



Section IV

Nominations

Report on Nominations to the Presidium

DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Nominee	# of Nominations	Response
Allan Buss	35	Accepted nomination

The following nominees did not have a sufficient number of nominations (5), according to the Bylaws, to be placed on the ballot:

Elstner Lewis	1
Mark Schulz	1

DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT, NORTH REGION

Nominee	# of Nominations	Response
Michael Brown	6	Accepted nomination

The following nominee did not have a sufficient number of nominations (2), according to the Bylaws, to be placed on the ballot:

Matthew Hoffmann	1
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DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT, WEST REGION

Nominee	# of Nominations	Response
Caleb Schauer	8	Accepted nomination

The following nominee did not have a sufficient number of nominations (2), according to the Bylaws, to be placed on the ballot, and had been called to eternal glory before nominations closed:

Ken Krause	1
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DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT, EAST REGION**Nominee # of Nominations Response**

Steven Anderson	9	Accepted nomination
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The following nominee did not have a sufficient number of nominations (2), according to the Bylaws, to be placed on the ballot:

Leonard Payton	1	
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DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT, SOUTH REGION**Nominee # of Nominations Response**

Cory Estby	7	Accepted nomination
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Rev. Allan Buss

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

VICARAGE, Mt. Olive, Corning and St. Paul, Red Bluff California, 1988-1989

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hampshire, Illinois, Vacancy Pastor

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hampshire (Pingree Grove), Illinois, Vacancy Pastor

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH, Dundee, Illinois, Sole Pastor, 1990 to 2000

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, Belvidere, Illinois, Senior Pastor, 2000 to present
2018, Vicarage Supervisor, 7 Years

District Experience

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT – LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

First Vice President, 2006 to 2015

Board of Directors, 2000 to 2015

Chairman General Pastoral Conference, 2001 to 2004

Mission Board, 1997 to 2000

Various Floor Committees and Conventions

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT – LCMS, President, June 2018 to Present

Synod Experience

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois

ASIAN MINISTRY COMMITTEE, 1997-1999

SYNODICAL CONVENTION DELEGATE, 1992, 1998, 2010, 2016

CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEE, 1998, 2010, 2016

CONVENTION, 2016 Morning Worship Preacher

CONVENTION FLOOR COMMITTEE CHAIR, 2019 “Life Together”

ENGLISH DISTRICT Professional Worker Conference, Spring 2017 Presenter “The Pastor and the Hard to Love”

Ethiopian Evangelical Mekane Yesus Pastoral Conference, Addis Abba, Ethiopia,
Spring 2016 Presenter “Preaching and the Word of God”

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY WISCONSIN/Ann Arbor – Board of Regents, 2016 to
Present (Advisory)

CUW/AA – Governance Committee, 2016 to Present

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO – Board of Regents, 2018 to Present

CUC – Student Success Committee, 2018 to 2020



CUC – Institutional Advancement Strategies Committee, 2020 to Present
 COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS – Placement Committee, 2018 to Present

Community Service Experience

BELVIDERE FIRE CHAPLAIN, 2010 to Present
 BELVIDERE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 2001 to 2018
 RUTLAND/DUNDEE TOWNSHIP FIRE CHAPLAIN, 1994 to 2000
 ELGIN BREAKFAST ROTARY, 1996 to 1998
 UNITED WAY OF DUNDEE TOWNSHIP, 1993 to 1997

Mission of Work

The Mission always begins with God's work to bring fallen humanity back to Himself. He does that in Christ who comes and gives Himself for the redemption of the world by His atoning work. I rejoice that the Lord has brought me to faith and kept me in the faith by His Means of Grace. I rejoice in faithful pastors, teachers, and parents who did the right things to foster faith. This mission brings us into the Church, the Body of Christ, where we are connected to each other always looking to Jesus. In gratitude we would give to others what we have received inside and outside the Church. The LCMS is far from perfect except made holy in the righteousness of Christ. There is no other church body I would rather be a member and a pastor of than the LCMS. I appreciate our confession of Christ, the love and proclamation of Scripture, and our Lutheran Confessional identity. These all are gifts to be received and given to others. Over the past three plus years as District President, I have seen the true beauty the Lord has given the NID. We have been under the watchful eye of the Lord of the Church. (Psalm 34:15)

If called upon, I am willing to serve again. I am grateful for our congregations, schools, ministries, and our ordained and commissioned workers. We are also blessed with wonderful men and women who serve as lay servants and leaders, and I believe they are also key to what Christ is doing among us and in the world. Our work together includes accountability, fidelity, worship, mission, and prayer.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The Gospel of Jesus always presents opportunities and open doors for the furthering of the reign of Jesus in the world redeemed by His blood. I believe that our opportunities are presented in **Word, Wellness, and Witness**. We hold and proclaim the truth of the **Word** in a hostile culture with Satan being our worst enemy. That Word is always a gift that we need to be more deeply engaged with as congregations, schools, ministries, and as individuals. The Word of God works! I am concerned about the **wellbeing** of congregations, schools, and our RSOs as we face challenges and discouragement. Our workers have been challenged by COVID-19 and many issues beyond our control. Some have given up. Our laity need to be lifted up and encouraged as well. There is great joy in **witnessing** about Christ in all His fullness and richness. When the Word is spoken, the Spirit of God is at work! I believe we need to have it on our hearts to be more intentional about faith-sharing in the Church and in our communities.



I am grateful for the NID Board of Directors and our work together. The value and use of our Circuit Visitors has increased over the past three years. The Presidium has been a blessing in their counsel, time, and care for our common work. Our NID staff is dedicated to serving in ways required by the Synod and for the good of the NID. Like every ministry, there is much that happens that is done in a quiet and helpful way.

Goals:

1) To be the Church at this time and in our place faithful to our calling and commitments with our faith joyfully and faithfully confessed. (I Peter 2:9, 10)

Candidate Contact Information

Education

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL, Watertown, Wisconsin, 1978

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL, Lake Mills, Wisconsin, 1982

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, Mequon, Wisconsin, Bachelor of Arts, 1986

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Master of Divinity, 1990

TRINITY EVANGELICAL DIVINITY SCHOOL, Deerfield, Illinois, Doctor of Ministry Program, Completed Courses

PLI – GET Program for Senior Pastor Training

Continuing education courses from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Occupation

LCMS NORTHERN ILLINOIS, District President

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Belvidere

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1964

LCMS District Membership Year: 1989

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2000



Rev. Steven Anderson

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I served my Field Work at historic Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri with from 1995-1997.

I served my Vicarage at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Torrington, Wyoming under supervisor, the Rev. Marvin Temme, from 1997-1998.

After earning my Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary in 1999, I received the Divine Call to Messiah Lutheran Church at 62nd and S. Monitor, Chicago, in April 1999. I served as Sole Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church from July 18, 1999 until October 31, 2003.

After serving as Vacancy Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and School from January 2003 until November 2003, I was installed as Sole Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and School, Chicago, Illinois on November 9, 2003, where I still serve, now in my 19th year.

I also served as Interim Principal at Gloria Dei School in 2015.

District Experience

I have served as: a member of the Program Committee for the Northern Illinois District East Region Pastoral Conference from 2000-2003,

as Vice-Chairman of the Northern Illinois District East Region Pastoral Conference from 2003 until 2019,

as member of the Nominating Committee for the Northern Illinois District General Pastoral Conference 2005-2006,

as a member of the Program Committee for the Northern Illinois District General Pastoral Conference from 2000-2003,

as a member of the Theology and Church Relations floor committee for the 2006 NID Convention,

as the Treasurer for the Northern Illinois District General Pastoral Conference from 2007-2010,

as the East Region Clergy Representative on the Northern Illinois District Board of Directors from 2003 until 2015,

as Circuit Visitor for Circuit E13 from 2015 to 2017,

and currently as East Region Vice-President (4th, 3rd, and 2nd) since 2017.

I also currently serve as Chairman of the East Region Pastoral Conference since 2019.

Synod Experience



I served as the voting Clergy Delegate from (former) Circuit 20 of the Northern Illinois District at the 2001 Synodical Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

I served as the voting Clergy Delegate from (former) Circuit 19 of the Northern Illinois District at the 2007 Synodical Convention in Houston, Texas.

Community Service Experience

I have always lived in the community of the congregations I served, and was a member of the Midway Clergy Association until it disbanded. I also have attended local Chamber of Commerce Meetings, as well as Chicago Police District 8 Meetings with their Clergy Liaison.

Mission of Work

At the very core of the Church's Mission is the work of preaching the Good News of the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, come to save all people from sin and death. The Church is called to proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' Name (see Luke 24). We are to equip the faithful to live their faith in Christ within the different vocation(s) into which God has placed them, as well as make disciples by reaching out to those outside the Church, and being a beacon of the light of the Gospel in this present darkness. We do this by teaching God's Holy Word that is centered in Jesus Christ, who gave His life for the absolution of the world, and by living out our baptismal identities in Confession and Absolution and the faithful receiving of Christ's Body and Blood in the Holy Communion. We must also feed and nourish pastors and church workers with this good news, so that they can feed and nourish others with it.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The City of Chicago and its immediate surrounding area are constantly changing. New people move in to make a home, as other groups move out. The surrounding culture is also ever changing. We are right now in such a period of substantial change, but this can be a blessing to us, as the stark difference between the way of this world and lives of those within the Holy Christian Church becomes even more starkly apparent. Congregations that have for decades been talking about ways to work together with possible mergers, shared pastors, etc., will now have to start implementing these changes or simply close. As important as church buildings are (and they certainly are as they are where the Word and Sacrament come to us!), the days of clinging to brick and mortar are ending. We must work together to feed the faithful and reach out to the lost.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

Walther Lutheran High School, Melrose Park, IL, Diploma, 1988

Columbia College, Chicago, BA, IL, 1992

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, 1999

Occupation

Lutheran Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Gloria Dei

Congregation City: Chicago

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1970

LCMS District Membership Year: 1970

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2003



Rev. Michael Brown

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Associate Pastor - Redeemer Lutheran Church - Lincoln, Nebraska

Pastor - Saint Matthew Lutheran Church - Barrington, Illinois

District Experience

District Life Coordinator - English District - 2012-2018

North Region Vice President - Northern Illinois District - 2020-Present

Synod Experience

Rostered Ordained Pastor

Community Service Experience

Lincoln Lutheran Middle & High School - School Association Pastoral Advisor

Lutherans For Life - Nebraska - Pastoral Advisor

Belize Mission Society - Board Of Directors

Congregations For Concordia (Seward) - Pastoral Delegate

Hartley Elementary (Public) School Community Advisory Group

Mission of Work

Christ's Church exists to strengthen the saved and save the lost.

It is God alone (sometimes through, sometimes despite us) who accomplishes these great things. When the saved are drawn closer together around Christ in His Word and Sacraments (His cross and tomb for us here and now), their faith is sustained, deepened, and bore out with good fruit. That's how Christ, through His Church, strengthens the saved by His Word and the Spirit.

Christ's Church also exists to save the lost. The same Word and Spirit that draws us together to receive forgiveness, life and salvation in Jesus, pushes us back out into the world to share this new life with others, so that the lost may be saved too. Through our vocations and in our relationships, we love, serve, and share Jesus with others; inviting them to gather with us around the same Jesus we hear, taste, and are cleansed anew by each week. That's how Christ, through His Church, saves the lost by His Word and the Spirit.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals



I am willing to serve in the area nominated, if the nomination committee deems my service beneficial to the NID.

Candidate Contact Information

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Master of Divinity - 2009 - Concordia Seminary - St. Louis

Occupation

Pastor - Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, Barrington, IL

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Saint Matthew Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Barrington

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1990

LCMS District Membership Year: 2018

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2018



Rev. Cory Estby

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Stewardship Committee Chair & Choir Member (Redeemer Lutheran, Warsaw, IN)
1999-2001

FieldWorker (Prince of Peace Lutheran, Grabill, IN) 2001-2003

Vicar (University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder, CO) 2003-2004

Sole Pastor (Zion Lutheran, Grant Park, IL) 2005-present

Adult Choir Director (2005-2008, 2020-present)

District Experience

South Region Pastoral Conference Officer {Registrar/Treasurer/Chairman} 2005-2015

South Region Pastoral Conference Program Committee Member 2018-present

General Pastor's Conference Nominating Committee Member 2011

Northern Illinois Confessional Lutherans (NICL) Member 2006-present

District Nominations Committee Member 2012-present

Circuit Visitor (2014-2018)

Regional Vice-President (2018-present)

Synod Experience

Convention Pastoral Delegate (Circuit S-27) 2010

Community Service Experience

Beecher Part-Time Players Theater Troupe (2006-present with variety of stage shows)

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter President (2006-2009)

Zion Lutheran School, Beecher Parent-Teacher League President (2011-2014)

Zion Lutheran School, Beecher Soccer Assistant Coach (2014-2015)

Gift of Adoption Speaker (2014-2020)

Fortitude Community Outreach Homeless Shelter Volunteer (2018-present)

Special Fathers Network Mentor (2020-present)

Meals on Wheels Delivery Driver (2020-present)

Mission of Work

Called as a child of God in Holy Baptism, I have continued to grow in the grace and love of Jesus Christ--through reading and learning God's Word, daily stumbling and yet being forgiven as a redeemed sinner. Daily devotional reading and prayer, study of the Lutheran Confessions, regular interaction with the circuit brethren continue to be



a source of reflection and comfort. Giving thanks and praise to Him who created, redeemed, and sanctified me--serving in my vocations as husband, father, pastor, son and more! The voice of my Savior bestows faith, hope, love, truth and eternal life. That same voice calls out to bring peace, joy and salvation to a hurting and lost world. Congregations agree to 'walk together' united under Scripture and the Confessions. Synod and District provides opportunity for growth/care of its church workers; aid in supporting Christian education; supervision and counsel; and encouragement for congregations to be proclaimers and doers of God's love and mercy.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Responsible listening; Careful discernment; Counsel in moments of decision; Patience and devotion to fellow members of Christ's body.

200+ congregations in the Northern Illinois District divided into four geographic regions. As Vice-President, I serve as advisory to the district president--supporting his role in supervision of the called workers, staff and congregations of the district. I strive to interact with the 5 circuit visitors of the south region, which includes an attempt to annually visit the circuit Winkels--reminding pastors of their ordination callings and the joy to serve God's church. Delivering and Proclaiming Jesus! It is through God's Word at the font, pulpit and altar which deliver His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. "The Lord is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works." (Psalm 145:21)

Candidate Contact Information

Education

High School Graduate at Yorktown, IN May 1994

Bachelor of Arts in Music Education (K-12) at Ball State University, Muncie, IN Dec 1998

Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN May 2005

Doxology Graduate (continuing education) 2009/2010

Occupation

Elementary Music Teacher Wabash, IN (1999-2001)

Sole Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL (2005-present)

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Zion Lutheran Church



Congregation City: Grant Park
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1976
LCMS District Membership Year: 2005
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2005



Rev. Dr. James Kellerman

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Assistant Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL (1991-1993)

Vacancy Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL (1994-2012)

Pastor, First Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL (1994-present)

District Experience

Nominations Committee, NID General Pastors' Conference (1993, 2007)

Chairman, NID Board for Singles Ministry (1994-1997)

LWML Zone Counselor, Zone 1 (later E16) (1994-2008)

Program Committee, General Pastors' Conference (1995-1996)

Program Committee (2001-2004), Treasurer (2006-2008), and Secretary (2016-2017),
East Region Pastors' Conference

NID District Committee for Convention Nominations (2002-2004)

Member (1998-present) and Chair (2012-present), NID Constitution Committee

Floor Committee Chair, NID Convention (2012)

District Secretary (2015-present)

Synod Experience

Adjunct faculty member teaching theological languages (primarily Latin) and theology
at Concordia University Chicago (1993-present)

Delegate, Synod Convention (1995)

Member of the Steering Committee for "Lutheranism and the Classics" Conference at
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (2011-present)

Community Service Experience

Near Northwest Neighborhood Network (1994-2000)

East Wicker Park Organization (2003-2007)

Delegate (1994-present), Director (1998-present), Secretary (2000-2016), and
President (2016-present), Concordia Cemetery Association, Forest Park, IL

Mission of Work

The greatest strength of the Missouri Synod is its congregations. By that I don't just
mean our congregational polity that entrusts congregations with making decisions
about their own affairs, but also the fact that each congregation is a place where
people gather around God's Word and sacraments and are transformed by the



experience--forgiven, restored, and equipped for service in God's kingdom. Many of our congregations may feel battered by the growing secularism and now the coronavirus. And yet neither the district nor the Synod can do the Word-and-sacrament ministry our local churches can. I appreciate the recent efforts of the district to connect with lay leaders and to encourage church workers as a way of increasing congregational wellness, so that they can give a vibrant witness to their communities. This is how the district--and the Synod--will be revitalized.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The district secretary's work is largely a behind-the-scenes sort of job that enables the rest of the district to do its work. It requires paying attention to some rather mundane but necessary details (such as Synod's bylaws) so that the district can both advance its mission and do so in an orderly manner. Fortunately, I have grown accustomed to doing such work, first while serving on the Constitution Committee for over twenty years and now as district secretary since 2015. I have no set goals other than to do the work attentively.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

B.A., Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI (1985)

M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (1988)

M.A. and Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago (1991, 1996)

Occupation

Pastor and university instructor

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: First Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Chicago

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1962

LCMS District Membership Year: 1988

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1994



Rev. Kevin Koester

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

2007-13, Pastor of Zion & Mt. Calvary Lutheran Churches in Owensville & Belle, MO
2013-present, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brookfield, IL

District Experience

I've served once on the NID general pastors conference nominating committee (2017-18).

