

District Board of Appeals

Pastor, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Craig Engel (incumbent), 51 years old, married, three children. 1704 5th Street SW, Willmar, MN 56201. Pastor Engel serves Immanuel Lutheran Church in Willmar, MN (25 years) and as circuit pastor of the Crow River South Circuit. He also serves on the District Worship Committee, the District Board of Appeals, and the MLS Governing Board. He has also served as the MLC Ladies' Auxiliary Pastoral Advisor and as the LWMS Crow River Circuit Pastoral Advisor.

Rev. Keith Schreiner, 62 years old, married, three children. 1100 Main St., Cannon Falls, MN 55009. Pastor Schreiner serves St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, Cannon Falls, MN (3.5 years), with prior service at Christ Lutheran Church, Marshall, MN (22 years) and St. John's Lutheran Church, Westland, MI (9 years). His service to the district includes circuit pastor (MN River Valley, Redwood Falls West, 22 years) and the St. Croix Lutheran Academy Board of Regents (1 year).

Teacher, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Mr. Steven Gurgel, 36 years old, married, three children. 8732 62nd Avenue N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428. Mr. Gurgel is an instructor at West Lutheran High School, Plymouth, MN (3 years) and a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New Hope, MN (3 years). Previously, he served as principal of St. Paul's Lutheran School of Rapid City, SD (8 years). He has served in the Dakota-Montana District on the Board of Appeals and as chairman of various teachers conferences. In the Minnesota District he has service on the Teachers Conference Planning Committee (2 years). Mr. Gurgel has a B.Sc. in Elementary and Secondary Education from MLC and an MA in History from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Mr. Nathan Bitter, 51 years old, married, ten children. 1033 Reding Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066. Mr. Bitter currently teaches grades 5-8 and serves as principal of St. John Lutheran School of Red Wing, Minnesota (1 year).

Layman, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Mr. Dale Peterson, 67 years old, married, two children. 1085 Buckridge Dr. NE, Rochester, MN 55906. Dale is a 30 year member of Christ Our Rock Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN, and has served as congregation chairman, head elder, fellowship committee chairman, spiritual growth committee chairman, and Pioneer leader for 17 years. Dale has a Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Cloud State University (Quantitative Methods and Information Systems) and is

now retired after three years at Western Digital as a test engineer and 36 years at IBM as a computer programmer.

Mr. Timothy Mammel, 65 years old, married, two children. 2810 Century Hills Lane NE, Rochester, MN 55906. Timothy is a 32 year member of Ascension Lutheran Church of Rochester, MN and has served as president of the congregation, chairman of the adult spiritual growth committee, elder, school board member, and communication director of Men of His Word. Timothy is retired after 8 years as Wholesale Merchandising Manager at Fleming Companies (LaCrosse WI) and 23 years at IBM as Manager-Global Brand Advocacy. Timothy attended DMLC for 2 years and graduated from UW LaCrosse with a Secondary Education Degree and Certification. He has spent most of his business career managing large corporate organizations ranging from grocery wholesale merchandising to IBM computer demand planning and solution advocacy.

District Nominating Committee

Two pastors serve from each of the six district conferences. A term is four years and members may succeed themselves twice. Convention delegates vote only for a representative from their own conference. Check with your pastor if you are unsure which conference your congregation is in.

Crow River Conference delegates vote for 2:

Rev. Greg Tobison (incumbent), 64 years old, married, three children. 440 5th Ave. SW, Hutchinson, MN 55350. Pastor Tobison serves Grace Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN (17 years) and St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Darwin, MN (8 years). He has served on the MN District Nominating Committee (6 years) and as LWMS Pastoral Advisor (4 years).

Rev. Cody Hauch (incumbent), 34 years old, married, four children. 1108 Gold Course Rd., Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Pastor Hauch serves St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, MN (2 years). He has also served for one year as an appointee to fill a retirement vacancy on the Minnesota District Nominating Committee.

Rev. Benjamin Zamzow, a 2018 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, married with children. 2325 Bardwell Dr. NW, Bemidji, MN 56601. Pastor Zamzow currently serves St. Mark Lutheran Church, Bemidji, MN.

Rev. Preston Heuer, 39 years old, married, three children. 18199 Macon St. NW, Elk River, MN 55330. Pastor Heuer serves Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in Elk River, MN (2 years), with previous service at First Lutheran Church, Elkhorn, WI (4.5 years) and Grace Lutheran Church, New London, WI (6.5 years). He has also served on the Shoreland Conference Planning Committee (2 years) and is currently serving on the Intellectual and Developmentally Disabled Ministry Committee (5 years).

