

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



#### Fellow members:

This letter is the final one I will write to introduce a St. Lorenz Foundation Annual Report, as 2019 marked the end of my tenure as President of the Foundation. The past nine years have been filled with opportunities to help communicate the Foundation's mission and to work with our Board of Directors as we reviewed and distributed grants. It has been an honor to serve, and I look forward to seeing our congregation continue to grow and prosper in the future.

2020 marks our congregation's 175th anniversary. We are humbled to be His people and to have been entrusted with the privilege to share His love with the generations. As a congregation, we pray we have been able to provide meaningful ministry as we seek to tell others about Jesus.

In addition to the church celebrating such a major milestone in 2020, the St. Lorenz Foundation also celebrates one of our own – our 25th anniversary. Through the faithful gifts of our donors, the Foundation has been able to provide millions of dollars in support of a wide range of projects by a cross-section of our ministries. We praise God for the wisdom of our founders and the faithful service of our Board of Directors, Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee, and Finance Committee members as we look toward the future – and also look back on the year that was via this Annual Report.

The theme for this year's Annual Report is "Christ is the Reason." I can think of no words that are more fitting to use in relation to our church, our school and our Foundation, for He IS the reason for ALL we do and all we strive to be!

As always, this report will provide you with an overview of the Foundation's finances for the year and give you a closer look at the programs, projects and initiatives supported by grants from the Foundation.

And the special feature in this year's report (starting on page 9) focuses on our Christian day school, which has been an important mission outreach for our congregation from the beginning. As I reflect on the thousands who have attended St. Lorenz Lutheran School, I recognize that our mission to tell others about Jesus has expanded to a global scale as our graduates make a positive impact on the people around them. What a joy to realize that graduates from our school are serving our Lord in countless places around the world!

It is my prayer that you will consider a gift to the St. Lorenz Foundation as we collaborate to support His work at St. Lorenz into the future.

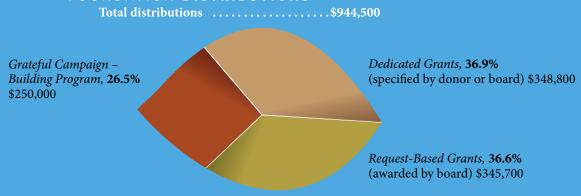
Blessings,

Robert Rummel President

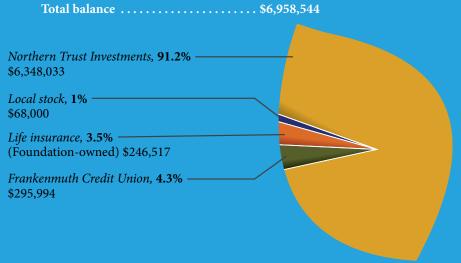
St. Lorenz Foundation

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

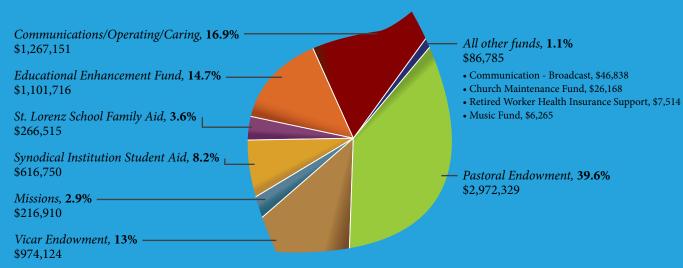
#### FOUNDATION **DISTRIBUTIONS**







## **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 2019, the total distributed was \$345,700.

Environmental Education – This grant provides support for the St. Lorenz Lutheran School environmental education teacher position, as well as materials for the program. In the past few years, the program has raised and released salmon into the Cass River as students learn about the environment.

Amount granted: \$15,000

Childcare Leaders Conference – Leaders from our Childcare Program – which provides quality care and instruction in a Christian setting – will attend the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children conference in Grand Rapids.

Amount granted: \$6,000

## Valley Lutheran HS Scholarships -

St. Lorenz members who attend Valley Lutheran High School pay the full rate rather than the Association rate. St. Lorenz assists with the cost by providing a scholarship. The St. Lorenz Foundation pays a portion of the scholarship to help offset the rate difference.

Amount granted: \$7,475

Worship and Event Center Dedication – The St. Lorenz Worship and Event Center was dedicated in October 2019. Expenses related to the dedication service were funded by this grant.

Amount granted: \$8,000

Administrative Pastor Search – With Pastor Brandt's retirement scheduled for the end of 2020, a search committee has been established. The committee will meet with potential candidates both online and in person. This grant provides funds to cover expenses related to bringing candidates to St. Lorenz.