I've served as secretary (2015-2016) and registrar (2016-2019) for the NID-E pastors conference.

I've served as secretary/treasurer for the Washington Circuit, Missouri District (2009-2013).

Synod Experience

I served as pastoral delegate from the Washington Circuit, Missouri District to the 2013 Synodical convention. (if that counts)

Community Service Experience

Nothing of significance.

Mission of Work

To support congregations, church workers, and church-workers-to-be, as they proclaim the Word of God to the world.

To teach and uphold the true faith, as recorded in the Scriptures and expounded in the Confessions.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Biggest challenge: lack of time. The fields are ripe for harvest. We need to pray the Lord to send more workers.

Goal: Strive to keep all I do rooted in God's Word and use any position in which I must serve to influence others to do the same.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

Concordia College/Univ (LCMS)
Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Bachelor of Arts 12/20/2002
Concordia Theo Seminary (LCMS)
Fort Wayne, IN, USA
Master of Divinity 05/18/2007

Occupation

Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregation City: BROOKFIELD
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1979
LCMS District Membership Year: 2013
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2013



Rev. Caleb Schauer

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

1997-2002 Lay Deacon for the Alaska Mission for Christ

2004-05 Vicar at St. John's Union

2006-08 Associate Pastor at St. John's Union

2008-Present Senior Pastor at St. John's Union

District Experience

2013-18 Circuit Visitor

2021-Present NID West Region VP

Synod Experience

None at this time

Community Service Experience

2010-Present Ad Hoc Fire Chaplain Union Fire Department

2008-2015 Help to plan community celebrations

2006-2018 Pastoral Participation in community Memorial Day events

Mission of Work

The Mission of Christ to reconcile the world to Himself is the primary reason the church exists, and thus we get to be a Synod/District/People on a mission. The Old Testament and the New Testament attest to this. The first great commission is in Genesis 12:1-3. God tells Abraham to "Go" so that through him all the nations of the world would be blessed. Jesus commands his disciples and us as well to "Go" and he promises that he will be with us as we fulfill this command (Matt. 28:19-20). Thus we get to take God's gospel promises to everyone who does not know him. As we go, pastor and laity, men and women, old and young, have the wonderful privilege of bearing witness to the work of Christ in their lives. We do this through conversations and relationships. We do this through inviting others to receive his gifts and to be connected to His church.

Let's do this creatively and winsomely as we engage a culture that doesn't know the saving grace and love of Christ.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals



I believe the challenges include reaching a society and world with the gospel though that society seems to be getting further and further from the God who loves them. How do we meet people where they are at with the Gospel message? There are great opportunities to do God's Work.

Other challenges include declining memberships and fewer dollars. I know that those things need to be considered, however nickels and noses, and bodies and budgets usually are not first on my priority list.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

MDIV --Concordia Seminary St. Louis 2006

BS Civil Engineering--University of Idaho 1997

Occupation

Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. John's Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Union

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1989

LCMS District Membership Year: 2006

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2006



Rev. David Andermann

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I served as trustee in the 1990s, and as an elder 1996 and 1997. I have served as pastor from 2001 to present.

District Experience

I am in my tenth year of serving as Circuit Visitor.

Synod Experience

I served on the Koinonia Committee for three years. (2011 to 2013?)

Community Service Experience

Farm Bureau, food bank, Dixon city council

Mission of Work

A Church that worships together, studies the Word together, is strengthened by the Body and Blood of our Lord, is emboldened to go out into the world with Good News of Jesus Christ, for the souls on need of peace and comfort.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Probably the biggest challenge is the 2 hour drive to get to the district office. The opportunity is to serve the Lord and His Kingdom in an area I have not done so before.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelors- University of Illinois

Masters- Concordia Seminary, St Louis

Occupation

Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Dixon

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1958

LCMS District Membership Year: 1958

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2001



Rev. Christopher Antonetti

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Trustee, St. John's Lutheran, Chicago, IL - 2015-2016

Fieldworker, Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, IN - 2016-2018

Vicar, Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Basehor, KS - 2018-2019

Seminarian Worker, Trinity Lutheran Church, Auburn, IN - 2019-2020

Pastor, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lockport, IL - 2020-2021

District Experience

n/a

Synod Experience

n/a

Community Service Experience

Fieldworker, Bethesda Lutheran Ministries, Fort Wayne, IN - 2017-2018

Nursing Home and Adult Daycare Bible studies, KS - 2018-2019

Mission of Work

To make disciples by baptizing and teaching, centered in the Lutheran distinctives of Law and Gospel and justification by grace through faith, both by reaching out into the community and strengthening Christian families in our own congregations with Word and Sacrament ministry.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I would like to learn more about the convention process by being directly involved, as well as meet more people in our district. I think communication with other churches and viewing the church as bigger than our own congregation is vital to ministry to our area. I am eager to work with other pastors, workers, and laypeople in our area to assist our district as needed.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Columbia College Chicago - B.A. Audio Arts and Acoustics

Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne - M. Div.

Occupation



Sole pastor

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Lockport, Illinois

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2012

LCMS District Membership Year: 2012

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2020



Mr. Chad Baganz

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Usher 2015 - current

Bible Reader - 2003-2008

Leading Chapel Services 2003-2008

Youth Director 1996-1998

District Experience

I have served on many Accreditation Teams in the Northern Illinois District.

Immanuel Hillside 2010/2011?

St. Paul's Aurora 2005 and 2013

Country Club Hills 2008

St. John's LaGrange 2012

St. Paul's Mt. Prospect 2014

Immanuel Elmhurst 2014

St. Paul's Bourbonnais 2015/2016?

St. Peter's Schaumburg 2017/2018?

Synod Experience

No experience

Community Service Experience

I've done some coaching of sports in the community.

Service Projects with students including Feed My Starving Children, Loaves N Fishes, Phil's Friends, etc.

Mission of Work

I consider it truly an honor and a pleasure to share my faith each and every day with my students. My favorite part of the teaching day is Daily Devotions/Religion when as a class we can discuss issues such as peer pressure and how as Christians we can live a holy life following God's Commandments. I attended Lutheran Schools my entire life from the age of 4 to college at Concordia University. I joyfully uphold my vows of subscription to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. God has blessed me so much in my life and I love sharing my faith with my own children as a father of three through church every Sunday, singing, and devotions. I feel the mission of the Lutheran Church is to "make disciples of all nations." Reaching out to all those who enter the church each week and sharing God's love with them is essential. Also, making all guests and members very welcomed each week at worship.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I think a big challenge is the decrease in enrollment at our Lutheran Schools. Parents need to know that you cannot put a value on the importance of a Christian education.



It goes right along my with vision of our ministry in Lutheran schools: Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” I think a lot of Lutheran schools need to get out there and show off what a great product we have at our schools and the importance of a Christian education. I will add that one of the blessings of the pandemic is the wonderful opportunity to reach out to so many of our public school and unchurched children and be witnesses to them every day. Another major challenge is the way the media/social media is teaching and promoting so many sinful things that kids are constantly exposed too.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelor’s Degree Concordia University River Forest
Master’s Degree Concordia University Chicago (Leadership)

Occupation

Third Grade Teacher
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director at Bethany Lutheran in Naperville

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Bethany Lutheran
Congregation City: NAPERVILLE
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1996
LCMS District Membership Year: 2003
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2008



Ms. Carol Brown

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I was baptized and confirmed at Immanuel Lutheran Church in DeKalb, Illinois. As an adult member I served as Financial Aid Secretary, Altar Guild, Sunday School Superintendent and VBS teacher. My family transferred to St. John in 2005. I served on the Youth board and Altar Guild. I became a commissioned deaconess in 2018. I now serve as the Director of Outreach Ministry and Bible Study leader for women as well as assisting in other areas including LWML, Sunday School and Fellowship.

District Experience

I have not served in the District.

Synod Experience

I have not served in the Synod.

Community Service Experience

As Director of Outreach, I have organized several yearly community outreach events by St. John: Community Thanksgiving Dinner, Trunk or Treat, Live Nativity. We also support the local Food Pantry, the We Care Pregnancy Clinic, FMSC and 40 Days for Life.

I also manage the Lending Closet of St. John - a ministry to the community- we loan out gently used medical equipment.

Mission of Work

Current events, the direction our culture has taken, both politically and societally, is very disturbing. I firmly believe that the LCMS Confessions offer solid truth to a world that is terribly confused and misguided. Every LCMS Church needs to be an active, visible presence in their community proclaiming Christ and doing the good works of faith. Each member should be encouraged and equipped to be a witness within their own circles.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The LCMS needs to train and equip church workers, pastors, deaconesses, teachers and laypeople to communicate effectively with people who have differing views from ours. There are so many people that have grown up without the benefit of life in the church. Our own America has become a huge mission field! The LCMS needs to be bolder in its witness and encourage its members to speak up about God's truth.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology-Northern Illinois University
Master of Fine Arts in Deaconess Studies-Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne

Occupation

Part time Medical Technologist for Northwestern Medicine
Part time Deaconess serving at The Lutheran Church of St. John

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John
Congregation City: Sycamore, Illinois
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1974
LCMS District Membership Year: 1974
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2005



Mr. Reid Brownfield

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I have served as elder, vice chairman, or chairman for most years from 1991 to present.

District Experience

None

Synod Experience

none

Community Service Experience

Our son, Cody, attended St. Paul's Lutheran School from preschool to 8th grade. We volunteered multiple times throughout those years at the school.

Mission of Work

Our Lord Jesus Christ said to make disciples of all men. The way that you make disciples of men stronger is through hearing the gospel and taking the Lord's supper.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I am out of the country, without internet service, during the summer months. However, I believe that I can be an effective leader the remainder of the year. I would like to serve our district in this fashion. I was a claims adjuster for 32 years and have developed a skill set for problem solving that may be resourceful. I come from a small rural congregation and believe that I have an understanding of what many smaller churches face in our district.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelor of Science Degree Illinois State University 1988
Major Business Administration

Occupation

Retired 2020
Senior Field Claims Representative - Insurance 1988-2020

Candidate Congregation Information



Congregation Name: Our Savior Lutheran
Congregation City: Momence
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1989
LCMS District Membership Year: 1989
Current Congregation Membership Year: 1989



Dr. Dori Chianakas

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Holy Cross Lutheran -Cary

Governing Board Chair 2021-present

Governing Board member 2018-2021

Church Interpreter 1995-present (various NID congregations, NID conventions)

Preschool Board of Education 1991-2000

St. Johns Algonquin

Board of Youth 2006-2010

District Experience

NID interpreter for the Deaf since 1995 - conventions, meetings, confirmation classes, church services, Sunday School

Have attended every NID convention since 2000.

Synod Experience

none

Community Service Experience

Police Commissioner, Cary Police Department, Cary, IL 2013 to present

Volunteer College Counselor, Milwaukee Military Veterans 2020 to present

Lutheran Life Communities Board of Directors, Arlington Heights, IL 2007-2016

Lutheran Home and Services Parent Board, Arlington Heights, Il 2004-2007

Various committee involvement in my school district 1990-present

Mission of Work

The LCMS mission is to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world. This in grateful response for God's grace and the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments. I believe that God created me with a personal mission to reach others about the Good News of Jesus Christ. I believe that we all have a mission, and how we reach others may differ according to our gifts and abilities. NID encourages us to advance His Kingdom by faithfully serving the Gospel and sharing His love in the community and world. NID encourages us to work together in Mission through opportunities and programs such as Hearts for Jesus, PALS, Voice of Hope Behind the Wall, Ethnic Ministry and more. These partnerships with the community programs brings Jesus to God's children outside our 200 plus churches. Our collective and individual mission should be to go beyond the comfort of our church family and reach those lost and suffering in our community and world.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I have an opportunity to share my "real time" experiences of working with adolescents and families regarding post secondary education options. I am currently a high school



counselor and have been in this position for over twenty years, working under the umbrella areas of academic counseling, college and career, and personal and social/emotional development. I especially enjoy helping students navigate high school and transition to post secondary options. As a graduate of Concordia St. Paul, I promote our synodical universities. The Concordia Universities have a Christ-filled atmosphere and education that aids students on a life journey deeply rooted with the ability to share the love of Christ in their chosen professions or workplace. I am also a firm believer and promoter of life-long learning. I encourage adults and military veterans of the rewards and benefits of returning to school to pursue a degree or a subsequent degree.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Education

Doctor of Education Ed.D., Curriculum and Instruction/ Curriculum Leadership,
Northern Illinois University

Masters of Science in Education (Ed.S), Northern Illinois University

Certification Type 75 Administration, Northern Illinois University

Endorsement: Guidance and Counseling, Northern Illinois University

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) State of Illinois

Certification of Completion in Sign Language Interpreting, Harper College

Masters of Science in Educational Psychology and Community Counseling, University
of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Bachelor of Arts in Education: Elementary K-9, Physical Education K-12, Concordia
University-St. Paul, MN

Occupation

Dedicated and highly qualified High School Counselor with over twenty years of experience, passionate about working with students realize their educational goals. Proven leadership helping students navigate through high school and transition to post secondary options. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Work well with all staff, administrators, parents, and students with a positive approach and sincere work ethic.

Adjunct faculty- CUC, Fall 2021



Mrs. Crista Childers

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience
 Board of Stewardship
 Board of Youth
 Board of Parish Education
 Parish Librarian

District Experience

Member of steering committee for the maternity home project in the NID.

Synod Experience

N/A

Community Service Experience

N/A

Mission of Work

Lutherans offer a very unique approach to God's Word and how we live as Christians. Unlike others, Lutherans unabashedly proclaim Salvation through Grace alone. Because of Grace, we then find sinners, who didn't deserve the Grace they received, overflowing with love. Not love we developed ourselves, but as a further gift of the Holy Spirit, we first love God above all, and then we love our neighbors. Into a broken world suffering from the effects of sin, we carry this message of Grace - unearned, unmerited. Just as Life is given and sustained in every Lutheran through very tangible and tactile means of Word and Sacrament, so we compassionately engage & minister to our neighbors in tangible and tactile ways as God allows us to be "the Body of Christ" to each other and to the world. How amazing!

All begins by helping build and sustain congregations, from which the means of Grace flow and where disciples are made, so those disciples, through ministries and daily life, can share Christ.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I see nothing but opportunity and my goal is to faithfully serve where God places me.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

N/A



Occupation
N/A

Candidate Congregation Information
Congregation Name: Trinity Lutheran
Congregation City: Burr Ridge
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1986
LCMS District Membership Year: 1986
Current Congregation Membership Year: 1986



Rev. Seth Clemmer

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Sole Pastor to Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Estes Park, CO, 2011-2015

Associate Pastor of Evangelism and Youth at Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Naperville, IL, 2015-2019

Senior Pastor to Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Naperville, IL, 2019-present

District Experience

Nominations Committee for the Rocky Mountain District, 2015

Nominations Committee for NID Spring Worker's Conference, 2017

NID Regional Fall Pastor's Conference Program Committee, 2018-present

Synod Experience

Pastoral Delegate to 2013 Synodical Convention

Community Service Experience

Board for Caring Pregnancy Center, Estes Park, CO, 2013-2015

Mission of Work

The mission of the Lord's Church is to proclaim faithfully and boldly to the world the Gospel of Christ crucified for sinners. The churches of the LCMS confess this Gospel with clarity and zeal, and our people serve the Lord in their daily vocations, bringing the Lord's Word of Gospel as He gives opportunity. In the NID, we joyfully share with the LCMS in that same mission given by the Lord to His Church.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Institutions of higher learning, in general, are having to wrestle with fundamental questions regarding identity, purpose, and principle, not to mention the financial challenges of a fluctuating economy. Concordia must face the same challenges but can face them with more clarity and certainty, knowing our identity is given by the Lord and our purpose will be consistent with our Christ-given identity. Our Concordia University has the tremendous opportunity to build future servants on the firm foundation of the Gospel who embody a Lutheran identity grounded in the Lord's Word and who extoll the Lord's unchanging institutions. By laying this solid foundation in these young men and women, they will be better equipped to serve faithfully in their vocations in the increasingly hostile world. It is a challenge to cultivate such identity without negatively impacting enrollment, so the goal of integrating firm Lutheran identity into a university must be done patiently and wisely.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

B.A. Business Administration, Concordia University Nebraska

M.Div. Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

S.T.M. Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

D.Min. Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Occupation

Sr. Pastor to Bethany Lutheran Church and School, Naperville, IL

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Bethany Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Naperville

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1983

LCMS District Membership Year: 2015

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2015



Mr. Scott Collins

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Since 2002, I have been a member of three parishes. I have served as a lector, usher, sacristan and Sunday School teacher. At Bethany Lutheran in Naperville, I served nine years on the Day School Policy Board. Three of those years, I served as the Chair of the DSPB. At my current church, I serve as a newly elected Elder.

