

NOMINEES

In addition to biographical information, all nominees were asked to respond to two requests:

- 1. How do you see your gifts and expertise being used in the position you may be serving?*
- 2. Share your thoughts on First Lutheran's mission and where you see God leading/calling us. Those responses are included with their bios (edited for space).*

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL (Vote for 5)

Jones Koffa – Occupation: LPS Custodian

1. I will share my ideas with my colleagues and cooperate with others to work for the good of the church. I would like to share my expertise in caring for buildings and property. I think this will be helpful during construction and beyond. I enjoy meeting people and working on projects together. I am comfortable inviting people to church and could encourage others to do this and to feel more comfortable speaking about what God has done in our lives.
2. I think First Lutheran Church is a church that welcomes people and cares about everybody, whether you are a member or not. I see many possibilities for First Lutheran to extend its mission outside the United States and to bring Good News to more people in Lincoln.



Pam Sewell - Occupation: Retired

1. My working experiences have been in office management and finance. I have held a variety of positions while a member of previous congregations, including Church Council, Diaconate and Christian Education. I enjoy working and learning along with others, striving for a united goal.
2. I am especially proud of our open doors at First Lutheran. Today there are people of many nations, customs and life experiences, and there is no end to our growth for the future. As a fairly new members, my husband and I agree First Lutheran is warm and welcoming. The leadership at FLC guides us to remember how we can grow and be a disciple of Christ in our daily lives.



Denise Mainquist - Occupation: IT Auditor

1. I am organized and have good leadership skills. I am a good listener and use my discernment and intuition to guide my actions and decisions. I have served in a number of leadership positions: Chair of Building Committee at Grace Lutheran (2000-2001), President of Grace Lutheran Church Foundation (2003-2005), Chair of Capital Area Red Cross Board (2015-2017), President of Nebraska Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS) (2016). Other Board and Committee involvement: Wesleyan Alumni Executive Council, Lincoln Literacy, Faith Coalition Lancaster County.
2. I find First Lutheran to be a gospel-centered church that actively seeks to fulfill its mission of inclusion for all individuals. I see how this congregation welcomes everyone who enters through its doors. But even more impressive is how the congregation reaches out into the community and engages people where they are. I see this congregation as incredibly active and engaged in so many different missions, missions that reach many people in very personal ways. I find the Spirit alive and dancing at First Lutheran Church.



Dave Pfister - Occupation: Web Application Developer

1. I am an attentive and empathetic listener, and have been a mentor at my job for over a decade. I'm an excellent problem solver and critical thinker.
2. I fully endorse the mission at First Lutheran. I feel that faith as a call to action is an important cornerstone of the mission. As such, I'd like the chance to help First Lutheran sustain and grow its mission and ministries in the congregation, community and beyond.



Lisa Rauner - Occupation: Family Physician

1. I would be able to use my problem solving skills, compassion and caring for people of all backgrounds and walks of life to serve on the council.
2. I see First Lutheran continuing on it's current mission to be all-inclusive and welcoming. I would like to see our church improve our own facilities and at the same time support and increase our mission of helping others in our community and beyond.



Karen Statham - Occupation: NE DHHS-Surveyor Consultant

1. Through God's grace and guidance, on this journey of service, I bring my whole self, to be fully present and prepared to meet the needs this congregation as they arise.
2. First Lutheran embraces God's call without hesitation. First Lutheran's never ending commitment to service is evident throughout its past and now into a new future. God's call to this faith filled community has been answered through acts as well as people over and again and will continue because the need is great.



Scott Seebohm - Occupation: Veterinarian and manager, US Department of Agriculture

1. In my career with the federal government, I developed skills in working as part of a diverse team. I learned to listen to multiple perspectives and mold them into a cohesive strategy to accomplish group goals. At the same time, my spiritual journey has led me through a number of faith experiences and church families over the years. My diverse church background gives me somewhat unique perspectives on alternate ways to approach opportunities and challenges. I hope to use these experiences and skills to help develop strategies and advice on the various issues facing our congregation. If elected, I will work in concert with the other council members and church leaders to help ensure FLC continues it's ministries in Lincoln and around the world for future generations.
2. Since my family became a part of FLC, I have been especially impressed by the congregation's commitment to extending a welcome to all, whether it is visitors to our church on a Sunday morning, members with diverse faith or life backgrounds, or refugees from other countries coming to our city. I am also inspired by the high value placed on practical service to the community. I believe that these features are central to God's intended mission for His church in the world. In this time when our national dialog seems so divisive, I believe FLC is called to stand as a beacon of hope in the face of cynicism and fear, to give selfless service to community in the face of individualism and indifference, and to welcome all facing alienation and loneliness. In this way we bring the Kingdom of God near to ourselves and our neighbors.



