



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



About the St. Lorenz Foundation

Formed in 1995, the St. Lorenz Foundation exists to support our Lord's work through His St. Lorenz congregation. The Foundation provides a vehicle for donors to make gifts that will continue to support the work of our Lord until Judgment Day. Each year, the Foundation distributes a minimum of 5% of its corpus to support grant requests from St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School.

TO THE LAND



A letter from our President

Dear friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is my privilege to serve as the President of our St. Lorenz Foundation. Throughout my years on the Foundation team, I have watched as the Foundation has managed the gifts provided by St. Lorenz members, participated in the distribution of many grants, and marveled as the Foundation's assets grew to provide even more resources to support our St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School.



As we are all well aware, the economy in 2022 was unique. The rapid growth of past years slowed – and, in some cases, assets decreased. During these challenging economic conditions, I have been pleased to observe the following:

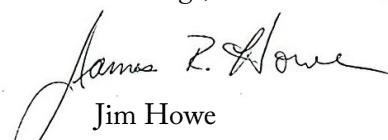
- Firstly, **the Foundation's investment policy works**. As changes occurred, the Foundation's investment policy held a tight rein on our investments. Special thanks are extended to our Finance Committee and the work done on our behalf by our professional investment manager, Northern Trust.
- A second observation is **the effectiveness of the Foundation's policy of using three-year averaging**. This policy allows us to continue to make significant distributions to the church and school, even in a down year.
- And the third observation is offered with **thanks to all of the faithful members who continue to support our Foundation**. In 2022, we received new gifts just shy of \$1 million. These gifts helped the Foundation meet new challenges for distribution.

Your Foundation carefully has developed important policies and practices that ensure that the gifts of our members will continue to support His work here at St. Lorenz.

If you would like to know more about the Foundation or have questions about making a gift, feel free to ask any member of the Foundation team or contact Executive Director Perry Bresemann.

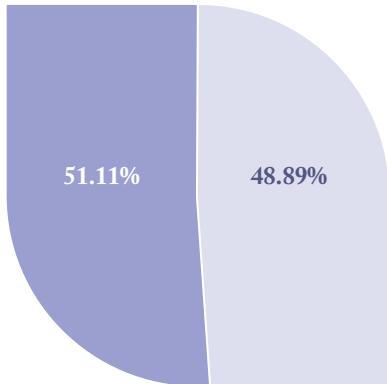
It is my privilege to serve as your Foundation President. Please let me know if I can be of service.

Blessings,


Jim Howe
President
St. Lorenz Foundation



2022 financial highlights

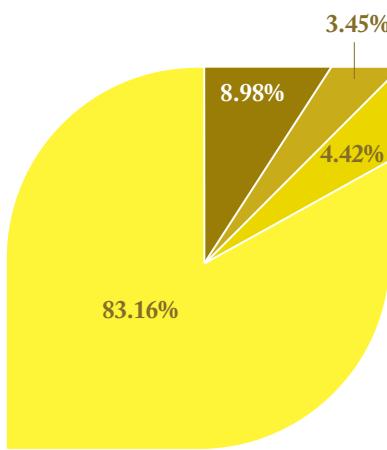


Foundation distributions

Dedicated Grants	\$404,586
<i>(specified by donor or board)</i>	
Request-Based Grants	\$422,890*
<i>(awarded by board)</i>	
Total distributions	\$827,476

**Includes \$52,038 of funds reallocated from previous awards.*

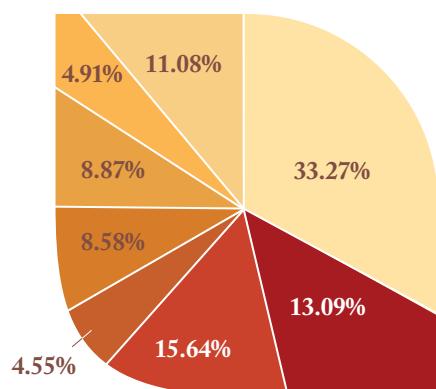
\$9+ million distributed over the last 12 years



General Fund balance

Northern Trust Investments	\$6,575,395
Frankenmuth Credit Union	\$349,153
Life insurance	\$272,591
<i>(Foundation-owned)</i>	
Local stock	\$710,040
Total balance	\$7,907,179

