



Southeast Michigan Synod • ELCA

## Assembly 2023

### Conference 2

#### Pr. Michael Opfermann - Pilgrim/Marysville

Christ the King, Lapeer – Pr. Bob Hegdal  
Pilgrim, Marysville – Pr. Michael Opfermann

St. John, Romeo – Pr. Darcy Reis  
St. Martin, Marine City – Pr. Troy Waite  
St. Paul, Casco – Pr. Kirk Langset

St. Paul, Port Huron – Pr. Branden Hunt  
St. Peter, St. Clair – Pr. Kenneth Staib  
Trinity, Richmond – Intern Pastor Katie Butler

Our Saviour, Port Huron – Pr. Charles Martin  
St. John, Capac – Pr. Sean Myers, contracted supply – an intern is expected to arrive soon.

St. John's, New Baltimore – Retired Pr. Roger Facione as supply  
St. Martin, Port Huron – Pr. Branden Hunt, contracted supply  
St. Paul, Imlay City – Wes Davis, LLM, as call committee prepares to interview candidates.

St. Peter, New Haven – Jim Kroll, LLM  
Trinity, Brown City – David Hudson, LLM

The pastoral leaders in our conference continue the tradition of gathering weekly for “breakfast,” sometimes doing this on Zoom or in a hybrid format. Once a month, we gather at one of our churches for a more formal meeting, followed by a meal together.

Assistant to the Bishop, Sean Ewbank, spoke with our congregations about what ministry together could look like as it becomes more difficult for some to afford a full-time pastor. We have followed this discussion with a series of “Better Together” gatherings, pondering how we might work together and make a larger impact on our small corner of God’s creation. This has helped us broaden our understanding of church, deepen our care for one another, and look forward with excitement for all that God is doing! Future gathering topics: Inviting people to volunteer effectively, youth ministry in today’s busy and everchanging world, stewardship, and more!

Transitions:

- Intern Pastor Katie Butler began in June at Trinity, Richmond. Her internship will conclude in May 2023.
- Pastor Donald Doerzbacher retired from Our Saviour, Port Huron. A retirement celebration occurred at the Double Tree in PH on Reformation Sunday, October 30, 2023.
- Pastor Charles Martin was installed as the pastor of Our Saviour, Port Huron on November 20, 2023.
- Pastor Sean Myers has graciously agreed to supply at St. John, Capac. They are expecting an intern to begin there this summer.
- On November 26, 2022, our friend and colleague Enoch Carlton entered the church triumphant. Enoch was a LLM and seminarian leading at St. John’s, New Baltimore. Member and retired pastor Roger Facione has graciously agreed to step in and lead them as they process their grief and continue faithfully.
- In December 2022, Pastor Alan Casillas retired from St. Paul, Imlay City.
- Pastor Joyce Partyka Staib left her call at St. John, Romeo in March 2023, accepting a call to Spirit of Grace, West Bloomfield.

We in the Blue Water Conference very much look forward welcoming you all to the 2023 SEMI Synod Assembly!

In Christ,

Pastor Mike Opfermann  
Conference 2 Dean