Amount granted: \$15,000

## A Night to Shine -

St. Lorenz Breakthrough
Bible Class leaders and a team
of volunteers are hosting a
prom for people with special
needs. Using the program
and resources developed through the
Tim Tebow Foundation, the team
will provide an unforgettable prom
night experience for individuals in our
congregation and community.

Amount granted: \$10,000



1,000 Youth Leaders – This program provides a two-year journey of Bible study and leadership training for youth leaders. The funds will be used to help support St. Lorenz students in the PLI Youth Leader training program. Four students from St. Lorenz are engaged in the training.

Amount granted: \$10,000

175th Anniversary Dinner – St. Lorenz is celebrating 175 years of service to our Lord and His people. The celebration committee is hosting a "main event" dinner on August 23 to mark this occasion. LCMS President Matthew Harrison will be the guest speaker.

Amount granted: \$15,000

Church Carpeting – The carpet in the church is almost 30 years old and will be replaced in time for the official celebration of our 175th anniversary as a congregation, enhancing the beauty of our place of worship.

Amount granted: \$23,250

Enhanced Discipleship Ministry – The Director of Discipleship will, through this grant, be provided additional time to expand the Family Milestones Ministry in our school and increase Bible study programs for the Marriage and Family Ministry.

Amount granted: \$22,000

**Projectors** – The main projector in the Worship and Event Center was included in the building project costs. The two side projectors were scheduled for a later installation, but there was a cost savings in installing them at the time of construction, which this grant supports.

Amount granted: \$65,000

Video-Editing Computer – The use of video in our church, school, and Worship and Event Center has increased significantly. The computer purchased using the grant will update existing equipment and support the video-editing process.

Amount granted: \$10,000

Connect Set Design – This grant provides funds to design sets, decorations and artwork to support and enhance the thematic presentations during Connect services.

**Amount granted: \$5,000** 

Michigan District Youth Gathering – Each year, a number of youths and chaperones participate in the annual District High School Youth Gathering on Mackinac Island, which encourages our youths as they grow in their faith. The grant funds will help support their attendance at the gathering.

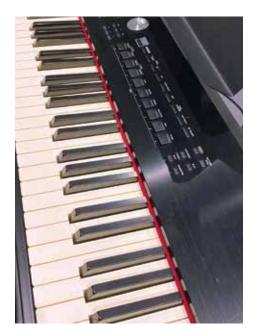
Amount granted: \$3,500

Junior High Youth Gathering – The Michigan District hosts a conference in Frankenmuth for junior-high-age students, which is attended by nearly 400 youths. This grant will help support youths from St. Lorenz in attending the event. More than 70 of our youths, plus counselors, attended the previous event.

Amount granted: \$2,000



## GRANT-FUNDED PROJECTS continued



Balcony Sound System – Funds from this grant will provide an upgrade for the church balcony sound system that is used for soloists, choir performances and other musicians. Both the control system and the speakers will be replaced.

Amount granted: \$24,475

Childcare Caregiver Uniforms – There are more than 60 staff members in the St. Lorenz Childcare Program. To assist children and their parents in clearly identifying the staff, T-shirts with the Childcare Program logo will be purchased.

Amount granted: \$5,000



#### Pianos for Worship and Event Center -

This grant will provide two new keyboards for the new Worship and Event Center. One will be used as a piano and the other as a synthesizer. The pianos will be used for school chapel, Connect services and special events.

Amount granted: \$10,000

#### **Best Practices for Ministry Heartland**

Conference Host – The conference is designed to provide participants with new skills, reinforce existing skills and attitudes, and offer connections to others who are engaged in effective Ministry. St. Lorenz will host this event in both 2020 and 2021. The host congregation provides meals, facilities and logistics.

Amount granted: \$35,000

Classroom Card Readers – Building security and student safety are very important. The installation of electronic card readers on the junior high doors will assist in student safety and support our custodial team members as they make the classrooms available for evening use.

Amount granted: \$12,000



**Solar-Powered Road Signs** – In cooperation with the City of Frankenmuth, new solar-powered speed limit and school zone signs will be installed to help protect our students, parents and staff as they travel to and from the school.

Amount granted: \$5,000

Church Parking Lot Lighting – Converting from traditional lighting to LED lighting has been found to increase energy efficiency and provide improved lighting. With the support of this grant, the church parking lot lights will be replaced with energy-efficient LEDs.

