

## CHURCHWIDE NOMINATIONS

Position	Conference	Name	Photo	Bio Info	Congregation name
Lay Female	Apple River	Tina Kuesel		I will bring curiosity, a fun spirit, friendliness, attentiveness and an open heart. My five years of attendance at Lay Ministry School has sparked a willingness to be involved and to learn more about my faith, the history of the Church and how I can be of service. This will be my first opportunity to attend Churchwide Assembly and I am sure that I will gain much!	Bethany Lutheran-Grantsburg
Clergy	Apple River	Rev. Angie Kutney		As a self-described "church nerd" I am honored and excited to be nominated to attend the Churchwide Assembly in 2019. I have never attended an assembly like this before, so I will come with an open heart and mind. I will bring energy and questions, a desire to learn in order to better inform the local church about the mission, importance, and partner ministry work of the larger church. I will also bring gifts of listening, prayer, and discernment.	Milltown Lutheran
Lay Male	Chequamegon	Alan Jincinsky			St John's Lutheran-Spencer
Clergy	Chequamegon	Rev. Amy Heinz		Although new to ordained ministry and this conference, I have years of experience with non-profit management, volunteer coordination, and working with boards of directors. While on internship in the Iowa City area, I participated in a monthly listening group reporting to churchwide on the social statement on women and justice. This would be my first chance to attend the churchwide assembly of the ELCA; I see this as a Spirit-filled opportunity to participate in the workings of the greater body of Christ and an eye-opening experience.	Trinity Lutheran-Unity
Clergy	Chippewa Valley	Rev. Sarah Semmler Smith		I have been a pastor in the NW Synod of Wisconsin for eight years now, both in a rural solo call and now as an associate in a programmatic size church in a medium sized city. My home synod is in SW Minnesota; I went to seminary in Chicago and completed internship in Washington State. I have also served as a Young Adult in Global Mission and was a counselor at three different Lutheran Bible camps. Currently, collaborating with my synod colleagues is one of my favorite parts of my job, asking and figuring out how we can 'be church' together. I have lived as a part of the ELCA in its many facets and love this church that has taught me what grace-lived-out for the sake of the world looks like. I would be honored to be a part of the wider church conversation and celebration at Churchwide Assembly, and would bring all of who I am as a pastor and child of God to the table for this week-long task.	Trinity Lutheran-Eau Claire
Clergy	Chippewa Valley	Rev. Josh Toufar		I have past experiences attending Churchwide Assemblies. They are a unique opportunity to see the larger church at work. I believe it is vital to the life of the church that younger voices are heard, and have been a part of different processes to ensure that is the case. Seeing young people active on the Churchwide level gives me hope for the future of the church that has formed me and made me the pastor that I am today, and will continue to form the pastor I become.	Good Shepherd-Eau Claire

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Lay Male	Chippewa Valley	Arvin Solsaa		I have faithfully served on synod council and congregational council. I would consider it a privilege to serve as a voting member for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin at the Churchwide Assembly.	Our Saviors-Menomonie
Lay Female	Chippewa Valley	Annie Halloin			Trinity Lutheran-Eau Claire
Lay Male	Dairyland	Kevin Anderson		<p>Married to an ELCA pastor. Currently the Registrar (since 2002) at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, so know about clergy education and the candidacy process.</p> <p>A geographer by education - previously taught for seven years at Augustana College (Rock Island, Illinois), and worked five years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and one year with the North Dakota Department of Transportation as a GIS team-leader and planner.</p> <p>Previous church council experience, including three years as a council president.</p> <p>Regularly deal with details of records, procedures, process, and fineness of language as part of daily work</p>	Little Norway-BRF
Lay Male	Dairyland	Arnie Rongstad		The gifts I bring to doing the work of the Churchwide Assembly are God's grace, salvation, and faith that have been given unconditionally to me as a child of God. Further I have been blessed by being given opportunities of doing God's work as the Treasurer of the Dairyland Conference-NWSW, previous service as a voting delegate at Churchwide Assemblies, serving as a congregational representative to Synod Assemblies, and being a member of congregational councils. I believe these and many other experiences have cultivated skills that will benefit me in doing the work of the Churchwide Assembly, a church that I love.	Osseo Evangelical-Osseo
Clergy	Dairyland	Rev. Mike Vetsch		I have experienced life in many settings as a lay person, youth director, camp counselor, and pastor. I have led in large cities, suburbs and rural areas. I understand various issues and the many sides they entail. I am willing to listen. As a pastor and a poet I am also able to express myself.	Lyster Lutheran
Clergy	Dairyland	Rev. Rolf Morck		I have been a pastor for 36 years and have served in a rural multi-parish, small town on multiple staff, a mission developer, senior pastor and now as solo pastor in a smaller town. I have continued to grow in faith and knowledge of Lutheran Christianity throughout my career and life as one claimed by Jesus.	Central Lutheran-Mondovi