Kim Cordonier - Occupation: Travel Agent

1. In the past three years I have learned a lot being on church council and am excited to see what the next three years bring. I've been lucky to serve on several task forces that have allowed me to grow and learn and help contribute to our church. By being on the council and discussing the building project in length, I think that expertise will help me a lot in the next three years as finalizing decisions are being made on the building project. I would be honored to be voted back onto council and see the entire building project be completed.
2. As a lifelong member of FLC I'm excited about where God is leading and calling us. We are already a very welcoming church to all that walk through our doors, but with the enhancements of the building project it will make us even more welcoming to all. I see us continually working on praising God all days of the week, not just Sundays; as well as sharing God's love in the community outside of our church walls.



Brandon Wiebelhaus - Occupation: CEO of Lincoln Restoration Services

1. Through 7 years of owning and operating a construction and restoration business I have gained an expertise in building and structural care. I also have a wealth of knowledge in business operation and finances through my education and business ownership. With these gifts I can be used as a liaison during our current construction project and with future operations.
2. I feel our mission speaks to my personal belief that everyone has something, big or small, to offer that can help make the world a better place for all. I think God is leading us and calling us together to combine all of those offerings together to make the largest impact possible.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Vote for 3)

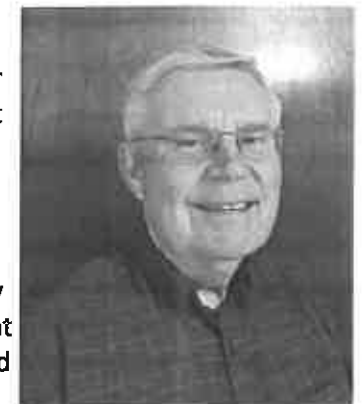
Terry Kruse - Occupation: Registered Nurse

1. I've been an active member at FLC for several years and have had wonderful opportunities to meet and work with many different people in our congregation. I've been a part of youth education, youth groups, hospitality committee, new member team, choir and a member of church council. I have also served in other short term capacities when asked. I believe in connecting people and inviting people to serve in ways they are comfortable with and in ways they may never have thought of. I would love to be part of a team that would help people get involved and find ways they can serve.
2. I have seen our congregation being led by God to connect with each other, support each other and help us all to understand our roles as disciples of Christ. Our church strives to help each of us grow in our faith and then live out that faith every day.



Jim Kisling - Occupation: Retired

1. I served on various committees at First Lutheran and other churches over the years. Prior to retiring, I worked in management for a property and casualty insurance company. Part of my responsibility was to identify candidates for various positions to include reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates in person. I believe I can visit with anyone and can quickly recognize strengths and weaknesses.
2. We are all children of God and called to be Disciples of Christ. I believe we have a responsibility to respect others around us and not judge them in any way. I personally try to do what I can to make others feel welcome and accepted, regardless if they are current members of FLC or possibly visitors. I try to set the example of what I believe Christ would want His disciples to do.



Eunice Fischer - Occupation: Retired from USDA Farm Service Agency

1. I have been a member of First since 2001 and have gotten to know and serve with many of our fellow members as an usher, greeter, communion assistant, altar guild assistant. I have served on church council and was a committee member of the Global Mission In Action. These relationships are important to me as I consider members of First as my extended family
2. I am privileged to be a member of First during this exciting time of growth of not only our church building but our growth beyond our walls. It is exciting to see First Lutheran show that we are truly a welcoming church and we strive to spread the word and love of our Lord and Savior.



