

## *The Reverend James L. Fogle*

Pastor Fogle was born and raised in Marion, Ohio. After High School, he attended Capital University in Columbus, Ohio as a vocal performance major. After he left Capital, he was employed in a wide variety of settings, including: serving as a prison guard, working for almost 10 years as a hospital registration supervisor, he was a business manager for a physical therapy firm, he managed a drug and addiction recovery center, and he worked for the Department of Development for the State of Ohio in the Civil Service testing area.

While working at Grant Medical Center in Columbus he was mentored by the hospital chaplain, and upon his encouragement, it was there that he first contemplated a call to hospital chaplain ministry.

He eventually completed his Bachelor of Arts degree at Ohio Dominican University, and immediately began studies for his Master of Divinity at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, both in Columbus, Ohio. He spent his internship year at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Delaware, Ohio, where he determined he felt called to congregational ministry rather than hospital chaplaincy.

Pastor Fogle's first call was to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church in Marquette, Michigan. In addition to serving his congregation, he was involved in many activities, including serving for two years as the President of the Marquette Ecumenical Clergy Council, instructor for the Northern Great Lakes Synod Lay School for Mission, chairperson of the Synod Worship Committee, serving on the board of Northern Michigan University's Lutheran Campus Ministry, was a 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 nationwide support system for "after-pastors" (pastors in parishes where the previous pastor was removed for inappropriate activities). Pastor Fogle was heavily involved in the first two After-Pastor conferences, writing and leading the closing worship service, as well as giving the keynote speech for the second event as well as serving as a chaplain for the event.

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, called as an interim to Christ the King Lutheran 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 as well as the Synod Council.

After serving as Christ the King's interim pastor for one-and-a half years and its ensuing growth during this time, Pastor Fogle was called to serve Christ the King as its long-term pastor.

In January of 2011, he was asked to guide the closure of the former St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford, Michigan. 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. Concurrently, Pastor Fogle has served on the board of the Wayne-Westland Health and Welfare Advisory Board, as well as being involved in the Wayne-Westland Clergy Council.

Pastor Fogle also began discussions with all the congregations about consolidating into one congregation for the purpose of future mission and ministry, 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 then 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, the site of the former Divine Savior Roman Catholic Parish.

Pastor Fogle is married to Michigan native Heather Burke-Fogle. Heather was a Dental Hygienist by profession.