

Section IV
NOMINATIONS

Rev. Steven Anderson

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Walther Lutheran High School, Diploma, 1988

Columbia College, Chicago, Bachelor of Arts, 1992

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Master of Divinity, 1999

Occupation:

Lutheran Pastor 1999-Present

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Chicago 2003-Present

Hope Lutheran Church of Countryside, 2022-Present

Candidate Congregation Information:

Gloria Dei/Hope, Chicago/Countryside

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1970

LCMS District Membership Year: 1970

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2003

Congregation Experience:

I served my fieldwork at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri under the supervision of the (+)Rev. James Hoppes (+) and my vicarage year (1997-1998) at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Torrington, Wyoming under the supervision of the Rev. Marvin Temme (retired).

I received the Divine Call to Messiah Lutheran Church, 62nd and Monitor Avenues, Chicago (closed) in April 1999. I was ordained on July 11, 1999 and was installed as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church of Chicago, IL on July 18, 1999. I served at Messiah Lutheran Church from until October 31, 2003. I was installed as pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Chicago where I still serve as Sole Pastor. I was also Superintendent of Gloria Dei Lutheran School from 2003 until its closure in 2019, and served as Interim Principal in 2015-2016. In 2022, I was installed as Sole Pastor at Hope Lutheran Church, Countryside, IL, when the two congregations decided to form a Dual Parish.

District Experience:

Northern Illinois District LCMS Vice-President, Hillside, IL (August 2016- present)

- Served under former NID President Dan Gilbert and current NID President Allan Buss to carry out the District's Mission and Ministry Objectives, especially in the East Region (City of Chicago and surrounding suburbs).
- Work with congregations in the Call Process, as needed.
- Assist with pastors or congregations in conflict as directed by the District President.
- Take part in NID Ordinations/Installations within my region as requested.
- Attend Regional Circuit Conferences and Regional Fall Conference.



- Advise the District President as needed.

Northern Illinois District LCMS, Board of Directors, Hillside, IL (2003-2015)

- Served on the NID BoD as a voting member, representing the East Region.

Northern Illinois District LCMS, Circuit Visitor (2015-2016)

- Visited Pastors and Congregations

- Set up monthly Circuit Meetings.

- Set up Circuit Forum.

- Advised Circuit Pastors as needed.

Synod Experience:

1. Voting Clergy Delegate from (former) Circuit 20 of the Northern Illinois District at the 2001 Synodical Convention in St. Louis, Missouri.

2. Voting Clergy Delegate from (former) Circuit 19 of the Northern Illinois District at the 2007 Synodical Convention in Houston, Texas.

3. Voting Clergy Delegate from (current) Circuit 13 of the Northern Illinois District at the 2023 Synodical Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Community Service Experience:

I have attended meetings of the (former) Midway Clergy Association (1999-2003).

I have attended meetings of the Faith-Based CAPS Meetings with the Chicago Police (2003?-2019).

Dedicated the Garfield Branch of the Chicago Public Library (2005).

Participated (with our former school) in community events, parades, etc. (sporadically).

Mission of Work:

The mission of the LCMS is for her congregations,, pastors, church workers, and congregation members to live their lives fully and solely from the Font, the Altar, and the Pulpit in the full and free forgiveness of sins that is delivered to them there from the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ alone. No plans, programs, leadership training, bureaucratic realignments, amusements, or entertainments change people's hearts or forgive their sins. Only the delivered Gifts of Christ in Word and Sacrament have that dynamo (power). The Northern Illinois District, from the inner city to the most rural farmland, must not take the Word and Sacraments for granted, but rather live from them and back to them in the joyful confidence that is there -- at the delivery point of Jesus' Gifts -- that true life is to be found, and nowhere else.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

The Christian Church is challenged by the fact that its long held favored status is ending, or has ended. What the consequences of this are, have yet to be fully revealed. When the Church had such favored status in our communities, it was easier to do the work of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus. However, it was also detrimental in that the Church became much more prone to being comfortable, and losing sight of the fact that we are pilgrims and strangers here, and that we are not of this world.

In the urban context in which I have spent my entire time in the Ministry, the challenges are: constantly changing demographics, and an unstable, and largely unchurched (or dechurched) population. This is also an opportunity to reach those



with the Truth and Life that is found in Jesus alone, as He is revealed in His preached Word, reverent and joyful handling of His holy Sacraments, and in loving service to our neighbors. My goal would be to keep our congregations as outposts of the Gospel.



Rev. Christopher Antonetti

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BA, Audio Arts and Acoustics, Columbia College Chicago
M.Div, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Occupation:

Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Lockport, Illinois
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2012
LCMS District Membership Year: 2012
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2020

Congregation Experience:

Trustee, St. John's Lutheran Montrose, Chicago, 2015-2016
Fieldworker, Trinity Lutheran, Auburn, Indiana, 2016-2018, 2019-2020
Vicar, Risen Savior Lutheran, Basehor, Kansas, 2018-2019
Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran, Lockport, Illinois, 2020-Present

District Experience:

NID South Region Pastor's Conference Program Committee, 2021-2024
NID General Pastor's Conference Program Committee, 2022-2023
NID 2025 District Convention Nominations Committee

Synod Experience:

Circuit S17 Pastoral Delegate to 2023 Synod Convention

Community Service Experience:

Friends of the White Oak Library, 2024-Present
Route 66 Association of Illinois, 2024-Present

Mission of Work:

The mission of the LCMS and the NID is what is given in scripture. Our Lord Jesus Christ wants all to come to faith by grace through the preaching of the gospel (1 Tim 2:4). We are to make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching (Matt 28:19-20). This is summarized beautifully in Augsburg Confession Article V: "That we may obtain this faith, the Ministry of Teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted. For through the Word and Sacraments, as through instruments, the Holy Ghost is given, who works faith; where and when it pleases God, in them that hear the



Gospel, to wit, that God, not for our own merits, but for Christ's sake, justifies those who believe that they are received into grace for Christ's sake." The NID, therefore, must focus on clear proclamation of this gospel of Christ's atoning death and administration of the Sacraments as Christ has instituted them, both to those in the church and outside, starting with our closest neighbors.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

One of the biggest challenges in the nominations committee is finding people willing to serve, especially laypeople. I pray that I can continue to help the committee find strong candidates who will use their varied skills to strengthen our district in the doctrine of the Word of God (1 Corinthians 16:13; Titus 2:1). May God raise up candidates whom we are able to present as those who will use "big picture" district positions to strengthen the work of pastors and congregations in Northern Illinois.



Rev. James Barbey

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

1976 St. John Lutheran School, Nottingham (Cleveland, OH)

1980 Lutheran High School East, Cleveland Heights, OH

1984 Concordia College Ann Arbor: BA - Parish Assistant

1993 University of Michigan: Master of Social Work

2002 Concordia Theological Seminary: MDiv

Occupation:

Candidate Congregation Information:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hinckley

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1962

LCMS District Membership Year: 2002

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2022

Congregation Experience:

1985 -1998 Parish Assistant -Youth at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hartland, MI
(English District)

2000 -01 Vicar at Hope Lutheran Church- Bradenton, FL (FL/GA)

2002-2021 Pastor at Living Heritage Lutheran Church Plano, IL (NID)

2023 - present Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church Hinckley, IL (NID)

District Experience:

2012 -2018 Circuit Counselor/Visitor

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Mission of Work:

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:



Ms. Carol Brown

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Bachelor of Science Northern Illinois University 1985

Master of Arts in Diaconess Studies Concordia Theological Seminary 2018

Occupation:

Medical Technologist for Northwestern Medicine, DeKalb, IL 2001-2024

Deaconess at The Ev. Lutheran Church of St. John, Sycamore, IL. 2018-present

Candidate Congregation Information:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John, Sycamore

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1960

LCMS District Membership Year: 1960

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2004

Congregation Experience:

At my previous congregation at Immanuel in DeKalb: Financial Secretary 1983-1985; Sunday School Superintendent 1994-1995; Youth Group 2001-2002

At. St John, Sycamore: Altar Guild, 2004-present; Co-director of Youth, 2005-2006; Deaconess, 2018- present. In my Deaconess role, I do visitations, lead Woman's Bible Studies, lead LWML, teach at Vacation Bible School, serve on the Board of Outreach and Board of Education. promote Pro-life events and awareness.

District Experience:

Currently serving on the NID Board of Directors and the NID Nominations Committee

Synod Experience:

None

Community Service Experience:

Volunteering for School District events 1996-2007

Girl Scout leader 1993-2001

Participate in fund raising events for local pregnancy clinic. 2016-present

Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing Event 2018-present

Mission of Work:

The church's mission is to continue to be a beacon of light in a twisted generation. Each congregation does not stand alone this, but is united with others through the circuits, districts, and Synod.



Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I'm firmly grounded in the teachings and confessions of the LCMS. It's a joy to read, study and continually learn more of God's Word and to keep my faith strong with regular attendance of worship where I receive His good gifts of Word and Sacrament. In my vocations as mother, grandmother, deaconess and friend, I strive to share the love and forgiveness of Christ and strengthen and encourage others in their faith. I hope I can encourage others to be bold and courageous as we face the false teachings and waywardness of the culture around us.



Rev. Allan Buss

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

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:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Belvidere
 1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1964
 LCMS District Membership Year: 1989
 Current Congregation Membership Year: 2000

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 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 Uni, Mequon, Wis
 ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, Concordia Uni, River Forest, IL
 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 2023
 COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS-Program Committee, 2023 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:

We rejoice in the wonderful gift we have in Gospel given in Word and Sacrament. The LCMS confesses the Bible to be the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions as a clear articulation of the Christian Faith. That is my confession. The front line of this Ministry and Mission that Lord has given us is the local congregation. We are bound together by the Lord, our Confession and the mission He has given us. The mission of the Church happens in our congregations, schools and ministries as we strengthen each other and share the Gospel in our communities. The NID is a diverse district which is stronger together as we partner, encourage and challenge each other for what the Lord has given us to do. We are about Word, Wellness and Witness!

