



"Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness" (Psalm 29:1-2 ESV).

January 02, 2018

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Prayers

PRAYER REQUESTS

The family and friends of Beverly S. Feldkamp (lay teacher, VLHS, Saginaw), who passed away on December 22 ... Rev. David and Joyce Erber (Missionaries in Ghana) upon the death of Joyce's mother, Mary Clark, on December 24 ... **The family and friends of Mary Fritz** (wife of Rev. Jeffrey Fritz, Emeritus), who passed away on December 25 ... **The family and friends of Shirley Ritter** (widow of Rev. Donald A. Ritter, Sr.) who passed away on December 29 ... **This week's congregations, schools, and ministries:** St. John, Detroit; English District, Farmington, Mich.; St. Paul, Trenton; Immanuel, Monroe.

On the Blog



[Submit your story here.](#)

[Traditional 403\(b\) vs. Roth 403\(b\) - Which is Right for You?](#)
by Paul Snyder

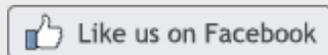


January 2018
Michigan In Touch
Supplement



Submit News

To submit your prayer requests, news, events, and E-classified, [click here](#).



District News

A2E SEEKING SOCIAL WORKER SUPPORT



A2E will extend its Soft Skill Training to two eight-week sessions in 2018. Much has been learned by listening to the participants who have benefited from a Christ-presence in the work place. Through observations and conversations, we have learned that ongoing

emotional support is needed as it pertains to decision making, accountability, and crisis intervention. One of the ways to strongly enhance this outreach of transforming lives would be to provide experienced professional social work support. A2E would greatly benefit from having someone who has experience in identifying mental health issues, addiction issues, problem-solving issues, or providing life coping tracts. If you are an individual who would be willing to offer 3-5 servant hours a week, your expertise and generosity would be greatly appreciated. If interested, please contact Rev. Christopher Bodley at 321.947.3433 or pastorbodley@aol.com.

RETIREMENT: THE ECSTASY AND THE AGONY!

January 19-20, 2018 | Pre-Retirement Conference



Registration is now open for the Pre-Retirement Conference, which will take place January 19-20, 2018, at Our Savior, Lansing. This conference is for all professional church workers and their spouses as they prepare for their future retirement (whether it be three, five, ten years down the road) and their next stage of ministry. This conference is sponsored by the Michigan District Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Beck at 810.736.6680 or Bev Koch at 248.402.8000. To register, [click](#)

[here](#).

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR FAITH FAMILY REUNION: RECLAIMING THE PRODIGAL?

January 27, 2018 | St. Matthew, Grand Rapids



All of us have someone in our lives who has strayed away from faith in Jesus Christ. How can we reach out not only to the prodigal but to the parents, families and friends of prodigals who struggle to know what to do? Join us for a one-day workshop with Paula Isakson (co-founder of Faith Family Reunion). For more information and to register, [click here](#).

REGISTER NOW FOR THE TRI-DISTRICT DCE/DFL CONFERENCE

February 26-28, 2018 | Oregon, Ohio



Directors of Christian Education and Directors of Family Life Ministry are invited to attend an exciting conference with fellow church workers from Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio at the Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center in Oregon, Ohio (near Toledo). Outstanding speakers include Jacob Youmans, Ryan Peterson, and Mark Kiessling. Come be part of this ministry-shaping experience! Early Bird registration is \$175 (double occupancy). For more information or to register, [click here](#).

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR "TAKE HEART, TAKE ACTION"

February 24, 2018 | Our Savior, Lansing

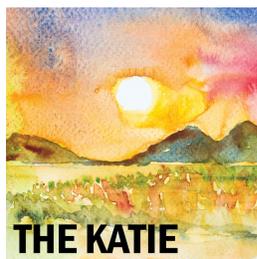


Take Heart, Take Action is a conference with practical advice and insight into our calling as witnesses of the Gospel. Speakers include Rev. Dr. Mark Wood (LCMS Headquarters), Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast (President, Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind.), Rev. Greg Finke (executive director, Dwelling 1:14), Rev. Todd Jones (Michigan District), and Rev. Dr. David P.E. Maier. Please invite your congregation members to come along with you and join us on February 24, 2018, at Our Savior, Lansing. A media kit, including a short

video, can be downloaded from the registration page. [Register here!](#)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE KATIE

April 13-15, 2018 | Doubletree, Bay City



The Katie, a Michigan District conference for pastors', deacons' and vicars' wives and widows, is designed with prayer and love, seeking to uplift this unique group of women. Join others on April 13-15 in Bay City, and explore what it means to dwell in the habitation of God by examining the spiritual walk of "a man after God's own heart"--King David. His life, while filled with high drama, was one that bears scrutiny as he walked with God and failed to walk with God. The text follows him through valleys, deserts, and into caves. His descendant,

Jesus, the Son of David, spent time on the mountain. Participants will wander to all four of these places and find encounters with the living God. [Register here!](#)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR NORTH & EAST PASTORS' CONFERENCE

April 30-May 1, 2018 | Doubletree, Bay City



Our secular culture today has many similarities with that of ancient Corinth. How does Paul's message of justification by grace and the cross of Christ from his letters to the Corinthian congregation speak to our culture today? What insights does it give us? Register now and plan to join our speaker, Dr. Mark Seifrid (professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis) as we seek to answer this question together at the conference. [Register here!](#)

2018 CONVENTION - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND OVERTURES

June 24-26, 2018 | Concordia University Ann Arbor

Please pay attention to the following important dates:

Dec 31, 2017	Deadline for Circuit Visitor Nominations
Jan 31, 2018	Circuit Forums conducted before this date
Feb 24, 2018	Deadline for all other nominations, reports, and overtures

A call for Nominations for all elected positions was mailed to all congregations in September. The mailing contained official ballot forms for submitting such nominations, as well as a template for overtures. [Click here](#) to download forms.

