



Connected Generations

# FILLED WITH HOPE

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

I Peter 1:3-5, (NIV)

Church Extension Fund 2014 Annual Report

Connected Generations

# FILLED WITH HOPE

**Our congregations are filled to overflowing with people of hope.**

In this year's annual report, we celebrate that joyful, abiding hope through the stories of three congregations.

In Lord of New Life Lutheran Church in Midland, we see how faith, patience and courage have kept hope alive when prayers were not immediately answered.

At St. Peter Lutheran of Macomb, we discover how "inexpressible hope" has opened the way to new ministries.

And at Messiah Lutheran of Clio, we witness how hope has laid the foundation for continuing growth and service.

These stories also illustrate the role Church Extension Fund has been honored to play in supporting God's people of hope. For 114 years, we have worked with churches across Michigan, always seeking to glorify God...and always filled with hope.





Dear Investors and Friends of CEF:

It's remarkable to think that Church Extension Fund was founded in 1901 — 114 years ago — by a group of clergy and laymen in search of funds to build new mission churches. Clearly, they were *Filled With Hope* as they sought to pave the way for spreading the Gospel to future generations. Ever since then, CEF has remained true to its original mission: **helping build churches**.

In 2014, God continued to bless that mission. The fiscal year ending December 31, 2014 proved to be another year of financial stability for the Church Extension Fund in the Michigan District. Reserve dollars increased to \$95.4 million, further positioning CEF to meet all the borrowing needs of congregations in the Michigan District. Net Assets (equity) of the Fund increased to \$56 million, providing a healthy capital ratio in excess of 20 percent, nearly double that of ratios common to many other financial institutions.

Total Assets of the Fund diminished \$1.5 million in 2014 over year-end 2013 as loan balances outstanding declined, with many congregations accelerating their pay-down of debt. However, we predict that loans outstanding will begin to grow as evidenced by several new construction projects slated for groundbreaking in the spring of 2015.

In 2014, CEF was also blessed with assets that allowed us to expand our mission going forward to **help build-up churches**. That steadily growing list now includes:

- Grants for technology (currently being offered thru 2015)
- Leadership Training for Pastors & Principals, designed to help church professionals sharpen their skills
- Excel in Giving, a free electronic giving service provided at no cost to the churches and schools of the Michigan District
- Gift Planning Services at no cost to assist churches and their members steward their God-given resources

Like those who have gone before us, we are Filled With Hope in our Lord Jesus. We are also sincerely grateful to you, our investors, who share in that hope and partner with CEF in our mission to **help build and build-up churches**.

Filled with Hope, in Him,

Dr. Ronald L. Steinke  
President & CEO



# LORD OF NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MIDLAND

*“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*

Romans 8:24-25 (NIV)



Sometimes, our prayers are answered with the word: “Wait.” The waiting may take days. Months. Or, in the case of Lord of New Life, years. But ultimately our hope and faith are rewarded. We come to understand God’s greater purpose.

It was in 1995 that the Michigan District established Lord of New Life in conjunction with Our Savior Lutheran Church of Midland. The mission of the newly planted church was to serve a cluster of Lutheran

families in Larkin Township, north of the city.

For five years, the ten charter members worshipped in a cemetery chapel and prayed for the time when they could build a worship space on five acres of land that had been purchased by Church Extension Fund for their future use.

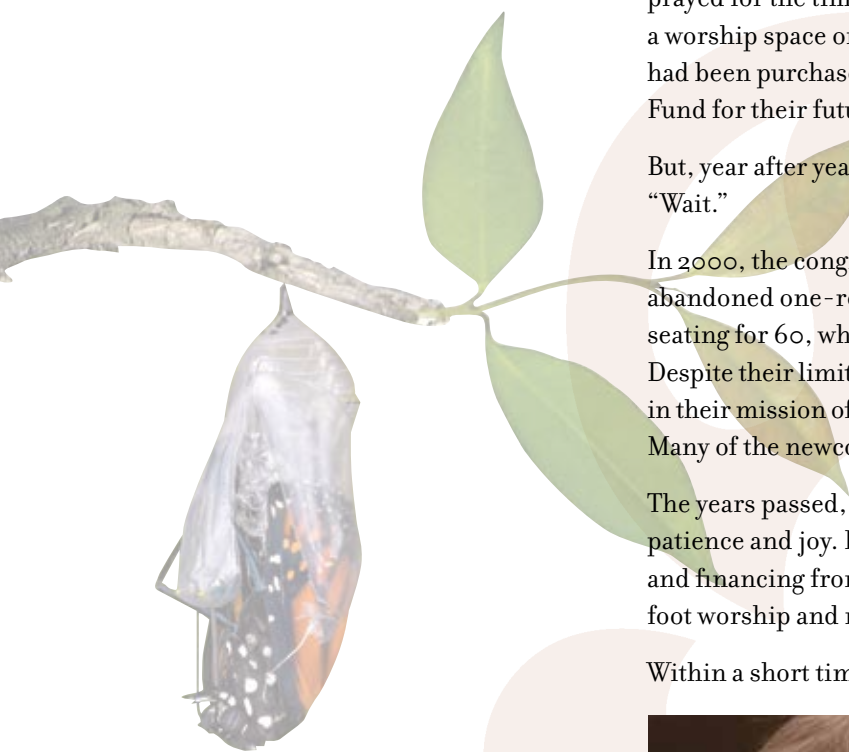
But, year after year, the answer was: “Wait.”