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

The Opportunities are many because the Lord is at work in us and through us. Look at the thousands of faithful workers we have in NID both Called and Lay who serve and lead! Several hundred have participated in NID Partnership Gatherings and new relationships are forming. Over 325 participated in the Lay Leadership Summit hungry for Worship, study, hope and equipping as together we face opportunities and challenges together. Currently, an initiative on Lutheran School sustainability is on-going for all our Schools. We are looking at Ministry and Mission in our urban area. Challenges: Too few workers, long vacancies, declining numbers and sometimes hopelessness. We have the Lord Jesus, His promises and each other. I'm in!



Mr. Michael Butterfield

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Masters Degree -- University of Minnesota Mankato

BS -- University of Minnesota Mankato

Associate of Arts -- Bethany Lutheran College

Commissioned Minister -- Concordia University Texas/Martin Luther College

Occupation:

LCMS Dept. of Mission Advancement Mission Advocate -- retired.

Vice President of Institutional Advancement Concordia University Texas

Director of Major Gifts Lutheran Bible Translators

Luther High School North -- Executive Director

Candidate Congregation Information:

Trinity Lutheran Church Tinley Park, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1995

LCMS District Membership Year: 2002

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2002

Congregation Experience:

Board of Elders -- Trinity Lutheran Church-Tinley Park -- 2009-2016

Board of Elders -- Our Savior Lutheran Church -- Austin, TX -- 1995-2002

District Experience:

LCMS Northern Illinois District Board of Directors -- 2023-2024 (current)

Synod Experience:

LCMS Dept. of Institutional Advancement Mission Advocate -- 2015-2022

Community Service Experience:

I have assisted in establishing a new LCMS mission congregation in Homer Glen.

Mission of Work:

The mission of the Church, functioning as the LCMS and/or the NID, is to carry out our Lord's command in Matthew 28:19; namely, to "Go, Baptize and Teach." That work is carried out by the Spirit gifting, guiding and sending His children according to Ephesians 2::10--"created in Christ Jesus for good works."

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:



I very much look forward to the continuing opportunity to counsel with NID staff in creating effective fundraising documents. In addition, I intend to become much more vocal and active within my home congregation in promoting the work of our NID office.



Mr. Mike Cacicio

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Bachelor of Science, Marketing-Management
Bentley College, Waltham, MA

Occupation:

Semi retired strategy and marketing consultant

Candidate Congregation Information:

First Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1973

LCMS District Membership Year: 2016

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2016

Congregation Experience:

Board of Trustees member 2016, Trustee Chair 2017 - 2024.

Board of Social Ministry volunteer 2016 - 2019, lead coordinator 2019 to present, and current Chair of Social Ministry board.

Board of Director member, Wunder's Cemetery, which is owned and operated by First Saint Paul's.

Member of Church council since 2017.

Board member of the boards of Worship & Music, Evangelism and Outreach and Stewardship between 2017 - 2024.

Member of the call committee for our current pastor.

District Experience:

Yet to serve in the district.

Synod Experience:

Yet to serve in the synod.

Community Service Experience:

- Volunteer in various capacities with not-for-profit organizations that focus on providing food, clothing, shelter and other essentials to those in need. Some examples include The Chicago Help Initiative, Chicago Shares (board member) and The Orange Tent Project. Approx 2019 - present.

Mission of Work:

Proclaiming Christ, nurturing faith and serving others is the three-part mission statement of First Saint Paul's and it perfectly mirrors my view and guides my actions in faith day in and day out. My experience with LCMS/NID through FSP's to-date and



most recently directly at the Lay Summit further strengthens that same view of the synod and district.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

Bringing the love of Christ every moment to everyday situations in a manner which helps others to come to Christ for the first time and to come closer to Christ for those already in the faith and, in the process, to ever bring myself closer, is both the constant opportunity and goal. The ever present challenge is reminding myself to call on the fruit of the Spirit in the process.



Dr. Dori Chianakas

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Northern Illinois University

*Ed.D - Doctor of Education: Curriculum and Instruction, Curriculum Leadership

*Ed.S - Masters of Science in Education

*Type 75 Certificate of Administration

*Endorsement: Guidance and Counseling

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

*M.S. - Masters of Science in Educational Psychology and Community Counseling

Harper College

* Certification of Completion in Sign Language Interpreting

Concordia University St. Paul

*B.A. - Bachelor of Arts in Education: Elementary Education K-9, Physical Education K-12

Other:

LCPC- Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor - State of Illinois

Occupation:

Adjunct Professor - Concordia University Chicago (Teach in the College of Health, Science and Technology, specifically in the School Counseling (MA) program and the Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MA) program.

Former high school counselor with 25 years of experience

Former Contracted External Evaluator, Math and Science Grant Programs, Aurora University

Candidate Congregation Information:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Cary, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1973

LCMS District Membership Year: 1973

Current Congregation Membership Year:

Congregation Experience:

Holy Cross

*Governing Board Chair- 2021 - present

*Governing Board Vice-Chair 2020-2021

*Finance Committee - 2020-present

*School Board Member 2020-present

*Sign Language Interpreter 1995 - present

*Various other committee and volunteer work



District Experience:

Board of Directors 2022- present

Northern Illinois District Interpreter for the Deaf 1995 - present

Synod Experience:

None

Community Service Experience:

*Police Commissioner, Cary Police Department, Cary, IL 2013 -present

*Volunteer College Counselor, Milwaukee Military Veterans, 2021 - present

*Volunteer Counselor helping VETS and former high school students go back to college 2021-present

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

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

Mission of Work:

Both NID and LCMS are mission-oriented and make known the love of Christ by word and deed within churches, communities, districts, and the world. They are passionate about the proclamation of the Gospel in various ways throughout the world. NID has three pillars that work together in the mission vision as a guide to all the district churches. These pillars are word, wellness, and witness. Some of the ways we are addressing the pillars include: supporting our pastors as they carry out our LCMS doctrine and preaching the true words of the Bible. We also support each other in our churches as brothers and sisters of Christ. We can look for visitors in our individual congregations and be the loving Christ-filled community they so desperately need. My church is working on increasing our school numbers and church attendance. There are many mission opportunities through the school children. Christ asks us to bring the love of Christ to our neighbors, share our faith, and preach the gospel!

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

There are no challenges for me.

Opportunities:

*To serve the Lord, my district, and my church. I consider it an honor to serve Northern Illinois District as a member of the NID Board of Directors.

Goals:

*Help promote the shared vision/mission of the district.

*Advocate for the needs of the district and inspire churches to care for the district beyond the individual congregations.

*Get involved in other areas of district as a volunteer.

*Help the district find second career pastors by assisting with education completion and/or career changes for interested individuals.



Mrs. Crista Childers

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

College of DuPage

Occupation:

Business Manager

Candidate Congregation Information:

Trinity Lutheran, Burr Ridge

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1983

LCMS District Membership Year: 1985

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1985

Congregation Experience:

Board of Parish Education 2016-Present

Parish Librarian - 2017 - Present

Altar Guild 2016-Present

Board of Youth 2000-2005

Board of Stewardship 2000-2005

Women's Ministry Co-Chair 2002-2005

District Experience:

Nominated to the Nomination Committee in 2020

(Subsequently elected and currently serving)

Founding Steering Committee member for Elizabeth House, under the District's Life Task Force, which wisely chose to merge efforts with RLOM (Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries) to become the pilot for their first expansion location.

Synod Experience:

2023 Synodical Convention Voting Delegate

Community Service Experience:

I have participated in fundraising activities for various organizations.

Mission of Work:

"This is how one should regard us, as servant of Christ and of the Mysteries of God."
(1 Cor. 4:1)

Of the Church: "its marks: the pure teaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments." (Ap VII:20)



Both the NID and the Synod seek to have thriving congregations anchored around the Word and Sacraments.

I wholly affirm this mission, as it is faithful to Scripture and our Confessions.

Our Confessions provide us with something unique: With the Cross always before us, we have the medicine needed for a dying world.

“...For such a time as this...”

I remember being asked to consider allowing myself to be nominated to serve; for which I now ask to be re-elected:

With confidence in the Resurrection, I yet remained blissfully ignorant of what would come in the following years. A worldwide illness had not yet struck and our world had not yet struggled with earthly solutions. My husband had not yet gotten sick, and the Lord had not yet brought him Home, making me a widow in my early 40's."

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I recall reading *Dying to Live*, by Dr. Harold Senkbeil for the first time in my very early 20's.

“But we know it won't last. Ultimately, all of life is lived graveside. We are all dying—from the youngest newborn to the oldest nursing-home resident. We might be dying to live, but we are all dying.”

“There's no way around death. You can either die alone in this world or you can die in Jesus. You can have life your way or you can have it His way. Your way leads through life to death. His way leads through death into life”

“Want to know the secret to effective Christian vocation? It's well summed up in Luther's 16th century insight into the first-century Scriptures: the Christian always lives outside of himself—in Christ by faith and in the neighbor by love.”

Our greatest challenge: Lukewarm Apathy.

We're called to love dying world. Tomorrow is not promised. We live in a dying world unaware it is dying, unaware it needs a solution, unaware that our congregations have THE Solution.