District Experience

N/A

Synod Experience

N/A

Community Service Experience

I have served with Habitat for Humanity intermittently for the past three years.

Mission of Work

While I am not a firm supporter of "church growth", I do believe in preaching the Word and bringing the saving message of Jesus to the unchurched and those who are not Christian. This requires outreach within local communities and to non-traditional Lutheran communities and persons. I would like to see the LCMS and NID to expand on not only current efforts, however focus on new programs that provide outreach to these communities.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

At this time, I am not familiar enough with the position to offer a constructive answer to this section. I will do my best to work with the other members of the committee to ensure that the best candidates are selected and vetted for the various available district positions.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

BA - Criminal Justice, Ohio State University

Occupation



Retired Federal Agent. Currently semi-retired security contractor with the U.S. State Department.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Divine Shepard

Congregation City: Bolingbrook

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2002

LCMS District Membership Year: 2007

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2019



Mr. John Crowe

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Parish Administrator, St John Lutheran Church, responsible for all operational and business functions at the church 2006 to present

School Board President and did strategic consulting at Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, TN 1999-2001

Elder at Nativity Lutheran Church in Gilbert, AZ 1993-1997

District Experience

Participated in District Visioning exercises, I believe in 2019

Attend NID Business Manager Meetings when available

Synod Experience

No direct service in synod functions.

Community Service Experience

Various local and national mission projects at St John including as a volunteer and the financial records person for "Christmas Sharing" an annual food and clothing drive for low income individuals.

Served as the Co-Chair of the Workforce Development Board in Will County, IL 2002-2004

Was a corporate executive sponsor (when I worked for Sprint).....one of several....for a large 5k race in Nashville, TN in conjunction with the American Heart Association, did interviews and sponsorship promos.

Served as executive sponsor for "College Goal Sunday" a non-profit effort to help low income and immigrant families fill out federal financial aid forms for education.

Phoenix, AZ, 1995-1998

Served as an operations expert on a National Effort at the U.S. Department of Education to simplify and streamline Student Loan promissory notes. 1995-1999

Mission of Work

My view of the mission of the LCMS is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and to strive to make them stronger. In that end, the NID should exist to support and further that mission in its parishes, RSO organizations, and in the support and care for Pastors and church workers. Pastors and church workers need to be able to diligently carry out their vocations in service to the Gospel while dealing with the distractions of everyday issues and demands. The synod and the NID should help to further the mission with support, care, and educational and fellowship opportunities that reinforce the strength of those parishes and workers while providing expertise in specific areas of ministry like planning, church business activities, and leadership development.



Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The Opportunities I see in potential service as an NID Board member are being able to humbly use my vocational skills in Church Business Administration to help the district further their mission and get the best value from their resources.

A goal I would have is to be available to assist on any/all Business or strategic related issues and decisions using the gifts that I have received and learned over the years as an Executive and Church Administrator, thus helping to strengthen the processes and/or methods that the NID uses to carry out its functions.

A challenge possibly will be dealing with an ever changing climate in parishes as they grapple with not only the end term issues with Covid 19, but with the changes in our culture with regard to The Church and its place in every day society. This makes leadership and decision making even more key as many changes are happening in our world that require wise responses and actions from The Church.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

B.S. Business Admin, Valparaiso University, 1983

M.A. Organizational Management, University of Phoenix, 1995

Colloquy for Lutheran Lay Ministry, (now Director of Church Ministries), Concordia Wisconsin 2011

Certified Church Administrator, The Church Network, 2020

Occupation

Parish Administrator, St John Lutheran Church, Wheaton, IL 2006 to present

Director of Client Support and Client Relations, United Asset Management, 2005-2006

Director of Call Center Operations, Sprint Corp, 1999-2005

Division Vice President, USA Group, Inc 1991-1999

Bank Branch Manager and Officer, National Bank of Detroit (Now Chase Bank) 1985-1991

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St John Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Wheaton, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1997

LCMS District Membership Year: 2011

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2001



Mr. David De Young

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Trinity Tinley Park, Board of Elders 2003-present, Small Group Bible Study 2006-2017, Instructor Adult Information Class 2015-2016.

St. John Lansing, School Board 1999-2001, Usher 1997-2001.

St. John Calumet City, Board of Elders 1995-1999, Board of Church Properties 1984-1995.

Luther East High School, School Board 1988-1990, Finance Board 1990-1992.

District Experience

NID Board of Directors 2018-present.

Delegate NID Convention, 2000, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018.

Synod Experience

Delegate Synodical Convention, 2013.

Community Service Experience

Village of Orland Park, Ethics Commission-Commissioner 2020-present. Traffic Advisory Board-Member 2005-2018.

Trinity Christian College, Adjunct Professor-2007-present.

Orland Memorial Park Cemetery, Board of Directors 2005-present.

Chicago Bar Association, Legislative Committee 2003-present.

Mission of Work

The LCMS has a rich history of sharing the saving grace of Jesus Christ locally and throughout the world. The NID supports parish schools, inner city outreach, scholarships to Lutheran High schools, and missionaries in the NID and internationally. These activities, and others are how the NID fulfills the Great Commission.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The COVID-19 virus has placed significant challenges for both the NID and our parish. Contributions are lower as attendance is down and cost have risen to comply with regulatory requirements. Our parish school has also experienced a reduction in students.

Trinity has been streaming worship services since the beginning of the stay at home order. God has truly blessed this new ministry. Our pastors receive correspondence from all over the world from people who have been blessed by this ministry. God is faithful.



Candidate Contact Information

Education

Chicago State University-Bachelor of Arts

University of Illinois Chicago/John Marshall Law School-Juris Doctor

Occupation

Associate General Counsel, Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Trinity

Congregation City: Tinley Park

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1984

LCMS District Membership Year: 1984

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2001



Mr. Aaron Doehring

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I have served as parish musician in NID and overlaying English District congregations since 1995, serving cross cultural ministries at St. Paul Austin (13 years) and Good Shepherd Our Redeemer Berwyn (2018 - present). Concurrently, I have served as deacon and elder at many of those congregations (presently at St. John's Chicago). I served on the committee that merged Our Savior Norwood Park (English District) and St. John Niles (NID) into Ascension Niles (NID).

District Experience

Lay Delegate to NID Convention for St Paul Austin (2006, 2009); Nominations Committee for 2018 NID Convention.

Synod Experience

NA

Community Service Experience

Community Service happens for most people as they live out their daily vocations. Even in a global pandemic, we have opportunity to look in on that elderly neighbor, that relative with cancer, the single working parent with children attending virtual school. Our Lord provides much opportunity for community service in our daily lives.

Mission of Work

First and foremost, the proclamation of the pure Gospel is key. We have unprecedented opportunities for this with digital technology, while at the same time live and in person corporate worship resumes in many congregations. Digital is an important means to connect to those who use social media as a primary means of communication. In person relationships are still important, as we love and serve family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc, Digital can be a means to establish that connection and invite people to our congregations.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

My secular vocation as technician brings critical thinking skills to the table. Having been a regional manager for a corporation brings unique perspective to a governing board. My churchly vocations bring a high degree of empathy. Combined, these skills aid in seeing both ramifications and benefits of decisions being discussed, providing both objective and subjective perspectives.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

BA, Concordia University Ann Arbor. Major: Music. Minor: Religious Studies. Program: Parish Assistant. (1992)

Occupation

Organist: Good Shepherd Our Redeemer, Berwyn, IL.

Field Technician (Electronics): BDS Marketing, Chicago and Suburbs.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. John's Chicago, IL

Congregation City: Chicago, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1969

LCMS District Membership Year: 2001

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2018



Rev. Mark Duer

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Cushing, OK. Aug 2009 – Dec 2017

My first call from Ft Wayne Seminary in 2009. I served as sole pastor, We had a very active church. We had midweek services for both Advent and Lent. VBS each summer, mission and outreach events.

St Paul's Lutheran Church, Wellston, OK. Apr 2013 – Dec 2017

Served as vacancy Pastor. Advent and Lent midweek services, VBS, mission-outreach.

Grace Lutheran Church Jan 2018 – Present, Willow Springs, Illinois

Zion Lutheran Church Jan 2018 – Present, Lyons, Illinois

I serve as a dual pastor as part of an agreement that started in 2012. Both churches are very active. I am currently teaching 2 adult Bible classes, a confirmation class on Wednesday's and a new member class on Saturday mornings. Both churches have rotating Wednesday evening services for Advent and Lent. We planned on having VBS in 2020, but was cancelled and pushed back to 2021. I also volunteer for Faith, Hope, and Peace Ministries as well.

District Experience

I am currently serving as the Pastoral representative for the LWML Zone with Paulette Bennet as President.

I also volunteered at various district events, such as setting up, leading devotions, and organizing for district conventions when I served in the Oklahoma District.

Synod Experience

N/A

Community Service Experience

While I was attending Ft Wayne seminary, I volunteered to go to New Orleans to help clean up in November 2005 after Hurricane Karina. the team I served with spent a week cleaning out homes with extensive water damage, and removing damaged parts from homes to be rebuilt. Reaching out to locals as necessary. I volunteered to help with the food pantry at grace Lutheran Church in Willow Springs.

At my vicarage church I was part of the church team who would feed those who were homeless or very low income. Each Saturday at Immanuel Lutheran Church I would always start with a devotion, and at the end of the devotion they could get in line to receive food. We would work anyone who came to help them in any way the church was able.



I helped with various community events since my time in the NID District. I volunteered to help with outreach to children for Trunk or Treat events. Giving out candy and making contact with the parents and others to talk about Zion Lutheran Church.

Mission of Work

I believe the mission of the LCMS is more important today than ever. The NID has such a diverse population, so there is a greater need to look at the needs throughout the district to address those needs. I think any mission should start with the basic premise as to how can we meet the needs of that person or family. You can build on serving one person or family with the resources needed and with the gospel. If you can be faithful in serving few than that will most likely grow and the word will go out. We faithfully plant the seeds, and let God do the growing.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

There are a lot of challenges for the church in this day and age. One of the biggest challenges is to be faithful to the members that are part of the congregation you serve. For me I serve 2 congregations, so keeping on top of everyone is not easy. Going to hospital visits, surgeries, and counseling takes up a lot of time, I take the gospel to the members who can not always be in church.

I try to take advantage of every opportunity that I have. Especially when it comes to speaking with inactive members or bringing in new members. I am currently teaching a new member class at the request of several members. I invited the spouse of one of my members who is not a member to attend, he has been attending, and I hope to gain a new member when the class ends.

My goals are to be most importantly faithful to God's Word in my preaching and teaching, and everything else flows from the Cross and empty tomb. A congregation can produce good fruits as a result of being faithful to God's Word.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

B.S. Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement Wayne State College, Wayne NE. 1990-1992
Graduated in December 1992

Advanced Leadership Training, US Army 1988-1991

Concordia University, Nebraska

Ancient/Classical Greek Language and Literature, Biblical Hebrew 2004 – 2005

University of Cambridge, Master of Divinity, 2006 – 2007

Studied at University of Cambridge, England for 1 year as part of my Master of Divinity Degree with Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN.



Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft Wayne, IN. Master of Divinity
2005 – 2009, Graduated 2009

Occupation

Dual Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Willow Springs, IL/ Zion Lutheran Church
Lyons, IL

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Grace Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Willow Springs, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1967

LCMS District Membership Year: 2018

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2018



Mr. Melvin Faulkner

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Church Elder - Current Role

Responsibilities

1. Oversee the integrity of the church baptized and communicant membership roster
2. Advocate for the pastoral and ministry staff in matters of compensation, well-being, and benefits
3. Promote the allocation of mission dollars & ensure the centrality of mission in the long-range plan of the congregation.
4. Advise the Board of Trustees on all policy matters relating to theology and the congregation's relationship with other Christians.

Stephen Minister - Current Role

Provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.

Stephen Leader - Current Role

Responsibilities

1. Cast a vision and build awareness for Stephen Ministry in their congregation
2. Recruit, select, and train Stephen Ministers
3. Connect Stephen Ministers with people who need care
4. Provide ongoing supervision

District Experience

No direct district experience at this time.

Synod Experience

LCMS Foundation Board Trustee - Current Role

Provide policy base governance to the LCMS Foundation to help foster charitable expertise by way of helping to ensure families are provided for and beloved ministries are supported.

Current LCMS Foundation Board Roles:

- A) Board Secretary
- B) Audit Committee Chair
- C) Board Policy Committee
- D) Gift Planning Committee

Community Service Experience

Lutheran Child & Family Services of Illinois (LCFS) Board Trustee - Current Role

An organization committed to improving the well-being of people throughout the state



of Illinois by nurturing and protecting children, strengthening families, and transforming communities.

Past & Current Roles - Board Secretary, Audit Committee Chair, Governance Committee Chair, and Executive Committee member

LCFS Foundation - Current Role

Assist the Agency in identifying and securing major and estate gift donors/prospects to assure the long-term financial stability of LCFS. Provide oversight of the Agency endowment and pension funds.

Past & Current Roles - Investment Committee Member, Governance Committee Member, and Vice-Chair Northern Illinois District

Bible Study Fellowship International Children's Supervisor - Current Role

The children's Supervisor is primarily responsible for overseeing the Student Program and training and development of Christian Leaders.

Mission of Work

My view of the mission of LCMS and especially the NID is to respond to the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. We accomplish this through preaching the gospel and administering of sacraments. My view is that the NID fosters this mission by helping churches reach out into the community to bring in and equip people to send back out into the community to spread the good news.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I believe it is a great privilege to serve on the NID Board of Directors. As potential board member, we must recognize our responsibility to share our own resources of time, talent, and treasure to serve the LCMS church and its members. This is why I consider this opportunity a privilege since many of us are blessed with capacities, interests, and resources, and as such feel called to give as a part of our Christian living.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

BS in Finance from Purdue University, 1991

Certified Internal Auditor, 2004

Occupation

Enterprise risk management executive with broad experience in financial, operational, compliance, and regulatory fields as well as internal audit and covering a wide range of industries. Extensive experience in corporate & fraud risk assessment, Sarbanes-



Oxley compliance, and banking industry standards. Results-oriented leader effective at developing and maintaining relationships with clients, top management, and internal consultants.

I work at Discover Financial Services as Head of Marketing Business Risk & Corporate Risk – Deep Dive Process Risk Reviews. I lead a team to assess the operational, compliance, and legal risk of financial and operational processes as part of the overall Enterprise Risk Management Framework.