Mankato Conference delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Matt Rauh (incumbent), 61 years old, married, three children. 402 1st Avenue NW, Arlington, MN 55307. Rev. Rauh currently serves St. Paul's Lutheran in Arlington, MN, and has previously served as a teacher at Michigan Lutheran High School (1 year), and as pastor at Zion Lutheran, Denver CO (4 years) and St. Peter Lutheran, St. Peter, MN (21 years). Rev. Rauh currently serves on the district nominating committee and has also served as circuit pastor and on the Lutheran Home Board of Directors and the MVLHS Board of Directors.

Rev. Daniel Slaughter, 34 years old, married, three children. 830 W. Church St., Belle Plaine, MN 56011. Rev. Slaughter currently serves Trinity Lutheran Church in Belle Plaine, MN.

MN River Valley Conference delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Adam Manian (incumbent), graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2006, married, three children. 122 Dewey Street, Vesta, MN 56292. Pastor Manian currently serves St. John's Lutheran Church in Vesta, MN and Peace Lutheran Church in Echo, MN (8 years). He is also currently serving as the secretary of the Minnesota River Valley Conference and as a member of the district nominating committee.

Rev. Darren Green, 56 years old, married, 2 children. 137 Baker Dr., Redwood Falls, MN 56283. Pastor Green currently serves St. John Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN (3 years). Previous congregations include St. Peter Lutheran, Monticello, MN (15 years), Living Word Lutheran, Montrose, CO (5 years), Grace Lutheran, Geneva, NE and Trinity Lutheran, Grafton, NE (5 years), and Novosibirsk Mission, Russia (1 year). Pastor Green has served as NE District Special Ministry Coordinator (10 years), Chairman of the Prison Ministry Committee (10 years), and MN District Special Ministry Coordinator (12 years).

Red Wing Conference delegates vote for 2:

Rev. Brian Kom (incumbent), 57 years old, married. 2207 11th Ave. SE, Rochester, MN 55904. Pastor Kom currently serves Ascension Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN (27 years) and has previously served St. Peter Lutheran Church, Sturgeon Bay, WI (4 years). He also has previous and current service as conference chairman (13 years), circuit pastor (15 years), the MN district nominating committee, WELS Chaplain to Mayo Hospitals (18 years), and Executive Director of LIMA (5 years).

Rev. Dominick Olson, graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2021, married. 2041 Northgate Ct. NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Currently serves Resurrection Lutheran Church / Life Lutheran Campus.

Rev. Dan Reich, 63 years old, married, three children. 35933 County Road 17, Lake City MN 55041. Pastor Reich currently serves Trinity Lutheran Church (10 years) and St. John's Lutheran Church (4 years) in rural Lake City, MN. Pastor Reich is currently circuit pastor of the Eagleview Circuit and vice-chairman of the Red Wing Conference. He has also served as Crow

River South Circuit Pastor, LWMS Spiritual Growth Pastor, and on the Lutheran Institutional Ministries Association Board, the Great Plains Lutheran High School Governing Board, and the Ministry of Christian Giving (Black Hills Circuit).

Rev. Alan Horn, 62 years old, married, six children. 232 Cherry St. E, Mazeppa, MN 55956. Pastor Horn currently serves St. John Lutheran Church, Mazeppa, MN, St. John Lutheran Church, Frontenac, MN, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lake City, MN (4 years). His service includes being Red Wing LWMS Spiritual Advisor (2 years).

St. Croix Conference delegates vote for 2:

Rev. Daniel Walters (incumbent), 44, married, five children. 19171 Ittabena Way, Lakeville, MN 55044. Pastor Walters serves Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Burnsville, MN (7 years) and has also served on the North Atlantic District Election Committee (2 years) and the North Atlantic District Special Ministries (1 year).

Rev. John Berg, 48 years old, married, three children. 700 Spring Hill Dr., Woodbury, MN 55125. Pastor Berg serves Divinity Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN (7 years). He also serves as circuit pastor for the North Central Circuit of the St. Croix Conference.

Rev. Paul Fritz, 40 years old, married, two children. 2526 80th Avenue, Woodville WI 54028. Pastor Fritz currently serves Immanuel Lutheran Church of Woodville, WI (2 years). Formerly he served St. John's Lutheran, Fremont, WI (11 years). He is also the circuit pastor of the Wolf River Circuit of the Fox Valley Conference of Northern Wisconsin.

