



# In Christ Alone

We Stand

## *Community, in Christ.*

Dear Friends,

"In Christ Alone" was the theme of the National Youth Gathering attended by 8 youth and 3 adults recently. Based on Paul's letter to the Philippians, we discovered how our joy, identity, humility and community are found 'in Christ alone.' If you want to hear more about this trip, the participants will be sharing a brief presentation during the worship services this week. I hope you will plan on attending to hear how their lives have changed and their faith strengthened by this trip.

Later this week, we will again experience what it means that we can find community in Christ alone. A group of youth and adults from Vlotho, Germany will be in Michigan for an exchange program with our congregation. I'm looking forward to meeting all of them, and discovering how, despite our differences of nationality, language, and culture, we can be united as brothers and sisters in Christ alone. Please take a look at the list of events below, and e-mail Gerd Kortemeyer if you would like to participate.

The experience of worshipping with 25,000 other youth and adults last week, and the anticipation of meeting the group from Germany, has me reflecting on the church as a community. One of the most powerful statements I heard last week about the church was this: **"The church is the place where they have already decided to love and forgive you before you show up..."** As a community, we who belong to Christ's church are forgiven sinners called to live together in God's kingdom and

under God's grace. Whatever differences we may have, whatever sins we might be struggling with, whatever baggage we might bring along, whoever we might be, in Christ alone we are united into one communion, one community. And if you are part of this community, we have already decided to love and forgive you, just as we have been loved and forgiven.

Take a look at some verses in Philippians this week: [1:1-3](#), [2:1-11](#), [3:8-11](#), [4:7](#)

In Christ,

Pastor Curt

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## *German Youth Exchange*

The German youth group from Gerd Kortemeyer's hometown Vlotho arrives on Monday, August 1st. We would like to invite the MLC community to a number of events:

- \* **Tuesday, August 2nd, 5:30pm: Dinner at Brody Cafeteria.** This is an easy way to meet our visitors over dinner at MSU's excellent all-you-can-eat cafeteria. You'll probably find our group easily. Dinner is \$9.99 at the door, MSU meal plans also work.
- \* **Wednesday, August 3rd, 7:05pm:** Join us for the Lansing Lugnuts game against Bowling Green.
- \* **Friday, August 5th to Sunday, August 7th: Camping** on South Manitou Island. The ferry leaves at 1:05pm on the 5th from Leland, MI, and returns around noon on the 7th. MLC youth and families are invited to join us for any part of the trip "Up North," which also stops in Traverse City, from August 4th to August 10th. A number of ferry tickets and camp sites are already reserved and paid for; RSVP with Gerd, [kortemey@msu.edu](mailto:kortemey@msu.edu), (517) 282-6446.
- \* **Thursday, August 11th, 5:30pm: German dinner at MLC.** The group will be cooking a German meal for the congregation, MLC youth are invited to help cook. RSVP with Gerd to approximate the amount of food, [kortemey@msu.edu](mailto:kortemey@msu.edu), (517) 282-6446.

\* **Saturday, August 13th, 9:00am to 2:00pm: Servant event** at Haven House in East Lansing. All youth invited!

\* **Saturday, August 13th, starting 5:30pm: All MLC and German youth lock-in** at the chapel. Dinner, movie (in English!), and German games in the church basement. The event goes directly into preparations for the outdoor service on the 14th.

\* **Sunday, August 14th: Outdoor morning service** in tent next to the Chapel, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Folk Festival.

\* **Tuesday, August 16th to Saturday, August 20th: Chicago trip**, taking AMTRAK and staying in a youth hostel. There is still limited availability for youth to join us on this trip.

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### *Parking Notes*

You may have noticed a change in the City Hall parking lot recently; the parking meters have been replaced with numbered parking spaces and a payment kiosk (located near City Hall). Many people have wondered what this means for people attending events at Martin Luther Chapel. The short answer is: not much has changed. Parking in all downtown lots, including the City Hall lot, is free all day on Sunday. Parking will also be free in the City Hall lot Monday through Thursday from 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM (in fact, the kiosk will not accept payment during these hours). There will be a fee to park on Friday and Saturday, days and evenings. The city officials I met with last week continue to be supportive of our ministry, and will work with us on those occasions where we need to make arrangements for parking due to a special event.

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