Also, I serve as Executive Director of Voice of Care, a ministry that partners with the local Church to help those living with disabilities in their discipleship walk with Christ.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Congregation City: East Dundee, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1982

LCMS District Membership Year: 1995

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2006



Rev. Phillip Fischaber

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL 2021-Present

Pastoral Counselor, Christ Lutheran School, Sterling, IL, 2021-2022

Vicar, Latino outreach and English language ministry, St. John's Lutheran Church, Beardstown, IL, June 2015-June 2016

Wrote and received \$553.35 grant for Spanish Books for St. John's Lutheran Church, Beardstown, IL

Trustee, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, OH, 2018-2020

Trustee, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tulsa, OK, 2010-2013

President, University of Tulsa Lutherans and Friends, campus ministry of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tulsa, OK, 2010-2013

Substitute organist, occasional

District Experience

Oklahoma District LCMS Campus Ministry Planning Group, 2010-2011

Plenary Speaker, Latino Ministry, Oklahoma Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, April 2016

Sectional Speaker, LCMS Seminaries, Oklahoma Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, April 2016

Sectional Speaker, Latino Ministry, Central Illinois Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, April 2016

Synod Experience

Assistant, LCMS Disaster Response Conference, October 2014

Unwrapped 2013 LCMS Campus Ministry Conference Committee

LCMS January 2012 Campus Ministry Think Tank

LCMS Campus Ministry Strategic Planning Meeting, March 2012

Lutheran Student Fellowship National Board, 2011-2013

Lutheran Student Fellowship Region 5 Board, 2009-2013

Community Service Experience

Treasurer, Graduate Student Association, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, 2018-2019

Tuba player, "12 Days of Choirs...A Christmas Celebration," HSHS St. John's Hospital, Springfield, IL, 2015

President, John Mabee Hall, Hall Government, University of Tulsa, 2012-2013

Secretary, John Mabee Hall, Hall Government, University of Tulsa, 2010-2012

University of Tulsa Relay for Life Committee, 2011-2012

Assistant, Michael Oakshott Association Conference, University of Tulsa, October 2011

Gaslight Theater, Enid, OK, 2008-2017



Mission of Work

The Church is the bride of Christ called to preach the Word in all its truth and purity to all people, condemning their sins and forgiving all who repent and believe, and to rightly administer the Sacraments. No group of people is excluded from the Church's mission, in fact, especially dear to her ought to be those the world considers the least of these Christ's brothers and sisters. As such the mission of the LCMS begins with faithful preaching and teaching to those within our congregations and schools. This is followed by outreach to those within our local communities. Having served as a domestic missions vicar doing Latino ministry, this work is particularly dear to my heart, but God gives us the opportunities to share the Good News, so we must do so to whomever he provides for us. Next the church must follow Jesus' command and go to the ends of the earth doing mission work at home and abroad. We should also provide care for bodily needs, as Scripture many times makes clear.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The changing demographics and declining church attendance are one of the biggest challenges facing us. However, this gives us the opportunity for renewed outreach. Identifying these opportunities and finding ways to promote robust mission work is an important goal. Related to this is the challenge financial limitations of declining giving. The district needs to make the best possible use of limited resources and to find the best person for each job and mission task to be good stewards of the donations of God's people. A third challenge which is also a great opportunity is the need to raise up a new generation of lay leaders to serve in congregations and the district. Many churches are primarily led by the older and more experienced members. While this has great benefits, the younger generations need to be trained and prepared to serve as well and their talents utilized, so that churches and district institutions remain strong for many years to come.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Ph.D. Student, Pines School of Graduate Studies, Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, OH, August 2017–Present

M.Phil., with honors, Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, OH, May 2021, major: history of biblical interpretation

M.Div. Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, May 2017

B.A. University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK, May 2013, majors: history and religion; minor: economics

Latin Certificate, Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant (University of Wales Trinity St. David), Llampeter, Wales, UK, August 2012 (Credited for B.A. language requirements)

Occupation

Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL 2021-Present



Vicar, Latino outreach and English language ministry, St. John's Lutheran Church,
Beardstown, IL, June 2015-June 2016

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Walnut, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1991

LCMS District Membership Year: 2021

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2021



Dr. Adam Francisco

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

President, Oxford Lutheran Mission, 2003-2005

Bible Study and Youth Group leader, 2007-Present

District Experience

Assistant Provost, CUC, 2020- Present

Dean, CUC, 2021-Present

Synod Experience

CUI, 2010-2020

CTSFW, 2007-2010

CCNY, 2005-2007

Community Service Experience

Foster Parent, Presently

Mission of Work

I'll spare you a long diatribe and just say that I believe the mission of the LCMS/NID is and should be the proclamation of the gospel through the ministry of word and sacrament. This view ought not be taken as being dismissive of the tremendously important role auxiliary offices and ministries play in support of the ministry. But the mission is the ministry. It is the means by which God forgives and saves sinners.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I don't know of any other than ensuring that the names of qualified people make their way to ballots for consideration at convention.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

DPhil, Oxford University

BA & MA, Concordia University Irvine

Occupation

Assistant Provost and Dean, Concordia University Chicago

Candidate Congregation Information



Congregation Name: Bethany Lutheran
Congregation City: Naperville
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1986
LCMS District Membership Year: 2020
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2020



Sarah Gaffney

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Congregational deaconess: 1993-1998. Visitation, overseeing educational programming, youth programming

St. Pau Lutheran School, Brookfield, Il. 2018-2020. teacher for grades 3-5, 6&7

Voice of Care: RSO of the NID. 2016-present. Ministry facilitator, helping congregations reach out to and serve those with disabilities, teaching respite care

Volunteer: always Sunday school, have helped with VBS, involved with ladies aid, youth group

District Experience

current board of directors

Synod Experience

Concordia Deaconess Conference: member, past secretary, current Spiritual Growth chair

Community Service Experience

past involvement in PTL (when children were that age)

take part in band boosters

March for Life

Mission of Work

Congregations are to administer the Word and sacraments, to uphold the teachings of Scripture, to adhere to the teachings of our confessions as found in the Book of Concord. The NID is to assist the congregations of our district in carrying out these confessions, to assist our called workers in serving their congregations.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I did not enter this position with an agenda and will continue with that mindset. The tasks are varied, from financial concerns to approving constitutions to approving real estate sales to supporting our church workers. Within these tasks, I seek to uphold our Lutheran confessions.

Candidate Contact Information

Education



Concordia University, Chicago. Bachelor in theology, certification as deaconess
Grand Canyon University: Master in elementary education (complete 5/2022)
Governor's State University - working toward LBS1

Occupation

Deaconess with Voice of Care
Teacher at Indian Oaks Academy

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Zion Lutheran
Congregation City: Grant Park
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1968
LCMS District Membership Year: 2005
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2017



Rev. Patrick Galligar

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

From '04 - '08 I served as a field worker and vicar at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ellisville, MO. My experiences there ranged the gamut of pastoral duties, but two things stand out as especially significant. I was on payroll at the church for two years as the part time volunteer coordinator, and during my vicarage year, I was responsible for the worshipping congregation that gathered on Saturday nights.

From '08-2019 I served as the Pastor of Care Ministries at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Columbus, IN. My duties involved building and maintaining a team of care givers who saw to the needs of our large and growing shut-in and nursing home-bound members. With my wife I led many marriage bible studies. I was also a part of several call teams during my tenure at St. Peter's.

Beginning in 2019 I have served as associate to Jonathan Ripke at Zion in Marengo, Illinois. Together as brothers in Christ we have walked our congregation through the pandemic and seen God at work in many ways.

District Experience

This position will be my first time serving in the NID.

Synod Experience

I served as a presenter and as a chaperone for the Indiana District Youth Gathering two years in a row. And have served as a chaperone at the National Youth Gathering as well.

Community Service Experience

From '08 - '18 I served as a Chaplain with the Columbus, Indiana Police Department. This involved many ride-alongs, call outs to traumatic incident scenes, and the opportunity to connect department members and community members to the love of Christ. It also gave me the chance to publicly speak at annual events in the community: Fallen Officers Memorial, 9/11 remembrances, Veterans Day, and many others.

From '08 - '19 I was part of a team that prayed monthly prior to our City Council meetings.

In 2020 working with a team we hosted an event called Praying for Unity in our Community that included four days of prayer and reading through the bible from Genesis to Revelation. I worked with the mayor and police chief and with folks from 17 different congregations to bring our community together in a troubling time. Also in 2020, I worked with the congregations from Marengo and Union to host a memorial event for those who had lost loved ones during the pandemic.



Mission of Work

We are the ones called by Christ and sent by God to bring this living hope to the world. We are the ones called by Christ to first "be" disciples, and then to "make" disciples. Sometimes there seems to be such confusion around this as a concept, but in the Word it is made clear very simply. As pastors in the NID we are to model well for our congregations and communities the love of Christ, so that those within our communities who know and love Jesus will see how to walk in His ways. And so those who do not yet know and love Jesus will be made curious by our winsome witness and opportunities will arise to share the Good News of the hope we have.

When you ask a pastor why they would rather do a funeral than a wedding, the typical answer is, "At a funeral, people are looking for and listening for hope in a hopeless time. And as one preaching the living hope of Christ and His resurrection, they listen." Now is a time when our world and our District needs this living hope more than ever.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

As a pastoral representative for the western portion of our NID, I bring a unique set of qualifications to the role. Having served in Columbus as a "Care Pastor" for eleven years, I have some experience in the role. Coming into the ministry as a second career pastor, I also bring some real world experience into the role as well. One challenge for me is that I am new to the people of our District. But with a District as large as ours this should not present too great a challenge. My goal is to serve in the best way that I can to bring help and hope to those I am called to walk alongside.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois and Waubonsee Community College
MDiv 2008 Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO

Occupation

Associate Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Marengo, Illinois.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Zion Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Marengo

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1996

LCMS District Membership Year: 2019

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2019



Rev. Micah Greiner

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Associate Pastor for Outreach (2007-2010)

Lead Pastor (2010-present)

District Experience

NID North Region Pastor's Committee - Treasurer (2014-present)

Circuit Visitor (2015-2018)

NID Board of Directors (2018-present)

Synod Experience

Voting Delegate - 2016 LCMS Convention

Special Guest - 2019 LCMS Convention

Community Service Experience

Volunteer Chaplain for Arlington Heights Police Department (2011-present)

Mission of Work

Our mission is to make disciples of all nations, starting with the women and men, girls, and boys that live in the communities that comprise the Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. To see this happen, we should strive tirelessly to ensure that a vibrant ministry of Word and Sacrament is found in every neighborhood, village, town, and community within our reach.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

We face unprecedented challenges to our congregations, schools, RSO's, and, ultimately, the District itself. Many of these challenges come from the changing environment around us and remain outside of our control. Rather than falling back in fear, I believe God is calling us to step forward in faith, drawing on our rich heritage to meet the challenges of the day with the confidence that comes from the Good News that Jesus Christ is alive and well and working through His Church to redeem and restore all that is lost and broken in His world. He does all of the hard work, but we get to be part of it!

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Concordia University (Ann Arbor) - B.A. 2002



Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) - M.Div. 2007

Occupation

Lead Pastor (2010-present)

Associate Pastor (2007-2010)

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. Peter Lutheran

Congregation City: Arlington Heights

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1981

LCMS District Membership Year: 2007

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2007



Mr. Matthew Gutzler

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I have been at St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Mt. Prospect since the summer of 1998. I was the fourth grade teacher for 18 years and currently am in my 5th year of being the K-8 PE teacher. I have coached volleyball, basketball, and track at school as well. I have been the school's tournament director for 21 years and have run our annual volleyball and basketball tournaments during that time. I have ushered at church, and have assisted with communion. The past three years I have taught Sunday School.

District Experience

In the fall of 2018 I was asked to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors. I started serving on the Board of Directors in January of 2019.

Synod Experience

At the church and school that I previously worked at (St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Portage, WI), I took a group of students to a Synod Servant event in Jacksonville, FL during the summer of 1997, and a group to the National Youth Gathering in Atlanta in 1998.

Community Service Experience

I help run our school's basketball camp every summer that we open up to the community and is the highlight of the summer for many St. Paul and non-St. Paul families alike. Over 50% of our participants are from the community, including students from the local Catholic and public schools. For over 15 years we have served about 160 kids each summer with additional kids on a waiting list.

Mission of Work

The mission of the LCMS and NID is to spread the Gospel. When thinking of mission work, many think of ways to help others "outside" of the congregation. This type of mission work is important, and our congregation and the NID make sure members of the congregation have opportunities to go on "mission trips." My family is looking forward to taking part in our congregation's Family Mission Trip to El Paso TX, and for our kids to go on "work camps" when they are in the high school youth group. But mission work is also very important "inside" the congregation as well. For many congregations, one of the best and biggest missions is the Lutheran school connected with that church. In order to have strong faith as an adult we need to start young, especially during the times in which we are living. Schools also spread the Good News to parents and families through the students who hear God's word in class. The missionary work of Lutheran schools is so important for the growth of the church.



Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

As I mentioned above, I strongly believe that Lutheran schools are one of the best mission fields that the LCMS and NID has. Most of the talk, and rightfully so, at BOD meetings is about churches. But I believe that especially with schools getting smaller and even closing, there needs to be more talk about how to keep our schools open and thriving. I want to continue to be that "voice" for schools in the district and at BOD meetings.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

I have a Bachelor's degree from Concordia University, St. Paul MN '96

Occupation

I am the K-8 PE teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School, in Mt. Prospect

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Congregation City: Mt. Prospect

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1974

LCMS District Membership Year: 1998

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1998



Mr. Jeffrey Heller

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

School Improvement Committee member, 2000-01, St. Paul Canfield

Elder, 2001-2008. St. Paul Canfield

100th Anniversary Committee member, 2002-03, St. Paul Canfield

Congregation Chair, 2004-10, St. Paul Canfield

DCE Call Committee member, 2007 St. Paul Canfield

Deaconess Call Committee member, 2008 St. Paul Canfield

School Consolidation Committee member, 2009-10, St. Paul Canfield

Church Council Vice President, 2011-18, St. Andrews Park Ridge

Board of Christian Day School, Vice Chairman 2011-18, St. Andrews Park Ridge

DCE Call Committee member, 2013, St. Andrews Park Ridge

Associate Pastor Call Committee Chairman, 2019-20

District Experience

NID Regular Convention Lay Voting Delegate 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2022

NID Special Convention Lay Voting Delegate 2005, 2017

Synod Experience

Synodical Convention Lay Voting Delegate 2007, 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019

Community Service Experience

NA

Mission of Work

Dr. Al Barry had a saying that I feel sums up the mission of the LCMS, 'Keep the message straight Missouri, and get the message out'. For by grace you are saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God, not the result of work, so that no one may boast. We keep the message of Christ's life, death and Resurrection straight by holding the Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant word of God and the Lutheran Confessions as the true interpretation of God's Word. We keep the message straight by being in the Word through worship, prayer, Bible study, and communion. We get the message out through word and sacrament ministry, school ministry, sharing Christ's love through service, and by building relationships and sharing our faith with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The NID is the walking together in mission and ministry of the 200 congregations in the northern third of Illinois and the NID office walks beside us by providing spiritual and ministerial support.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals



The challenges of doing ministry in the 21st Century have been much discussed, but the mission field offers vast opportunities. In my leaderships experiences I have found there is often misunderstanding of the role and function of the District Office and the limit on financial resources available. My goal has always been to the best of my ability provide accurate information on the function of the District and our church polity. If I have the privilege of serving our District my priorities on the Board of Directors would be working towards building relationships between congregations within circuits to coordinate ministries together that may not be possible individually, facilitate opportunities for lay leaders to develop relationships within their circuits to share best practices and challenges, and encourage congregations and individual members to provide financial support to the District enabling it to provide expanded ministry services.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

BA in Political Science Northeastern Illinois University

Occupation

National Accounts Implementation Consultant - Automatic Data Processing

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. Andrews

Congregation City: Park Ridge

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1966

LCMS District Membership Year: 1969

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2010



Rev. Joel Hess

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

2001-2008 Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Chillicothe OH

2008-2018 Senior Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Cadillac, MI

2018-present Senior Pastor, St. James Lutheran Church & School, Chicago IL

2004-08 Founder and Pastoral Supervisor, Deaconal OutReach Care and Services of Southeastern OH

District Experience

2014-2018 Circuit Visitor, Michigan District LCMS

2004-2007 Steward Board, Ohio District, LCMS

Synod Experience

none

Community Service Experience

2015-2018 Board Member, YMCA Cadillac MI

2004-2008 Founder and Pastor Supervisor, Deaconal Outreach Care and Services of Southern Ohio. I created and organized an organization to serve LCMS church and their communities in the poor sections of Appalachia. We called a Deaconess to serve the various church as well.

Mission of Work

Like the local parish, the LCMS and NID exist to make disciples by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:16-20). The LCMS and NID are the result of a godly desire to work together in order for churches to support one another, provide resources for the churches to serve God's mission (seminaries, colleges, advisers, health care, finances), and to facilitate ways to plant churches and ministries that can't be accomplished by only one parish.

In these challenging times, the churches of the NID need to work and pray together as they witness to Good News of God in Jesus Christ. We need leadership that stands on Jesus' promise that His means of grace actually changes the deadest of hearts and His promise that His Church will storm the gates of Hell is not wishful thinking. Working together we need to see ourselves on the offensive and not retreating. The NID is



essential to providing inspiration and camaraderie, but also to facilitating discussions to better serve God's people

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

As a member of the Board of Directors I hope to work with others in order to best utilize God's resources in our area for the benefit of God's people and His mission of making disciples in the various communities. The board is likely challenged by properly prioritizing various resources and ministries under a forward thinking and long term vision. We have a number of parishes that are on the brink of shutting down and we need to think creatively on how to serve human beings versus institutions, buildings, or even histories.