Amount granted: \$7,000

**Patio** – A concrete patio in the space between the new Worship and Event Center and the junior high classrooms was requested. The patio will serve as an overflow area and will be used for outside events. Landscaping expenses are included in the patio costs.

Amount granted: \$30,000





# 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 2019, the total distributed was \$348,800.

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

Amounts distributed: \$146,390 (Pastoral Endowment) and \$45,240 (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.

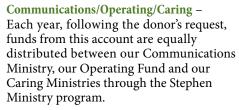
Amount distributed: \$10,683 (mission trips and POBLOS)

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: \$17,373

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: \$10,818



Amount distributed: \$62,409

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: \$54,232



**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: \$370** 

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

**Amount distributed: \$986** 

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

**Amount distributed: \$299** 



## ST. LORENZ SCHOOL

# PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE BEACONS FOR CHRIST

"

WE ARE GIVING CHILDREN HOPE WHILE
PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOF
FUTURE LEADERS TO SERVE OUR CHURCH
AND WORLD THROUGH CHRIST AS THE

"

JOSHUA SWARTZ, ST. LORENZ SCHOOL PRINCIPA







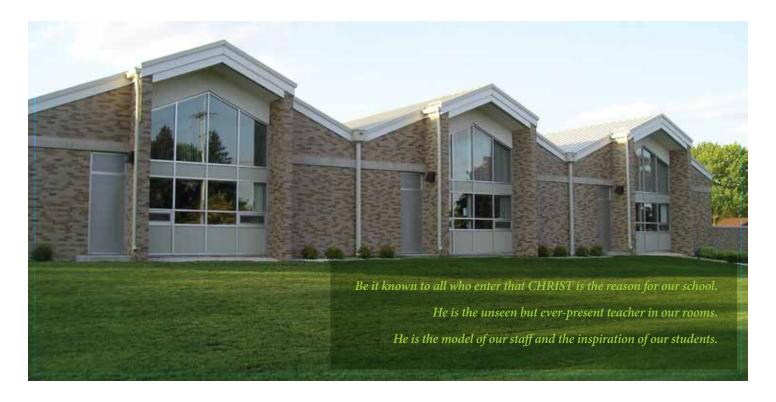




ARTWORK BY STEVE HARGAS

### BUILDING ON OUR HERITAGE

# CHRIST-CENTERED, MISSION-MINDED EDUCATION



Have you visited the log cabin in the historic cemetery? Have you ever walked into the building, turned around and tried to imagine a family's living quarters and a classroom all in one?

Have you driven around our community and noticed the former school buildings now converted for other uses that linked St. Lorenz and our public schools?

Have you felt the commitment of our congregation to care for the children of the community?

Since our founding in 1845, the St. Lorenz congregation has placed a great value on Christian education, second only to our Word and Sacrament Ministry. From the first days of the school through many building programs and program enhancements, our members have made it a priority to care for children. We all know that a strong Christian foundation is priceless as we face the challenges of living on this earth.

Today, St. Lorenz serves children ranging in age from 3 years old up to eighth grade through our Childcare Program, Preschool Program and K-8 school.

#### **CHILDCARE**

The St. Lorenz Childcare Program provides daily care in a Christian environment. More than 60 children attend our program as parents trust their children to our director, assistant, lead teachers and 48 aides. We are blessed to share the love of our Savior as teachers help form the beginning of the educational path for these little ones.







## PRESCHOOL

We have another 124 students enrolled in our Preschool Program. Attending classes two, three or five days a week, these students expand their vocabulary, grow in social skills, learn about the community around them and begin the process of counting all the blessings that God showers on them. We are blessed to have five preschool teachers who guide the students, help them prepare for kindergarten, and teach them about God's creation and the gift of salvation. While all of our preschool teachers are fully degreed and licensed, one also has completed an advanced degree.

#### K-8 SCHOOL

Long before we had Childcare and Preschool programs, St. Lorenz was operating an elementary school. The task of Christian education is never finished as we work together to train God's children for a life of service to Him, and our school has been blessed with exceptional congregational support as it has grown, as new facilities have been developed and as programs have expanded.

#### **GRADUATE PROFILE**

#### Chad Larges, St. Lorenz Class of 1985

High school: Frankenmuth High School, 1989 College: U.S. Naval Academy, 1993 Residence: Davidsonville, Maryland

**Occupation**: Aerospace Engineer/Program Manager **International experience**: Has visited 34 countries

#### About what he gained from St. Lorenz:

"St. Lorenz School helped build a solid foundation of faith in Christ Jesus for me. When I left town and joined the Navy, I noticed that many other people did not share that same

faith or even know about Jesus. However, this solid foundation kept me seeking good churches and fellow believers in every duty station so that God never left my life. Although my faith never left me, it didn't start growing again until I lived and served in Afghanistan. That tour was not my choice, but it was apparently God's choice for me, because it was there that I got back into the Bible and strengthened my relationship with God. Now I am sharing my faith with others by leading a missional community in our church and going on short-term mission trips."

