



Section F – Nominations Information

2025 Nominations Slate	D2-D3
Nominating Form	D4-D6
Nominee Biographical Information	D7-D19

2025 Synod Assembly Nomination Slate – General Elections

(* indicates an incumbant nominee willing to serve a subsequent term)

Synod Council - Officer Position

- **Position A:** Synod Secretary (4-year term thru 8/31/29, elect one)
 - The Rev. Dennis Smith (St. John's - Three Rivers)*

Synod Council – At-Large Positions

- **Position B:** Lay Leader - Female (3-year term through 8/31/28, elect one)
 - Ms. Karla Chamberlain (Grace - Lansing)*
 - Ms. Kathy Griffin (St. Paul – East Lansing)
- **Position C:** Lay Leader - Female (3-year term through 8/31/28, elect one)
 - Ms. Diane Madej (First – Muskegon)
 - Ms. Constance Teddy (St. Paul - Greenville)
- **Position D:** Lay Leader - Female (3-year term through 8/31/28, elect one)
 - Ms. Linda Wicander (Immanuel - Mt. Pleasant)*
- **Position E:** Rostered Minister - Male (3-year term thru 8/31/28, elect one)
 - The Rev. Kevin O'Bryan (Zion – Freeland)
- **Position F:** Rostered Minister - Female (3-year term thru 8/31/28, elect one)
 - The Rev. Haley Vay Beaman (Feast of Victory - Acme)
 - The Rev. Sherry McGuffin (Cross of Christ, Petoskey)*

Consultation Committee

- **Position G:** Lay Leader - Female (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)
 - Dr. Erika Dianis (Trinity, Midland)
 - Ms. Kathy Griffin (St. Paul, East Lansing)
- **Position H:** Rostered Minister - Female (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)
 - The Rev. Rosanne Anderson (Advent - Lake Ann)
- **Position I:** Rostered Minister - Female (unexpired 6-year term through 8/31/28, elect one)
 - The Rev. Rachel Laughlin (Prince of Peace - Portage)

Discipline Committee

- **Position J:** Lay Leader - Male (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)
 - Dr. Tim Lundgren (Trinity – Grand Rapids)
- **Position K:** Lay Leader - Male (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)
 - Mr. Richard Winegartner (Faith – Okemos)
- **Position L:** Rostered Minister - Male (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)
 - The Rev. Christopher Laughlin (Immanuel – Allegan)
- **Position M:** Rostered Minister - Male (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)
 - The Rev. Thomas Mammoser (Peace - Gaylord)

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 - Secretary

Synod Council At-Large Member

Consultation Committee

Discipline Committee

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

Nomination Bios – General Election

**concluding first term and willing to serve a consecutive term*

Synod Council - Officer Position

Position A: Synod Secretary (4-year term through 8/31/29, elect one)

The Rev. Dennis Smith (St. John's - Three Rivers) *

Occupation/Vocation: Retired (mostly)

Education: B.A., M.A., M.Div., D.Min.

Conference: Kalamazoo

Congregation Engagement: Pastor of many congregations in MI and Texas.

Synod Engagement: Synod secretary, synod council, chair of Constitution and Worship committees

Churchwide Engagement: Voting member of Churchwide Assemblies (Member of Churchwide rollout of ELW)

Gifts and Skills: As a pastor in this church for 39 years, member of synod council, and chair of the Constitution Committee, I have gained considerable insight into the polity, procedures, and practices of the ELCA and its member congregations. I believe that I bring a depth of knowledge and the heart of a pastor to this office.

Synod Council – At-Large Positions

Position B: Lay Leader - Female (3-year term through 8/31/28, elect one)

Ms. Karla Chamberlain (Grace - Lansing) *

Occupation/Vocation: Retired from self-owned business.

