



ST. LORENZ FOUNDATION 

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

A letter from our President

Greetings:

Welcome to the 2016 St. Lorenz Foundation Annual Report. As you will see, our Foundation had a busy year of supporting the ministry of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School.

The end of the 2016 calendar year marked the close of the Visitation Pastor program funded by the Foundation. We were blessed by Pastor Shawn Fenske's presence in our homes and at special gatherings as we came to know him and shared in our ministry of showing others How Beautiful It Is to Live with Jesus!

Over the course of the year, nearly 1,000 households were visited. This was a significant undertaking, and we are pleased that so many members welcomed Pastor Fenske and his wife, Noelle, into their homes. We pray that his efforts will be blessed as he continues his ministry as our Caring Ministry Pastor.

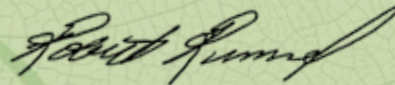
The St. Lorenz Foundation exists to provide a vehicle for our members to offer ongoing support for our church and school. Through the Foundation, we are able to help our congregation focus on its ministry and dream of ways to be even better at meeting the needs of our people.

This report will illustrate the fact that the Foundation was able to distribute more than \$600,000 to a variety of ministry needs in 2016. More than half of the funds were distributed through dedicated accounts or reserved accounts for which the donor provided direction for distribution. The remaining distributions were made in response to grant requests from staff members, commissions or the Ministry Council.

There are many ways you can support the St. Lorenz Foundation – a direct gift, a designated life insurance policy, gifts of stock or designation of a mandatory IRA distribution. If you wish to make a contribution or learn more about doing so, please contact me or another member of our Foundation team for assistance.

It is indeed a privilege to serve as President of the Foundation. We praise God for the faithful gifts of our members and the many opportunities that our Foundation has to assist in His work!

Blessings,



Robert Rummel
President
St. Lorenz Foundation

COVER:

"The pectoral cross pictured is the one I wear throughout most seasons of the church year and was given to me by my parents as I began my ministry. Every time I put it on, this traditional cross combined with Luther's Rose reminds me of Christ crucified, whom I proclaim, as well as the doctrine of justification by grace through faith restored to the church by Martin Luther and entrusted to me to share with God's people. During Lent, I will often wear the cross handcrafted for me by my father, made from the wood of a black walnut tree that stood in the backyard where I grew up. I will also at times wear a small, simple silver cross given to me as a gift from my wife. No matter which cross adorns my chest on any given Sunday, it is my fervent prayer that the cross of Jesus will always be imprinted on my heart and yours." – Pastor Caleb Adams



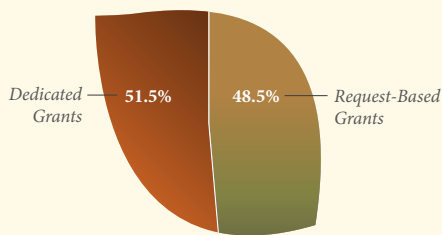
Financial highlights

Foundation Distributions for 2016:

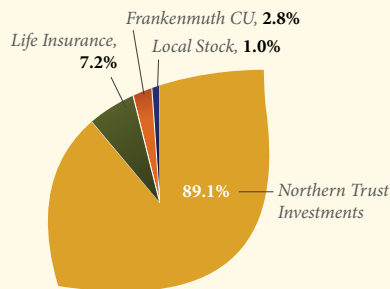
Dedicated Grants (specified by donor or board)\$309,378
Grants (awarded by board based on requests)\$291,517

Total Distributions \$600,895

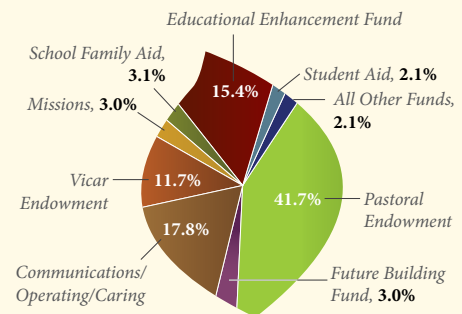
Foundation Distributions



General Fund Balance



Dedicated Fund Balances



General Fund Balance:

Northern Trust Investments \$5,446,944
Frankenmuth Credit Union \$168,613
Life Insurance Cash Values (Foundation-owned)..... \$439,547
Local Stock \$58,500