Jan Wigodsky - Occupation: Paralegal

1. I have been a probate paralegal for many years, working with families during very difficult circumstances. That has helped me to be a team player, working with all sorts of personalities under trying conditions. I have been blessed with an ear for listening to others and respecting, accepting and cherishing the differences in all of us.
2. I feel God is calling us to be shining lights in the community by continuing to be the welcoming congregation that we are. The outreach programs and service work done by members of this congregation are evidence of the love of Christ to all we encounter. God continues to call us and to, of course, challenge us. I believe we will, with God's help, rise to the challenge by continuing the current programs and to always look for additional ways in which we can serve others.



Tim Maack - Occupation: Doctor of Chiropractic (Semi-retired)

1. I can help others to be servants for God's wonderful world.
2. We are a "Welcoming" church! Our outreach to our community does make a difference.



Linda Hinkle - Occupation: Retired

1. I like people and enjoy greeting them on Sunday mornings for the 10:45 service. Greeting, Martha Circle, and providing food for various needs have helped in meeting more members of my FLC family.
2. FLC is a very welcoming place and is receptive to sharing our abundance in this community. Our discipleship to serve outside of the church building is encouraged and our pastors have led by example. We are being led to make changes in the our building to increase accessibility and involvement for all.



Lee Rockwell - Occupation: Owner of Valden Tours, prior to retirement an administrator at Nebraska Educational Telecommunications

1. We have been members of First Lutheran Church for over 50 years. During this time I have served on many committees and held various leadership positions. I feel I have a good understanding of the needs for the various elected positions of our church and would work diligently to secure qualified and committed nominees for these positions.
2. I enthusiastically support the mission statement of First Lutheran Church. I am especially drawn to welcoming all, to engage in the struggles of life and to care for each other. We are a dynamic congregation that is serving Christ both within our church and community, and extending into the world. It is refreshing and exciting to be part of this dynamism and I would look forward to encouraging members to be active participants through the nomination and election process



DELEGATES TO SYNOD ASSEMBLY (Vote for 5 - At least 2 men and 2 women)

Judy Batterman - Occupation: Retired

1. I formerly served on Synod Council, Synod committee, as secretary of the Lincoln Area Cluster, and am currently serving on the Senior Leaders in Ministry Synod Task Force. I have attended Synod Assembly a number of times both as a voting delegate and as a visitor. I will be attending the 2019 Churchwide Assembly as a voting member. I feel it is important for First Lutheran to stay current on what is happening in the Synod and with other churches.
2. I am so excited about our building project. It will put us in a much better position to be welcoming to all. I love the way we care about one another and the world. We have so much potential and are constantly striving to reach it.



Marianne Warnes - Occupation: Registered Nurse

1. I am very interested in the workings of the church. I ask questions to understand what issues our church faces.
2. We are called to serve outside the walls of our building. The church faces many issues today and I am very interested in adding my voice to help with solutions.



Jenna Troutman - Occupation: Student

1. I believe that I can bring new perspective and ideas to our group and discussions.
2. Our mission statement focuses on our congregation going out and being a follower of Jesus, to learn, to serve and to act. I think that this allows us to see how we can be the example and how we can help and show others too. I think that God is calling our congregation to serve wholeheartedly in our community and to help those who are in need. We do a lot of service here at First but I believe that we can never have served enough. We can always help people and we can always be appreciative of what we've been granted and help those who aren't as lucky.



Joan Johnson - Occupation: Software Support Specialist

1. The various vocations I've had, taught me critical thinking and troubleshooting skills.
2. I see God is calling us to continue our commitment to hospitality here and throughout the Lincoln community. Also, I see God calling us to develop our prayer lives. The Nebraska Synod offers programs to engage us in this practice so we can encourage each other as we grow our prayer lives.



Lisa Culbertson - Occupation: RN at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital

1. I served as a youth group sponsor and AWOL trip leader for 5 years. I have enjoyed participating in the music ministry in the Adult Choir and orchestra. These experiences have given me the opportunity to work with our youth, other parents, and the elders of our congregation and I feel that this will help me to represent our church. As a nurse my role is to advocate for our patients and I feel that I can advocate for our church by sharing our mission.
2. I am proud to be a part of FLC's family and I am excited about the direction of our church as we strive to extend the teachings of Jesus into the Lincoln community and beyond.