Education: MA in Elementary Education from Michigan State University

Conference: Capital Area

Congregation Engagement: Grace has been my church family my whole life. During this time, I participated in Luther League, Sunday School, VBS, and choir. As an adult, I have served on the congregation council four different times for 3 years each and am currently serving the middle year of a three-year term. I have served as secretary, vice president and president. I have served as a SCS teacher and superintendent. Currently I serve as the congregation's treasurer and am a member of the Finance, Christian Education, Worship & Music and MACO (Membership and Community Outreach-formerly Evangelism) Committees. I am one of the readers of our "Brown Bag Lunch" series every Wednesday. I also am a volunteer in Sunday services, giving the message in

the absence of our pastor, giving children's sermons and liturgist, singing in the choir and playing handbells.

Synod Engagement: on the Synod council has been a great experience for me and one that I hope will continue if I'm re-elected. At the last in-person assembly, I gave a short talk on "Where Do I See Jesus" and encouraged those attending to clean their "Jesus windows" and see how people are fulfilling Jesus' commandments. Grace also hosted the last virtual Synod assembly and provided the opportunity for other congregations in the conference to gather together during that time.

Churchwide Engagement: Grace has participated in "God's Work. Our Hands." every year. We are an inner-city church that strongly believes in ministering to our neighbors. Our church building hosts one of the Greater Lansing Food Banks in addition to a smaller little food pantry positioned outside the building. Grace also provides space and beds for a community garden. Having just completed a city mandated sewer/storm water separation project, we intend to resume our hosting of an Easter Egg Hunt, Trunk-or-Treat and summer cookouts. (Street construction on two sides of our corner lot prevented us from hosting during that construction.) I contribute financial support for Synod projects such as disaster relief and World Hunger appeals.

Gifts and Skills: My desire to serve others is based on Jesus' command to care for others- in particular, those less fortunate than myself. My background includes teaching in a public school for 12 1/2 years and owning my own business for 30+ years. I have experience with school and business-related topics and feel I have a good understanding of church committees and how they function. I believe that my strongest gifts are God-given and include being inclusive, nonjudgemental and willing to share and spread the good news of the Gospel.

Ms. Kathy Griffin (St Paul – East Lansing)

Occupation/Vocation: Team Lead at Walmart

Education: Theological Study, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Conference: Stony Lake

Congregation Engagement: Currently I am serving my congregation as the Congregational Council President; member of the choir; member of the Music and Worship committee; assist in teaching Confirmation classes; help with our congregations food pantry by unloading and stocking food as well as helping to plan and maintain the pantry garden and assisting as necessary during distribution of food to our clients. I help to lead weekly worship as part of our Praise team; as Assisting minister most Sunday's; Reader occasionally; and counter as scheduled.

Synod Engagement: In the past I served on the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Board here in Michigan at a difficult and exciting of change as we sold one of the camp properties and changed the ministries name to Living Water Ministries beginning a new and

exciting chapter in our outdoor ministry. I have served multiple times as a delegate from my congregation to synod assembly.

Churchwide Engagement: I have not yet had the opportunity to serve at the Churchwide level. I did, however, get to attend the installation of our current Churchwide Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. This experience allowed me to have a glimpse of the larger church, of which I would like to see more.

Gifts and Skills: I often tell people that I was born Lutheran... I am the third generation of my family that has been a part of this church family. I see this as a gift that God has given to me. I grew up with all of the traditions and beliefs that make us Lutheran. I have also seen the world as I served in the US Navy, multiple congregations in the ELCA, and the retail industry. I earned my Master of Theological Study from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. As a result of these varied experiences I have grown as a person with skills in listening, leading, teaching, caring and seeing the best in others. As I look to retirement I look forward to using these skills to serve my church in new and exciting ways.

Position C: Lay Leader - Female (3-year term through 8/31/28, elect one)

Ms. Diane Madej (First – Muskegon)

Occupation/Vocation: Retired

Education: Two years of college

Conference: Stony Lake

Congregation Engagement: Assisting Minister, Server, Lector, member of the Care Team, Congregational Treasurer, Worship and music, Stephen Ministry, Chair of Stewardship, council member.

