



Rev. James Bowes
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After spending 20 years in the Navy, deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan and many other interesting places around the world, Pastor James began feeling the call in the ministry. James was ordained in January 2024 after graduating Concordia University Irvine, at the Cross-cultural Ministry Center, receiving a divine call and currently serving as Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church of the Desert in Palm Desert, California. James was also awarded a graduate certificate in Pastoral Counseling (Military Resiliency) and has returned to perusing his Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty University. James was awarded his B.S. (Health Care Management) from Trident University International.

In the Navy, James served as a Hospital Corpsman, Fleet Marine Force Corpman, Preventive Medicine Technician, and Instructor of Microbiology and Entomology at the Medical Education and Training Campus affiliated with Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, College of Allied Health Sciences.

After retiring from the Navy, James began education and training for the ministry serving as vicar at Promise Lutheran Church in Murrieta, California. During his time in the Navy, he volunteered with the youth at Promise and then King of Glory in Williamsburg, Virginia, and also had the opportunity to teach and lead adult Bible studies at Shepherd of the Hills in San Antonio, Texas. With the help of the Holy Spirit, he prays that he will continue to fulfill what God has called him to do.

James is married to his supportive wife Lauren and blessed with two wonderful girls, Bella and Lilia. When not studying or working, James enjoys spending time with his family, camping, watching science fiction and military shows, or just relaxing.



Rev. Paul Haberstock
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Born June 1936 in Akron, Ohio, Paul's father died in early 1941 of trichinosis. His grandmother and youngest uncle (Werner) moved in with Paul and his mother. In 1944 Werner went to Concordia in River Forest, Illinois for high school and graduated from college there in 1952.

Paul's mother remarried in June 1949, and they moved to Mayfield Hts., Ohio (suburb east of Cleveland) where he gained three stepbrothers (one older). He attended Our Savior in Mayfield Hts. and was confirmed there in 1950. Educated through grade 7 at Zion in Akron, he graduated from St. John, South Euclid in 1950. In 1954 he graduated from Cleveland Lutheran High (downtown) and from River Forest as a teacher with organ and choir skills in 1958. He received a M.Ed. in 1968 from Wayne State University in Detroit.

Assigned in 1958 to Martin Luther Chapel and Christian Day School in Pennsauken NJ, Paul married 1st and 2nd grade teacher Dorothy Chorba in 1960 and accepted the Call to Peace in Detroit as teacher and director of church music. His son Werner and daughter Kristen were born and baptized at Peace Lutheran Church.

In 1969 Paul determined to move from teaching to pastoring and church music and accepted the invitation of Pastor John E. Meyer to serve Concordia in Maplewood, MO as interim church musician while enrolled in a colloquy program at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He was assigned to Concordia as vicar in 1971 upon completion of the colloquy program, and assistant pastor in 1972 upon ordination at Our Savior in Mayfield Heights, OH. He asked not to be called as pastor when Pastor Meyer accepted a Missouri District position.

In 1974 Paul received and accepted the Call to Pastor Zoar with Northwest Lutheran School in Elmwood Park, Illinois. In 1979 he accepted the Call to Immanuel in Des Plaines, Illinois as associate pastor and director of church and school music. In 1989 he was encouraged to train and become a hospital chaplain. With Lutheran General Hospital nearby he remained at Immanuel part-time while completing a four-quarter residency in Clinical Pastoral Education. In 1991 Paul was employed by Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine for their hospital in Olympia Fields, Illinois. He retired in 2001 from full-time work.

Dorothy died in 2015 of dementia complications after a fall. With peripheral neuropathy and using a rollator Paul now lives in Brookdale Senior Solutions in Des Plaines near his daughter, son and several congregations for worship and service.



Deaconess Barbara Hemme
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Barb has lived most of her life in the greater Chicago area. Recently she retired from a 40+ year accounting career. Currently, she works part-time as an IT consultant teaching computer programs.