Mr. David De Young

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BA Chicago State University

JD University of Illinois Chicago

Occupation:

Attorney

Candidate Congregation Information:

TrinityTinley Park

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1984

LCMS District Membership Year: 1984

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2001

Congregation Experience:

Elder 2003-present

District Experience:

Served as a delegate to seven District Conventions

Synod Experience:

Served as a delegate to one synodical convention

Community Service Experience:

Chair Ethics Commission

Zoning Board

Library Board

Bar Association Committees

Mission of Work:

Mission of our church and the church throughout the world is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

School ministry

Youth ministry

Financial concerns



Rev. Cory Estby

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

HS Diploma, Yorktown High School, Yorktown, IN (Salutatorian) May 1994
 Bachelor of Arts in Music Education (K-12) Ball State University, Muncie, IN Dec 1998
 Master of Divinity Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN May 2005
 Doxology Program Graduate (Continuing Education) 2009/2010

Occupation:

Elementary Music Teacher Wabash, IN (1999-2001)
 Sole Pastor Zion Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL (2005-present)

Candidate Congregation Information:

Zion Lutheran Church, Grant Park
 1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1976
 LCMS District Membership Year: 2005
 Current Congregation Membership Year: 2005

Congregation Experience:

Sole Pastor (2005-present) Zion Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL {rural setting}
 Adult Choir Director (2005-2008, 2020-2022) Zion, Grant Park, IL
 Vicar (2003-2004) University Lutheran Chapel, Boulder, CO {campus ministry}
 Seminary Field Work Student (2001-2003) Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Grabill, IN
 Stewardship Committee & Choir Member (1999-2001) Redeemer Lutheran Church, Warsaw, IN
 Peer Minister, LSF Student Leader (1994-1998) Grace Lutheran Church, Muncie, IN

District Experience:

NID Regional Vice-President {South} (2018-present)
 NID Life Task Force Chairman (2022-present)
 NID Circuit Visitor (2014-2018)
 District Nominations Committee (2012-2022)
 Northern Illinois Confessional Lutherans (NICL) Member & Officer (2006-present)
 General Pastoral Conference Nominating Committee (2011)
 South Region Pastoral Conference Program Committee Member (2018-2024)
 South Region Pastoral Conference Officer {Registrar/Treasurer/Chairman} 2005-2015

Synod Experience:

Convention Pastoral Delegate 2010



Community Service Experience:

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Delivery (2020-present)

Substitute Classroom Teacher (2022-present)

Special Fathers' Network Mentor (2020-2023)

Fortitude Community Outreach Homeless Shelter Volunteer (2018-2022)

Gift of Adoption Speaker/Presenter (2014-2020)

Zion Lutheran School, Beecher, IL PTL President (2011-2014), Assistant Soccer Coach (2014-2015)

Beecher Part-Time Players Theater Troupe Actor (2006-present)

Mission of Work:

Called as a child of God in Holy Baptism, I have continued to grow in the grace, knowledge and love of Jesus Christ--through reading and learning God's Word, by daily stumbling and yet being forgiven as a redeemed sinner. Devotional readings and prayer, study of the Lutheran Confessions, plus regular interaction with circuit brethren continue to be sources of reflection and comfort. I am overjoyed to serve as husband, father, pastor, son, teacher, and neighbor among many vocations God has granted me.

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 provide opportunities for growth/care of its church workers; aid in supporting Christian education; supervision and counsel; plus encouragement for pastors and laity alike to be proclaimers and doers of God's love and mercy.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

Reflective listening; Patient Discernment; Counsel in moments of decision; Devotion to fellow members of Christ's body.

200 congregations within the Northern Illinois District--divided into regions. As Vice-President, I serve as advisory support for the District President--supporting his role in supervision of called workers, staff and congregations of the district. Having five circuits in the South Region, I interact with the circuit visitors regularly, including an attempt annually to visit each circuit Winkel. This provides me with opportunity to remind pastors of their ordination callings and encourage them in their service to God's Church. Delivering and Proclaiming Jesus! It is through God's Word and work at the font, pulpit, and altar which deliver His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. ""Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you"" (Ephesians 4:32).



Mr. Scott Gercken

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Bachelor of Music Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2006.

Master of Arts (Music), Concordia University Chicago, 2017.

Master of Arts (Religion), Concordia University Chicago, 2020.

Occupation:

Kantor, St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School, Brookfield, IL, with duties as organist, choirmaster, and teacher of music, Latin, and religion to grades 3–8 (and other duties as assigned, varying by school year).

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Brookfield

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1984

LCMS District Membership Year: 2015

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2105

Congregation Experience:

St. Paul's-Brookfield, IL: 2015–Present: Kantor with duties as organist, choir director, departmental teacher, technology coordinator, coordinator of school spelling bee and chess club, service videographer, operetta co-director, scoreboard operator for home games. Served one term on Board of Christian Education as both member-at-large and secretary; and multiple terms on congregation's nominating committee.

2014–2015: Associate organist in CID-LCMS parishes, including University Lutheran-Champaign, Peace-Thomasboro, and Immanuel-Loda.

2010–2015: Associate organist in CID-LCMS Altamont Circuit: 1st & 3rd S. @ Immanuel-Augsburg (Shobonier), 2nd & 5th S. @ St. Peter-St. Peter; 4th S. @ St. Paul-Blue Point (Altamont); substitute organist for Immanuel-, Bethlehem-, and Zion-Altamont.

2006–2010: Director of Music at Immanuel-Osman (Fisher, IL) with duties as organist, choir director, and adult Bible class teacher.

1999–2006: Organist of Immanuel-Osman (Fisher, IL).

District Experience:

2018–2020: Graduate Assistant for the Center for the Advancement of Lutheran Liberal Arts (CALLA) at Concordia University Chicago, with duties preparing public relations materials, development of research surveys, academic conference preparation, and management of mailing lists.

2015–present: Kantor of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Brookfield.

2015–present: substitute organist at St. John-Chicago (Mayfair, Montrose Ave.); Concordia-Berwyn; St. John-Wheaton.



Synod Experience:

2014–2018: Music Director of Lutheran Public Radio, Collinsville, IL

2013–2024: Conference photographer, Issues, Etc./Lutheran Public Radio

Participant in LCMS Institute on Liturgy, Preaching, & Church Music in 2008, 2014, 2017, 2024.

Presenter at Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education conferences in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Community Service Experience:

Outside of normal activities as a congregant, faculty member, and parent at St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church & School:

2024: Member of Six Meter Club of Chicago (k9ona.com)

2005–2012: Music Technology instructor for Illinois Summer Youth Music

2008–2014: Public school band & choir director

2013: Fine Arts, County of Effingham (FACE) Orchestra: Principal Horn

2011: Effingham, IL Summer Band: horn & guest conductor

Mission of Work:

The need for a Lutheran synod assumes that congregations would be mutually bound by the Scriptures and a 'quia' subscription to the 1580 Book of Concord. Lutheran synods exist to bring fraternal encouragement, accountability, and capacity to shoulder the burdens that no congregation should bear alone. Congregations need assistance in forming and securing qualified and faithful pastors and teachers, producing written materials, and administering the resources God has provided. The LCMS as a whole works to form pastors and teachers through seminaries and colleges, and operates a publishing house. The NID provides local pastoral and congregational accountability to the LCMS congregations of the region, ensuring that each shoulders the others' burdens faithfully so that the Word may be rightly divided and the Sacraments may be rightly administered among us.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

The NID has a populous region of influence and a wide variety of congregations walking together with some staying the course, others straying from it, some fainting on the way, some moving with an apparent tailwind, some with a fierce headwind, and others sheltering from a storm. The District President, like a Lutheran school teacher, strives to keep the line orderly, admonishing the straying, bandaging the wounded, and encouraging the faithful. The Board of Directors can serve as Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' hands when the battle is long and fierce, taking care of the needs of the district so that the district's bishop can serve the pastors and congregations under his charge.



Rev. Micah Greiner

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BA @ CUA 2002

MDiv @ CSL 2007

Occupation:

Lead Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. Peter, Arlington Heights

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1981

LCMS District Membership Year: 2007

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2007

Congregation Experience:

District Experience:

North Region Pastors' Conference Planning Committee (2014-present)

Circuit Visitor (2015-2018)

NID Board of Directors (2018-present)

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Arlington Heights Police Chaplain (2011-present)

Board Member - LINC Ministries (2020-present)

Board Member - Hope for the Second Generation (2023-present)

Mission of Work:

Our mission as the Northern Illinois District is to bring the light and love of Jesus to all of the people in the wide variety of communities within the northern third of Illinois. In a world that desperately needs Good News, we have it in abundance! In a time when people seem more desperate and divided, we can bring hope and healing through the Gospel that we have gladly received.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

When the influence of the Christian Church seems to be diminishing and Christian churches are struggling, our District is needed more than ever as a source of hope and encouragement. Coming alongside our churches, schools, and RSO's to strengthen and assist in the work of the Gospel is what the District is here to do!



Mr. Matthew Gutzler

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Degree in elementary education from Concordia St. Paul 1996

Occupation:

PE teacher at St. Paul Lutheran School Mt. Prospect

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. Paul, Mt. Prospect

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1988

LCMS District Membership Year: 1998

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1998

Congregation Experience:

4th grade teacher 1998-2016

PE teacher 2016-present

Sports Coach - 1998-present

Tournament Director - 1999 - present

Sunday school teacher 2017-present

Usher

District Experience:

BOD member 2018-present

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Mission of Work:

Belize Mission Society trip - summer 2024

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I have enjoyed being a commissioned minister on the BOD continuing to be the voice for schools in the district.



Rev. Benjamin Hayter

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BA Music, Concordia Nebraska (2017)

MDiv, Concordia Seminary St. Louis (2021)

Occupation:

Pastor, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chebanse (2022)

Candidate Congregation Information:

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chebanse

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1996

LCMS District Membership Year: 2022

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2022

Congregation Experience:

Pastor, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Chebanse, 2022-present.

District Experience:

NID South Region Pastor's Conference Programming Committee, 2022-present.

NID General Pastor's Conference Programming Committee, 2023-present.

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Mission of Work:

With the many challenges that the church faces and that we face in Northern Illinois, it is important that we stand firm on the Word of God and the our confessional standards in all situations. The Word of God will be our light in the darkness. We must also work to promote and bolster our smaller congregations and schools as they are our local outposts of the Gospel in our various communities of the NID. To strengthen all congregations and congregants to share the good news of Christ first in their families, and then among their friends, and then in their communities should be a top goal of the NID.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

If elected to the NID Board of Directors, I look forward to serving to promote district missions, the support of local congregations and church workers, and fiscal responsibility.



Rev. Joel Hess

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BA Michigan State University
M.Div. Concordia Seminary St Louis

Occupation:

Senior Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. James Lutheran Church and School, Chicago
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1983
LCMS District Membership Year: 2018
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2018

Congregation Experience:

2001-8 pastor Our Savior Lutheran Church Chillicothe OH
2008-18 senior pastor Emmanuel Cadillac Mi
2018-present Senior pastor St James Chicago

District Experience:

2003-6 Ohio District Stewardship board
2015-18 Michigan District Circuit Visitor
2021-present NID board of directors

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

2015-18 Cadillac YMCA board
2005-8 Diaconal Outreach Care and Services of southern Ohio, founder and president
2022-present, faith Faith based subcommittee CPD

Mission of Work:

The mission of the LCMS and NID is to feed the found and find the lost as commanded by Christ through the life giving Word of God and sacraments. Among other things, These organizations should be serving the boots on the ground congregations and equipping them to be effective in their context.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

The board of directors of NID has a great opportunity, especially now as people are hungry for hope and meaning, to help congregations flourish, plant new churches, utilize assets for ministry, including those of defunct congregations. This is a great and exciting time to be Christ's church in northern Illinois. God has given us all we



need and is leading us to not retreat but break down Hell's gates with the Gospel of Jesus Christ



Mr. Erich Keller

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BSEE, Valparaiso University

MSEE, Illinois Institute of Technology

Occupation:

Manager, Engineering Power Grid Automation

Candidate Congregation Information:

Bethany Lutheran Church Naperville, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1983

LCMS District Membership Year: 2006

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2023

Congregation Experience:

2010-2016

Elder, Bethany Lutheran Church

Naperville, IL

2018-2023

Treasurer, River of Life Lutheran Church

Channahon, IL

District Experience:

2022-Present

NID Board of Directors

Synod Experience:

None to date

Community Service Experience:

2018-2023

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

2002-Present

Participate in various church music capacities including choir, hand bell choir and brass ensembles.

