



St. Lorenz
FOUNDATION

2021 ANNUAL REPORT


CHRIST GIVES HOPE





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.





> A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that nine years already have passed since I agreed to serve on the St. Lorenz Foundation Board of Directors. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve with such a dedicated team!

2021 was an exciting year for our Foundation. We belatedly celebrated our 25th anniversary with a congregational breakfast under a tent in the church parking lot. We distributed our 2020 Annual Report filled with historical information about the Foundation, and we celebrated the blessing of the many grants the Foundation has been able to provide since 1995. All praise and honor go to our Lord for His countless blessings and the opportunities to support the mission and ministry of our church and school.



In addition to being a time to celebrate our Foundation's history and impact, the last couple of years also have been important for our Foundation administratively. We have changed our granting process to allow two grant cycles each year instead of just one, closing the time gap between the awarding of a grant and the completion of the project it supports.

The St. Lorenz Foundation exists to help our members provide ongoing support for our church and school. If you would like more information about the Foundation or would like a member of the Foundation team to reach out to you, please contact Executive Director Perry Bresemann via email at pab@stlorenz.org or by phone at 989.652.0796.

Once again, it has been my privilege to serve on the Foundation Board of Directors and to serve as President. Even as I leave this role, I will continue to support the Foundation – both in my prayers and with gifts – and I encourage you to join me!

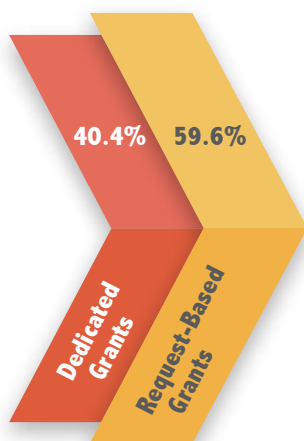
Sincerely,

Martha Shelton



Martha Shelton
President
St. Lorenz Foundation

> FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS

Dedicated Grants \$325,222
(specified by donor or board)

Request-Based Grants \$480,450*
(awarded by board)

Total distributions \$805,672

*Includes \$43,684 of funds reallocated from previous awards.



GENERAL FUND BALANCE

Northern Trust Investments \$8,186,617

Frankenmuth Credit Union \$397,434

Life insurance \$269,271
(Foundation-owned)

Local stock \$103,680

Total balance \$8,957,003

DEDICATED FUND BALANCES

Pastoral Ministry \$3,440,595
Pastoral Endowment

Vicar Fund \$1,141,680

Church \$507,345
Caring Ministry – Church Music

Missions \$783,755

Student Aid \$687,841
Pastor Teacher Student Aid

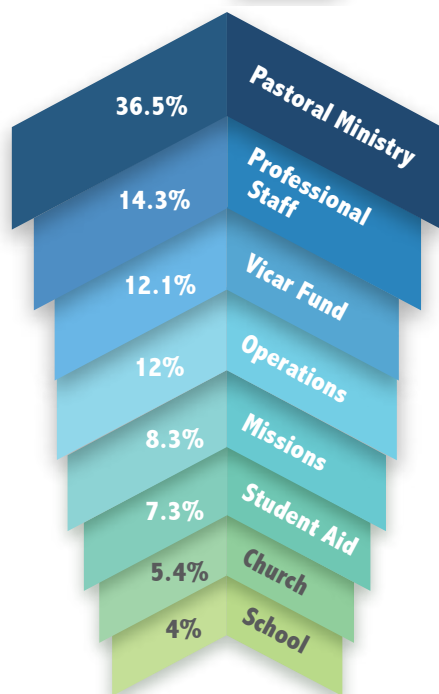
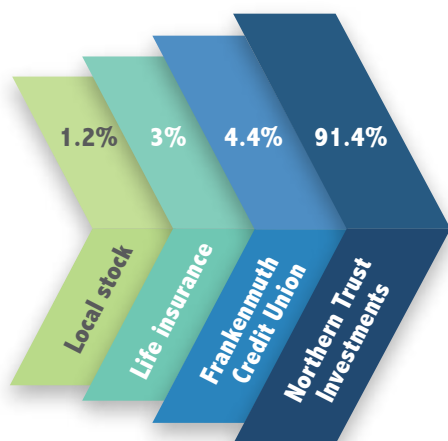
School \$381,125
School Families – Early Childhood/Childcare

Operations \$1,127,410
Church Maintenance – Operating Fund – Communications

Professional Staff \$1,351,573
Educational Enhancement – Health Insurance

Total balance \$9,421,323

Total of General and Dedicated Funds \$18,378,326



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 2021, the total distributed was \$325,222.

