

2020

---

*Reflecting on a quarter-century  
of continuous blessings*



# Looking back forward.

## *Celebrating 25 years of our Lord's blessings through the St. Lorenz Foundation*

The story is told of two faithful visionaries of our congregation who sat one morning in Oma's Restaurant and discussed ways in which the St. Lorenz Charitable Trust could do even more for the congregation. Dr. Harold "Gus" Braeutigam and Jack Rummel wanted to explore ways to multiply the available resources and provide a way for our members to offer ongoing support for the Lord's work through St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School.



*Harold "Gus" Braeutigam*



*Jack Rummel*

While we certainly praise God for the foresight of these two individuals, we also must remember the hard work of those who helped to make it a reality and the trust of so many members who have provided and will continue to provide gifts to help us carry out our Lord's work now and into the future. **All Praise, Glory and Honor is HIS!**

In this report, we look back at the Foundation's history – from when the Foundation was merely an idea in the late 1980s up through our 25th year of existence in 2020 – and look ahead to our promising future in supporting the mission and ministry of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School.

## *Founding Board of Directors*



*Harold "Gus" Braeutigam*



*Stephen List*



*Morrall Claramunt*



*Jonathan Zehnder*



*Lynn Zuellig*



*Arnold Middeldorf*



*Pastor C.W. Hoesman*



## *A letter from our President*

Members of St. Lorenz,

It is a privilege to serve as President of the St. Lorenz Foundation. I know I speak for all of the members of the Board of Directors, the Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee, and the Finance Committee when I say that we are honored to serve as a part of the Foundation team.

Certainly, 2020 was a special year for our Foundation as we celebrated 25 years of God's blessings. We are reflecting on these past years with excitement about how our Lord has used our Foundation to expand and enhance the ministry of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School and encourage the St. Lorenz team to dream about new ways to minister to our community.

During the past 25 years, the Foundation has been able to provide more than \$12 million to support the ministry of the church and school. You will read more about these blessings in this report.

To all who have made special gifts to the Foundation or have placed the Foundation in your estate plans: Please accept our thanks for your investment in the future of St. Lorenz.

And to all who are considering including the Foundation in future plans: Please know that we are here to help, support and encourage you as you determine how you will continue to respond to God's blessings in your life!

May our Lord bless you and your family,



Martha Shelton  
President  
St. Lorenz Foundation



*We are reflecting on these past years  
with excitement about how our Lord  
has used our Foundation*

# Passing the pastoral

A farewell message from Pastor Brandt

*It was my privilege to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the St. Lorenz Foundation from shortly after its inception until my retirement in 2020.*



*Rev. Mark Brandt  
Lead Pastor (retired)*

As the Foundation has now reached the milestone of 25 years of service to our Lord and to the St. Lorenz congregation, this is a good time to look back. But it's an even better time to look ahead.

Actually, that's what the Foundation has helped our congregational leaders do every year of its existence – to look ahead to future ministry. More importantly, it has helped make such ministry a present reality by providing funding to begin new ministries and to continue existing ministries.

Over the years, our Foundation has grown and changed significantly. It has been fascinating for me to observe how each Board of Directors differs from the ones preceding it. At the same time, it has been gratifying to see how the Foundation has consistently done two very important things for St. Lorenz:

- 1) It has provided stability and ongoing support with dependable, consistent funding for critical functions; and
- 2) It has spurred creative thinking, encouraging our leaders to dream big and enabling them to work to make those dreams come to pass.

The Foundation also does one more very important thing: It provides an avenue for members and friends of St. Lorenz to make a lasting contribution to the ministry our Lord has asked us to do.

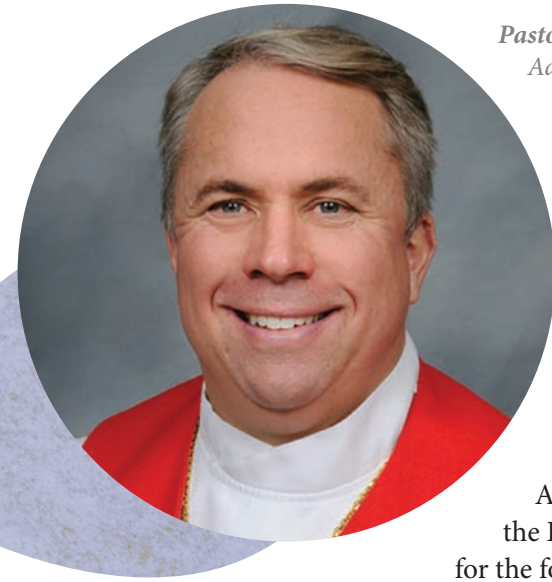
*We offer Him our thanks and praise for what He has done and continues to do through our St. Lorenz Foundation.*





# torch

## A word from Pastor Hubbard



*Pastor Brad Hubbard*  
*Administrative Pastor*

This annual report marks the 25th year of the St. Lorenz Foundation. During my brief time at St. Lorenz, I have been able to observe the great blessing this ministry is to our congregation.