I strongly believe that there is great opportunity for growth in our congregations, especially in the Chicago area. I also believe in the power of God's word to make disciples. I look forward to working with God's wonderful people in order to turn obstacles into opportunities and witness a revitalization of hope and joy in our parishes and district!

Candidate Contact Information

Education

BA Michigan State University
Mdiv Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Occupation

Senior Pastor, St. James Lutheran Church & School

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. James Lutheran Church and School

Congregation City: Chicago

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1982

LCMS District Membership Year: 2018

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2018



Rev. Stephen Heuser

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I have served as Pastor of Zion Bensenville for the past 21 years

District Experience

I served on floor committee II Parish and Ministry Services for the 2003 & 2006 district conventions, and served as treasurer in 2008 for the General Pastoral Conference. I currently serve as the Vice President of the East Region Pastors Conference.

Synod Experience

I served as the pastoral delegate to the 2004 synodical convention and on the nominations committee for our last Synod Convention

Community Service Experience

I served as chaplain for the Wood Dale Fire department from 2002-2006. Previously served as the president of the Boosters Club at Walther Lutheran High School where I also coached varsity football for 10 years.

Mission of Work

The mission of the church whether it be our synod or district is to reach out to the lost proclaiming the Word in all its truth and purity and rightly distribute the sacraments according to the gospel. We, in the NID, have such a rich mission field and many wonderful opportunities to carry out Word and Sacrament ministry among God's people.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The challenges we face in the world today include standing up to all that a broken sinful world would hurl at us and not compromising our goal and mission. That goal is the proclamation of God's all sufficient Word and the faithful administration of the sacraments. We in the N. I.D. have a great opportunity to lead others back to the all sufficient Word of God which has as its focus our Savior, Christ Jesus, and all that He accomplished on the cross at Calvary. In addition, in these tough fiscal times we need to acknowledge and better support our struggling sister congregations especially in the inner city.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

BA Forensic Studies Indiana University, Bloomington 1984
MDiv Concordia Fort Wayne 2001

Occupation

Pastor Zion Bensenville

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Zion

Congregation City: Bensenville

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1960

LCMS District Membership Year: 1988

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2000



Mrs. LaDonna Hoffman

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Our Saviour Lutheran School and Church Teacher, Principal 1989 thru 2012
(Consolidated with other Lutheran Schools)

Set up Pre-School in a closed Lutheran School 2012- 2014

Walther Lower School 2015-2018 (closed)

Grace English, Chicago, Il. 2018 (last hired...first let go when the School down-sized)

St. Paul Lutheran School 2019 -Present Teacher, Grades K, 1st, 2nd.

District Experience

None

Synod Experience

None

Community Service Experience

My community experiences focused on raising my six children and being involved in their education in a Lutheran School and Lutheran Church. I was a Sunday School teacher for 11 years, involved in field trips, substitute teaching, boy scout mom, Science Fairs, Social Studies Fairs, and a member of the cooking care program, and a teacher in Lutheran Schools for forty plus years. All of my children are Confirmed in the Lutheran faith. Eleven grandchildren were enrolled in Lutheran Schools.

Mission of Work

My view of the mission of the LCMS and especially the NID is to provide quality Christian Lutheran education for our children, our families, Congregation members and surrounding communities.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I am willing to serve, taking on challenges and opportunities, with God's guidance and help.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

CUC...B.A. Elementary Ed.

CUC...Masters in Educational Leadership



Triton College ...15+ hours in Early Childhood Ed.

Occupation

Lutheran School Teacher...St.Paul Lutheran School, Brookfield, Illinois Grades K, 1st, 2nd

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Chicago, Il.

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1962

LCMS District Membership Year: 1962

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2021



Mr. Sudhir Kalapala

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Elder since 2014

Bd of Stewardship 2010

Bd of Evangelism 2003

District Experience

Member pastor selection committee

Synod Experience

Member pastor selection committee

Community Service Experience

Usher

Elder

Train acolytes

Distribute Bibles

Mission of Work

Elmhurst carnival

Bibles to inger mission

Bibles and books to Liberia

Sponsor Liberia mission

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Share the word of God

Reach out to need

Encourage and disciple new members

Spread gospel and radio missions

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Master of Science in Information Systems

Occupation

Sr. IT Developer



Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Elmhurst

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1995

LCMS District Membership Year: 2003

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2003



Mr. Dan Karnatz

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Elder - 2010-2017 - St Johns

Chairman - 2017-2021 - St. Johns

District Experience

None

Synod Experience

None

Community Service Experience

Father of four children, seven years old and under.

Mission of Work

The mission of the LCMS and NID should be to uphold the scriptures as the highest authority and ensure its members carry out what we believe, teach, and confess in all we do.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Holding fast to what it means to be Lutheran and not being swayed by the spirit of the age.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, Finance & Economics - Valparaiso University

Occupation

Certified Public Accountant

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. John's Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Chicago

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1997

LCMS District Membership Year: 1997

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2009



Mr. Erich Keller

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

2010-2016

Elder, Bethany Lutheran Church
Naperville, IL

2018-Present

Treasurer, River of Life Lutheran Church
Channahon, IL

District Experience

None to date

Synod Experience

None to date

Community Service Experience

2018-Present

Treasurer and occasional helper with River of Life chapter of Swaddling Clothes

Mission of Work

Congregations of the LCMS deliver Christ's Word and Sacraments to their members and preach Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins to their communities.

The NID assists congregations in this proclamation by helping them find faithful pastors, operate in a financially responsible way and ensure their fidelity to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Although I have not yet served on synodical boards, I have served on congregational boards for much of the past decade and in various boards and leadership positions through my career. I would bring this experience to the NID to help it accomplish its goals of supporting congregations in their mission.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

BSEE, Valparaiso University

MSEE, Illinois Institute of Technology



Occupation

Manager, Engineering Power Grid Automation

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: River of Life Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Channahon, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1983

LCMS District Membership Year: 2006

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2016



Rev. Kevin Koester

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

2007-13, Pastor of Zion & Mt. Calvary Lutheran Churches in Owensville & Belle, MO
2013-present, Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Brookfield, IL

District Experience

I've served once on the NID general pastors conference nominating committee (2017-18).

I've served as secretary (2015-2016) and registrar (2016-2019) for the NID-E pastors conference.

I've served as secretary/treasurer for the Washington Circuit, Missouri District (2009-2013).

Synod Experience

I served as pastoral delegate from the Washington Circuit, Missouri District to the 2013 Synodical convention. (if that counts)

Community Service Experience

Nothing of significance.

Mission of Work

To support congregations, church workers, and church-workers-to-be, as they proclaim the Word of God to the world.

To teach and uphold the true faith, as recorded in the Scriptures and expounded in the Confessions.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Biggest challenge: lack of time. The fields are ripe for harvest. We need to pray the Lord to send more workers.

Goal: Strive to keep all I do rooted in God's Word and use any position in which I must serve to influence others to do the same.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Concordia College/Univ (LCMS)
Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Bachelor of Arts 12/20/2002



Concordia Theo Seminary (LCMS)
Fort Wayne, IN, USA
Master of Divinity 05/18/2007

Occupation
Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregation City: BROOKFIELD

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1979

LCMS District Membership Year: 2013

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2013



Mr. Christopher Krohe

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Grace Lutheran, Western Springs

-Congregation Chairman (2021-Present)

-Elder (2014-Present)

-Trustee (2013-2019)

- 1 time Layman voter District Convention

Christ Lutheran Church, Oak Park

-Congregation Chairmen (2005-2013)

- Elder (2004-2013)

- 2 time Layman voter District Convention

District Experience

Northern Illinois District

- Administrative Services Committee (2016 - Present)

Synod Experience

None

Community Service Experience

Mentor Program - Hepzibah Children's Association, Oak Park, IL

- Volunteered a "big brother" mentor to several young boys in the programs from 1998-2003

Habitat for Humanity

- Completed the build of 4 new homes in Baton Rouge, LA after hurricane Katrina

Marched in Multiple Pro-life marches

Participated in and donated to multiple food drives and fund raisers for charity organizations

Volunteer coach for soccer, basketball and baseball for community teams

Mission of Work

First and foremost I adhere to the authority of scripture as understood and taught by the Lutheran Confessions. I believe as a faithful child of God it is my duty to lead my family in daily devotions and reflections on God's Word. To teach them to prioritize the receiving of God's good gifts weekly by attending and participating in the Divine Liturgical Service.

I believe that is it the responsibility of the Synod, District and Congregation to function as the church body, to remain true to the Word of God and to faithfully share the Good News of Jesus Christ's saving grace in and around the world

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals



At the current time, I do not see any challenges although I am sure they will come with time and experience. In regards to opportunities, I believe if I am confirmed to serve in my nominated role it would afford me the opportunity to meet fellow members of our church body and to help hold to our confessions. My goal would be to be a faithful member of my committee and to demonstrate leadership that reflects the love of our God.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

B.A. Business Management Concordia University Chicago - 2000

Occupation

Real Estate Developer

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Grace Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Western Springs

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1977

LCMS District Membership Year: 2001

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2013



Mr. David Laabs

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Chairman Board of Education 1994 - 2000

Congregation Board of Directors/Policy Based Governance - Vestry (served as VP, Chairman for many of these years) - 2000 - 2018

Board of Youth Ministry, Board of Elders (Chairman), Congregation Board of Directors 1982 - 1994

Served on numerous Call Committees for various positions including Pastors, Teachers and Principal/Administrators

Served in numerous music and church drama roles over the years.

District Experience

I have not previously served in a District position, I have directly worked over the years with several NID members (NID Presidents, Education Execs., Youth Execs., etc.) while heading up church staff call.

Synod Experience

I have not previously served in a Synod position.

Community Service Experience

Lutheran Sports Association of Illinois - Board of Directors 1998 - current

YMCA Board of Directors - Belvidere 2004 - 2016

Mission of Work

I have been associated with LCMS my whole life, supporting its consistent biblical beliefs and practices. With its primary mission to connect people to Christ for life, locally, nationally and globally, I have felt strongly about supporting both LCMS as well as NID through prayer and financial support. I have recently been in a position to volunteer with Lutheran Church Charities as well as LCMS/L.E.R.T, to help others where needed during national disasters.

LCMS and NID are especially critical today in helping and supporting churches and schools, struggling with attendance during this past year.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I believe that, with my years of church leadership experiences as well as my God given strengths, I could add value to the board. I would be able to lend firsthand successful examples and experience, as well as add assistance and support, to the various overall missions of the NID.

I am honored to be considered for this position and pray that, if selected, God would use me in whatever way to further His kingdom.



Candidate Contact Information

Education

Grade School: St. Paul Lutheran, Melrose Park, IL

High School: Walther Lutheran, Melrose Park, IL

College: Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI (AA)

College: Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL (BA)

Occupation

Sales Management

Training and Development

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran

Congregation City: Belvidere

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1957

LCMS District Membership Year: 1968

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1994



Glenda Liner

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I started at St. Paul in third grade- graduated Class of 1977. I was Confirmed and Baptized at St. Paul. After returning from college in 1985 – I started a ministry called ‘Christians In Action’ where we served families/children/teens in the community with monthly outreach opportunities. I served as church secretary, currently I serve as Congregation President.

District Experience

N/A

Synod Experience

N/A

Community Service Experience

Please briefly list your experiences, including approximate dates, serving in Community:

Most recently I have been involved with the Faith Based 4th Police District- For the past two years I have faithfully joined with ministries within the Police District of St. Paul. On Fridays we meet in different areas of the district and pray for families/neighborhoods where violence has happened in the previous week.

-Six Presidents of our Lutheran Southside Churches meet regularly to strategize on our churches we wanted to give back, one morning around 7:00 we went to Taylor Street (Tent City), where the homeless are and distributed coffee and hot chocolate, offering them a word of prayer.

We have our annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner where we invite the community to a free- Thanksgiving Meal. I have participated with others members as we walk through the South Chicago church neighborhood and offer them prayer. These were just a few of my community experiences.

Mission of Work

I feel the mission is to build the unity and diversity of our various congregations together to serve one body of Christ. We are to advance His kingdom, faithfully serving the Gospel of Jesus and sharing it in our community and the world. The district must assist congregations in furthering their various ministries whether it is a foreign mission, a prison, or support for a school ministry. Finally, we are God’s workers as we pass through our dash in life, we must remain good stewards to leave congregations ready to continue the mission of Jesus Christ.



Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Currently the only challenge that I have is when the actual meeting is held. I currently teach children with Autism, so my days Monday- Friday will not give me the availability during the school day. The opportunities and goals I can bring to committee is I have served as a delegate for the church for several conventions. I have served on several boards representing the church: Lutheran Child & Family Services for ten years, Vice-President - Board for Bethania Cemetery, Financial Director for the Chicagoland Chapter for Thrivent. I have taught special education since 2000, and currently serve as the President for the congregation for St. Paul. Attending a Lutheran elementary and high school, along with serving in many capacities within our district allows me first hand knowledge of how we can serve the Northern IL District in ministry.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

St. Paul Lutheran School (Dorchester/Grand Crossing)- Elementary June 1977

Luther South High School - June 1981

Columbia College - BA - (Broadcast Communications) June 1985

University of Illinois (Chicago) MA - Special Education - May 2003

American College of Education (Master of Education) - Educational Leadership - January 2009

Occupation

Museum of Science & Industry - Guide Lecturer July 1980 - May 1986

Funeral Plans of America - Pre-Arrangement Counselor 1986-1988

Crawford Broadcasting Company - WYCA - Christian Radio - Account Executive - 1988-1998

Warm Lane Music - Account Executive - 1998-2000

Chicago Board of Education - Chicago Public Schools - Special Education Teacher - 2000 – Present

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St Paul Lutheran Church (Grand Crossing/Dorchester)

Congregation City: Chicago, Illinois

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1977



LCMS District Membership Year: 1977
Current Congregation Membership Year: 1974



Mr. Brian Lohmeier

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

2013-2020 Board of Elders

2015-2020 Church Council

2015-2020 Treasurer

Lay Delegate 2018 NID Convention

District Experience

None

Synod Experience

None

Community Service Experience

None

Mission of Work

None

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I'm willing to serve and think it's important to have strong confessional leadership in all offices at the levels of the congregation, district and synod.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

Occupation

Web Application Developer

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Calvary Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Elgin, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1974

LCMS District Membership Year: 1974

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2020



Rev. Steven Maske

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Congregational President- Resurrection Lutheran Coronado, CA (1988), Deacon - Zion Bellville, IL (1992), Lay Minister- St. Paul's Decatur, IL (1994)

District Experience

Circuit Counselor- Flint Circuit, Michigan District, (2003-2006); North & East Pastor Conference, Program Committee - Michigan District (2006-2013); North & West Regional Pastor's Conference - NID (2016-2021); Floor Committee Northern Illinois District Convention (2018)

Synod Experience

Synodical Convention Delegate - (2019); Alumni Council- Concordia Seminary (2019-2021)

Community Service Experience

Coached Youth Sports Programs (1996- 2010); Band Booster President, Flushing MI (2010-2011); Established at risk reading program at three inner-city elementary schools in Flint, MI (2007-2012); Flushing MI Rotary Club (2005-2013), Elgin IL Rotary Club (2014- 2021) (President 2019-2020); VFW Post 777, Mt. Pulaski, IL; American Legion Post 447- Mt. Pulaski, IL

Mission of Work

Developed Vida y Fe Hispanic Mission, Elgin, IL (2014)

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The equipping of parents to faithfully raise their children in discipline and instruction of the Lord is a priority ministry of the church. The discipling of each and every member of the body of Christ is vital to the life of the church. The recruitment and development of trained church workers (pastors and teachers) is an imperative. Concordia Chicago has a long legacy in the development of church workers within the LC-MS. Continued focus on this priority mission is crucial for our church.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineer, University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign, 1984;



MDiv, Concordia Seminary St. Louis, 2000

Occupation

Surface Warfare Officer- US Navy (Damage Control Officer/Engineer/ Instructor) 1984-1989; Engineer - Illinois Power Company (Power Plant Performance/Clean Air Act Compliance/ Bulk Power Sales) 1989-1996; Pastor (St. Paul Flint, MI- 2000-2013/ Good Shepherd Elgin, IL- 2013-2021)

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Good Shepherd

Congregation City: Elgin

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1961

LCMS District Membership Year: 2013

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2013



Rev. Jorge Mazariegos

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Served as Music and Multimedia Ministry at San Pablo - 2003-2014

Leading Man's Bible Class

Ordinated in 2014

Missionary Pastor at Vida y Fe Mission -2014

Pastor at Vida y Fe Church- 2020 to Present (Mission became a LCMS congregation)

District Experience

n/a

Synod Experience

n/a

Community Service Experience

While serving as a music minister in San Pablo (2003-2013) I participated in many community-outreach events.

