

## “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

### St. John Lutheran Church Saginaw, MI

St. John Lutheran hosted an outdoor food giveaway. Saginaw Metro Ministries provided the leadership for the food that was obtained from the Eastern Michigan Food Bank outreach. Students from Hemlock Middle School, members of ELCA churches and the community staffed the giveaway, which served 100 households.



### Lutheran Church of the Savior Kalamazoo, MI

Lutheran Church of the Savior sponsored and served a meal at Ministry with Community, a day shelter for homeless persons and persons in transition periods. Many of their confirmation youth participated and they are now looking to make it a regular mission of their congregation.

### Christ the King Lutheran Church Gladwin, MI

Members of Christ the King spent “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday participating in various service projects around Gladwin.



### Hope Lutheran Church Plainwell, MI

Members of Hope Lutheran provided teacher care packages for new teachers in the Plainwell and Otsego school districts. They packed 40 reusable bags full of Kleenex, pencils, pens, glue, notebooks, crayons, markers, colored pencils, Ziploc bags, hand sanitizer, and bandaids.

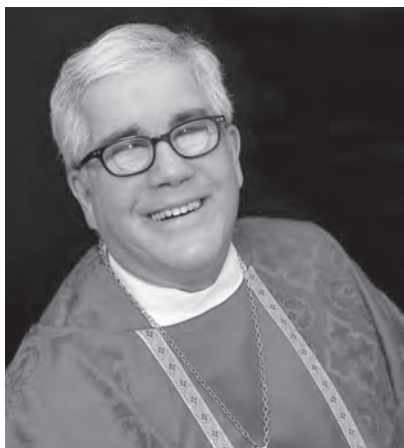
## The fire within

By Chelsey Satterlee

Standing in front of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod during this past year's assembly, Bishop Craig A. Satterlee spoke about the fire in his soul, the fire that drives him to succeed, to push himself further and to strengthen those around him. The fire he speaks of is nothing new. It stems from a life of pushing boundaries, facing challenges and succeeding when others told him he could not.

Born legally blind, Bishop Satterlee has less than 10% of normal vision with correction. As a result of this condition, he has faced challenges from the time he was young. Believing he wouldn't survive to adulthood, his parents were advised not to invest resources in him. The bishop credits his parents, who refused to treat him differently, with igniting the fire within him and showing him that living with a disability would not define what he could accomplish.

After graduating from public school in Roseville, Mich., Bishop Satterlee studied at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (B.A. '82) and then furthered his education at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio (M.Div. '86, S.T.M. '93), and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana (M.A. '98, Ph.D. '00). After teaching homiletics at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for 13 years, he was




Bishop Craig A. Satterlee

elected bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod in 2013, the first person living with a disability to serve in that role.

Bishop Satterlee's drive to understand and fully support the synod has led him to visit every congregation in the first year of his term, to provide resources and understanding through workshops and learning opportunities, and to strengthen the leaders of the synod through ongoing support and guidance.

As he enters his second six-year term, his fire to strengthen those around him is being realized in the Living Stones initiative, designed to help the synod grow spiritually, strengthen connections, and raise up and support leaders. The initiative stresses reviving congregations, raising up lay leaders and rostered ministers, addressing educational debt, offering quality continuing education, expanding youth ministry, coaching and equipping congregations, introducing people to Jesus, and experiencing the love of Jesus in Latino and Native American communities.

The Living Stones initiative may be ambitious, but given Bishop Satterlee's fire and drive, there's no limit to what he and the synod can accomplish. To learn more about the Living Stones initiative, visit [mittensynod.org/living-stones](http://mittensynod.org/living-stones). 

**Chelsey Satterlee** is the communicator for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod.

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# An emerging voice

By Chelsey Satterlee

Every year, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) presents awards to alumni who have distinguished themselves in ministry and faithful service to the church. This year, the Emerging Voice Award, given to an alumnus who has shown excellence in the first three to 10 years of ministry, was presented to the Rev. Kjersten Priddy, who serves Trinity Lutheran Church in Battle Creek, Mich.

Priddy graduated from LSTC in 2012. Her exegetical skills and ability to craft and deliver sermons that integrate pastoral and societal context distinguished her as an excellent preacher and an emerging voice in the church. Since leaving LSTC, she has brought her voice and leadership to the congregation she served in California and now to Trinity.

At Trinity, Priddy has helped the congregation grow in its Lutheran identity and relationship to its neighborhood. The congregation has embraced her vision for social justice and commitment to the community. Trinity, which currently houses



The Rev. Kjersten Priddy

a women's co-op, is seen as a neighborhood hub. In the summer months the church serves as a summer school bus stop, and neighborhood parents and children are welcomed with ice pops as they return from summer school.

This commitment to the community is further evidenced in Priddy's availability and dedication to the community's children, who often visit the church after school to learn chess and talk to her about God.

Priddy has become a leader within the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, serving as a conference dean and as a resource to other pastors in her area. She has also served as chair of the credentials committee and was recently elected to the ELCA Church Council by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly in August.

As Priddy continues to distinguish herself as a synod leader, we congratulate her on her award and look forward to seeing where her voice and vision will lead her in the future. **L**

## Papua New Guinea Mission Trip

This summer, representatives from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod joined three other ELCA synods in visiting their companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea.

The Rev. David Sprang, assistant to the bishop and director for evangelical mission; Mike Piatek-Jimenez; and Rev. David Hueter were the delegates from the North/West Lower Michigan Synod and were able to meet with churchwide officials, participate in worship, and share in celebrations.