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. The NID has been instrumental in the past few years in connecting churches for potential partnerships to the benefit of all participating congregations.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

My service on the NID BOD has helped supplement my previous experience serving on congregational boards and in various leadership positions throughout my career. I would bring these experiences to the NID to help it accomplish its goals of supporting congregations in their mission.



Dr. Kyle Knoepfel

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

I received a B.A. from Luther College in 2004 (majors: physics and music, minor: mathematics). I then received a M.S. from the University of Notre Dame in 2008, and then a Ph.D from Notre Dame in 2010.

Occupation:

Since 2010, I have been an employee of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, where I have performed scientific research, published articles in peer-reviewed journals, designed and developed scientific software, collaborated with international colleagues, and presented work at international conferences and workshops. I have worked with countless undergraduate and graduate students, professors, professional researchers and scientists, engineers, software developers, and administrators.

Candidate Congregation Information:

Calvary Lutheran Church Elgin, IL
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1982
LCMS District Membership Year: 2010
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2010

Congregation Experience:

At Calvary Lutheran Church I have served as congregational vice president (2014-2016), president (2017-2020), and elder (2021-present).

District Experience:

In March of 2019, I participated in one of the NID vision events. A year later in 2020, I was honored to serve on the search committee for Dean of the College of Health, Science & Technology at Concordia University Chicago.

Synod Experience:

I was nominated to serve on the LCMS Board of National Mission for the 2023 triennium; I declined that nomination due to family circumstances.

Community Service Experience:

As a father of school-age children, home responsibilities prevent me from organized community service. However, my wife and I try to teach our kids that serving a community means being part of it in daily life: greeting your neighbors when you're on a walk, bringing their garbage cans to their house after the garbage has been picked up, getting involved in local issues, etc.

Mission of Work:



Many believe that "mission" implies serving others away from home, outside of our families and communities. But serving our neighbors and confessing Christ to them is something that happens every day among our family members, next-door neighbors, coworkers, and even among fellow Christians, whom we are to exhort in the Holy Scriptures (Hebrews 3). This occurs at a local level for most. The mission of the NID, therefore, is to support the local congregations whose pastors are charged with preaching Christ's Word and administering His Sacraments—God's undeserved gifts that bring us into the Faith and sustain us in it.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

Students should be encouraged to pursue God-pleasing, academic knowledge, but not just in preparation for their own careers. CUC will excel by embracing our Lutheran identity, which treasures the pursuit of knowledge such that others may be served by the gifts God grants each student. Based on my interactions with many students, this vocational aspect of higher education is missing at most institutions. The concept of vocation in higher education is truly unique to our understanding as Lutheran Christians, and it is a treasure to be guarded. I would love to serve as regent in the capacity to guard that treasure, which is not limited to only the classroom—it pervades the way students and professors carry themselves outside of the classroom, during office hours, in the dorm room, etc.



Rev. Kevin Koester

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Bachelor of Arts 12/20/2002, Concordia University, Ann Arbor

Master of Divinity 05/18/2007, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Occupation:

Principal of Christ Lutheran School, Sterling, IL

Assistant Pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL

Candidate Congregation Information:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1979

LCMS District Membership Year: 2013

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2023

Congregation Experience:

2007-2013, Zion Lutheran Church, Owensville, MO

2007-2013, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Belle, MO

2013-2023, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School, Brookfield, IL

2023-Pres, Christ Lutheran School, Sterling, IL

2023-Pres, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut, IL

District Experience:

East Region Pastors Conference Committee, 2016-2023

General Pastors Conference Treasurer, 2023-2024

Synod Experience:

2013 Synod Delegate

Community Service Experience:

The duties of being a husband, father, pastor, teacher, and principal generally consume my time.

Mission of Work:

Mission happens at the congregational level and in each believer's various stations in life as they serve their neighbors in love. The Synod exists to help congregations walk together, striving for faithfulness to God's Word.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

"Obviously we need more church workers! That of course also requires the congregations to support current and potential church workers with a zeal that



recognizes everything else in the world is in vain if not for the sanctification that happens through the Ministry of the Word.

My main goal, if elected, would simply be to carry out the responsibilities given to me as faithfully as I could do them and to pray that God provides the time necessary for the completion of that which He wants completed."



Mr. David Laabs

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

AA - Concordia Ann Arbor

BFA - Northern Illinois University

Occupation:

Training / Development / Management (Retired)

Candidate Congregation Information:

Immanuel Lutheran, Belvidere

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1957

LCMS District Membership Year: 1965

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1994

Congregation Experience:

Board of Elders - Chairman 1985 - 1993

Board of Christian Day School - Chairman 1995 - 2000

Board of Directors - Congregation - 2001 - 2008

Board of Directors - Congregation / Chairman 2009 - 2013

Vestry (BOD) - Chairman/member 2014 - 2021

Christian Day School Advisory Committee - 2023 - current

District Experience:

NID Ambassador of Reconciliation - 2024 – current

Synod Experience:

Ambassador of Reconciliation - 2024 – current

Community Service Experience:

YMCA - Board of Directors 1996 – 2021

Mission of Work:

As a Christian, I believe God wants us to share the Gospel with all we come in contact with, as well as those opportunities beyond our reach.

To do so, I need to daily grow in my faith and knowledge of God's saving grace and forgiveness. Personal study as well as ongoing fellowship with other Christians in various ways (worship, bible study, etc.) helps me to continue to grow in my faith.

This applies as well to what LCMS and NID focuses on - Knowing, Growing and Being Christlike to other.



Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I believe that my previous and current experiences, both within and outside of the church could be helpful in supporting the missions of NID and LCMS.



Rev. Aaron Levenhagen

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Master of Divinity, Concordia Seminary (2024)

Bachelor of Arts, Economics and European History, DePauw University (1995)

Occupation:

Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL (2024-Present)

Director-International Tax, Cummins Inc. (2017-2020)

Director-Tax Planning, AES Corporation (2014-2017)

Director-International Tax & Transfer Pricing, Cummins Inc. (2008-2014)

Senior Financial Analyst, International Tax and Tax Audits, Eli Lilly and Company (2004-2008)

Tax Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (1999-2004)

Tax Senior Associate, Arthur Andersen LLP (1996-1999)

I am a licensed Certified Public Accountant and a certified Six Sigma Green Belt.

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. John's Lutheran Church and School Elgin

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1973

LCMS District Membership Year: 2024

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2024

Congregation Experience:

In 2024, I received my first call to serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry as the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Elgin, following my graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Prior to attending seminary, I served as a musician for over 20 years, including as a lay director of music for an LCMS congregation. Additionally, I have experience as a youth leader and high school Bible class teacher.

District Experience:

I am relatively new to the District, having received my first placement here in 2024.

Synod Experience:

I have not served in any official capacity or role within the Synod beyond the positions mentioned above.

Community Service Experience:

Much of my community service is intertwined with my professional roles. Here are a few representative examples:



- Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Corporate Advisory Board (2000-2004)
- Common Ground Fine Arts Academy, Board of Directors and Treasurer (2018)
- Tax Executives Institute (Indiana Chapter), President (2009-2010), Chapter Representative to the National Board of Directors (2010-2011), Vice President (2008-2009), Treasurer (2007-2008)
- Indiana Chamber of Commerce Tax Committee (2008-2010)
- Junior Achievement, In-School Speaker and Mentor (1996-1999)

Mission of Work:

The Gospel gives the Church its life and purpose. It lives by and for the public proclamation of the Gospel. According to the Confessions, "There needs to be a teaching in the Church from which the faithful may receive the certain hope of salvation" (Apology IV, 119) and the forgiveness of sins through Word and Sacrament rightly preached and administered. Following our Lord's example of seeking and saving the lost (Luke 19:10; Mark 2:17), the Church is to devote itself, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to reaching out to the wayward and those who have never heard the Good News, as a "city on a hill" glorifying our heavenly Father (Matt. 5:16). This is our Lord's command: to baptize for the forgiveness of sins and bring the baptized into deeper faith through discipleship (Matt. 28:19-20).

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

Certainly, a principal challenge in serving in this capacity is that I am still becoming familiar with the NID, its rostered workers, the laity, and the communities. Our leaders continue to guide us to "maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3) and to celebrate Christian unity as a gift bestowed by the Holy Spirit, all while remaining faithful and consistent to LCMS doctrine and practice. One of the greatest opportunities (and challenges) lies in the need for greater engagement from individuals who have a vision for enhancing partnerships between congregations, as the scale and resources of our individual congregations evolve from previous ministry frameworks to new realities.



Rev. Paul Mumme

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Saint John's Lutheran School - South Branch, Minnesota
 Martin Luther High School - Northrop, Minnesota
 Concordia University - River Forest, Illinois (B.A.)
 Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne, Indiana (M.Div.)

Occupation:

Senior Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information:

Saint John Lutheran Church, Sycamore
 1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1969
 LCMS District Membership Year: 1998
 Current Congregation Membership Year: 2019

Congregation Experience:

The Ev. Lutheran Church of Saint John, Sycamore (2019-)
 Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Bolingbrook (2002-2019)
 Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Franklin Park (1998-2002)
 The Ev. Lutheran Church of Saint Michael, Chicago (1998-2002)

District Experience:

NID Board of Director (2022-)
 NID District Convention Nominations Committee Chairman (2025)
 NID District Convention Floor Committee Chairman (2022)
 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:

LCMS Synodical Convention Delegate (2019)
 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:

Our mission is to bring Jesus Christ and His gracious gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation to the people in northern Illinois through the pure proclamation of the Gospel and the faithful administration of the Sacraments.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

As a district we need to be faithful in all we do, be bold in our confession of God's Word of truth in the midst of the cultural chaos and confusion surrounding us, support our church workers, use the financial resources entrusted to our care wisely, and much more.



