

MN DISTRICT BOARD OF APPEALS

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

Rev. Mark Kom, 56 years old, married. 2410 Kraft St., South St. Paul, MN 55075. Pastor Kom serves Crown of Life Lutheran Church, West St. Paul/Eagan, MN (22 years), with prior service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Midland MI (2 years) and King of Kings Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR (5 years). He is a circuit pastor and has previously served two terms on the Board of Appeals.

Rev. Tim Otto, 55 years old, married. 755 Margaret St., St. Paul, MN 55106. Pastor Otto serves St. John /San Juan Lutheran Church, West St. Paul, MN, with prior service at St. Thomas/Santo Tomas Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ (14 years), St. Peter/San Pedro Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI (5 years), and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV (6 years). He has previously served on the WELS Latin America Mission Board (2 years) and the WELS Evangelism Commission (2 years).

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

Rev. Roger Rockhoff (incumbent), 64 years old, married. 2435 Mossy Creek Dr., Owatonna, MN 55060. Pastor Rockhoff serves Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Owatonna, MN (4 years). Previous service includes St. Paul Lutheran Church, Litchfield, MN (2 years), St. Paul Lutheran Church, Honolulu (4 years), Northdale Lutheran Church, Tampa, FL (11 years), Zion Lutheran Church, Gainesville, GA (7 years), Tree of Life, Cary, NC (7 years). He currently serves on the Board of Appeals, the LWMS Board, and the Ministry of Christian Giving.

Rev. Chris Oehlke, 63 years old, single. 1961 Edmonson Ave., NE Buffalo, MN 55313. Pastor Oehlke serves Immanuel Lutheran Church, Buffalo, MN (7 years). Previous service includes St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Valley City, ND, James Valley Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND (3 years), St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Faith, SD, and First English Lutheran Church, Dupree, SD (3 Years). He has also served as Family Therapist at Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service (4 years). He is currently circuit pastor (4 years).

Rev. John Stelljes, 50 years old, married. 2417 Stonecrest Path NW, Shakopee, MN 55372. Pastor Stelljes serves Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Shakopee, MN (8 years). Previous service includes Light of Life Lutheran Church, Greenwood, IN (8 years) and King of Kings Lutheran Church, Maitland, FL (3 years). He is currently circuit pastor (2 years).

Rev. Seth Krueger, 32 years old married. 1987 Ivy Ave. E, St. Paul, MN 55119. Pastor Krueger serves Divinity Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN (1 year). Previously he served Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS (4 years). He is also involved in CrossTrain Ministries (1 year).

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

Mr. Heath Dobberpuhl (incumbent), 51 years old, married. 1406 Cherry St., New Ulm, MN 56073. Mr. Dobberpuhl is a professor at MLC (4 years). Previous service includes Principle/Teacher of Ascension Lutheran School, Escondido, CA (3 years), Divine Savior Lutheran School, Shawano, WI (1 year), and Zion Lutheran School, Hartland, WI (4 years), and Teacher at MVL HS (15 years). He currently serves on the MN District Board of Appeals.

Mr. Mark Kutz (incumbent), 53 years old, married. 42625 County Road 12, Dakota, MN 55925. Mr Kutz is Teacher/Principal St. John's Lutheran School, Nodine, MN (22 years). Previously he served in Sturgis, MI (4 years) and Niles, IL (6 years). He currently serves on the MN District Board of Appeals (6 years).

Mr. Bradley Nehls, 41 years old, married. 902 S. Payne St, New Ulm, MN 56073. Mr. Nehls is a teacher at Minnesota Valley Lutheran HS, New Ulm, MN (11 years). Previously he served as a teacher at St Paul's First Lutheran School, North Hollywood, CA (7 years). He also serves on the Board of Directors for Amazing Grace Virtual Academy.

Mr. Nathan Bitter, 53 years old, married. 1033 Reding Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066. Mr. Bitter serves as Principal and Teacher at St. John's Lutheran School, Red Wing, MN (3 years). Previously he served as Principal and teacher at St. Mark Lutheran School, Bemidji, MN (25 years) and as Principal and teacher at Gloria Dei Lutheran School, Belmont, CA, (4 years).

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

Mr. Brad Kletcher (incumbent), 58 years old, married. 1816 Jewel Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125. Mr. Kletcher is a member of Christ Lutheran Church, North St. Paul, MN (24 years), and has served as church president (4 years) and chairman of the youth committee (4 years). He is a member of Minnesota District Constitution Committee and the MN Board of Appeals. Mr. Kletcher has a Juris Doctorate from the University of Minnesota Law School and a Bachelor of Science from Mankato State University. He has been a business litigation attorney since 1993.