As I join the team as a member of the Board of Directors, I am grateful for the following:

- The many members of our congregation who have dedicated a portion of their estate and special gifts to the ongoing ministry of the Foundation.
- The foresight of the founding members of the Foundation as they authorized its formation to serve our church and school for years to come.
- The dedication of our members who serve on the Board of Directors, Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee, and Finance Committee, developing appropriate policies, guiding decisions and overseeing the operation of our Foundation.
- The many ministries that have been started, supported and enhanced through grants from the Foundation as we reach out and connect more and more people to Jesus by sharing the Good News of our salvation with them.
- The individual gifts, small and large, that allow the Foundation to continue to serve our church and school in meaningful ways that otherwise may not be possible.

*While I am thankful for these aspects of our Foundation, there is no doubt that I am most grateful for God's love in Christ and the blessings He so generously gives to us as His people. May we always recognize, reflect upon and respond to His blessings to us and our families as we joyfully serve our Lord and His Church.*

*May God be with you and bless you!*





# Dollars and

The St. Lorenz Foundation ended 2020 with a balance of \$15.7 million. Over the years, the Foundation has been blessed with steady growth, thanks to gifts from members coupled with faithful management. We have distributed more than \$12 million to support our Lord's work at St. Lorenz without spending any of the donated funds (principal); our distributions are based on interest earned on those donations, and we distribute 5% of the corpus each year.

The Foundation's assets fall into two distinct categories:

- **Dedicated Funds:** When a donor specifies how they want their gifts to be used, we place those gifts into Dedicated Funds. We currently have 11 Dedicated Funds, which collectively contain more than half the Foundation's total assets. The Foundation makes annual distributions from the Dedicated Funds according to the donors' wishes. See page 11 to learn more about the Dedicated Funds and the distributions from them that occurred in 2020.
- **General Fund:** Gifts provided to the Foundation without specific instructions are placed into the General Fund. Each year, the Foundation receives grant requests from the congregation. The Foundation weighs each request carefully, and we fund as many as possible. We generally receive twice as many grant requests as we are able to fund. See pages 8 to 10 to learn more about the Board-approved grants that were awarded in 2020. And see page 15 to read about a special opportunity to double the value of a gift to the General Fund.



"Generous gifts from our St. Lorenz members have and will continue to have a lasting impact on supporting various church and school projects, all in support of our Lord's ministry here at St. Lorenz."

**Bonnie Bell**  
*St. Lorenz Foundation Treasurer*



# cents

## 2020 financial highlights

### Foundation Distributions

Grateful Campaign – Building Program .....	\$500,000
Dedicated Grants .....	\$366,879
<i>(specified by donor or board)</i>	
Request-Based Grants .....	\$351,800
<i>(awarded by board)</i>	

**Total distributions** .....\$1,218,679

### General Fund Balance

Northern Trust Investments .....	\$6,626,812
Frankenmuth Credit Union .....	\$469,401
Life insurance .....	\$258,910
<i>(Foundation-owned)</i>	
Local stock .....	\$71,000

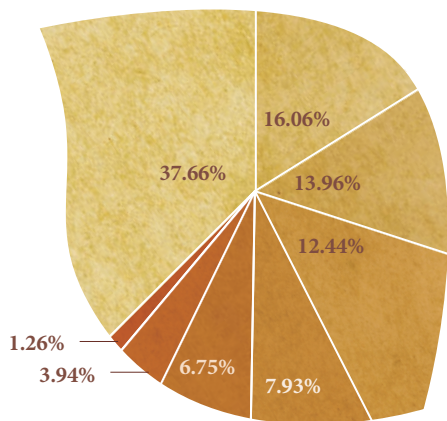
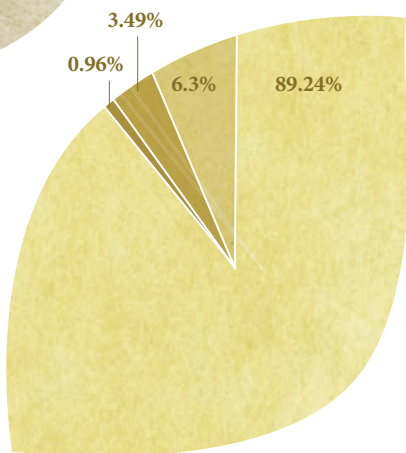
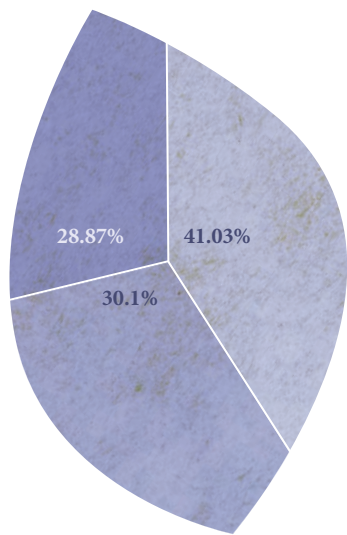
**Total balance** .....\$7,426,123