At Vida y Fe (2014- present) I serve our community through community health fairs, free music lessons for children in our community, have a partnership with our Information Center for Hispanic in Elgin, our English Language as a Second Language, community garage sales, and many more.

Mission of Work

The work of any congregation is to grow in the Faith and build a lasting relationship with God, one that involves worship and a continuous studying of His Word. As we grow in Christ, our lives are changed with the hope, love and joy of God. It is also necessary to actively outreach to our communities, to share His love to all. This is the mission which I believe both myself and the NID along with the LCMS work to fulfill.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

My goal is to serve the church, to bring representation of Hispanics to the Committee, to help be a connection point between Hispanics and the District, and to promote more participation of Hispanics within the District.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelors in Education in Guatemala



Associate in Agriculture
Ordained Ministry at Concordia Seminary - CHS

Occupation
Serving as the pastor of Vida y Fe in Elgin, IL.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Vida y Fe Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Elgin

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2003

LCMS District Membership Year: 2014

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2014



Rev. Dr. Craig Meissner

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

June 2003 - April 2008 - Pastor, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Franklin Park, IL;
Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Michael, Chicago, IL

April 2008 - Present - Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, U.A.C., Steger, IL

District Experience

NID East Region Pastor's Conference - Nominations Committee (2007, 2008)

NID General Pastor's Conference - Nominations Com. (2004, 2007, 2018, Present)

NID - South Region Pastor's Conference - Program Com. (2011-2013), Vice-Chair
(2014, Pres.), Chair (2015-2017)

NID Life Task Force (2013-Pres.)

NID Life Coordinator (2018-Pres.)

Synod Experience

Adjunct Professor - Concordia University, Chicago (2005)

LCMS Convention Delegate (2013)

Community Service Experience

Fire Chaplain - Steger Fire Department (2008-2011)

Pregnancy Aid South Suburbs (PASS) - Volunteer

Veterans' Benefit Activities

Mission of Work

The Mission of the LCMS is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, faithfully baptizing in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching all people what our Lord Jesus has done and taught. The NID seeks to do this locally.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Amid the confusing and chaotic times of this gnostic, nihilistic age, the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ, His incarnation, atoning death, resurrection, and ascension for the restoration of all things is the true light and life, which is sorely needed by every person herein. As changing circumstances indicate, there is need for a more flexible oversight structure so pastors, congregations, and laity can be better equipped and supported to timely address the needs of those they are called to serve. As our people have know and understand the Lord's great mercy in Christ, we can open up new avenues for this to be extended and propagated to others. By greater focus on the Gospel and Sacraments, where our Lord gives us life, clarity, and conviction, our people will be encouraged to face new challenges and reach the lost.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

B.A. Religious Studies - Concordia College, Bronxville, NY (1998)

M. Divinity - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (2002)

S.T.M. - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (2010)

D. Ministry - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (2018)

Occupation

Pastor - Immanuel Lutheran Church, Steger, IL

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran Church, U.A.C.

Congregation City: Steger, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1975

LCMS District Membership Year: 2003

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2008



Mr. Joel Moritz

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Served as Congressional Secretary of Gloria Dei Lutheran 2008-2012

District Experience

Assistant to President of District Disaster Response 2013-2016

Synod Experience

Commissioned Minister of the Word 1997-Present

1997-2000 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Brookfield, IL

2000-2007 Concordia University-Chicago, IL

2007-2012 Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

2012-2013 Trinity Lutheran Church, Paw Paw, MI

2013-2016 Lutheran Church Charities

2016-2017 Zion Lutheran Church, Marengo, IL

2017-Present Immanuel Lutheran Church, Palatine, IL

Community Service Experience

Coordination and participation in many Disaster/Emergency Response Efforts across the United States for Lutheran Church Charities.

Some of the places where I have worked are Arkansas (Tornado), Baton Rouge (Shooting/Flooding), Dallas (Shooting), Orlando (Shooting), Watseka, IL (Flooding), Umpqua CC, OR (Shooting), and Rochelle, IL (Tornado)

Mission of Work

The mission of the LCMS and NID has been a constant pillar to the faithful. As we continue to move towards unsettling times, I am reminded of the need for the faithful to go out and make disciples and not wait for them to walk through the door. The mission fields are no longer overseas or across borders, but you next door neighbors house and the small town street. I feel blessed to be equipped with His Word and have been surprised as to how the Lord has used me in my everyday life as tool for sharing His love and promise of salvation.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

My largest goal continues to be to feed His lambs and spread the Good News with the gifts which he has given me. Each day I look and listen to Him as to where I am to go, say and do in order to accomplish His will.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

Concordia University-Chicago '97 BA in Education
Concordia University-Chicago 2004 MA Reading Instruction

Occupation

Physical Education Instructor (1-8)
Extended Supervised Service Director

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran Church
Congregation City: Palatine, IL
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1987
LCMS District Membership Year: 1997
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2017



Ms. Carol-Joy Motisi

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

It has been my honor and joy to have held various roles during my years at St. Paul's Lutheran in Brookfield, IL, Immanuel Lutheran in Hinckley, IL and Immanuel Lutheran in DeKalb, IL. I've served as Sunday School Teacher, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Choir Director, Choir Member, Bell Choir Member, Youth Board Member, Confirmation Instruction Assistant and other servant roles.

District Experience

I have served on the Board of Directors from 2015 to present. This also included actively serving on two special task force committees - one designated by the district president tasked with spreading knowledge of what the NID is to member congregations and one by the district convention tasked with focusing on the future of the NID. The second committee was designated the Blue Ribbon Task Force. It was indeed a pleasure to serve on both these special committees.

Synod Experience

I've attended several synodical conventions.

Community Service Experience

I enjoy working with people and volunteering. Currently, I'm President of Christian Senior Ministries which is a DeKalb area outreach serving around 15 senior living residences and approximately 300 residents each week (pre-Covid). I'm also LERT certified and always hope to be able to share the love and compassion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ at every opportunity. I've also served at soup kitchens and neighborhoods where help is needed. My love of music is often a way to reach out to others. From my professional life, I've served on many boards and committees and still do.

Mission of Work

I am a redeemed child of God through the Grace and Faith given me by the Holy Spirit at my baptism. I am declared righteous before God through this Grace given me by the life, death and resurrection of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus has paid the price. I can do nothing. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10(NIV)

Participation in the sacred life of the congregation is so important. It is through bible study with fellow members, worship together in services, participation in Holy Communion, participation in the body of Christ, participation in congregational



events, and support / comfort for one another in good times and bad that the church is strengthened (to name only a few). Praise be to God!!

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The mission of the NID and LCMS is to spread the Word of God in it's truth and purity. We believe we are part of the body of Christ and should grow His church, the community of believers, at Christ's direction in the Great Commission found in Matthew 28. This is our challenge.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

BS in Accounting and Economics

Graduate of the Lay Ministry program (now DCM) at Concordia University Mequon

Occupation

Director of Tax

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran Church and Student Center

Congregation City: DeKalb, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1959

LCMS District Membership Year: 1959

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2015



Rev. Paul Mumme

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

I have had the privilege of serving as a pastor in the NID for 23 years (my entire pastorate), both as sole pastor and in team ministry. I am presenting serving as senior pastor at The Ev. Lutheran Church of Saint John, Sycamore (2019-). Previously I have served as pastor at Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook (2002-2019), Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Franklin Park (1998-2002), and The Ev. Lutheran Church of Saint Michael, Chicago (1998-2002).

District Experience

NID General Pastoral Conference Chairman (2017)
 NID South Regional Pastoral Conference Registrar (2009-2011, 2015-2018)
 NID South Regional Pastoral Conference Secretary (2012-2014)
 NID South Regional Pastoral Conference Program Committee (2007-2009)
 NID District Convention Nominations Committee (2006)
 NID East Regional Pastoral Conference Worship Committee (2000)

Synod Experience

Koinonia Project, NID Pilot Group Member (2012-2015)
 Higher Things Youth Conference, Catechist (2015, 2017, 2019)
 Higher Things Youth Conference, Session Presenter, Preacher, and/or Liturgist (2011-2013, 2015, 2017-2019)
 Higher Things Magazine, Author (2014)
 The Lutheran Witness, Author (2014)
 Treasury of Daily Prayer, Contributor (2008)

Community Service Experience

Crest Hill PONY Baseball, Assistant Coach (2010-2012)
 Cub Scouts, Den Leader (2008-2013)

Mission of Work

The mission of Christ is centered in the justification of sinners by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. From this flows every other aspect of Christian faith and life. The Church makes disciples by baptizing and teaching, calling sinners to repentance and faith. Called and ordained pastors corporately distribute Christ's gracious gifts, teach young and old, and tend to the sheep entrusted to their care. Christians young and old devote themselves to the Word of God and prayer, support and serve one another, their local congregation, and beyond, faithfully carry out their God-given vocations, and joyfully proclaim the hope within them in word and deed. As an LCMS pastor, I am fully committed to all of Holy Scripture and its faithful exposition in the Lutheran Confessions, and therefore support the LCMS and NID for drawing its theology and practice solely from these.



Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Though the challenges before us include spiritual apathy within the Church and living in a culture that is hostile to both the Gospel and natural law, the opportunities before us are endless. We have the pure proclamation of the Gospel that sinners desperately need. We have Jesus Christ and Him crucified for our redemption. We have His holy Word and blessed Sacraments for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. We have His promise that His Word will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish that for which He sends it. Let us always be found in Jesus Christ, speaking His truth in love to both our congregations and our communities.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

B.A., Concordia University, River Forest, IL
M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN

Occupation

Senior Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Saint John Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Sycamore

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1969

LCMS District Membership Year: 1998

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2019



Mr. Brian Noffke

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Church Council: Various years from 2002-current holding a variety of positions such as Secretary, President, and several committee positions during 3 year staggered terms

Other service positions and activities not limited by terms of office: Cemetery Sexton, Church Properties, Altar Guild, Choir, Puppet Ministry, Sunday School, VBS, Bible Study (attending and leading), Dartball

District Experience

July 20-25 2019 - Lay Delegate to LCMS National Convention

Synod Experience

July 20-25 2019 - Lay Delegate to LCMS National Convention

Community Service Experience

1984- Current: Educating, Mentoring and Coaching students and athletes in our community; (I do some science lessons and demonstrations for our local library and volunteer with our Football and Track Programs)

Other service throughout the majority of my life in the Herscher Community: Annual Labor Day celebration (setup, parade, cooking and serving meals, 5K run), Cemetery preservation work, Red Cross Blood Drives (setup, donation, cleanup), library (property work, programs, book sales)

Mission of Work

Faith comes by hearing - so first and foremost we must proclaim God's Word to all that the Holy Spirit may bring them to faith. Worship is where we get to speak God's Word back and forth to each other and to God. Study and Participation are things we do to better understand, appreciate, and share God's Word with others. Training of and assisting Pastors and others to lead, encourage and train congregations to do these things so that the seed is multiplied to a full harvest should be the primary mission focus.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Challenges: Acquisition of greater knowledge of the issues to be addressed by the Board. I have found as a science educator that it is easier to make decisions based on first hand observation and study if possible. Opportunity, like everything, is a Gift from God and the goal is to use the gifts that God has given to me to serve Him and my neighbor.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

1982 Valparaiso University BS (Majors- Mathematics and Chemistry, Minors- Education and Computer Science)
2000 Olivet Nazarene University MAE

Occupation

Retired from Teaching in 2016
Grave digging at several local cemeteries

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Trinity
Congregation City: Herscher
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1974
LCMS District Membership Year: 1974
Current Congregation Membership Year: 1974



Mrs. Ruth Otten

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Intern Teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School, Brookfield, IL. 1963-64

Teacher, organist, choir director at Immanuel, Hillside, IL 1965-1967

Teacher, organist, choir director at St. Paul, Brookfield, IL until 2006

Presently serving at Mount Calvary in Franklin Park, IL until the present

District Experience

Board for Christian Education with Dr. James. Kirchhoff and Pr. William Ameiss

School Board of La Santissima. Trinidad in Chicago

Organist for the Eastern Regional Pastoral Conferences

Involved with Faith, Hope, and Peace. Ministries an RSO that serves those in skilled care facilities and nursing homes with worship services since 2012

Synod Experience

Advisory.

Advisory Delegate to the following Synodical Conventions

Milwaukee, Wichita, and Tampa

Served on Floor Committees at Milwaukee and Tampa

ry delegate

Community Service Experience

Community service was limited to work at the church and raising my family of five children.

Mission of Work

Was in Ghana three times when my husband was teaching at the Seminary. We were last there in 2010. While there I taught at St .Paul Lutheran School in. Accra and also wrote up a curriculum for use in. their Sunday Schools.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I am strongly committed to our Lutheran. Schools and am deeply distressed that so many of our schools are closing or dwindling. I. pray that our colleges and seminaries will be able to send more workers into the harvest field to teach and train the laity of all ages.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

K to 8. St. Mark, Cleveland, Ohio
9-12. Cleveland Lutheran West, Rocky River, Ohio
Concordia. River Forest, IL. BS Ed

Occupation

Retired teacher, organist, and choir director

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Apostles. Lutheran.
Congregation City: Melrose Park, IL
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1942
LCMS District Membership Year: 1965
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2014



Mr. Paul Pasche

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Board of Elders (1995-1999), Choir (1992-1999): St. James, Chicago
 Board of Governance (2003-2006), Evangelism Chair (2001-2003), Confirmation Instructor (2003-2010), Choir (2001-2009), Praise Team (bass guitar, 2002-2005): Immanuel, Crystal Lake, 1999-2010
 Board of Elders (2013-present), Constitution Committee (2012-present), choir (2010-2013), Zion, McHenry

District Experience

NID Board of Directors, 2018 to present.
 Lay delegate to convention, 2003, 2012, 2015, 2018

Synod Experience

N/A

Community Service Experience

Volunteer, Orange County (CA) Food Bank, February 2020; Mentor, Illinois Supreme Court program for new attorneys, 2017-2018; Volunteer Instructor,, Illinois Continuing Legal Education, 2013-2014; Volunteer, The Clinic outreach program to provide professional services to underprivileged individuals (sponsored by Immanuel Crystal Lake), 2009-2010; Volunteer, Illinois State Moot Court Competition; Volunteer Attorney (pro bono) at Austin Christian Law Center, 1993-1999; Member of Illinois State Bar Association, Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association, National Medicare Secondary Payer Network, and National Restaurant and Retail Defense Association; frequent blood donor.

Mission of Work

As a lifelong Lutheran, I cherish the Lord's words via St. Paul of "the righteousness of God through faith in Christ Jesus for all who believe." Rom. 3:22. My comfort is in the promises for all of salvation from the consequences of sin and of eternal life for all believers. Rom. 5:10, 21. I'm reassured of God's daily blessing, on account of the cross of Christ, by the words of my confirmation verse: "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit." Ps. 32:1-2. I believe in the Church's and LCMS' mission to reach everyone with the saving message of the Gospel, and this is just as urgent here in Illinois as it is abroad. The NID's role is critical to support our local congregations, pastors, church and school workers, as well as to spearhead our local mission through service, programs, and church planting across our diversified urban, suburban, and rural district.



Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The NID Board of Directors continues to face the challenges of fulfilling its mission with an ever-shrinking budget. Undaunted, we move forward and succeed with prayerful consideration and planning. This has already led to the adoption of a district-sponsored mission in Belize, and I will work to expand our work both overseas and in our local mission field in Illinois. The most significant challenges are the influences of the world and the enemies of Jesus, working against the efforts to bring the Gospel to the majority of the residents of our district. The Board can take the lead by initiating new regional ministries and by strengthening our ongoing partnerships with our sister service organizations, as well as by providing resources for our congregations and schools to pursue the Gospel missions in their individual communities.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

J.D.: Valparaiso University School of Law, 1991
 B.S. (Psychology): Valparaiso University, 1988
 Concordia Lutheran High School, Fort Wayne, IN, 1984
 Concordia Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, 1980

Occupation

Attorney

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Zion
 Congregation City: McHenry
 1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1966
 LCMS District Membership Year: 1991
 Current Congregation Membership Year: 2010



Dr. Ardelle Pate

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

My experience with Immanuel Lutheran Church has been positive, and I am an active member.

