



## Section F – Nominations

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# 2024 Synod Assembly Nomination Slate

## (as of March 31, 2024)

### Synod Council - Officer Position

- **Position A:** Synod Treasurer (4-year term thru 8/31/28, elect one)
  - Karen Bird (New Life – Spruce)

### Synod Council – At-Large Positions

- **Position B** Rostered Minister - Female (unexpired term thru 8/31/25 – ratify Synod Council appointment with no further nominations)
  - The Rev. Sherry McGuffin (Cross of Christ – Petoskey)
- **Position C:** Rostered Minister - Female (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)
  - The Rev. Julie Bailey (Ascension – Saginaw)
  - The Rev. Nan Dehnke (St. Paul – Greenville / Settlement – Gowan)
  - The Rev. Kate Schroeder (Immanuel - Jackson)
  - The Rev. Kara Shaw (Trinity - Hillsdale)
- **Position D:** Lay Leader - Male (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)
  - Mr. Frank Hollister (Lebanon – Whitehall)
  - Mr. David Marquette (St. Peter – Battle Creek)
- **Position E:** Lay Leader - Male (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)
  - Mr. Steve Pendziszewski (Prince of Peace – Portage)
- **Position F:** Lay Leader or Rostered Minister - Young Adult - Female (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)
  - The Rev. Kate Van Valkenburg (United Campus Christian Fellowship – Grand Rapids)
- **Position G:** Lay Leader - Person of Color or with Primary Language other than English (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)
  - Ms. Sandra Walker (Redeemer – Lansing)

## **ELCA Churchwide Assembly – Synod Voting Members**

*(The assembly takes place July 28 – August 2, 2025 in Phoenix, AZ)*

- **Position H:** Rostered Minister - Female (elect one)
  - The Rev. Julie Bailey (Ascension – Saginaw)
  - The Rev. Nan Dehnke (St. Paul – Greenville / Settlement – Gowan)
  - The Rev. Kara Shaw (Trinity - Hillsdale)
- **Position I:** Rostered Minister - Male (elect one)
  - The Rev. Rob Schmidt (Christ – Wyoming)
  - The Rev. Travis Wilson (Peace – South Haven)
- **Position J:** Lay Leader – Female or Male (elect one)
  - Ms. Diane Madej (First - Muskegon)
  - Mr. Rich Weingartner (Faith – Okemos)
- **Position K:** Lay Leader or Rostered Minister - Youth / Young Adult– Female (elect one)
  - The Rev. Kate Van Valkenburg (United Campus Christian Fellowship – Grand Rapids)
- **Position L:** Lay Leader - Youth / Young Adult Leader – Male (elect one)
  - Mr. Noah Parker (Hope – Rockford)
- **Position M:** Lay Leader - Person of Color or Person with Primary Language other than English - Female (elect one)
  - Ms. Sindia Narber (Christ – Wyoming)
- **Position N:** Lay Leader - Person of Color or Person with Primary Language other than English – Male (elect one)
  - Mr. Peter McKinney (Trinity – Grand Rapids)

**North/West Lower Michigan Synod - Personal Biography for Nominees for Open Synod Positions**

Please return completed form to sandyschlesinger@gmail.com

Nominated Position (Select all that apply):

Synod Council Officer - Treasurer

Synod Council At-Large Member

2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Phone (Home and/or Cell):

E-mail:

**Experience:**

Occupation/Vocation:

Education:

Home Congregation & City:

Synod Conference Alignment:

Bay Area

Stony Lake

Capital

Sunrise

Kalamazoo

Traverse

Greater Grand Rapids

I Don't Know

**Past and Current Positions / Activities (as applicable):**

Congregation Engagement:

Synod Engagement:

Churchwide Engagement:

Provide brief statement regarding the gifts and skills you bring to this position  
(200 words or less):

**I am willing to serve if elected and I hereby grant permission for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod to print any and all information included on this form in the Synod Assembly report.**

Nominee Signature:

Date:

**Future Availability:**

If not elected, may we keep your name on file for future opportunities?

Yes

No

# Biographical Information

## Synod Council – Officer Position

### Position A: Synod Treasurer (4-year term thru 8/31/28, elect one)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Karen Bird</b>                                                              |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | New Life, Spruce                                                               |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Lecturer Emerita of Accounting, University of Michigan Ross School of Business |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | BS. Lake Superior State University, 1977<br>MBA, University of Michigan, 1988  |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Sunrise                                                                        |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b> Currently serving as Treasurer. Have served as Congregation Council President, Congregation Council member, Interim Task Force member, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher, Confirmation mentor, Youth Group leader, Workcamp leader, Altar Guild member, Lay Assistant/Reader/Communion Assistant, Bible Study participant and leader, Choir member, Sewing Group participant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b> Participated in several Southeast Michigan Synod Assemblies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                |
| <p><b>Gifts and Skills</b> A spiritual gifts discernment class several years ago revealed serving, teaching, and giving as three of my primary gifts, and made it clear to me why I found (and continue to find) great joy and fulfillment in what I did/do in my church, with my family, and in my career. Whether working in a high school outreach program with my own college students, participating in a week-long workcamp experience, serving on my local Library Board, or living life with my family, I have been blessed to be able to combine those gifts in what I do each day.</p> <p>As an accountant and teacher, I know and understand from where the dollars come, where they go, and how they are reported. More importantly, I appreciate and can communicate the story told by those financial resources—the people helped, the lives changed, the work done. I would like the opportunity to serve as the NWLM Synod Council Treasurer as we carry out God’s mission together.</p> |                                                                                |