### Dedicated Fund Balances

Pastoral Endowment .....	\$3,119,275
Communications/Operating/Caring .....	\$1,329,824
Educational Enhancement Fund .....	\$1,156,189
Vicar Endowment.....	\$1,029,971
Synodical Institution Student Aid .....	\$656,813
Missions .....	\$559,184
St. Lorenz School Family Aid .....	\$326,334
All other funds .....	\$104,575
Communication - Broadcast.....	\$50,905
Church Maintenance Fund.....	\$38,634
Retired Worker Health Insurance Support.....	\$7,885
Music Fund .....	\$7,151

**Total balance** .....\$8,282,165

**Total of General and Dedicated Funds** .....\$15,708,288





# 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. 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 2020, the board approved 21 grants, for a total distribution of \$351,800.*

## *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**

## *Replacement Roofing*

The Heritage Committee, through the Physical Properties Commission, requested funds to reroof the Cabin in the Woods and the Church Bells found in the cemetery. The funds will be used to remove the old shingles and replace with new.

**Amount granted: \$15,850**



## *Water Bottle Refilling Stations*

COVID-19 guidelines restrict the use of drinking fountains. Additional water bottle refill stations will be placed in the Learning Center, near the Dining Hall and at The Rock.

**Amount granted: \$4,000**

## *Classroom Cameras for Hybrid Learning*

Due to the impact of COVID-19, teachers need to prepare lessons in a video format. School administration has requested funds to purchase cameras to help in the preparation of the videos and to allow for remote instruction.

**Amount granted: \$18,000**

## *Willing Workers Shed Addition*

The Willing Workers provide great service to our congregation and members in need. They store their supplies and tools in what is lovingly referred to as the "Chicken Coop." This grant requested by the Physical Properties Commission provides resources for a small addition to the facility.

**Amount granted: \$14,000**

## *Reach Out – Media and Communication Upgrade*

This grant provides the funds to do a methodic study of our use of streaming video, social media, web presence and broadcast services. The project will result in a roadmap for future development.

**Amount granted: \$20,000**

## *Associate Pastor Calling Expenses*

With the departure of Pastor Adams, the retirement of Pastor Brandt and the arrival of Pastor Hubbard, we will soon be calling an Associate Pastor. To assist with expenses related to the candidate search, the Ministry Council has requested these funds.

**Amount granted: \$10,000**

## *Health and Safety Protocol*

COVID-19 has made it necessary to provide more equipment and supplies to sanitize and disinfect the facilities used by our school and educational programs. The funds provided will assist in meeting U.S. CDC and State of Michigan requirements.

**Amount granted: \$10,000**



for 2020



### *Outdoor Clear Drop Enclosure*

Principal Swartz has addressed the process of drop-off and pickup as it relates to COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, students are allowed to wait for parents outside the building in the Preschool area. This grant provides the resources to purchase a windbreak for the Preschool entrance.

**Amount granted: \$16,000**

### *Update of Portable Cameras*

Streaming of worship services and other events around St. Lorenz has increased as a result of COVID-19 restrictions. To assist with the development of video and still images, this grant will allow the purchase of updated cameras.

**Amount granted: \$8,700**

### *Remote Learning/Online Education Facilitator*

St. Lorenz students have had three options available to them during the COVID-19 pandemic: They could attend in person, make use of remote learning or study using an online curriculum. This grant provides the funds for the staffing necessary to maintain the online program.

**Amount granted: \$45,000**

### *Discipleship Grant (Year Two)*

In 2019, the Foundation approved a three-year grant to support staff working to develop discipleship and to work with our teachers and faculty. In 2020, the board paid the second year of that grant.

**Amount granted: \$22,000**

### *Reach Out II - Communication Enhancement*

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: \$60,000**

### *Pastoral Retreat Planning*

Pastor Hubbard is onsite and ministering to our people. This grant provides funds for the pastoral team to gather in retreat under his administration and develop long-range plans.

