**2023 Nominee Biographies**

**Synod Council**

**Bearpaw Cluster Representative – Rev. Megan Hoewisch**

After completing seminary and internship in Georgia and North Carolina, I received my first pastoral call to First Lutheran Church in Havre, MT. My husband and I moved to Montana in February 2020, and we settled into marriage and ministry right as the pandemic hit. Through it all, I've loved seeing how the Holy Spirit moves in this congregation, the Hi-Line, and Montana. We're excited to soon be raising our first child among the good people of First Lutheran and Havre.

**Flathead Cluster Representative – Rev. Peter Erickson**

Pastor Peter has served Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls, MT since to 2007. He was ordained in 1998 and served the Chester Lutheran Parish until 2007. Peter served as an officer with the Montana Association of Churches/Christians. He is one of the MT Synod's coaches.

**Southeast Cluster Representative – Lana Buerkle**

Lana is an LPA from Plevna, MT. She has served on the synod council for one term. Lana leads worship bimonthly at Peace Lutheran Church, is the piano player, leads a monthly worship at the Nursing Home and Assisted Living facility, teaches Sunday School and is on the Church Council. She is grateful for the blessings God has given her and looks forward to spreading the Gospel by living Christ’s love into the World!

**Crazy Mountain Cluster Representative – John Sheppard**

John is a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bozeman and is completing his first full term elected as a member of the Synod Council. He also finished out Dick Deschamp’s term when Dick became Synod Vice President. John is a Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering Distinguished Professor of Computer Science at Montana State University and holds a PhD in computer science from Johns Hopkins University. He serves as the faculty advisor to LCM Campus Ministry at MSU and this summer will be taking on the position of Interim Director of MSU’s Center for Science, Technology, Ethics and Society, a research center focused on science communication and ethics. He currently directs the Numerical Intelligent Systems Laboratory where he mentors eight PhD students doing research in deep learning, distributed optimization, and explainable artificial intelligence. He is an LPA, serving at Christ the King as well as Bozeman Lodge and preaches occasionally at Grand Avenue Christian Church. He also serves as the Synod Council liaison to the Care of Creation Task Force. This relates to work he is doing at MSU with Montana farmers funded by the USDA to apply AI-based methods to precision agriculture. John looks forward to the prospect of continuing to serve the Synod in their mission of Equipping for Ministry.

**Synod Nominating Committee**

**Rev. Scott Kiehn, First Lutheran Church, Glasgow MT**

Pastor Scott currently serves First Lutheran Church in Glasgow.  In June of 2021 he moved to Glasgow from Baker, Montana where he served four years at a three-point parish which included churches in Baker, Ekalaka and Plevna.  Prior to this call he served for four years at his first call in Sunburst, Montana.  He received his Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and was ordained in 2013.  Prior to attending Seminary he worked for over twenty years at Potlatch and SAPPI paper mill in Cloquet, MN.

**Rev. Tim Tostengard American Lutheran Church, Billings MT**

Although a native of the Upper Midwest, I have come to love the big skies of Montana.  I grew up in Sioux Falls, SD, Jamestown, ND, and then graduated from high school in St. Paul, MN.  Further education included a B.A. in English from Augustana College in 1984 and an M.A. in English from the University of Nebraska in 1987.  
In 1991, I graduated from Lutheran Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul.  I have served pastorates in Spokane, WA and Decorah, IA.  In 2000, I came to serve at American in Billings.

**Synod Committee On Discipline**

**Marvin R Johnson, First Lutheran Church, Glasgow MT**

Was a member of Pella Lutheran Church for 43 years when living in Sidney and moved to Glasgow and is now a member of First Lutheran. Baptized and confirmed in First Lutheran. First Scout to earn Pro Deo El Patria at First Lutheran. Served 43 years in Law Enforcement in Sidney over 33 years as Detective. Now serving on Church Council.

**Rev. Tim Spring, Hope Lutheran Church, Bozeman MT**

Pastor Timothy has served as Staff Chaplain, Bozeman Health 2016 - Present; Lutheran Capus Pastor @ MSU—Bozeman, 2002 - 2016; Associate Pastor, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church & School, Hampton, VA, 1993 - 2002 (Large multi-staff parish with Preschool-Grade 5 parochial school); Pastor, Zion's Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Lutheran & UCC Church, Trevorton, PA, 1984 - 1993 (Small town and rural parish). Volunteer: Past - Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp Board member; Coordinating Committee, Gallatin Refugee Connections. Present - CAP Mentor, Thrive, Bozeman. Wrangler on a cattle ranch in Wyoming between college and seminary.

