

2018 NEBRASKA SYNOD ASSEMBLY BALLOT

2019 Churchwide Assembly

Voting Members from Mission Cluster Units

Panhandle Cluster – Clergy Male

- Rev. David Hall
- Rev. Tim Stadem
- _____

Tumbleweed & Pony Express Cluster Unit - Lay Female

- Diane Brauer
- Joyce Kolbo
- _____

Lewis & Clark Cluster – Clergy Female

- Rev. Martha Atkins
- Rev. Donna Runge Fonner
- _____

Northeast Cluster – Lay Male

- Terry Eriksen
- Gene Willers
- _____

Loup-Platte & Two Rivers Cluster Unit - Clergy Female

- Rev. Glenda Pearson
- Rev. Thalia Woodworth
- _____

Elkhorn and Crossroads Cluster Unit – Lay Male

- Robert Schuerman
- Greg Steensnes
- _____

Central Southern Prairie & Prairie Cluster Unit - Clergy Female

- Rev. Renee Johnson
- Rev. Breen Sipes
- _____

Lincoln Area Cluster – Lay Female

- Judy Batterman
- Kim Hall
- _____

Saunders & Metro South Cluster Unit - Clergy Female

- Rev. Emily Johnson
- Rev. Paula Lawhead
- _____

Midland & Logan Creek Cluster Unit – Lay Female

- Jane Flores
- Sandy Terry
- _____

Metro Urban Cluster – Clergy Male

- Rev. Inba Inbarasu
- Rev. Damon Laaker
- _____

Metro West Cluster – Lay Female

- Heather Abbott
- Ramona Edwards
- _____

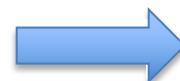
Homestead Cluster – Clergy Female

- Rev. Heather Brown
- Rev. Suzanne How
- _____

Rolling Hills Cluster – Lay Male

- Chris Gress
- _____

Side 2



* This is a sample ballot ONLY. The official ballot at Assembly may contain changes.

2019 Churchwide Assembly

Voting Members At-Large

Lay Male - At-Large

- Wesley Dorn
- Lon Olson
- _____

Lay Female - At-Large

- Courtney Peeler
- Gwen Edwards
- _____

Clergy - At -Large

- Rev. Nathan Metzger
- Rev. Rick Carlson
- _____

Youth and Young Adult - At-Large

- Jacob Carter
- _____

Person of color whose primary language is other than English - At-Large

- Jones Koffa
- Francisco Salazar
- _____

SAMPLE BALLOT

* This is a sample ballot ONLY. The official ballot at Assembly may contain changes.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Male

Rev. David L. Hall
Panhandle Cluster

1. **OCCUPATION:** Pastor
2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
- | Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Sidney</u> | <u>Panhandle Cluster</u> |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Table of Grace Mobile Food Pantry
- b. Soles4Souls coordinator
- c. Lifetree Cafe presenter

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Cheyenne County Ministerial Association President, Treasurer, Secretary
- b. Coordinator for Community-wide worship services, Pray4Sidney, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Sing
- c. School Supplies Backpack program

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. President Panhandle Cluster
- b. Synod Outreach team, Gulf Coast synod
- c. Synod Council, Gulf Coast synod

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I have been pastor for over 36 years and served in various capacities, but have never served as a delegate to the National Church Assembly. Although I have attended National Assemblies I look forward to attending and voting on crucial issues that face the church today. I feel that God has called me to be a part of the church, the community and the congregation that I serve. This is one way to serve the wider church and I want to be open to wherever God calls me to serve.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Male

Rev. Tim R. Stadem
Panhandle Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: St John's United Lutheran Church
Name of Church
Alliance, NE Panhandle Cluster
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Cross Generational Sunday School - All Ages Together
- b. Pray Ground for Children in Worship - enhancing their worship experiences
- c. Cross Generational Confirmation Program - parents, grandparents, mentors, siblings too

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Habitat for Humanity
- b. TeamMates - volunteer mentor in Public School
- c. President of Alliance Ministerial Association

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Synod Nominating Committee
- b. Transformation 2.0 - volunteer mentor in Public School
- c. President of Alliance Ministerial Association

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

My call is to communicate the Good News of Christ in a culture turned upside down in most aspects of society. The Spirit inspires me to curate healthy religious and spiritual tradition alongside innovative trials for unveiling fresh practices of faith. I would like attend as an active participant in the 2019 Churchwide Assembly with a voice and vote of good conscience and loyalty to the community of faith I have come to know and respect in the Nebraska Synod, ELCA.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Female

Diane L. Brauer
Tumbleweed & Pony Express Cluster

1. **OCCUPATION:** Retired Administrative Assistant

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Name of Church

McCook, NE

Location of Church

Tumbleweed

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Director, Vacation Bible School
- b. LYO Advisor
- c. Director, Youth Handbell Choir and member of adult handbell choir

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Board Member, McLean Family Resource Center, Washburn, ND (domestic shelter)
- b. Girl Scout Troop Leader, Malta, MT
- c. Volunteer, Clinic With a Heart, Lincoln, NE

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Member of the ELCA Women and Justice: One In Christ Task Force
- b. Executive Board Member, Women of the ELCA 2005-2011
- c. President, Western North Dakota Women of the ELCA, 2002-2003

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Participating in the work of the church beyond my congregation has and continues to be an experience in which my faith grows, is challenged, and deepens. Meeting, working with, and traveling to many synods had allowed me to see and experience the breadth and expansiveness of our church - the ELCA - and the many ministries in which we are all a part. My wish is to serve as a voting member at the Churchwide Assembly in 2019 comes from a feeling of being called and the desire to participate at the highest legislative level of this church and to be a part of what we commit to as our mission in the next triennium. It would be an honor to serve this synod and this church, alongside my brothers and sisters in faith, gathered to do the greater work of bringing God's love, mercy, and justice to our church and world.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Female

Joyce Ann Kolbo
Tumbleweed & Pony Express Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: American Lutheran Church Office Manager

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: American Lutheran Church

| Name of Church | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Gothenburg, NE</u> | <u>Pony Express & Tumbleweed</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Coordinate God's Work Our Hands projects for the past three years
- Staff Representative on various committees such as Worship, Education, and Social Ministry and financial assistant for the local Gothenburg Ministerial Association's Christ Charity Fund
- Stephen Minister

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Gothenburg Public School Stakeholder Member and CASA volunteer
- Crestview (Senior Living Facility) Board member and Grievance Board member for Hillcrest Public Housing
- Chairman of a Hero Flight to Washington, D.C. for WWII veterans

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Drinking From the Well
- ELCA PMA Student
- Synod Assembly Voting Member for the past 3 years

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

As a lifetime member of American Lutheran Church in Gothenburg, I know how valuable it is for people to be active not only in your home church but also the Synod. It is also important that western Nebraska and rural ministry is represented at the Churchwide Assembly. I have recently been accepted as a PMA student and am excited to begin this journey of faith and learning. My experiences as Office Manager at American Lutheran Church includes helping families through the Food Pantry and the local Christian Charity Fund so I see the needs on a local level and can't imagine the magnitude of hunger and poverty across the country. It will be beneficial for me to learn more about the Synod and church wide ministry and be able to implement them as I will complete my PMA studies. I grew up in a family with strong commitments to Christ and our church and want to continue to demonstrate a powerful witness to the faith.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Martha Atkins
Lewis & Clark Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Niobrara Lutheran Church

| | Name of Church |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Niobara</u> | <u>Lewis & Clark</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Organized the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service
- Organized our congregation into participating in the Prison Angels
- Christmas program

