

The Reverend James L. Fogle

Pastor Fogle was born and raised in Marion, Ohio. He attended Capital University in Columbus, Ohio as a vocal performance major followed by employment in a variety of settings, including: prison guard, hospital registration supervisor, business manager, at a drug and addiction recovery center, and the state of Ohio.

While working at Grant Medical Center in Columbus he was mentored by the hospital chaplain. It was there that he first contemplated a call to hospital chaplain ministry. He finished his undergraduate degree at Ohio Dominican University, and immediately began studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus. He spent his internship year at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Delaware, Ohio, where he determined he felt called to parish ministry rather than hospital chaplaincy.

Pastor Fogle's first call was to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan. In addition to his parish, he was involved in many activities, including president of the Marquette Ecumenical Clergy Council, instructor for the Northern Great Lakes Synod Lay School for Mission, chairperson of the Synod Worship Committee, on the board of Northern Michigan University's Lutheran Campus Ministry, member of the Marquette Arts and Culture Commission and as an on-call hospital chaplain.

While in Marquette, he assisted in the development of a national ELCA support system for "after-pastors" (pastors in parishes where the previous pastor was removed for inappropriate activities). Pastor Fogle participated in the first two After-Pastor conferences, giving the keynote speech, writing and leading the closing worship service, as well as serving as a chaplain at his second conference.

Pastor Fogle was called to the Southeast Michigan Synod in March 2003, serving as pastor to Messiah Lutheran Church in Swartz Creek (Flint), Michigan and later as an intentional interim pastor at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Grand Blanc, Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Marysville, and in 2006, at Christ the King in Livonia, Michigan. While living in the Flint area, his local and cluster involvement has included serving as president of the local Kiwanis, vice-president of the Greater Flint Council of Churches, and as an on-call chaplain at Hurley Medical Center. He has also served as the dean of the Flint Cluster, the synod Worship Committee and the Synod Council on which he is currently serving. After serving as Christ the King's interim pastor for one-and-a half years, Pastor Fogle was called to serve Christ the King under a two year term call and then later as its long-term pastor on January 13, 2008.

In January of 2011, he was asked to guide the closure of the former St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford, Michigan (Christ the King moved their worship time to allow him to lead worship there). Over the course of a couple of months, St. John's decided to merge with Christ the King for the purpose of continuing mission and ministry instead of an outright closure. This merger concluded in late July of 2011.

At the same time, Pastor Fogle began also serving the former Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westland, Michigan, so for a time he was serving Christ the King, Prince of Peace and St. John's at one-third time each.

For the purpose of future mission and ministry, Christ the King and Prince of Peace began discussions about the possibility of consolidating into one congregation, with a new name, a new location, and a new future together.

On August 1, 2013, Celebration Lutheran Church was formed and Pastor Fogle was called by this new congregation to serve it as its pastor. In January of 2017, Celebration moved into its new home at 39375 Joy Road in Westland, Michigan.

Pastor Fogle is married to Heather Burke-Fogle. Heather is a Dental Hygienist by profession and has a Master's Degree in Dental Public Health Administration.



Pastor and Heather Fogle