Edward Naumann

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

MA and PhD in Greek and Latin from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC (2015)

MDiv from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (2013)

MA (hons) in Classics from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland (2005)

Merchant Taylors' School, Middlesex, England (2001)

Occupation:

Pastor at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Brookfield, IL

Director of South Asia Lutheran Mission.

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. Paul's Lutheran, Brookfield

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2003

LCMS District Membership Year: 2023

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2023

Congregation Experience:

I have served as sole pastor at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Brookfield, since August 2023.

After returning from Sri Lanka I served as vacancy pastor at Concordia Lutheran Church, South Hills (Pittsburgh) for six months, and provided pulpit supply in the local area as needed, from 2021-2023.

Before my service to the LCMS as theological educator to South Asia, I served as assistant pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont, PA (2013-2015- an English District congregation).

District Experience:

In NID since 2023 I have attended circuit meetings and a forum, and pastors' conferences. At the May 7-8 conference I presented a paper entitled, "Reconciliation in the Early Church".

Prior to missionary service, I attended circuit meetings, forums and pastors conferences in the English District. I served on a floor committee for the English District convention in 2016.

Synod Experience:

From the summer of 2015 to the summer of 2021, I served the corporate Synod in the Office of International Mission, as theological educator to South Asia. In this capacity I helped to provide ongoing theological education to pastors, assisted in the formation of new pastors in the region, contributed to mission strategy, and published Lutheran



educational materials. While living in Sri Lanka, I learned to speak Sinhala, to enable me to share the Gospel locally, especially among the Sinhalese population.

Community Service Experience:

In Brookfield we are still getting integrated into the community, which takes time. We are getting to know people better by opening our home in hospitality. We take our children to the library, to the local farmers' market, events at the Zoo. Through the Church I have been able to put into motion new events such as the Oktoberfest, Youth Lock-in, Carol singing, and restarting of the church choir.

In Sri Lanka and more recently in Pittsburgh and Brookfield, I made friends playing soccer or futsal in a local group. I also engage in the community through my seven children, whose school community has been a key component of our social engagements, from friends' birthday parties to choir concerts.

Mission of Work:

The mission of every member of the LCMS (and the NID) is to be God's living instrument, so that He may work through us to call, gather, enlighten and sanctify the flock of Christ, and keep them in the one true faith unto everlasting life. To this end the NID has the opportunity to assist and support the work of proclaiming the Gospel to all people. The NID provides oversight, to protect the flock from scandals of injustice and false doctrine, which cause people to fall away. The NID should also, however, in a place to encourage and facilitate the Gospel. It can provide useful resources (or inform members where they can find such resources), needed to carry out Word and Sacrament ministry faithfully, and the NID can provide further resources helpful for conducting effective community-building and charitable activities, to the glory of God, in testimony of His love toward us and our love toward all people.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

The challenges of American culture are great. Individualism, lack of engagement in the life of the church, sinful addictions, depression, loneliness, family conflicts, lack of resources, and the great variety of different ways the Church is openly or surreptitiously undermined and attacked, require a wisdom, discernment and guidance that goes beyond human capacity. What the Church constantly needs is the blessing of God. We need faithful pastors to serve with a pure heart and a good conscience, and faithful sheep who follow the voice of Christ and reject the voice of the stranger.



Ruth Otten

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BS in Education Concordia, River Forest

Occupation:

Retired after teaching some thirty plus years at St. Paul, Brookfield, Illinois. Also served as organist and choir director there. Upon graduation from RF, I was assigned to teach at Immanuel, Hillside and be the organist and choir director there which I did for two years.

Candidate Congregation Information:

Apostles. Lutheran Melrose. Park, Illinois

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1956

LCMS District Membership Year: 1965

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1965

Congregation Experience:

Teaching at Immanuel, Hillside, organist and choir director for two years. Then for some thirty years the same at St. Paul, Brookfield. The first began upon graduation from Concordia in 1965.

District Experience:

District Education. Board, School board at La Santissima Trinidad in Chicago. Organist for the Northern Region District Pastors Conference. at the DeKoven Center since they've been meeting there.

Synod Experience:

Advisory Delegate to the last three Synodical Conventions and served on two floor committees. I have been elected to serve again at the next Synodical Convention when it meets in Phoenix in 2026.

Community Service Experience:

Regularly participating in visiting nursing homes with pastors and helping with worship.

Mission of Work:

We are in such need of future pastors and teachers in our congregations and schools. I pray that we can actively work together to recruit them. The harvest is great and the workers are few.



Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

We must recruit more men and women to become full time church workers. The need is great!



Mrs. Emily Pacyga

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

I am a product of early Lutheran education at Trinity in Roselle. I have my bachelor's degree in Arts Entertainment Media Management from Columbia College, Chicago.

Occupation:

I currently work as the Executive Director at Tabor Lutheran Church in Chicago.

Candidate Congregation Information:

Tabor Lutheran Church, Chicago

1st LCMS Congregational Year: 1982

LCMS District Membership Year: 1986

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2015

Congregation Experience:

I am a dedicated member of Tabor Lutheran Church. I have served as President of the congregation (prior to working for the church), run many outreach events (2015-present) for the community and led women's Life Group. I am passionate about urban ministry and committed to promoting the Gospel of Christ in all aspects of Tabor's ministry.

District Experience:

I have worked collaboratively with the NID to foster a good working relationship between Tabor and the District along with our Pastor. I have encouraged and helped with partnership in outreach initiatives, and provided support and communication to strengthen the church's impact in the community with the NID's help. I have also served as a lay-delegate for the last two conventions.

Synod Experience:

I served as a lay delegate for the 2023 National LCMS Convention.

Community Service Experience:

I have served and led many community outreach events at Tabor, ranging from Coffee and Indoor Open Play for young families, with under 15 attendants, to a large scale Back to School Party with over 400 people in attendance. Meeting people where they are in life and in their faith journey is very important to me. I am committed to being the "hands and feet" of Jesus.

Mission of Work:

As a parent of the next generation of LCMS, I am committed to maintaining a clear and compassionate witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for my children and others. I believe that when the church embraces people and truly live out the Gospel within



their walls, new believers can see it. The NID has such a wide and diverse area that is covered. It is my prayer that we, as a district and Synod, continue to embrace those, especially in the urban setting, that the church has historically over looked.

Challenges, Opportunities, and Goals:

I would love to see more representation of urban congregations on the NID Board and to help focus on ALL of our small, struggling congregations in the suburbs, rural communities and the city. I would like to also focus on addressing our need for fully trained pastors and teacher and DCE's and how the district can continue to support our current church workers and future church workers.



Prof. Ardelle Pate

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

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

Lay Ministry Training. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake, IL.

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, Wisconsin

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

Administrative Certificate K-12 State of Illinois (current) – Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois

Master of Science (M.S.) Education/Journalism - Northern Illinois University DeKalb, Illinois (1981)

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) -English/Education Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana (1972)

Occupation:

Adjunct Instructor, Professor of Educational Technology, Emeritus, Concordia University Chicago (2024-2021)

Professor of Educational Technology, Concordia University (2010-2020)

Adjunct, Dominican University, River Forest, IL (2008-2010)

Instructional Designer, Triton College (2006-2007)

English/Journalism teacher, Lake Zurich High School District 95 (1973-2006)

Candidate Congregation Information:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake

1st LCMS Congregational Year: 1963

LCMS District Membership Year: 1963

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1985

Congregation Experience:

Tidy Tuesday/cleaning of the church (2022-present)

Altar Guild (2022-present)

Bible studies

Vacation Bible School (2023)

Created weekly digital presentations for traditional services at Immanuel Lutheran Church (2018-2021)

Offered communion for homebound adults (2018-19)

Offered Bible studies for disabled adults at Sheltered Village in Woodstock, IL (2018)

Led professional development classes at Immanuel Lutheran School (2015)



Volunteered for PADS at Immanuel Lutheran Church LCMS in Crystal Lake (2006-7)

District Experience:

NID (Northern Illinois District) Elections Committee (2018-2024)

Visioning session for NID (2020)

Presented at Lutheran NID events and Lutheran teachers' events

Volunteered to serve for Lutheran Charity training events and Comfort Dog Conference

Continued training as a first responder with Lutheran Charities in Addison

Synod Experience:

Served on other colloquy committees from commissioning date to 2020 (Concordia University)

Presented at Lutheran teachers' events at Lutheran universities (Mequon, Concordia Austin, Concordia Irvine, Concordia St. Paul, Concordia Chicago)

Completed NIMS/Certs training for disaster recovery/Addison, Illinois

Community Service Experience:

Food Pantry volunteer (2022-24)

Volunteer at fundraisers for Home of the Sparrow and the Diaper Bank of McHenry County (2018-2020)

Served in various capacities with Immanuel Lutheran Church, Crystal Lake, IL, including The Clinic (2017)

Volunteer with Lutheran Charities in New Orleans after Katrina

Mission of Work:

Taught sessions of Disaster Training Technology Leadership New Orleans, Louisiana (2005)

Completed a training booklet for volunteers serving in a disaster area

Worked with the principal of Immanuel Lutheran School with Blue Ribbon School and Professional Development

Challenges, Opportunities, and Goals:

I am ready and willing to serve in any capacity.



Mr. Craig Peterson

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

MS Product Design & Development, Northwestern University
BS Electrical Engineering, University of Illinois

Occupation:

Systems Engineer, Northrop Grumman Corporation

Candidate Congregation Information:

Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John, Sycamore
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2003
LCMS District Membership Year: 2003
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2003

Congregation Experience:

Director, Board of Elders - 2022 - Present
Board of Administration - 2022 - Present
Elder - 2018 - 2022; 2008-2015
Adult Sunday School Leader 2010 - 2012

District Experience:

None

Synod Experience:

None

Community Service Experience:

Various volunteer activities, such as Feed My Starving Children (2017 - 2023), church thanksgiving meal service (various years), youth sports referee and coach (2014-2018), Led an LCMS church group on a mission trip to Belize (2015).

