



# Michigan District Annual Report

For the fiscal year ending January 31, 2018

## A Message from The President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

The congregations of the Michigan District, LCMS are where God's people "congregate" or gather around God's Word and Sacraments. How blessed we are! But let's not confuse the definition of the church with the purpose and mission of the Church. God not only saves us but sends us! It all starts with Jesus! *"For God so loved the world that he **sent** His son, so that whoever believes in him might have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16).* And it all ends with Jesus as He speaks to His disciples on the very day of His victorious resurrection: *"As the Father has sent me, so I am **sending** you" (Jn. 20:21).*

As partners in the Body of Christ, we are a "gathered" and "sent" people. Even as God calls, gathers, feeds, and nourishes us with His good gifts, He also sends us out into our communities, schools, workplaces, shops, and sandy beaches, among neighbors and newcomers, friends and family, co-workers and casual contacts. We are sent with the same purpose He had in **sending** his Son: *"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their sins against them. And he has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19).*

Because of your generous support, the congregations of the Michigan District have been used by God to accomplish the following:

- The static prenatal and infant care clinic in Detroit is now "mobile."
- New congregations in St. Ignace and Detroit.
- A Christ-centered human care and community development non-profit co-op in South Macomb.
- A Detroit east side "safe house" for young women involved in sex-trafficking.
- Mt. Calvary's Camp Restore-Detroit which funneled nearly 20,000 man-hours of volunteer work towards rebuilding Detroit.
- A congregation replant in Hudson, Mich.

Together, we have financially supported more than 100 full-time church worker students in the Concordia University System and seminaries. We have continued to be a leading district in the LCMS with faithful support of synod as we work together to send missionaries around the world among hundreds of people groups who need to hear the Good News that God the Father, **sent** Jesus to be to be their Savior!

Please visit [michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org), and subscribe to the enews and our blog, *Michigan in Touch*, to stay informed on how God continues to send out His people with the message of reconciliation through Jesus.

May God continue to bless us all, as Jesus sends each of us into our communities and the world.

Imagining immeasurably more because of Jesus,

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier  
President, Michigan District, LCMS



Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier  
President





The Michigan District encourages ministry that can be done “better together,” and your financial contributions play a significant part in these ministries that thrive on partnerships. Here are stories of two such ministries:

### **Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint**

On Tuesday, January 30, a young woman and a little boy had just stepped off a Flint MTA bus. Their overheard conversation went something like this: “You are going to be baptized today! Do you know what that means? You are God’s very own child!” She joyfully continued to further explain what was about to happen as he trotted in front of her on the sidewalk alongside Franklin Avenue Mission in Flint, Mich. The boy was baptized along with 12 other people that day, in a celebratory worship service that also included the installation of Rev. Dr. Bradley J. Yops as the Michigan District’s Missionary at Large – Flint, Mich.

Franklin Avenue Mission is a massive undertaking that could not take place without the many partnerships that have been present from the very beginning, in 2014, when Tri-Circuit pastors took a prayerful look at transforming one of its member churches on Flint’s east side into an urban mission center to meet the needs of a neighborhood in disrepair. The Michigan District agreed to support an attainable plan, under its Acts 2 Enterprise Urban Ministry and more recently its *Here We Stand* campaign funding, to preserve a meaningful presence in the community. A Flint East-side Mission task force of LCMS pastors set goals

and strategies to recruit congregational support. The plan required financial and servanthood commitment from interested individuals and congregations, and nine congregations stepped up to the plate. Today, Franklin Avenue Mission is a hub of activity—Diner, Bible study, Clean & Green, clothing closet, medical clinic, children’s program, and water distribution—operated entirely by an army of missionaries from over 25 congregations and many guests of Franklin Avenue Mission.

In 2017, an abandoned home next to the mission was purchased. Called Mercy House, it is being renovated to become a home for women and their children. It is supported in part by the Michigan District and an LWML grant. Wellspring Lutheran Services is consulting on the management of the home.

**25+**

**Congregations Partner with Franklin Avenue Mission**

**477**

**Volunteer hours each week**



## Family of God, Detroit

Family of God (FOG) is another example of a successful ministry based on partnerships. Rev. James M. Hill is associate pastor of Christ Our Savior, Livonia and deployed to Family of God, Detroit.

In February of 2016, FOG moved into its current church facility provided by many generous congregations, ministries, and individuals. This helped FOG to be more than just a church building for its congregation. It became home, and in the first year there were 18 baptisms in the new facility.

One of the first things they decided to do with the new space was to dedicate a portion and offer it free of charge to the Luke Project 52 Clinic, a volunteer effort to provide free prenatal and postnatal care to neighborhood mothers, twice a month. The licensed medical volunteers come from the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, along with nursing students from Concordia University Ann Arbor. Part of the effort also includes social work support from Wellspring Lutheran Services. Through the partnership with the Luke Project 52, Family of God has seen dozens of new faces.

Twelve months after moving into the new building, FOG was already experiencing overflowing capacity several times a month both at meal times (6 days a week) and worship. The leaders also felt a strong desire to be able to do Word and Sacrament in a sacred space that didn't double as a dining room. The clientele was also changing: in addition to the drug- and alcohol-addicted and homeless in the neighborhood, FOG began

to reach families and children. Tutoring, mentoring, and other opportunities required dedicated space.