In 2000, the congregation moved into an abandoned one-room schoolhouse with seating for 60, which they remodeled with a \$25,000 CEF mortgage loan. Despite their limited circumstances, members remained hopeful and steadfast in their mission of advancing the Gospel. Gradually, their number grew to 100. Many of the newcomers were Lutherans who had fallen away from the church.

The years passed, and the congregation pursued its mission with hope, patience and joy. In December of 2013, with the help of a generous bequest and financing from CEF, Lord of New Life broke ground on a 5,600 square foot worship and ministry facility.

Within a short time, attendance doubled. The church is now planning new ministries, including a community-wide vacation Bible school.

“God has been most gracious,” says Pastor Kurt Eichinger. “It’s amazing the way the Lord has led people to fund our various projects — including a new organ, a stained glass window and paving for the parking lot. It’s also amazing how God continues to bless us in our mission by bringing new people into the congregation.”



# ST. PETER LUTHERAN OF MACOMB

In 1877, just 40 years after Michigan became a state, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Waldenburg built a school in what is now Macomb County. Five years later, 19 families from the Immanuel congregation established St. Peter Lutheran.

Since then, St. Peter's school and church have grown — sometimes dramatically — through a series of expansion projects.

Today, church membership exceeds 3,750. And St. Peter-Macomb enrolls more than 570 children in its Preschool and K-8 school, making it the largest Lutheran elementary school in the Michigan District of the LC-MS.

For decades, much of St. Peter's focus has been on its school — which serves families from the surrounding area as well as the church. But now, with the completion of a new Fellowship Hall and Ministry Center, the congregation is poised to begin a new and powerful phase of ministry to the wider community.



*“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.”*

Romans 15:4, (NIV)



“In 2004, we began laying the groundwork for a new Ministry Center hub and sanctuary,” Senior Pastor Kenneth Wagener notes. “But in 2005, the congregation was forced to make a painful decision not to finish the Ministry Center and Fellowship Hall.” For eight years, that portion of the building stood as an empty shell, used only for storage.

But all that changed this year, when a \$900,000 line of credit from Church Extension Fund enabled St. Peter Lutheran to complete the long-awaited facilities. Today, the congregation is joyfully putting the finishing touches on a 5,700 square foot Fellowship Hall, a 700 square foot kitchen, and a 8,300 square foot Ministry Center.

Now the church is poised to begin a new phase of ministry. “We are a body of believers filled with inexpressible hope,” says Pastor Wagener. “We have a heart for service, and we know that the Lord is leading us to make a difference in our community — to the glory of God through Jesus Christ.”



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# MESSIAH LUTHERAN OF CLIO

Back in 1960, the town of Clio was not considered a promising location for a mission church. But that didn't stop 53 determined men and women who lived in the area from planting a new congregation there. The founders of Messiah Lutheran moved forward with unwavering faith and hope.

Today, the church has more than 1,900 baptized members. And the Messiah campus continues to grow and expand — as it has for decades.



*“May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the holy spirit you may abound in hope.”*

Romans 15:13 (NIV)



In 1984, the congregation built a new worship center that included a sanctuary, narthex, classrooms and gymnasium. Then in 2009, a generous gift made it possible to purchase nine acres just south of the church, expand the parking lot by nearly 50 percent and create a driveway linked to the main road.

Now Messiah Lutheran is in the midst of yet another growth phase. Drawing on its \$1.2 million line of credit with CEF, the church has embarked on major renovations. The worship center has been refurbished with new carpeting, new pews, a fresh coat of paint, and major technology upgrades. The gymnasium — the site of an innovative worship service

known as nXt — will be outfitted with new audio, upgraded video and projection displays as well as closed circuit monitors for broadcasting and overflow videos.

“This is our Preparing The Way project,” says Senior Pastor Erik Cloeter. “After 50-some years, too many people in the Clio area still don't know where we are. Accessibility and visibility are the big issues. So we're dedicating these changes to our Lord's ministry and our call to make more and better disciples.”

He goes on to add, “The last hope of this dying world is the church and every congregation that's pulling its weight. That's why we believe so strongly in the mission of CEF, which is dedicated to financing the expansion of God's church.”





\$274,078,328

**Total Assets**  
as of December 31, 2014

77

**New Loans**

\$56,027,962

**Net Assets (Equity)**  
as of December 31, 2014

20.4%

**Capital Ratio**

\$10,183,946

**New Loans Approved**  
as of December 31, 2014

\$1,000

Grant available to every  
Michigan District Congregation  
and School for  
**Technology Updates**

\$217,698,249

**Investments (Deposits)**  
as of December 31, 2014

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# 2014 Financials\*

As they have done for generations,  
our investors made it possible for  
CEF to provide financial resources to  
Lutheran ministries across the state.

\$168,178,384

**Total Loans**  
as of December 31, 2014

\* Complete financial data and audited financial statements found in the 2015-16 Offering Circular.

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND  
IS A MINISTRY OF PARTNERING  
CHRISTIANS TO MAKE RESOURCES  
AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS AND CHURCHES  
OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT IN CARRYING  
FORWARD THE GREAT COMMISSION.



Church Extension Fund

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