## Synod Council – At Large Positions

### Position B: Rostered Minister -Female (unexpired term thru 8/31/25 – ratify Synod Council appointment with no further nominations)

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>                    | <b>The Rev. Sherry McGuffin</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Congregation</b>            | Cross of Christ, Petoskey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>     | Pastor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Education</b>               | Lenoir-Ryne University, UNC Charlotte, Trinity Lutheran Seminary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Conference</b>              | Traverse Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b> | As the minister of Word and Sacrament I lead worship, prepare worship; lead and prepare confirmation classes and Sunday school classes, Bible Studies. I empower leadership in our ministries: Paper Pantry; Soup Kitchen; Community Engagement through Interfaith activities of Petoskey; Missing Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG); work with the healing circle of the Boarding School trauma at Holy Childhood Catholic Church ; Zagaswe'iwe: Council to address Holy Childhood; Adopt a Highway; youth of all ages; Elderberries; our local bee haven.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>        | I have served on the synod council; Worship and Music Team; Evangelism Team; Disciplinary team; I try to attend some of our conference meetings (they are the same time as our Bible Study at church); I have volunteered for many areas but have not been used.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>   | I taught for the Educational Team in Chicago for a learning day for churchwide educators; was printed in the Lutheran Magazine (an article); have attended Worship Jubilee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>        | At this time in the changing church I believe that I bring connections, vision and faith. There are many voices that are no longer heard since COVID and I feel that there is an awakening happening, People are called to act with justice, and I do hear them. I also believe that I do have some skills to help bring about change in a way that is for the building up of the kingdom of God. I do not mind conflict. I am willing to work and follow rules and if rules seem to be too patristic or oppressive, I will speak up. I believe that in this new reformation that we need to be ready to love people through the growing times which brings so much uncertainty...but faith, well faith guides us and brings us renewed hope. |



**Position C Rostered Minister – Female (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>The Rev. Julie Bailey</b>                                                                                    |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ascension, Saginaw                                                                                              |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Pastor                                                                                                          |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ADN and BSN (Nursing)--University of Nebraska Medical Center;<br>M.Div.--Trinity Lutheran Seminary/Columbus, OH |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Bay Area                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Congregation Engagement</b> Serving as the pastor with Ascension, I primarily preside at worship, oversee the educational process, equip others for ministry, and provide pastoral care with Word and Sacrament. As a member of the congregation, I participate with others in our Weekend Food Bag program, youth ministry, outreach opportunities, congregational care, and leadership. Called with the congregation, we boldly make Christ known beyond our congregation serving in the community. As part of the congregation I also serve with the larger community working with the Mustard Seed Shelter, community school committees, Center of Hope Food Pantry, and provide pastoral care as needed for congregations in the area without current pastoral leadership.</p>                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Synod Engagement</b> Most recently served with the Disciplinary Committee. I serve locally with area ELCA congregations on a visioning process and serve in the area of pastoral care as needed for congregations without current pastoral leadership.</p> <p>In my 25 years rostered in this synod, I have served with the Candidacy Committee, Evangelism Committee, Youth Committee, Education Committee, First Call Theological Education, Mobility and Call process, and Seminary funding procedures. I participated in several administrative functions of our synod while serving as an Assistant to the Bishop from 2008-2013.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Churchwide Engagement</b> I have attended two Churchwide assemblies, one as a voting member and another as a visitor. I served with a multi-synodical Candidacy Committee and with Region 6 for First Call Theological Education. I am active with online groups of the ELCA, making contacts with others as we dream and share the joys and challenges our Church faces. I am open to serve in any way the church might call me through an affirmation of an external call, as well as experiencing an internal call.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Gifts and Skills</b> I bring experience, along with a passion that the way things have been done are not necessarily what the Church needs moving forward. We are called to be proclaimers of Jesus, in Word and in deed, in Spirit and in truth. I believe multiple sides need to be considered as decisions are made, most importantly listening to the voice of Jesus through Scripture and the Spirit. It is vital that as a church we foster relationships with each other, inviting others into this community.</p> <p>Jesus is about the possibilities, not the probabilities; we too often limit ourselves thinking in with a mindset of scarcity rather than abundance. I believe the Church often plays it too safe, and risk is necessary as we follow the Christ and invite others in a life of truth and joy. It is time for the church to engage in leadership, not solely management.</p> |                                                                                                                 |

