



Conference 3 Report for 2026 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly

Abiding Presence, Rochester Hills	Pr. Jeff Ogonowski
Beautiful Savior, Bloomfield Hills	Pr. Nik Schillack
Calvary, Clarkston & Pontiac	Pr. Jonathan Heierman, Pr. Bob Hegdal
Christ, Waterford	Pr. Stephanie Newman
Christ the King, Lapeer	Ministry Concluded
King of Kings, Lake Orion	Pr. Eric Johnson
Micah 6, Pontiac	Pr. Dylan Pyeatt
Spirit of Grace Lutheran/Episcopal Community West Bloomfield	Pr. Joyce Partyka Staib
Saint Augustine's House, Oxford	
Zoë Oakland College/Young Adult Community	Pr. Eric Johnson, Mission Developer

Some Highlights in Ministry Together this past year:

- Growing out of efforts to develop a Conference Mission Strategy to increase our collective impact in our area, an ELCA campus ministry has been reestablished at Oakland University guided by Pr. Eric Johnson as half-time mission developer. While developing ministry among students he also continues to cultivate connections and funding beyond our conference including congregations, synod, and churchwide. This ministry, Zoë Oakland College/Young Adult Community, is now established as a student organization at OU and meets regularly for conversation and service projects.
- Micah 6 continues to serve and revitalize their neighborhood and surrounding areas in Pontiac in many creative and impactful ways. A long renovation and conversion of Webster School into vital community center was completed and dedicated in March 2026.
- St. Augustine's House in Oxford, a unique Lutheran Benedictine Community in our conference area, continues to offer daily Eucharist and offices of prayer, retreats, and more.
- Christ the King elected to conclude their ministry after many years of faithfully seeking to grow this mission in Lapeer.
- Spirit of Grace celebrated their 10th anniversary as a federated Episcopal/Lutheran congregation and continues to offer their unique Diabetic Food Pantry.
- After several years of pastoral vacancy, Abiding Presence called Pr. Jeff Ogonowski who was installed with great joy in October 2025.
- Beautiful Savior is actively engaged in the call process and hopes to add an associate pastor to their staff very soon.
- Calvary is now the home of the Clarkston Lighthouse Food Pantry in partnership with Lighthouse headquartered in Pontiac. This ministry addresses food insecurity in north Oakland County.
- Our conference congregations and members continue to creatively impact our communities with the Good News of Jesus and seeking to fulfill our Synod mission to "Rise up to Bear Burdens, Build Bridges, Break Chains and Bring Hope!" Each of our conference congregations is engaged in vital ministries addressing food insecurity in significant ways.

In Christ's Service, Pr. Jonathan Heierman, Conference Dean