#### About his experiences abroad:

"Due to my career in the Navy, I was blessed to see many different parts of the world. The one that stands out the most is my 22 months of living and serving in Afghanistan. I did two tours there. The first was in 2010-2011, when I served as a strategic advisor to the Afghan National Police leadership at the Ministry of Interior. The second was in 2013, when I was director of the National Civil Military Operations Center for the Special Operations Joint Task Force in Afghanistan. On both tours, I spent extensive time building relationships with many Afghans, learning about their lives and how to help them with struggles they were facing. My next two memorable experiences overseas were both after I retired from the military. In 2017, my oldest daughter, Kylie, and I went on a short-term mission trip to Ghana for 10 days with our church. We enjoyed it so much that we went on another mission trip with our church in 2019, for eight days in Belize. On both trips, we actively shared our faith with local people from those countries. I will never forget the expression of joy from the blind man who spoke no English when we delivered food to his house in the poor neighborhoods of Belize!"

### **GRADUATE PROFILE**

#### Spencer Bell, St. Lorenz Class of 2007

High school: Frankenmuth High School, 2011

College: Hillsdale College (BA in economics and German, 2015); George Mason University (MA in economics, 2017)

Residence: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Occupation: Category Buyer – Sundries for PPG Industries International experience: Worked and studied in Germany

#### About what he gained from St. Lorenz:

"When you're engaging others with the truth of the Gospel, it is important to have a firm foundation in God's Word. St. Lorenz

was absolutely pivotal in helping me build that foundation. At the time, I never knew how important memory verses would be for my life, but I am extremely thankful for St. Lorenz's insistence on memorizing scripture, songs and catechism passages. A good Christian education is becoming more rare these days, but I believe it makes a lot of difference for children during their foundational years. I'm also thankful for the opportunities I had to be involved in a dynamic youth group through high school. It's pretty neat to have been able to go on mission trips and have lunch Bible studies during those really important years. St. Lorenz is a really special community."

#### About his service to Redeemer Community Church in Pittsburgh:

"As a member of Redeemer, I am involved in teaching the 4- to 7-year-old Sunday School class, where I am able to show the importance and significance of Christ's love, sacrifice and saving Grace for us. We also act as greeters/service organizers one Sunday per month. This allows us to connect with visitors and new attendees. In addition, we participate in and sometimes host a Community Group in our neighborhood during the week, where we discuss scripture and pray with one another. Finally, we participate in outreach functions at our church. The church is in an up-and-coming neighborhood, and there are great opportunities through this program to reach those in the neighborhood with the Gospel while showing them that our local church cares."

### Celebrating our past and present

Over the years, the success of St. Lorenz School has been the result of efforts by many strong administrators and hundreds of dedicated teachers. Their work has been recognized by the

U.S. Department of Education, National Lutheran School Accreditation and AdvancED (now known as Cognia).

Today, our school is 468 students strong – and we provide a quality education in a Christian setting, with a program that is rich in academics and strong in athletic and musical offerings. Our students are well-prepared for high school and have the skills they need to be successful in life. Our curriculum is well-rounded, including new efforts to strengthen our science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) offerings.

Whether you find them conducting an experiment in the science lab, preparing for a robotics team effort or tuning their instrument for a concert, our students are guided by a dedicated, talented team of two administrators, 30 teachers, three student service specialists and two aides, all of whom are focused on student success. In all, 22 St. Lorenz School team members have advanced degrees, and another five are working on their master's degrees.

#### Looking to the future

While it is easy to look back over the past decades and see the successes of our school, focusing on the future also is important.



## CHRIST-CENTERED, MISSION-MINDED EDUCATION continued

St. Lorenz School Principal Joshua Swartz has targeted improved safety for our students, as illustrated by the new digital checkin system that screens and accounts for visitors, volunteers and vendors visiting our school.

On the technology and communications front, the St. Lorenz School website is being updated, and an improved use of social ministry to help tell the St. Lorenz story has been initiated.

One very important project taking place is the new Family Ministry Initiative, which places an intentional focus on our school families through the development of programs that target family needs at different stages of child development. This exciting ministry strengthens the link between home and school, with a shared focus on helping children prepare for a life of service to our Lord and His people.