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>The Rev. Kate Schroeder</b> |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Immanuel, Jackson              |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Pastor                         |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | MS Nursing, MDiv               |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Capital Area                   |
| <p><b>Congregation Engagement</b> I have served the fine people of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Jackson for just under five years. Together, we survived the pandemic and have continued to flourish since. We tend to worry less about our financial health (although we were challenged to do that recently and have successfully negotiated that challenge) and we tend to concern ourselves instead about how we can love God and serve our neighbor as Jesus commands us to do. Among many other programs, for example, our Food Pantry provides a significant portion of a week's groceries to up to 300 4-person families (or 1200 people) per week! I have never been associated with a congregation that does outreach so well and am blessed to be among these friends and members of Immanuel. In addition to the ways we reach out, that I haven't mentioned, we have a strong choir and two rich worship experiences per week. We have recently committed to being more active in evangelism by engaging together to see what we can do now to sustain our congregation into the future.</p> |                                |
| <p><b>Synod Engagement</b> I attend Synod Assembly. Some conference meetings and serve on the Disability Task Force with Clay Bates, serving with four pastors and the Bishop. I attended Disability Day last fall and plan to do so again in May.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                |
| <p><b>Churchwide Engagement</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                |
| <p><b>Gifts and Skills</b> I hope to be elected to Synod Council so that I can be of serve to the synod that has been so good to me. I tend to be unafraid to try new things and I work well with others. I would very much like to help our synod continue to grow strong into the future in and through our love and service to Jesus and God's people.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                |

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>The Rev. Nan Dehnke</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | St Paul, Greenville and Settlement, Gowen                                                                       |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Pastor                                                                                                          |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | B.A. Concordia University, River Forest, IL; K-12 Education Lutheran Diaconal Assoc., Valparaiso, IN; Deaconess |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Greater Grand Rapids                                                                                            |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Solo pastor for 14.5 years in Indiana and Michigan</p> <p>Leader of Life After Meth program in a local jail/and a transition house 10 years</p> <p>Trevor Project - Listening Partner for LGBTQA Youth, 5 years</p> <p>Board of the Ogemaw Council on Aging, 4 years</p> <p>Trauma Chaplain and Hospice Chaplain, 8 years</p> <p>Community Health Board Member 3 years</p> <p>Grief Support Group Leaders for Families and Individuals, 8 years</p> <p>CASA Volunteer, 2 years</p> <p>Grant Writer/Leader for Life After Foster Care: How to Live in the World, 2 years</p> <p>Emmaus Walk Leader, 2 years</p> <p>Ecumenical Leader for Community Worship, 10 years</p> <p>Supporter and Advocate AA and NA, Listening Partner, 10 years</p> <p>Ecumenical Clergy Hen Group Leader</p> |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Helped prepare and led step 1 of a 4-part program to help 3 congregations begin working on, and instituting LGBTQA inclusion in their congregations</p> <p>Seminarian mentor</p> <p>Diaconal mentor</p> <p>Conflict Resolution Team</p> <p>Lay Ministry Program - taught Worship and Leading for the students</p> <p>Planner/Organizer of Synod Day focused on Worship</p> <p>Bay Conference</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Supporter of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church</p> <p>One Girl, One Bike Ministry of Tanzania</p> <p>World Hunger Advocate</p> <p>International Women Leaders supporter and encourager</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Knowing and trusting that God is at the center of my life, which frees me to respond and nudges me to step out in faith, I am willing to serve if elected in the NW Lower Michigan Synod. I am a foot washer leader who is driven by justice and peacemaking to love God and my neighbors. As a big picture thinker who seeks to engage with the whole people of God, I believe my passions, skills, and experience would add a voice, praying hands and feet for those people who are silenced, unseen, so that they can be present, active and faithful at the table.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>The Rev. Kara Shaw</b>                           |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Trinity, Hillsdale                                  |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Pastor                                              |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Master of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2011 |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Capital Area                                        |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                     |
| <p>Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI, 2023- Present</p> <p>Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Reed City, MI 2020-2023</p> <p>Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Edgemont, AR 2016-2020</p> <p>Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Dorchester, IL and Zion Lutheran Church, Shipman, IL 2011-2016</p> <p>Intern, Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Clair Shores, MI 2009-2010</p> <p>Youth Group Leader, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Wheeling, WV 2001-2006</p> <p>Council Member at Large, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Wheeling, WV 1999-2005</p> |                                                     |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                     |
| <p>Chair, New and Renewing Mission Table, NW-MI Synod 2024-Present</p> <p>Member at Large, Discipline Committee, NW-MI Synod 2020-Present</p> <p>Vice President, Synodical Unit Women of the ELCA, AR-OK Synod 2018-2020</p> <p>Member at Large, Synodical Unity Women of the ELCA, AR-OK Synod 2017-2018</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                     |
| <b>Churchwide</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                     |
| <p><b>Gifts and Skills</b> I'm a creative thinker unafraid to challenge the status quo for a more inclusive Gospel proclamation, utilizing holy imagination. With experience across various synods, I'm recognized for considering diverse perspectives. Both as a lay person and rostered leader, my firsthand experiences offer insights into the Church's potential at its best and worst. I strive to contribute positively to the Church's evolution with a balanced and empathetic approach.</p>                                            |                                                     |