Rev. Timothy Otto, 53 years old, married, four children. 755 Margaret St., St. Paul, MN 55106. Pastor Otto currently serves St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN (2 years). He has served on the synod's Latin America Committee (1.5 years) and the Commission on Evangelism (2 years). His area of expertise is cross cultural/Hispanic ministry, and has served congregations in that capacity in Phoenix, AZ and Las Vegas, NV.

Southern Conference delegates vote for 1 (from the Missouri Circuit).

Rev. Seth Georgson, 38 years old, married, two children. 5142 Red Cedar Ct., St. Louis, MO 63128. Pastor Georgson currently serves Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO (5 years). He is also circuit pastor (1 year) and treasurer/secretary of his conference (4 years).

Rev. Philip Schroeder, 29 years old, married, two children. 957 Holyoke Dr., Shiloh, IL 62269. Pastor Schroeder serves as the mission planting pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, IL (1 year). Previously he served as pastor/dorm supervisor/coach/teacher at Martin Luther College (2 years).

District Mission Board

Chairman, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Steven Waldschmidt (incumbent), 36 years old, married, six children. 1541 Westfield Cir., Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368. Pastor Waldschmidt currently serves Christ Alone Lutheran Church, Dardenne Prairie, MO (10 years). He has current and previous service as the Southern Conference Secretary (4 years), District Mission Board Chairman (4 years), District Nominating Committee member (4 years), and Board for Home Missions member (4 years).

Rev. Scott Oelhafen, 56 years old, married, three children. 1912 Alison Ave., New Ulm, MN 56073. Pastor Oelhafen is Coordinating Pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN (3 years). His service includes FiC Reporter for the SE WI District (20 years), Dir. of Public Information for the SE WI District (20 years), Commission on Evangelism member for SE WI District (20 years), Campus Ministry Committee for the WELS (3 years), Western Lakes Conference Secretary, (11 years), Western Lakes Conference part-time campus pastor at Carroll University (7 years), and President of Lutheran Chapel Service, MN River Valley Conference (since 1/23).

Pastor, four-year term. All delegates vote for 2:

Rev. Mark Kaesmeyer (incumbent), 52 years old, married, three children. 3534 114th Ln. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433. Pastor Kaesmeyer currently serves West Lutheran High School as the Director of Mission Advancement. Previously, he served as Lead Pastor of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids, MN (8 years), Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Lake Geneva, WI (5 years), Associate Pastor of Outreach at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Burnsville, MN (5 years), and Exploratory Pastor of Abiding Faith Lutheran, Smyrna, TN (5 years). He has also served on the West Lutheran High School Board of Regents (6 years), the MN District Worship Committee (4 years), and is currently serving on the MN District Mission Board (6 years).

Rev. Robert Guenther (incumbent), 45 years old, married, four children. 627 S. Jefferson St., New Ulm, MN 56073. Pastor Guenther currently serves as the Administrative Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in New Ulm, MN. He also serves on the district mission board, as a mentor and board member of the WELS Pastor Mentor Program, and as treasurer of the MN River Valley Conference. Previous service includes pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Kenai, AK (8 years) and Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Raleigh, NC (6 years). He has also served as secretary, treasurer, webmaster, and Nominating Committee Chairman in the Pacific NW District, and as circuit pastor of the Alaska Circuit.

Rev. Todd Engel, 54, married. 762 Pioneer Road, Red Wing MN 55066. Pastor Engel currently serves St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN (19 years) and as circuit pastor of the Goodhue Circuit of the Red Wing Conference. Previous service includes Christ Lutheran Church, Keystone Heights, FL (6 years) and St. Stephens Lutheran, Beaver Dam, WI (3 years). He has also served on the St. Croix Lutheran Academy Board of Regents.

Rev. Adam Manian, Graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2006, married, three children. 122 Dewey Street, Vesta, MN 56292. Pastor Manian currently serves St. John's Lutheran Church in Vesta, MN and Peace Lutheran Church in Echo, MN (8 years). He is also currently serving as the secretary of the Minnesota River Valley Conference and as a member of the District Nominating Committee.

Layman, four-year term. All delegates vote for 2:

Mr. Glenn Schultz (incumbent), 65 years old, married. Mr. Schultz is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Springfield, MO (6 years). He has served for one year on the Minnesota District Mission Board as an appointee to fill a vacancy and is eligible for a first full term. Mr. Schultz is retired from a career in electrical engineering, cryptography, and serving as an alderman.

Three additional layman nominees are needed for two layman positions on the DMB that are up for election.