Church Maintenance

This account was established in 2016. It provides resources to help maintain our church properties.
Amount distributed: \$1,583



Communications - Broadcast Media

This account helps support the broadcast of our services on cable television and via the internet.
Amount distributed: \$1,719

Communications/Operating/Caring

Each year, following the donor's request, funds from this account

are equally distributed between our Communications Ministry, our Operating Fund and our Caring Ministries through the Stephen Ministry program.

Amount distributed: \$66,930

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: \$0

Note: The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a significant reduction in available professional development opportunities in 2021, leading to a \$0 distribution from this account. Funds remain available to support called workers in their continuing education endeavors.

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: \$397

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: \$17,593

Music Fund

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

Amount distributed: \$341

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: \$156,994 (Pastoral Endowment) and \$51,461 (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: \$1,719

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: \$26,485



> 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 calendar year 2021, the board approved **32 grants**, for a total distribution of **\$480,450**.

Air Conditioning Study – This grant will provide funds for a professional engineering and architectural study to determine the feasibility and scope of a project to air-condition the church. The study will examine all aspects of the project, including the need for additional insulation, impact on our stained-glass windows and organ, and other installation questions. **Amount granted: \$25,000**

Bat Exclusion Work at the St. Lorenz Museum – The St. Lorenz Heritage Committee and the Commission for Physical Properties have become aware of an issue with the presence of bats and bat droppings in the museum building. A licensed contractor must be used to safely exclude the bats and prevent their reentry. **Amount granted: \$2,000**

Bathroom Renovation – This grant will provide resources to begin the process of upgrading the original individual bathrooms in the 1950s portion of the St. Lorenz School building. Two or three of the 14 bathrooms will be remodeled. **Amount granted: \$10,000**



Bringing People Back to Church – This grant will provide the Communications team with resources to provide awareness that it is safe to return to church and to share the benefits of worship with our members and others. **Amount granted: \$10,000**

Childcare Program Equipment – The Childcare Program has been in operation for 14 years. This grant will replace and update original equipment that is broken or worn out. **Amount granted: \$11,000**



Childcare Program Sleeping Equipment Replacement – To remain compliant with licensing requirements, it is necessary to replace the Childcare Program's sleeping equipment. Crib mattresses and sleeping cots will be upgraded. **Amount granted: \$4,500**





Churchgrove Master Plan – This grant will provide the resources to study our Churchgrove Park to update the Master Plan. It will address the campsites, roadways and any potential changes to the buildings to allow additional use by families and organizations. **Amount granted: \$10,000**

Connect Equipment Upgrades – This grant will provide the funds to upgrade software and equipment used for worship and media services and will provide equipment used by the many volunteer musicians. **Amount granted: \$12,500**

Connect Worship Intern Program – Our Concordia Universities in Irvine, California, and Ann Arbor, Michigan, offer programs for Worship Arts and Music. Interns are available to congregations to provide onsite experiences for the students. This grant will provide funds to begin this program at St. Lorenz. **Amount granted: \$5,000**



Connect Worship Volunteer Resources – Connect Worship is highly volunteer-driven. This grant will provide resources to help train and support the volunteers. Access to online training and continued educational resources would be provided. **Amount granted: \$4,800**

Consultant for Governance – The St. Lorenz governance structure is a hybrid of policy-based governance. A consultant would be used to recommend changes that would provide clarity of tasks for our commissions and provide an updated organizational structure. **Amount granted: \$10,000**

Consultant for Vision/Member Engagement – The Five-Two Ministries team will bring its program designed to involve members in vision-casting and member engagement. **Amount granted: \$10,000**

Discipleship Grant (Year Three) – In 2019, the Foundation approved a three-year grant to support staff working to develop discipleship and to work with our teachers and faculty. This is the final year of support. **Amount granted: \$22,000**