Dedicated Fund balances



Pastoral Ministry	\$2,808,665
<i>Pastoral Endowment</i>	
Vicar Fund	\$935,362
Church	\$414,536
<i>Caring Ministry – Church Music</i>	
Missions	\$749,192
Student Aid	\$724,537
<i>Pastor Teacher Student Aid</i>	
School	\$383,711
<i>School Families – Early Childhood/Childcare</i>	
Operations	\$1,320,631
<i>Church Maintenance – Operating Fund – Communications</i>	
Professional Staff	\$1,105,130
<i>Educational Enhancement – Health Insurance</i>	
Total balance	\$8,441,764

Total of General Fund and Dedicated Funds. \$16,348,943

Dedicated Projects

Dedicated Projects are those that, through board action and donor direction, are funded every year. On an annual basis, 5% of the corpus of the accounts is distributed. For calendar year 2022, the total distributed was \$404,586.

Caring Ministries

This fund provides resources for Stephen Ministry and other care programs.

Amount distributed: \$21,867

Church Beautification

The funds in this account are used by the Church Beautification Committee to assist with seasonal decorations as well as improvements to the church grounds.

Amount distributed: \$1,131

Church Maintenance – Capital Improvement

This account has been established to help maintain and improve our properties. The funds are used for ongoing maintenance or for projects that improve our facilities.

Amount distributed: \$1,836

Communications – Broadcast Media

This account helps support the broadcast of our services on cable television and via the internet as well as other media formats.

Amount distributed: \$24,209



Educational Enhancement Fund

This fund was established to assist our called workers with ongoing educational experiences. The fund provides resources for continuing education opportunities to enrich a worker's professional experiences and to support their teaching and preaching activities.

Amount distributed: \$57,572

Health Insurance Support

The cost of health insurance continues to climb. This account was established to provide support for retired pastors and teachers.

Amount distributed: \$387

Missions

Two donor-designated accounts provide funding for mission work. The funds support a variety of mission programs and projects, and the Foundation Board of Directors has committed to helping build the account for mission projects. The congregation submits grant requests for missions, and the board selects and awards the grants.

Amount distributed: \$25,762

Music Fund

The relatively new Music Fund has been established to support music ministries at St. Lorenz.

Amount distributed: \$342

Operating Fund

This account provides funds annually to the Church Operating Fund. This account was established by a donor-directed gift and has been added to by others.

Amount distributed: \$22,268

Pastoral Ministry

Two dedicated accounts have been established to support pastoral ministry at St. Lorenz. Through a generous gift, the Board of Directors established the Pastoral Endowment. This fund provides resources on an annual basis to assist the congregation with expenses related to the pastoral team. The second account providing support for the pastoral ministry is the Vicar Endowment, which has been established to support the expenses of the Vicar Program.

*Amounts distributed: \$152,899 (Pastoral Endowment)
and \$50,438 (Vicar Endowment)*

St. Lorenz School Family Aid

This fund was established to assist families with students attending our St. Lorenz School with tuition and fee expenses. The support needed is calculated through the FACTS program and administered by our school principal.

Amount distributed: \$16,093

Student Aid

The Student Aid account has been established to provide assistance for those preparing for ministry by attending one of our seminaries or universities. A number of families have contributed to this fund.

Amount distributed: \$29,782



Grant-Funded Projects

Grant-Funded Projects are those that are funded by the Foundation's Board of Directors based on grant requests from St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School as submitted by individual commissions; by the Ministry Council; or by the congregation's Executive Director, Principal or Administrative Pastor. Twice a year, these grant requests are processed by the Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee and forwarded to the board for action. For 2022, the board approved 21 new grants and paid on four previously approved grants¹, for a total distribution of \$422,890².

Acoustic Panels – Grant for the installation of additional acoustic panels in the dining hall and Early Childhood entrance.

Amount granted: \$11,500

Adult Education AV Equipment – Grant for updates to the audio-visual equipment in the Adult Education room, including updated projection and sound system hardware, as well as an updated control system.

Amount granted: \$15,000

Ark Encounter and Creation Museum Trip – Grant to support a trip to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum; groups such as the Owls will be invited to participate.