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



### *Churchgrove Prayer Trail*

The Commission on Spiritual Life and Worship has encouraged continued development of the Prayer Trail in our Churchgrove. This project will provide 13 new prayer stations with signs, artwork and Bible passages. The funds will be used to purchase the materials that will be mounted by our members.

**Amount granted: \$6,000**

### *Display Case for Confirmation Pictures*

The Heritage Committee, through the Physical Properties Commission, will be updating the display of Confirmation pictures found in our Church Parlor area. The funds will be used to purchase an updated rack that will allow additional pictures to be displayed.

**Amount granted: \$3,800**

### *Flexible Seating/Collaborative Learning*

In an effort to create a collaborative learning environment in our classrooms, teachers have been testing flexible seating arrangements. This grant will provide funds for eight classrooms to convert to flexible seating.

**Amount granted: \$30,000**





# Grant-Funded Projects

(continued)

## *Washington, DC, Trip Support*

COVID-19 has made it difficult for our eighth-grade students to carry out their annual fundraising activities for their class trip. This grant will allow the students to proceed with their trip by holding the cost to students at the same level as prior years.

**Amount granted: \$11,000**



## *Church Speaker System Upgrade*

The main speaker system in the church will be upgraded with the funds provided from this grant. Improvements in speaker technology will provide additional clarity without adding volume.

**Amount granted: \$40,000**

## *Continued Health and Safety Protocol*

St. Lorenz Lutheran School, Preschool and Childcare have been able to remain in session for a good part of the COVID-19 pandemic due to the excellent work of our custodial staff. Under the direction of Phil Haubenstricker, our facility has been cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. This grant provides funds to assist with the additional costs of this process.

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

## *Social Emotional Program/ Foundational Learning*

This grant provides curricular materials as well as training for our faculty to address the social and emotional needs of our students. The program provides a “train the trainer” format, which will allow the training to be shared over a period of years.

**Amount granted: \$4,000**





# *Dedicated Projects for 2020*

*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 2020, the total distributed was \$366,879.*

## *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: \$149,889 (Pastoral Endowment) and \$48,622 (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: \$10,939 (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: \$23,441**



## *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: \$11,855**

## *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: \$63,900**

## *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: \$55,552**

## *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: \$379**

## *Church Maintenance*

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

**Amount distributed: \$1,211**

## *Music Fund*

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

**Amount distributed: \$314**

## *Communications - Broadcast Media*

This account helps support the broadcast of our services on cable television and via the internet.

**Amount distributed: \$777**



# History of the

The St. Lorenz Foundation's roots are in the St. Lorenz Perpetual Trust Fund. Started in the 1970s, the Perpetual Trust Fund provided a way for the congregation to receive estate gifts to help support the ministry of the church and school.

During the late 1980s, the congregation began a study to determine the future of the Perpetual Trust Fund and consider developing the St. Lorenz Foundation. The outcome of that study resulted in the submission of the Foundation's Articles of Incorporation in September 1995.

The purpose of the St. Lorenz Foundation was stated clearly:  
*To support the mission and ministry of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School.* The legal paperwork was completed, and the Foundation's first annual meeting took place in December 1995, when Stephen List was elected as the Foundation's first President.



**Stephen List**  
First President



**Michael Larges**  
Second President



# Foundation

## Board Presidents

1995-2020



**Robert Rummel**  
Fifth President

In its 25 years, the Foundation has been served by six Presidents; more than 60 members have served on our Board of Directors, Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee, and Finance Committee during that time.

While the significant amount of money the Foundation has been able to make available to the congregation certainly is important, two things stand out:

- The Foundation has been able to be of service as a vehicle for those members who wish to provide ongoing resources to the congregation in response to God's richest blessings.



**Jack Rummel**  
Third President



**Robert Zeilinger**  
Fourth President



**Martha Shelton**  
Sixth President

- The Foundation has been able to respond to requests for financial support from the congregation to enhance, support and uplift ministry.

On the pages that follow, you'll learn more about what the Foundation does, how we support our church and school, what our goals are, and how you can help us reach those goals.



# Supporting ministry Our goals

The Foundation frequently receives requests from the congregation to provide funds to engage staff to support a new area of ministry. The amount of each request varies by position.

For example:

- The congregation requested support for a pastor to visit as many members as possible prior to Pastor Gary L. Bender's retirement. The Foundation provided the resources for Pastor Shawn Fenske to come to St. Lorenz and use his time to visit our members prior to assuming his full-time duties as a member of the pastoral team. Pastor Fenske was able to visit more than 1,000 of our members, helping him build important relationships.