Early Childhood Entrance – This grant will allow the installation of an entrance area that is protected from the weather and the installation of a handicapped-accessible entrance device on the Early Childhood doors. **Amount granted: \$14,000**

Environmental Education – This grant provides the resources for an environmental educator to support St. Lorenz School students and staff. **Amount granted: \$15,000**

Family Ministry Events Map – This request will place additional emphasis on Family Ministry, seeking to intentionally establish a stronger partnership with our congregation's families and children. This grant will allow the hosting of specific events and will provide devotional resources to our families. **Amount granted: \$9,900**



Flexible Seating – Current research and onsite experimentation have demonstrated the value of flexible seating in the classroom. This seating update will encourage collaboration and student participation. **Amount granted: \$16,000**



> GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS

Immigration Lawyer Services/ Moving Support

This grant will help support moving expenses related to transitioning our new German teacher to Frankenmuth. It also will provide funding for the appropriate visa. **Amount granted: \$19,250**

Media Computer Updates – This grant will provide updates to the computers used in the church sanctuary and worship center, which are used for programming channel 191 content as well as for content creation. **Amount granted: \$10,000**



Ministry in Action – This grant will fund the development of large-format images of our members engaged in ministry in a variety of roles. The pictures will be placed around our facilities, illustrating the many opportunities to be engaged in ministry. **Amount granted: \$6,000**

Music and Movement for Little Learners – This grant is to assist in developing a self-sustaining Music and Movement Program for infants through preschool children. This program will support parents as they guide their children during these formative years. **Amount granted: \$15,000**

Parish Music Director Calling

Expense – Filling the Director of Parish Music vacancy will require a local and national search as well as potential interview expenses. **Amount granted: \$7,500**

School Bus – This grant will assist the congregation in replacing the 1997 bus. The grant will be supported with Capital Improvement funds. **Amount granted: \$50,000**



Reach Out – The Communications team is clarifying its mission through social media. This grant provides resources and staffing to develop an intentional plan to communicate to members and potential members of all ages. **Amount granted: \$20,000**

SLS Athletic Boosters – A relatively new organization has been formed to support the various athletic programs at St. Lorenz Lutheran School. The group looks to upgrade facilities and improve concessions equipment. **Amount granted: \$4,250**



St. Lorenz App Enhancement –

The Ministry Council and Communication Committee will update the St. Lorenz mobile app to provide an optimized and user-friendly experience. The new app will make information about St. Lorenz and its ministries available in an app format.

Amount granted: \$20,000



Summer Youth Camp Scholarships –

This project will award grants to St. Lorenz members to attend Lutheran summer youth camps such as Camp Lu Lay Lea and Camp Concordia, with a focus on assisting first-time campers.

Amount granted: \$5,000

Swing Gates for North Parking Lot Entrance –

The north parking lot is used for parking and traffic and is then blocked off for playground use. This grant will provide metal gates that will provide additional protection during playground use.

Amount granted: \$28,000



Support Personnel for IT and Media Departments (Year One) –

The needs of both the IT and Media departments have increased significantly as needs related to student textbooks, workstations, internet broadcasts and audio support continue to grow. This position will allow for cross-training as well as backup for these critical areas. This grant will provide financial support for three years, with the amount decreasing each year. **Amount granted: \$65,000**

Valley Lutheran Student Support –

Our congregation provides a grant to each student attending Valley Lutheran High School. The funds for the grant are provided equally by our congregation and the Foundation. **Amount granted: \$3,450**



Worship and Event Center Lighting –

The Worship and Event Center was constructed with basic stage lighting. As the facility has been used, additional lighting needs have been identified. This grant will allow for additional lights to enhance the use of the stage.

Amount granted: \$27,800

Youth Director Calling Expenses –

Filling the Youth Director vacancy will require a local and national search as well as potential interview expenses. **Amount granted: \$7,500**

Note: The \$480,450 granted by the board for 2021 includes \$43,684 of funds reallocated from previous awards.

