



2018 ANNUAL REPORT



An introduction to the St. Lorenz pastoral team

We know the members of our St. Lorenz Lutheran Church pastoral team. Week in and week out, we see them serving our congregation as they lead worship, share God's Word through their sermons and guide our membership as God's Word is applied to our daily lives. We see our team administer the sacraments as parents bring children to our Lord through Baptism and as we together join in Holy Communion.

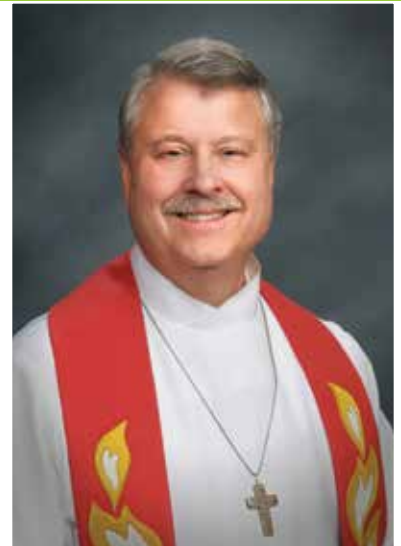
Clearly, we see the members of our pastoral team each and every weekend as we join with our fellow believers in worshipping our Lord individually and as a congregation. We know what our team does during the weekend – but what about all week? What does a pastor do? What activities fill their schedules?

If you have ever called the office to seek pastoral assistance, you know that our pastors stand ready to confidentially assist families with personal and spiritual crises. And meeting the needs of our members takes priority for our pastors over any of their day-to-day activities. Our pastors are called to provide counseling for couples considering marriage and for families experiencing health issues. They also provide support for families as they experience loss and for those who need comfort during an emergency.

As is evident every Sunday morning, our team is active in worship-planning. What we *don't* get to see are the hours of preparation that lead to our worship. First is our pastors' personal study time. While the process of sermon preparation varies from pastor to pastor, members of our team can spend upwards of 20 hours reading, studying and preparing for a sermon.

But there is even more to the normal week. Each of our pastors has a focus area that takes time and energy, as described underneath their photos above.

Whether our pastors are preparing for worship, engaged in Bible Study, conducting meetings, counseling members or celebrating weddings, they are active in a vibrant ministry guided by our Lord and blessed with the energies of countless members as our community of believers seeks to serve our Lord and His people.



Pastor Mark Brandt serves as our Lead Pastor. In addition to standard pastoral team duties, Pastor Brandt is responsible for the administration of our congregation. He coordinates the pastoral team, works with the Ministry Council and oversees the work of our staff. The list of administrative tasks can get very long, and Pastor Brandt works closely with our staff to meet the needs of the congregation.

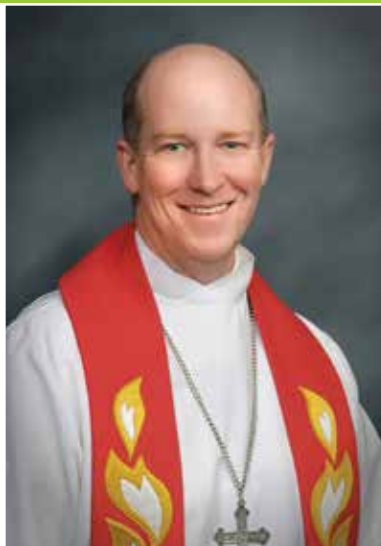
[Learn more about Pastor Brandt on page 4.](#)





Pastor Caleb Adams focuses his attention on the Connect services, including the planning and coordination of the many members who help prepare for each service. He also is responsible for our adult confirmation classes.

Learn more about Pastor Adams on page 5.



Pastor Shawn Fenske is our Caring Ministry Pastor. His focus is on planning member visits and working with Stephen Ministry. He works with GriefShare and other areas of compassionate ministry. He also often visits our homebound members.

Learn more about Pastor Fenske on page 6.



Pastor Joel Kaiser works closely with our school principal and faculty as he serves as our Pastor to the School. Pastor Kaiser guides our school chapel program and works with school families as they train their children as Christian parents.

Learn more about Pastor Kaiser on page 7.

We are blessed to have the services of a team of retired pastors who assist with the work at St. Lorenz. From leading our German Services to assisting with Holy Communion, from teaching Bible study to guiding prayer ministry, and from planning mission trips to assisting with visitation and care ministries, our team of retired pastors demonstrates a love for our Lord and a desire to serve.

