Dirk Berger

Lay Leader

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Holy Trinity Lutheran, New Prague

Current Vocation:

Retired manager of telecommunication company

Church Activities and Leadership:

Current Vice President of the Church Council, 4th term on council in 35 years of member ship, choir member, PowerPoint runner, reader, usher

Community Activities and Leadership:

35 years Chamber of Commerce member, 20 years Rotarian

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

In my retirement, I have dedicated my time to the jobs and activities at Holy Trinity.

Valerie Brown- Greenly

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Peace Lutheran, Coon Rapids

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Dean of Rum River Conference, Member of Synod Council

Community Activities and Leadership:

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have been a pastor for 28 years and have enjoyed the various congregations I've had the privilege of serving. I look for ward to representing you at Church-Wide in 2019.

Greg Eklund

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

Holy Nativity Lutheran, New Hope

Current Vocation:

Event producer and sound engineer, Freelance and AVVR, Inc.

Church Activities and Leadership:

Sing in choir and ensemble, play trumpet, member of the Worship arts and music Committee, men's group, annual ethnic bake sale lefse team, participate in worship as a cantor and reader.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Board of Directors of the Plymouth Civic League, Board of Directors of the Save the Terrace Theater Organization, Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, Founding volunteer at Bingo a Go Go, volunteer and supporter for Kid Pack, PRISM, and other organizations.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have been a lifelong Lutheran, son of a Lutheran pastor and a teacher. I am an avid outdoorsman and environmentalist, live by the backpacker creed of "Leave the trail better for having passed on it." I have been baking our church's communion bread, both regular and gluten-free for years. I enjoy making ways to make a positive difference in the world. I see serving in this position as an interesting and new way to serve my church and the wider church community.

Jerod Kyl Freeberg

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

St John's Lutheran, Shakopee

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Minister of Word and Sacrament, Member of the Green Lake Ministries Board of Directors

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

As a Minister of Word and Sacrament I strive to follow Jesus' command in Matthew 22 to love the Lord your God and to love your neighbors as yourself. As a delegate I would seek to use my voice and vote as part of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly to continue to live out this calling, by seeking mercy for all of our neighbors.

Rebecca Gamble

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran, Prior Lake

Current Vocation:

Pastor of Outreach and Care Ministries

Church Activities and Leadership:

Travel Advisory Board Member for Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry; Develops community partnerships and resources, Coach Leaders of Community Support; Service, & Issue-focused Ministries; initiator of new ministries including Theology on Tap, Young Adult Ministries, a Free Store & Community Meal ministry, ArtLINK; Lead international and domestic service-learning experiences

Community Activities and Leadership:

Board Member of The LINK Safe Harbor center; FISH Partner Network; Representative for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and Families Moving Forward.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I earned a Bachelor of Social Work from Luther College and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary. I served as a Horizons International Intern in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and as a Young Adult in Global Ministry for one year in India.

Josue Gonzales

Lay Leader

Conference:

Crosstown

Congregation Membership:

Tapestry, Richfield

Current Vocation:

Seminary student, Worship Leader at Tapestry

Church Activities and Leadership:

Synod Council, Special Committee Spiritual Advisor

Community Activities and Leadership:

ESL Classes, Spanish Classes, Work with kids & adults with drug addiction and mental illness

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I love the Lord and listen to the Holy Spirit.

Eric Grube

Lay Leader

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Lake Nokomis Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Accounting Professor at Concordia University, St. Paul

Church Activities and Leadership:

Church Council, Event Organizer, Adult Youth Leader

Community Activities and Leadership:

Public School Advocate, Boy Scouts, PTA, Local Food Shelf, Neighborhood Block Leader, MN History Day Parent

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

My passion is assisting my students at Concordia University to find rewarding accounting internships and full-time jobs after graduation. My calling is to help prepare young accountants for purposeful careers as CPAs in public practice, or with an industry employer or a not-for-profit entity. I have four children; one is a first-year student at Luther College, two attend Roosevelt high school in Minneapolis, and my youngest is at Keewaydin middle school. My wife is a finance manager with Capella University. We live in the Nokomis East neighborhood of Minneapolis.