Mission of Work:

The mission of the LCMS as I see it is to faithfully and biblically share God's word - the Law and Gospel - by ensuring the congregants are properly guided in all elements of Christian life. I see the mission of the NID to serve congregations as best they can by providing resources to the congregation and spiritual care to the called staff beyond what any individual church is capable of doing. Having participated in a minister call process while serving on our board of Elders, I saw first hand the tremendous blessings our district is able to provide in placing new pastors with congregations.



Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

This will be my first direct exposure to the board, so I'm not well-versed on the challenges and opportunities of the district. I see a tremendous need in the mission field as well as a need to continue to counsel our called church workings. Any guidance I can provide through the eyes of a layperson to whatever those challenges may be would be an honor for me. I've been noted for my candor and directness with appropriate patience and empathetic listening when helping others resolve issue. If this skill is appropriate for the needs of the board, I'm happy to share.



Mr. Brian Popadowski

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Master of Business Administration, Finance Concentration
| GPA: 3.95 Lewis University, Romeoville, IL |

Bachelor of Science in Finance and Management

| GPA: 4.25 The University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL |

Occupation:

Chief Investment Officer (Interim), Rare Breed Companies, IL (3/2024--Current)

Director-Special Projects, Sloan Global Holdings, Franklin Park, IL (2019-2023)
(Hybrid Family Office Creation For The Owners Of Sloan)

Financial Advisor, Edward Jones Investments, Lockport, IL (2015 to 2019)

Branch Manager, PNC Bank, Romeoville and Joliet, IL (2012 to 2015)

Licensed Financial Sales Consultant/Assistant Branch Manager
National City Bank, Lockport, IL (2005 to 2012)

www.linkedin.com/in/brian-popadowski

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. Pauls Lutheran Church, Lockport

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2007

LCMS District Membership Year: 2007

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2007

Congregation Experience:

I have been an Elder since 2009-2010 including Head Elder from 2021-2023

District Experience:

N/A

Synod Experience:

N/A

Community Service Experience:

Lockport Chamber Of Commerce for PNC Bank 2009-2010

Head Coach Lockport Boys Baseball 2015-2020



League Director Lockport Boys Baseball Pinto League 2017
 Assistant Coach Lockport Junior Porters 2016-2019

Mission of Work:

I AM A DISCIPLE FOR LIFE & I am leading and guiding my children to be as well!

We are the family in church that brings our children's friends to church with us on Sunday trying to help spread the Word of God

Revitalizing our LCMS churches and bringing in younger members is critical for our congregations' survival. The younger generations are swayed by false doctrine and the ""cool churches"" whose Pastors are leading their flock astray!

WORD-WELLNESS-WITNESS

I want to help revitalize our congregations, be more involved in our communities to serve The Gospel of Jesus Christ and actively recruit younger generations (20's-40's) in our communities to become members of our LCMS Congregations and fellow Christian Soldiers!

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

My goal is to utilize my financial expertise and help the NID make the best decisions for its congregation members, Pastors, and Leaders. To continue to grow in faith through education provided by my Pastor and self-study. Finally, leading by example for my children and continue to guide them in their faith and spiritual well-being.



Mrs. Sonja Przybylski (nee Gulbrandsen)

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BS in Education from CUNE in 1993
 Attended Lutheran school from pre K - college
 Bethany Naperville pre K - 8
 Valley Lutheran HS in St Charles (Now Fox Valley Lutheran)
 Concordia University Seward NE

Occupation:

Taught Jr High in Lutheran schools in all 3 IL Districts
 Red Bud Lutheran SID
 Trinity Lutheran Burr Ridge NID
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Chicago NID
 Trinity Lutheran Stewardson CID
 Currently Operations Assistant for the Buildings & Grounds Department at the
 Bolingbrook Park District

Candidate Congregation Information:

Gloria Dei, Chicago
 1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1985
 LCMS District Membership Year: 2020
 Current Congregation Membership Year: 2020

Congregation Experience:

Taught Jr High in Lutheran schools in all 3 IL Districts
 Red Bud Lutheran SID 1993-2000
 Trinity Lutheran Burr Ridge NID 2000-2003
 Gloria Dei Lutheran Chicago NID 2016-2019
 Trinity Lutheran Stewardson CID 2019-2021
 Was on a jr youth gathering board for SID 1998?
 Was Jr High Youth Leader Red Bud 1996-2000

District Experience:

I have attended SID and NID Conventions
 Served on a Jr High Gathering Committee SID

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Mission of Work:

The LCMS shares the good news of Christ our risen Lord with the world.



Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I feel we need to find ways to better reach people and get them back to church on a regular basis. Our church memberships are suffering and therefore not reaching the hearts of our people.



Rev. Matthew Rosebrock

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

A.A.S Mechanical Engineering Technology (2001), Northwest State Community College

B.A. Art (2005), Concordia University Chicago

M.Div. (2010), Concordia Seminary

Ph.D. Theology and Culture (2017), Fuller Theological Seminary

Occupation:

Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lindenwood

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1980

LCMS District Membership Year: 2015

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2018

Congregation Experience:

Faith Lutheran Church of Tujunga, CA (2012–2015)

Risen Savior Lutheran Church of Byron, IL (2015–2017)

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Rockford, IL (Vacancy - 2018)

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lindenwood, IL (2018–Present)

District Experience:

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Mission of Work:

I view the mission of the LCMS to be gathered around the Word and Sacraments of our Lord, remaining steadfast in our common confession, and proclaiming Christ to the world. The Lord's mission is likewise at work here in Northern Illinois. In our midst, Jesus indeed gives His good gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through us to people who need Him.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

It would be a blessing to serve the district in securing nominations of pastors, commissioned ministers, and laity who are ready to willingly and faithfully serve the congregations of the Northern Illinois District.



Dr. Dominic Salvino

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

University of Chicago - 1987 - math and physics B.A.

Stanford University - 1992 - physics Ph.D.

Occupation:

1994 - 2021: equity options market-maker, merger arbitrage trader, VIX market-maker

2021-: retired

Candidate Congregation Information:

Bethany Lutheran Naperville

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1965

LCMS District Membership Year: 1965

Current Congregation Membership Year: 1995

Congregation Experience:

ongoing: usher, sacristan

2001-2005: Board of Finance

2005-: elder

2018-: head elder

District Experience:

2015-2025: Concordia University Chicago regent

2018-2025: Concordia University Chicago Board of Regents chair

Synod Experience:

two of the last three conventions as voting delegate

2018(?) convention: University committee member

Community Service Experience:

various short term projects such as Feed my starving children, etc.

Mission of Work:

Faithful worship and bible study attendance isnt really work, it is a gift from God. As for the district's mission, I would like to see it continue its current work with perhaps renewed vigor.



Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I suspect the main challenge will be finding suitable candidates to serve the District through the various offices up for election. My goal would be to cast as wide as net as possible to find the best candidates.



Rev. Charles Sampson

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BA Augustana College, Rock Island 1971

MA University of Iowa 1975

MDiv Lutheran School of Theology 1979

Occupation:

Parish Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information:

Lord of Life, Millbrook

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2014

LCMS District Membership Year: 2014

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2014

Congregation Experience:

I was ordained into the LCA in 1979 and received into the LCMS by means of colloquy in December of 2013. Our congregation was chartered in 2014.

District Experience:

None

Synod Experience:

None

Community Service Experience:

In previous congregations I was involved in local food pantries and with crisis pregnancy groups.

Mission of Work:

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:



Ms. Laura Schmultd

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Grade School - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Elgin, IL.

High School - Valley Lutheran High School, St. Charles, IL.

College- Elgin Community College and Concordia Chicago

Occupation:

Director of Worship and Music Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Cary, IL and private music instruction.

Candidate Congregation Information:

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Cary

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1988

LCMS District Membership Year: 2006

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2006

Congregation Experience:

Music director and organist Calvary Lutheran Church Elgin, IL 1995-2004, Holy Cross Lutheran Church Cary IL 2006-present.

District Experience:

Nominations Committee in the previous term.

Synod Experience:

N/A

Community Service Experience:

Mission of Work Experience:

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:



Ms. Lori Solyom

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Master of Business Administration - Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL
(Comprehensive Business Administration & Not-for-Profit Management)
- Bachelor of Arts - Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN (Communications -
Journalism & Theatre)

Additional Professional Education

- Certified Fund Raising Executive
- World Journalism Institute Graduate
- LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Training Workshop attendee.

Occupation:

Media Communication and Development Specialist - currently working in public relations strategy, with client publicity writing, marketing, and development focus. Strong career background in ministry development and communications (including Lutheran schools), national syndicated radio, local radio, and selected television programming, production, announcing, and voice work (for Christian and secular outlets), journalistic, contract, script and copy writing and editing (multiple arenas and media)

Professional Memberships:

- ACF (Association for Christian Fundraising - formerly ALDE - Association of), member, previous service on Communication and Curriculum Committees
- WSPN (West Suburban Philanthropic Network), member
- The Church Network – Chicago Chapter, professional services affiliate
- AFTRA (American Federation of Radio & Television Artists), member

Candidate Congregation Information:

Calvary Lutheran Church Elgin
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2015
LCMS District Membership Year: 2015
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2015

Candidate Congregation Information:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lombard
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1970
LCMS District Membership Year: 1985
Current Congregation Membership Year: 1985



Congregation Experience:

Current:

Lay Leadership positions include...Communications Director (since approximately 2015), Livestream Operator (since 2020), Webmaster (since 2017), Sunday School Coordinator/Teacher (since 2012/2007), Board of Stewardship Member (newly elected), Trinity Lutheran School Journalism teacher (since 2017), Walther Delegate (since 2021)

Ongoing involvement: Voters Assembly, LWML/Lutheran Women in Mission, Mary Martha Guild/women's service ministry, Bible study,

Previous:

Board of Stewardship Chairperson (2018 - 2023), Finance Committee (2018 - 2023), Church Council Member (2018-2023), Trinity NLSA Accreditation Committee (2016-2017), Board of Education member (early 2000s), Parenting with the Lord member (1994-2007)

District Experience:

Current: NID Board of Directors (since 2018), LWML NID/Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Communications (since 2022), NID Communicators & Admission Counselors Networking Group regular participant, Sunday School/Child & Family Ministry Network Group regular participant, NID Life Task Force nonmember work
Previous: NID Singles Coordinator (1990 - 1995), Board of Singles Ministry (1986-1990)