Synod Engagement: Synod Council, Co-Chair of Synod task force, Open Hearts, Open Church, Publicly Engaged Church.

Churchwide Engagement: Attended the 2019 Churchwide Assembly

Gifts and Skills: All that God has called me to do has given me so much joy. The gift I was given when first elected to the Synod Council, is a gift I would like to share again. I have been discerning for several months if I feel called to once again be a member of council, and God has put it in my heart.

Ms. Constance Teddy (St. Paul - Greenville)

Occupation/Vocation: Retired Michigan State Police Officer

Education: Some college

Conference: Grand Rapids Area

Congregation Engagement: I have served on Council for numerous terms. Most recently as President of Council and joint President of the Alliance between Settlement Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran churches. I remain active in our food ministry where we serve those who need comfort and support. I participate in our book club where we read and discuss the different genres recommended by its members. This past year has allowed me to work with the Bishop's office and I have grown to appreciate the varied hats members of our Synod Office wear, as well as the support they give each of our congregations.

Synod Engagement: I have had the pleasure of working with the Synod Office through the normal and abnormal activities of the Alliance Program.

Churchwide Engagement:

Gifts and Skills: I have interpersonal skills that have been developed over the years of serving with the Michigan State Police. These skills allow me to work well with my peers, as well as recognize areas of sensitivity. My terms of office in our church Councils have allowed me to stay current on the goals and objectives of our Synod and given a greater understanding of the church as a whole. My working relationship with the Synod Office has allowed me to grow in service and an understanding of the myriad concerns we face as a church. Remembering that Jesus is the center, if we keep our eyes on Jesus we will do well.

Position D: Lay Leader - Female (3-year term through 8/31/28, elect one)

Ms. Linda Wicander (Immanuel - Mt. Pleasant) *

Occupation/Vocation: I retired as Director of Student Services at the College of Business Administration at Central Michigan University. I love being around university students and faculty. I am committed to lifelong learning for myself and other people. I participate in Aquinas College Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). I have led Road Scholar programs on Mackinac Island in the summer.

Education: I have a B.A. in English from California State University in Los Angeles and an MBA from Central Michigan University. I completed Old Testament, New Testament, Judaism, Historical Jesus, Christianity, Ethics and Morality in the Bible, and Gender and Sexuality in the Bible at Central Michigan University. I graduated from our Synod's Lay Ministry Training Program (ELLM) in 2016. I completed Luther Seminary's School for Lay Ministry in October 2022.

Conference: Bay Area

Congregation Engagement: I am President of Congregational Council. We are developing a Strategic Plan and a new Mission Statement, and we are preparing for a Stewardship Campaign. I am also an Assisting Minister, a member of the Altar Guild and a women's book group, and I also deliver home communion. Past Activities include Chair Adult Forum Committee, Chair Reformation Celebration, Church Council President, member of

Congregational Life Committee, Council representative to the Ministry with Each Other committee and Secretary to the CMU Wesley Foundation board.

Synod Engagement: I served on Synod Council 2014-2021 and 2022 to present. I am also a member of the Executive Committee. I am chair of the Seminary Debt Reduction Assistance Program Team. I am a member of the References and Resolutions Committee. I previously served on the Nominating Committee and the Bishop Election Committee. I completed our Synod's Spiritual Formation program and Group Spiritual Direction Program.

Churchwide Engagement:

Gifts and Skills: I am a strategic thinker, and I like looking at the "big picture" issues. I also like planning and implementing actions and programs. I am a passionate Lutheran and very passionate about our Synod but at the same time I am very ecumenical. I enjoy worshipping at other denominations and learning about other religions.

Position E: Rostered Minister - Male (3-year term thru 8/31/28, elect one)

The Rev. Kevin O'Bryan (Zion - Freeland)

Occupation/Vocation: Rostered Minister of Word and Sacrament

Education: BA Philosophy- Oakland Uni., M.Div.- Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital Uni.