Erik Haaland

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Associate Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

I share Word and Sacrament ministry with my colleague, Pastor Kristine Carlson. I am also specifically involved in adult education and our community's outreach, service, and advocacy efforts. This past year I have been grateful to work with our congregation's Racial Justice Task Force.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Through our congregation I have been connected with a number of local organizations, including Our Saviour's Housing, Lutheran Social Service — Metro Homeless Youth Services, and The Sheridan Story at Howe Elementary School.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

My husband, Daniel Holmgren, and I live in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood of St. Paul, and we're grateful for caring, kind, and community-minded neighbors. We are proud and grateful uncles to seven nieces and nephews, and we are baptismal sponsors for a few other wonderful children in our lives. I find great satisfaction in work in the home: cooking, cleaning, gardening, building, fixing. I also love music—especially singing in church. It moves my soul.

Eric Hoffer

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Western Parks and Lakes

Congregation Membership:

Prince of Peace Lutheran, St. Louis Park

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

I participate and lead within the Church in several ways, including serving as the Peer Group Leadership Team Chairperson and being a team member of the EcoFaith Network of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Community Activities and Leadership:

I helped found and now lead Partners for a Strong Park—a group of community representatives working for the strengthening of St. Louis Park through the lens of racial equity. I'm also a leader with ISAIAH—a faithbased organization working for economic and racial justice in Minnesota.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I play in the not-so-secret "Preacher Ball" weekly basketball game, find incredible power in vulnerable conversations, and don't like writing about myself.

Amber Ingalsbe

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

394 Corridor North

Congregation Membership:

St. Barnabas Lutheran, Plymouth

Current Vocation:

Associate Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

This is my second call, and I've been at St. Barnabas since 2015; as a pastor I get to do a little bit of everything the church does! In 2017, I was part of the synod delegation that visited our companion synod in Leipzig, Germany.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Working alongside other Beacon Interfaith Housing congregations to bring affordable housing options to the west metro; participating in and publicizing the Tapestry Interfaith Women group in Plymouth

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am passionate about the many ways we do church together — from worship and Bible study to serving and learning together, from informal fellowship and official events to communal discernment and parliamentary procedure (really!). I have never attended a churchwide assembly before and am excited about the prospect of participating in these many aspects of church with others from across our denomination.

Emily K. Johnson

Lay Leader

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Zion Lutheran, Anoka

Current Vocation:

Software Engineer, Infinite Campus, Blaine

Church Activities and Leadership:

Lifelong member at Zion Anoka, current activities include: Church Council(Secretary), Bell Choir, Adult Choir, Worship Team, Altar Guild, Scripture Reader, Sound/Video Board. Rum River Conference Secretary.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band (Principle Bassoon), Twin Cities Unicycle Club (Performance Team, Parades)

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I enjoy being involved in all aspects of the Church, and would be honored to serve as voting member at the Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee next summer.

Emma N.S. Kasiga

Lay Leader

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

MN Swahili Christian Congregation, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Finance Professional at African Development Center

Church Activities and Leadership:

Past Congregation Treasurer, member of Church Council, volunteer Youth Director, MAS Council Member

Community Activities and Leadership:

Board Member– Books for Africa and Project Zawadi; LSS Get Lifted Community Ambassador

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am a wife, mommy to two fabulous preschoolers, and a daughter. When I am not with my immediate family, I enjoy spending time with my Swahili and my global community.

Kay Kinkel

Lay Leader

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

St. John's Lutheran, Shakopee

Current Vocation:

Licensed Social Worker, Thomas, Allen Inc. Edina

Church Activities and Leadership:

Co-leader of Cherish All Children Committee (Child safety and anti-trafficking), choir member, lay worship leader (reader, communion assistant)

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I was rostered as an Associate in Ministry (former title for Deacon) for 25 years serving in parish and synodical ministry in the Southeastern Iowa Synod. I was involved in the local, synodical and churchwide expres-sion of the ELCA and former LCA for all of that time.

Lee Anne Lack

Lay Leader

Conference:

Western Parks and Lakes

Congregation Membership:

Westwood Lutheran, St. Louis Park

Current Vocation:

Retired

Church Activities and Leadership:

Several years each on St. Paul/Mpls Area Synods Joint Committee for Ecumenism, and Joint Committee for Inclusivity, as well as on MAS Reference and Counsel. Chair of Music and Worship Committee, Church Council member. Congregation President, Westwood. Church Choir member. More recently, worked on Stewardship drives at Westwood. Westwood Foundation Board Member. Central Lutheran Church Foundation, Voting member at Churchwide and Synod Assemblies, financial coach for Luther Seminary students and member of committee for Justice and Christian Community (to support activities of that newly endowed chair.)