Pastor Fenske

- The Foundation also provided funds to allow our congregation to share expenses to bring a Chaplain to the Lutheran Home. Prior to joining the pastoral staff at St. Lorenz, Pastor Joel Kaiser served both the Lutheran Home and St. Lorenz, providing care and support to the elderly of our community.
- Through the years, the Foundation has provided significant financial support to the congregation by funding the salary and benefit costs for the Administrative Pastor. This Pastoral Endowment, established through the gifts of a faithful member, has distributed more than \$2 million to the congregation since its inception.
- Since 2004, 17 vicars have served St. Lorenz. Through the generous gifts of our members, a Vicar Endowment has been established to provide funding for this valuable program. See page 18 to learn more about where past St. Lorenz Vicars are today.



Pastor Kaiser

Few positions that receive Foundation support are ongoing. In fact, the Foundation has established a policy to limit grant-based funding for positions to a period of three years. If a new area of ministry needs fiscal support to get established, the congregation makes a request and begins planning for how this position will be incorporated into the Ministry Financial Plan. Through the years, the Foundation has assisted in funding Bible class leaders, instrumental music staff, the media director, the discipleship program, the environmental program, an instructional technology coach, youth ministry and more. Each request is studied carefully by the Ministry Council and then by the Foundation before grants are awarded.

In all cases, our purpose – supporting the mission and ministry of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School – is at the forefront.

Each year, the Foundation reviews our work and explores meaningful ways we can continue supporting the mission and ministry of our church and school. The Foundation focuses on areas of ministry that seem to need increased and ongoing support, as well as those that may present one-time requests.

The Board currently has four major goals:

- **Continue to grow our Vicar Endowment.** While the fund had surpassed its original goal of \$1 million at the end of 2020, it is clear that as more and more Vicars come with young families, the expenses of the Vicar Program will increase. The revised goal for this endowment is \$1.5 million.
- **Expand our Missions Fund.** The Foundation has a Missions Fund that helps the congregation reach out with the Good News. The Foundation especially is interested in supporting mission outreach programs in which our members are engaged actively. Mission projects considered for funding are presented by the congregation through the normal granting process. The Board has established a goal of reaching a \$1 million balance in the Missions Fund; at the end of 2020, the balance had surpassed \$559,000.
- **Establish and build a School Operations Fund.** St. Lorenz has a 175-year history of providing Christian education to the children of our congregation and the community. This new fund will help to support that ministry for years to come. While the Board has not set a specific goal for the fund's balance, the Foundation certainly encourages gifts to the fund.
- **Bolster our General Fund.** See page 15 to learn more about a matching gift that will help us do so.

# A special anniversary opportunity: \$250K matching gift



In honor of the St. Lorenz Foundation's 25th anniversary and in thanks to God for all the Foundation's blessings, **an anonymous donor generously will match any gift to the Foundation's General Fund until a total of \$250,000 is reached!**

This generous 1:1 match *doubles* the value of each and every gift to our General Fund until the match is exhausted, so there has never been a better time to give to the Foundation and maximize the impact of your gift.

With a gift of any size, you'll help us make the most of this incredibly generous donor-provided opportunity and add a combined total of \$500,000 to our General Fund to aid the Foundation in supporting the mission and ministry of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School long into the future.

Every gift puts us a step closer to receiving all the matching funds, so please make your gift today by any of the following methods:

- Return the donation envelope included with printed copies of this report.
- Visit [stlorenzfoundation.org/donate.htm](http://stlorenzfoundation.org/donate.htm) or scan the QR code to donate online.
- Call Foundation Executive Director Perry Bresemann at 989-652-0796 to request a donation envelope or make arrangements for your gift.



To guarantee that your gift will qualify for the match, please make sure to indicate that it is intended for the General Fund.





## Executive Director's corner

For many years, it has been my privilege to meet with our members and discuss estate-planning. There comes a time in all of our lives when we reflect on the countless blessings our Lord has showered upon us and ask very important questions, and the estate-planning process affords just such a time.

As one looks back on marriage, children, extended family, career and more, it is easy to see how the Lord has blessed our respective lives. While not without hardship and challenge, God does indeed bless His children in many ways.

The questions I routinely ask our members emphasize meeting their goals and objectives.

- What do you want to do?
- What ministries are important to you?
- What challenges do you want to help meet?
- If making a gift, do you prefer to give resources that will be distributed by the Board in response to grant requests from the congregation to meet evolving needs (General Fund), or would you prefer to give to a specific area of ministry (Designated Fund)?



The St. Lorenz Foundation is organized to help members make gifts that will provide ministry resources for years to come – until our Lord returns, as we often word it.

As discussed in this report, our Foundation has returned more than \$12 million to the ministry at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School during its 25-year existence. The Foundation's structure has allowed these millions of dollars in distributions to occur *without ever spending a donated dollar*!