It was time to grow again, and they partnered with Laborers for Christ to renovate the sanctuary upstairs. Volunteers from several congregations, especially Christ Our Savior, Livonia; Trinity, Clinton Township; Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Twp; and Living Word, Rochester came together and completed the demolition before the laborers arrived on site. Laborers and volunteers reused materials and donated labor, which allowed the job to be finished for under \$20,000. Supporting churches and donors made it possible to complete the effort debt free. Trinity, Clinton Township donated an altar, and Cross of Christ, Bloomfield donated several of the other furnishings, including the eternal light. The new sanctuary was dedicated in March 2018.

There are many more partnerships taking place between the District congregations and LCMS organizations in Michigan. Stay connected through our publications at [michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org), and see them develop in exciting new ways.

## Additional Partnerships

**Harbor Hope Cafe, St. Ignace**

**Charity, Detroit - Home Renovation**

**St. John, Adrian / Our Saviour, Hudson**

**Hmong Ministry**

# Summary of Financial Activities

For the fiscal year ending January 31, 2018

## Support, Revenues, and Gains

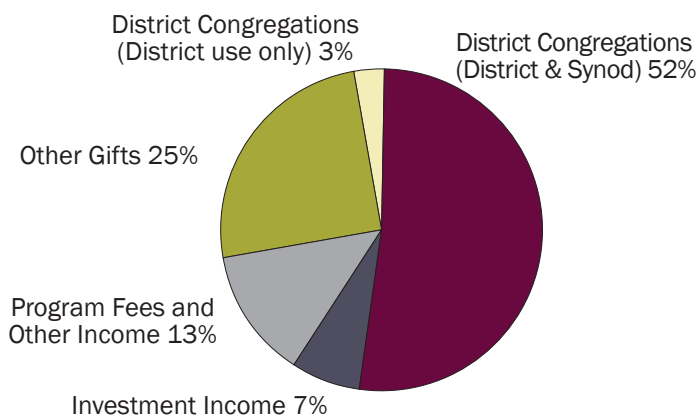
District Congregations (District and Synod).....	4,614,033
District Congregations (District use only).....	306,076
Other Gifts.....	2,205,579
Investment Income.....	601,468
Program Fees and Other Income.....	1,115,747
<b>Total Support, Revenues, and Gains.....</b>	<b>8,842,903</b>

## Expenses

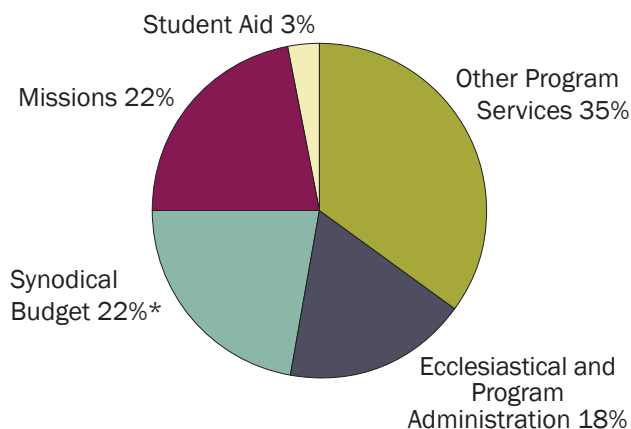
Synodical Budget*.....	1,559,996
<b>Program Services</b>	
Missions.....	1,631,000
Congregation Mission & Ministry Facilitators..	590,334
Christian Care.....	115,079
Lutheran Schools.....	317,909
Youth Ministry.....	400,098
Loon Lake Lutheran Retreat Center.....	97,095
Other Congregation Program Services.....	320,455
Communications.....	310,623
Student Aid.....	224,544
Worker Care.....	413,663
<b>Ecclesiastical and Program Administration</b>	
Administration.....	823,299
Convention.....	(8,306)
Development.....	235,366
District Properties and Depreciation.....	240,520
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>7,271,675</b>

Change in Net Assets ..... **1,571,228**

Revenue



Expenses



Information is taken from the audited financial statements of the Michigan District, LCMS. Copies of the audit report, which include all integral parts of the financial statements, are available from the District Office.

\*The Michigan District sent 35% of its unrestricted cash receipts from congregations to national Synod during the fiscal year. The numbers on the financial statements reflect adjustments based on pledges from congregations and to the Synod as required by Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

\*\*The Here We Stand Capital Campaign contributed a new change in net assets of \$1,325,932.

## Support for National and International Ministries

For the fiscal year ending January 31, 2018, the Michigan District remitted \$1,559,996 to Corporate (national) Synod, which represents 35% of the District's unrestricted gifts from congregations. The 35 districts of the Synod contribute approximately \$14 million of undesignated revenue to Corporate Synod annually in support of national and international mission and ministry. The balance of the \$77 million 2017/18 budget of Corporate Synod comes primarily from restricted gifts and sales of materials and services.

Allocations of the budgeted use of undesignated revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 are as follows:

International Missions 3.6%	Mission Advancement 7.2%
National Missions 4.6%	Concordia Historical institute & KFUE 2.4%
Pastoral Education 5.2%	Ecclesiastical Services and Commissions 12.1%
University Education 11.3%	Officers and Administration 21%
Communications 19.5%	General and Administrative 13.1%

## For More Information & Stories Visit

[michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org)

[michiganintouch.org](http://michiganintouch.org)