- served as a vacation Bible school teacher (2021)
- participated in dinners for eight couples (2016-2019)
- participated in small groups and Bible studies (2019-21)
- served by visiting shut-in members; offered a communion for homebound adults (2018-2019)
- assisted with co-designing digital presentations for Sunday services (2019-20).
- completed Lay Ministry Training at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake, IL. (2017)
- served in various capacities with Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake, IL including The Clinic (2015)
- led professional development classes at Immanuel Lutheran School (2013)
- volunteered for PADS at Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMS in Crystal Lake (2010-11)
- volunteered for mission work during Katina in (2006-07)
- led professional development classes at Immanuel Lutheran School (2013)
- volunteered for PADS at Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMS in Crystal Lake (2008)

District Experience

I have

- served on the Northern Illinois District (NID) Elections Committee (2018-present)
- served on two of the Visioning sessions for NID (2020)
- served on approximately 15+ colloquy committees from commissioning date (2016-2020) at Concordia University Chicago
- written articles for the Lutheran Journal
- participated in presentations at the Northern Illinois Lutheran School Teachers' Workshops (2018-2020)
- presented at Lutheran NID events (principals' meeting) and Lutheran teachers events including conferences (2018-2020)
- Presented at the LEA Convocation through Concordia University Chicago (2017)
- served as a Comfort Dog and K-9 Care Conference volunteer (2012)
- received certification for Lutheran Charities/Disaster Training; completed NIMS/Certs training for disaster recovery 2010

Synod Experience

While at Concordia University Chicago, I present yearly at the ALCF Conference for Association of Lutheran College Faculties (2011-2021).

Community Service Experience



I volunteer within the community.

--served as the president for PEO International (2009-2011; 2020-21), Corresponding Secretary (2008), Recording Secretary (2011-2012); Historian (2012-20); Yearbook (2017-2020); Special Committee Work (2006-2020); I am an active participant for fundraising and women's awareness in Educational Loan Fund, Cottey College, Lulu Corkhill Williams Friendship Fund, Illinois Home Fund, P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship, P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education, P.E.O Scholar Awards, and P.E.O. Star Award

-presented at The Fountains by Watermark Assistive Living Center (2014)

-worked on fundraisers for Home of the Sparrow and the Diaper Bank of McHenry County (2017-2020)

-invited Symposia participant in Rahm Emanuel's Chicago Faith-Based Council, a part of the Department of Labor (2010-2015)

Mission of Work

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10). Teaching extends far beyond the acquisition of learning facts and applying these facts to one's life. If an educator promotes academic vigor, that individual must ground students in objective truth, integrity, and excellence. My mission follows LCMS: to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities, and the world. My purpose is to share my faith, which is grounded by the Confessional teachings of LCMS, with student. For 47 years, I have instructed students (34 years spent in public education). Years after teaching, I have met former students who openly admitted that my faith was apparent in the public classroom. Teaching allows me to model the truths of God's Word, the Holy Bible: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I believe that I have faced challenges and learned that prayer is one of the most powerful solutions. My goal is to continue learning and serving as I wait for the next adventure to surface. God has plans for me, and I will listen to his voice.

Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25: 4-5)

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Commissioned (Rostered Concordia University Chicago) Minister of Religion, LCMS (2016)

Doctor of Education Instructional Design and Technology Ed.D. - Northern Illinois University DeKalb, Illinois; Magna Cum Laude (2008)



Professional Certificate in Online Education (PCOE)/Distance Learning Certificate –
University of Wisconsin/Madison, Madison

Grant Writing Certification (2003)

Master of Science (M.S.) Instructional Technology - Kent State University, Kent, Ohio
(2003)

Master of Science (M.S.) Education/Journalism - Northern Illinois University DeKalb,
Illinois (1989); Administrative Certificate K-12 State of Illinois (current) – Northern
Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois Certificate 1346569 (1989)

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) - English/Education Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana
(1972); Professional Educator License Certificate # 1907206 English with endorsement
in Journalism and Administrative Certificate 1346569 (1972)

Occupation

Retired January 2021 from Concordia University Chicago, Professor of Educational
Technology Emeritus

I still retain a current teaching (6-12) and administrative license (K-12). My teaching
areas are English, Journalism, and creative writing.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Ardelle Pate

Congregation City: Immanuel Lutheran Church

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1950

LCMS District Membership Year: 1984

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1984



Rev. Ronald Rock

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Prior to becoming a parish pastor, I served as a lay worker in various ways in several congregations where I was a member. Those experiences and areas of service included: Board of Stewardship, Grounds Maintenance, Usher & Head Usher, Board of Elders, Vice-Chairman of a committee that began a preschool.

Since my ordination in 1993, I have served three congregations: Our Saviour, Commerce City, CO (1993-1997); Trinity, Tinley Park, IL (1998-2001); Zion, Beecher, IL (2001-present)

District Experience

As a pastor I have served on several committees and boards at the district level.

Rocky Mountain District -- Convention Travel Committee (1997);

NID -- Board of Mission & Ministry (2 terms); NID Convention Floor Committee III (2006); LWML Bi-Circuit Pastoral Counselor 2006-2011; NID 2012 Convention

Nominations Committee; NID Board of Directors, Pastor Rep., So. Region (2015-present); Member Board of Directors, Luther East High School Assoc., 2014-2015; NID Blue Ribbon Comm. Task Force 2018-2020 (review structure of NID & make recommendations regarding revising how the NID staff serves the district congregations & ministries);

Synod Experience

Pastoral Voting Delegate to LCMS Conventions (2004, 2019)

Community Service Experience

Guest presenter on Marriage & Family issues at the public high school; Youth sports coach

Mission of Work

To "worship, study, [and] participate" in the Gospel within the Christian's individual life and within his/her local congregation is the very air that we breathe as God's people. By frequent encounters with the Means of Grace in Word and Sacrament, our faith is fed, nurtured, and fortified. Also, by gathering with other Christians using the Means of Grace, we have community with like-minded people who share the same goals and have the same understanding about life that we have. This equips and empowers Christians to boldly go forward day by day in this life until we rest from our earthly labors with Christ Jesus in heaven. The mission, then, for the LCMS and our NID is to equip and encourage our laity, church workers, and the related/ancillary organizations to go boldly go forward to proclaim the eternal Gospel and live as God's people with a sure and certain hope of forgiveness of sins and eternal life in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus.



Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

As Christians, our focus must be to continue to bring Christ to our fallen world. As we seek to do that, we must be careful that our zeal to be "contemporary" and "speaking to our present day world" doesn't actually serve to blur the very essence of the Gospel. For example, several decades ago, the so-called "liberation theology" and "social gospel" begun in South America essentially replaced the Good News that God in Christ has redeemed sinful mankind from hell. A very real present day challenge facing Christ's Church is that well-meaning people will lose sight of THE Gospel by chasing earthly issues and in their zeal to fix the world, make Christ crucified and risen from the dead to be secondary in their efforts and proclamation. We must be ever-vigilant that we do not get so caught up in problems of this temporary world that we lose sight of the purpose of Christ's Church; that is, to show fallen mankind its sin and then show fallen mankind its Savior!

Candidate Contact Information

Education

AA, Cloud County Community College, Concordia, KS 1972; BS Bus. Admin., Emporia State University, Emporia, KS 1974; M. Div. Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN 1993

Occupation

I serve as a pastor in our church body. Within that, I seek to bring the timeless, errorless, changeless Word of God to bear in the lives of not only the members of my congregation but also to those within or even outside of our community. Using the Means of Grace in Word and Sacrament, I work with God's people to show them God's love in Christ Jesus and the forgiveness of sins and eternal life open to all.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Zion Lutheran Church and School

Congregation City: Beecher, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1952

LCMS District Membership Year: 1998

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2001



Dr. Dominic Salvino

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Usher - '97 - present

Sacristan - '14 - present

Board of Finance - '02 - '10

Board of Elders - '10 - present

District Experience

CUC board member - '15 - present

CUC board chair - '18 - present

Synod Experience

2016 convention delegate

2019 convention delegate

2019 convention committee member (Universities)

2019 - present 7-03 task force on Universities

Community Service Experience

FMSC various times and places

Mission of Work

I still like President Berry's slogan of get the message straight and get the message out. Being a collection of sinners we are not very good at either, but I am constantly amazed by how the Holy Spirit continues His work through such poor tools.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

CUC - Financial strains and loss of mission focus are both being worked on activity. Extremely happy with our new president so I am very hopeful on both accounts.

Nominations - (I am not 100% I am reading this email correctly but I am assuming that I am being considered for the nomination committee of NID). I would assume the problems faced by the NID nominations committee are the same as those faced by the CUC and Bethany nominations committees; finding qualified individuals willing to serve.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

B.A. math and physics, summa cum laude, University of Chicago 1987

Ph.D. physics, Stanford University, 1993

Occupation

options trader

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Bethany Lutheran

Congregation City: Naperville

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1965

LCMS District Membership Year: 1965

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1997



Ms. Laura Schmuldt

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Served as Music Director at Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL from 1995-2006
Currently serving at Holy Cross Lutheran - Cary since 2008

District Experience

One year on the NID nominating committee

Synod Experience

N/A

Community Service Experience

N/A

Mission of Work

N/A

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

It will be my honor to further assist in the work of the nominating committee in finding suitable candidates to serve the various roles in our district for a second term, especially after having become more familiar with the process.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Good Shepherd Lutheran Day School, Elgin, IL
Valley Lutheran High School, St. Charles, IL
Elgin Community College
Concordia University River Forest

Occupation

Director of Music and Organist at Holy Cross Lutheran - Cary, IL and private music teacher.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Congregation City: Cary, IL



1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1985
LCMS District Membership Year: 2008
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2008



Rev. Willis Schwichtenberg

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Pastor, Trinity & Zion, Sheldon/Gilman, WI (1972-1977), Our Savior, Milford, IL (1977-1982), Senior Pastor (1982-2012) & Associate Pastor (2012-2017) at Immanuel, Freeport, IL, & called Pastor at Our Redeemer, Freeport, IL (Jan 2021-present). Also vacancy pastor, Good Shepherd, Hoopston, IL (3 times) & St. Paul, Elizabeth, IL (1 time), & Our Redeemer, Freeport, IL (4 times). Taught OT & NT History, Luther Bible College, Rockford, IL (3 years), presenter of Martin Luther dramatic vignettes (1982-present), Wrote & directed adult Holy Week Dramas (25 years) & youth Holy Week Dramas (15 years).

District Experience

Member of North Wisconsin District (1972-1977), Member of Northern Illinois District (1977-present), Circuit Evangelism Representative in North Wisconsin District (1974-1976), Circuit Visitor for 13W (2012-2018), NID Board of Directors member (2018-present)

Synod Experience

Synodical Convention Delegate (2 times), Sub-District Director for Forward in Remembrance appeal

Community Service Experience

Coordinator (15 years) and present regular writer for Freeport-Journal Standard clergy columns since 1982, Assistant Little League coach (5 years), Regular leader of nursing home worship services for more than 35 years, columnist with monthly article on Market Street Press, Rockford IL (since November 2015). Author of more than 225 Bible quizzes.

Mission of Work

Have always followed and believed the phrase, "It is a joy to serve" and love leading worship and preaching as well as serving in a variety of capacities. Proud to be a Lutheran and proud to be an LCMS Lutheran.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

I would be happy and proud to continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the district or following wherever the Lord Jesus leads.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

Graduate of Waterville-Elysian HS in Waterville, MN (1964), Received Bachelor of Science (B.S.) (Speech Major & Minors in Speech & Journalism) from Mankato State in Mankato, MN (1968), Received Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) from Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, IL (1972) with a major in Old Testament and a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) (1973), & a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) in Preaching from Covington Theological Seminary, Rossville, GA (1989).

Occupation

Ordained pastor LCMS

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Freeport, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1946

LCMS District Membership Year: 1977

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1982



Mr. Daniel Sedory

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Chairman of Congregation

Secretary of Congregation

Chairman & Secretary Board of Elders

Chairman & Secretary Board of Education

President PTL

1986-present

District Experience

Mission And Ministry Board 2003-2009

Board of Directors 2017-present

Synod Experience

Lay Delegate 2004 & 2019 Synod Convention

Community Service Experience

Member Archer Heights Civic Association

President Bethania Cemetery Association

Mission of Work

As our culture turns away from Christ-centered faithfulness, our mission in the NID as well as the LCMS is to continue to preach and teach Christ-crucified. Our need is to remain distinctly Lutheran as we stand strongly on the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions. As an incumbent member representing the east region i feel it necessary to continue emphasis on urban ministry and inner city congregations.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

It has been an honor and privilege to serve the Lord and his Church as a member of the Board of Directors since 2017. As an ever increasing anti- Christian society attacks our church community our challenges inside and outside the church are great. Through the pandemic we learned to engage with our members in many different ways. This needs to continue even as we transition back to in person worship. Social media has many draw backs but we need to use as many platforms as we can to reach the lost, within and without our own congregations. My goal would be to strengthen relationships within the NID as well as with the District.

Candidate Contact Information



Education

B.S. Northern Illinois University

Occupation

Chicago Fire Dept / Retired

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Gloria Dei Lutheran

Congregation City: Chicago

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1954

LCMS District Membership Year: 1955

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1955



Ms. Lori Solyom

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

At Trinity, I wear many hats. Currently, I am the chairman of the Board of Stewardship (January 2018 to present) and the superintendent of our Sunday School (September 1999 to present, taught in 1988, and 1996-1998). As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its constraints, on March 22, 2020, I became the livestreaming producer for our new online worship services and Bible class, and now the school has resumed, I am broadcasting Wednesday morning chapel. I am the journalism teacher for our middle school classes at Trinity's preschool through 8th grade day school (something I began in September 2017), and also lead the students in producing a monthly school newsletter and the yearbook. Currently, I am covering our office at Trinity during a five-week stint of family leave for our church and school secretary, something I have done before. I am also handling Trinity's social media, website, external communications, and marketing, and am active in our women's ministry and LWML.

District Experience

Currently I sit as a lay representative on the NID Board of Directors (elected at the 59th Convention of the NID LCMS in 2018). From 1989 to 1996, I served as the NID Singles Coordinator under then District Executive Rev. William Ameiss, and prior to that (1985? to 1988) on the District Board for Singles Ministry.

Synod Experience

I have not served on a synodical level.

Community Service Experience

The Policy Circle, Policy Circle Leader, 2020

York Township Women's Organization member, 2013 - present

Village of Lombard Community Promotions and Tourism Committee, member (appointed), 2014 -2020

York Township Committeeman, Precinct 78 (appointed) & Precinct 51 (elected), 2014 - 2020

2015 Candidate for Village of Lombard Board of Trustees, withdrew to accept State appointment to co-chair Legislative Advisory Committee for the State Senator Chris Nybo, State Representative Peter Breen, and State Representative Patti Bellock
Lombard Families First, founder and spokesperson, 2014, successfully led the "effort to keep video gambling out of Lombard

Concordia University Chicago College of Business Ethical Leadership Summit, Executive Committee and the Marketing Team, 2013 - 2015

Thrivent Action Team Leader, multiple, benefiting Trinity Lutheran Church & School/Lombard, Voice of Care, LWML Missions

Habitat for Humanity/DuPage, Trinity team member, 2014-2017



Mission of Work

The NID's mission "Filled with living hope in Christ, Confessing, Praising, and Advancing His Kingdom," is an aspirational goal, as is the LCMS mission, "In grateful response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world." To me these statements are the *raison d'etre* of the Christian life. Our character, vocation, our actions, must be Christ-centered, sacramentally strengthened, and fully focused on sharing the Gospel Good news that Jesus Christ conquered sin death and the devil to save each and every one of us from eternal damnation. Faith comes us by God's grace through the Holy Spirit, enabling us to hear and do God's Word. We seek him in His house, the Church, where he has promised to be. The disciplines of the Christian life help us to live a God-pleasing life and should not be forsaken.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

We live in a rapidly changing world - one fraught with fears and godless ideas. And yet, the church is empowered by our omnipotent Lord. When satan sought to close every church with the global COVID-19 pandemic, God's people responded by opening churches in every home via the miracle of modern technology. We are created in the image of the One who created all. What a privilege it can be to use God-bestowed gifts to His glory. Within the NID we face economic challenges, social pressures, and a polarizing political environment. This should be no surprise, as our Savior Himself declared, "In the world you will have tribulation..." in John 16:33. We must not miss the rest of Christ's pronouncement, "But take heart; I have overcome the world." The NID Board looks first to God. And as the member of that BOD continue to pray, praise and give thanks in all circumstances, God will provide the necessary wisdom and discernment. After all, He already provided all when He provided the Lamb.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

MBA (comprehensive & non-for profit/church management), Concordia University Chicago

BA (journalism/theatre), Valparaiso University

Occupation

consultant, media-marketing-development

Director of Development, Voice of Care (LCMS RSO)

Public Relations Strategist/Publicist, TC Public Relations

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Trinity Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Lombard



1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1969
LCMS District Membership Year: 1988
Current Congregation Membership Year: 1988



Mr. Mark Stern

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Congregation Chair, 2016-present; Board of Finance, 2012-2017; Board of Deacons, 2007-2012; Chair of Call Committee (2013); member of constitution committee.