Community Activities and Leadership:

Active in politics from Precinct to State level. Worked on several Habitat Houses and am seeking new ways to work for the common good in retirement.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Work as a teacher and in volunteer management made my heart sing. I love to read and travel and to see operas and plays. By the grace of God, I hope I can still serve others.

David Lechelt

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Rum River

Congregation Membership:

Lord of Life Lutheran, Ramsey

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Lead Congregation's vision and mission, collaboration, strategic community partner ships, administer adult faith formation, and pastoral care ministries.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Upcoming 2018 Summer Sabbatical will be devoted to visiting congregations across the country that were instrumental to the gathered wisdom of Tod Bolsinger's book "Canoeing the Mountains." The focus will be to learn from their learning and bring their experience of innovation, collaboration, and creativity back to Lord of Life and the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Stephanie Luedtke

Deacon

Conference:

Bloomington

Congregation Membership:

St. Luke's Lutheran, Bloomington

Current Vocation:

Deacon, St. Luke's, Bloomington

Church Activities and Leadership:

Leadership over Faith Formation & Worship

Community Activities and Leadership:

Member of MAS/SPAS Children, Youth & Family team; create presentations and curricula for various leaders & ministries; previously volunteered extensively at my kids' school until we moved

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I appreciate this nomination, as I feel strongly called to the ministry of the ELCA as a whole and long for opportunities to serve our greater church.

Robert Malecek

Lay Leader

Conference:

394 Corridor Noth

Congregation Membership:

Lyndale Lutheran, Maple Plane

Current Vocation:

Forklife and equipment parts sales—Herc-U-Lift

Church Activities and Leadership:

I went on missions trips with Youthworks several times as a teenager, both as a student and as an adult leader immediately after high school. I have served on council for several terms and have been Council President for the last two years, presiding over our interim process and our new Call. My most important function is the Lutefisk cooker at our annual Julebord dinner.

Community Activities and Leadership:

My volunteerism is mostly church-centric.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I love the outdoors, hunting, fishing, canoeing, camping, and driving my truck at offroad parks and on trails. I love winter; I cross county ski, I snowmobile, I ice fish. My family has been going to Lyndale Lutheran for almost its entire 120 year history.

William Middeke

Lay Leader

Conference:

Southwest

Congregation Membership:

Immanuel Lutheran, Eden Prairie

Current Vocation:

Retired programmer

Church Activities and Leadership:

Choir, offering counter, office volunteer, visitor bread baker, former council secretary, usher, financial secretary

Community Activities and Leadership:

I've been riding my bicycle for 20 years to raise funds for HIV/AIDS agencies in MN. I also hold an annual bake sale at our church to raise funds for World Bicycle Relief

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I'm a PD (Preacher's Dad). Our daughter is an ELCA pastor in Pennsylvania

Ingrid C. Arneson Rasmussen

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

South Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Holy Trinity Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Lead Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

MAS Hunger Committee; 2017 Reformation Dialogue Travel Seminar in Leipzig, Germany

Community Activities and Leadership:

Longfellow Alternative High School

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

As a parish pastor, I am committed to learning more about the synodical and churchwide expressions of the ELCA. I trust that God is working through the wider church to make the world more loving, more merciful, more equitable, more just. I want to be a part of that movement, and I want to invite others to be a part of it, as well.

Joshua Reno

Lav Leader

Conference:

North Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

Grace Lutheran, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Doctoral student and graduate instructor in Classical & Near Eastern Studies and the U of M

Church Activities and Leadership:

I help serve communion on Sunday mornings, I am involved as an usher, and I organize and co-lead worship services and events for LGBTQ+ members of our congregation.

Community Activities and Leadership:

I am involved with several queer communities around the Minneapolis area (e.g., bisexual book club) and I (have) volunteer(ed) for a few committees in my department (e.g., Graduate student representative, Speakers committee, Curriculum committee).

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am a doctoral student in Classics currently working on a dissertation examining Paul's use of sexual slander against his rivals in his effort to secure authority among early Christian communities. I also teach ancient Greek at the UMN where I have the pleasure of reading everything from Archilochus to Lucian. Outside of school, I enjoy time with friends over good cocktails or escaping into science-fiction drama.

