

Biographical sketch



Rev. J. KRISTER ULMANIS

Pastor Krister Ulmanis will begin his time with Good Shepherd Lutheran on July 16 for a two year period. Pastor Krister is a walking, talking multi-cultural kind of a person with a 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. 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 here permanently.

Loves! Love! Loves! Detroit and the Metro Detroit area.

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, and preached in the Swedish Lutheran Congregation in Toronto from time to time. In the SEMI Synod he served congregations in Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Woods, Livonia, Sterling Heights, MI before landing Good Shepherd.

He is a total sports nut - especially soccer, hockey, 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. He is quick to share that he was at the last game in Olympia Arena and the first, and last game at Joe Louis., and the first game at the LCA. Other hobbies include reading, travel, history, opera, theatre, and music – ranging from classical to punk rock. Passionate patron of the DSO; Huge Eminem fan.

He has a son Niklas, born 1991, whom he raised as a single parent since 1996. He remarried on September 5, 2015 to Lela Baugh-Creighton. Lela is a visual arts teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. Senior High School in Detroit Public School System and have worked as an Art Therapist at Sanctuary at Bellbrook Retirement Community. Pastor Krister and Lela reside in Grosse Pointe Park, MI.