Conference: Bay Area

Congregation Engagement: Associate Pastor- Trinity Lutheran, Latrobe PA; Pastor- Mannsville Lutheran, Elliptsburg, PA; Pastor- Zion Lutheran, Freeland, MI

Synod Engagement: Synod Council Member- Lower Susquehanna Synod; Chair of Constitution Committee- Lower Susquehanna Synod

Churchwide Engagement:

Gifts and Skills: I have a deep passion for leadership and service, viewing both as opportunities to glorify God by stewarding my talents and encouraging others to do the same. I approach each task with prayerful discernment that reflects my integrity, compassion, and authenticity. I am eager to contribute these gifts to the Synod, trusting that through collaboration and faith, we can achieve great things for God's glory.

Position F: Rostered Minister - Female (3-year term thru 8/31/28, elect one)

The Rev. Haley Vay Beaman (Feast of Victory - Acme)

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education: M.Div.

Conference: Traverse

Congregation Engagement: Ministry of Word and Sacrament; Home and hospital visitation; Administration and team building; Program ministry with children, youth, and families; Campus ministry; Music ministry; Racial Justice Ministry; Reconciling in Christ taskforce; Community organizing and engagement

Synod Engagement: Candidacy Committee Chair Synod Assembly worship leader

Churchwide Engagement: Taskforce: Justice for Women Social Statement; ELCA Youth Gathering planning team

Gifts and Skills: Pastor Beaman is originally from Williamsburg, Virginia and has served at Feast of Victory Lutheran Church in Acme since 2023. She currently serves part-time in chaplaincy roles for Munson Hospital in Traverse City and Autumn House (formerly Samaritas) Senior Living Community. She previously served calls at University Lutheran Church/E. Lansing and Zion Lutheran Church/York, PA. She is trained and experienced in the areas of confrontation and conflict resolution, executive level ministry leadership, campus ministry, intergenerational faith formation, and interfaith ministry. She currently serves as Chair of our Synod's Candidacy Committee. Previously she has served on the ELCA taskforce for the Justice for Women Social Statement. Throughout her ministry, Pastor Beaman has excelled at fostering faith and life connections, building community partnerships, and sharing how the gospel of Jesus Christ is at work in the world.

The Rev. Sherry McGuffin (Cross of Christ, Petoskey) *

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education: Lenoir-Ryne University; UNC Charlotte; Trinity Lutheran Seminary

Conference: Traverse Area

Congregation Engagement: 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.

Synod Engagement: 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. This past two years I finished out a term that was vacant and I have grown and truly love serving on synod council. I would love to continue serving for as long as I am allowed.

Churchwide Engagement: I taught for the Educational Team in Chicago for a learning day for churchwide educators; was printed in the Lutheran Magazine (an article); attended Worship Jubilee. I also have taken continuing education classes from churchwide, seminaries and our local synod as well as through different faith expressions.

Gifts and Skills: 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 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 oppressing, I will speak up. I believe that in this new reformation we need to be ready to love people through the growing times which bring so much uncertainty...but faith, well faith guides us and brings us renewed hope. I also believe that I have the gift to work to break down walls of oppression and to create space for voices that have been silenced through abuse of power and control. We have a wonderful church in the ELCA and we are always reforming. I am blessed to be a part of this reform.