Gretchen Rode

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

House of Hope Lutheran, New Hope

Current Vocation:

Associate Pastor of Faith Formation

Church Activities and Leadership:

I work primarily with the Youth and Education Teams to cultivate fellowship the sharing of the love of God. I coordinate women's ministry and am a big advocate of expansive language. I preach bi-monthly and especially enjoy helping to curate creative worship services.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Quarterly I preach and run worship at our local nursing home facilities. I serve on the MAS Global Mission Table and the Synod Planning Team for the Youth Gathering. I attend Saint Paul Interfaith Network events whenever possible. I am a member of Proclaim, the rostered LGBTQ leaders in the ELCA. I am an active Vassar College alumnae.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I believe that God loves everyone immensely and that it's our job as the church to make that abundantly clear in the world by all we do and say. My wife, Jill, is also a pastor in the ELCA and together we raise a loveable and slightly naughty pup named Petunia. In addition to being captivated by Biblical stories of women, I also am fascinated by jellyfish and enjoy reading Youth Adult Fiction.

Randall J. Romsdahl

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

St. James Lutheran, Crystal

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Serve as pastor, performing pastoral responsibilities and leadership. Have led weekly worship at the Minnesota Correctional Facility for Women at Shakopee for ten years.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Serve as a leader in a spiritual retreat ministry with the prisons of Minnesota, Charis MN, for two such retreats each year, winter and fall.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am have served in many capacities as a lay leader, including church congregation president, building committee member, member of two call committees, Sunday school teacher, capital fund raising committee member, building committee member, youth ministry leader, and delegate to synod assemblies and one prior ELCA Churchwide Assembly (as a clergyperson). Professionally, I have worked as a small business person, owning and operating a family farm, as a corporate attorney, and now as a pastor for the past ten years.

Jeffrey Sartain

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Crosstown

Congregation Membership:

Edina Community Lutheran, Edina

Current Vocation:

Pastor

Church Activities and Leadership:

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Community Activities and Leadership:

Trustee at United Theological Seminary

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

Recently rostered in the ELCA after 27 years of service in the UCC. Eager for this opportunity to attend the ELCA Churchwide.

Jacqueline Scott-Hopkins

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northwest Hennepin

Congregation Membership:

St. James Lutheran, Crystal

Current Vocation:

Licensed Social Worker, Accra Care

Church Activities and Leadership:

Families Moving Forward, Lent/Volunteer, Confirmation Mentor, Social Justice

Community Activities and Leadership:

Eagles West Battered Women's Shelter Board, NRRC, Big Sister Mentor, Girl Scout Volunteer, Crystal Police Advisory Board

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am always grateful for the opportunity to serve! I believe that Christians can't just "be", they have to "do". To do is to put our faith in action daily.

David Severson

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northern

Congregation Membership:

Cambridge Lutheran

Current Vocation:

Radiology Technologist, St. Paul Radiology

Church Activities and Leadership:

High school youth co-leader, Sunday school and confirmation teacher, Music and Worship Committee, Sound Tech, Hand bell Choir

Community Activities and Leadership:

4-H Leader, elementary and middle school teacher

Dawn Severson

Lay Leader

Conference:

Northern

Congregation Membership:

Cambridge Lutheran

Current Vocation:

Controller Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

Church Activities and Leadership:

Past Sunday school teacher and Council member, Memorial Committee member (current treasurer), member of Hand bell choir

Marissa Sotos

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

Tree of Life Lutheran (SAWC), Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Mission Developer

Church Activities and Leadership:

Member of MAS Unite Table, former social media coordinator for ELCA Worship, contract writer for Sundays and Seasons

Community Activities and Leadership:

Sing in Central Choir, artistic consultant for Maggie Sotos musicals

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I would love this chance to engage with the broader church as we weigh decisions and look toward the future. My ministry is very neighborhood focused, and while I love that, I appreciate opportunities to keep a national perspective on how everything is connected.

Dina Strachota

Lay Leader

Conference:

Western Parks and Lakes

Congregation Membership:

Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran, St. Louis Park

Current Vocation:

Medical policy support tech at HealthPartners

Church Activities and Leadership:

I am in the choir. I am the Worship and Music committee chair. I also am a part of the Children, Youth and Family committee.