**Position D Lay Leader – Male (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)**

|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <b>Name</b>                    | <b>Mr. Frank Hollister</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Congregation</b>            | Lebanon, Whitehall                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>     | Property Manager, Retired Real Estate Broker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Education</b>               | Math and English Education, Illinois State University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Conference</b>              | Stony Lake                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b> | Stewardship and Evangelism Committees, financial supporter, teacher and student, Sunday morning lessons reader, softball participation, Congregation Council officer and member                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>        | Attended recent synod workshop on evangelism, Churchwide workshop on worship and evangelism, Synod Assembly Voting Member, Global Mission Workshop                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>   | Financial supporter generally, and specifically to World Hunger and Disaster Relief funds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>        | In my 40-year career, I helped hundreds of people negotiate terms of buying and selling properties. I listen to others' opinions and consider seriously what decisions I should make. I have an additional perspective from being physically handicapped and can appreciate other points of view. I have served for many years on the board of a Muskegon non-profit organization. |

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| <b>Name</b>                    | <b>Mr. David Marquette</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Congregation</b>            | St. Peter, Battle Creek                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>     | Retired Senior Team Leader / Project Manager                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Education</b>               | Some college                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Conference</b>              | Kalamazoo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b> | I have a total of ten years Congregation Council experience with two years as Vice President and two years as President. I have held Property Committee Chair position for many years. I serve as Assisting Minister, Service Host, and a member of the Security Team.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>        | I have been a Voting Member of three assemblies, two of which included Bishop elections.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>        | I have been active in my local congregation for over thirty years, serving on Congregation Council for ten years, with 2.5 years remaining in my current term. I completed the Equipping Leaders for Mission and Ministry (ELMM) program and have attended several of the continuing education opportunities provided by the synod. I have a deep understanding of the operations of council and a willingness to serve. |

**Position E Lay Leader – Male (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Mr. Steve Pendziszewsk</b>                                          |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Prince of Peace, Portage                                               |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Priest (1978-88), Clinical Psychologist (1992-2022; licensed), Retired |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Organizational Development), Psy.D.                                    |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Kalamazoo                                                              |
| <p><b>Congregation Engagement</b><br/>           I served for 10 years (3 Catholic parishes in succession);as associate pastor and was Pastoral Director of Religious Education at one of these.<br/>           I was on staff part-time at a U.C.C. congregation, directing/leading the confirmation preparation program.<br/>           I served on the Vestry of an Episcopal Cathedral as member, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden during a time of transition that ended with the sale of the property and initial moves to temporary quarters. At Prince of Peace Church, I serve as a Reader, Worship Assistant, and member of the church choir. Participate in twice-monthly food distribution, monthly Men's Bread Baking Ministry, and now that I am retired, the monthly Men's Breakfast gathering.</p>                                                                             |                                                                        |
| <p><b>Synod Engagement</b> 2024 Synod Assembly Voting Member</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                        |
| <p><b>Churchwide Engagement</b> Prince of Peace Church has become an internship site for ministers-in-training and currently has an intern from the Grand Canyon Synod.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                        |
| <p><b>Gifts and Skills</b> I am married, have 3 adult sons, 2 daughters-in-law and 2 grandchildren. I see the person(s) I am with. I listen well, hearing both what others say and may not be saying. I ask questions, seek clarification and verification that I have understood. I can organize, analyze and synthesize information. I work from a theological perspective based on the understanding that we are created, finite, sinful, redeemed and have a resurrection destiny. I choose to join with others to "do God's work in Christ's name" for the highest good of all.<br/>           I have engaged with others in some form of ministry since third grade This experience has been within Roman Catholic, U.C.C., Methodist, Episcopalian and Lutheran congregations, a Free Methodist university, and 30 years with dedicated people at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers.</p> |                                                                        |

**Position F Lay Leader or Rostered Minister – Young Adult – Female (3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>The Rev. Kate Van Valkenburg</b>              |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | United Campus Christian Fellowship, Grand Rapids |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Pastor                                           |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary            |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Greater Grand Rapids                             |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |
| Pastor at Bread of Life Lutheran Church: June 2020-August 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |
| Mission Developer for United Campus Christian Fellowship: January 2021-August 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                  |
| Director of Ministries for United Campus Christian Fellowship: August 2023-Present                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                  |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b> Currently serving on the Synod Council, the synod's Disability Task Force, and working to help revive the youth and young adult table.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                  |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b> I have grown up in the Lutheran church. I have seen the joys, the struggles, the traditions and the changes. As a young clergy person, I bring a unique set of gifts and skills as I am formally educated in theology and our religious tradition, yet deeply understand the need for growth and intentional change for the church to best serve all people. I strive to find ways to uplift sacred tradition while embracing newness of life for our congregations. |                                                  |

