

Montana Synod Coaching

Biographies of Synod Coaches

Marilyn Hall
ELCA Level 1 Coach
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- I consider myself a teacher (taught elementary school for 30 yrs) and have worked many years in the church teaching classes to children and adults in prayer, spirituality, the Enneagram, Bible studies, as well as writing and directing curriculum for VBS and Sunday School.
- An active Stephen Minister for 12 years.
- Participated in Lay Preaching at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood, WA. Preached and shared Holy Communion with various assisted living and convalescent homes. The team gathered monthly to read scripture, reflect on and critique our sermons, offer support, participate in continuing education, and prayer.
- As a Pastoral Care Minister I worked with people in crisis and difficult situations and long term support, grief work, providing listening and support with prayerful presence.
- Directed, recruited, and did outreach for Neighborhood Youth Alliance to provides a safe environment for homeless and low income school-age children (4-18), to help build basic education and life skills, while their families engage in support services.

The Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Director for Evangelical Mission,
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ELCA Level II Coach
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I am a Montana native, have served congregations in SW Minnesota and Montana for 28 years and have been the DEM since 2017. I served as secretary of the Montana Synod for 11 years and coordinated the Companion Relationship with the Cape Orange Diocese from 2009 - 2019. I value strengthening congregations and believe that strengthening leaders is critical. And I love the moment in coaching when a client makes a shift, has an aha moment and gets excited about possibilities. Words that guide me in these days are creative, courageous and collaborativ

Colter McCarty
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I've had the pleasure of working in the Montana Synod office for 6 years, helping our congregations with their technology problems and aspirations. My synod work along with 6 years as a youth director and 3 years as a church administrator have given me the opportunity to gain many perspectives of our life together in the church. I look forward to partnering with clients in the coaching relationship to help them be more effective in their individual ministry context.

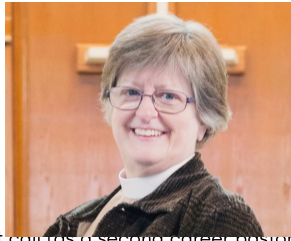
Dave Scholten, LPA
ELCA Level 1 Coach
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Dave Scholten was born in Minnesota. While not raised in the Lutheran Church, he notes "where I lived, you couldn't swing a dead cat without hitting a Lutheran". Dave received a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Northwestern College, (a Reformed School) in Orange City, Iowa and an MBA in Finance from the University of Minnesota. After a brief stint as an associate pastor, he has worked in the banking industry in Seattle, Minnesota and Montana. Dave currently runs an audit and consulting business with bank clients throughout the Northwest and Rocky Mountain states.

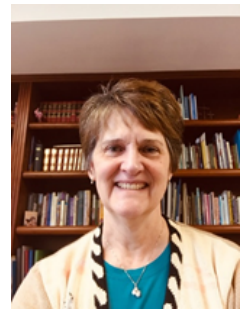
When he is not traveling, you can find him at home near Ulm, MT where he and his family have lived for 27 years. His motivation for coaching is to improve lives, relationships, and congregations. Dave feels we all have the potential within us to live into all that God has intended for us. He defines coaching as "active listening and results oriented questioning within a relationship of trust which allows the individual to discover, articulate, and implement actions to achieve a desired goal."

The Rev. Anna Merritt
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Our Savior's Lutheran, Great Falls
The memory of the first day of my first call (as a second-career pastor some eleven years ago), is almost as fresh as those new hours. What do I do first? What steps need to happen to meet this challenge? Who can I turn to with questions, concerns, or simply accompaniment? What a gift a coach would have been, not only then, but now, as well, to deeply listen, ask the hard questions and tease out the Holy Spirit's guidance for my life and ministry. Coaching has enhanced those gifts in me and I am excited to put those gifts to use with you

The Rev. Tamara (Tammy) Bull
ELCA Level I Coach
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- ELCA pastor for 6 years at New Hope, Great Falls
- Rostered lay leader for 12 years; emphasis in youth and family ministry
- Currently serving a congregation that experienced death, resurrection, and new life
- I believe this is a challenging and exciting time to be Christ's church!

The Rev. Lynne Ogren
ELCA Level I Coach
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- Ordained pastor for 4 years at Zion, Lewistown
- Associate in Ministry for 12 years
- M.Ed. in Creative Arts in Learning
- Open to coaching rostered and lay leaders

Now in my third career as a pastor in Central Montana, I appreciate how my experiences in public school teaching and as a programmatic church staff person have equipped me to lead in this role. I co-facilitate the boundaries training for my synod and serve as a mentor for a Lay Pastoral Associate in my congregation. I am always seeking to grow as a leader and I enjoy accompanying others as they explore their gifts and callings from God.

Rev Peter F. Erickson
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Columbia Falls, Montana
I have been a pastor since 1998. My first call was to a two-point parish in Chester, MT. In 2007 I was called to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Columbia Falls, MT where I continue to serve. My wife and I have three daughters who are quickly growing up. As a coach I am particularly excited to listen, connect, and empower. I know first-hand of the unique, challenging, and blessed role clergy have in churches and communities, and I believe coaching can be a great place to find encouragement in this regard. Churches, too, find themselves facing significant change and many unknowns. Coaching can help congregations focus, plan, and organize. Christ is faithful. Let's work together to seek God's call and live into it.