Total General Fund Balance\$6,113,604

Dedicated Fund Balances (restricted):

Pastoral Endowment \$2,725,701
Vicar Endowment..... \$765,370
Missions \$198,913
Synodical Institution Student Aid..... \$138,948
St. Lorenz School Family Aid..... \$201,389
Communications/Operating/Caring..... \$1,162,014
Pastor/Teacher Scholarship \$26,896
Educational Enhancement Fund..... \$1,008,998
Retired Worker Health Insurance Support\$6,895
Church Maintenance Fund\$12,744
Future Building Fund..... \$194,110
Keinath Fund\$85,323
Music Fund.....\$5,341

Total Dedicated Fund Balances..... \$6,532,642

Total of General and Dedicated funds

as of 12/31/16\$12,646,246

Grant-Funded Projects for 2016

Youth Encounter – The St. Lorenz Youth Ministry encourages students to participate in the annual Michigan Youth Encounter event. Funds were granted to help reduce the costs of the 2017 event in Frankenmuth to allow more students to participate in the program. **Amount: \$2,000**

Church Christmas Displays – Each year, a dedicated team of volunteers decorates our church and grounds. This grant provided funds to replace and update some of the decorations used to adorn our house of worship for Christmas. **Amount: \$8,750**



Mission Trip/Service – Our Youth Ministry has a variety of programs to assist students with outreach. The funds from this grant will help reduce expenses and encourage student participation in mission trips and service events in 2017. **Amount: \$2,000**

ESV Bibles – This grant provided funds to place new English Standard Version Bibles in the pews at church and to make a supply of Bibles available in other places throughout our ministry. The Bibles often are referenced by our members during services. **Amount: \$5,000**



Valley Lutheran Scholarships – The Foundation and our congregation partner in providing financial support to students attending Valley Lutheran High School. Each year, scholarships of up to \$1,000 per student are awarded to assist with tuition costs. **Amount: \$10,000**

HVAC Controls – The heating and cooling controls at the North Campus are being upgraded to improve efficiency and operational management. This grant, along with other special gifts for the program, will provide energy savings for the congregation for many years. **Amount: \$70,000**



Junior High Youth Gathering – Each year, our LCMS Michigan District Youth Ministry hosts a special weekend for junior high youth. The event includes Bible study, worship, motivational speakers and music. This grant provided funds to assist our youth in attending the event. **Amount: \$2,000**

Media Center Computer – Our Director of Media assists with a wide variety of ministry needs, supporting the technology used in our services at church and at Connect worship, supporting student hardware, and performing video-editing tasks. This grant provided funds to update his computer. **Amount: \$3,500**

Gymnasium PA System Upgrade – The gymnasium is used for physical education classes, Connect worship services, athletic events, special banquets and concerts. Funds from this grant supported upgrades to the gymnasium's sound system. **Amount: \$6,500**

High School Youth Gathering – The LCMS Michigan District hosts an annual High School Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island. Funds from this grant will be used to encourage attendance and support student participation in this spiritually uplifting event in 2017. **Amount: \$3,000**

New Screens – This grant provided funding for replacement of the retractable projection screens in the dining hall and gymnasium, which are used on a regular basis and had deteriorated over time. **Amount: \$3,500**

Carnegie Hall Performance – The middle school choir participated in a concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The granted funds helped offset the costs of this experience for our students, who were able to sightsee and participate in choir practices with students from other areas during the trip. **Amount: \$18,000**

Gymnasium Camera Update – The cameras in the gymnasium are used to broadcast our weekly school chapel services, our Connect services and special events. The programs are viewable on Charter channel 191, and having new cameras enhances broadcast and recording quality. **Amount: \$13,667**

Organ Refurbishment Project – Our organ requires regular maintenance and repair. A fund to support a major cleaning and pipe replacement has been established. This grant, along with a grant from 2015, will assist in reaching the goal of funding the project, which is expected to cost more than \$50,000. **Amount: \$15,000** (added to project fund)



Here We Stand – Our congregation will participate in the LCMS Michigan District Here We Stand program. The funds from this grant will assist our congregation in reaching our ministry goal. **Amount: \$10,000**

Updating Technology for Faculty – Our faculty and students continue to expand the use of technology in their classrooms; currently, many textbooks and all grading and standardized testing make use of our computer system. This grant provided funds to update teachers' computers to assist them with their work. **Amount: \$8,100**