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Lay Male	Heart of the North	Ted Hakala		I accepted a position with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and house parents in a group home for adolescent girls. Our faith was tested...for sure! My career with LSS spanned 37 years serving in a variety of capacities from children, youth and family programs, substance abuse services, criminal justice programs, services for older adults, mental health, and services for people with developmental disabilities. I retired at the end of 2012 having served as a Vice President for the past 12 years of my career. I was blessed to serve with an organization with a Christ centered mission of serving the underserved. I have taught Sunday school, served on many committees, served on church councils. In retirement, I enjoy life on the lake. I am an average woodworker trying to get better. I am actively involved at Bethany Lutheran Church. I am a mentor with the New Auburn School District. I serve as board member for a Senior Housing residence in Eau Claire, and I also serve on the Health and Human Services Board for Rusk County. In summary, my career has been diverse and my faith life continues to evolve. I would be honored to represent the Northwest Synod at the ELCA Church Wide Assembly in 2019.	Bethany Lutheran-Rice Lake
Lay Male	Heart of the North	Ed Peters		I am a life-long Lutheran with deep convictions about how we, as Lutheran Christians need to be better stewards of the creation that we share with every living thing on earth and wherever humans go in the universe. For most of my career I was a professor of Biology and Natural Resources at the university level. I have been blessed to serve on councils at several congregations and I currently serve on the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin council. I have also had the opportunity to travel to Palestine/Israel, Egypt and Malawi.	Calvary Lutheran-Draper
Lay Male	Heart of the North	David Tindell		As a published author and frequent public speaker, I recognize the value and necessity of good communication. Having served for several years as president of our church council, I also understand the value and necessity of leadership. As our church confronts the challenges of our modern age, we need both of these skill sets in our members. The message of Christ is needed now, perhaps more than ever, and we need committed people to bring that message to the world.	Long Lake Lutheran-Sarona
Clergy	Heart of the North	Rev. Luci Sesvold		As a First Call Pastor in my first year, I have the advantage of understanding the needs and demands of both seminary and first call. I am mission focused with the ability to function in big picture brainstorming as well as being detail-oriented. At Wartburg Seminary I served as the Student Representative on Education, Curriculum, and Policies Committee (ECPC) where I was honored to hear and gather the feedback and concerns of my peers and voice them to the committee. I'm also an advocate for outdoor ministry and children/youth participation in the life and ministry of the congregation.	Bethany Lutheran-Rice Lake
Clergy	Heart of the North	Rev. Christopher Sesvold		A first call pastor out of Wartburg Seminary, I was privileged to run class meetings our final year as class president. I am a large-picture person, who enjoys using my passions of music and education in ministry. I excel at seeing how small pieces support or encumber the whole, working with teams to inspire efficiency and efficacy in our work. In short: I am an idea person who holds the mission in focus, prefer working in teams, lazy enough to do it right the first time, and adventurous enough to keep trying new things.	Partners in Faith Parish-Rice Lake

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Clergy	Heart of the North	Rev. Tim Vettrus		Graduated from Lutheran Brethren Seminary with a Master of Divinity and served 2-point parishes in Saskatchewan, Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin before receiving credentials to be rostered in the ELCA through Southern Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina in 2010. I was called to serve First Lutheran Church of Arland in 2012 and also served Ridgeland-Dallas United Methodist Church. I am currently serving First Lutheran of Arland with Knapp United Methodist Church. Single with seven grown children.	First Lutheran-Arland
Clergy	Lake Superior	Rev. Jason Clifton		I am passionate about youth ministry and education and am an advocate for youth leadership within the congregation. A few strengths I bring to ministry is my passion for youth ministry and leadership, connecting with the community and especially those disenfranchised by/from the church, and connecting people's gifts with roles in the community and the church.	Our Saviors-Solon Springs
Lay Male	Lake Superior	Michael Kinney		I have and am serving on the church council and on the Board for Luther Park. I have gone to Synod meetings and conventions. I have started Lay Ministry School. I was a member of the Wisconsin Jaycees- holding numerous offices, including State Chaplain. I have had many opportunities to do public speaking. I enjoy meeting with other people from other churches to learn about their churches.	Good Shepherd-Ashland
Lay Female	Lake Superior	Bonnie Wentzel		I love the church! I have served my home church in many ways. I have been a deacon, a trustee, financial secretary, music committee, council vice president and president twice! I have been to many synod assemblies also. I like to be involved in making decisions for the church I love.	Our Saviors-Superior
Clergy	St. Croix Valley	Rev. Annie Ladnier		I have served in the ELCA since 2005 when I began work in youth ministry prior to attending seminary and being ordained in 2015. I have served the church in Central States, South Carolina, North Carolina, and now Northwest Wisconsin Synods. I believe this has given me unique exposure to the diversity of traditions, experiences, challenges, and expressions of Christ's church across the ELCA, particularly as we strive to be inclusive of all cultures, genders, and sexual orientations. I am passionate about growing in God's mission and believe my voice as a young, female pastor is important for shaping the future direction of Christ's church in the world.	St Johns-Spring Valley
Clergy	St. Croix Valley	Rev. Kirstin Kellaheer		As a hospice chaplain, I assist individuals and families in navigating the sacred journey of end-of-life. A graduate of Luther Seminary and ordained in 2009, I have served parishes in South Dakota and Western Wisconsin prior to chaplaincy. I am a Board Certified Chaplain and endorsed by the ELCA. I believe it is important for specialized ministry to be present as a voice for the populations that are searching for or understanding God's presence; though do not find a home within the congregations. If elected, I will bring gifts of reflective listening, strong advocating and communication grounded in values.	Bethany-Star Prairie

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Lay Female	St. Croix Valley	Kathy Erneson		<p>Kathy was a member of Joy Lutheran in Prescott for over 40 years before relocating to Hudson in 2013 and becoming a member of Bethel Lutheran. She has held leadership positions at Joy Lutheran as President of Church Council and Women of Joy. Her great joy is music ministry by playing handbells at Bethel and Joy Lutheran. New experiences were a part of a mission trip to Haiti in 2015. Kathy will be traveling with Bethel Lutheran to Iringa, Tanzania in June 2018. She likes to meet new people and is looking forward to learning about a new culture.</p>	Bethel Lutheran-Hudson
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