

2022 Nominating Ballot

*Indicates Incumbent

Synod Council

Secretary

Four (4) year term to expire 2026

One (1) to be elected

Pastor Christine McNeal _____

Consultation Committee

This Committee election is held on even years

Six (6) year term to expire in 2028

Three (3) to be elected

Mr. Jason Helmers _____

Pastor Joy Miller _____

Mr. Mark Scherer _____

Synod Council

Young Adult Representative

Three (3) year term to expire in 2025

One (1) to be elected

*Mr. Austin Byer _____

Synod Council

Council Member-at-Large

Three (3) yr. term to expire in 2025

One (1) to be elected

Ms. Carol Gentes _____

Ms. Eileen Setti _____

Biographical Data

Individuals were requested to list the most significant and recent experiences they have had in such areas as Church/Congregation Life and/or Community Service and/or formative life experiences.

2022 Synod Secretary

Four (4) year term; One (1) to be elected

McNeal, Pastor Christine: *Member of Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Normal; Northeast Conference; Senior Staff Chaplain & Coordinator for Faith Community Relations at Carle BroMenn Medical Center, Carle Eureka Hospital and Carle Cancer Institute, Normal.*

- Current Call - Chaplain for patients, their families, and staff members at two hospitals and a cancer treatment facility. My ministry of presence to those who are hospitalized, ill, grieving or dying has been both challenging and fulfilling during the pandemic as so many faced being separated from loved ones. As coordinator for faith relations, I build rapport with churches in our community, oversee projects and provide health and wellness information to area churches.
- Supply preacher on most Sundays for various churches, mostly in the Northeast Conference.
- Board member for Faith in Action, a non-profit organization that provides free spiritual, physical and emotional support to Bloomington-Normal seniors and their caregivers.
- Former Associate Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington. My duties included member care, working with adult discipleship planners, and preaching on a rotating basis. I also brought BeFrienders, a program that trains volunteers to be a presence in the lives of those unable to attend church services or activities to St. John's.
- Before seminary, I worked as a journalist. My volunteer activities included being a junior youth leader and council member at Grace & Peace Lutheran Church in Peoria, and serving on the lay ministry committee at Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church in Milwaukee.

Synod Council, Young Adult Representative

Three (3) year term; One (1) to be elected

*incumbent

***Byer, Mr. Austin:** *Member of Peace Lutheran Church, Steeleville; Southern Conference; Full time student at SIUE with History Education Major*

- Currently serving as the Young Adult Representative for the Synod Council
- Serving as a council member of Peace Lutheran Church in Steeleville, IL
- Serving as staff (specifically a small group leader) at Leadership Lab for 2 years
- Serving on the Planning Board and as staff for our synod's LYO

Synod Council, Member-at-Large

Three (3) year term, One (1) to be elected

Gentes, Ms. Carol: *Member of St. John Lutheran Church, Sibley; Northeast Conference; Musician*

- Member/Vice Presidents of Servants United Parish
- Director- bell choirs and cherub choir; Altar Guild-member, Pres.; Choir Member, Gloria Dei of Downer's Grove
- Accompanist, St. Paul, Chatsworth and other congregations
- Manager, Senior writer, acting director, marketing communications, PR, all practices and NA Offices, Heidrick & Struggles Executive Search and President, Carol Gentes Marketing Communications

Synod Council, Member-at-Large continued,

Three (3) year term; One (1) to be elected

Setti, Dr. Eileen: *Member of First English Lutheran Church, Peoria; Northern Conference; Nonprofit Chief Operating Officer for a nonprofit organization and a local government.*

- Currently Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at an organization serving persons experiencing homelessness, many of whom have mental illness or addictions. This was an intentional move to continue my trajectory of serving my community.
- Currently working at two organizations to develop staff and board leader working relationships and set strategic directives. Consulted for about twenty five years, but have limited time available to do so in the last five years.
- In Fall 2022 we will send our youngest to college. My husband and I are re-imagining our life and how we might spend our time. We serve on many local, regional, and state boards. We are hoping to continue our service, but enjoy more recreation time together.
- During COVID and beyond our daughters are struggling with different health issues. These issues “happened to other families” and obviously became very real for us. We have learned to navigate as a family.
- Six years ago we joined First English, Peoria. The decision to join was the best decision for our daughters. It has been difficult for my husband and me to settle into a new congregation. We are navigating “being the new people” and the pandemic has definitely extended that feeling for us.

Consultation Committee

Six (6) term to expire in 2026; Three (3) to be elected

Helmets, Mr. Jason: *Member of St. Peter (Wine Hill) Lutheran Church, Steeleville; Southern Conference; Software Engineer*

- Currently serving as Wartburg Parish Council President
- Currently serving as St. Peter (Wine Hill) Lutheran Church Council President

Miller, Pastor Joy: *Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Minonk; Northern Conference; Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Minonk and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Benson*

- Currently serving as called pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Minonk, and have a Pastoral Agreement with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Benson
- Served six years on the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council
- Helped form and coordinate a weekend Backpack program for the Fieldcrest School District
- Served as Dean of my Conference in both the Northeastern and Northwestern Ohio Synods
- Served on Executive Committee of the Northwestern Ohio Synod Council

Scherer, Mr. Mark: *Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Olney; Southern Conference; Stay at Home dad; Clinic bookkeeper; formerly high horsepower driveline design engineer*

- Served on church council as President 2021, VP 2020, Call Chair 2020-21 during covid without a called pastor
- Served on council at three ELCA congregations and Lutheran Campus Center, Champaign
- Charter Member of service group supporting Lutherdale Bible Camp/Conference Center, Elkhorn, WI
- Participated in eight religious oriented mission trips, including one to Panama and one to Canada
- For three years during Christmas helped and served as lead in the Good Samaritan Adopt a Family Organization, helping around 150 families