**Rev. Judy Gosnell-Lamb, Hope Lutheran Church, Anaconda MT**

Pastor Judy grew up in Eastern Ohio and Western PA.

BS Youngstown State, MA & EdD University of Montana

Started her teaching career on the High-Line at Harlem, MT.

Retired from Public Ed in Montana June 2012

Taught at Grove City College, Grove City PA. Aug. 2012 – December 2017

Called by God to begin training in 2016 and started the TEEM Program through Gettysburg Seminary (now ULS).

Ordained March 30, 2019 at Grace Lutheran Church, Franklin PA

Came to Hope Lutheran, Anaconda, October 2020

**Rev. Heidi Hester, Hope Lutheran Church, Bozeman MT**

PastorHeidi came to serve as Pastor of Hope Lutheran in November of 2021, and is glad she is back home in Montana.  Pastor Heidi has been a Lutheran since her baptism at St. John’s Lutheran in Helena.  Attending Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California she served congregations in the Bay Area and Hawaii, and was ordained on May 25, 2003 at St. Andrews Lutheran in San Mateo, CA.   Her first call was to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church and Preschool in Whittier, CA.  She then joined the Pacifica Synod’s Office of the Bishop staff in 2009 as Assistant to the Bishop After seven years serving the synod, Pastor Heidi received a call in 2015 to serve Trinity Lutheran Church and Sonshine Preschool in Pleasanton, CA.

**Consultation Committee**

**Rev. Seth Rummage, Peace Lutheran Church, Billings MT**

Pastor Seth has been serving Peace Lutheran in Billings since May 2022. Seth has served in many ministry settings, including Bible Camps, College Ministries, as a dispersed intern, in bivocational (congregational and hospital) ministry, and as a solo pastor and as a Senior Pastor. Along with these settings, Seth brings knowledge from trainings regarding emotional intelligence, Bowen Family Systems Theory, and conflict resolution. These skills and experiences will serve Pastor Seth well as a member of the synod's consultation committee.

**John Mundinger, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Helena MT**Education:  BS University of Colorado; BS and MS Montana State University  
Occupation:  Retired  
Previous Employment;  23 years with Montana Fish, Willdlife and Parks; 20 years self-employed natural resource consultant  
Military Service:  2 years U.S. Army, Vietnam Veteran  
I am a lifelong Lutheran, committed to my confirmation verse:  "If you continue in my Word, you are my disciple, indeed and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." I have served on Church Council, including 2 years as Council President.  I also served as a member of the Worship & Music Committee.  I am currently active with St. John's participation in Helena Family Promise.  I am on the LPA roster.  During our recent transition, I was a member of the congregation's ministry team that served during the interim. I have served the Montana Synod as a member of Synod Council; Candidacy Committee; Consultation Committee; and the Congregation Vitality Task Force.  I have represented the Synod as a voting member at two Churchwide assemblies. I am married and am the father of two adult daughters.

**Llane Carrolls, St. Elizabeth Lutheran Church, Ekalaka MT**

I am an LPA at St. Elizabeth Lutheran Church. I have a B.S. in Industrial Arts and an M.S. in Applied Economics from Montana State. Our family operates a cow/calf and yearling operation near Ekalaka. I have recently been placed on the board for the Foundation for Montana History. I serve as chairman of the Carter County Geological Society and Carter County Museum. I worked in agricultural lending as a loan officer for almost 25 years starting at Farm Credit in Great Falls, then Peoples Bank in Deer Lodge and First National Bank of Ekalaka.

**Kogadus Board**

**Rev. Michael O’Hearn, Kremlin & Goldstone Lutheran Churches, Kremlin and Rudyard MT**

Pastor Michael served St. Mark's Episcopal and First Lutheran Churches in Havre, Big Sky Hospice in Stillwater County, St. James Lutheran Church in Columbus, MT, and as chaplain at Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul, MN.  He was ordained in 1994 and has been a leader at Kogudus retreats in Montana prisons and congregations.  He lives with his wife, Patricia, in Havre.

**Michael Lawson, Gold Hill Lutheran Church, Butte, MT**

Michael Lawson is an LPA and member at Gold Hill Lutheran Church in Butte, MT.  He has served as a Sunday School teacher, a member of the council and choir, a Stephen Ministry leader and teacher. He is a Veteran Advocate and a DAV Van Driver (transporting veterans to medical appointments).  He has served as a leader of Kogudus retreats both in prison and in congregations.  He lives with his wife, Annette, in Butte.