Frankenmuth Video Tour – In partnership with the City of Frankenmuth, the video tour will feature St. Lorenz and our ministry. Video footage of our church and school also will be used by our congregation to tell the St. Lorenz story. **Amount: \$5,000**

Stained-Glass Window Restoration – Funds from this grant helped support individual removal, restoration and reinstallation of the church's 12 round stained-glass windows and sash. The restored windows will provide continued use for many years. **Amount: \$20,000**



Pastoral Team Retreat – This grant covered planning and travel expenses to provide two opportunities for our Pastoral Team to grow as a group and focus on the ministry needs of our congregation by meeting together in session and attending the Best Practices in Ministry conference. **Amount: \$6,000**

Succession Planning – Our Lead Pastor will be retiring from full-time ministry in the foreseeable future, as he will be 66 in 2020. The funds granted will be used by the Ministry Council and Call Committee as our congregation prayerfully considers who will lead the Pastoral Team in the years to come. An early start to this process will facilitate an orderly transition. **Amount: \$5,000**

Instructional Technology Coach – As the level of instructional technology increases and student interaction with technology is enhanced, additional support for the teaching staff is needed. In the 2017-18 school year, the Instructional Technology Coach will work directly with classroom teachers to assist them with the integration of technology into their existing curriculum. **Amount: \$40,000**

Library Update – Our Learning Center has been reorganized. As part of a total project with an estimated cost of more than \$60,000, this grant provided funds for updated bookshelves, informal seating and other upgrades that encourage student reading. **Amount: \$7,000**

Assistant Media Director – This grant provided support for the Assistant Media Director, who works with the Director of Media and our Pastoral Team to ensure that all equipment and technology needed to operate our audiovisual aids, sound system and worship broadcast is functioning properly. **Amount: \$7,500**

Bible Study Leader – St. Lorenz recently completed the "Believe" Bible study series, which was followed by "And He Told Them a Story" and "Equipped." This grant helped support our Bible Study Leader. **Amount: \$20,000**

Dedicated Projects for 2016

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 2016, these distributions totaled \$309,378.

Pastoral Endowment – Established through a generous gift to St. Lorenz, the Pastoral Endowment provides financial resources to support our congregation's Pastoral Team. In 2016, the endowment distributed **\$145,164**.

Vicar Endowment – The Vicar Endowment provided **\$31,826** to the congregation to help maintain the Vicar Program in 2016. The endowment has a goal of reaching \$1 million, which will provide the total cost for the program for years to come. The endowment's current balance is more than \$765,000.

Missions – Two donor-designated accounts provide ongoing support for Mission work. In 2016, the distributions totaled **\$10,594**. The Foundation gives the funds to St. Lorenz Lutheran Church for use in a variety of Mission projects.

Student Aid – A number of families have contributed to ongoing support for individuals who are preparing for ministry at our seminaries and universities. The endowment provided **\$10,830** in 2016, which the St. Lorenz Student Aid Committee distributed to students.



School Family Aid – Every year, there are families who are challenged to meet the cost of sending their children to St. Lorenz Lutheran School. No student should be unable to attend the school due to funding. This account distributed **\$10,668** in 2016.

Communications/Operating/Caring Ministry – Each year, following the donor's request, distributions from this account are divided equally between our Communications Ministry, our Operating Fund, and our Caring Ministry through the Stephen Ministry program. In 2016, a total of **\$61,888** was made available.

Educational Enhancement Fund – This fund was established to encourage our called staff to seek educational experiences outside of our congregation and bring those experiences back to us through their teaching, preaching and other professional responsibilities. In 2016, **\$38,007** was distributed.

Health Insurance Support – The cost of health insurance continues to climb. This account was established to provide support for retired pastors and teachers. In 2016, **\$367** was distributed.

Church Maintenance – A new account was established in 2016 to provide resources to help maintain our church properties. This account was able to distribute **\$34** in its first year.

Vicarage at St. Lorenz: An investment in ministry

Pastor Caleb Adams served as a St. Lorenz vicar in 2009-10 and was placed in our congregation after completing his study. We have been blessed through his ministry and look forward to many years of his service.



Pastor Caleb Adams | 2009-10

For years, St. Lorenz Lutheran Church has welcomed a new vicar to our congregation each August. St. Lorenz provides a residence, a stipend and other material support. But what is a vicar? And why is it important for our congregation to have a Vicar Program?

