

*Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse
Preparation Courses*

Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, WI

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Parish Nurse Ministries

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On-site course and Off-site formats available for preparation course.

Annual Parish Nurse Conference -

June 2-4, 2010, CEUs available.

Henry Ford, Faith Community Nursing

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Michigan District

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Parish Nursing/
Health Ministry

Michigan District, LCMS

Parish Nursing/Health Ministry is committed to promoting and supporting physical, emotional, and mental health and well-being. as part of the Christian stewardship of the whole person. There are over 60 congregations with active health ministries in the Michigan District.

Functions of parish nurse/health ministry:

- **Integrator of faith and health** - Health is not the absence of disease. Health is a wholistic way of living that includes healthy spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational life. The parish nurse seeks to promote an understanding of the relationship between faith and health by lifting up lifestyle practices as a matter of stewardship and faith.
- **Health educator** - Provides opportunities for individuals and groups to learn about health issues.
- **Health counselor** - Discusses health concerns, answers questions, encourages healthy lifestyle.
- **Referral advisor/liaison** - Provides referrals to health care and social services resources in the community.
- **Health advocate** - Helps members of the congregation and community obtain needed health-related services. Empowers people with information/resources to make wise healthcare decisions.
- **Home health visitation** - Provides home health visitation upon request to offer support and encourage safety, adherence to healthy lifestyle behaviors. Does not replace home health care services which are ordered by a physician.
- **Developer of support groups** - Facilitates the development of support groups for the church and community.
- **Volunteer coordinator** - Recruits, prepares, and oversees congregational volunteers who help those in need.

Qualifications for a parish nurse:

- Registered nurse, licensed in Michigan, functioning under the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Practice for Parish Nursing
- Member in good standing of the congregation
- Person of spiritual maturity
- Two or more years of nursing experience
- Completion of a recognized parish nurse preparation program, which consists of 35 contact hours

Resources:

- **Parish Nurse Newsletter:**
This is a quarterly publication created by LCMS World Relief and Human Care. To receive the e-newsletter visit www.lcms.org/enews. Enter your address, password, then select "caring for others" folder to find the Parish Nurse Newsletter.
- **Websites:**
 - International Parish Nurse Resource Center, St. Louis, MO - www.parishnurses.org
 - LCMS Congregational Health Ministry / Parish Nursing - www.lcms.org tab to World Relief and Human Care
 - LCMS Parish Nurse Directory: to register as a parish nurse in the LCMS - <http://nurse.wrhc.info>
user name: nurse password: lcms_2009
- **Resource books:**
 - Faith Community Nursing, Scope and Standards of Practice. Obtain by calling the American Nurses Association, 800.274.4262.
 - "The Essential Parish Nurse" by Deborah Patterson. ISBN 0-8298-1571-6. Excellent for beginning parish nurse.
 - "Nursing in the church" Judith Shelly. ISBN 0-9723123-0-7.
- **Meetings:**
 - LCMS Thumb Region Parish Nurse Group - Meets fall and spring. Speaker and time for sharing. For more information contact Judy Eick at eick@stpaul-lapeer.org or Connie Reinert at creinert@chartermi.net.
 - Yearly December Gathering of Parish Nurses and Chaplains with professional presentation. Information in District E-bulletin.