Consultation Committee

Position G: Lay Leader - Female (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)

Dr. Erika Dianis (Trinity, Midland)

Occupation/Vocation: Clinical Psychologist

Education: Bachelor of Music and Psychology Master and Doctor of Clinical Psychology
Master of Health Administration and Leadership-August 2025

Conference: Bay Area

Congregation Engagement: I have attended Trinity Lutheran Church my whole life and been very involved in church life. As a youth, I actively engaged in youth group activities from attending national gatherings to fundraising to volunteering for church events. Providing music has also been a part of my life. I sang in the children's and youth choirs and now sing with the adult choir. During high school, my mother was the director of the children's choir for which I was their accompanist. We performed monthly as well as putting on a full musical presented at all services and within the community at local nursing homes. I assisted her with getting soloists ready and providing support with choreography, set design, and costumes. During college I was the director of a youth choir in a non-Lutheran church. When I returned from college, I resumed being the accompanists for both the children's and youth choirs until I entered graduate school. In addition to playing piano, I have played flute for chorale pieces, as a soloist or for Advent or Lenten services. I have provided special music on the organ. I am also a member of the bell choir, and we perform monthly. Two years ago, I was a participant in an ecumenical production of Lamb of God presented for the whole community. From 2019-2020 I served on a mutual ministry team and provided support and guidance to the members. I also plan to become trained in Stephen Ministries once a new training opens and am looking for ways to partner with community organizations to better support and educate about mental health and the church.

Synod Engagement: In 2019 I became interested in global missions and planned to travel to Honduras in 2020 as part of the Companion Program between Iglesia Christiana Luterana de Honduras (ICLH) and the NW Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA, but Covid postponed our trip. Given the global shutdown, our team instead provided two Zoom trainings (e.g., titled "Living with Covid: A Mind, Body, Spirit Perspective" and diabetes education) in 2022 to the health volunteers. In 2024, the team was able to travel to Honduras to provide a weekend workshop for the health volunteers. Until 2022, the focus of these trainings primarily has been to provide medical information about certain diseases and how best to manage them. By joining the team, the health volunteers are now being educated about mental health. Specifically, ways to identify anxiety, depression, and burnout in self and ways to engage in self-care to promote balance and resilience. We strive for our training to incorporate the mind (mental health), body (medical), and spirit (spiritual) for a holistic approach. In 2024, I attended the Mitton Synod Disability Learning Day and actively participated in discussions on how best to

support those with disabilities engage in/with the church. I also provided an all-day training for the NW Lower Synod's Autumn Leadership Event for Rostered Ministers which was titled "Walking Alongside Mental Health: How to Support My Congregation."

Churchwide Engagement: I have a lifelong relationship with the Lutheran Church. As a youth I was very active in my church youth group and attended two national youth gatherings in Atlanta and Dallas. I remain active in my church and will continue to support them with my gifts.

Gifts and Skills: I am a clinical psychologist by training, and I am committed to helping people. I took an oath to do no harm and pride myself in being able to treat others with respect and dignity while creating a nonjudgmental atmosphere. Conflict exists all around us and is especially present within the work environment. Many variables, such as mental health issues, personalities, and differences of opinion can lead to conflict, boundary violations, or situations where finding a resolution is difficult. Professionally, I am bound by the mental health code as well as a code of ethics. Life does not happen in black and white but often creates gray area challenges. These codes help me navigate such challenges and guide me to behave in both a moral and ethical manner. I can objectively evaluate conflict and help others to see both sides of the issue to find a resolution. Additionally, my faith helps me to be honest, compassionate, and faithful when dealing with stressful situations and conflict. I am honored to have the opportunity to apply for this position and to continue to support the synod.

Ms. Kathy Griffin (St Paul – East Lansing)

See bio under Position C (Synod Council At Large, Lay Leader, Female)

Position H: Rostered Minister - Female (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)

The Rev. Rosanne Anderson (Advent - Lake Ann)

Occupation/Vocation: Rostered Leader

Education: M.Div., Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 1995

Conference: Traverse

Congregation Engagement: All duties as Pastor at these congregations: Advent, Lake Ann; St. John, Lake City; Trinity, Manton; King of Kings, Lake Orion; Transfiguration, Taylor.

Synod Engagement: Assistant to the Bishop, North/West Lower Michigan Synod, 2018-2023; Conference Dean, North/West Lower Michigan and Southeast Michigan Synods; Director of Candidacy, NWLMS; Chair of Candidacy Committee, SEMS; Chair of Worship Committee, SEMS.