Pres. Em. Dan Bruss, Ph.D. (incumbent), 73 ears old, married. 3 Deer Run, Pella, IA 50219. Dan is a member of Grace, Oskaloosa, IA. He served as President of Bethany Lutheran College from 2003-2015. Prior to his call to Bethany, he taught chemistry at several colleges and has been active in both the WELS and the ELS. He serves on the Kingdom Workers board and chairs the Trustee Succession Committee of the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation.

Mr. Allen Thorp, 66 years old, married. 27126 545 Ave., Grove City, MN 56243. Mr. Thorp is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Litchfield, MN (37 years). He has served as president of the congregation (6 years), secretary (3 years), on the endowment committee (4 years) and the church nominating committee (5 years). He has a AA degree in agriculture and is a federal crop insurance adjuster (9 years) and a dairy and crop farmer (47 years).

Mr. Bill Vollmer, 58 years old, married. 1593 Shady Shore Drive, Lake Benton, MN 56149. Mr. Vollmer is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tyler, MN (30 years). He has served as secretary of the congregation (6 years) and president (9 years). He is college educated with work safety designations and serves as a transportation safety and compliance manager.

MN DISTRICT NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Two pastors serve from each of the six district conferences. Convention delegates only vote for a representative from their own conference. All delegates vote for a chairman. Check with your pastor if you are unsure which conference your congregation is in.

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

Rev. James Panning (incumbent), 62 years old, married. 811 Maplewood Ave., Litchfield, MN 55355. Rev. Panning serves St. Paul Lutheran Church, Litchfield, MN (11 years). Previous service include Redeemer Lutheran Church, Tucson, AZ (3 years) and Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV (22 years). He currently serves as the MN District Reporter (6 years), Chairman of the MN District Nominating Committee (4 years), and member of the Synod Nominating Committee (4 years).

Rev. Peter Sternberg, 47 years old, married. 1145 Putnam Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066. Rev. Sternberg serves St. John's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN (12 years). Previous service includes Tutor at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN (1 year), and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Franklin, WI (8 years). He is currently the Red Wing Conference Secretary (11 years).

Mankato Conference delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Marques Nelson, 41 years old, married. 149 N Mayfair Dr, Mankato, MN 56001. Pastor Nelson serves St. Paul's Lutheran Church, North Mankato, MN (8 years). Previously he served Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, IA (2 years). He is the current Mankato Conference Chairman (2 years).

Rev. Jeff Enderle, 51 years old, married. 208 Front St. E, St Clair, MN 56080. Rev. Enderle serves St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Clair, MN (5 years). Previously he served as tutor at MLS (2 years), and pastor at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Omaha (3 years), Mozambique Mission (1 1/2 years), Beautiful Saviour Lutheran Church, Carlsbad, CA (6 years), and Christ the Rock Lutheran Church, Farmington, NM (5 years). Previously he served on Adult Discipleship (1 year) and currently as circuit pastor and on the MN District Essay Committee.

MN River Valley Conference delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Rob Guenther, 47 years old, married. 627 S. Jefferson Street, New Ulm, MN. Pastor Guenther serves St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN (8 years). Previous service includes Refuge Lutheran Church, Raleigh, NC (6 years) and Grace Lutheran Church, Kenai, AK (8 years). He has also served as circuit pastor (5 years), on the board for Pastor Partners (10 years), the MVL board (6 years), and as chairman of a Grow in Grace continued education board. He currently serves on the MN District Mission Board (5 years).

Rev. Keith Petersen, 66 years old, married. 304 4th St., Danube, MN 56230. Rev. Petersen serves St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Danube, MN and St. John's Lutheran Church, Renville MN (3 years). Previous service includes Grace Lutheran Church, Burke SD / Peace Lutheran

Church, Carlock, SD / St. John's Lutheran Church, Herrick, SD / St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Henry, SD / Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD (22 years). He has also served as the Secretary of the Nebraska District (3 years).

□ Southern Conference delegates vote for 1:

Rev. Paul Schroeder, 57 years old, married. 2103 Shady Grove Rd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Pastor Schroeder serves Risen Savior Lutheran Church, North Liberty, IA (5 months). Previously he served St John's Lutheran Church, Rock Springs, WI (16 years) and King of Kings Lutheran Church, Apache Junction, AZ (15 years). He has served on the AZ-CA District Board of Appeals (2 years), the AZ-CA District Constitution Committee (2 years), and the AZ-CA District Mission Board (3 years).