**Position G Lay Leader – Person of Color or with Primary Language other than English  
(3-year term thru 8/31/27, elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Ms. Sandra Walker</b>                                                                                                      |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Redeemer, Lansing                                                                                                             |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | State of Michigan Food Regulatory Program Manager (Retired)                                                                   |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Bachelor of Science, The Ohio State University; Master of Science, Michigan State University (College of Veterinary Medicine) |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Capital Area                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                               |
| Current Congregation Council President<br>Former Helping Hands Christian Learning Center (HHCLC) Board President<br>Current HHCLC Board Member<br>Synod Cooperative Ministry Group                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b> Synod Council Member-at-Large                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>Gifts and Skills</b> As a public servant in the Federal and State Food regulatory industry for close to forty years, I learned to diplomatically gain compliance while facilitating positive and respectful relationships. I managed the state’s food inspectors, supervisors and compliance officers. I was an educator, leader and mentor while fulfilling my duty to serve and protect the consuming public. I led by example, made tough decisions while forming cooperative alliances with agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration, CDC, and USDA.</p> <p>I assist at Redeemer Church in various roles (some leadership) as we build bridges and continue to serve our community. As a cradle Lutheran, I have an interesting history from my life experiences. I believe in fairness while contributing leadership and empathy. I continue to pursue opportunities that focus my abilities as a Christ-centric servant.</p> |                                                                                                                               |



## ELCA Churchwide Assembly – Synod Voting Members

*(The assembly takes place July 28 – August 2, 2025, in Phoenix, AZ)*

### Position H: Rostered Minister - Female (elect one)

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | The Rev. Julie Bailey                                                                                           |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Ascension, Saginaw                                                                                              |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Pastor                                                                                                          |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | ADN and BSN (Nursing)--University of Nebraska Medical Center;<br>M.Div.--Trinity Lutheran Seminary/Columbus, OH |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Bay Area                                                                                                        |
| <p><b>Congregation Engagement</b> Serving as the pastor with Ascension, I primarily preside at worship, oversee the educational process, equip others for ministry, and provide pastoral care with Word and Sacrament. As a member of the congregation, I participate with others in our Weekend Food Bag program, youth ministry, outreach opportunities, congregational care, and leadership. Called with the congregation, we boldly make Christ known beyond our congregation serving in the community. As part of the congregation I also serve with the larger community working with the Mustard Seed Shelter, community school committees, Center of Hope Food Pantry, and provide pastoral care as needed for congregations in the area without current pastoral leadership.</p>                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Synod Engagement</b> Most recently served with the Disciplinary Committee. I serve locally with area ELCA congregations on a visioning process and serve in the area of pastoral care as needed for congregations without current pastoral leadership.</p> <p>In my 25 years rostered in this synod, I have served with the Candidacy Committee, Evangelism Committee, Youth Committee, Education Committee, First Call Theological Education, Mobility and Call process, and Seminary funding procedures. I participated in several administrative functions of our synod while serving as an Assistant to the Bishop from 2008-2013.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Churchwide Engagement</b> I have attended two Churchwide assemblies, one as a voting member and another as a visitor. I served with a multi-synodical Candidacy Committee and with Region 6 for First Call Theological Education. I am active with online groups of the ELCA, making contacts with others as we dream and share the joys and challenges our Church faces. I am open to serve in any way the church might call me through an affirmation of an external call, as well as experiencing an internal call.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                 |
| <p><b>Gifts and Skills</b> I bring experience, along with a passion that the way things have been done are not necessarily what the Church needs moving forward. We are called to be proclaimers of Jesus, in Word and in deed, in Spirit and in truth. I believe multiple sides need to be considered as decisions are made, most importantly listening to the voice of Jesus through Scripture and the Spirit. It is vital that as a church we foster relationships with each other, inviting others into this community.</p> <p>Jesus is about the possibilities, not the probabilities; we too often limit ourselves thinking in with a mindset of scarcity rather than abundance. I believe the Church often plays it too safe, and risk is necessary as we follow the Christ and invite others in a life of truth and joy. It is time for the church to engage in leadership, not solely management.</p> |                                                                                                                 |

