Nominations

Nominations for all positions will be taken at the opening of the assembly only.

No nominations will be received after nominations are closed.

Any positions remaining open following synod assembly will be appointed by synod council.

SYNOD COUNCIL

3 positions open; 1 rostered male, 1 lay female, 1 youth member

The Synod Council is the Board of Directors of the Synod and is its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. The Council makes decisions not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or not precluded by provisions of the Synod's constitution and bylaws or the constitution and bylaws of the ELCA.

Synod Council Rostered Male – 3 Years (vote for one)

Rev. Chris Strohm (he/him/his)

- Congregation/Ministry: New Hope (Blanchardville/ Hollandale)
- Present Occupation: Pastor
- **Education:** MDIV- Wartburg Theological Seminary; BS-Economics-University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Congregational & Community Activities: Pastor
- **Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Churchwide Assembly Delegate (twice, South Dakota Synod), Synod Council (South Dakota Synod), Executive Council-2 yrs; (South Dakota Synod)
- Gifts this person would bring:

I bring my experience from being on the synod council in my previous synod of South Dakota. I also was on the executive synod council for two years. In my previous call I served as the conference President. I bring my love for the church and the ELCA and my desire to help guide us into the future as a leader of this Synod.





Synod Council Lay Female — 3 Years (vote for one)

No nominees at time of publication.

Synod Council Youth Member — 2 Years (vote for one)

No nominees at time of publication.



CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

4 positions open; 1 rostered male, 1 rostered female, 2 lay female

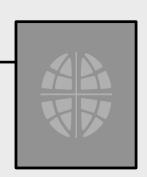
The Synod Consultation Committee is a constitutionally mandated committee which serves in an advisory capacity for the Office of the Bishop. The Consultation Committee may be called upon to help navigate disagreements or disputes within or between congregations.

Consultation Committee Rostered Male — 6 Years (vote for one)

Rev. Mark Dressel (he/him/his)

- Congregation/Ministry: Trinity (Lake Mills)
- Present Occupation: Pastor
- Education: Cornell University, major -Government, BA 1992, Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MDiv, 1996, Harvard Divinity School, program - Christianity and Culture, ThM 1997
- Congregational & Community Activities: Christ Lutheran Church, Sharon, WI (1997-2007), Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, WI (2007 Present)
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Almost two terms on Synod Council (completed a term for a member who resigned and then served a full term). Many Synod Assemblies and Convocations. Involved in Area ministry.
- ° Gifts this person would bring:

I've been blessed to work with a lot of wonderful people and to see God's grace on numerous occasions. I try to address small challenges while they are still small, and to find the good in people and situations.





Consultation Committee Rostered Female — 6 Years (vote for one)

Rev. Michelle Elfers (she/her/hers)

- Congregation/Ministry: St. John's Evangelical (Richland Center)
- **Present Occupation:** Pastor
- Education: MDIV, Trinity Lutheran Seminary; JD, UW-Madison, MA Portuguese, UW-Madison, BA Anthropology, Wright State University



- Congregational & Community Activities: Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church in Richland Center Wisconsin (Jan. 2019-present), Pastor at New Hope, WI (2016-2019), in Indianapolis, IN (2011-2016), in Louisville, KY (2006-2011) Lawyer in Madison, WI (Elfers, Knoll and Hart 1995-1998; Elfers Law Office 1998-2001), Board Member (South Louisville Community Ministries 2007-2011, University of Indianapolis Ministry Board 2013-2015, Richland County Ministerial Association 2019-present)
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Transformational Ministry Team, Indiana-Kentucky Synod (2008-2015); Connect Transformational Ministry Team, South-Central Synod of WI (2016-2018); Dean, Iowa/Richland/Grant Counties Conference of the South-Central Synod of WI (2019-2023)
- Gifts this person would bring: Compassionate heart. Serving in congregations with losses due to prior pastor death to suicide, prior pastor death from heart attack, and theft of money by lay leaders. Legal training.

Consultation Committee Lay Female — 6 Years (vote for two)

No nominees at time of publication.



COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE

5 positions open; 1 rostered male, 1 rostered female, 2 lay male, 1 lay female

The Committee on Discipline is a constitutionally mandated committee which acts to administer a thorough review and, as necessary, discipline process upon congregations and rostered ministers. The Committee on Discipline meets on the call of the Office of the Bishop should charges be either pending or submitted.