She is a life-long learner who took one year of courses at Valparaiso University (1974), then went to community college taking a class here and there. In the late 1980's she got serious about her education, earning an A.A. in 1993, a B.A. in business in 1995, and a M.A. in sociology in 1998. Cancer struck in 2005, and God led her to go back to school. She earned a M.A. in Religion and a Deaconess Diploma from Concordia University Chicago in 2010-2011.

While working as a CFO in a manufacturing concern, God led her to start an organization called Cedars Lutheran Living Center. This organization was started to take care of elderly Lutherans who could no longer live on their own. These homes would be on church properties that were not being used, so that seniors could continue to be active in their church life until God calls them home. But God in His wisdom stopped this plan and just a few months later the world-wide COVID pandemic hit. There is still a great need for serving our seniors - as well as others - who may need the church's assistance in new and different ways.

Barb has been married to her husband, Mike, for over 40 years. They have three children and six grandchildren. She cares for her elderly parents and understands the "sandwich generation." She enjoys genealogical research in her spare time.



Rev. Tim Holzerland
West Bloomfield, MI
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Pastor Tim Holzerland was born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1962. He was brought to the waters of Holy Baptism on November 21st, 1962. He grew up in an LCMS home, the son of Lutheran school educators and the oldest of three children. His parents worked in three schools located in Nebraska, Michigan, and Missouri.

Pastor Holzerland received his B.A. in Television Broadcasting at Wayne State College, Wayne, Nebraska in 1985. He was employed at two television stations, WAQP-TV in Saginaw, Michigan, and WTCT-TV in Marion, Illinois and worked in TV production directing various shows.

He enrolled at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri in 1987. He married Kimberly, nee' Mohland, on November 18th, 1989 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Saginaw, Michigan, and he graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1991.

Pastor Holzerland has served three English District congregations: Trinity Lutheran Church, in Swissvale, Pennsylvania, 1991 to 1995; Christ the King Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, 1995 to 2007; and currently serves at the Lutheran Church of the Shepherd King in West Bloomfield, Michigan.

Outside of the pastoral office

- He served as Pastoral Counselor for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, English District from 2010 to 2012.
- He conducted a "spiritual half-hour" at Maple Grove Treatment Center in West Bloomfield from 2010-2014.
- He became the chaplain for the West Bloomfield Fire Department in 2012. He is certified in Critical Incident Stress Management, Suicide Prevention, and Peer Support. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the West Bloomfield Fire Department in 2018 and received a special citation from the International Association of Fire Fighters in 2019. He is a current member of the Federation of Fire Chaplains.
- He received one unit of CPE from Beaumont Health Systems, Royal Oak, Michigan in 2018.

Pastor Holzerland enjoys "upcycling" old and vintage items, photography, gardening, biking, and spending time with his wife, Kim, and their dog, Beau.



Marianne Jackson
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Marianne is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sarnia, Ontario. She was born and grew up in Sarnia with her parents and sister. She graduated from Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School (NCIVS) in 1971 then attended and graduated from the Hamilton and District School of Nursing (1973). She obtained and maintains her Registered Nurse status and license to practice from the College of Nurses of Ontario.

Marianne began her nursing profession at the community hospital in Sarnia (1973) and in 1979 pursued a 40+ year career as an Occupational Health Nurse. Upon retirement (2009), she continued to work part time for Rapids Family Health Team, a primary care facility, as the Occupational Health and Quality Assurance Coordinator (2010-2017) and continues there as a contract consultant today.

Marianne graduated from Ryerson University in Toronto with a certificate in Occupational Health and Safety and held the designation as a Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN-C) with the Canadian Nurses Association until 2019. She graduated with her certificate in Parish Nursing from Concordia University of Alberta (2009) and completed the IDEAS Advanced Learning Program offered to health professionals (2015) towards leading quality improvement in patient healthcare, experience and outcomes.

She is a member of several nursing professional associations and is a volunteer for several health programs offered to the community by Rapids Family Health Team.

Marianne and her husband Tom have been married for forty-six years. They have three grown children and one grandson.