Amount granted: \$10,000

Calling Expenses – Grant to assist with the calling expenses for several roles: Associate Pastor, Director of Music, Youth Director and School Principal. Funds will be used for interview expenses, as well as to provide relocation support.

Amount granted: \$15,000

CAPA Program – Grant for updates to our CAPA program; the financial software used by our church and school was developed 10+ years ago and will be recoded as necessary to accommodate needed changes.

Amount granted: \$15,000

Church Storage Garage – Grant to support construction of an addition to the church storage garage in partnership with the Capital Improvement Fund; the addition will assist with maintenance equipment storage.

Amount granted: \$60,000

Computer Network Firewall – Grant to upgrade the firewall protecting our computer network, which will provide content-filtering and improved security.

Amount granted: \$20,000



¹These previously approved grants total \$111,050, which includes \$5,000 for a Connect Intern grant, \$40,000 for a Reach Out – Communication grant, \$60,000 for a Technology Support Staff grant and \$6,050 for a Valley Lutheran Tuition Support grant.

²Also included in this distribution is \$52,038 that previously was granted but was not needed for the approved projects. These reallocated funds remain with the congregation but are added to the amount for approved projects.



Congregational Vision and Ministry Planning – Grant to support the work being done at St. Lorenz by Five Two Consultants, which is working with members of the congregation to clarify vision and develop ministry plans for the future.

Amount granted: \$10,000

Data Storage – Grant to update the congregation's data storage system from network-attached storage (NAS) to a storage area network (SAN) system.

Amount granted: \$15,000

Drama Program – Grant to provide an afterschool drama class for up to 16 interested students.

Amount granted: \$3,750

Early Childhood Gymnasium – Grant to update the Early Childhood gymnasium, including added equipment, storage, mats and carts.

Amount granted: \$10,000

Early Childhood Playground Resurfacing – Grant to assist with resurfacing the Early Childhood playground in partnership with the Capital Improvement Fund.

Amount granted: \$33,000



Girls of Grace Costumes – Grant to provide costume updates and replacements for the Girls of Grace program.

Amount granted: \$6,500

Gym Kitchen Remodel – Grant to assist with the remodeling of the small kitchen off of the gym, which is used for concessions and other special events. New cabinets and countertops will be installed.

Amount granted: \$15,000

Ministry Opportunities Directory – Grant for the Worship Commission to develop a printed directory of ministry opportunities at St. Lorenz to help members identify opportunities of interest.

Amount granted: \$9,540

North Campus Master Plan – Grant for the development of a master plan for the North Campus, including allocation of space for future needs such as classrooms, meeting rooms, gymnasium and parking.

Amount granted: \$25,000

School Conference/Training Room & Entrance Study – Grant to study a conference/training room on the east side of the school building, as well as to ensure the safety and security of the school entrance.

Amount granted: \$10,000

Senior Citizens' Ministry – Grant for materials and other support for the Older and Wiser Lutherans senior ministry.

Amount granted: \$9,050

Vacation Bible School – Grant to support the St. Lorenz Vacation Bible School in an effort to make the program available to all children in the community.

Amount granted: \$5,000

Willing Workers Travel Expenses – Grant to offset travel expenses for Willing Workers team members assisting with projects at Camp Lu Lay Lea.

Amount granted: \$4,500



Women's Conference – Grant to support the January 2023 Women's Conference, "White as Snow."

Amount granted: \$9,000



Sharing worship and praise outside the walls of St. Lorenz

For many years, connecting with individuals who could not attend in-person services at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church involved pastors, church staff or volunteers hand-carrying VHS tapes, cassette tapes or CD-ROM recordings to those individuals' homes.

In the 1990s, the opportunities for connection with church members – and the community at large – grew significantly as services at St. Lorenz began being broadcast via cable television.

Today, St. Lorenz worship services also are accessible to a global audience thanks to the addition of streaming services and online archives on the St. Lorenz website.

Through the years, as the process of broadcasting services at St. Lorenz has developed, the congregation's Media Ministry also has shared interview sessions, Bible studies, announcements and special events.

St. Lorenz now has a significant library of worship services that can be accessed through the church's website at stlorenz.org/stream.