Committee on Discipline Rostered Male — 6 Years (vote for one)

Rev. Richard Inglett (he/him/his)

- Congregation/Ministry: Sugar Creek (Elkhorn)
- Present Occupation: Pastor
- **Education:** B.L.S., M.Div. S.T.M.
- Congregational & Community Activities: Walworth County Sheriff Chaplain; Blessing in a Back Coordinator Delavan School District; Internship Supervisor
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: New Testament instructor, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin Lay School of Theology (past); Old Testament and New Testament instructor South Central Synod of Wisconsin Diakonia School (past); Rural Ministry work on behalf of Synod; Synod Wide Listening Session Leader with Interim Bishop Peter Rogness on behalf of South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
- Gifts this person would bring:

I have 35 years of parish pastor experience in four congregations. For 20 plus I have been a clinical fellow of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. In these roles I have had any number of experiences with working with groups, congregations and at the synod level working with these entities in destress and challenge.





Committee on Discipline Rostered Female — 6 Years (vote for one)

Rev. Sara VanDeBerg (she/her/hers)

o Congregation/Ministry: Immanuel Evangelical (Lake Geneva)

• Present Occupation: Pastor

^o Education:

Congregational & Community Activities: Co-Pastor of Immanuel in Lake Geneva since 2017; I was ordained in 2002,

and have served continuously in parish ministry since then. This is my 4th congregational call.

Synodical/Churchwide Activities:

Gifts this person would bring:

In 21 years as a pastor in 4 different congregations, I have had a wide variety of experiences with both rostered and lay leaders within those congregations and in the surrounding communities. I have served in urban, suburban, and small town contexts, and I have been a solo pastor, an associate, and now as co-lead pastor. I have the spiritual gifts of wisdom and discernment, and I am a careful listener and thoughtful speaker.





Committee on Discipline Lay Male — 6 Years (vote for two)

Brian Johnsrud (he/him/his)

Congregation/Ministry: Castle Rock (Fennimore)

Present Occupation: Recently retired

o Education: High School

Congregational & Community Activities: Council President for Castle Rock Lutheran; Chairman of the Town of Castle Rock

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Member of the Synod Nominating Committee; Member of LUAD

Gifts this person would bring:

A desire to be a part of the ELCA organization beyond my own church. I would like to help doing the next right thing.

Gus Knitt (he/him/his)

Congregation/Ministry: Lakeview (Madison)

Present Occupation: Retired

Education: Bachelor's--UW Stevens Point; Master's--UW

Whitewater; Specialist--UW Milwaukee

Congregational & Community Activities: Interim Business

 Manager--Glendale River Hills School District; Sales person--Mousehouse Cheese Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Synod Candidacy Committee; Synod Reference and Counsel Committee

Gifts this person would bring:

Experience as School Administrator in dealing with discipline of school employees. Involvement in synod committees gives me understanding of operation of synod.





Steven W. Marshall (he/him/his)

Congregation/Ministry: Bethany English (Wisconsin Dells)

Present Occupation: Retired

o **Education:** High School plus

o Congregational & Community Activities: Lutheran Men in

Mission; Portage Lions Club

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Lutheran Men in Mission

Gifts this person would bring:

Have good listening skills, is fair and keeps an open mind.





Committee on Discipline Lay Female — 6 Years (vote for one)

Mary Irwin (she/her/hers)

^o Congregation/Ministry: First Evangelical (Beaver Dam)

Present Occupation: Church Musician

Education: St. Olaf College

Congregational & Community Activities: Direct choir, ring bells, organist; Loaves and Fishes; Beaver Dam Area Orchestra; Lay reader

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: LUAD council; Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation

 $\circ\;$ Gifts this person would bring:

I am a good listener, compassionate, and empathetic. I prayerfully consider serious decisions and challenges. Since I am retired from full time work (music teacher) my schedule is flexible.



ELCA CHURCH COUNCIL NOMINEES

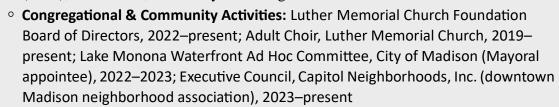
2 positions open; 2 lay male

From the ELCA's website: "The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is both the board of directors of a Minnesota nonprofit corporation and the interim legislative authority of the churchwide organization, one of the three "expressions" of a denomination with deep roots in the U.S. In fulfilling its dual constitutional roles, the Church Council exercises fiduciary, strategic, and generative responsibilities to govern the ELCA churchwide organization."