Barb Monson - Occupation: Media Center Para

1. I had the privilege of working on the staff at First Lutheran for 5 years as Communications Coordinator. That time on staff gave me a new perspective into the ins and outs of a church, and how decisions can affect the community and individuals. The role of Church is constantly changing. I feel like I am open minded and eager to hear and share new opinions and approaches to serving the needs of the congregation, community and world. I have been active at First Lutheran as a Sunday School teacher, youth group sponsor, AWOL sponsor, and First Learning Center Preschool teacher, ELL tutor/mentor. I served on Scientists in Congregations and Bold Women committees, and was a member of Couples in Christ. I welcome the opportunity to hear from other churches and from the ELCA leaders about where God is calling them/us.
2. First Lutheran is well known in the ELCA, not for the size of our congregation, or for having the most beautiful church. We are known for the heart of our congregation, for being welcoming to all, and for consistently making service and caring for others a priority. In today's polarized world, Church in general has gotten a bad rep for being judgmental and elitist. People are often surprised when I share First Lutheran's Welcoming Statement with them. Our mission to serve others, especially those who society often refuses, is especially important at this time. It is also important to remember and share that we do this because God calls us to serve and care for others and that the Glory goes to God. Sometimes discipleship can feel more risky than service, but it is also an important part of our mission as Christians.



Mandy Snyder - Occupation: Student

1. I am a young member of First Lutheran and I am willing to go and participate as a young person in our congregation. I would like to go to and give a voice to young people
2. I am a disciple in Christ and I would be sharing my faith with others and I feel like First Lutheran has given me a good foundation to do so.



Mitch Snyder - Occupation: Retirement Specialist - NPERS

1. Attending a Synod Assembly would be a new experience for me. I would approach the opportunity with a sense of thoughtfulness and duty.
2. I believe First Lutheran possesses a strong calling to serve and advocate for those that suffer in silence.



Kent Hardel - Occupation: Disabled, Former Teacher and Youth Director

1. I know how the Synod functions.
2. First Lutheran is very much a congregation with a mission at heart.



Craig Heier - Occupation: Receiving Clerk

1. I have attended several national and Synod assemblies as both a delegate and an observer. It is wonderful to see the bigger picture of what we do as a larger church. It would be a privilege to be involved in the decisions of our Synod.
2. We are a congregation that sees our ministry outside of our four walls and to each other. A help in time of struggle and pain and a community that celebrates joys. As a delegate to the Synod Assembly, I would be able to see the larger picture in regards to what our benevolence offering does in the wider world.



ENDOWMENT BOARD (Vote for 2)

Al Williams - Occupation: Sales Manager Vogel Industrial Coatings

1. It has been my pleasure and honor to have served on the Endowment Board the past three years. We have recently completed our transition from Mission Investment Funds to ELCA Fund A, a stable and socially-responsible-based group of investments. My gifts have centered on providing "spiritual guidance", student-oriented involvement and "old man" counsel.
2. First Lutheran has a tradition of leading in the giving of our assets, not only to the ELCA, but in our community, and our Endowment Board has been an integral part of our giving; to our congregational students and programs, and to our local and international communities. The next year or so will be an exciting time in the life of our congregation!



Harold Sutter- Occupation: Retired

1. I have previously served on the Endowment Board and understand the workings and goals of the position. The Endowment fund is designed to aid different areas of need. With my background and training I can effectively assist in helping the fund grow to even better serve these areas.
2. First Lutheran's 'Call To Serve Others' fits perfectly with the goals of the Endowment fund. As a team on the board we can and will continue to serve others within the limitations of the available funds.



Randy Hinton - Occupation: Broker at Lincoln Benefit Life

1. First Lutheran Member since 1988
2. Served on or currently have served on Church Council, Senior pastor call committee, High School Youth sponsor, Sunday School Teacher, Confirmation teacher, Confirmation curriculum committee, Usher, Greeter and Worship assistant in various duties.



Matt Peters - Occupation: Implementation Analyst

1. I see my gifts of commitment and love being used to help others.
2. I see FLC's mission as one of making the world a better place through Christ. We are lead to help the community, and help the congregation. It is our duty to help those in need including those without a voice.