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- I served on the board o Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen for 2 years and also worked there with my congregation making meals
- Participated in our community clean up days with my congregation
- I have and am continuing to organize community wide Vacation Bible Schools

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- I served for 4 years on the Rocky Mountain Synod Council
- N/A
- N/A

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I sense a call to Churchwide Assembly to represent the smaller rural worshiping bodies in NE. I think my voice as a second career Pastor serving in a rural setting is a voice seldom heard from in such a large setting .God has called me to this place in Nebraska so that I might open eyes to more ways of being church together and offering different ways to feed their faith. I think the same may be true for other pastors serving small worshiping communities throughout our country. I have a great sense of call to bring other pastors with the same sense of vision, the opportunity to have these conversations, and a place like Churchwide Assembly may just give us that opportunity.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

*Rev. Donna Fonner
Lewis & Clark Cluster*

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Our Savior's Lutheran Church

| Name of Church | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Plainview, NE | Lewis & Clark |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Church Council member for 2 three year terms at First Lutheran Church in Rock Island, IL
- b. Sunday School teacher for 20 years
- c. Lake Geneva Youth Camp - Girls' and Jr. High Camp - Counselor and Program Director

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Coordinator Pierce County/Plainview "Food for the Heartland" Distribution Coordinator
- b. Mentor, Plainview School TeamMates Program
- c. Transition Advisory Board for the Davenport School System

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Dean of the Lewis & Clark cluster
- b. Member the of the Nebraska Synod Discipline committee
- c. Prayer Partner for Bishop nominees in the Northwestern Wisconsin Synod

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Being a Churchwide Delegate will give me the opportunity to increases my knowledge of what the ELCA does on a broader scale for local churches and around the world. And then to share that information with my congregation members. It will help me network with and create partnerships with other pastors outside of my synod.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Male

Terry Eriksen
Northeast Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: retired
2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Salem Lutheran Church
Name of Church
1753 G Ave, Dakota City, NE 68731 Northeast
Location of Church Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Gods Work our Hands
- b. Stewardship Committee Chair
- c. President of Church Council

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Member of Emerson-Hubbard Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- b. Chairman of Dakota County Public Service Safety Agency
- c. Board of Director of the Emerson Rural Fire District

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Delegate to Nebraska Synod Assembly several times
- b. Member of United Asian Ministry Steering Committee working with Pastor Rich Sheridan
- c. N/A

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

God calls all of his people into mission for his church, to go and make disciples of all the world. I think sometimes we forget that no matter where we are serving, large or small group, we are serving God's purpose to spread the good news. We never know how God may use any of us, all we have to do is trust and put ourselves out there to serve God and his people where ever God leads us into mission

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Male

Gene Willers
Northeast Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Retired Banker

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: St. Peters

| Name of Church | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Pilger | Northeast |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Congregational Present (past)
- b. Congregational Treasurer (current)
- c. Call Committee Chairman (past)

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Pilger Community Center Capital Campaign Chairman (current)
- b. Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council Treasurer (past)
- c. Northeast Community College Board of Governors (current) and past Chairman

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Nebraska Synod SMART (Social Ministry Area Resource Team) member (past)
- b. Nebraska Synod Assembly Delegate (past)
- c. Nebraska Synod Assembly volunteer (past)

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

When I was approached about becoming the representative for the Northeast Cluster to the National Assembly, my first reaction was doubt. Through prayerful consideration I realized that God had provided me with a variety of experiences in my life that have prepared me for this opportunity for service.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Glenda Pearson
Loup-Platte & Two Rivers Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Bethany Evangelical Lutheran

| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Ord, NE</u> | <u>Loup-Platte</u> |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Our Burwell Rodeo food booth and bi-annual Aebleskiver dinners are great team building, fellowship and community visibility opportunities.
- Youth group provides numerous Thanksgiving & Christmas dinners, and backpacks filled with school supplies to those in need in our community.
- Special offerings contributions to local food bank, Valley County Ministerial, various ELCA missions (God's Work, Our Hands), and establishing a crisis utility fund.

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Started ecumenical Chaplaincy program at local hospital
- With our high school, the Ministerium brings brings educational programs to our community on topics like "sex trafficking" and "Teen drug & alcohol abuse"
- Our church in conjunction with ecumenical partners provided a complete Seder meal inspired by Jew for Jesus

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Currently serve on the Candidacy Committee
- Currently serve on the PMA Steering Committee
- Previously served on the Disciplinary Committee

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

My sense of call through the PMA and TEEM programs, Ordained ministry and my personal journey have lifted-up the many needs of the church and the various opportunities to serve. It is my desire to bring the insights and understanding of the greater church to my congregation, colleagues and synod.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Thalia Woodworth
Loup-Plate & Two Rivers Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Trinity Lutheran Church
Name of Church
Stamford, NE Two Rivers
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Preach
- b. Teach
- c. Pray

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Caring Cupboard (Harlan Country food pantry, thrift store)
- b. Knit for Silent Auctions
- c. Teach/substitute/help with our After School Program (we serve the community)

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Art facilitator for several Global Mission Events
- b. Board member of Lutheran Campus Ministry, Kearney
- c. Discipline Committee

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation in the tiny town of Stamford, Nebraska (pop. under 200). We are a rural congregation which supports ministry also in surrounding towns and farms I have been a pastor in this setting for 23 years, learning the context, conflicts, unifying factors, and being in relationships with the people. As the pastor of this small congregation I have a particular perspective to bring to Churchwide which reflects the concerns and joys of rural life and ministry.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Male

Robert Schuerman
Elkhorn Valley and Crossroads Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Semi-Retired, working part-time at Walmart

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Name of Church

Stromsburg, NE

Crossroads

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Current VP of church council
- b. Past president and vice president of Trinity Lutheran in DeWitt, NE
- c. Member of church choir and contemporary choir

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Past member of DeWitt Volunteer Fire Dept. and EMT for 7 years
- b. Past member of Homestead Harmonizer, Beatrice, NE and Pathfinder Chorus, Fremont, NE
- c. N/A

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Serving 6th year as delegate to the Nebraska Synod Assembly
- b. N/A
- c. N/A

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

When my Pastor first asked me if I would consider having my name nominated for delegate, I immediately declined. That night, the Lord spoke to me and told me I have been chosen to run this position and that I have many things to offer. I have been active on Church Council leading the Stewardship Committee. I believe it is important to be active in the "church" to set a positive example for others to follow. With local membership declining, we must step up and be more involved to insure we have a strong congregation to keep going. My faith has always been important in my life.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Male

Greg Steensnes

Elkhorn Valley and Crossroads Cluster

1. **OCCUPATION:** Board Operator

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Shell Creek Lutheran

| Name of Church | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Newman Grove Nebraska</u> | <u>Elkhorn Valley</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Church
- Carnival
- Tri council

4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Deacon
- Usher
- Church fair

5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Mission trip
- Deacon
- Church carnival