ELCA Church Council Nominees Lay Male (vote for two)

Andrew Stevens (he/him/his)

- Congregation/Ministry: Luther Memorial (Madison)
- Present Occupation: Assistant Professor of Ag & Appl. Econ, UW–Madison
- Education: PhD (2017) & MS (2013), Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley; BS (2012), Economics, University of Chicago



- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Candidacy Committee, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 2021—present; Innovation Leadership Team, ELCA Churchwide, 2021—2022; Voting Member, ELCA Churchwide Assembly (2011, for the Saint Paul Area Synod; 2016, for the Sierra Pacific Synod; 2019, for the Southeastern Synod; and 2022, for the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin); Synod Council, Sierra Pacific Synod, 2015–2017
- Gifts this person would bring:
 Over the past fifteen years, I have been a full or associate member of five ELCA congregations in five different synods. In each congregation and synod, I integrated myself into the church community and its work, giving me many rich perspectives on the opportunities and challenges our ELCA communities face. As a result, I now feel well-equipped to share my time and effort as a member of the ELCA Church Council.





Paul Waelchli (he/him/his)

- o Congregation/Ministry: Trinity English (Fort Atkinson)
- Present Occupation: Library Director University of Wisconsin Whitewater
- Education: Master of Information and Library Science; Master of Arts in Teaching



- o Synodical/Churchwide Activities:
- Gifts this person would bring:

Paul is a gifted administrator and project manager. In his work, he excels at communication and advocacy. Paul has strong faith in Jesus Christ and is committed to the ELCA. As he is a Pastor's spouse, his gifts are untapped in a local congregation.





ELCA CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

15 positions open; 3 rostered male, 2 rostered female, 3 lay male, 4 lay female, 1 layperson of any gender, 1 youth or young adult, 1 person of color or person whose primary language is other than English.

The Churchwide Assembly is the highest legislative body of the ELCA. The assembly will gather in 2025 and will review the work of the churchwide officers and churchwide units; receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies; establish churchwide policy; adopt a budget for the churchwide organization; elect officers, board members, and other persons as provided in the constitution or bylaws; establish churchwide units to carry out the functions of the churchwide organization; have the sole authority to amend the constitution and bylaws; fulfill other functions as required in the constitution and bylaws; conduct such other business as necessary to further the purposes and functions of the churchwide organization. (Source: ELCA.org)

CONTESTED ELECTION

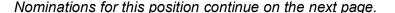
ELCA Churchwide Assembly Rostered Male (vote for three)

Rev. Eric Bakken (he/him/his)

- Congregation/Ministry: West Koshkonong (Stoughton)
- **Present Occupation:** Ordained Clergy
- Education: B.S. in Education; M.A. in History; M. Divinity Congregational & Community Activities: Bread for the World; ELCA World Hunger; Cambridge Ministerial; Bible Camp _o Advocate
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Active in Conference meetings; Active in local text study group; Served five years as a Mission Developer; Served 12 years as a Campus Pastor

Gifts this person would bring:

I have served the church as a Program Director (3 years) at a Lutheran Camp; 12 years as a Campus Pastor; 3 years in a rural 3-point parish; 5 years as a Mission Developer; 16 years as a Senior Pastor in a large congregation; and now 5 years serving two small rural churches in this synod.







Rev. Gus Barnes (he/him/his)

o Congregation/Ministry: Peace (Belmont)

 Present Occupation: Pastor, Faith (Cuba City) and Peace (Belmont)

o Education: Master of Divinity

O Congregational & Community Activities: Synod People of

Color; Belmont Community; Cuba City Community; Funeral Planner

 Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Churchwide Assembly 2022; Synod Assembly Planning Team

 $^{\circ}$ Gifts this person would bring:

A person of color who meets God's people wherever they are. An urban raised man who understands rural living and the needs of the people.





Rev. Erik Jelinek (he/him/his)

Congregation/Ministry: Central (Edgerton)

Present Occupation: Pastor

Education: M. Div.

Congregational & Community Activities: Free Community Meal

Organizer at Central Lutheran; Volunteer at Edgerton

Outreach; Edgerton Ministerial

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Former Director of Evangelical Mission for the SCSW; Discipline Committee for the Synod; Synod Council; Former Churchwide Assembly Voting Member for Montana Synod

Gifts this person would bring:

Pr. Erik is a gifted minister with experience at the congregational, synodical, and churchwide level. He works well in the church of the present but is always look for ways for the church to thrive into the future. He believes that building relationships, both in the church and in the communities, we serve is essential.



Rev. Daniel O'Brien (he/him/his)

- Congregation/Ministry: Messiah (Madison)
- Present Occupation: Associate Pastor Education:
- o B.A. / MDiv
- Congregational & Community Activities: Visitation Ministry; Outdoor Ministry/Environmental Justice and Education; Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Support
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Care of Creation Synod team member
- Gifts this person would bring:

A younger voice excited to get involved with the life of the wider church, seeking ways to engage our congregations with the movement of the wider church. Pr. Dan is new to the synod and to rostered ministry and desires to get to know the wider church more thoroughly.