Front row (left to right): Michael Fitzgerald, Robert Smith and James Weber. Back row (left to right): Kenneth Schroeder, C. William Hoesman, Rodney Rynearson and Dale Ahlschwede.





Pastor Brandt attended Concordia Jr. College in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Concordia Sr. College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, before completing his seminary training at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. He was confirmed at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Columbus, Indiana, where his father was pastor.

Pastor Brandt served his vicarage in Sioux City, Iowa, at Calvary Lutheran Church. Late St. Lorenz Pastor John Deterding once served that congregation and had been installed at Calvary Lutheran by Pastor Brandt's father.

After graduation, Pastor Brandt served St. John's Lutheran Church in Beemer, Nebraska, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Glendora, Michigan, before coming to St. Lorenz.

He has completed the Pastoral Leadership Institute program, as well as the PLI Executive Leader Program. In 2011, he received Concordia University Ann Arbor's Outstanding Alumnus Award.



Pastor Brandt is married to Karen. They have five children, Andy (Meagan), Katie (Kirk, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee), David (Rachel), Aaron and Emily. The Brandts also have three grandchildren, Jacob, Maddie and Robby.

Pastor Brandt enjoys home improvement projects, having tiled his basement floor and built a storage shed and a chicken coop.

His current read is "Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory" by Tod Bolsinger.



Favorite Bible Verse: That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:16-19 (ESV)

Pastor Adams credits the support he received from those attending his home congregation, as well as the strong example of his father, for leading him to serve our Lord.

Pastor Adams' father is an LCMS Pastor, and his mother is a preschool director and teacher. Coming from a family of professional church workers, Pastor Adams attended Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, before completing his seminary training at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Pastor Adams continued his work at the seminary, completing his Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree in Exegetical Theology.



He has many fond memories of trips to Southern California. The most recent was last year, when he, Emily and the kids vacationed in that area and visited with both sets of grandparents and other extended family.

After completing his vicarage training at St. Lorenz and returning to the seminary, Pastor Adams eventually was called by our congregation to serve as an Associate Pastor.

Pastor Adams married Emily in 2006. They have two children, Ethan and Anna. ▶



Pastor Adams enjoys playing tennis and just about any other sport. When he gets the chance, he enjoys kayaking. His most recent read – other than Holy Scripture – is “Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory” by Tod Bolsinger.

Favorite Bible Verse: Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)



Pastor Fenske grew up in California and completed his bachelor's degree at California State University in Hayward, California. He worked as an emergency medical technician (EMT) in the Oakland, California, area before attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

Pastor Fenske had a split vicarage, serving as a student chaplain at Covenant Hospital in Saginaw before completing his vicarage at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Frankenlust. Prior to serving at St. Lorenz, he was ordained and served at Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica, Michigan.



Pastor Fenske is married to Noelle. They have one child, Davionna.

He says the most memorable vacation he has taken with his family was to Dutch Village in Holland, Michigan, where Davionna was able to ride on a Ferris wheel, chair swing and carousel.

Pastor Fenske enjoys walking around town, camping and spending time with his family. When he has a moment, he is working on learning to play the guitar.



He says marrying Noelle and adopting Davionna have been his most significant life events.

Favorite Bible Verse: For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalms 139:13-16 (ESV)

With a grandfather and father who were Lutheran educators, Pastor Kaiser comes from a family line of professional church workers.



Pastor Kaiser attended Concordia College in River Forest, Illinois, to earn his bachelor's degree in secondary education. Following his time in Chicago, he attended Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, to complete his pastoral training. He was ordained in his home congregation of St. John Lutheran Church in Rochester, Michigan.

Pastor Kaiser, who has an ecclesiastical endorsement as a chaplain, completed his vicarage in Sequim, Washington. He also served at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Saginaw before spending a year as Chaplain Resident at St. Luke's/Covenant Hospital in Saginaw. He then served St. Lorenz and the Frankenmuth Lutheran Home before joining the St. Lorenz staff full-time.

Pastor Kaiser married Pamela in 1990. They have been blessed with five children, Zachary (Alison), Riley, Andrew, Grace and LilyAnn. ▶

He enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening and landscaping. When he gives time to himself, he can be found engaging in those hobbies or listening to sports or audiobooks.