The St. Lorenz Foundation exists to help our members make gifts that will keep on giving. Please let me know if I can help you make yours! And with a \$250,000 matching gift opportunity currently on the table for gifts to the Foundation's General Fund thanks to a generous anonymous donor, now is the perfect time to have a conversation about the gift that may be on your heart.

We praise God for these first 25 years of the Foundation and look forward to many more!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perry A. Bresemann".

Dr. Perry A. Bresemann  
Executive Director  
St. Lorenz Foundation

Office phone: 989.652.0796  
Email: [pab@stlorenz.org](mailto:pab@stlorenz.org)

## How you can help

As a member of our congregation, we ask that you:

- Continue to pray for the work of the Foundation.
- Consider memorials, anniversary honorariums, birthday honorariums, and other gifts of remembrance or celebration.
- Consider gifts of stock, life insurance and IRA contributions.
- Consider talking with your estate-planning agent about potentially adding the St. Lorenz Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate.

Feel free to contact the Foundation office with questions, ideas or suggestions. We are here to help you reach your goals in both ministry and philanthropy.



# Personal reflections

"Since transitioning from the former Perpetual Trust, our St. Lorenz Foundation has shown remarkable growth. This has resulted in numerous benefits to our congregational ministries. Thanks to our members for continuing this vital mission."

**Harold "Gus" Braeutigam**  
*St. Lorenz Foundation Founding  
Board of Directors Member*



"The power of a gift to the Foundation is enormous. The benefits are undeniable. The feeling of giving is amazing. And, the returns are perpetual."

**Dan Attenberger**  
*St. Lorenz Foundation Planned Giving and  
Estate Planning Committee Member and Past Chairman*



"Having witnessed the financial support of our members from generation to generation, it's humbling to see what God is doing for the good of His kingdom – here and beyond – through the St. Lorenz Foundation."

**Al Nuechterlein**  
*St. Lorenz Foundation Finance  
Committee Chairman*



"I remember first hearing about the St. Lorenz Foundation at a family business meeting when my dad shared a brochure 25 years ago – when serious thinking about estate planning was the furthest thing from my mind. Today, as Secretary of the Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee, I enjoy participating in the stewardship of the dollars and wishes from donors who've left legacy gifts to the congregation and school."

**Maria (Bronner) Sutorik**  
*St. Lorenz Foundation Planned Giving and  
Estate Planning Committee Secretary*



"As a member of the Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee, I've been able to see firsthand the positive, productive impact of the financial gifts from St. Lorenz members to the Foundation in support of various programs at our church and school."

**Steve Bell**  
*St. Lorenz Foundation Planned Giving and  
Estate Planning Committee Member*





# 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



**Rev. Mark Brandt**  
Lead Pastor (retired)



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



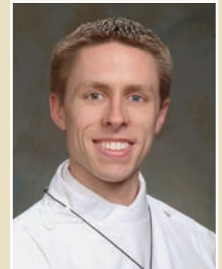
**Pastor J. Christian Strickland**  
2005-06  
St. John Lutheran Church  
Atwater, Minnesota



**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



**Seminarian Corey Shaffer**  
2019-20  
Completing seminary at  
Concordia Seminary  
St. Louis, Missouri



**Vicar Andrew Berg**  
2020-21  
Completing vicarage at  
St. Lorenz Lutheran Church  
Frankenmuth, Michigan

# 2020 Board & Committee members

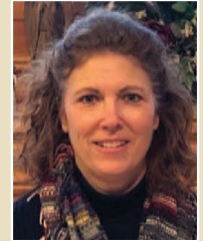
## Foundation Board of Directors



Martha Shelton  
President



Mike Larges  
Secretary



Bonnie Bell  
Treasurer



Wayne Bronner



Jim Howe



Pastor Brad  
Hubbard



Dave Pendleton



Beth Reindel



Dawn Zimmer

## Planned Giving and Estate Planning Committee



Jim Mertz  
Chairman



Chris Frank  
Vice Chairman



Maria Sutorik  
Secretary



Dan Attenberger



Dan Bade



Steve Bell



Mike Fassezke



Jeremy Frank



Diane Schiefer

## Finance Committee



Al Nuechterlein  
Chairman



Eric Baarck  
Secretary



Bonnie Bell  
Treasurer



Peter Bender



Phil List



Stephen List



## The U.S. & Michigan in 1995

### U.S.

President: Bill Clinton.  
Vice President: Al Gore.

Online auction site eBay launched

"Toy Story," Pixar's first  
full-length film, premiered.

Dow Jones Industrial Average  
ended the year at 5,117.

Gallon of gas: ~\$1.15. Gallon of milk: ~\$2.50.  
First-class postage stamp: 32 cents.