A vicar is someone who has the *authority* to act in the place of another – which is different from an intern, who simply receives supervised training in a desired career path. Our Pastoral Team members, led by Pastor Mark Brandt, allow the vicar to act on their behalf when teaching Bible study, preaching or engaging in other areas of ministry. Helping train a pastor to serve his own congregation in the very near future is a role our Pastoral Team takes very seriously.

We asked past St. Lorenz vicars to reflect on their time in our midst, and they fondly recalled working with our Pastoral Team, engaging in daily ministry with members of our congregation and spending one-on-one time with our shut-ins. One of the vicars referred to his arrival at St. Lorenz as a time when he had a significant amount of knowledge but needed the experiences of the parish and the wisdom of our pastors.

But not one of the vicars referred to his time here as an internship. That's because it is more than that. It is a vicarage. And our Vicar Program is an investment in ministry.

Our Vicar Program is supported by the St. Lorenz Foundation, which is working to accumulate the funds required to endow the program for years to come. While more than 75% of the \$1 million goal has been raised, we still have approximately \$235,000 to go. *Will you help?* Consider a gift to the Vicar Program – today, in the future or even in your estate. For assistance, please contact the Foundation office.

Just think of all the congregations – 11 so far – with a spiritual leader who received an important portion of his training at St. Lorenz. Today, these former vicars act on our behalf, ministering to thousands of worshippers each week and showing them “How Beautiful It Is to Live with Jesus!”


St. Lorenz vicars: Where are they now?

 Pastor Goers is the sole Pastor of 200-member St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Spring Lake, Michigan, where he has served since his graduation. St. Matthew – which also operates a preschool – recently completed a building program, making its facilities “Ready to Welcome” the community.

Pastor Goers says his St. Lorenz vicarage taught him “how things should be” – excellent practices and approaches to daily challenges.

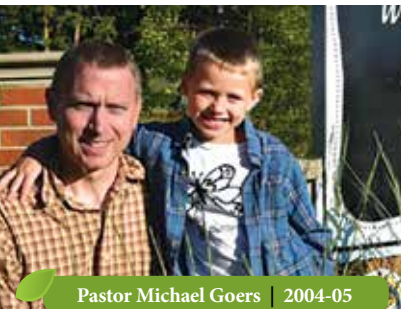
“Working with so many people on the staff and within the congregation prepared me to work well with my congregation,” he says.

Pastor Goers and his wife, Bethany, have four children: Eden, 7; Braden, 6; Asher, 3; and Nolan, 1.

 Pastor Lieske has been sole Pastor of 175-member Alive! Lutheran Church in Monticello, Minnesota, since October 2016. The young congregation worships in a rented space but recently purchased land near the Mississippi River on which to build its new home; Pastor Lieske is working to help the congregation form a shared vision for the new facility.

He says he frequently reflects on his experiences at St. Lorenz, as they helped prepare him for his ministry at Alive! and remain with him today, even after 10 years of ministry.

Pastor Lieske and his wife, Michele, have three children: Anastasia, 5; Samuel, 2; and Zoe, born in August 2016.



Pastor Michael Goers | 2004-05




Pastor J. Christian Strickland | 2005-06



Pastor Christopher Lieske | 2006-07




Pastor Karl Fay | 2007-08

 Pastor Strickland is sole Pastor of rural, 200-member St. John Lutheran Church in Atwater, Minnesota. The membership base is limited to those in the immediate area – and very few young people opt to stay in the area, presenting a significant ministry challenge.


Pastor Strickland says the variety of experiences St. Lorenz offered during his vicarage made it a wonderful place to learn many areas of ministry and provided him with a wonderful base on which to build his ministry. He especially remembers the opportunities to try new things and make mistakes – and learn from them – in a caring environment.

Pastor Strickland and his wife, Cynthia, have three children: Benjamin, 9; Micah, 7; and Sarah, 2.

 Pastor Fay is Senior Pastor at 550-member Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Palatine, Illinois. The church also serves the Lakewood area through its daughter congregation, Crosspoint, which has weekly worship attendance of approximately 80.