While reading Scripture is his favorite book, Pastor Kaiser most recently completed "Seven Men: And the Secret of Their Greatness" by Eric Metaxas.

He says he fondly remembers many trips to Frankenmuth as a child, visiting Bronner's and eating at the Bavarian Inn.



Favorite Bible Verse: For we walk by faith, not by sight.

II Corinthians 5:7 (ESV)



A letter from our President

Greetings:

It is hard to think of our Foundation without focusing on the faithful leaders who have served on our board and committees over the past 20-plus years. Since the founding team encouraged our congregation to take the assets of the St. Lorenz Perpetual Trust and form the St. Lorenz Foundation, we have had many faithful men and women serve as stewards of our members' financial resources.

2018 was a busy year for the Foundation – from hosting tax seminars to supporting our congregation as it embarked on a building program. In all, our Foundation board approved distributions of \$653,718 in grants. We also paid our first installment of a four-year, \$1 million pledge in support of the Worship and Event Center.

The majority of the grants issued by our Foundation are earmarked by the donors. These designated grants provide the funding for our Dedicated Projects, such as Lead Pastor expenses, our Vicar Program, scholarships and more; see page 13 for a complete listing. In particular, our Foundation board is working diligently to grow the designated Missions Fund so additional funds can be distributed for missions in the future.

The St. Lorenz Foundation exists as a vehicle for our members to provide 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.

If our Foundation can be of service to you – or if you would like to discuss ways to include the Foundation in your estate planning – feel free to contact our Foundation office or any of the individuals listed on the back cover of this report.

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

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Rummel".

Robert Rummel
President
St. Lorenz Foundation

Financial highlights

FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS

Dedicated Grants (specified by donor or board)	\$331,888
Request-Based Grants (awarded by board)	\$321,830*
Grateful Campaign – Building Program	\$250,000

Total Distributions \$903,718

GENERAL FUND BALANCE

Northern Trust Investments	\$5,792,244
Frankenmuth Credit Union	\$55,520
Life Insurance Cash Values (Foundation-owned)	\$228,049
Local Stock	\$65,000

Total General Fund Balance \$6,140,813

DEDICATED FUND BALANCES (RESTRICTED)

Pastoral Endowment	\$2,638,430
Vicar Endowment	\$857,663
Missions	\$192,543
Synodical Institution Student Aid	\$396,216
St. Lorenz School Family Aid	\$194,998
Communications/Operating/Caring	\$1,124,808
Educational Enhancement Fund	\$977,924
Retired Worker Health Insurance Support	\$6,670
Church Maintenance Fund	\$22,926
Future Building Fund	\$248,113
Music Fund	\$5,551

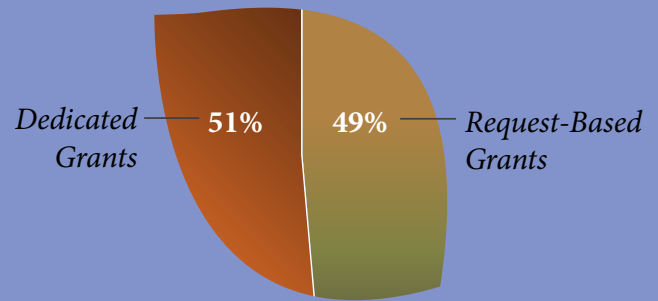
Total Dedicated Fund Balances \$6,665,842

TOTAL OF GENERAL AND DEDICATED FUNDS

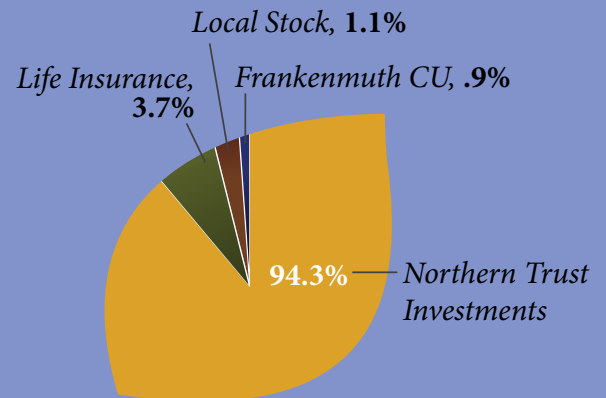
as of 12/31/18 \$12,806,655

*Includes \$14,000 of funds reallocated from previous awards.