Rev. Dr. Christian Just
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Pastor Just serves as part-time pastor for St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Streetsboro, Ohio. He is "officially" retired but continues to serve the church in the Streetsboro parish, at Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries in Cleveland, and as part of Healing Care Ministries International, located in Ashland, Ohio.

He is a 1973 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis (M.Div.) and holds a doctorate from Ashland (Ohio) Seminary (D. Min. in Formational Counseling, 2009). Formational Counseling involves Spirit-led therapy, Spiritual Direction, and Formational Prayer (what is sometimes referred to as Inner-Healing Prayer). He also graduated from the Pastoral Psychology Institute at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and served on its Board for three years. He has offered himself for counseling especially to area pastors and their families.

He and his wife Kristine enjoy music together (especially the Cleveland Orchestra). He would like to be an avid golfer, if only he could get his game together.



Rev. Greg Michel
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Pastor Greg Michel was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. He attended Concordia University Chicago from which he received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Theological Languages and Mathematics in 1992. He enrolled at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and received his Master of Divinity degree in 1996.

Pastor Michel currently serves at Shepherd of the Coast Lutheran Church in Palm Coast, Florida, where he was installed February 12, 2023. Prior to accepting the call to Shepherd of the Coast, he served at Peace Lutheran Church in New Berlin, Wisconsin (2017-2022); St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Milan, Illinois (2005-2017); St. Peter's & Trinity Lutheran Churches in Wausau, Wisconsin (1998-2005); and St. John's Lutheran Church in Hannibal, Missouri (1996-98).

He has also served as a facilitator in the Synod's PALS program (Post Seminary Applied Learning and Support), chairman for numerous district pastoral conferences, a pastoral advisor for Orphan Grain Train, a board member for a Lutheran high school as well as local Little Leagues, and president of the parents' board of Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, from where his son graduated in 2023.

Pastor Michel and his wife, Sue, have been married since 1996. Sue is very active at Shepherd of the Coast, serving as praise team director as well as coordinator of children's ministries and congregation communications. Their son, Jonathan, works in Peoria, Illinois as the general manager of a high school sports media company. Their daughter, Rebekah, currently attends Concordia University Irvine, majoring in Vocal Performance.

During his free time Pastor Michel enjoys reading, golfing, walking, biking, and spending time at the beach with Sue.



Susan Neff
Retired Parish Nurse, Murrieta, California
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I am a registered nurse and served my congregation in El Cajon, California as a Parish Nurse from 1991 until my retirement in 2019. I continue to serve as the Parish Nurse District Representative for the LCMS English District. I also serve on the board of directors for Lutheran Parish Nurses International.



Rev. Justin Schmidt
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Justin was born at St. Clair hospital in the South Hills of Pittsburgh in August of 1974. Justin began his first year of college at Virginia Tech studying engineering.

The following year, he transferred to Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan where he graduated with a degree in Biblical Studies. While attending college in Ann Arbor, Justin met his wife Marion who was studying elementary education.

Following graduation, Justin continued his studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis Missouri. Justin's vicarage year was spent in Gillette, Wyoming, and he received his first call to a dual parish at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Devils Lake, and Grace Lutheran Church in Lakota, North Dakota. While serving in North Dakota, Pastor Schmidt joined the North Dakota National Guard as a chaplain and was assigned to the 1-188 Air Defense Artillery.

While in North Dakota Pastor Schmidt was blessed by God with a son, Wolfram, and a daughter, Lilia. While expecting his third child, a son, Augustine, he accepted a call to Central Illinois to Peace Lutheran Church.

Finally, in 2018 Pastor Schmidt accepted the call to serve as pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in McMurray Pennsylvania. After leaving his home at the age of 18, Pastor Schmidt came full circle at age 45, returning to where he grew up.

Pastor Schmidt is active with his children's activities, community organizations, and, of course, the Church. To relax Justin enjoys fly fishing, hunting in Western USA, and golfing with family. If Justin is not with his family or doing these activities, you can find him under his Jeep turning a wrench.