Individual District Positions

Discipleship Coordinator, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Two pastor nominees are still needed for this election.

Evangelism Coordinator, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Stephen Meyer (incumbent), 50 years old, married, seven children. 4441 Manchester Ln. NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Pastor Meyer has served 22 years as a pastor at Resurrection and Life Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN. He has served for 10 years on the MN District Evangelism Committee as Coordinator.

Rev. Lucas Callies, 31 years old, unmarried, no children. 27 Jaro Way, North Liberty, IA 52317. Rev. Callies currently serves Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, North Liberty, IA (3 years). He attended UW Platteville (2.5 years) in addition to MLC (3.5 years) and WLS (4 years). He has a passion for creating relationships with the lost sheep and bringing them to their shepherd.

Parish/Lutheran Schools Coordinator, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Mr. David Gartner (incumbent), 54 years old, married, two children. 8930 Pineview Lane

North, Maple Grove, MN 55369. Mr. Gartner is principal of West Lutheran High School (5 years) and a member of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Coon Rapids, MN (5 years). Previously, Mr. Gartner served St. John Lutheran School, Redwood Falls, MN, as principal (27 years). He holds a Masters Degree in Leadership from MLC and has nine additional Masters Degree credits from Mankato State University. He has served as the MN District Schools Coordinator for six years.

Mr. Justin Wasser, 32 years old, married, three children. 301 4th St., Nicollet, MN 56074. Mr. Wasser is principal of Trinity Lutheran School in Nicollet, MN, and teaches grades 5-8 (4 years). In addition to teaching, he is a cooperating teacher for MLC student teachers and serves on the Trinity Lutheran Board of Outreach (4 years). His prior service was at Crown of Life Lutheran School in Warren, MI (7 years). Mr. Wasser is currently in a Masters program for educational leadership.

Special Ministries Coordinator, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Patrick Feldhus (incumbent), 44 years old, married, three children. 805 Daniel Dr., Belle Plaine, MN 56011. Pastor Feldhus is currently serving The Lutheran Home, Belle Plaine (5 years) and Grace Lutheran Church, LeSueur, MN (3 years). He has previously served St. John, Cornell, WI (9 years) and Our Redeemer, Ladysmith, WI (3 years). Pastor Feldhus has current and previous service as Special Ministries Coordinator for the Minnesota District (4 years) and the Western Wisconsin District (2 years), Jesus Cares (8 years), WELS chaplain (5 years), prison ministry (3 years), and circuit pastor (1 year). Pastor Feldhus has a daughter with special needs and a son in the marines.

Rev. Robbin Robbert, 54 years old, married, five children. 41900 Hwy 58 Blvd., Zumbrota, MN 55992. Pastor Robbert serves St. John's Lutheran Church, Goodhue, MN (2 years). Prior service includes King of Kings Lutheran, Wasilla, AK (10 years) and St. Peter Lutheran, Weyauwega, WI (15 years). He has also served in the following capacities: Northern Wisconsin District Special Ministries Coordinator (late 1990s to 2011), Chairman for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (4 years), Jesus Cares teacher (1997-2021), Jesus Cares Camps coordinator at Camp Phillip, Wautoma, WI and Camp Luther, Wasilla, AK (1998-2020), bocce ball head coach for Special Olympics, Matsu Valley, AK (2013-2021), prison ministry in Waupaca, WI (2010-2011) and Wasilla, AK (2013-2019), chaplain for the Sheriff's Dept., Waupaca County (2005-2019), and chaplain for Matsu Hospital, Palmer AK (2014-21).

Worship Coordinator, four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Joel Gawrisch (incumbent), 51 years old, married, two children. 1119 McKnight Rd. S, St. Paul, MN 55119. Pastor Gawrisch currently serves New Life Lutheran Church in Shoreview, MN (8 years). He has also served as a district worship committee member (20 years), chairman of the worship committee (3 years), Christian Worship Rites Committee Member (10 years), and Schools of Worship Enrichment Consultant (15 years).

Rev. Karl Christie, 27 years old, married, one child. 800 3rd St. SW Apt. 316, Kasson, MN

55944. Pastor Christie is a 2023 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and currently serves Our Savior Lutheran Church in Kasson, MN (1 year).