6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

After Hurricane Katrina, three members of our church went to Mississippi to help rebuild. I took care of my Father while he was ill, and now I am taking care of my mother. God has called me many times to do his calling and I never said no. He has used me as a vessel of faith and hope all of my life.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Renee Johnson
Central Southern Prairie & Prairie Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: St. Paul's/Glenvil and Immanuel/Hastings

| Name of Church | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Glenvil and Hastings | Central Southern Prairie |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Preacher
- Worship leader
- Bible study teacher

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Hearts & Hands Against Hunger event coordinator and board member
- Open Table board member
- Hastings Kiwanis Club member and past president

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Currently synod cluster dean
- Former member Synod World Hunger Committee
- Attended ELCA World Hunger gathering 2012

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

In participating as a voting member at Churchwide Assembly the sense of call is to tend faithfully and diligently to the work before the Assembly and also to share the story of that work with congregation members in the cluster after the assembly adjourns. Communicating the experience and decisions made at assembly helps foster community and understanding and build up the body of Christ.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Breen Sipes
Central Southern Prairie & Prairie Cluster

Name: **First** Breen **Middle** Marie **Last** Sipes

1. OCCUPATION: Solo Pastor, Tri-Saints Lutheran Parish

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: St. Peter

| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Byron | Prairie |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit Coordinator
- UNMC NICU Sewing Coordinator
- Website Coordinator for Taking Worship Home

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Walk/Run for Hope Crisis Center Participant
- God's Work Our Hands Sunday Park Clean-up Coordinator
- Paracord Bracelet making for Operation Gratitude and Fleece Hat Making for LFS

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- WELCA Triennial Gathering 2017
- National Youth Gathering 2018
- Rural Ministry Network 2017-present

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I have never had the opportunity to attend the Churchwide Assembly as a voting member, and would be honored to be selected. Because of my participation in the WELCA Triennial this past summer, I am especially interested in the work the Task Force to produce a Social Statement on Women and Justice, and would like to be a part of the decision-making conversations regarding this Statement.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Female

Judy Batterman
Lincoln Area Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Retired _____

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: First Lutheran Church
Name of Church
Lincoln Lincoln Area
Location of Church Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Various Worship Assistant positions
- b. Served on Congregation Council
- c. Endowment Board Chair

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Girl Scout Leader
- b. Matt Talbot Kitchen volunteer
- c. Habitat for Humanity volunteer

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Secretary of Lincoln Cluster
- b. Served on Synod Council
- c. Currently on Senior Leaders in Mission Task Force

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I recently retired after 8 years as Parish Coordinator at my church. My term on Synod Council has been completed. My entire life has been centered around the church and Synod events. I feel this would be the next step in service to both the Synod and my God.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Female

Kim Hall
Lincoln Area Cluster

INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Emily Johnson
Saunders & Metro South Rim Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Minister of Word and Sacrament

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Christ Lutheran
Name of Church
Louisville Omaha South Rim
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Plan and lead all aspects of worship
- b. Teach confirmation and other Christian Education offerings
- c. Provide pastoral care and home communion visits

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Mentor with TeamMates
- b. Give blood
- c. Support high school students' service activities

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Worked on the We Are Lutheran Committee
- b. Helped to welcome incoming first call pastors to Nebraska
- c. Brought kids to the ELCA youth gathering

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

As a younger member of th clergy I feel that it is my responsibility to help shape the direction of the church. I came into the ministry with the understanding that there will be great changes in how the church organizes itself and the role of pastors within my lifetime. I don't think that's a bad thing, I do want to be part of the conversation.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Paula Lawhead
Saunders & Metro South Rim Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Resurrection Lutheran Church

Name of Church

Gretna, NE

Saunders County Cluster

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Benevolence and Mission Team
- b. Worship assisting
- c. Bible study leading

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Teammates Mentoring Program
- b. Ministerial Team
- c. Foodbank of the Heartland Community Coordinator

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Synod Assembly Co-chair
- b. Boundaries team
- c. Leadership team

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I appreciate the opportunity to hear about and help decide on current issues and direction for the wider ELCA. In addition, I feel it's important to communicate back to the local synod what the larger church is focusing on in ministry and helping to move us all forward together.

2019 Churchwide Assembly - Lay Female

Jane Flores
Midland & Logan Creek Cluster

INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

2019 Churchwide Assembly - Lay Female

Sandy Terry
Midland & Logan Creek Cluster

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Salem Lutheran Church | |
| 2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: | Name of Church |
| Fremont, NE | Midland |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Council chair
- b. Director of Christian Education
- c. Parish Ministry Associate

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Fremont Area Retired School Personnel Associate
- b. Volunteer at Youth Emergency Services, Omaha
- c. The Table distribution

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Member of Micah 6:8 (Global Mission Committee) & Tanzania Roundtable
- b. Nebraska Synodical Women Organization Treasurer
- c. Voting Member to Nebraska Synod Assembly

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I feel that my sense of God calling me is based on my ability to listen and openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance in discerning the issues addressed at the Churchwide Assembly. My willingness to pray for others and the church as a whole as well as my experience as a Parish Ministry Associate in the Nebraska Synod. The ability to not be influenced by the thoughts of others and spending quiet time pondering what will be the best decision has been demonstrated during my time as Council Chair during a rather difficult time. All of these will be the skills, abilities and gifts needed by a person to effectively serve as a delegate to the Churchwide Assembly.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Male

Rev. Inba Inbarasu
Metro Urban Cluster

1. **OCCUPATION:** Clinical Pastoral Education(CPE)Certified Educator(CPE Supervisor) and Visitation Pastor

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
Name of Church
2650 Farnam Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68131 Metro Urban Cluster
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Friends and Family (Shut-ins) and special services at congregations
- b. Global Outreach mission
- c. Stephen Ministry

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Participated in the service project for Habitat for Humanity
- b. Support extended to the Food Pantry service
- c. Special events and service support for Outreach ministry

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Serving in the board members for seeking the spirit within - Synod Spiritual Direction Institute
- b. Participated as synod delegate to the last Churchwide Assembly at New Orleans and Synod Assembly and Theological Conferences
- c. Serving currently as committeemember in the Synod's Candidacy Committee

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I am so grateful for God's call in my Life. As I am in the specialized setting, I get opportunity to journey with pastors, lay minister, Seminarians and all those who are passionate to provide pastoral care. I am actively involved in our local community and church. As Visitation Pastor I have passion for providing pastoral care and training others to provide pastoral care, I am excited being part of God's mission and feel the call to serve our synod through ministry and mission leadership.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Male

Rev. Damon Laaker
Metro Urban Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Grace Lutheran and St. Luke's Lutheran

| Name of Church | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Omaha</u> | <u>Urban</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Reader at Liberty Elementary School with 2nd & 3rd graders
- Neighbors South Habitat Coalition
- Crossroads Prison Ministry

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Omaha Together One Community
- Arts for All, Inc. Board of Directors
- Omaha Police Chaplain

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Synod Staff, Director of Lutheran Metro Ministry
- Synod Council
- Chair of Bridgebuilder Team

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

God has blessed me with many different experiences as a Pastor in the Nebraska Synod. I would use these years of experience as a guide in serving as a Voting Member to 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Female