Churchwide Engagement: Churchwide Assembly Voting Member – Denver CO, Milwaukee WI, Pittsburg PA.

Gifts and Skills: Thirty years of pastoral leadership in the ELCA, plus twenty years of pastoral experience, plus twenty years of experience in a former denomination, have allowed me to develop and utilize skills particularly attuned to working with congregations and individuals in developing healthy ministry and mutual collaboration.

Position I: Rostered Minister - Female (unexpired 6-year term through 8/31/28, elect one)

The Rev. Rachel Laughlin (Prince of Peace - Portage)

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor

Education: Div, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (2010) MA in Psychology, Wittenberg University (2006)

Conference: Kalamazoo

Congregation Engagement: I serve as the pastor of Prince of Peace, Portage, and enjoy being part of our ministry together. We have a twice monthly food distribution and free store (giving away cleaning and personal care products), a refugee furniture ministry, and a Good Samaritan fund that assists with rent and utilities. I love preaching and planning worship and getting to know the people under my care. Our congregation has been growing in recent years, so I've been enjoying meeting new members, teaching confirmation again, and working with leaders to support new initiatives and activities. I enjoy getting to work with fantastic staff, dedicated council leaders, and a faithful congregation. In 2024, I served as a seminary internship supervisor as well.

Synod Engagement: I have served on the Mitten Synod worship committee for the past 14 years. I have been part of Matrix Campus ministry since 2017. I am part of the Disability Ministry team. I am currently our synod's representative on the Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University advisory board.

Churchwide Engagement: Prince of Peace got to be part of the ELCA's Congregations Lead Initiative in 2022-23 and is currently involved in the ELCA Faith Formation CoOp. I was blessed to be elected as a voting member to Churchwide Assembly in 2019.

Gifts and Skills: I listen well, try to ask good questions in complex situations, and strive to understand those situations to the best of my ability before making judgements or decisions. I have been told my presence is non-anxious and comforting.

Discipline Committee

Position J: Lay Leader - Male (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)

Dr. Tim Lundgren (Trinity – Grand Rapids)

Occupation/Vocation: Attorney (partner in law firm)

Education: J.D. from Michigan Law; Ph.D. from The Ohio State Univ.; MA from Univ. of Colorado - Boulder; BA from Hope College

Conference: Greater Grand Rapids

Congregation Engagement: Served as co-chair of congregation call committee for senior pastor; serve/have served as lector and usher; serve on Property Committee

Synod Engagement: Served on Synod Council 2018-2024

Churchwide Engagement:

Gifts and Skills: As an attorney (although largely a regulatory attorney, admittedly) I bring an understanding of due process, and a respect for procedural norms and giving everyone an opportunity to be fairly heard and considered. As a former academic I understand the value of hearing differing points of view and appreciate how a person's perspective is informed by their experiences and can color perceptions of what is going on around them. In short, I believe that I bring patience and willingness to listen and consider people's points of view before forming conclusions that would be of value in the kinds of sensitive situations that might need to be addressed by a person in this position.

Position K: Lay Leader - Male (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)

Mr. Rich Weingartner (Faith - Okemos)

Occupation/Vocation: Computer Programmer/Analyst

Education: Central Michigan University - B.S. Computer Science/Mathematics (2000)

Conference: Capital Area

Congregation Engagement: 2002 – 4/2016: Newsletter Editor; 2/2004 – 1/2008: Church Council, Financial Secretary; 2/2011 – 1/2015: Church Council, Treasurer; 3/2015 – Present: Technology/Media Committee; 5/2016 – Present: RIC Team, Chairperson; 1/2021 – Present: Micro Pantry Committee; 9/2023 – 9/2024: Transition Team; Ongoing: Reader, Lay Assistant, Handbell Choir, Altar Care, Greeter, Micro Pantry Box Brigade Periodically: Adult Education leader

