to be done and cannot be accomplished because we have not prepared the workers for the Church. All of us have a stake in this. This is all of our responsibility, to equip and send workers into the field.”



*Ablaze!*<sup>TM</sup> began as a vision of LCMS World Mission to involve every member of the LCMS, its partner church bodies, and partner mission agencies in one focused and concentrated effort to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those who do not yet know Him. By joining together in this effort, not only would those who hear and receive the message of salvation in Christ be transformed by it and brought into the body of Christ, but our own church bodies, mission organizations and congregations would be strengthened as members grow in discipleship through mission involvement.

### *Fan into Flame - Objective III*

In light of the fact that two out of every three people in the world today have no relationship with Christ, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its 30 partner and sister churches worldwide have initiated the *Ablaze!* movement to reach 100 million people with the Gospel by the year 2017. By resolution at the 2004 Synod convention, LCMS members, pastors, congregations, and allied organizations endorsed *Ablaze!* to deliver hope and spiritual renewal by communicating the saving message of the Gospel.

*Fan into Flame* is the capital fundraising campaign endorsed by the 2004 Synodical Convention that will secure \$100,000,000 in new money (over and above current LCMS World Mission budget) to help reach the *Ablaze!* goals. The first major campaign of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 25 years, *Fan into Flame* will touch all districts and congregations, helping LCMS Lutherans take a quantum leap in their ability to minister to the lost.

Walking together with our brothers and sisters across the LCMS, the Michigan District will support this historic mission fundraising program through our joint effort in partnership with LCMS World Mission. This is why our program is entitled *The Future is Now* in partnership with *Fan into Flame*.

Our comprehensive program will not only allow the District to secure funds in support of our ministry needs, but it will afford all Michigan District members the opportunity to fund ministries here at home, across the country, and around the world through one gift through this collaborative program. Through *The Future is Now*, our intention is to provide \$3,000,000 to LCMS World Mission for international ministry opportunities.

World events are opening doors to the Gospel at a rapid pace in places where it has been hindered by political, social, and geographic limitations. Our intention is to supply LCMS World Mission with funding support for their global outreach efforts through our joint campaign.

#### **Adding Missionaries in the Field**

Through *Fan into Flame*, the current number of trained and deployed missionaries will increase by more than 50 percent—from 65 to 100—by 2013. These professional missionaries will initiate new outreach ministries, train new leaders, provide educational tools, and offer medical aid to those in need, all with the goal of sharing the Good News of Jesus and establishing new congregations worldwide.

#### **Capital Expenditures: New Ministry Starts, Leadership Training Centers, and New Schools**

In some parts of the world, the work of the church cannot be accomplished without the construction of new facilities. Our work needs to be done wisely by encouraging and enhancing the efforts of local people to take care of the needs of their churches.

### **New Seminary Facilities**

Lutheran congregations in every land recognize the importance of training men for pastoral ministry and the entire people of God for service in the church. New mission starts will require local seminaries to train pastors and professional church workers.

### ***Ablaze! Mission Fund—Responding to Opportunities and Emergencies***

Each year, LCMS World Mission is presented with unexpected opportunities to reach out with the Gospel. In many cases, the window of opportunity may be open only for a short time. LCMS World Mission must have the resources on hand to respond. This fund will also enable LCMS World Mission to meet urgent needs, such as emergency evacuation of our missionaries during times of civil unrest.

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### ***The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration***

This Celebration seeks to raise \$13,000,000 (\$5,000,000 for Intentional Mission Development, \$5,000,000 for Professional Church Worker Support, and \$3,000,000 for International Ministries). Financial gifts may be made to any category. Additionally, the Michigan District Endowment is prepared to receive a bequest or deferred gift that you may wish to contribute for the purposes of this campaign or for an unrestricted gift to the Endowment. Recently, Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Jr., Mission Director for the Michigan District, offered these comments that “without the support of the local congregations and the members in the pews:

- ◆ We cannot call missionaries
- ◆ We cannot support local missions
- ◆ Many people will not hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- ◆ The Church cannot grow.”

Your commitment to this campaign will make a difference in the future of Mission planting and planters for the vineyard and our God will have allowed us to be part of His future for the Church in Michigan.

### *Our Role*

In grateful thanksgiving for the blessings of our merciful God, we ask you the members and congregations of the Michigan District to consider these requests:

- ◆ Pray for the ongoing work of the District and its congregations as they disciple the saved and evangelize the lost in this state through the three goals of this campaign.
- ◆ Consider a generous, sacrificial commitment to the campaign over and above the regular giving that you provide to your local congregation.
- ◆ Seek out ways in which you may assist the Michigan District in this campaign and the goals that have been summarized here.

The stewardship of the gifts that God has bestowed on you is your response to the many blessings provided to you. The sharing of these and other blessings that God has provided needs to be a regular part of our lives. This Thank Offering Campaign is an opportunity for the members of Michigan District congregations to show their support of these ambitious goals and objectives set forth by the Board of Directors. The chart below describes the scale of gifts needed to fulfill these goals.

### **\$13,000,000 GIFT TABLE**

<b>Gift Size</b>	<b>Number of Gifts Needed</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative Total</b>
\$1,000,000	2	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
\$500,000	2	\$1,000,000	\$3,000,000
\$250,000	10	\$2,500,000	\$5,500,000
\$100,000	20	\$2,000,000	\$7,500,000
\$50,000	20	\$1,000,000	\$8,500,000
\$25,000	50	\$1,250,000	\$9,750,000
\$10,000	100	\$1,000,000	\$10,750,000
\$5,000	200	\$1,000,000	\$11,750,000
<\$5,000	Many	\$1,250,000	\$13,000,000

If you desire to complete a gift for Endowment as a planned gift or an estate commitment this will be recorded separately from the campaign goals.

All gifts to the Michigan District are tax deductible according to the IRS guidelines.

Church Extension Fund  
&  
The Michigan District  
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

*The future is Now in partnership with fan into flame*

In 1901, our forefathers in the Michigan District saw fit to establish a fund wherein individuals might invest money and pool it with other mission-minded investors to assist new mission congregations desiring to build. Today, well over 100 years later, the mission of the Church Extension Fund is essentially unchanged. CEF has and continues to work hand-in-hand with the Michigan District in helping new churches get started by means of land acquisition and preferable rate loans. As the Michigan District celebrates its' 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Church Extension joins by providing donors and CEF investors the opportunity of “compounding” their gift, and here is how:

- Church Extension Fund has committed to reimbursing the District for expenses of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign. That means *your donation* will be used for training new church workers and establishing new missions. CEF has granted \$350,000 to cover campaign expenses allowing your gift to accomplish campaign initiatives.
- CEF will make a *ten-percent (10%) match to your gift* toward the two Michigan District initiatives: Intentional Mission Development and Professional Church Worker Support. Every dollar you give will be matched with another ten cents. CEF has committed to make incremental gifts to the 125<sup>th</sup> Thank Offering with \$100,000 paid as each one million dollars is raised.
- Donors to the 125<sup>th</sup> Thank Offering who also open a new investment in CEF will receive a *one-half percent (.50%) premium rate* on their new investment for the initial term. The new investment must be in a fixed rate note of one to five years. Existing investments are not eligible for the premium rate.
- *CEF* investors may *designate interest earnings* to the 125<sup>th</sup> Thank Offering. Both new and existing investment accounts are eligible. Although your interest earnings are likely taxable as income, they may be partially offset as a qualified deduction; check with your tax advisor to be sure.

For additional information  
call the Church Extension Fund office, toll-free at 800-242-3944

*CEF investments are not SIPC or FDIC insured deposit accounts. Investors should review the contents of the CEF Offering Circular before making any investment decision.*

# Since 1901. Loans...



## It's what we do.

Through faith, we each have a part to play in God's great plan of redemption. The Fruits of our faith-actions are often unknown to us. However, in the areas of ministering to our sister churches, birthing new congregations and building new schools and churches, we have a very clear picture of how God uses each of us to grow His Kingdom.



**Church Extension Fund**

*A Christian Connection to All Generations...*

**800-242-3944**

*This is not an offer to sell or solicitation of an offer to buy. Offers for sales of securities are by Offering Circular only. CEF investments are not SIPC or FDIC insured deposit accounts.*