Heather Abbott
Metro West Cluster

1. **OCCUPATION:** Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: | <u>Living Grace Lutheran Church</u> |
| | Name of Church |
| <u>Omaha</u> | <u>Metro West</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Prayer shawl
- b. Connection Team
- c. Engage Team

4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Race Against the Odds
- b. PTO
- c. N/A

5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. N/A
- b. N/A
- c. N/A

6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

I believe that God calls us when a new opportunity is open in order to learn. I hope to learn about Churchwide and how as a congregation in Omaha, NE can make an impact in the greater church. In addition, to how Churchwide can help our congregation.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Female

Ramona Edwards
Metro West Cluster

1. **OCCUPATION:** Currently Retired, 40+ years experience: Accounting/Finance/Budgeting,
Administration & Governance
2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** St. Timothy's Lutheran Church
Name of Church
510 North 93rd Street, Omaha, NE Metro West
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Current chair and member of Finance committee
- b. Current member of Endowment board
- c. Current member of Altar Guild, Priscilla Circle and book club

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Current secretary and director of Nebraska Outdoor Ministries Board
- b. Current secretary and director of The Mosaic Foundation Board
- c. Current member of Mosaic Foundation Investment Committee and Mosaic Finance and Audit Committee

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Current member of 2018 NE Synod Assembly Planning Team
- b. Current member of 2018 NE Synod Bishop's Election Committee
- c. Agreed to serve on 2019 NE Synod Assembly Planning Team

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

The Lord has blessed me with many skills and abilities, including the ability to serve others. As can be seen from my career, church, and community activities, I am able to contribute in many areas. In addition to "roll up your sleeves" activities such as: working on a Habitat for Humanity home and working along side Mission Builders at Camp Carol Joy Holling, I have a particular interest in serving in governance and administrative capacities. I have accepted the challenge of reviewing and providing comments/feedback on many legal documents such as articles, bylaws and policies in my areas of service, utilizing my strong "attention to detail," governance and business background skills. With my recent retirement, I genuinely look forward to the opportunity to serve the church in new and meaningful ways.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Heather Brown
Homestead Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Christ Lutheran Church

Name of Church

Pickrell

Homestead

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Celebrating 125th anniversary of Christ Lutheran with special events & worship events (1893-2018)
- b. Rededication of vintage stained-glass windows from former Cortland United Methodist Church
- c. Introducing Ray Makeever's "Make a Joyful Noise" liturgy in our church and inviting him to teach and lead it

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Have served as "Teammates" mentor since 2016
- b. Have hosted four high school foreign-exchange students through STS Foundation
- c. Board member of "A Warmer Day" non-profit organization that provides coats & winter gear to children & families in need

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Served at Churchwide Assembly Voting Member in 2009
- b. Participated in "Grace Gathering" and was visitor to Churchwide Assembly in 2016
- c. Served on Western North Dakota Synod "Outreach Team" and helped develop a "Mission & Outreach" grant program to provide seed money for evangelism programs

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I would be honored to serve as a Voting Member from the Nebraska Synod. This is the third synod where I have served as an ordained pastor and I have been very inspired by the Strategic Mission Vision Plan (2015-2020). My congregation has adopted the mission statement of "Connection Communities in Christ" since we are a rural congregation with members spread through out many communities. We are putting the Synod's Mission of "Hope Connect Go" into practice in our local context in several ways. I believe that Nebraska Lutherans are making a unique contribution to the ELCA since, as Bishop Brian Maas stated, we are called to be "pioneers of faith" in the 21st century.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Clergy Female

Rev. Suzanne How
Homestead Cluster

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Immanuel Stateline Lutheran Church
Name of Church

Wymore NE Homestead
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Pastor - Immanuel Stateline and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches, Wayne
- b. Vicar - Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church, Omaha
- c. faithful lay person - Holy Cross Lutheran, Omaha

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Project Hope Food Pantry volunteer, Holy Cross Omaha
- b. N/A
- c. N/A

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. assisted with communication for 2017 Synod Assembly
- b. NSHLA lay person 2014-2016
- c. N/A

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

My cluster nominated me to represent us (if elected) to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and this a very unexpected honor. If I do represent our Synod I will work and pray hard to ensure all votes I cast are in the best interest of furthering God's work through the ELCA.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - Lay Male

Chris Gress
Rolling Hills Cluster

INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member- At-Large Lay Male

Wesley Dorn

1. OCCUPATION: Farmer

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: American Lutheran
Name of Church

Adams Homestead Cluster
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Church Council
- b. Pastoral Call Committee
- c. Sunday School Teacher

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Volunteer Fireman
- b. Youth softball and basketball coach
- c. Volunteer FFA project leader

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. ELCA youth gathering sponsor - New Orleans
- b. Synod delegate
- c. Volunteer at Camp Carol Joy Holling

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I am very grateful for all the opportunities that I have had with our Church and leading the youth through my own faith. I look forward to opportunities to give my time and talents to help others develop in their relationship with Christ.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - At-Large Lay Male

Lon Olson

1. OCCUPATION: group benefit specialist

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: First
Name of Church

Fremont Midland
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Forward in Faith Campaign Chair
- b. Senior Choir Director
- c. Congregation Vice President

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Past President and current Secretary Fremont Kiwanis
- b. Past President Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity board
- c. Current board member for the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Congregational delegate to Synod Assembly past 3 years
- b. Past Synod Assembly volunteer
- c. Carol Joy Holling camp volunteer

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

God's first command is this: "The Lord our God is one Lord, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." I want to have greater understanding of how our church can serve in mission and service not only locally, but throughout the world.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - At-Large Lay Female

Gwen Edwards

1. **OCCUPATION:** IT Administrative Assistant/IT Procurement

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP** Lord of Love Lutheran Church

| | Name of Church |
|-------|-----------------------|
| Omaha | Metro West |

| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|

3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Women's Bible Study Leader
- Worship servant - Communion Server, Altar Care
- VBS Director for 3 years (years ago)

4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Boy Scouts of America, District Commissioner (highest volunteer position)
- PLV South High School Band Booster President incl. chaperoning band trip to Orlando
- United Way of Midlands Employee Campaign Manager 25+ years

5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Women of the ELCA Churchwide Executive Board Member/Parliamentarian
- Women of the ELCA Nebraska Synod President
- Synod Assembly Planning Team 2012

6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THE THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

God is calling me to serve in this position based on my willingness to grow and learn spiritually and to encourage and support the business of the church as a whole. I served as the Nebraska Women of the ELCA President which gave me the opportunity to serve on the Nebraska Synod Council (non-voting member) where I was enriched with the opportunity to serve the entire Synod. I just recently completed 2 three year terms on the Churchwide Executive Board of the Women of the ELCA, each of these opportunities allow me to serve and experience the larger workings of the church. I believe I will represent the Nebraska Synod faithfully and whole-heartily by serving as a voting member to the Churchwide Assembly and with my previous service within the church would be helpful to Budget & Finance Committee.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - At-Large Lay Female

Courtney Peeler

1. **OCCUPATION:** Marketing and Sales for Barn Candle Company

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

| Name of Church | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Hastings</u> | <u>South Central Prairie Cluster</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Bible study leader
- Worship assistant: communion, reader
- Vacation bible school leader

4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Hastings Community Theatre actress
- Open Table volunteer
- Watson Elementary School parent volunteer

5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Churchwide Assembly delegate: 2016, 2013
- Southwest Texas Synod Council Member (2 years)
- Bible study leader for Nebraska Synod Womens Organization Fall Gathering '16

6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

By grace, I am a pastor's spouse and a pastor's kid (x2). That grace has allowed me to explore my own sense of calling and clearly name that I am called to be a strong lay leader in this amazing church. The ELCA is such an amazing organization that calls, leads and guides me to be a better person in my relationship with God. I passionately believe in the work of the ELCA church, and am especially intrigued by the work of the Social Statement on Women and Justice that will be brought to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly. I feel called to be an advocate for all, not only women, but those whom have felt forgotten, lost or under appreciated in society. It is our calling as Christians to speak for those who have no voice, or whose voice may not be heard or validated. Attending a Churchwide Assembly is succession is amazing to see the progress that is being made, reuniting with colleagues and seeing how varied our Church is!