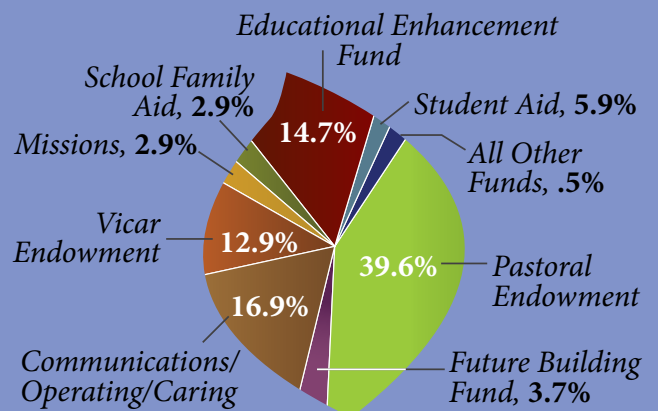
FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTIONS



GENERAL FUND BALANCE



DEDICATED FUND BALANCES



Grant-Funded Projects

Grant-Funded Projects are those that are funded by the board based on grant requests from St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School. These grant requests are processed by the Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee and forwarded to the board for action. For calendar year 2018, the total distributed was \$321,830.

School Security Video Surveillance – Our school has a video surveillance system to assist in identifying inappropriate behavior as well as securing our facility. This grant allows extension of the system to areas not previously covered.

Amount granted: \$10,000



Church Office Business Evaluation and Office Manager Transition – Our church office strives to meet the needs of our members as well as support our pastors and congregational leaders. This grant provides resources to evaluate the office operation and assist in the transition to a new office manager.

Amount granted: \$35,000



Office Manager Leah Ebmeyer

Comprehensive Security Assessment –

Recent attacks at places of worship and at schools make it necessary to address building and program security. This grant provides funding for a security consultant to review our programs and make recommendations for adjustments to our current policies and practices.

Amount granted: \$12,500



Comprehensive Background Checks –

As a licensed childcare facility, it is necessary to have all workers fingerprinted and screened by the State of Michigan's selected vendor. While there will be ongoing costs as workers change, this grant provides funds to pay for the initial screening necessary for compliance.

Amount granted: \$3,705

Upgrade to Pastors' Wireless Microphones –

The FCC made changes to its frequency allocations, making it necessary to change our microphones to a new frequency. This grant allows for the upgrade of the microphones.

Amount granted: \$11,000



Security Video Surveillance System for Church Exterior – Securing our building and property continues to be an important task. This grant provides funds to extend video surveillance capabilities to include the church parking lot and building exterior.

Amount granted: \$11,000

VLHS Scholarships – St. Lorenz helps our members attending Valley Lutheran High School. This support is provided through both the congregation's funds and Foundation grants.

Amount granted: \$9,775



Room 202 Remodeling – Room 202 is a conference room that serves many organizations in the congregation and school. This grant provides updates for the room, including fresh paint, drywall and wood trim, as well as furniture.

Amount granted: \$5,000

Childcare Classroom Management System and Enhanced Learning – Parents of childcare-aged students welcome and encourage regular communication with the school. This grant provides funds for a program called Tadpoles, a platform for two-way interaction. This grant supports the installation of the program, as well as iPad® mobile digital devices for use with the program.

Amount granted: \$19,500

School Learning Management System – This grant provides resources for the development of a Learning Management System for our school, including instructional design as well as curriculum management.

Amount granted: \$32,000



St. Lorenz Church Stained Glass

Restoration – There are 12 round stained-glass windows around the balcony in the Church requiring restoration.

Amount granted: \$20,850

Environmental Education Program –

This grant provides the resources for a part-time naturalist to offer outdoor education programs to our students. By making use of the Churchgrove and area resources, students gain an appreciation for God's creation!

Amount granted: \$15,000

Transportation for Clio Students –

Approximately 30 students from the Clio area attend St. Lorenz. This grant provides funding to assist with their transportation.

Amount granted: \$2,500

Classroom set of iPad® Mobile Digital

Devices for 1st Grade – Our school added a classroom this year and has increased the use of iPad® mobile digital devices for student learning activities. This grant provides funds for replacing depreciated equipment and providing for the new classroom.

Amount granted: \$15,000

TEC21 – TEC21 is a teacher training program to help prepare teachers for using the technology equipment and programs available to them in the instructional process. This grant provides funding for teachers' participation in regional workshops.

Amount granted: \$3,000

Grant-Funded Projects (continued)

Instructional Technology Coach – Our school has received the services of a part-time Instructional Technology Coach in recent years. The coach provides classroom support for teachers as they integrate technology into the instructional process.
Amount granted: \$35,000



Deaconess Intern – A Deaconess intern assists our congregation by serving as our Sunday School Superintendent, visiting nursing homes and working with focused women's Bible study classes. The intern also assists with the children's ministry program at the Franklin Avenue Mission.
Amount granted: \$6,000



National LCMS Youth Gathering – The LCMS is hosting its National Lutheran Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2019. This grant assists the estimated 25 youths and five chaperones planning to attend.
Amount granted: \$10,000

175th Anniversary Celebration – St. Lorenz is celebrating its 175th Anniversary in 2020. This grant will be used to help fund special speakers during the celebration year. Plans call for returning vicars, musical groups and nationally known speakers.
Amount granted: \$35,000

Congregation Vision-Setting Process Support – The Ministry Council requested funds to have a consultant assist congregation leaders in developing a Vision and direction for 2020 and beyond.
Amount granted: \$10,000

Kitchen Improvements at the Rock – The St. Lorenz "Rock" building is used by our youth program as well as many other organizations. This grant helps fund remodeling of the building's kitchen facilities.
Amount granted: \$15,000



Small Group Bible Study – This grant provides video and print resources to support the "Joining Jesus on His Mission" small group Bible study program.
Amount granted: \$5,000

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. This fund has been established to support the expenses of the Vicar Program.

Amounts distributed: \$142,773 (Pastoral Endowment) and \$39,464 (Vicar Endowment)

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: \$10,419 (mission trips and POBLOS)

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: \$14,088

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

Amount distributed: \$195

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 TADS program and administered by our Executive Director.

Amount distributed: \$10,531

Communications/Operating/Caring Ministry – 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: \$60,867



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: \$52,601

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: \$361

Church Maintenance – This account was established in 2016. It provides resources to help maintain our church properties.

Amount distributed: \$589



Building Program – The Foundation has received funds directed to a congregational building program. This account has a balance of **\$246,067** available to assist with the construction of the Worship and Event Center.

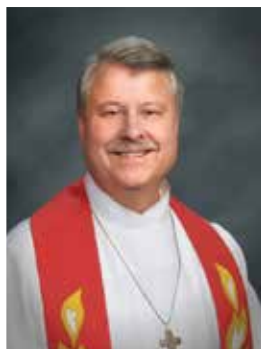
Dedicated Projects

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 2018, the total distributed was \$331,888.



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)



Rev. Mark Brandt
Lead Pastor



Pastor Michael Goers
2004-05
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Spring Lake, 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
St. Lorenz Lutheran Church
Frankenmuth, Michigan



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



Pastor Nicholas 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
Trinity Lutheran Church/
Mt. Hope Lutheran Church
Gaylord, Michigan/
Grayling, Michigan



Adam Peitsch
2015-16
Journey of Faith
Byron Center, Michigan



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



Seminararian Adam Rodriguez
2017-18
Completing seminary
at Concordia Seminary
St. Louis, Missouri



Vicar Adam Wolfe
2018-19
Completing vicarage
at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church
Frankenmuth, Michigan



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.





stlorenzfoundation.org

140 Churchgrove Road
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
Email: *foundation@stlorenz.org*

Dr. Perry A. Brosemann

Executive Director

Office phone: 989.652.0796

Email: *pab@stlorenz.org*

Board of Directors

Bob Rummel, *President*

Martha Shelton, *Vice President*

Mike Larges, *Secretary*

Bonnie Bell, *Treasurer*

Gus Braeutigam

Rev. Mark Brandt

Wayne Bronner

Jim Howe

Beth Reindel

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Estate Planning Committee*

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Herb Bernthal, *Vice Chairman*

Maria Sutorik, *Secretary*

Dan Bade

Michael Fassezke

Chris Frank

Jeremy Frank

Jim Mertz

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Al Nuechterlein, *Chairman*

Eric Baarck, *Secretary*

Bonnie Bell, *Treasurer*

Peter Bender

Phil List

Steve List