

Congregational and Community Description

St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School in Frankenmuth, Michigan, traces its beginnings to 1845, when fifteen German immigrants settled in the area with the intent to share the Gospel with the Chippewa people. The first church was a log cabin that also served as a school and the home of the first pastor, Rev. August Cramer. As the congregation grew, a larger sanctuary was built in 1880 and a school was established to support Christian education for local families. The church and school are historically significant as they were central to the founding of the town and the formation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Today, St. Lorenz is recognized for its broad worship life, strong community engagement, and deep commitment to faith formation of the next generation. Traditional, modern, and festival services anchor the church year, while Bible studies, small groups, and more than 70 ministries support the spiritual and practical needs of the congregation, school, and wider community every day.

St. Lorenz School offers a Christ-centered, academically strong environment through its Early Childhood Center (infants through toddlers) and its Elementary and Middle School (Pre-K through 8th Grade). With an emphasis on faith formation, rigorous academics, and Christian citizenship, the school provides comprehensive instruction, extracurricular opportunities, support for students with special needs, and a close partnership with parents. The curriculum is designed to give students a solid academic foundation and a holistic education in a safe, nurturing Christian setting.

Frankenmuth is a rural community, home to approximately 5,000 residents, giving it the charm of a close-knit, walkable community. Rooted in its strong German heritage, the city features Bavarian-style architecture throughout its homes, shops, restaurants, and iconic downtown, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere year-round. Located in Saginaw County just off I-75, Frankenmuth offers convenient access both south toward Lansing and Detroit and north toward Michigan's lakes, Mackinac Island, and the Upper Peninsula. With above-average household income levels and very low poverty rates, the community is known for its culture of generosity and civic engagement.

Frankenmuth is also a major Michigan tourist destination, drawing in millions of visitors annually for its festivals, shops, hotels, and unique attractions. Its highly regarded public school district—and close proximity to Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw—make it an exceptional place for families to live, learn, and grow.

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