2019 Synod Council - Clergy At-Large Clergy Male

Rev. Rick Carlson

1. **OCCUPATION:** Pastor _____

First Lutheran Church

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** _____

Name of Church

Kearney, NE

Two Rivers

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Served as Church Council President of St. James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, PA
- b. Served as Chair of the Personnel Committee of St. James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, PA
- c. Served as Congregational Liaison to the Homeless Shelter and Dorothy Day House in Moorehead, MN

4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Presenter at Hope and Healing Life Intervention Project Faith Community Gathering (represented faith communities in a public forum about mental health and suicide)
- b. Cooked holiday meals for residents and staff at the Victims of Domestic Violence Shelter in Gettysburg, PA
- c. AYSO Girls' soccer coach in Gettysburg, PA

5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Served on the Delaware-Maryland Candidacy Committee
- b. Served on the ELCA Division for Ministry Board
- c. Served as Faculty Member for ELCA Diaconal Ministry Formation Events

6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

I have served our church and one of its predecessor church bodies on the congregational, synodical, and churchwide levels. I think that I have the knowledge and experience of the church in three different regions which would serve me well as a delegate to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

2019 Synod Council - Clergy At-Large Clergy Male

Rev. Nathan Metzger

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: American Lutheran Church

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Adams, NE</u> | <u>Name of Church</u> |
| <u>Location of Church</u> | <u>Mission Cluster Unit</u> |
| | <u>Homestead Cluster</u> |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Worship leader
- b. Confirmation instructor
- c. Community visitation

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. TeamMates Freeman Chapter Board (2014-2017)
- b. Boy Scout Board of Review (Present)
- c. Adams Council of Churches (Present)

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Nebraska Synod Council (2009-2015)
- b. Churchwide Assembly (2013)
- c. Homestead Cluster Dean (Present)

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

God calls to God's people in many ways, moving us from within ourselves and encouraging us from beyond ourselves. A member of the Synod Nominating Committee asked me to submit my name, as so I have. If I can help steward God's ministries in the Synod and the larger Churchwide organization, I trust God to work in the discernment of this Assembly. If not, God will have me serve in some other capacity.

2019 Synod Council - At-large Youth/Young Adult Lay Male

Jacob Carter

1. OCCUPATION: Cashier/Student

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Immanuel Lutheran Church

| | Name of Church |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <u>104 Galvin Rd N, Bellevue, NE, 68005</u> | <u>Metro South Rim</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Evangelism Board Chairman
- b. Wednesday night preacher
- c. Assisting minister

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Outdoor Service Day
- b. LYON
- c. Stephen's Center volunteering

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Youth Gathering (2015, Detroit)
- b. Synod Gathering
- c. Youth Gathering (2018, Houston)

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I have worked to both learn what the Nebraska Synod does and can do better for the people of Nebraska and abroad and to provide helpful service for its people. My mission is to spread God's living word through the lives of many as possible and the position offered seems to be the best way in which I can continue this ministry during my college years. Serving is a way that I can continue to put my spiritual gifts of leadership, helpfulness, and shepherding into action.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - At-Large
Person of Color Whose Primary Language is Other Than English

Jones Koffa

1. OCCUPATION: Student

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: First Lutheran

| <u>Location of Church</u> | <u>Name of Church</u> |
|---|-----------------------|
| <u>1551 S 70th St Lincoln. NE 68506</u> | <u>Lincoln</u> |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Communion Assistant
- b. Cross Bearer
- c. Bible Carrier

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Help clean in the community
- b. Help clean peoples' homes
- c. None

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. None
- b. None
- c. None

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

It's great to be a member of First Lutheran Church because it is a church of love and unity. God called me into mission and service in the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church when I came to the United States.

2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member - At-Large
Person of Color Whose Primary Language is Other Than English

Francisco Salazar

1. OCCUPATION: Businessman

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Iglesia Luterana San Andres
Name of Church
4440 South 25Th St metro urban
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. President of church council
- b. Project Embrace Coordinator
- c. Confirmation and Youth Leader

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Collect signatures to send to our senator for DACA support
- b. Salvadorian TPS March to Washington
- c. Translate people with immigration (in immigration office)

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Current Synod Council member
- b. Latino leadership assembly (Los Angeles, CA)
- c. Ecumenical partnership assembly (Chicago, IL)

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

God calls us to serve the need and I have learned that when a group of people gathers to work together and have the willingness to help others, is very satisfying and bless to be part of that. I hope with God's help to be able to help and serve in any way I can. I want to be a tool that can be used to help others.

2018 NEBRASKA SYNOD ASSEMBLY BALLOT

Synod Officer

Vice President

- Dale Hansen
- Dara Troutman
- _____

Synod Council

Clergy Male - At Large

- Rev. Al Duminy
- Rev. Nathan Metzger
- _____

Youth Male - At Large

- _____
- _____

Nominations For Synod Council From Mission Cluster Units

Panhandle Cluster - Lay Female

- Anne Hall
- Maurine Roller
- _____

Metro West Cluster - Clergy Female

- Rev. Chris Alexander
- Rev. Ellen Stelzle
- _____

Midland and Logan Creek Cluster Unit - Lay Male

- David Hingst
- Gary Overfield
- _____

Central So. Prairie and Prairie Cluster Unit - Lay Female

- Nancy Hinrichs
- Donna Valentine
- _____

Elkhorn Valley and Crossroads Cluster Unit - Clergy Female

- Rev. Cara Jensen
- Rev. Brenda Pfeifly
- _____

Consultation Committee

Lay Female

- Ruth Henrichs
- Cindy Settje
- _____

Lay Male

- Dennis Remington
- _____

Clergy Female

- Rev. Megan Clausen
- Rev. Jan Peterson
- _____

Clergy Male

- Rev. David Bucu
- _____

Committee on Discipline

Lay Female

- Alyssa Gunning
- Karen Schweitzer
- _____

Lay Female

- Myrna Seagren
- _____

* This is a sample ballot ONLY. The official ballot at Assembly may contain changes.