District Experience

Elected to three terms on NID Nominating Committee (served as committee vice chair, 2015, 2018, and 2022 conventions). Congregational delegate to 2015, 2018, and 2022 NID conventions. Pro bono legal work for several NID congregations assisting with various matters. When living in Springfield, served as outside legal counsel to Central Illinois District of LCMS (1999-2000).

Synod Experience

Currently serving on Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (2018-present); Board Secretary 2019-present. Previously elected to three terms on Concordia University Chicago Board of Regents (2010-2019; served as board chair 2016-2018). Delegate to 2013, 2016, and 2019 Synod Conventions; served on University Education floor committee as secretary (2016 and 2019 conventions). Member of 2016 Resolution 13-03 Task Force on Church Leadership Needs.

Community Service Experience

Frequent speaker on religious liberty legal issues at pastors' and other conferences in several LCMS districts. Pro bono legal work for charitable organizations. Served as elected Westmont Public Library Trustee (2015-2017).

Mission of Work

I see the mission of the LCMS as fairly simple: congregations working together to support one another, and to share the Gospel more effectively than we could do separately. The Synod constitution provides more detail about how we do this: recruiting and training pastors through our seminaries; supporting missionaries; mercy work; and many other activities supporting our unity in the true faith in Christ. We are to proclaim the Word and administer the Sacraments faithfully, trusting in God's grace and mercy that he has given us through His Son. The NID is Synod in this place - our 200 some congregations in Northern Illinois - helping our congregations do these things in the midst of the mission field all around us.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Scripture teaches us that the Body of Christ has many members with many diverse gifts. The job of those serving on nominating committees is to help identify and recruit those of our brothers and sisters who have been given gifts and vocations suited to the work at hand - human care, financial, higher education, etc. - and encourage them to consider serving our Synod in various elected positions. Having served on our District



nominating committee for three terms, as well as on Synod boards and committees, I have had the opportunity to meet many people, understand what is required for the needs of the Church in these challenging times, and witness what God does through them in service to the Church. If elected, I would welcome the opportunity to serve in this capacity and help identify members of the Body of Christ for these leadership roles.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Juris Doctor, University of Chicago Law School; B.A., History, University of Illinois.

Occupation

Attorney in private practice.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St. Paul

Congregation City: Brookfield

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1997

LCMS District Membership Year: 2000

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2000'



Mr. Matthew Struve

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Board of Youth Ministry, Trinity Lutheran Church, Burr Ridge, IL 1995-1997
 Board of Elders, Trinity Lutheran Church, Burr Ridge, IL 1997-2005
 Board of Youth Ministry, Zion Lutheran Church, Summit, IL 2005-2009
 Parish Long-Term Vision Committee, Zion Lutheran Church, Summit, IL 2006-2008
 Board of Elders, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hodgkins, IL 2010-2018
 Chairman, Board of Elders, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hodgkins, IL 2010-2018
 Vice-Chairman of Congregation, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2012-2018

District Experience

Member, Board of Directors 2015-Present

Synod Experience

I have not served the Synod in any capacity beyond the District level.

Community Service Experience

Member, Civil Service Board, Village of Hodgkins, 1998-2005

Mission of Work

Significant challenges confront the church as we seek to proclaim the Gospel in a world that so desperately needs to hear this Good News. As society has become increasingly hostile to Christianity and the church, God has not left the homes in our neighborhoods empty. I believe that in these challenging times, just as in any time throughout history, God is calling us to be faithful, sharing the good news of salvation with people of various faiths and cultures, many with little or no faith at all. Our Northern Illinois District and the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod have remained steadfastly rooted in God's Holy Word. As many other denominations and traditions have succumbed to the temptations to fall in line with the demands of the culture around us, we have remained resolute in upholding Holy Scripture as God's inerrant word that bears witness to Jesus Christ and makes men wise unto salvation through faith in Him.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

If it is the Lord's will, this will be my third term serving the East Region on the NID Board of Directors. I have lived in this region my whole life and have been involved in various congregations. As a result, I have developed a love for these congregations and their people. I have great interest and have fostered a knowledge of the history of our church in this region. We are entering what is certain to be one of the most challenging periods for our east region congregations. I would also contend that it might also be the one of the most exciting! Sustainability is our greatest challenge. We can either choose to make decisions, or they will be inevitably made for us. I



believe I have the energy, ideas, and desire to confront the challenges ahead of us. I have worked on a plan for sustainable future ministry in the East Region. We need to remain steadfast, keeping God's Word the foundation of everything we do! All things are possible with Him!

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Lyons Township High School, La Grange, IL
College of Du Page, Glen Ellyn, IL
Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL

Occupation

Building Official
Village of Hodgkins Illinois

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Immanuel Lutheran Church
Congregation City: Hodgkins, IL
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1975
LCMS District Membership Year: 1975
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2010



Mrs. Virginia Terrell

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

After graduating from Concordia Nebraska in 1968, I served NID congregations in various capacities...teacher, administrator, choir director, and/or organist...including: Trinity, Lombard

St. Peter, Arlington Heights

Immanuel, East Dundee

Zion, Matteson

St. Andrews, Park Ridge

Gloria Dei, Chicago

District Experience

I serve on Concordia University Chicago Board of Regents from June, 2018 to present.

Synod Experience

I have not served the Church at the Synodical level.

Community Service Experience

Currently, I help out with programs at my church which are designed to reach the community:

Swaddling Clothes - A clothes closet for infants and small children which supplies clothing and other child care necessities, free of charge to the community

Calvary Lutheran Music Conservatory - We are available to teach instrumental and vocal music to any interested individuals, both congregation and community

I also serve as an election judge for the City of Elgin.

Mission of Work

The Holy Spirit's work alone engenders, nourishes, and sustains faith. Because He is on-the-job in Word and Sacrament, the best path for mission work is proper catechesis and Divine Service, where God serves His gifts. Nourishing individual members with right doctrine and practice builds up and fortifies those in the pew to live out their Baptismal life to serve God, family, and neighbor. The Means of Grace...right preaching and teaching and administration of the Sacraments...are the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work, a task which He reliably carries out to fortify His people and build the Church, just as promised. Without these Means of Grace, He can't work. So, Church, be faithful in Word and Sacrament!

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

As a regent, I will faithfully serve the Church by assisting Concordia University Chicago meet its goal of preparing students for vocation through learning objective truth while also equipping them knowledge and skills, within a distinctively Lutheran



environment. With God's help, I will strive to properly fulfill all duties given to me, responsibly complete all tasks, participate in ad hoc assignments, and represent the Church and University in a manner consistent with Scripture our Lutheran Confessions.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelor of Science in Education - Concordia University, Nebraska

Master of Arts in Educational Administration and Supervision, Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois

Occupation

I am a professional church worker, serving in Lutheran schools and congregations as a teacher, administrator, choir director, and organist.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Calvary Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Elgin, Illinois

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1946

LCMS District Membership Year: 1968

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2018



Mr. Mark Trapp

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

As a called worker, I have served most congregations that I attended in some capacity as musician/organist/choir director.

2013 to Present - Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bensenville (Kantor)

2010 to 2013 - Immanuel, Des Plaines (Director of Parish Music, Adult Bible Study Leader)

1999 to 2010 - St. Michael, Chicago (organist)

1993 to 1999 - Immanuel, Elmhurst (assistant to the music director)

2015 to 2017 - Principal, Zion-Concord Lutheran School, Bensenville

During my time at each parish, while I haven't been specifically a part of any board, my presence was known as one to fill in and/or help out in any way that I was able.

Being an organist and teacher, I believe that my involvement on a board would be quite limited due to conflict of interests.

District Experience

Apprentice trainer for Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministries (2011-present).

Synod Experience

N/A

Community Service Experience

I have served my officials association in various board capacities over the past 20 years, ranging from board member-at-large (2008-2010), president (2010-2012), secretary (2017-present) to clinician (organization and leading of officials clinics 2008-present).

Mission of Work

I feel that the mission of the LCMS is to train up members in God's Word and equip them with what they need for the coming days. Weekly worship, along with Bible study (both corporate and personal), should be, and is, encouraged. We are called to be salt to the world, to bring the Good News to a hurting world. This isn't done by gimmicky, trendy programs, but by being the best neighbor we can be and allow the Holy Spirit to do His work through us.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

To be honest, I don't know what challenges or opportunities await should I be elected to this board and I can hardly set goals for something I admittedly know little about. However, what I can say is that, should I be elected, I would go into this with an open heart and mind, willing to serve in any way that I can to the best of my God-given abilities.



Candidate Contact Information

Education

BS in Secondary Education (Math/PE)
MEd (Curriculum and Instruction)

Occupation

I currently serve the congregation and school of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and Zion-Concord Lutheran School as teacher in the junior high department (math, science, religion, PE, music) and as Kantor for the church and school.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregation City: Bensenville
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1965
LCMS District Membership Year: 1993
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2013



Mr. Charles Traugott

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Roanoke Virginia 1993 - 1997- Congregation President and Secretary

Bethel Lutheran Church, Gurnee, Illinois 1998 - 2007- Congregation President and Elder

Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, Illinois 2007 - 2020 - Elder 2009 - 2020

District Experience

None

Synod Experience

None

Community Service Experience

Elgin Golden K Kiwanis - 2010 - 2020 Coordinated various Fund Raising functions, Volunteer at Elgin Crisis Center and Interfaith Food Pantry. Served as President and Vice President.

Mission of Work

I am a member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Elgin. I participate in worship weekly, attend Bible Study, attend classes on the Book of Concord and teach classes for Confirmands. I am an Elder at Calvary and enjoy the interaction with our Pastor, Pastor Mark Bestul, and the congregation.

I feel it is the responsibility of the NID and the LCMS to ensure the Doctrine and Theology of the LCMS is taught and followed in all churches. It is important that Law and Gospel is included in every sermon and that Pastors are responsible for the continued education of their congregations. It is critical that the NID and LCMS ensure the well-being and success of all churches. I believe support to our Seminaries should be increased to ensure the viability of these institutions and to provide the necessary Financial assistance, so all Pastor's leave the Seminary without any debt. It is also critical that the NID and LCMS speak out openly about the many issues we face to defend the church.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

The Board of Directors duties are wide ranging from developing a Long Range Plan, supervising the administration of all district funds, striving to maintain a balanced budget, maintain Public Relations and communicate the message of the Synod, establish and implement personnel policies and much, much more. It is important the NID is always looking for opportunities to support the congregations of the NID.



Necessary resources should be made available based on those needs. Many areas are competing for available funds, but the success of our congregations should always be kept in the forefront. With the financial challenges that are presenting themselves from the pandemic, we should be doing everything we can to support our existing congregations to help them prosper in these uncertain times. It is critical we always seek feedback from the congregations of the NID on their needs and how we can assist them in teaching and spreading the word.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Accounting - University of South Florida 1977

Occupation

Retired

Prior History:

Operations Manager and Field Operations Director, Allstate Insurance Company. Handled various assignments, managing Budgets up to \$500 million and 600 individuals.

United States Navy 1969 - 1974

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Calvary Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Elgin

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1972

LCMS District Membership Year: 1998

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2007



Mr. Michael Woolery

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Board of Elders 2011-2013 Board of Trustees 2013-2015 Board of Elders 2016-present, currently chairman of the Elder board. Member of call committee for school principal, 2015 Chairman of call committee for pastor, 2017

District Experience

Currently serving on NID Nominations Committee.

Synod Experience

Circuit delegate to the 2016 LCMS convention

Community Service Experience

Much of my community service involves speaking and lecturing about forestry and trees for various groups. These groups include 4-H, Rockford Public School teachers, Rockford garden groups, and lecturing at the Burpee Museum of Natural History. I have also given presentations at various natural resource conferences such as the Illinois Forestry Association's yearly meeting as well as the Tri-State Forestry Association's annual meeting. I have volunteered at the Rockford Airfest (when they still had it). I was a member of the external advisory committee for the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at University of Illinois. 2011-2012 Member of the Illinois Forestry Association board of directors 2016-18 Track coach for St Paul Lutheran School 2015-17. Volunteer photographer for Winnebago high school & middle school track and cross country, as well as for Milesplit IL (an online track and field news site).

Mission of Work

Learning the teachings of God is a task that we never complete. Because of this, I try to be studying the scriptures, confessions and other books, papers, etc. constantly. I listen to sermons, bible studies, presentations and interviews available on podcasts and online as often as I can. My faith is strengthened by hearing God's word read to me in the scriptures, when His Law and Gospel are proclaimed by his under-shepherd in the sermon, and when I receive His own body and blood in the Sacrament. My reception of these gifts in the Divine Service is the most important way that I can participate in the life of the church. Making sure that my family is in a faithful church and that my children know God's word and the catechism are extremely important. The mission of the LCMS and the NID is nothing more than the mission of Christ's Church, which is to baptize and teach all that Jesus has commanded.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

Serving on the nominations committee for the past term has given me some experience at how this committee works, and also shown how challenging the job can be. The



process has come a long way from paper and faxes and re-typing the information multiple times to the online forms we have now. Some slight tweaks might be helpful in this process, but overall it seems to operate well. The biggest challenge this committee faces is finding qualified candidates who are willing to serve. Attempting to make sure that the message gets out to all corners of the district can be challenging. To be successful in this position involves the patience to reach out to the various corners of the district and have conversations with pastors and church members, and hope this might lead to a candidate or two. At the end of the day, Jesus is Lord of his church, and we can only pray that we are given wisdom to carry out the business of His church, and that this work will bless others.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

BS from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in Forest Science, 1997 MS from University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, 2000

Occupation

I am a forestry consultant serving the northern 1/3 of Illinois. I am self-employed, and serve landowners by helping them manage their woodland in the best way possible. I also assist my wife with her dental practice by keeping the books, processing payroll, office repairs and maintenance.

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: St Paul

Congregation City: Rockford, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1975

LCMS District Membership Year: 2003

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2003



Rev. Matthew Zickler

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Congregation Experience

Confirmed, Advent Lutheran Church in Zionsville, IN October 2003

Elder, Advent Lutheran Church, 2005-2006

Field Worker, Advent Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church (Fort Wayne, IN), 2006-2008

Vicar, Messiah Lutheran Church, Seattle, WA, August 2008-July 2009

Assistant Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, IL, August 2011-May 2014

Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs, IL, May 2014-Present

District Experience

Program Committee Member, East Region Pastor's Conference, 2011-2017

Floor Committee Member, 2015 NID Convention

Secretary, East Region Pastor's Conference, 2017-2021

Chairman, General Pastor's Conference, 2019-Present

Synod Experience

Regular Contributor to the Synod Reformation Blog, December 2015 - December 2017

Community Service Experience

Board Member, Grace Christian Academy (RSO of the LCMS), Chicago (Little Village Neighborhood), 2015-Present

Mission of Work

The mission of the Church always centers around the forgiveness of sins won for us by our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross and given to us through the proclamation of the Gospel and that Word of Gospel attached to the waters of baptism and the elements of the Lord's Supper. This flows from what Jesus says in the last chapter of Luke that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and on the third day be raised, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His Name to all nations. In the NID, this work brings with it the unique contexts of our area, rural, suburban, and urban. However, in all of these contexts, the life of Christ's flock is given them in the Gospel, in Word and Sacrament. This flock then serves in view of the life given them there. Having been loved by Christ, we go out and love and serve our neighbor in our daily vocations as the Lord gives opportunity to do so. The life of all Christians is the same in Christ, but the context to serve varies.

Challenges, Opportunities and Goals

For Concordia University, there is a significant challenge. Our culture and society have drifted very far from a concern for Christian Education. All the more, our public education curricula have become grounded in philosophies which assume the Christian faith is not true, and which are opposed to that faith. This makes it



challenging to draw students to a Christian University. It also makes it difficult for the students to comprehend teaching from a Christian perspective. There is, however, a great opportunity in this field, not merely because of the light of the Gospel in contrast to the darkness of such philosophies--although that is always most important. The opportunity seems to be a growing discontent with the education being perpetuated in public schools, as parents are being increasingly confronted with the failings of the underlying philosophies.

For the NID, the challenges are similar due to the broad cultural concerns, but opportunities in the same vein abound.

Candidate Contact Information

Education

BS - Finance-Real Estate, 2003

MDiv - Concordia Theological Seminary, 2010

STM - Concordia Theological Seminary, 2019

Occupation

Cash Manager, Irwin Mortgage, Fishers IN, 2003-2006

Assistant Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn, Il, August 2011 - May 2014

Pastor, Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs, Il, May 2014- Present

Candidate Congregation Information

Congregation Name: Grace

Congregation City: Western Springs

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2003

LCMS District Membership Year: 2011

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2014