Congregation News and Events

4 SIMPLE KEYS FOR INTENTIONALLY PRODUCTIVE MINISTRY TEAMS

Wednesday, January 3, 2018 | Gethsemane, Rochester Hills



Dr. Thomas Hicks will be the keynote speaker at an evening workshop at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Rochester Hills TOMORROW, January 3, at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Hicks has discovered a simple approach to building, directing, and shaping ministry teams in positive directions. Registration is \$10/person or \$25 for 3 (from one congregation, \$5 for each additional participant). Price includes a soup/sandwich dinner. For more information, or to register, contact Pastor Tom Fischer at 248.495.3723 or pastorgolf@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN VIEW OF POLITICS

Begins on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 | St. John, Taylor



Can a sincere Christian, or any person of integrity, participate in politics? And why do politics seem to turn up even in the office, the church, or the family? These and other questions of immediate concern will be discussed in a 12-week course based on 2 Samuel at St. John, Taylor. The course will be taught by state-wide elected official, Rev. Dr. Richard Zeile, who serves St. John's and is on the State Board of Education, currently as co-president. Attendance at all sessions will be

valuable, but not required. Parking and registration is free. Please register by calling the church office at 313.802.1146. Walk-ins are welcome.

THY WILL BE DONE PRE-LENTEN PREACHING WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 20, 2018 | St. Luke, Ann Arbor



Lent is important; life is busy. We can help. The *Thy Will Be Done Pre-Lenten Preaching Workshop* will put resources into the pastor's hand to help invite their congregations to lean into God's will through worship and daily prayer during Lent. But more than that, the training provided at the workshop and reinforced through sermon manuscripts and outlines will help the pastor to expand his preaching repertoire. Reinvigorate your preaching and prepare for Lent, all at the same time.

[Register today!](#)

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Begins Saturday, January 20, 2018 | St. Thomas, Eastpointe

What if you were following a plan for your money that you knew worked? With the Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University you can take control of your money, get out of debt, and create a plan for your future. The first class begins on Saturday, January 20, 2018 and runs for 9 weeks. Cost is \$100/couple and covers materials. Space is limited, so get your registration in soon by calling the church office at 586.772.3370.

Other Ministry News

MAKES SENSE



Do not pass this opportunity to combine good-sense investment of your savings with good stewardship. Your investment with the Church Extension Fund makes building loans possible for LCMS churches and schools. This month, CEF is offering very attractive rates on all of its investments for individuals and organizations. Grow your savings and simultaneously help build the fund that helps build its ministry facilities. Call 800.242.3944 or visit mi-cef.org for information.

Community Calendar

The following is a list of events happening in the congregations and schools of the Michigan District, LCMS and other ministries.

[4 Simple Keys to Productive Team Ministry](#)

Jan 3 | Gethsemane, Rochester Hills

[Open House for New Students](#)

Jan 23 | Our Savior, Grand Rapids

[Lansing Matinee Musical Program](#)

Jan 3 | Ascension, East Lansing

[Wild Game Dinner](#)

Jan 26 | Trinity, Utica

[Parent Talk - Sexual Awareness](#)

Jan 10 | Cross of Christ, Bloomfield Hills

[Parents of Prodigals One-day Retreat](#)

Jan 27 | St. Matthew, Grand Rapids

[Pre-Lenten Preaching Workshop](#)

Jan 20 | St. Luke, Ann Arbor

[Take Heart, Take Action](#)

Feb 24 | Our Savior, Lansing

[SUBMIT YOUR EVENT HERE](#)

E-Classified

CAMP STAFF POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Camp Concordia, an LCMS summer children's camp, is interviewing for kitchen staff, cabin counselors, and lifeguards. Staff training is the first two weeks in June for weekly overnight camps that run for children ages K-12 June and July. For more information, please visit campconcordia.org/employment.

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since 1977, LSA has assisted the educational ministries of Lutheran schools and early childhood centers across metropolitan New York. As the landscape of education continues to change, LSA seeks an Executive Director to lead the organization through a process of strategic reorientation and in the years to follow. The Executive Director is responsible to the Board of Directors and ultimately to the Members of LSA, and oversees a mix of professional and volunteer staff. For a more detailed description of the position and required qualifications, [click here](#). Interested candidates should send resume, references and contact information to Chair of the Board of Directors, Dr. Jim Burkee, at jim.burkee@concordia-ny.edu.



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