



Southeast Michigan Synod • ELCA

## Assembly 2021

### Conference 1

#### Pr. Nathan Allen - Holy Spirit/Grand Blanc

Our conference includes the following congregations:

All Saint Lutheran-Hartland, Pr. Denise Russell

Grace Lutheran-Howell, Pr. Sue Sprowls (interim)

Holy Spirit Lutheran-Grand Blanc, Pr. Nathan Allen

King of Glory Lutheran-Flushing, Pr. Monica Villarreal (contracted stated supply)

Lord of Life Lutheran-Brighton, Pr. Dale Hedblad

Messiah Lutheran-Swartz Creek, Pr. Bart Muller (contracted stated supply)

Our Risen Savior Lutheran-Burton, Pr. Sue Liddums

Salem Lutheran-Flint, Pr. Monica Villarreal

Shalom Lutheran-Pinckney, Pr. Ken Greble

St George Lutheran-Brighton, Pr. Sharon Smith

St John Lutheran-Fowlerville, Pr. Diane Greble

Transfiguration Lutheran-Fenton, Pr. Dana Runestad (interim)

Even though we found ourselves meeting most months via Zoom this year, our conference gathered monthly to support one another and share updates about the congregations we serve. We also used these meetings as an opportunity to welcome new colleagues to the conference as a result of pastoral transitions.

In April 2020, we welcomed Pr. Ken Greble to Shalom Lutheran in Pinckney as part of an “Anchor Church” agreement with Calvary Lutheran in Clarkston. In July, we bid farewell to Pr. Mark Fisher who accepted a call to St. John Lutheran in Farmington Hills and in turn, welcomed Pr. Dana Runestad as an interim pastor at Transfiguration Lutheran in Fenton. This fall, Pr. Sue Sprowls became the interim pastor at Grace Lutheran in Howell, and in September, Pr. Monica stepped in as stated supply for King of Glory in Flushing. We continue to pray for these congregations in transition and trust that the Holy Spirit is guiding them in their discernment process.

Because of the geographic and demographic areas that make up Conference 1, our congregations have been affected by the pandemic in different ways. Some areas in our conference have seen relatively few cases of COVID, while others have seen higher case numbers. One congregation is in an area that does not have a fast enough internet connection to live-stream. However, most of our congregations have transitioned to offering online options or partnered with a nearby congregation that does when meeting in-person has not been possible. We look with hope for an end to the pandemic even as we remember those who have died, those who mourn, and those who continue to suffer as a result of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

-Pr. Nathan Allen, Dean