Synod Positions

LPS Governing Board (layman), four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Mr. Clark Holtz, 52 years old, married, three children. 210 4th Ave NE, Kasson, MN 55944. Mr. Holtz has been a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Kasson, MN for 21 years. He has served on the Campus Ministry Committee (12 years), the Bethany Lutheran Alumni Board (2 years), and as a Beacon Campus Ministry Center RA, Mankato, MN (4 years). In his church he has served as trustee (2 years), council secretary/stewardship committee chair (5 years), council president (6 years), and head elder (2 years). Mr. Holtz attended MLPS in Prairie du Chien, WI, and is a graduate of Bethany Lutheran College and Minnesota State, Mankato, with a degree in electrical engineering. He has worked 23 years at Itron, Inc. as a manufacturing engineer. Clark has “a deep appreciation for the ministry and mission of our prep schools” and in their “critical role” for preparing called and lay leaders.

Mr. Bob Broring, 58 years old, married, three children. 4421 Arcon Lane, Rochester, MN 55901. Mr. Broring has been a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN since 1995, with service in the church as chairman of the board of elders (4 years), outreach committee member (8 years), school board chairman (12 years), and usher/greeter (29 years). His work history includes manager at Mills Fleet Farm (10 years) and store manager (7 years), and as HR manager (18 years) at Arrow Hardware and Paint. Bob attended DMLC for two years and his wife is a called worker. Their three children graduated from LPS and MLC. Bob describes himself as “passionate about our WELS schools.”

MLS Governing Board (pastor), four-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Craig Engel (incumbent), 51 years old, married, three children. 1704 5th Street SW, Willmar, MN 56201. Pastor Engel serves Immanuel Lutheran Church in Willmar MN (25 years) and as circuit pastor of the Crow River South Circuit. He also serves on the District Worship Committee, the District Board of Appeals, and the MLS Governing Board. He has also served as the MLC Ladies' Auxiliary Pastoral Advisor and as the LWMS Crow River Circuit Pastoral Advisor.

Rev. Jeremy Glowicki, 50 years old, married, four children. 1111 Stonebridge Path, Jordan, MN 55352. Pastor Glowicki serves St. Paul Lutheran Church, Jordan, MN (14 years). His service to the district includes chairman of the District Mission Board (5 years), member of the District Evangelism Committee (2 years), and Joint Reformation Committee chairman (8 years).

MLC Governing Board (layman), special two-year term. All delegates vote for 1:

Mr. Mike Valleau (incumbent), 47 years old, married, 4 children. 2219 Radatz Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109. Mr. Valleau is a member of New Life Lutheran Church, Shoreview, MN (25 years) and has served as president (2 years), elder (3 years), Sunday School teacher (9 years), and Board for Lay Ministry member (12 years). He has also served on the MN District Legislation Committee (9 years), the MLC Governing Board (10 years), the LIMA Board of Directors (7 years), the St. Croix Lutheran Academy Board of Regents (12 years), and the St. Croix Lutheran Academy Personnel/HR & Policy Committee (20 years). Employment history: MN Judicial Branch, Hennepin County District Court as a legislative liaison (5 years), and the MN House of Representatives legislative staff (20 years). His experience at the Legislature includes seven years as either the Administrator of the Higher Education Policy and Finance Committee at the MN House of Representatives or a research consultant specializing in higher education issues. Education: Mini Master of Finance Management, University of St. Thomas, Opus College of Business; B.S., Minnesota State University, Mankato; A.A., Bethany Lutheran College.

Mr. Justin Kannas, 45 years old, married, 3 children. 351 57th Ave. NE, Willmar, MN 56201. Mr. Kannas is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Willmar, MN (19 years) and has served as treasurer (3 years), secretary (6 years), elder (3 years), and on the Board of Education (3 years). He is currently employed as Principal Engineer at Bolton and Menk, Inc. in Willmar, MN (19 years) and his previous employment is as Graduate Engineer at TKDA (3 years). In his current position, he serves as Client Service Manager and/or City Engineer for five cities within Minnesota ranging in population from 2,000 to 17,000 residents. He is responsible for planning, design, and construction of city infrastructure including streets, water systems, wastewater systems, storm sewer systems, parks, trails, and other miscellaneous areas. He participates in 4 to 6 City Council meetings per month providing reports and recommendations to City Councils. He describes himself as “treasuring the gift of our WELS synodical schools that train future pastors and teachers” and having “appreciation for the responsibility and role these schools have to pass along God's Word in its truth and purity to the next generation.”

Submitted by

Committee No. 3
NOMINATIONS

Rev. James Panning, Chair
Rev. Cody Hauch
Rev. Micah Plocher
Rev. Steven Waldschmidt
Rev. Roger Neumann
Rev. Ethan Boese
Rev. Brian Kom
Rev. Roger Riedel
Ref. Daniel Walters