Rev. Todd Krueger, 53 years old, single. 2863 E. University St., Springfield, MO 65804. Pastor Krueger serves Zion Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO / Peace Lutheran Church, Marshfield, MO (1 year). Previously he served Zion Lutheran Church, Eitzen, MN (26 years).

MN DISTRICT MISSION BOARD

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

Rev. Brian Schmidt (incumbent), 43 years old, married. 8080 Cody Dr., West Des Moines. IA 50266. Rev. Schmidt serves Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church of West Des Moines. IA (3 years). Previous service includes St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Mauston and Adams-Friendship, WI (5 years) and Trinity Lutheran Church of Caledonia, WI (6 years). He has served as the Southeast WI Shoreland Conference Secretary (3 years) and is currently a member of the MN District Mission Board (1 year).

Rev. David Brandt, 47 years old, married. 140 Minnesota Ave. N., Oronoco, MN 55960. Rev. Brandt serves Grace Lutheran Church, Oronoco, MN (2 years). Previous service includes St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tomah, WI (9 years), St. John's Lutheran Church, Juneau/Lowell/Horicon, WI (8 years). He has served as circuit pastor (1 year) and as a member of a district nominating committee (8 years).

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

Mr. Daryl Schultz (incumbent), 58 years old, married. 914 Fox Chase Rd. SW, Rochester, MN 55902. Mr. Schultz is a member of Resurrection & Life Lutheran Church of Rochester, MN (28 years). He has served as president (3 years), vice president (2 years), treasurer (4 years), outreach chair (4 years), on the school board (4 years), and is involved in church outreach activities. He currently serves on the MN District Mission Board (5 years). He has a computer science and business administration college degree and 36 years of professional experience in IT, Financial Management, Project/Program Management, and Resource Management.

Mr. Robert Martens, 39 years old, married. 1624 Boettger Rd, New Ulm, MN 56073. Mr. Martens is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN (39 years). He has served on the board of outreach (6 years), as a church council member (7 years), a board of child discipleship member and chairman (6 years), and as vice president of congregation (2 years). He is currently a Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School delegate (12 years). He has a BS, Education, Martin Luther College, 2009; MA, IT Leadership, The College of Saint Scholastica, 2017; and a PhD, Leadership, University of the Columbians, 2023. His work experience is: 2005-2009, Martin Luther College, technology student worker; 2009-2010, Martin Luther College, assistant system administrator; 2010-Apple, Inc., Store Genius; 2011-2013, Martin Luther College, webmaster and technician; 2013-2021, Martin Luther College, system and network administrator; 2013-present, Martens Family Farm, partner (hog operation); 2017-present, Martin Luther College, adjunct instructor; 2017-present, The College of Saint Scholastica, adjunct instructor; 2021-present, Martin Luther College, director of information technology.

INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS

Synod Council Representative. All delegates vote for 1:

Mr. Curt Sames (incumbent), 58 years old, married. 1167 Appaloussa Trail, Hudson, WI 54016. Mr. Sames is a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Stillwater, MN (21 years). He has served as board of elders chairman (7 years), chair of the spiritual growth committee (2 years), school board (1 year), and lay teacher. In addition to his current service as Synodical Council Representative (8 years), he has served on the WELS Foundation (2 years). He has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Humanities at Valparaiso University and was a Fulbright Recipient for Economics at the University of Cologne in Germany. He received his Master's of Business Administration in Finance and Strategic Management from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. His career has focused on strategic management and growth, with the last 26 years in the software and data industries. Presently, he leads a data and software business, providing safety and risk management solutions to companies with commercial driving fleets. In prior service he led merger & acquisition and strategic planning for multiple international corporations. Additional work experience includes Investment Banking and Strategic Consulting.

Mr. Greg Menke, 69 years old, married. 1427 134th Ave., New Richmond, WI 54017. Mr. Menke is a member of Faith Lutheran Church of River Falls, WI (9 years) and currently is the treasurer (9 years). He has served on the church council at three previous WELS churches in most positions, including president. He has also chaired a building committee, taught Sunday school, and taught youth confirmation classes under circuit leadership supervision during a pastoral vacancy. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. Now retired, most of his career was in the role of production manager/director of operations, etc. in a variety of companies/industries such as rendering, architectural millwork, electromechanical assembly, precision air measurement instrumentation, injection molded propel repel containers, electric motors and gear heads for the motion control industry, rapid prototyping, and food manufacturing.