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>The Rev. Nan Dehnke</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | St Paul, Greenville and Settlement, Gowen                                                                       |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Pastor                                                                                                          |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | B.A. Concordia University, River Forest, IL; K-12 Education Lutheran Diaconal Assoc., Valparaiso, IN; Deaconess |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Greater Grand Rapids                                                                                            |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Solo pastor for 14.5 years in Indiana and Michigan</p> <p>Leader of Life After Meth program in a local jail/and a transition house 10 years</p> <p>Trevor Project - Listening Partner for LGBTQA Youth, 5 years</p> <p>Board of the Ogemaw Council on Aging, 4 years</p> <p>Trauma Chaplain and Hospice Chaplain, 8 years</p> <p>Community Health Board Member 3 years</p> <p>Grief Support Group Leaders for Families and Individuals, 8 years</p> <p>CASA Volunteer, 2 years</p> <p>Grant Writer/Leader for Life After Foster Care: How to Live in the World, 2 years</p> <p>Emmaus Walk Leader, 2 years</p> <p>Ecumenical Leader for Community Worship, 10 years</p> <p>Supporter and Advocate AA and NA, Listening Partner, 10 years</p> <p>Ecumenical Clergy Hen Group Leader</p> |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Helped prepare and led step 1 of a 4-part program to help 3 congregations begin working on, and instituting LGBTQA inclusion in their congregations</p> <p>Seminarian mentor</p> <p>Diaconal mentor</p> <p>Conflict Resolution Team</p> <p>Lay Ministry Program - taught Worship and Leading for the students</p> <p>Planner/Organizer of Synod Day focused on Worship</p> <p>Bay Conference</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Supporter of the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church</p> <p>One Girl, One Bike Ministry of Tanzania</p> <p>World Hunger Advocate</p> <p>International Women Leaders supporter and encourager</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                 |
| <p>Knowing and trusting that God is at the center of my life, which frees me to respond and nudges me to step out in faith, I am willing to serve if elected in the NW Lower Michigan Synod. I am a foot washer leader who is driven by justice and peacemaking to love God and my neighbors. As a big picture thinker who seeks to engage with the whole people of God, I believe my passions, skills, and experience would add a voice, praying hands and feet for those people who are silenced, unseen, so that they can be present, active and faithful at the table.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                 |

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>The Rev. Kara Shaw</b>                           |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Trinity, Hillsdale                                  |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Pastor                                              |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Master of Divinity, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 2011 |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Capital Area                                        |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                     |
| <p>Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, MI, 2023- Present</p> <p>Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Reed City, MI 2020-2023</p> <p>Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Edgemont, AR 2016-2020</p> <p>Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Dorchester, IL and Zion Lutheran Church, Shipman, IL 2011-2016</p> <p>Intern, Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Clair Shores, MI 2009-2010</p> <p>Youth Group Leader, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Wheeling, WV 2001-2006</p> <p>Council Member at Large, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Wheeling, WV 1999-2005</p> |                                                     |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                     |
| <p>Chair, New and Renewing Mission Table, NW-MI Synod 2024-Present</p> <p>Member at Large, Discipline Committee, NW-MI Synod 2020-Present</p> <p>Vice President, Synodical Unit Women of the ELCA, AR-OK Synod 2018-2020</p> <p>Member at Large, Synodical Unity Women of the ELCA, AR-OK Synod 2017-2018</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                     |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                     |
| <p><b>Gifts and Skills</b> I'm a creative thinker unafraid to challenge the status quo for a more inclusive Gospel proclamation, utilizing holy imagination. With experience across various synods, I'm recognized for considering diverse perspectives. Both as a lay person and rostered leader, my firsthand experiences offer insights into the Church's potential at its best and worst. I strive to contribute positively to the Church's evolution with a balanced and empathetic approach.</p>                                            |                                                     |

**Position I Rostered Minister - Male (elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>The Rev. Rob Schmidt</b>                                           |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Christ, Wyoming                                                       |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Pastor                                                                |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | BA Science, GVSU; MA Counseling, WMU; MDiv, Trinity Lutheran Seminary |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Greater Grand Rapids                                                  |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                       |
| <p>Volunteer - Youth Group Leader St. Lukes Grand Rapids 94 - 97</p> <p>Pastor Zion Freeland - 2006 - 2022</p> <p>Pastoral Care and leadership Our Saviour Saginaw 2018-2022</p> <p>Pastor Christ Wyoming 2022 - present</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                       |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                       |
| <p>Served one year on synod Candidacy Committee</p> <p>Assisted with transition and closing of St. John - Saginaw</p> <p>Attended anchor church training 2019</p> <p>Served Our Saviour Saginaw</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                       |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                       |
| <p>National Youth Gatherings: New Orleans 2012 · Detroit 2015 · Houston 2018</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                       |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                       |
| <p>I have served the church for 8 years as a pastor, presently in my second call. Our churches where I served have actively discussed change, challenge and how to actively maintain health to be present in the world and community. I have walked with multiple congregations facing challenges besides my primary calls.</p> <p>There is energy and effort needed to stay connected at all levels of the church from church council to members, congregation to synod, and synod to the National church. In the midst of our changing world and culture, staying connected takes listening, dialog and conversation focused on loving and serving Jesus.</p> <p>I understand decisions at church-wide assembly represent collective discernment, not personal agendas. I will prepare for the assembly through reading all materials and participating in pre-assembly workshops. After encouraging a member of our congregation to apply for the national assembly in 2025, I became willing and excited to do the same. Should I be allowed to represent the synod I would have a willingness to discuss the experience with anyone prior to, and after the assembly.</p> |                                                                       |