Keep reading to learn more about the St. Lorenz Media Ministry; how funding from the St. Lorenz Foundation has supported the ministry's progress; and the resulting blessings to the St. Lorenz congregation, the local community, and people across the country and around the globe.



Delivering the message

Led by a dedicated Director of Media and with support from the St. Lorenz Foundation and a committed group of volunteers, the Media Ministry has become an integral part of St. Lorenz.

The Foundation's role



The St. Lorenz Foundation exists specifically to support the mission and ministry of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School – including the Media Ministry and its efforts to help connect more people to the church, whether those people are attending services in person, watching or listening to services remotely, or seeking to keep up with St. Lorenz via social media.

Over the years, the Foundation has provided more than \$500,000 in funding to support investments in equipment – including cameras, microphones, lights, computers and broadcasting equipment – as well as staffing to help this important ministry reach individuals around the world who elect to hear the Good News of Salvation.



Growth and challenges

As the Media Ministry has grown, the duties of Director of Media and Technology Dan Reinert have expanded as well. Today, Dan has responsibility for St. Lorenz broadcasts, oversees the audio/visual needs for both the South Campus (church) and the North Campus (Worship and Event Center and school), and leads a team of volunteers who staff the broadcasts every weekend. In addition to routine weekend services, Dan and his team also manage the media needs for all events held at both the church and the WEC.



The COVID-19 pandemic presented new creative and logistical challenges for the Media Ministry. As the St. Lorenz pastors worked to provide uplifting and meaningful worship experiences for congregation members when gathering in person was either not an option or extremely limited, Dan and his media team were tasked with ensuring the services were sent out on time – and they truly rose to the occasion during this challenging period to deliver to the St. Lorenz congregation and others around the state, nation and world who rely on St. Lorenz as their source for the Word of God.

Taking it all in: The blessings of the Media Ministry

From the days of hand-delivered recordings to those first cable broadcasts in the 1990s to the livestreams and archived recordings of today, many members of the St. Lorenz congregation and beyond have been blessed by the Media Ministry and its efforts to share God's Word through a variety of media. Here are some of their stories.

Jan & the late Dr. Arno Schury

In 2005, Dr. Arno Schury became ill and found it very difficult to attend worship services. With a desire to continue being a part of St. Lorenz, Dr. Schury and his wife, Jan, began to tune in to the cable broadcast of St. Lorenz services – and it soon became a regular part of their lives.



The ability to routinely watch the Sunday-morning worship services together, as well as special services and events, helped the Schurys remain connected to St. Lorenz.

Since her husband's passing in 2019 and the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Jan says she has found it difficult to return to in-person church services, but she continues to regularly follow the television broadcasts per their longstanding tradition.

"TV church has been a lifesaver for me," she says.

Jim & Kay Frahm

Jim and Kay Frahm are longtime members of St. Lorenz and regularly watch services and special events on the cable channel, as well as via the livestream. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, this has been their weekly routine.

Kay is especially fond of the broadcasts of Christmas programs and other special events, as she enjoys being able to see her grandchildren participate.

Jim sees such value in the broadcasts that he once taught staff members at Bavarian Comfort Care how to access the livestream so William Laegler, a fellow St. Lorenz member who was a resident of the facility, could watch the Traditional Service each week and remain connected to St. Lorenz until his passing.





The Barry family

In January 2022, Seth and Jessica Barry – the parents of three young children – were planning their move from Raleigh, North Carolina. Seth, who grew up in Indiana, and Jessica, who grew up in metro Detroit, knew they wanted to move back to the Midwest, but they had not decided on a location.

The Barrys' goals for their move included a desire to find a church and school that fit well with their faith and family situation. Through their research, they learned more about Frankenmuth and St. Lorenz, and they spent time exploring the St. Lorenz website and

watching the
livestream of the
services. Jessica recalls
watching a Connect
Service in which the
first graders were
singing and finding it
especially touching.

As of December 2022,
the Barrys are in the
process of officially
joining St. Lorenz.



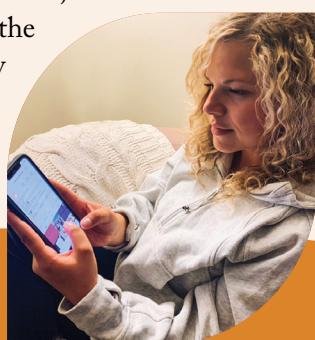
Jeff & Vickie Schmitzer

Jeff and Vickie Schmitzer love to travel – and being able to access St. Lorenz services while on the road helps keep them connected to their home and their faith.

Whether they're in Texas or Alaska or somewhere in between, the Schmitzers enjoy sharing their faith with others, even inviting fellow campers to join them in watching a livestream of the Connect Service during one memorable trip.

Elizabeth Laux

College and now a job with the Detroit Lions led St. Lorenz Lutheran School and Frankenmuth High School alumna Elizabeth Laux away from the area. Residing in metro Detroit but still a member of St. Lorenz, Elizabeth finds attending weekly worship to be a logistical challenge. Still, she remains steadfastly committed to her relationship with St. Lorenz through her use of the church's mobile app and social media channels, as well as by watching the livestreams.



“I love being able to watch the services and special events,” she says. “And following the Instagram feed really helps me stay connected to the church.”

German services generate international interest

When St. Lorenz Lutheran Church first was formed as a congregation in 1845, services were conducted in German. Today, St. Lorenz continues to offer a monthly service delivered entirely in German.

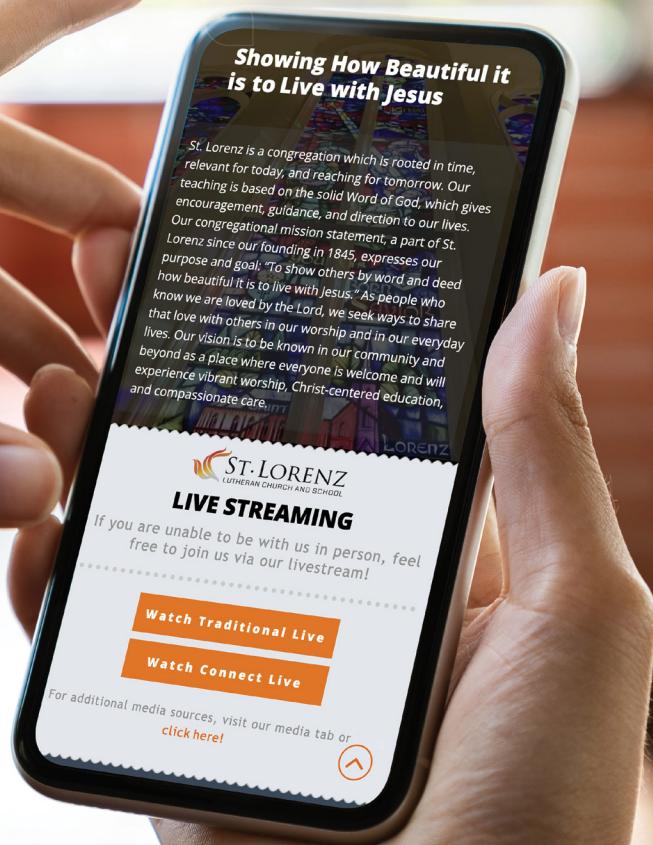
Typically, 50 or more members attend the German-language service in person each month. In addition, each German service is either livestreamed or watched online within days by 250+ people or organizations worldwide and nationwide, including many high school and college students who are studying the German language.

Learn more about the German roots of St. Lorenz Church at stlorenz.org/our-heritage.



In person, online or on TV, St. Lorenz is spreading the Word

Sharing the Good News of Salvation using a variety of media in addition to traditional in-person worship opportunities is an important goal of the St. Lorenz congregation. The Word of God is powerful – and the Media Ministry considers it a privilege to be sharing the Good News of Jesus through various platforms.



Pastors' perspectives

Administrative Pastor Rev. Brad Hubbard, Associate Pastor of Worship Shawn Fenske and Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care Joel Kaiser agree that grants from the St. Lorenz Foundation to the Media Ministry have helped St. Lorenz Church and School reach and engage members in a variety of creative, modern and meaningful ways.

They see great value in the additional worship opportunities that the St. Lorenz Media Ministry has provided and will continue to provide. Their hope is that the ministry's broadcasts and digital resources will continue making a positive impact on many people within the St. Lorenz congregation, in the local community and beyond.

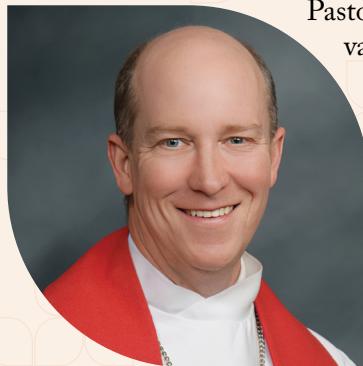
Rev. Brad Hubbard

Pastor Hubbard sees St. Lorenz's television broadcast, livestream and social media presence as an enhancement to the congregation's regular worship opportunities.

“While I strongly encourage all members and guests to worship in person as they are able, I am very grateful for all of our professionals and volunteers who work week in and week out to make sure our Media Ministry reaches all of those who are in need,” he says. “I look forward to our Media Ministry keeping more of our people connected to God and their congregation in the years to come.”



Pastor Shawn Fenske



Pastor Fenske says he highly values in-person worship, as it helps foster a sense of community and togetherness as we gather to hear God's Word and sing His praise; he also notes that we are called to meet together and encourage one another in our Christian walk. But Pastor Fenske also

recognizes that circumstances sometimes necessitate additional options and opportunities for worship – and that's where the Media Ministry comes in.

“I do know that there are a number of circumstances in which joining in person is not feasible,” he says. “The ability to broadcast our worship, globally, has been a blessing. It provides a way for those unable to join us in person to stay connected to the worship life of the church.”

Pastor Joel Kaiser

With his focus on Caring Ministries, Pastor Kaiser regularly visits with homebound members and sees firsthand the blessings that are provided through the Media Ministry, which he calls one of the great treasures of St. Lorenz. He says an “overwhelming” number of individuals – especially seniors – regularly express gratitude for St. Lorenz's broadcasts.

“We have had countless members – as well as others – who have been sustained and nourished in their faith through our radio, cable TV and internet broadcasts over the decades; people have literally said, ‘I don’t know what I’d do if I was not able to watch St. Lorenz on cable or the internet,’ ” he says. “Times and technologies keep changing, and gifts from the St. Lorenz Foundation help us keep up with those changes.”



St Lorenz Vicars: Where are they now?



Pastor Brad Hubbard
Administrative Pastor



Pastor Michael Goers
2004-05
Trinity Lutheran Church
Traverse City, Michigan



Pastor J. Christian Strickland
2005-06
St. John Lutheran Church
Atwater, Minnesota



Pastor Christopher Lieske
2006-07
Trinity Lutheran Church
Fergus Falls, Minnesota



Pastor Karl Fay
2007-08
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Palatine, Illinois



Pastor Jonathan Walla
2008-09
Bethel Lutheran Church
Bismarck, North Dakota



Pastor Caleb Adams
2009-10
Trinity Lutheran Church
Bend, Oregon



Pastor Robert Bernhardt
2010-11
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
St. Louis, Missouri



Pastor Nycholas Greig
2011-12
Trinity Lutheran Church
Seneca, New York



Pastor Joel Eden
2012-13
St. Lorenz Lutheran Church
Frankenmuth, Michigan



Pastor Peter Heckert
2013-14
St. James Lutheran Church
Lafayette, Indiana



Pastor Joseph Polzin
2014-15
Christ Our King Lutheran
Church
Saline, Michigan



Worship Director Adam Peitsch
2015-16
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Grand Rapids, Michigan



Pastor Chris Garcia
2016-17
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Bay City, Michigan



Pastor Adam Rodriguez
2017-18
St. Peter's Lutheran Church
Columbus, Indiana



Pastor Adam Wolfe
2018-19
Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church
Hartland, Wisconsin



Pastor Corey Shaffer
2019-20
Trinity Lutheran Church
Port Edwards, Wisconsin



Pastor Andrew Berg
2020-21
Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Avon, Indiana



Seminarian Ryan Ferguson
2021-22
Completing seminary at
Concordia Seminary
St. Louis, Missouri



Vicar Adam Tanney
2022-23
Completing vicarage at
St. Lorenz Lutheran Church
Frankenmuth, Michigan

Executive Director

Dr. Perry A. Bresemann
Office phone: 989.652.0796
Email: pab@stlorenz.org

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Barb DeSimpelare
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