



### **Rev. Michael Meyer**

Director of Disaster Training

The Rev. Michael Meyer has been part of the disaster-response and human-care ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 2013, and he has served as director of Disaster Training since July 2019. In this role, Meyer directs the training programs related to preparedness for, and response to, natural and man-made disasters occurring domestically and

internationally. He works with LCMS districts, congregations, Recognized Service Organizations and external relief organizations to implement the church's immediate and long-term volunteer response in the aftermath of disastrous events. Meyer also oversees the Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) program and the LCMS District Disaster Response Training Program, in which he works with volunteer district disaster-response coordinators (DDRCs) to ensure ongoing disaster-readiness training and preparation among the Synod's districts, congregations, international staff/missionaries and partner churches.

Previously, Meyer served as pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church, Denver, and then as manager of LCMS Disaster Response. A 2008 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Meyer also holds a bachelor's degree in music from Southern Methodist University, Dallas. Meyer and his wife, Heather, have three children: Nathan, Kaitlyn and Emily.



### **Rev. Robert Wurst Jr.**

LERT Volunteer Manager

The Rev. Robert Wurst Jr. serves as Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) volunteer manager for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Disaster Response. To this position, he brings 24 years of experience in parish ministry, as well as experience as a firefighter and EMT.

Wurst graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Mich., in 1988. He earned his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in 1995. He served at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Evansville, Ind., until 2002 and then at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Good Harbor (Cedar), Mich., until 2019.

Beginning in 2003, he also served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT. When the congregation needed to shift to a worker-priest model in 2011, he worked as the executive assistant to the chief with the Glen Lake Fire Department. There he was responsible for many facets of fire department operation and administration.

Wurst has taught Bible classes in American Sign Language; traveled to Siberia twice to teach in the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church's summer seminars; and served on the boards of the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society, Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society and the Traverse Bay Mission Council. He also is a veteran of the U.S. Navy (Naval Nuclear Power Program, 1977–1983), and he recently began working with a local veterans' group to bring awareness to the increase in veteran suicides.

He has been married to his beloved Cheryl for 35 years. They have three children: Stephen, director of Parish Music at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmond, Okla., and doctoral candidate in organ performance at the University of Oklahoma; Grace, PT, DPT, in Chicago; and Samuel, a mechanical engineering student at Michigan Technological University.



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