During his St. Lorenz vicarage, Pastor Fay says he witnessed great leadership from Pastor Brandt and strong teamwork among the Pastoral Team and leaders at St. Lorenz, providing him with a template for what healthy ministry could look like in other congregations. He says the Vicar Program equips leaders for the church at large and is desperately needed for the sake of Christ's church into the future.

Pastor Fay and his wife, Kendra, have four children: June, 7; Ruben, 6; Iris, 3; and Ezra, 1.

 Pastor Walla has been sole Pastor of 600-member Bethel Lutheran Church in Bismarck, North Dakota, for a year after previously serving at Zion Lutheran Church in Fairbanks, Alaska. Bethel partners with three other churches to support Martin Luther School, which offers preschool through eighth grade.

According to Pastor Walla, his St. Lorenz vicarage helped him strive for excellence in preaching and teaching, taught him the value of one-on-one care, and gave him a deep appreciation of the Lutheran school environment. He also says the Pastoral Team was a true blessing in his preparation for full-time ministry.

Pastor Walla and his wife, Niccole, have three children: Josiah, 5; Natalie, 3; and Jason, 1.

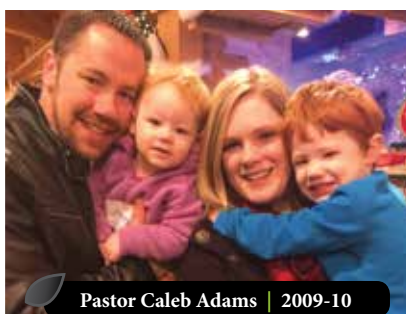
 Pastor Bernhardt is Youth and Family Pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri, which regularly has about 100 worshippers. He preaches; teaches Bible class; and supports Intersect Arts Center, a new area of ministry. Holy Cross has not had a school in approximately 15 years, but a charter school is being constructed on the church campus.

While he describes his current assignment and St. Lorenz as “polar opposites,” Pastor Bernhardt says his vicarage taught him to assess his content, speak with people, find their needs, hear their stories and show them they are a part of God’s story. He says vicars need strong, healthy congregations in which to learn and grow as they prepare for ministry, which he feels St. Lorenz provides.

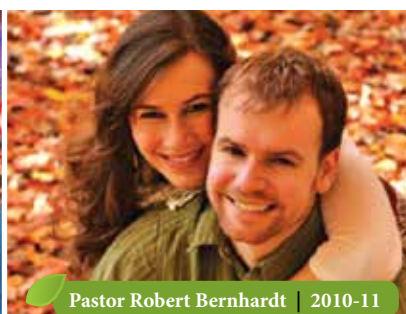
Pastor Bernhardt is married to Sarah.



Pastor Jonathan Walla | 2008-09




Pastor Caleb Adams | 2009-10



Pastor Robert Bernhardt | 2010-11




Pastor Nycholas Greig | 2011-12

 Pastor Adams serves the Connections Ministry at St. Lorenz, focusing on building relationships with those not connected to the church’s traditional worship and ministries. Pastor Adams leads Connect worship service, cares for St. Lorenz’s social media accounts and teaches confirmation class, among other duties.


From his vicarage at St. Lorenz, he particularly recalls the opportunity to work with and learn from a wide variety of professionals and to interact with countless members to share the joy of inviting people to know Jesus. Pastor Adams says the Vicar Program uniquely positions St. Lorenz to prepare men to be faithful servants of our Lord by exposing them to many aspects of ministry.

Pastor Adams and his wife, Emily, have two children: Ethan, 3, and Anna, 1.

 Pastor Greig is Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, Virginia, where he is responsible for Sunday School, Youth Ministry and Family Life Education. Trinity, which has regular attendance of approximately 400, also operates a preschool.


Reflecting on his St. Lorenz vicarage, Pastor Greig says the experience helped prepare him to work as a member of a ministry team while strengthening his ability to preach and teach, and it affirmed his desire and calling to be a pastor. He also appreciated the opportunity to work with technology in a ministry setting.

Pastor Greig and his wife, Stephanie, have a daughter, Riley, who is 3, and a son due in May 2017.

 Pastor Heckert is a new Associate Pastor at St. James Lutheran Church and School in Lafayette, Indiana, leading Bible study, teaching confirmation, conducting visitations and working with youth. He hopes to establish a Stephen Ministry in his congregation.