Previous employment at NID Recognized Service Organization - Voice of Care - Director of Development and Communications (2013 - 2023)

Previous employment at NID School - Walther Lutheran High School (now Walther Christian Academy) - Media Communications Manager/Advancement Team (2003-2009)

Synod Experience:

no official synodical service

Community Service Experience:

- Village of Lombard (Illinois) Community Promotions and Tourism Committee, member (2014 - 2020)
- York Township (Illinois) Committeeman, Precinct 78 (2014 - 2020)
- York Township (Illinois) Women's Organization (2014 - 2022)
- District 24 (Illinois Senate) Legislative Advisory Council, co-chair of Legislative Advisory Committee on Human Services (2015 - 2018)
- Elected National Presidential Delegate to Republican National Convention (2016)
- Lombard Families First (citizen group for responsible village government), founder and spokesperson (2014 campaign seeking to ban video gambling in village)

Mission of Work:

As we humbly seek to share the Good News of Jesus - His death, resurrection, and anticipated return - our joining in the life and ministry of Word and Sacrament becomes a shared confession. God bestows on each of us different gifts, reflected in our individual traits and talents. He places us in community and in our varied vocations to serve Him in many different ways. Together, as ordained or commissioned ministers and lay members of the LCMS, we pray for God's Kingdom to come, even as



we work to make Christ's love known to all - serving, loving, and forgiving one another for His sake. In the NID, our Gospel-minded focus on Word, Wellness, and Witness, provides tools, resources, and encouragement to prepare, strengthen, and unify congregations, church workers, and laity for the task of Making Disciples for Life (as the Synod has eloquently phrased our focus). We seek any ability to do so in God's Word and sacramental gifts, relying on the Holy Spirit to awaken the faith of salvation.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

Whenever God grants us a position of joint responsibility, "iron sharpens iron" (Proverbs 27:17) One opportunity in my NID Board of Directors has been the privilege of encouraging and fostering support of Christ-centered ministries. Promoting the Gospel-based work of Belize Mission Society and LINC Chicago has allowed us to see fruit borne via the nurturing of children in Seine Bight and development of ministry leaders in urban Chicago. What a joy it has been to watch our own Lutheran maternity home open in the NID through the faithful labors of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries! The NID has provided many chances for personal spiritual growth and congregational pursuit of excellence. The biggest challenge for me has been in learning that being of one heart does not always mean we are all of the same mind. My brothers and sisters in Christ on the NID BOD have taught me to listen better, think deeper, and be slower to judge. My goal is to continue to humbly serve wherever God leads me.



Dean Spacone

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

H.S. Graduate, with some college courses in electronics and computer technology.

Occupation:

Fiber Design Build Project Manager - manage the deployment of fiber cable in the right of ways to the home for internet service.

Candidate Congregation Information:

Calvary Lutheran Church Elgin

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2015

LCMS District Membership Year: 2015

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2015

Congregation Experience:

My wife Joan and I became members of Calvary Lutheran Church, Elgin, on November 29th, 2015.

I served as an usher from 2017 to 2019 which is when I was nominated for the elder board.

From 2020 to present I have had the pleasure of serving along side with my fellow elders.

I have served in the capacity of chairman of the board since 2023.

District Experience:

I attended the NID of the LCMS Convention in 2022 as a lay delegate and will be serving in the same capacity in 2025.

Synod Experience:

To better inform myself of how the governance works within the LCMS, I attended the national convention held in Tampa Bay FL in 2019.

Community Service Experience:

various short term projects such as Feed my starving children, etc I serve my community locally within my neighborhood through daily life and the care of my immediate neighbors. With the responsibilities I have towards my fellow parishioners, I don't have time to commit to any other organizations, but appreciate those that can.

Mission of Work:

N/A



Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

Caring for those within our congregation has been a true blessing and at the same time a needed challenge and discipline in my life.

Working along side a group of men that love what we believe, teach and confess in Christ Jesus and His Holy Word and Sacrament has benefited me a great deal. Through out many difficult times, such as Covid lock downs, what we confess in the book of concord has been our confidence and guide in the decisions made. A major challenge is always an opportunity to ask yourself, what is it that you truly believe? Our goal is to continue being the gate keepers for Calvary and watch for the welfare of for the Calvary family and strongly support our pastor in his vocational responsibility to teach faithfully God's word rightly, as well as him and his families wellbeing.



Mr. Matthew Struve

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Lyons Township High School
College of DuPage
Concordia Chicago

Occupation:

Building Commissioner
Village of Hodgkins

Candidate Congregation Information:

Immanuel, Hodgkins
1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1975
LCMS District Membership Year: 1975
Current Congregation Membership Year: 2010

Congregation Experience:

Bd of Youth, Trinity Burr Ridge 1995-1999
Bd of Elders, Trinity Burr Ridge 2000-2006
Chairman Bd of Elders, Immanuel Hodgkins 2011-present

District Experience:

Member, Board of Directors 2015-present

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Member, Civil Service Commission Village of Hodgkins 2000-2002

Mission of Work:

The mission of the Church is to share the good news of the Gospel, to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments. As the world around us becomes increasingly opposed to the direction of God's Word, we have a duty to remain steadfast and resolute, speaking the truth in love.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

We will be challenged by the world around us. This is a tremendous opportunity to be the church, to gather strength from our fellow brothers and sister in the faith to then share our hope with those in our communities



Jonathan Swett

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Bachelor of Music - University of Florida, 2003

Master of Church Music - Concordia University (River Forest), 2005

LCMS Colloquy, 2011

Occupation:

Kantor

Candidate Congregation Information:

Bethany Lutheran, Naperville

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1980

LCMS District Membership Year: 2005

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2021

Congregation Experience:

St. Paul Lutheran (Oak Lawn, IL), 2005-2014

Our Savior Lutheran (Hartland, MI), 2014-2021

Bethany Lutheran (Naperville, IL), 2021-present

Main responsibilities in all three congregations:

-Chief organist

-Director of adult and children choirs

-Director of instrumental ensembles including handbells and brass

-Worship planner

-General Music teacher in the school"

District Experience:

No prior experience

Synod Experience:

No prior experience

Community Service Experience:

I have not served the community in any official capacity.

Mission of Work:

As the son of an LCMS teacher and musician, I have been actively involved in LCMS congregations since birth. The mission of the LCMS as a synod is now more than ever to be a champion of biblical truth as it performs the duty of establishing and



supporting its member congregations as they seek to deliver God's word in their communities and sustain the faith of believers in Christ Jesus.

I have been a member of LCMS congregations in three different districts: Florida-Georgia, English, and Northern Illinois. The mission of the NID is to support the more localized efforts of its member congregations to faithfully administer Christ's word and sacraments. Its geographical location near the heart of American Lutheranism provides the opportunity to promote and advance practices such as historic liturgical worship. Baptizing, teaching, and working to raise and recruit faithful servants is crucial to this effort in an ever-evolving and expanding mission field.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

The main initial challenge for me would be to acclimate to a new and additional aspect of service in the church. Twenty years of experience as an LCMS church worker and more than double that as a member of LCMS congregations would help provide opportunities in which I may be able to offer constructive dialogue as it relates to the business of the Board of Directors. It would be my goal to productively contribute to the efforts of the NID by being faithful to God's word while employing a particularly calm and thoughtful demeanor.



Rev. Ralph Tausz

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

B.A. in Journalism from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.
M. Div from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

Occupation:

Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information:

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Apostles, Melrose Park

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1965

LCMS District Membership Year: 2000

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2000

Congregation Experience:

I have served as the sole pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Apostles in Melrose Park since August of 2000.

I have served as vacancy pastor for Christ in Oak Park, Good Shepherd Our Redeemer in Berwyn, and Hope in Hillside.

District Experience:

Circuit Visitor of Circuit from 2009-2012; 2019 to 2025.

Program Committee for a three-year term for both the general and east region pastors' conferences.

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Various roles as a Volunteer for the West Suburban Homeschool Band.

Various duties as a volunteer for Greenhouse Christian Co-School.

Mission of Work:

The mission of the Church is to administer God's life-giving and life-sustaining Word and Sacraments according to Christ' mandate, to love one another as Christ has loved us, and to be the light of the world by our words and actions, so that others are drawn to Christ. The Divine Service is the center of the Church's mission, for it is there that people are baptized into Christ, that the Gospel is preached and the very Body and Blood of Christ is imparted. It is this Divine Service which strengthens us to live faithfully in our daily callings, bearing witness to Christ our Savior. It is to this Divine Service that we seek to draw the lost. The mission of the NID is to support this



mission, and it is exemplified by President Buss' constant refrain in phone calls: "How can we help?"

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

The corner of God's Kingdom that is the East Region of the NID has numerous challenges. There have been five congregations that have closed their doors in my circuit alone since 2000. Numerous schools have closed their doors as well. This, despite having faithful pastors who preached God's Word faithfully. I see my role to encourage fellow pastors and church workers to remain confident in Christ and faithful to God's Word and the Lutheran Confessions, which are a proper exposition of that Word.



Mrs. Virginia Terrell

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Commissioned Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Bachelors of Science in Education - Concordia University Nebraska
 Master of Arts Educational Administration and Supervision - Roosevelt University
 Chicago

Occupation:

Lutheran teacher/administrator

Candidate Congregation Information:

Calvary Lutheran Church Elgin, Illinois
 1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1946
 LCMS District Membership Year: 1968
 Current Congregation Membership Year: 2019

Congregation Experience:

I am privileged to have served as classroom teacher, school administrator, organist, and choir director in several LCMS congregations and schools in the Chicago area. I serve my current congregation as a member of the Board of Education, co-director of Swaddling Clothes, and teacher/director of Sunday School children in the learning and singing of hymns. I am also the fulltime organist at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, West Dundee.

District Experience:

I am a member of Concordia Chicago Board of Regents at Concordia University Chicago, having served two terms. I actively participate in subcommittee assignments as well as ad hoc committees, including Presidential Search Committee and Mission/Vision Committee.