Synod Vice President - Lay Person

Dale Hansen

1. OCCUPATION: Farmer

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Christ Lutheran Church

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Wisner, NE</u> | Name of Church |
| Location of Church | <u>Northeast Cluster</u> |
| | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Church Council President
- b. Co-chair of Worship committee
- c. Chair of Ministry Site Profile committee

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Wisner Community Lenten Breakfast: proceeds go towards Ministerial Association
- b. Mercy Meals: meals packaged in partnership with Orphan Grain Train
- c. Christ Lutheran Tractor Drive: proceeds go towards CLC Helping Hands and Ministerial Association

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. ELCA Good Gifts: Church council designated and donates share of Lent offering
- b. Responsible for assuring more than 10% of church budget is given to benevolence
- c. --

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I am sure this position is a call from God and a duty to my congregation and children. I was blessed with a great foundation of pastors, parents, Sunday school teachers, ladies of WELC, and church elders, who made sure my Christian education was second to none. Now I feel as the church is suffering from retirement and shortage of pastors, a shortage of volunteers, declining attendance, and struggling budgets, it is critical that leadership of the Synod be as good if not better than generations before. My goal is for this church to be as spiritually fulfilling to my three sons as it was to me. The children are the future of the church.

Synod Vice President - Lay Person

Dara Troutman

1. **OCCUPATION:** Chief of Staff, University of Nebraska Foundation (Higher education administration/advancement)

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** First Evangelical
Lincoln Lincoln Area
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Congregation Council, President (two terms, including during Lead Pastor transition to Office of Bishop)
- b. Building Committee, Member (part of group developing master plan for \$4.5 million renovation)
- c. Church Volunteer – Assisting Minister, Reader, Communion Assistant, Usher, Committee Member, etc.

4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, Chair/Vice Chair (oversees public television & radio)
- b. Nebraska Broadcasters Association, Board of Directors
- c. Leadership Lincoln, Secretary/Board of Directors

5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Nebraska Synod Council, Vice President
- b. Immanuel Vision Foundation grant review committee
- c. N/A

6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

During the past four years as Vice President of the Nebraska Synod, I have attempted to utilize my spiritual gifts, particularly in the areas of leadership and administration, to the glory of God through the work of the Synod Council. I am certain, however, that I have gained at least as much as I have given, especially when it comes to personal growth related to spiritual practice and prayer. There are challenges ahead for all expressions of the ELCA, but there are great opportunities as well. I embrace the chance to be part of continuing to discern what is the will of God for this synod and its ministries.

Synod Council

*Rev. Al Duminy At-Large
Clergy Male*

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Sinai Lutheran Church
Name of Church
Fremont Midland Cluster
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Preaching and worship leader
- b. Faith Formation
- c. Pastoral Care

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Low Income Ministry Board Member (Fremont, NE)
- b. Bible Study leader at local senior care facility
- c. Lutheran Volunteer Corps

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. 2016 Churchwide Assembly attendee
- b. Synod Assembly Planning Team
- c. National Youth Gathering congregational leader

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I would be happy to serve on the Synod Council and I believe that I would bring my 23 years of experience as a pastor in four diverse settings, all in the Nebraska Synod. I would be excited to continue to grow in my understanding of the vision of our Synod, so that, I could help us to continue to consider how we can be effective in casting that vision and living it out.

Synod Council

*Rev. Nathan Metzger At-Large
Clergy Male*

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: American Lutheran Church

Name of Church

Adams, NE

Homestead Cluster

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Worship leader
- b. Confirmation instructor
- c. Community visitation

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. TeamMates Freeman Chapter Board (2014-2017)
- b. Boy Scout Board of Review (Present)
- c. Adams Council of Churches (Present)

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Nebraska Synod Council (2009-2015)
- b. Churchwide Assembly (2013)
- c. Homestead Cluster Dean (Present)

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

God calls to God's people in many ways, moving us from within ourselves and encouraging us from beyond ourselves. A member of the Synod Nominating Committee asked me to submit my name, as so I have. If I can help steward God's ministries in the Synod and the larger Churchwide organization, I trust God to work in the discernment of this Assembly. If not, God will have me serve in some other capacity.

Synod Council

Anne Hall
Panhandle Cluster
Lay Female

1. OCCUPATION: Transitional Minister

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Holy Trinity Lutheran
Name of Church

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Sidney</u> | <u>Panhandle</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Transitional Minister First English, Kimball , NE
- Transitional Minister Tri-Counter Parish, Oshkosh, Chappell, Lodgepole, NE
- Pulpit supply

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Helping Hands Sunday
- Live Tree discussion leader
- Soles4Souls

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Deaconess Community Board of Directors
- Churchwide Assembly
- Deaconess Assembly Planning Committee Chair

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

For the past 35 years, I have been a member of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA. I have always looked at my ministry as a call to the congregation, local, community, synod, and ELCA. Since moving to Nebraska almost 6 years ago, I have served in rural ministries, remembering that we are a global church.

Synod Council

Maurine Roller
Panhandle Cluster
Lay Female

1. **OCCUPATION:** Retired Communications Consultant/University of Nebraska
Cooperative Extension Educator

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** St. John's United Lutheran Church
Name of Church

Alliance, NE

Panhandle

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Action Team Member/ Choir member/ Companions in Christ
- b. PMA Lay Assistant
- c. Transitional Ministry 2.0 member

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Volunteer at Box Butte General Hospital
- b. Volunteer at the Alliance Animal Shelter
- c. Volunteer at the Alliance National Veterans Cemetary

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Secretary Panhandle Cluster
- b. PMA Advisory Board
- c. Synod Delegate

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

God called me into the ELCA church almost 8 years ago and into the PMA program 6 years ago. My path into ministry has not been a direct route from Point A to Point B, but rather an exciting journey into areas I had not expected, but experienced tremendous and growth. And so where God leads, I must follow. With the ELCA's extensive ministries in Disaster Response, Faith Formation, Global Mission, Hunger and Poverty, Justice, and Outreach, the opportunities have never been greater for all of us to be active in mission and service. The opportunity to participate and contribute as a Synod Council member is exciting. If elected, I will serve with humility and dedication, to the the best of my ability, with the help of God.

Synod Council

Chris Alexander
Metro West Cluster
Clergy Female

1. OCCUPATION: Associate Pastor Countryside Community Church

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: First Lutheran Church

Name of Church

Blair NE

Metro West

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Tri-Faith Initiative
- b. Countryside Community Cupboard
- c. White Privilege Consultation

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Heartland Clergy and Proclamation
- b. Woman of Action Advocacy
- c. N/A

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Taught workshop at TheoCon Fall 2017
- b. Taught workshop at The Spirit Within Retreat March 2018
- c. N/A

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I am in a unique position as a pastor of the United Church of Christ and the ELCA and a pastor of the congregation who serves as the Christian Presence in the Tri-Faith Initiative. This unique position will help me listen with a discerning ear of how the NE Synod might participate with the larger ecumenical and inter-faith communities.

Synod Council

Rev. Ellen Stelzle
Metro West Cluster
Clergy Female

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: St. Thomas Lutheran Church
Name of Church
Omaha, NE Metro West
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. I have served as an associate pastor at St. Thomas for the past 13 years
- b. In addition to worship and pastoral care, I work with the Congregational Life Ministry team, the Evangelism Team, and small group ministry
- c. St. Thomas is currently working with LFS to help resettle a refugee family from Afghanistan

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. I have recently completed AMMPARO training help support migrant minors through the immigration process
- b. N/A
- c. N/A

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Currently, I serve as the chair of the Synod Candidacy committee. I have served on the committee for the past 8 years, my second term expiring June 2018
- b. I was certified as a Spiritual Director through Seeking the Spirit Within in 2014 and use this training both with individual directees as well as in the congregation where I serve
- c. N/A

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Serving the Synod council I feel called to bring the perspective of the candidacy process and how the Nebraska Synod can work to develop and support new leaders for the church. I also believe that my connection to Seeking the Spirit would be helpful as the synod seeks to expand and support this important ministry.