National sports: The San Francisco 49ers,  
Atlanta Braves, Houston Rockets and  
New Jersey Devils won championships  
in their respective leagues.

### Michigan

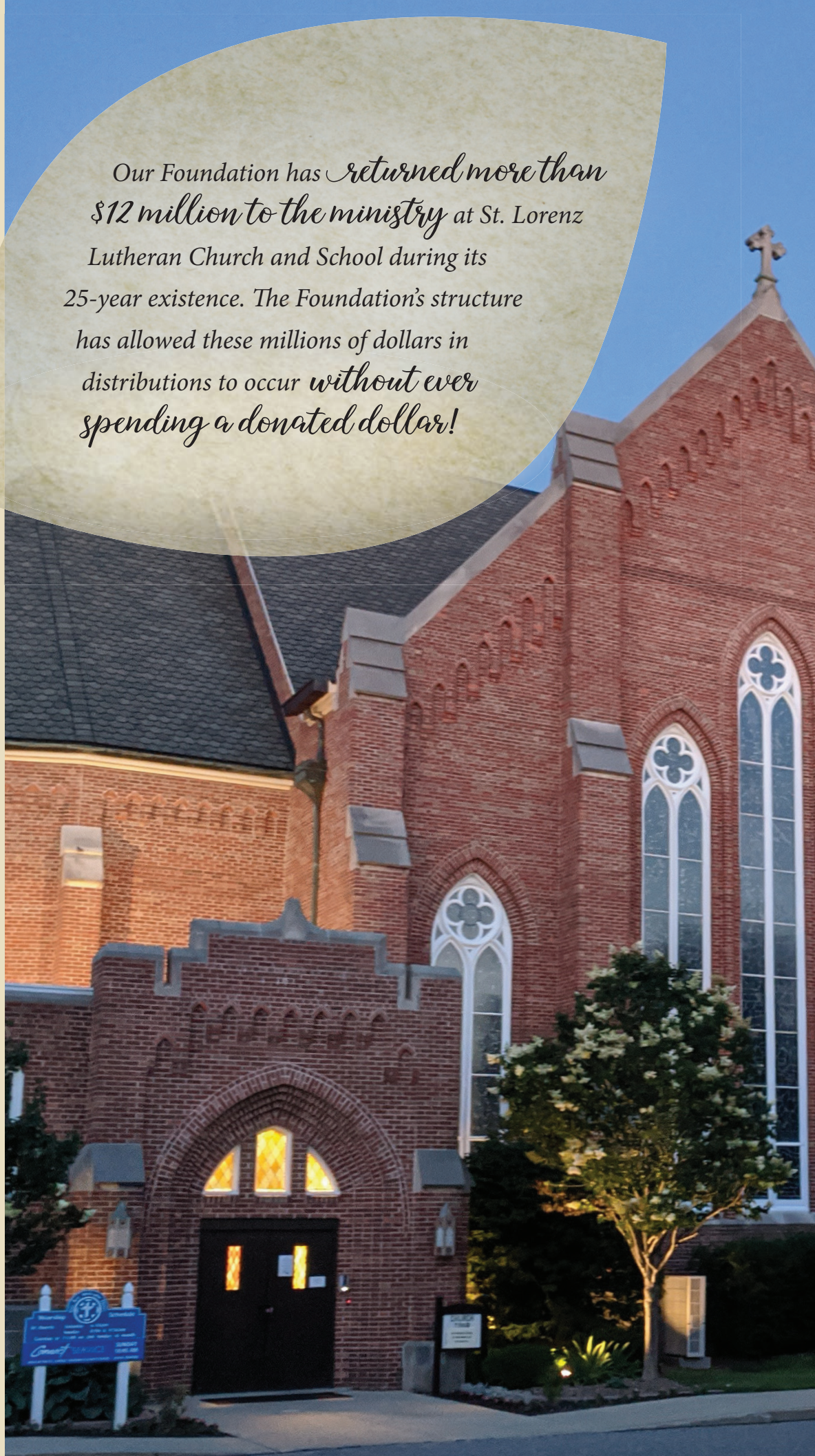
Governor: John Engler.  
Lieutenant Governor: Connie Binsfeld.

Detroit Newspaper Strike began in July; it  
would last until early 1997.

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
opened in Grand Rapids.

Detroit sports: The Red Wings reached  
the Stanley Cup Finals but were swept by  
the New Jersey Devils. The Lions lost in  
the wild card round of the playoffs. The  
Tigers had a losing season and lost  
Manager Sparky Anderson and players  
Lou Whitaker and Kirk Gibson to retirement.  
The Pistons had a losing season despite  
strong performances by Joe Dumars  
and Co-Rookie of the Year Grant Hill.