Community Activities and Leadership:

I am a member of the St. Louis Park Lions Club. I am also a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha International.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have helped with fundraising efforts in support of our Youth Group. We had a Valentine Dinner which served over 30 people. I will be going to the National Youth Gathering with our Youth Group as an adult leader this June.

SiriAnna Strommen

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

Bloomington

Congregation Membership:

Atonement Lutheran, Bloomington

Current Vocation:

Pastor at Atonement Lutheran

Church Activities and Leadership:

Pastor at Atonement Lutheran, Dean of Bloomington Conference

Community Activities and Leadership:

Solidarity with Muslim Taskforce on the Minneapolis Synod, ongoing inter-faith dialogue with Bloomington Community and the Plymouth NWICC Mosque.

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I live in Bloomington with my two children. I am a musician, author, and inter-faith enthusiast. I feel at home in the ELCA, and appreciate all the energy, dreaming and hard-work place here and around the world, of which I can be a small part.

Jacob Swenson

Lay Leader

Conference:

Western Parks & Lakes

Congregation Membership:

Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Excelsior

Current Vocation:

Student

Church Activities and Leadership:

High School Youth Group Leader, Peer Minister, Sunday School Teacher, VBS Guide, Usher, Actor and Stage Hand in congregational theater company.

Community Activities and Leadership:

Elementary School Tutor, Many Hands Many Meals (emergency food supplies volunteer), weekly Volunteer Club servant

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have been in karate for six years. Attaining my black belt December 2018. I am an aspiring writer.

Nicholas Tangen

Lay Leader

Conference:

Central

Congregation Membership:

University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis

Current Vocation:

Minister of Faith in Commonality, University Lutheran Church of Hope

Church Activities and Leadership:

Contemplative Spirituality, Community Organizing, Youth & Children's Ministry, Faith Formation

Community Activities and Leadership:

Centering prayer leader, birding, engaging in local politics and issue campaigns

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I'm interested in the relationship between contemplative spirituality and social justice.

Jeff Thone

Lay Leader

Conference:

Western Waters

Congregation Membership:

Alleluia Lutheran, St. Michael

Current Vocation:

Attorney at Sanford, Pierson, Thone & Strean, PLC

Church Activities and Leadership:

In addition to general volunteer work, over the course of years I have been involved on multiple occasions as call committee chair, endowment committee chair, head of men's ministry programs, vision team member, member of nomination committees, head usher, volunteer coordinator, parliamentary an, constitution reviewer, coach, mentor, actor, speaker and choir member.

Community Activities and Leadership:

I have been a coach, board member and officer for multiple youth sports teams and organizations. I have served on the Hennepin County Attorney Ethics Board. I currently volunteer with the Minnesota Wills for Heroes program and serve on the board for Jordan Crossing (a non-profit corporation seeking to build a residential hospice facility).

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am a proud and happy ELCA Lutheran. I was given that gift at birth and and appreciate it more and more as I have learned of our heritage and beliefs and see how the the world needs us. I am honored to help in any little way I can.

Sarah Van Gerpen

Lay Leader

Conference:

Bloomington

Congregation Membership:

Christ the King Lutheran, Bloomington

Current Vocation:

Spa Manager, Sanctuary SalonSpa

Church Activities and Leadership:

Stephen's Minister, Congregational Council, Teaching Sunday School/WOW

Community Activities and Leadership:

Fundraising with the Special Olympics and St. Jude's Children Research Hospital

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I have a passion for healthy living, natural healing, essential oils, and spending time with my family and friends. I am a hands on learner and love to try new things. Traveling is also something I take great joy in. Traveling throughout the world has brought a sense of peace and understanding in my life.

Bonnie Wilcox

Minister of Word and Sacrament

Conference:

North Minneapolis

Congregation Membership:

First Lutheran, Columbia Heights

Current Vocation:

Senior Pastor, First Lutheran of Columbia Heights

Church Activities and Leadership:

President, Luther Seminary Alumni Council. 2009 Churchwide Voting Member. Served on Synod Nominating Committee, Synod As sembly planning teams, Ending Poverty initiative, and served as a First Call Mentor to new pastors

Community Activities and Leadership:

Habitat for Humanity

Other Information You Would Like to Share:

I am deeply committed to being a public leader for a church undergoing tremendous change. This includes the context of the local congregation, as well as the work we do together as a national denomination. Our future depends on putting ourselves into the work of a new time for the ELCA.