Synod Council

David Hingst
Midland & Logan Creek Cluster
Lay Male

1. OCCUPATION: Retired from Seed business

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Faith Ambassador Lutheran Parish (Redeemer)
Name of Church
Hooper, NE Logan Creek
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Council chair
- b. Transformational Ministry coordinator
- c. Mission Support Ministry team

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. President of Logan View School board
- b. President of Hooper Area Community Foundation
- c. President of Hooper Volunteer Fire Dept.

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Outreach table member
- b. Synod assembly representative
- c. Synod youth ministry committee member

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I am inspired by God's Grace through his son's death and resurrection that the Holy Spirit will work in us as leaders of God's church. The past two years of working with the Transformational ministry team of FALP have provided me a strong sense of the responsibility we have as a member of God's church to reach out to all, following the great commissioning instructed in Matthew 18:19-20. Go and make disciples. While we live in a changing earthly environment, God's word never changes, but our responsibility is to communicate the word in a method that all of God's children can understand and embrace. This may require change or updates to our method of communication. I have prayed for the spirit to provide me with the guidance required and will continue to pray for the guidance needed.

Synod Council

Gary Overfield
Midland & Logan Creek Cluster
Lay Male

1. **OCCUPATION:** teacher (retired)

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Sinai Lutheran Church
Name of Church
Fremont, NE Midland Cluster
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Congregational Council -- member, secretary, and president
- b. call committee -- member
- c. Social Ministry -- member and chair

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Fremont Area Habitat for Humanity -- volunteer, committee member, board member, president
- b. Low-Income Ministry food pantry -- volunteer
- c. Rebuilding Together -- committee and board member

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Congregational voting member to Synod Assembly
- b. Global Ministry Committee
- c. no additional

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I am honored to have been nominated to serve on the Nebraska Synod Council. Having been nurtured by God through my church and my community, I accept the challenge of moving beyond those communities, to share God's love by serving the larger church more directly.

Synod Council

Nancy Hinrichs
Central So. Prairie & Prairie Cluster
Lay Female

1. OCCUPATION: Retired Secondary Language Arts Teacher

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Trinity Lutheran Church

Name of Church

Bruning, NE

Prairie Cluster

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Sunday lecture
- b. Bible School teacher/helper
- c. Women's Bible Study teacher/leader

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. P.E.O. member (educational services)
- b. Organized the Cattle Drive section of the history tent for the 2018 Cattlemen's Ball
- c. Directed community theater

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Attended cluster gatherings
- b. Attended past synod gatherings
- c. Leadership training at Carol Joy Holling

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

God lifts me up to guide and inspire other in unity: as we are the Church. There is a strong need to renew hope in those who long for spiritual and physical help. In this present day, a revitalization movement to excite members and non-members in the Church of God is vital. Spreading the "Good News" means approaching others without fear of rejection or any fear at all. My Lord has given these attributes to me to be useful in serving in the mission. For this I am grateful.

Synod Council

Donna Valentine
Central So. Prairie & Prairie Cluster
Lay Female

1. OCCUPATION: Retired --was a nurse and nusing home administrator

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: St. Paul's Lutheran Church

| | Name of Church |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Glenvil NE</u> | <u>Central Southern Prairie</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Sec to St. Paul's council - second term
- Pres of WELCA for many years
- member of quilting group - choir - T-shirt to diaper project

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Open Table - a sack lunch program for whoever needs one
- Vice Pres of Hastings Christian Women's Club
- Pres of an extension club

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Voting member synod assembly - five times in the past
- Voting delegate to WELCA convention 2015
- Joined cluster members in packing food for the hungry

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Having had experience in my professional life and private life serving on boards, I believe God has given me what it takes to cooperate with a group of like minded people to lead. I count on God's guidance to help me with whatever this position calls me to do.

Synod Council

Rev. Cara Jensen
Elkhorn & Crossroads
Clergy Female

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

| <u>Location of Church</u> | <u>Mission Cluster Unit</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Pierce</u> | <u>Elkorn Valley</u> |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Leading Intergenerational Sunday School
- b. I will be taking Youth to National Youth Gathering in Houston
- c. Participate in Women of the ELCA

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Volunteering at the local elementary school
- b. Participating in Bingo at the Pierce Care Center
- c. Attending Chamber of Commerce meetings and helping with raising funds for local organizations

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Participation in the Young Adult Working Group for the Strategic Mission Vision Plan of the Nebraska Synod
- b. Participation in National Youth Gathering
- c. Leader on the Nebraska Synod Youth Mission trip

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

If it is God's will, I would participate and help to lead on the synod council as a role model and voice.

Synod Council

Rev. Brenda Pfeifly
Elkhorn & Crossroads
Clergy Female

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Salem Lutheran Church

| <u>Location of Church</u> | <u>Mission Cluster Unit</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Stromsburg, NE</u> | <u>Cross Roads</u> |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- God's Work our Hands Sunday
- Helped congregation raise \$5000 for Malaria fund
- Work our congregation does with Genesis House (physical abuse work among women & children)

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Current member of Chamber of Commerce Board
- Current member "A Place at the Table" (Backpack program) Board
- Past Chair of local ministerial

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- Current Chair of Synod Rural Ministry network
- Past member of justice committee
- Voting member of 2011 National Assembly

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

In my call as a Pastor, the Holy Spirit has called me into different positions of leadership through ideas, support, hands on work, experience, faith, passion and compassion for the tasks at hand. Now, the years both on a congregational, community and synod level for which I think I have provided the Holy Spirit, seems to be nudging me toward the work of Synod Council. If elected, I can hopefully bring some of the things listed above the NE Synod. I love this Synod and the work is done here in Nebraska and for the whole Church and would find great satisfaction in promoting, supporting and help to guide those works. This is a synod committed to its congregation and Pastors and is always looking for new ways to support both.

Consultation Committee

Ruth Henrichs

Lay Female

1. OCCUPATION: _____ Retired _____

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: _____ Messiah Lutheran _____
Name of Church

_____ Ralston, NE _____ Metro South Rim _____
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Mutual Ministry Committee
- b. Worship Assistant Reader
- c. Church Council

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Board of Directors, Immanuel Inc.
- b. Board of Directors, Children and Families Coalition of Nebraska
- c. Business Ethics Alliance, Board of Trustees

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. ELCA Task Force on Human Sexuality
- b. National Board - Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- c. National Board - Lutheran Services in America

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I believe my entire career has been calling to service and care of neighbor. Serving on the Nebraska Synod Consultation Committee would provide me an opportunity to continue serving my Nebraska Synod!