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| <b>Name</b>                    | <b>The Rev. Travis Wilson</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Congregation</b>            | Peace, South Haven                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>     | Pastor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Education</b>               | M.Div. Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Conference</b>              | Kalamazoo Area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b> | <p>I have served two congregations as a pastor providing worship leadership, pastoral care, sacraments and other services while also engaging in community activities. I enjoy ecumenical work with colleagues and members of different denominations and other religious traditions as well.</p> <p>Prior to being ordained, I've served congregations as a youth director, an ELCA National Youth Gathering chaperone, Information Technology support person, and a sound/media technician.</p> |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>        | <p>In service to our Synod, I have served in the past as a member of the Youth Table and the Worship and Music Committee. I have also been a grateful recipient of a grant for seminary indebtedness.</p> <p>Currently, I am a member of the Disabilities Task Force as well as helping with technology needs and slide design.</p>                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>   | <p>I have not served on any committees at the Churchwide level, but I have been a member of two planning groups for the National Youth Gathering as well as a visitor to Churchwide Assembly.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>        | <p>I'm passionate about serving our church and leveraging technology to connect us more effectively. Additionally, I'm deeply committed to inclusivity and ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities. As a hopeful optimist, I believe in the transformative power of God working through us, and I'm eager to contribute to our future as a church.</p>                                                                                                                           |

**Position J Lay Leader – Female or Male (elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                    | <b>Ms. Diane Madej</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Congregation</b>            | First, Muskegon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>     | Retired                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Education</b>               | Associate degree in Accounting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Conference</b>              | Stony Lake                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b> | Treasurer, Congregation Council member, Assisting Minister, Chair of Worship and Arts, Chair of Stewardship(past). Current positions at First Lutheran Church in Muskegon: Member of Stewardship Committee, Treasurer, Council, Assisting Minister, Stephen Minister, Lector, Communion Server.                                                                       |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>        | Synod Council, SEMI/NWLMS joint Candidacy Committee, Co-chair of the NWLMS taskforce on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identify and Expression, Open Hearts Open Church. I am a member of the Publicly Engaged Church Table. Participated in, and completed, our synod’s Lay Ministry Training Program (now known as Equipping Leaders for Mission & Ministry) 2010-2013. |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>   | I was honored to be voted to attend Churchwide Assembly in 2013.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>        | My love for the Church and Jesus, is a gift. When I became an ELCA member in 1995, my heart and life were opened up in ways I never imagined. Being a part of an amazing congregation and how I serve, brings so much joy. When I attended in 2013, Churchwide Assembly, I felt love and pride.                                                                       |

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Mr. Rich Weingartner</b>                                            |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Faith, Okemos                                                          |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Computer Programmer/Analyst                                            |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Central Michigan University - B.S. Computer Science/Mathematics (2000) |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Capital Area                                                           |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                        |
| <p>5/2002 – 4/2016: Newsletter Editor<br/> 2/2004 – 1/2008 Church Council, Financial Secretary<br/> 2/2011 – 1/2015 Church Council, Treasurer<br/> 3/2015 – Present Technology/Media Committee<br/> 5/2016 – Present: RIC Team, Chairperson<br/> 1/2021 – Present Micro Pantry Committee<br/> 9/2023 – Present Transition Team<br/> Ongoing: Reader, Lay Assistant, Handbell Choir, Altar Care, Greeter, Micro Pantry Box Brigade<br/> Periodically: Adult Education leader</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                        |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                        |
| <p>2013-2017 Synod Assemblies Voting Member<br/> 2017 – present Synod Council<br/> 2018 – present Synod Assembly Tech Assistant at in-person assemblies<br/> 2021 – present Synod Assembly Tech lead for Virtual Assemblies<br/> 2014 – present Open Hearts, Open Church: team member<br/> Previous IT Task Force Member</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                        |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                        |
| <p>2013 Churchwide Assembly – congregational observer, communion assistant<br/> 2019 Churchwide Assembly – voting member<br/> 2022 Churchwide Assembly – voting member</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                        |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                        |
| <p>Attending churchwide assemblies always revives my spirit and interest in ensuring that the mission of the church, the mission of God's love, continues to grow and expand to benefit the needs of the world. There is exciting work going on at the churchwide level that is looking at how the church needs to change to stay relevant and inclusive, both with the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC) and various social statements. I am excited about this as it brings hope for the church to continue to connect with people in a flexible and inclusive way. I would value the opportunity to continue to be part of the process. Churchwide assembly is a good reminder of the larger community of faith to which we all belong. I have a passion for both sides of the church. The business side of keeping it running with governance and finances, and also for the real business of the church - sharing and being the love of Christ to the world. With my past and current involvement at all levels I bring experience both in following and participating in meeting proceedings along with ensuring the love of Christ guides all decisions.</p> |                                                                        |