*Our Foundation has returned more than  
\$12 million to the ministry at St. Lorenz  
Lutheran Church and School during its  
25-year existence. The Foundation's structure  
has allowed these millions of dollars in  
distributions to occur without ever  
spending a donated dollar!*







## Frankenmuth in 1995

Frankenmuth celebrated its sesquicentennial in tandem with the 150th anniversary of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church..



The exhibits at the Frankenmuth Historical Museum were overhauled.



Martha Shelton became Chair of the Frankenmuth Chamber of Commerce.



Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland celebrated its 50th anniversary. Founder Wallace Bronner was inducted into the National Ornament and Electric Lights (NOEL) Hall of Fame.



"TODAY Show" personality Willard Scott delivered the national weather forecast from Zehnder's during Snowfest, which drew 200,000 visitors.



Phase III of Bavarian Inn Lodge opened, adding 156 guestrooms and expanding the Family Fun Center.



The Frankenmuth Women's Club dedicated Der Schau Platz (now Palmer Schau Platz) bandshell in Memorial Park in June, in time for the summer's Concerts in the Park series.



Drury Inn, Frankenmuth's fourth hotel, opened.



Trish Spencer was named Bavarian Princess at the first Princess Ball in 10 years. Court attendants were Randi Weiss and Amy Block.



"Lustige Musikanten," a monthly German television show featuring famous German musical acts, spent two days filming in Frankenmuth, drawing more than 2,000 German natives to Frankenmuth to participate in the production.



Frankenmuth American Legion Post 150 dedicated the Veteran's Memorial at Willkommen Park.

Sources: The Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth Chamber of Commerce, Frankenmuth Historical Museum, Frankenmuth News and Frankenmuth Women's Club



## St. Lorenz in 1995

The church celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Church pastoral team: C.W. Hoesman,  
Dale Ahlschwede, Mark Brandt.

Congregation President:  
Harold "Gus" Braeutigam.  
Vice President: Herb Bernthal.

Communicant membership: 3,695.  
Average weekend worship attendance: 2,185.  
Average German service attendance: 103.  
Sunday School enrollment: 223.

School principal: Mr. Gil Loewe.

School enrollment: 630 students.

13,830 people from 36 states and  
six countries toured the church.

For the first time, two cameras  
were used to broadcast St. Lorenz  
services on cable television.

The Board of Elders completed preparations  
to call a fourth pastor the following year.

Painting of the church was completed  
as the all-white steeple was scraped  
and painted its current colors.

The Board of Communication  
Ministry completed work to create a  
Church newsletter that would  
begin the following year.

# History of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School

In 1845, the original settlers of Frankenmuth brought the St. Lorenz name with them from Germany, where it was the name of the Lutheran churches in three cities. It comes from St. Laurentius, a Christian who was martyred in the third century A.D.

The early history of Frankenmuth is identical to the history of St. Lorenz Lutheran Church. Both began in the Franconian (Bavaria) village of Neuendettelsau in the mind of Lutheran Pastor Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, who in 1844 called for dedicated men and women to immigrate to the wilderness of Michigan to form a mission colony and demonstrate to Native Americans and others "wie gut und schoen es ist bei Jesu sein" ("how wonderful it is to live with Jesus").

On April 20, 1845, a group embarked from Bremen on the sailing vessel *Caroline*. During the hazardous 50-day Atlantic crossing, they encountered icebergs, bad weather, seasickness and smallpox. They arrived in New York on June 8 and proceeded to their final destination – a 680-acre tract of virgin forest on the banks of the Cass River. On August 18, the women, who had been staying in Saginaw, arrived, and the community was established. Temporary shelter for the 15 settlers was provided by a quickly constructed "community house." A similar structure served as a church and parsonage.

The following June, nearly 100 more immigrants arrived from Germany. The expanded congregation began construction of a larger, sturdier church, school and parsonage, which was dedicated on Christmas Day 1846. The school had 33 students at that time.

Two years after its founding, St. Lorenz Church became one of 14 charter congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and a participant in its worldwide mission program.

The St. Lorenz congregation – which today totals more than 4,900 members – has always placed a great value on Christian education. From the first days of the school in 1846 through many building programs and program enhancements, St. Lorenz 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 a Childcare Program, Preschool Program and K-8 school. The school, which has more than 500 students, is ranked in the top 5% of Lutheran schools nationwide by the National Lutheran School Accreditation Commission.

*For a complete history of St. Lorenz, visit [stlorenz.org/our-heritage](http://stlorenz.org/our-heritage).*









850 W. Genesee

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Phone: 989.652.0796

Email: [foundation@stlorenz.org](mailto:foundation@stlorenz.org)

Web: [stlorenzfoundation.org](http://stlorenzfoundation.org)