Rev. Chris Strohm (he/him/his)

- Congregation/Ministry: New Hope (Blanchardville/ Hollandale)
- Present Occupation: Pastor
- **Education:** MDIV- Wartburg Theological Seminary; BS-Economics-University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Congregational & Community Activities: Pastor
- **Synodical/Churchwide Activities:** Churchwide Assembly Delegate (twice, South Dakota Synod), Synod Council (South Dakota Synod), Executive Council-2 yrs; (South Dakota Synod)

Gifts this person would bring:

I bring my experience of already attending a churchwide assembly and synod leadership through my previous synod.





ELCA Churchwide Assembly Rostered Female (vote for two)

Rev. Brenda Crossfield (she/her/hers)

)

- o Congregation/Ministry: First English (Platteville)
- Present Occupation: Pastor of First English Lutheran Church

Education: MDiv from Wartburg Seminary

Congregational & Community Activities: Ruby's Pantry; Ecumenical Worship services; Quilting groups/LWR; Hospice

_ work

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Currently Dean of our conference; Campus Ministry

Rev. Amy Waelchli (she/her/hers)

Congregation/Ministry: Trinity English (Fort Atkinson)

Present Occupation: Pastor

 Education: Double graduate of Wartburg Theological Seminary. MA 2003. MDiv 2014

- Congregational & Community Activities: Lead Pastor: called to serve a growing community of faith, I work with a talented staff and an engaged leadership team; Community Presence: you'll find me at the Pride Day celebrations, out for breakfast before worship on St Patty's, and conducting funerals for anyone in town who desires a Christian burial; Ministerium Convener: working ecumenically post COVID on community projects like our Lenten 40 Days of Giving to help the Fort Atkinson Food Pantry.
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Bold Cafe Presenter: I recently had the pleasure of being the guest presenter for the Women of the ELCA's online community dinner meeting; SCMOT, former member
- Gifts this person would bring:

I'm a creative and collaborative thinker who's commuted to the this expression of Christ's church. I believe the Spirit is moving us toward a bold witness in the world.





ELCA Churchwide Assembly Lay Male (vote for three)

Tim Asplund (he/him/his)

0

Congregation/Ministry: St. John's (Madison)

Present Occupation: Water Resources Sup., WI Dept of

Natural Resources

Education: MS Water Resources and Limnology, UW Madison

o and BA in Biology, Gustavus Adolphus College

Congregational & Community Activities: Worship Team co-lead, St John's Madison; Sanctuary Design and Visioning Team lead, St John's Madison; Volunteer poll worker,

^o City of Madison; Bay Creek Neighborhood Association volunteer

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Churchwide Assembly voting member in 2009
 Gifts this person would bring:

As a life long Lutheran, I have constantly strived to discern what God is calling me to do, as well as the Church as a whole, to help carry out God's plan in the world. I bring a listening ear, an open mind, and a compassionate heart to everything I do in my work, community, congregation and family life. I would be honored to serve the ELCA at this important time in our church life.



Dale Holmen (he/him/his)

Congregation/Ministry: Bethel (Madison)

• **Present Occupation:** Retired construction

Education: BS Political Science/ community service

Congregational & Community Activities: Bethel Adult Choir 50 years; Bethel Usher leadership 45 years; Representative

work in Madison Urban Ministry Homeless Men's Shelter (Grace Church)

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Lutherans United After Disaster (Past President) founding member and current Board member; Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) regional committee.

Gifts this person would bring:

Lifelong Bethel Member third generation of five generation membership. Lifelong advocate of social service and committee.



Andrew Stevens (he/him/his)

- Congregation/Ministry: Luther Memorial (Madison)
- Present Occupation: Assistant Professor of Ag & Appl. Econ, UW–Madison
- Education: PhD (2017) & MS (2013), Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of California, Berkeley; BS (2012), Economics, University of Chicago
- Congregational & Community Activities: Luther Memorial Church Foundation Board of Directors, 2022–present; Adult Choir, Luther Memorial Church, 2019– present; Lake Monona Waterfront Ad Hoc Committee, City of Madison (Mayoral appointee), 2022–2023; Executive Council, Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc. (downtown Madison neighborhood association), 2023–present
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Candidacy Committee, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, 2021—present; Innovation Leadership Team, ELCA Churchwide, 2021—2022; Voting Member, ELCA Churchwide Assembly (2011, for the Saint Paul Area Synod; 2016, for the Sierra Pacific Synod; 2019, for the Southeastern Synod; and 2022, for the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin); Synod Council, Sierra Pacific Synod, 2015–2017
- Gifts this person would bring:

I have served as a voting member at four past Churchwide Assemblies (2011, 2016, 2019, and 2022). I enjoy serving the broader church in this way and would be happy to do so again in Phoenix—especially if there is the possibility I would be elected to the ELCA Church Council at the Assembly. Of course, I am happy for others to have this experience, too.