**Position K Lay Leader or Rostered Minister – Youth / Young Adult – Female (elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>The Rev. Kate Van Valkenburg</b>              |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | United Campus Christian Fellowship, Grand Rapids |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Pastor                                           |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | M.Div. from Trinity Lutheran Seminary            |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Greater Grand Rapids                             |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |
| Pastor at Bread of Life Lutheran Church: June 2020-August 2023<br>Mission Developer for United Campus Christian Fellowship: January 2021-August 2023<br>Director of Ministries for United Campus Christian Fellowship: August 2023-Present                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                  |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b> Currently serving on the Synod Council, the synod's Disability Task Force, and working to help revive the youth and young adult table.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                  |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                  |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b> I have grown up in the Lutheran church. I have seen the joys, the struggles, the traditions and the changes. As a young clergy person, I bring a unique set of gifts and skills as I am formally educated in theology and our religious tradition, yet deeply understand the need for growth and intentional change for the church to best serve all people. I strive to find ways to uplift sacred tradition while embracing newness of life for our congregations. |                                                  |



**Position L Lay Leader – Youth / Young Adult Leader – Male (elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Mr. Noah Parker</b>                                        |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Hope, Rockford                                                |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Full-time student                                             |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Rockford High School (2020); Michigan State University (2024) |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Greater Grand Rapids                                          |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                               |
| Member of Hope, Rockford since 2007<br>Member of University, East Lansing since 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                               |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                               |
| Service assistant – 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                               |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                               |
| 2017 Service trip member supporting Nez Perce reservation in Lapwai, ID<br>2018 ELCA Youth Gathering member<br>2019 Youth service trip member supporting Mackinaw City Historical Center<br>2024 Young Adult service trip member supporting foster therapy camp in Maryville, TN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                               |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b> The engagement of Churchwide Assembly is crucial for representing the voices of congregations across all synods. I know my willingness to listen to people’s needs and effective communication skills will allow me to serve as the role of a Churchwide Assembly Voting Member for the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Having started to serve my first term as a Synod Council member, I have grown to appreciate the work by ELCA legislation systems to allow God’s work through his people to be carried out and supported both regionally in our synod and churchwide. I enjoy hearing other people’s opinions on topics they care about and discussion solutions and compromises to have everyone feel heard and represented. If elected, I will come to the Churchwide Assembly organized and prepared to give my full attention and effort in learning and discussing important legislation for our ELCA community. |                                                               |

**Position M Lay Leader – Person of Color or Person with Primary Language other than English – Female (elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Ms. Sindia Narber</b> |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                    | Christ, Wyoming          |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                             | CEO – DK Security        |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                       | Some college             |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                      | Greater Grand Rapids     |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                         |                          |
| Reconciling in Christ committee member<br>Sunday School Teacher<br>Offering Counter<br>Greeter<br>Delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets                    |                          |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                |                          |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                           |                          |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b> I've been a member of CLC (Christ Lutheran Church, Wyoming) since 1996. I am currently the CEO of a security company. I love the Lord and CLC. |                          |

**Position N Lay Leader – Person of Color or Person with Primary Language other than English – Male (elect one)**

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| <b>Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Peter McKinney</b>          |
| <b>Congregation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Trinity, Grand Rapids          |
| <b>Occupation/Vocation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Infrastructure Server Engineer |
| <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Some college                   |
| <b>Conference</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Greater Grand Rapids           |
| <b>Congregation Engagement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                |
| Current: Finance Committee, Security Task Force, IT Coordinate (since 2020), Family Promise overnight volunteer<br>Past: Endowment Committee, Youth and Family Committee, Congregation Council, Treasurer, Volunteer IT Coordinator (2010-2020)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                |
| <b>Synod Engagement</b> Synod Council member – North/West Lower Michigan and Southeast Michigan synods                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                |
| <b>Churchwide Engagement</b> Elected member of the Division for Ministry (1992-1998), attended three Churchwide Assemblies (two as youth and one as adult)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                |
| <b>Gifts and Skills</b> I bring the gifts and skills of a unique perspective of a person who has been highly involved in the church since I was a youth and continue as an adult at all levels. I am Korean American adopted at 4.5 years who had a pastor as a father and a deacon as a mother. I have always advocated to make sure that all voices are represented but also heard. As a voting member of Churchwide Assembly, I will always keep that perspective when electing people or dealing with issues that we are doing it in the best interest of all the voices and people of the ELCA. |                                |