As he reflects on his St. Lorenz vicarage, Pastor Heckert says he fondly remembers the many programs available to members as they reached out to minister to one another – particularly the Hands of Friendship Ministry and the Stephen Ministry. He says the Vicar Program afforded him the opportunity to be a part of a great congregation with great people, learn from a great mentor and engage with a professional staff.

Pastor Heckert is married to Hannah, and they recently purchased their first home.

 Adam, the Worship Team leader at 100-member Journey of Faith in Byron Center, Michigan, prepares music; organizes practices; and works with the pastor on sermon series, themes and creative elements of the worship service for the congregation, which worships in a movie theater and has an office in a house.

The most recent individual to complete a St. Lorenz vicarage, Adam says he appreciated the strong support he felt and the great variety of ministry opportunities he was able to experience, as well as the faithful members at St. Lorenz and their willingness to live their faith. He says he enjoyed the great examples of team ministry that he had the opportunity to be a part of and uses these experiences in his current role.

Adam is married to Olivia.



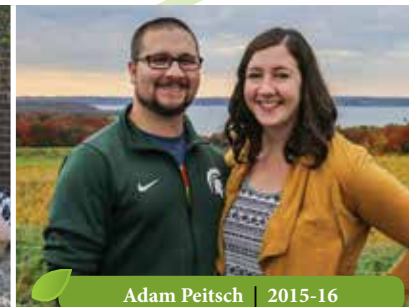
Pastor Joel Eden | 2012-13




Pastor Peter Heckert | 2013-14



Pastor Joel Polzin | 2014-15




Adam Peitsch | 2015-16

 Pastor Eden is Associate Pastor at 1,600-member Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Livonia, Michigan. His responsibilities include education, youth and families; he works with Small Group Ministry and teaches Bible classes.

The collaboration of the Pastoral Team and the wonderful involvement of laity are what Pastor Eden recalls as strengths of his vicarage, and he says he uses his St. Lorenz experiences to help him as he faces a variety of ministry challenges.

Pastor Eden and his wife, Erica, have seven children: Nicole, 13; Noah, 12; Natalie, 10; Naomi, 9; Nathaniel, 6; Nolan, 2; and Noelle, born in October 2016.

 Pastor Polzin is Pastor of two congregations in Michigan – 240-member Trinity Lutheran Church in Gaylord and 140-member Mt. Hope Lutheran Church in Grayling. He provides Word and Sacrament ministries to the congregations, which he says have a “family” feeling as they reach out to their individual communities.

Enthusiastic about the Vicar Program, Pastor Polzin remembers the encouraging environment at St. Lorenz and the variety of ministry areas he was able to experience during his vicarage, which he says helped prepare him for his current assignment.

Pastor Polzin and his wife, Jennie, have three children: Miles, 4; Freddie, 2; and Jane, 7 months.

About the St. Lorenz Foundation

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.

The Foundation was formed in the fall of 1995. Founding board members included Harold Braeutigam, Stephen List, Morrall Claramunt, Jonathan Zehnder, Lynn Zuellig, Arnold Middeldorf and Pastor C.W. Hoesman. The team established the Foundation to provide ongoing support for our Lord's work through St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School.

Today, the St. Lorenz Foundation receives gifts in many forms to support the ministry of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School. The funds are invested through the use of professional investment managers and monitored by a Finance Committee and the Board of Directors. Each year, the Foundation distributes a minimum of 5% of the corpus to support the grant requests forwarded by the congregation.

The St. Lorenz Foundation is limited to receiving grant requests from St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School. The Board of Directors has established clear Management Principles that guide the granting process. Grant requests are processed by the Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee and forwarded to the Board of Directors for action. Grant requests are not accepted from individuals or organizations outside the congregation.



Vicar Chris Garcia | 2016-17

Vicar Garcia, currently serving at St. Lorenz, teaches confirmation; co-directs VBS; teaches Bible study; and works closely with Pastor Brandt as he improves his preaching, conducts hospital visits and spends time with shut-ins.

He encourages the congregation to continue supporting the Vicar Program, which prepares faithful men for Word and Sacrament ministry for work in the church at large. He says St. Lorenz provides significant opportunities to explore ministry and learn from a dedicated team of professional church workers.

Vicar Garcia and his wife, Liz, have three children: Lucy, 5; Madelyn, 4; and Gabriel, 1.



Dr. Perry A. Bresemann

Executive Director

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Karen Zehnder, *Secretary*

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