Synod Engagement: 2013 – 2017, 2025: Synod Assemblies Voting Member; 2017 – 2024: Synod Council; 2018 – 2023: Synod Assembly Tech Assistant at in-person assemblies; 2021 – 2024: Synod Assembly Tech lead for Virtual Assemblies; 2014 – present: Open Hearts, Open Church: team member; Previous IT Task Force Member

Churchwide Engagement: 2013 Churchwide Assembly – congregational observer, communion assistant; 2019 Churchwide Assembly – voting member; 2022 Churchwide Assembly – voting member; 2025 Churchwide Assembly – voting member (upcoming)

Gifts and Skills: We live in a both/and world. We are both part of the church and part of society. We are both God's beloved children and we live in a broken world. Through this we strive to live according to God's will, but at times people fall short. We are called to handle these situations with love and grace. I often describe my mind as having two major sides - my logical side and my emotional side. When I encounter conflict, I will use both sides, so that I can analyze the situation, gather the facts, and logically think about what has happened and the best course of action. My emotional side works to make sure that any people involved are shown care and love through a difficult situation. It is through these skills that I feel I would be a good fit for the discipline committee. Being able to carefully assess the situation to determine the best course of action, while remembering that we are all God's children, who are loved and have God's grace, but who live in a broken world.

Position L: Rostered Minister - Male (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)

The Rev. Christopher Laughlin (Immanuel – Allegan)

Occupation/Vocation: Pastor, US Army Chaplain

Education: BA , Wartburg College; MDiv, LTSG; Command and General Staff Officers Course

Conference: Kalamazoo

Congregation Engagement: Pastored three congregations in two conferences. Served as chaplain to three battalions and two brigades; instructed junior chaplains and am now a staff-chaplain lackey. I have overseen staff, balanced personalities, guided community outreach, led education and worship. I have education in boundaries, processes, and organized leadership. I have enforced discipline and encouraged mercy. I respect bureaucracy as long as it serves its stated purpose – and I rail against it when it works against its own interests or fails to be honest, transparent, or self-aware. I acknowledge that the right balance between confidentiality and transparency can be a tough one to find, and I tend to err on the side of transparency.

Synod Engagement: Consultation Committee, 2011-2017; Credentials Committee, 2013-2017; Candidacy Committee, 2022-2022. I am collegial and I distrust "lone wolves." I attend conference meetings, and I work hard to build and strengthen those relationships. I have built and maintained relationships with colleagues and bishops around the ELCA. This synod has been good to me, and while I am aware of how other synods operate, North/West Lower Michigan Synod is the only synod that I know from the inside as clergy.

Churchwide Engagement: ELCA Chaplain Corps, 2011-present. I have seen enough of the churchwide organization (sometimes through the experience of others) to be disillusioned and cynical (perhaps my biggest shortcoming.)

Gifts and Skills: Mission-focus; attention to detail; respect for process and discipline, balanced with the recognition of an individual's humanity. I have very strong boundaries, which can make me intolerant of those who have boundaries I understand to be too porous. I understand bureaucracy – including its value to mission – because I for my entire adult life (23 years.) Whether or not they are willing to admit it, the Church and the Army have much in common (for good or ill.)

Position M: Rostered Minister - Male (6-year term through 8/31/31, elect one)

The Rev. Thomas Mammoser (Peace - Gaylord)

Occupation/Vocation: retired ELCA pastor

Education: B.Mus., Bowling Green State University, 1980; M.Div., Trinity Lutheran Seminary, 1984

Conference: Sunrise

Congregation Engagement: Pastor – St Johns, Rogers City and St Peter, Metz, 1984-1989; Various long-term assignments a vice-pastor in the Virginia Synod while studying at UVA, 1990-1997; Pastor – Peace, Gaylord, 1997-2018; retired since 2018; stated supply at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Grayling, 2020-present.

Synod Engagement:

Churchwide Engagement:

Gifts and Skills: