

Biographical sketch

Rev. J. KRISTER ULMANIS

Pastor Krister is a walking, talking multi-cultural kind of a person with 1,000 stories (or so) to tell. Born and raised in Sweden to Latvian parents he lived in Canada from 1974 until he began work in the SEMI Synod in Michigan in 2013 by coming to St. Paul, Grosse Pointe Farms. Had an opportunity to live in Latvia and serve churches there for a year as part of his spiritual journey. Ordained 1991 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), he officially transferred to the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA in 2015, at which point he moved to Michigan permanently. He became a USA citizen in October 2020. Loves! Love! Loves! Detroit and the Metro Detroit area.

From very early childhood he always wanted to be a pastor. He loves liturgy and church history but loves people more than anything else and most definitely loves to laugh. The door to his office is always open, so feel free to drop in for a chat any time.

Before coming to the SEMI Synod he served five ELCIC congregations as full-time pastor along with once-a-month worshipping Latvian-speaking congregations as well as preached in the Swedish Lutheran Congregation in Toronto from time to time. In the SEMI Synod he served congregations as Intentional Interim Pastor in Grosse Pointe Farms (2 times), Grosse Pointe Woods, Livonia, Sterling Heights, and Royal Oak.

Those who know him know he is a total sports nut - especially "real football" (as he calls it, or soccer as you call it), hockey, baseball, and curling. He has a particular passion for the Red Wings; you will notice that in a big way when you stop by the office after he has moved in. Other hobbies include reading, travel, history, opera, theatre, and music – ranging from classical to punk rock. Passionate patron of the DSO; Huge Eminem fan.

Pr. Krister has a son Niklas, born 1991, whom he raised as a single parent since 1996, and who lives in Guelph, ON.

On September 5, 2015, Pr. Krister and Lela Baugh were married. Lela is a visual arts teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School in Detroit Public Schools Community District and have worked as an Art Therapist at Sanctuary at Bellbrook Retirement Community. They became grandparents for the first time in May of this year as Lela's son and his wife welcomed Imogene Rose into the world. Pastor Krister and Lela reside in Grosse Pointe Park, MI.