

### Pastor Bio:

I am very excited to be here at Iroquois Ave. Christ Lutheran Church. I look forward to the next couple of years with you as I finish my studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. What follows is my history and process of discovering God's call to ministry.

I was born in St. Joseph, MI in the early 80's, and I enjoyed playing travel soccer, piano and trombone as a kid. After my first year of high school, I moved to Wisconsin and lived there through college. I studied music composition at Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) in Milwaukee and after graduating, I moved to New Bern, NC. There I set up my piano studio and began substitute teaching in the public schools. I started studying for a teaching license, but I did not finish because I found opportunities working with a mentoring agency for patients with disabilities. I received several promotions, but when the healthcare laws changed, my undergraduate degree in music disqualified me from the industry, and I was fired. I spent the next year of my life unemployed, but growing my piano studio. God blessed my studio, which caught the eye of the local family music store. They brought me in as a salesperson during the summer back-to-school instrument rental season. When the education representative quit unexpectedly, I jumped in and found my niche at the store. I worked with school programs across five counties repairing musical instruments, managing the rental program, implementing education seminars and growing the store's presence and reputation.

During the year I was unemployed, I became more active at church. I had fallen away from church while in college, distancing from the religion of my youth. I joined the choir and began developing friendships at church. One Sunday, after I had found work at the music store, my pastor requested help for a Youth Sunday school teacher. I was working at the music store at the time, and my piano studio was successfully running itself. I missed classroom work from substitute teaching and the next thing I knew, I was standing at the front of the sanctuary, volunteering to teach. Ironically, I knew little about Sunday school, having seldom attended as a child. St. Andrew had no formal lesson structure or curriculum. The church gave me the freedom to develop a program myself.

So I created what I did know, a theology class. It was academically intense, energetically taught, and passionately researched. The numbers erupted. Sunday school became a cornerstone part of the youth's busy lives. Years earlier, my godfather and theology professor at WLC, Mark Braun, asked in a class lecture, "How does church inspire you?" I quickly raised my hand, responding, "It doesn't, it's boring and puts me to sleep." He then looked me square in the eyes and said, "Jeff, I don't think you're doing it right." This Sunday school class showed me how to do church. It was less about me and more about this community.

While preparing for a class one day, I thought to myself how much I would rather be hanging out with my friends. I spent most of my free time prepping for Sunday school, and I thought to myself, "I should go to seminary and study this intensely." The next day in church the guest preacher stated we should be careful what we ask the Holy Spirit because we never know where we will end up. Then the next Sunday the pastor announced that many seminary students were in their second career. My ears perked and I began to hear the slow trickle of events that ultimately led me to recognizing God's call to ministry and my place here with all of you.

Blessings,  
Jeff Ogonowski

### **Home Visits**

Sign up to schedule home visits with Pastor Jeff Ogonowski

### **Congregational Meeting**

Next Sunday, February 17

### **The March: The Story of the Greatest March in American History**

Friday, February 22, 2019 at 7pm in the Large Lounge

This is the story of the making of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, told by the people who organized and participated in it. It includes interviews with some of the key actors; members of the inner circles of the core organizational groups; Hollywood supporters and civil rights campaigners; John F. Kennedy administration officials; and the ordinary people who became part of the crowd of thousands, who thronged to Washington D.C. by all and every means: plane, bus and car. It is a story of massive achievement, the catalyst to the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the beginnings of the legacy of freedom for all American citizens. THE MARCH is the story of discrimination, defiance and victory told by the people who made it happen and whose lives it changed forever.

### **Living Water Ministries**

Make memories, make friends, and make a difference in the life of your child by registering them for a week of camp with Living Water Ministries. Our programs are designed to form faith, equip leaders, empower service, and create communities centered in Christ. **Sign up by February 28th** to save \$35.00 on the registration rate. No deposit is required at the time of registration or to secure the discount. Register today at [www.elcalivingwater.com/summer2019](http://www.elcalivingwater.com/summer2019).

### **March 3, 2019**

The installation of Jeff Ogonowski

### **Ash Wednesday Service**

March 6, 2019, 6pm

### **Church's New Website**

[www.iroquoischristlutheran.org](http://www.iroquoischristlutheran.org)

Thank you Kathy Krasity for managing our website and Facebook

### **Notice of Synod Assembly**

May 17-18, 2019 at Calvary Lutheran Church  
6805 Bluegrass Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346