Consultation Committee

Cindy Settje
Lay Female

1. OCCUPATION: Teacher

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: St. John's Lutheran Church

| Name of Church | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>Leigh, NE</u> | <u>Elkhorn Valley</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Organist and Senior Choir Accompanist
- b. Sunday School and Bible School Music Leader
- c. Program Director

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Nebraska State Reading Council Secretary
- b. Leigh's Q125 member
- c. Leigh Community Club

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Nebraska Synod Council
- b. Rural Network Committee
- c. -

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I will be completing my 6th year as a member of the Nebraska Synod Council. At first I was about being on the Council, but I felt God's calling each time I attended a meeting. Through this opportunity I was able to gain insight how our Synod is run. I also met a number of people who helped me in my walk with God. I would greatly appreciate the change to continue working and helping others in our Synod.

Consultation Committee

Dennis Remington
Lay Male

1. **OCCUPATION:** Sales, Development Associate
2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Salem Lutheran Church _____

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fremont Ne. | Midland |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

Name of Church
3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**
 - a. Council President
 - b. Endowment Fund Chairman
 - c. Bible Study Leader
4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**
 - a. LMM Board Member
 - b. Lions Club President
 - c. Table Ministry
5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**
 - a. Lutheran Men in Mission
 - b. Outreach Committee Member
 - c. Lay Leader Workshops , Spiritual Direction workshops
6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

God has called me to be his witness and to share his love to all people that I come in contact with. He has called me to be a light in the world and be the face of Christ to ALL people. The Holy Spirit is my guide and gives me the ability to share my faith and his love to all who I meet, and gives me the courage to speak the truth.

Consultation Committee

Rev. Megan Clausen
Clergy Female

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: First Ev. Lutheran Church
Name of Church

York, NE Crossroads
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Lead interactive worship series during Lent
- b. Lead an intergenerational workshop/retreat on communion
- c. Planned and hosted a meal open to the community to get to know the congregation better

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Lead worship services at the local nursing homes
- b. Volunteer at the local elementary school
- c. Volunteered weekly at Blank Children's Hospital before going to seminary

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Worked on planning teams for the ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering (Aug. 17) and the Youth Rostered Ministers Gathering
- b. Participated in a consultation on materials distributed from the Office for Worship and Music at the ELCA churchwide offices
- c. Volunteered as adult leader for the high school LYON in the Southeastern Iowa Synod

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

After just moving to this synod last August, I feel God is calling me to be more active within the NE Synod. I feel I can offer my gifts of deep listening and creative thinking to this committee. I feel God calling me to be more connected with the wider church and the body of Christ through serving the synod in this way.

Consultation Committee

Rev. Jan Peterson
Clergy Female

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor _____

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: Augustana Lutheran
Name of Church _____

Omaha, NE

Metro Urban

Location of Church

Mission Cluster Unit

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Sr. Pastor Augustana/Omaha
- b. Youth Director and Associate Pastor Holy Cross/Omaha
- c. Treasurer for Holy Cross/Omaha and Zion Lutheran/Stockton, CA

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Board member Table Grace Cafe
- b. Board member Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries - term up in May
- c. Board member River City Mixed Chorus

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Nebraska Synod Council member - term is up in June
- b. Co-planner of Nebraska Synod Youth Mission Trips - past
- c. Lutheran Youth of Nebraska Board Member - past

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

I have always felt called to serve at the Synod level in some way as I enjoy sharing the gifts God has given me with the wider church. As I will be concluding my term on the Synod Council I look forward to serving in this new way. In my service in the church first as a lay person and then as an ordained pastor I have worked diligently over the years to increase my skills at listening carefully and assessing a situation to discern the issues at hand. I believe these skills would work well on this committee.

Consultation Committee

Rev. David Buco
Clergy Male

1. OCCUPATION: Pastor - First, Avoca

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: First, Avoca
Name of Church
Avoca, NE. Rolling Hills Cluster
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Spring Work Day
- b. Holy Week and Easter Worship
- c. Visiting of sick and shut-ins

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Prison Ministry with Defy at Tecumseh State Institution
- b. Highway Clean up of 50 (yearly)
- c. Quit ministry for Carol Joy and LDR

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Journey Mission Trip to Omaha
- b. Volunteered as Coordinator for God's Idea
- c. Served on Synod's Adult Planning team

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

We are saved by God's grace in Christ. From there, how we live life is up to us as we listen to the Spirit. For me, that has been in the ministry of Pastor and discerning how God is leading us as a congregation and me as a minister. Where God will take me next, or lead us, is in God's hands and a gift to follow.

Discipline Committee

Alissa Gunning
Lay Female

1. **OCCUPATION:** Information Technology Business Systems Analyst Supervisor

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>1200 S. 40th Lincoln, NE</u> | <u>Name of Church</u> |
| Location of Church | Mission Cluster Unit |

3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Spiritual Director - contribute monthly articles to Tidings newsletter
- Member of Bell Choir
- FEAST Volunteer

4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Chaplaincy Corps Board of Directors
- Critical Incident Stress Management Team member
- Parent/teacher organization

5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- Conflict Resolution Team for NE Synod
- Provide Spiritual Direction at NE Synod Ministry Fair
- Lead small groups at annual STSW Retreat

6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

In my work, personal and faith life I have fulfilled roles and participated in a variety of settings that have helped prepare me to be thoughtful, fair, and cognizant of intense, difficult and sensitive situation and decision making. God has a way of calling all of us not only to where we belong but to where we best make a difference. We are then invited to find the courage to accept new possibilities and roles to help serve the larger body of Christ.

Discipline Committee

Karen Schweitzer
Lay Female

1. OCCUPATION: Operations Manager / Teller @ American Exchange Bank

2. CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP: First Lutheran Church
Name of Church
1434 N 30th Road Avoca NE Rolling Hills
Location of Church **Mission Cluster Unit**

3. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Council President
- b. Treasurer
- c. Worship Assistant

4. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Community Theater
- b. Team Mate
- c. Community Support w/ food pantry

5. LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

- a. Alternate for Churchwide Assembly
- b. N/A
- c. N/A

6. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:

Having served on council for 28 years of my 55 years of membership, I have experience in leadership of ministers leaving the church and selecting new ministers. It is a process that can be lengthy, and patience is one of my stronger values. I also have a brother who is a minister in the Kansas City Area, so I know how ministers must balance family and church. I am a logical and spiritual thinker. I am always seeking to grow in my faith and help others if I can.

Discipline Committee

Myrna Seagren
Lay Female

1. **OCCUPATION:** CDM, CFPP, CMA

2. **CONGREGATIONAL MEMBERSHIP:** Thabor Lutheran Church

Name of Church

Wausa, NE

Lewis and Clark

Mission Cluster Unit

Location of Church

3. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Sunday School Teacher
- b. SS Superintendent
- c. Christian Education Committee

4. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST COMMUNITY-RELATED SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Nebraska Dietary Managers Association/National Dietary Manager Association 2000-Present
- b. Nebraska Dietary Association Teller Committee 2008-2009
- c. Treasurer for ANFP Nebraska Chapter Present

5. **LIST UP TO THREE CURRENT OR PAST SYNODICAL OR CHURCHWIDE SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Nebraska Synod Council of the ELCA - 6 year term ending June 2006
- b. Nebraska Synod Nomination Committee 1993-1999; 2015-2017
- c. ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member 1993

6. **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR SENSE OF GOD CALLING YOU INTO MISSION AND SERVICE IN THE NEBRASKA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA THROUGH THE WORK OF THIS POSITION OR COMMITTEE:**

No information provided.