Environmental education also is something the school has been passionate about and will continue to be. In recent years, you may have noticed the growing of salmon at the school – and

their eventual release into the Cass River. While this program is continuing, it also is expanding into a new adventure called the Schoolyard Habitat. Beginning in the spring of 2020 – in partnership with the Chippewa Nature Center and others – a greenhouse, a new garden area, butterfly plants and more will be tended by students with staff guidance.



#### AN INVESTMENT THAT PAYS DIVIDENDS

St. Lorenz School is one of our congregation's greatest investments in the future, and it is easy to see the innumerable blessings that God has showered upon our congregation, our community and the world through our Christian day school and its thousands of graduates.

Even as our graduates move on to high school and often also to college – and as they eventually begin their careers and perhaps start families of their own – their connection to St. Lorenz does not end. They continue to represent our congregation and our school wherever they may go, whether down the street or across the globe.



## **GRADUATE PROFILE**

## Susan Rummel Dean, St. Lorenz Class of 1974

High school: Frankenmuth High School, 1978

College: Michigan State University, 1982; Cooley Law School at Western Michigan University, 1987

Residence: Ocala, Florida Occupation: Attorney

Church: Member of St. John Lutheran Church in Ocala since 1988

## About how her faith and her career intersect:

"I view my law practice as a ministry, and I believe God has given me the opportunity to use my skills and training to help others. I am an estate planning attorney, so many clients visit my office with heavy hearts and feelings of anxiety, bitterness, hurt and anger. This is due to the fact they may have recently lost a loved one or received an unsettling diagnosis or just do not want to think about planning for death. In addition to handling their legal matter, I often pray with my clients or recall Bible verses and hymns with words of comfort."

#### About what she gained from St. Lorenz:

"My education at St. Lorenz prepared me for opportunities to witness to others. I pray these shared words give my clients encouragement and the peace of the Lord."









#### FROM FRANKENMUTH TO POINTS NEAR AND FAR

## SHARING HIS LOVE AND TELLING HIS STORY



People from around the world are familiar with our city, our unique culture, and the variety of shops and restaurants that serve our visitors and residents. Bring up Bronner's, Zehnder's or the Bavarian Inn, and you'll be amazed how many people will indicate they've visited Frankenmuth. Mention St. Lorenz, and the conversation shifts to our beautiful worship facility and our school. Our steeple marks not only our location, but also the focus of our entire ministry: *Christ is the reason*.

And those who encounter St. Lorenz School graduates know they're interacting with someone from a special community – and a special church and school that is truly focused on Christ.

Dating back as long as St. Lorenz has existed, our congregation has been committed to providing quality Christian education to the children of our community – children who then grow into godly adults who put their faith into action, whether in Frankenmuth, on the other side of the country or in remote parts of the world.

Some have chosen to further their Christian education at the next level and pursue professional church work, making a career of sharing how beautiful it is to live with Jesus. Our graduates can be found serving as pastors and teachers everywhere from right here in the Frankenmuth area to elsewhere in Michigan and the other 49 U.S. states, and from Shanghai, China, to mission fields in Africa – and many points in between.

While most St. Lorenz School graduates have taken a more traditional career path, their education at our school still helped prepare them for their professions and for everyday opportunities to speak with others about their faith in God and the hope and joy that can be found in knowing Him and His story. They work as judges, physicians, artists, classroom teachers, factory workers, farmers, scientists and financial planners. And outside of their careers, they often volunteer in key roles within their respective congregations – whether at a new church home in another city, state or nation or right here at St. Lorenz.

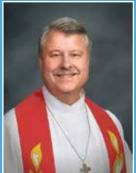
Many of our graduates continue to be active at St. Lorenz, blessing our congregation in a variety of ways. Some serve on commissions or special committees, and some serve as worship coordinators or ushers. Some serve as Stephen Ministers and caregivers, and some serve as Bible Class leaders and Sunday School teachers. Some shovel snow, mow grass or run the copier. Some serve on our Ministry Council or as readers for our students. Some serve as performers in our choir programs.

No matter the route traveled by our St. Lorenz alumni, you can be assured they will carry the light of our Lord with them for the betterment of others wherever they may go – from our little town of Frankenmuth, Michigan, all the way to countries, cities, towns and villages throughout the globe.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## ST. LORENZ VICARS

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 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



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



Adam Peitsch



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



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



Seminarian Adam Wolfe 2018-19 Completing seminary at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, Missouri



Vicar Corey Shaffer 2019-20 Completing vicarage at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church Frankenmuth, Michigan





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

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

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