Synod Experience:

Community Service Experience:

Mission of Work:

The mission of the church is to properly preach and teach Law and Gospel, announce Absolution to those confessing their sins, and to faithfully administer the Sacraments.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I believe Concordia Chicago is uniquely positioned to excellently serve the church, families, and world as it prepares students for vocation within the environment of Lutheran Identity. The vacuous state of the world begs for meaning, boundaries, and



hope. With Christ at the center, Concordia Chicago has everything the world needs and is searching to receive: Truth. Freedom. Vocation. As many fine programs continue, recent additions such as the Center for Christian Education and the Free Enterprise Center enhance the breadth and depth of of CUC's capacity. I am privileged to have served with bright, talented, and devoted Lutheran pastors and members of the laity as we continually strive to serve the Church in a manner which brings honor to our Lord. All this is challenging! Yet, God faithfully supplies all that is needed to continue with the forgiveness, strength, and wisdom His mercy supplies.



Rev. David Totsky

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Bachelor of Arts 1985 -- Concordia Wisconsin

Master of Divinity 1989 -- Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Master of Sacred Theology 1999 -- Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne

Master of Science 2009 -- Non-Profit Leadership and Management -- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Occupation:

Ordained Pastor

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church, Joliet

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1963

LCMS District Membership Year: 2021

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2021

Congregation Experience:

1990-1993, Immanuel and Zion Lutheran Churches -- Hepler and Brazilton Kansas

1993-2003, St. John's and Trinity Lutheran Churches -- Oxford and Packwaukee, Wisconsin

2003-2012, Walther Memorial Lutheran Church -- Milwaukee, Wisconsin

2012-2021, Sherman Park Lutheran Church -- Milwaukee, Wisconsin (merger of Walther Memorial and Sherman Park congregations)

District Experience:

2022-Present, Secretary, Northern Illinois District LCMS

2022-Present, Registrar/Treasurer, South Region Pastoral Conference

2021-Present, Committee on Constitutional Matters, Northern Illinois District

2006-2021, Secretary, South Wisconsin District LCMS

2015-2021, Chair, South Wisconsin District Policy Committee

2007-2021, Chair, South Wisconsin District Governance Task Force

2006-2021, Chair, Committee on Constitution Matters, South Wisconsin District

2006-2010, District LWML Pastoral Counselor

2004-2006, Assistant Secretary, South Wisconsin District

2004-2006, Secretary, Committee on Constitutional Matters, South Wisconsin District

2003, Floor Committee Chair, South Wisconsin District

1997, 2000, Floor Committee Member

2000-2003, Circuit Counselor South Wisconsin District

1994-2002, LWML Zone Pastoral Advisor



Synod Experience:

2018-Present, Commission on Handbook
 2017-Present, Dispute Hearing Panel Facilitator
 2016-Present, Reconciler
 1992, 1998, 2001, 2007, 2013, 2019, Convention Delegate
 2016, 2023, Convention Representative/Advisory delegate
 2013, Convention Floor Committee Member and Secretary
 2008-2012, SMP Mentor
 Vicarage Supervisor

Community Service Experience:

2009-2015, Board of Directors, Interfaith Senior Programs of Waukesha
 2008-2012, Consultant and volunteer -- Friedens Ministry -- Social services/food pantry
 2004-2012, Board of Directors, Clare Oasis
 2004-2010, President and Board Chair, A Second Chance Outreach Ministry
 2004-2009, Treasurer for Boy Scouts
 1998-2003, Hospice Pastor

Mission of Work:

The Church is known by the presence of its marks -- the Word, faithfully preached, and the sacraments, rightly administered as instituted by Christ. The LCMS, the NID, and its member congregations should place a priority and focus on these means which God gives to establish, maintain and strengthen our faith. The Spirit at work in and through the Word is the only means by which the Church will grow. Our congregations and members need to be in the Word so that they may faithfully bear witness to the world, as well as supporting and encouraging our brothers and sisters in the faith in good times as well as bad.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I would be honored to continue to use the gifts and abilities which God has given me in service of His Church here in the Northern Illinois District.



Miss Emelia Waugh

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from Northern Illinois University

Occupation:

Accounting Specialist for The Suter Company

Candidate Congregation Information:

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Belvidere

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2008

LCMS District Membership Year: 2008

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2008

Congregation Experience:

I have served in several ways in my congregation. Since 2016 I have taught in our preschool and kindergarten Sunday School class. I volunteered with our confirmation program from 2018 through spring of 2024. I joined our Endowment Committee in 2023 and our Youth Advisory Council in the summer of 2024.

District Experience:

I do not have any experiences serving in District.

Synod Experience:

I do not have any experiences serving in Synod.

Community Service Experience:

I primarily serve my community through participation in LWML service events. I have been an LWML member since 2020 and have participated in our community service events for shelters, food pantries, and pregnancy resource centers. I currently serve as the District Treasurer for the LWML NID. I also serve on the Make A Difference DKC committee that hosts and annual Feed My Starving Children MobilePack event each November.

Mission of Work:

The mission of the LCMS is the mission that Christ gave His disciples: to spread the Good News and to Baptize. All members of the LCMS are called to show Christ's love to their neighbors so their neighbors may know Christ. God gives us the Sacraments to sustain our faith. He further strengthens and renews us through worship, Bible study, and Christian fellowship in our churches and district that we may go out into the world and proclaim His Truth. As the redeemed people of Christ we are gifted to be able to do the good works that Christ prepared in advance for us to do so that He



might bring the lost back to Him. As the NID we should strengthen and encourage each other to grow and sustain the Church so that the knowledge of redemption through Christ's death and resurrection can be passed down from generation to generation.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I think the biggest challenge we are facing is connecting with those who are not active church members. We live in a time filled with constant notifications, noises, and overlapping scheduled events. I would make it a goal to work on strengthening and equipping all of our congregation members to connect with people and show them the peace that is ours in Christ. I also think it would be helpful to see where our churches can support each other. I think that as God's people we best do His work in community because He has given each person different gifts for doing different types of work. As a district we should work together to strengthen each other in faith and to reach out to people and connect them to Christ and the people that He graciously gives us to worship and serve with in our local churches. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 122:1 "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" May we all rejoice together in Christ.



Mr. Michael Woolery

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Layperson

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

BS - Forest Science, University of Illinois

MS - Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

Occupation:

Consulting Forester

Candidate Congregation Information:

St. Paul, Rockford

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 1975

LCMS District Membership Year: 2003

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2003

Congregation Experience:

Elder Board. Head elder 2017-2024

Elder Board. Member 2015-17

Pastoral call committee 2017

District Experience:

Current member of the NID nominations committee

Synod Experience:

Representative to 2016 Synodical Convention

Community Service Experience:

Track and Field coach - St Paul Lutheran School, Rockford. 2017-2018

Track and Field coach - Winnebago Middle School 2024

Mission of Work:

The mission of the church is what it always has been: to proclaim the good news to an unbelieving world. As Christ's church we hold the eternal truth of the gospel as a treasure to be guarded carefully, but also as a treasure that needs to be shared. We must guard this treasure because we see how easily other churches have slowly (or quickly) let the teachings of the world infect their doctrine and practice. The end result is a church in name only, that has been hollowed out from the inside and can no longer speak truth or offer true comfort. We also must share the treasure, as it is the only message that can save those outside of the true church. This message must be proclaimed as both the full strength of the law, and the great sweetness of the gospel.



Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

I have found that the biggest challenge the nomination committee faces is finding people who are willing to serve in these positions.



Rev. Matthew Zickler

Candidate Nomination Info

Candidate Status: Ordained Minister

Candidate Essay Question Response

Education:

STM - Concordia Theological Seminary, 2019

M. Div. - Concordia Theological Seminary, 2010

BS Finance-Real Estate - Indiana University, Bloomington, 2003

Occupation:

Sole Pastor - Grace Lutheran Church, Western Springs, IL

Candidate Congregation Information:

Grace Western Springs, IL

1st LCMS Congregation Year: 2002

LCMS District Membership Year: 2011

Current Congregation Membership Year: 2014

Congregation Experience:

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

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

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

Field Worker - St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN and Advent Lutheran Church, Zionsville, IN, September 2006 - May 2008

Elder - Advent Lutheran Church, August 2005-July 2006

District Experience:

District Pastor Representative - Concordia University Board of Regents, Chicago, IL, March 2022 - Present

Circuit Visitor, Circuit 13, Northern Illinois District, Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, May 2017 - March 2022

Chairman, Northern Illinois District Pastor's Conference. 2019-2022

Secretary, Northern Illinois District, East Region Pastor's Conference. 2017-2021

Floor Committee Member, Northern Illinois District Convention, 2015

Programming Committee Member, Northern Illinois District, East Region Pastor's Conference. 2011-2017, 2022 - Present

Synod Experience:

Doctrinal Reviewer - Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, 2015 - Present

Contributor, Reformation Blog, 2016 - 2017

Community Service Experience:

Board Member, Grace Christian Academy, Little Village, Chicago, IL, 2015 - 2022



Mission of Work:

As Christ our Lord has brought the Kingdom of God to this broken and fallen world, He does so, freeing us from the bondage of Sin, Death, and the Devil. The freedom won for us in His Life, Death, and Resurrection He carries to us in the ministry of His Church through the proclamation of this blessed eternal Gospel. The Gospel creates faith by that Word and through the promise of that Word as it is attached to Baptism and His Holy Supper. This faith receives that forgiveness and justification of Christ for us. The congregation is that location where Christ brings this work to His people through the ministry of the Church bestowed upon the pastor to exercise publicly. This is the mission of the LC--MS and the NID in the place of Northern Illinois. The mission is exercised most visibly in the Divine Service, but Christ extends this work to the world through His priesthood of the baptized who carry His light to the world around us, loving and serving as He has loved and served us.

Challenges, Opportunities, Goals:

The challenge of the culture around us is obvious. The interest of our society in the Christian faith is shrinking. This does not mean that there is not opportunity. In fact, the opportunity is great because of the great need for the Gospel in the world. As I seek to continue serving Concordia University, it is clear that this affects the work of the Church there as well. In the university context, the challenge is compounded also by the demographic cliff and the concerns connected with the value of higher education. As CUC has been affected by these challenges, there is great hope in seeing the direction the university is moving in terms of improving both Lutheran identity and academic quality. By the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, a strong confession and dedication to this goal will serve as a light to those grasping for it in the darkness of our world. I hope to continue serving toward this goal carrying this Truth, Beauty, and Goodness to the students at Concordia.