SYNOD POSITIONS

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

Mr. Paul Kelm (incumbent), 61 year old, married. 29903 County Highway 1, Redwood Falls, MN 56283. Mr. Kelm serves as 4th grade teacher and vice principal at St. John Lutheran School, Redwood Falls, MN (10 years). Prior service includes St. Mark in Eau Claire (1 year), Nozomi in Tsuchiura City, Japan (2 years), Immanuel, Gibbon, MN (5 years), Martin Luther in Plzen, Czech Republic (12 years), and Risen Savior in Milwaukee (11 years). He is a member of the MLC Governing Board (4 years).

Mr. Garret Schoch, 33 years old, married. 2105 Earl Ln. South, St. Paul, MN, 55075. Mr. Schoch is teacher/dormitory director at St. Croix Lutheran Academy (4 years). Previously he served as dormitory supervisor/teacher at St. Croix Lutheran Academy (3 years) and teacher at St. Paul's Lutheran School, Columbus, OH (2 years).

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

Rev. Collin Wenzel, 30 years old, married. 932 24th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Pastor Wenzel serves Christ Our Rock Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN (2 years). Previously he served as a tutor at Luther Prep School, Watertown WI (2 years).

Rev. Henry Koch, 63 years old, married. 28982 181st Ave., New Prague, MN 56071. Pastor Koch serves Friedens Lutheran Church, New Prague, MN (18 years). Previously he served Zion Lutheran Church in Torrance, CA (10 years) and Faith Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, FL (9 years). He has also served as Chairman of the South Atlantic District Constitution Committee (4 years), Chairman of the MN District Nominating Committee (13 years), California Lutheran High School board member (8 years), Southern Lutheran Academy Board (6 years), and The Lutheran Home Association Board member (9 years). After his seminary studies, he attended a semester of studies at Lutherische Theologische Hochschule Oberursel (Germany).

Rev. Scott Oelhafen, 58 years old, married. 1912 Alison Avenue, New Ulm, Minnesota 56073. Pastor Oelhafen is coordinating pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN (4 years). Previously, he served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Waukesha, WI (27 years). He also has served on the WELS Campus Ministry Committee (3 years) and the SEW District Commission on Evangelism (19 years).

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

Mr. Clayton Raasch (incumbent), 58 years old, married. 2380 Periwinkle Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082. Mr. Raasch is a member of Salem Lutheran Church, Stillwater, MN (21 years) and has served as evangelism committee chairman (8 years), spiritual growth committee chairman (6 years), and president (4 years, current). He has served on the St. Croix Lutheran Academy Board of Regents (6 years), the Camp Croix Board of Directors (10 years), as Director of International Programs at Kingdom Workers (1 year), and on the Pacific Northwest District Mission Board (2 years). He is presently serving on the WLS Governing Board (4 years), the MLC Advisory Committee (2 years), and has chaired the planning committee for the Men's

Retreat/mensretreat.org (18 years). He has a BS, Mech Engineering; MBA, and was an environmental consultant at Trinity Consultants from 1991-2021.

Mr. Grant Holzhueter, 41 years old, married. 50 E. Calvary Rd., Duluth, MN 55803. Mr. Holzhueter is a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN (16 years). He has served as congregation president (current), chairman of the board of elders (1 year), elder (1 year), outreach chairman (2 years), congregation president (4 years), and stewardship chairman (2 years). He has a Bachelors Degree in Communication with a business focus from Wisconsin Lutheran College. Currently, he is a manager in the Social Security office in Duluth.

Mr. Justin Kannas, 47 years old, married. 351 57th Ave. NE, Willmar, MN. Mr. Kannas is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Willmar, MN. He has served as treasurer (6 years, current), secretary (6 years), elder (3 years), on the board of education (3 years) and planned giving committee (6 years), He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from South Dakota State University and is a civil engineer with 24 years of experience in municipal engineering, currently serving as a client service manager and/or city engineer for 5 cities within Minnesota. He is responsible for planning, design, and construction of city infrastructure including streets, water systems, wastewater systems, storm sewer systems, parks, trails, and other miscellaneous areas and participates in 3 to 5 City Council meetings monthly to provide reports and recommendations to City Councils.

Submitted by

Committee No. 3
NOMINATIONS

Rev. James Panning, Chairman
Rev. Martin Bentz
Rev. William Brassow
Rev. Jacob Schlomer
Rev. Benjy Pederson
Mr. Aaron Bush
Mr. Mike Marquardt
Mr. Stephen Gurgel
Mr. Michael Vlieger
Mr. Benjamin Haferman
Mr. Kristoffer Kuschel