ELCA Churchwide Assembly Lay Female (vote for four)

Jeanette Burkum (she/her/hers)

- Congregation/Ministry: St. John's Evangelical (Richland Center)
- **Present Occupation:** Substance Abuse Counselor
- Education: Master's in psychology
- Congregational & Community Activities: Past church
 president; past church council member; Participate in the church walk with grace
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Attended Churchwide assembly.

Gifts this person would bring:

fundraiser.

I would bring the gift of understanding of the church and what it stands for. The love and grace that i receive from God in my daily work and home life. I help in the church by projection set up and attend women's bible studies. Before coming to St. John's Lutheran was a member in the lacrosse synod and attend every synod assemble and also work with the committee for the sister church in Ethiopia.



Raelene Freitag (she/her/hers)

Congregation/Ministry: Advent (Madison)

Present Occupation: Retired

Education: PhD, MSW

Congregational & Community Activities: Leadership (Advent

council, MCC leadership team,); Road Ahead Review

(Co-lead team to assess key aspects of ecumenical partnership, make recommendations, and help implement.); Music for worship (choir, frequent musician); Community volunteer work (food pantry delivery, volunteer driver for Dane County Sanctuary, Stream monitor)

Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Lay delegate to one synod assembly 10-15 years ago

Gifts this person would bring:

In my career and in other leadership or task-based groups, I can actively facilitate or support another person's facilitation. I help create safety and bring about collaboration.



Jean Lincoln (she/her/hers)

- Congregation/Ministry: Our Savior's (Beloit)
- Present Occupation: Lay Pastoral Asst(PT)@ OSLC-Beloit (semi-retired)
- Education: Synods Lay School of Ministry, additional credits for AIM from Wartburg
- Congregational & Community Activities: Lutherans on the Move (traveling group); Fellowship Committee/Young at Heart; Worship, Music and the Arts Committee; Caring Team
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Previously a voting delegate to Churchwide in Chicago; Previous member of the Synod Youth Board; Supply Lay Pastor for area congregations; attends text study with local pastors.
- Gifts this person would bring:

I have a wide range of gifts having worked side by side with youth, families, adults and our senior members. I am active in the adult choir and have directed youth choirs in the past. I have assisted with teaching confirmation and was a mentor for a student. I enjoy assisting our youth and visiting with our shut-in and hospitalized. I feel I understand our members and what they are going through.





ELCA Churchwide Assembly Layperson of Any Gender (vote for one)

(Elaina) Meier (any pronouns)

- Congregation/Ministry: Advent (Madison)
- Present Occupation: Therapist/Teacher/Pharmacy Tech
- Education: BA in History and Secondary Education; MA in Writing; MS in clinics mental health counseling; anticipated PhD in Counseling Psychology



- Congregational & Community Activities: Transgender Community Support (e.g., letter of readiness Pride Fest pop-up booths, Trans Wellness WI non-profit mutual aid efforts, etc.); Intergenerational drama team for worship services and stewardship season; Confirmation and Sunday School teacher; Mentoring of preservice and early-career psychotherapy clinicians.
- Synodical/Churchwide Activities: Creator/Organizer for Trans Community of Faith meals; Wis. Faith Voices for Justice interfaith Trans-focused programming (Trans Day of Remembrance, etc); Former Bible Camp waterfront & recreation director; 2024 Synod Assembly Voting Representative
- Gifts this person would bring:

Meier has a careful discernment about the church's ministries, with an eagerness for extending welcome and for integrity in what we say and do. Meier value's Lutheran theological identity and baptismal heritage, including after the comparison through time in a conservative megachurch. As a member of and advocate for the transgender community (among other things, like deep passion for the wellbeing of young people), Meier is an expression of diversity in the Body of Christ.



ELCA Churchwide Assembly Youth or Young Adult (vote for one)

Claudia VanBendegom (she/her/hers)

_o Congregation/Ministry: St. Luke's (Middleton)

o **Present Occupation:** Student

^o **Education:** HS Senior

Congregational & Community Activities: Church breakfast, Mission trips, Youth chaperone, Vaccine clinics

Synodical/Churchwide Activities:

O Gifts this person would bring: Thoughtful, measured, adaptable.





ELCA Churchwide Assembly Person of Color or Person whose Primary Language is other than English (vote for one)

No nominees at time of publication.