➤ THROUGH STEPHEN MINISTRY, CHRIST GIVES HOPE

‘We are not meant to face life-changing events alone’

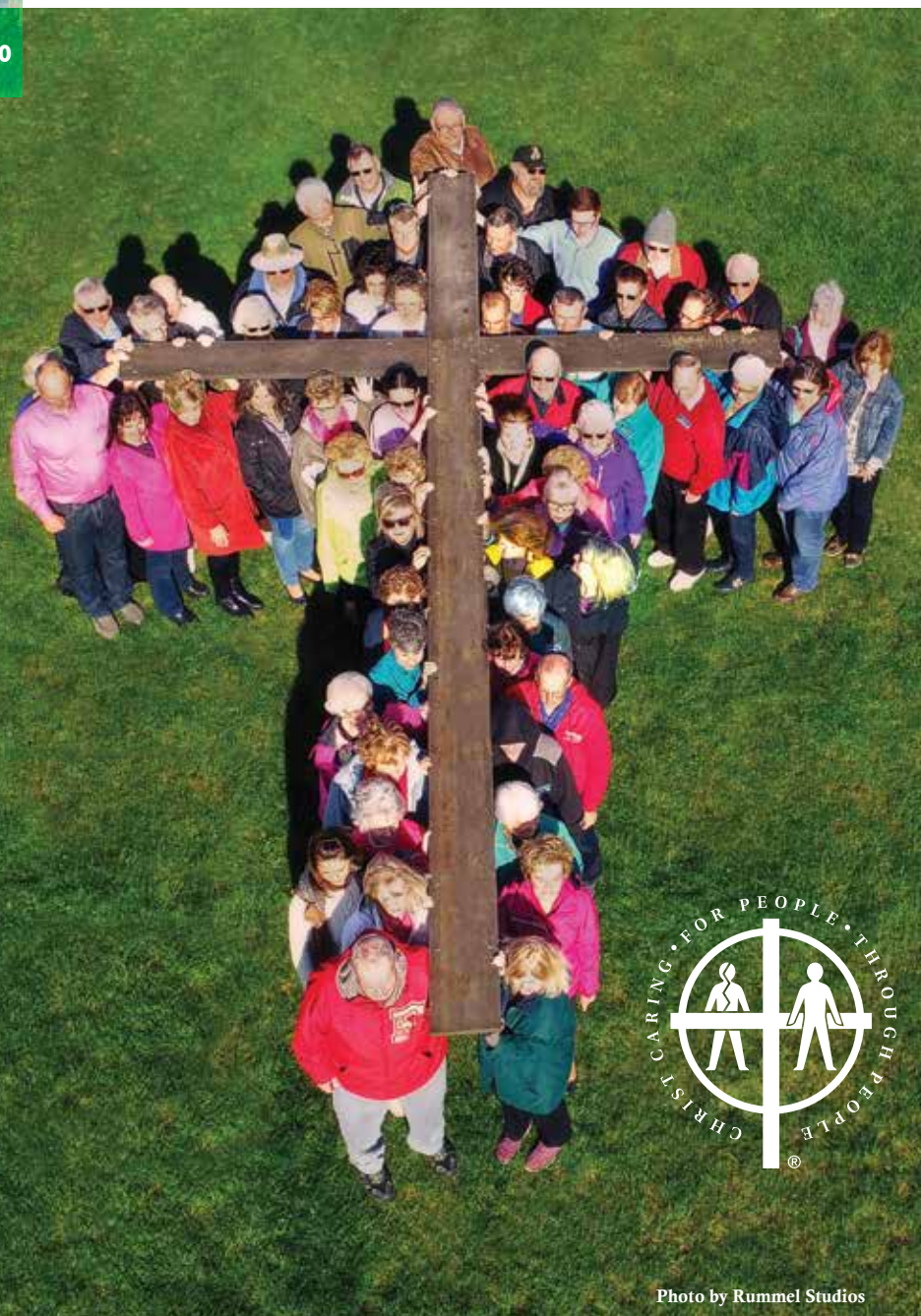


Photo by Rummel Studios



Leah Knoll
Past Stephen Ministry care receiver

I felt a calling to work with children. Because I grew up attending St. Lorenz Lutheran School, I greatly admired Lutheran teachers. I had my life all planned out. Filled with enthusiasm and optimism, I began my calling as a Lutheran school teacher, wife and mother.

Unfortunately, my marriage ended after 13 years. Like most spouses of failed marriages, I felt ashamed, angry, unworthy and hopeless.

Shortly after I announced my separation, one of my friends at school kindly asked me if she could contact a Stephen Minister on my behalf. After prayer and discussion with my friend, I agreed.

A Stephen Minister contacted me, and we confidentially met regularly for about a year. She offered encouragement without judgment and listened with genuine care and concern. During each meeting, she reassured me of my worth as a child of God. She calmed my insecurities with God's Word while reminding me that through my weaknesses, God's strength is revealed. She also shared her own experiences.

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

We prayed together, cried together and even laughed together.

Most importantly, my Stephen Minister gave me an unbiased perspective. She helped me to avoid falling into the gorge of bitterness and resentment. She asked me to pursue the hope God provides now and in the future.

God is so good! His hand was certainly involved in placing us together.

Stories like this one from St. Lorenz Lutheran School Language Arts Teacher Leah Knoll are exactly why Stephen Ministry was created.

The global Stephen Ministries organization dates back to 1975, when pastor and clinical psychologist Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., introduced Stephen Ministry as a way to provide Christian care to individuals in his St. Louis, Missouri, congregation who were experiencing a variety of life difficulties. By 1978, he was hosting courses to train Stephen Leaders from far and wide who could in turn train Stephen Ministers to serve their own congregations. And 10 years later, in 1988, St. Lorenz Lutheran Church became one of the many congregations worldwide with a Stephen Ministry.

What is Stephen Ministry?

“Stephen Ministry helps people who may be hurting due to a variety of reasons get through a difficult time in their lives,” said St. Lorenz Stephen Leader Dawn Zimmer, who was commissioned as a Stephen Minister in 2019. “It is for people who need someone to walk alongside them for a period of time.”



Dawn Zimmer
Stephen Minister since 2019

The Stephen Ministry name comes from Acts 6, in which St. Stephen was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need. And, like their namesake, today’s Stephen Ministers are laypeople called to serve others through caring relationships.



Stephen Ministers are not members of the clergy, nor are they counselors. They are highly trained, caring members of the congregation who – at no charge – provide high-quality, *confidential*, Christ-centered care and support for individuals experiencing a variety of difficult and often isolating circumstances. These can include depression, loneliness, terminal illness, aging, disability, infertility, childbirth, adoption, spiritual crisis, grief, divorce or any life-changing event.



Kay List
Stephen Minister since 2000

“Stephen Ministry is designed to encourage, support and care for people as they navigate through a challenging time – to love people as Jesus would,” said St. Lorenz Stephen Leader Kay List, who was commissioned as a Stephen Minister in 2000.

According to Pastor Shawn Fenske, pastoral advisor to Stephen Ministry at St. Lorenz, the ministry “provides a Christ-centered and practical way” for members of the congregation to live out an important calling via caring relationships.



Pastor Shawn Fenske
Stephen Ministry Advisor

“As Christians, we are called to rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn and bear one another’s burdens. We are not meant to face life-changing events alone. Those seeking care may be facing a trial, challenge or crisis. Stephen Ministers have the privilege of being invited into the care receiver’s need and reflecting the care and concern that Jesus Christ has for them,” Pastor Fenske said.

And that privilege also is a blessing, List added.

“So often a Stephen Minister goes into the relationship thinking they want to help people and comes out being more blessed than they ever imagined,” she said. “That is just how our amazing God works!”

A broad reach

While many of the care receivers who benefit from the listening ears and caring hearts of St. Lorenz Stephen Ministers are part of the St. Lorenz congregation, the ministry’s caregiving reach also extends into the community at large.

“We are here to serve *anyone* needing Christian care. As many as one-third of our care receivers are from outside of St. Lorenz,” said St. Lorenz Stephen Minister Dennis Stange, who was commissioned

in 2010. “When someone needs care ... *we care*. We try to be ‘Jesus with skin on’ to them.”

In addition to serving individual care receivers, Stephen Ministry at St. Lorenz strives to make a caring impact in other ways, too. The ministry has a hand in supporting other ministries and programs, including the St. Lorenz DivorceCare divorce recovery support group, the St. Lorenz Social Ministry and CrossRoads Counseling Ministries of Frankenmuth.

“We have been blessed with some very appreciative care receivers and others who see the benefit and need for Stephen Ministry and wish to support it financially,” Stange said. “Because of this, the St. Lorenz Foundation has a fund that is dedicated to supporting caring ministries, and Stephen Ministry is the beneficiary of those funds. We, in turn, support these other caring ministries.”



Dennis Stange
Stephen Minister since 2010

St. Lorenz Stephen Ministry by the numbers

Year Stephen Ministry established:	1988
St. Lorenz members trained and currently serving as Stephen Ministers:	50
Care receivers served in 2021:	67
Hours Stephen Ministers invested with their care receivers in 2021:	1,075
• Face-to-face visits:	659
• Phone calls:	674
• Text messages:	480
St. Lorenz members trained as Stephen Ministers since 1988:	207
Care receivers served since 1988:	961
Hours Stephen Ministers have invested with care receivers since 1988:	32,000+

‘A front-row seat watching God work His miracles’

When someone decides to receive care from Stephen Ministry, they are matched with a Stephen Minister selected to help with their specific needs. They meet one-on-one wherever it is most comfortable for the care receiver. And the relationship they build is designed to help the care receiver heal spiritually from the circumstances that led them to Stephen Ministry.

“The most rewarding part of being a Stephen Minister is that we are able to be in a front-row seat watching God work His miracles,” Stange said. “We get to be the conduit bringing God’s healing to our care receivers. We get to watch them grow from whatever their challenge is being healed and get equipped to handle their present and future challenges.”

And for Stephen Ministry care receivers like St. Lorenz teacher Knoll and the more than 950 others the ministry has served since 1988, that miracle of healing endures.

“Eight years have passed since that pivotal event in my life. Today, as I look back on my journey, I am overwhelmed by the method in which God uses His people to show His love,” she said. “Without a doubt, God provided the strength I needed.”

Knoll said her Stephen Ministry care also helped prepare her for a new journey: She married Randy Knoll in 2017, and together they have a blended family of four teenagers – Lacey Jones, 19; Jared Jones, 17; Avery Knoll, 18; and Carson Knoll, 16.

“My Stephen Minister encouraged me to invite God into all aspects of my life,” she said. “Randy and I knew going into a second marriage the ‘odds’ were against us. I continued to read God’s Word daily and search out Christian Bible studies and books that offered guidance on successful marriage and family. I am so very thankful for the Stephen Ministry. I encourage anyone who feels they need support, encouragement and prayers to reach out to the ministry.”

For Stephen Ministry’s contact information, see the “How to contact Stephen Ministry” box above. ■

How to contact Stephen Ministry

If you need the care of a Stephen Minister, there are several ways to confidentially reach out to the ministry:



zehnderkaren@gmail.com



Stephen Leaders: 989.284.3690 or 989.652.2409 (24/7)



Church office: 989.652.6141
(8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays)



ChristGivesHope.org/#contact

If you know someone who may benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, visit ChristGivesHope.org/#refer for tips on making a referral.



ChristGivesHope.org



Leah Knoll and family





ST. LORENZ VICARS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11 (ESV)



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
Alive! Lutheran Church
Monticello, 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
Richmond, Virginia



Pastor Joel Eden
2012-13
Christ Our Savior
Lutheran Church
Livonia, Michigan



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



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



Adam Peitsch
2015-16



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



Pastor Adam Rodriguez
2017-18
Trinity Lutheran Church
Merrill, Wisconsin



Pastor Adam Wolfe
2018-19
St. Paul's Lutheran
Church
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin



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



Seminarian Andrew Berg
2020-21
Completing seminary at
Concordia Seminary
St. Louis, Missouri



Vicar Ryan Ferguson
2021-22
Completing vicarage at
St. Lorenz Lutheran
Church
Frankenmuth, Michigan



***May God's overwhelming love provide
comfort for a heart that is heavy.***

***May God's overwhelming love provide
peace for a fearful mind.***

***May God's overwhelming love provide
strength for a hurting body.***

***May God's overwhelming love provide
salvation for a lost soul.***

***May your heart, body, mind and soul
feel God's overwhelming love!***

– St. Lorenz Stephen Ministry blessing



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Perry A. Bresemann

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