

NOMINATIONS

Synod Secretary



Rev. Alicia Harker- Regional Director of Spiritual Care and Ministry Integration - Front Range



○ Evergreen Lutheran Church – member for 4 years

○ I currently serve in a synod council-based call in a context outside the local parish and am deeply grateful for the ability to serve in my ministry calling with the support and sending of the synod council. Firmly believing my call to serve in ministry is not limited to the professional work I engage but is also lived out in my relationship and service with my local congregation, my community and the larger church. Serving as synod council secretary would be an extension of that call and in service to Christ and the mission of the Rocky Mountain Synod. I feel a call to be more connected in service in the broader church context.

- Skills and Experience: excellent communication, administrative and organizational skills; prior judicatory experience, and although in a different denomination, I bring, perhaps, a fresh perspective and ecumenical insight; a deep commitment to collegiality and cooperation and a call to serve in partnership with others in our synod.
- Service Activity:
 - member of the children, youth and families board at Evergreen Lutheran Church (approximately 2020-2022) prior denomination volunteer leadership in camp and conference ministries (approximately 1998-2006)
 - prior denomination - Area (North Texas, Tres Rios and Trinity Brazos Areas) and Christian Church in the Southwest Regional Committee on Ministry and Committee on Ministry member and secretary for some of those years in each area and for the region (approximately 2004-2008; 2010-2016)
 - prior services as Trinity Brazos Area Minister (served during a period of reorganization), overseeing 54 congregations and 260 clergy in 19 counties of Texas. (2016-2017)

Rev. Michael Vinson- Pastor, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Greenwood Village, CO



- St. Peter Lutheran Church, Greenwood Village, CO – member for 1.5 months
- I have a sense that God continues to develop me as a leader in Christ's church. I have served on the Indiana-Kentucky synod council, and have had the experience of a year on the executive committee. As RMS Synod secretary, I see an opportunity to grow in church governance and thrive in an area I excel at.
- Skills and Experience: I have led the updating of ministries governing documents to include updating of 2 congregation's constitution. I have served on a synod council and have executive committee experience. Along with serving on boards presently and in the past, I have authored an ELCA Churchwide resolution that received a pass vote. I also believe I can keep acceptable minutes and disseminate reports as required.
- Service Activity:
 - Life Member, National African Descent Lutheran Association 2011-present
 - Primary Author, Policy Resolution CA19.04.15, Emanuel 9 Commemoration (Passed)
 - National Pastoral Advisor, Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity 2015- present
 - Indiana-Kentucky Synod Council member, 1 year on executive committee 2016-2020

Synod Council Metro West

Scot Beu Burke - non-profit worker

- Nativity Lutheran Church, Commerce City, CO – member for 55 yrs.
- I'm highly qualified.
- Skills and Experience: Extensive non-profit background. Experienced music ministry provider. Frustrated observer of ELCA's decline.
- Service Activity:
 - Front desk receptionist in the Office of the "Bishop" (Episcopal Diocese of Colorado), 2017-2019
 - Delegate (voting member) at Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly, 2014
 - Office manager at St. Mark's in Aurora, CO, 2012-2013

Ken Maldonado - Executive Director of Domus Pacis Family Respite, Inc.



- Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church, Dillon, CO – member 1 yrs.
- I am a cradle Catholic, and very devout throughout my life, serving in choir, altar boy, and youth missions. I moved away from the church after college and moving to NYC. Through family I found my way back to the church when I moved to CO and served as a sacristan, reader and in the Kitchen Ministry for two years. When I met Kevin, the man who would become my husband they asked me to leave the church. Kevin was raised Lutheran and we searched for a church together, and once we attended services at Lord of the Mountain we fell right in and joined. Before being asked to leave the catholic church I was already feeling a strong calling to be more of service, and already knew that my desire to serve more would not be allowed. I study theology on my own voraciously, and I am going through discernment right now, and this is another step for me in figuring out how I can be of service to God and my community. I wish I would have found the Lutheran Church earlier in life. For the first time I feel completely and totally loved and accepted in my faith and in my identity. My faith will always instill in me a desire to serve God and my faith community. I have finally found a home where I can be gay, a person of faith, and be of service. I want to serve and continue to explore my new found home in the Lutheran Church. God has provided me with many talents, and my Christian faith warrants that I be of service, which I do so with joy.
- Skills and Experience: I have worked in the non-profit sector for over 35 years. Fifteen of those years as a development/fundraising manager or director. Fifteen more as a performing arts producer/director, and the rest as an executive director of a Cancer respite program. I have also served on a number of regional and national boards, as well as numerous committees. I am also serving as one of the "lay" voting members for Lord of the Mountains, attending the Rocky Mountain Synod in May 2023.
- Service Activity:
 - (2019- Present) Domus Pacis Family Respite: is a God directed non-profit that serves families with a member who has cancer or a terminal illness. In 2019, before heading to the Holy Land, I went into prayer, knowing that all I wanted out of my pilgrimage was direction in the next chapter of my life. The first night there, on the Sea of Galilee, I met the founders of Domus Pacis and learned that they had been searching for a new director and had not been able to find the right match. Since then, as their new director I have been able to serve over 335 families dealing with challenging medical journeys.
 - (2015-2019) Homeless: after leaving NYC my efforts were focused on the homeless, both in employment at La Puente, a homeless shelter and food bank in Southern Colorado, and later as a volunteer at Corpus Christi House in Boise, ID. Prior to this, while living in NYC I would conduct my own outreach to the homeless with HIV/AIDS that lived in my Harlem neighborhood (2012-2015).
 - Even though I do not have past congregational and synodical service activities, my entire professional career has been driven by my faith and my

commitment to always use my talents and efforts to serve. My non-profit employment has had me working in inner-city housing, children's services, HIV/AIDS clinics, HIV/AIDS advocacy, homelessness, food insecurity, and now with families dealing with cancer. Prior to joining the Lutheran Church my service work has also included the kitchen ministry with Summit Catholic and the food bank with Father Dyer Methodist Church. Currently I am also assisting with the development of a Young Life chapter in the county.

Larry Patella - Retired Chemical Engineer



- Evergreen Lutheran Church, Evergreen, CO – member for 13 yrs.
- I have talents like everyone else. I sense it is time to share them with the larger church during this time of re-orienting America's churches.
- Skills and Experience: Most recently, I was an alternate member of our Call Committee, which many RMS churches find themselves in that process. I led our congregation's SAS team as a member of the first SAS synod cohort. We were very successful in our efforts, which installed our AV system. I have been on our Congregation Council for six years and led our Constitution Re-write Committee, which was over ten years out of date. I try to bring an engineering pragmatic approach to problem solving but with a Christ led optimism.
- Service Activities:
 - Congregation Council Member as Lay Ministry Board Chair – 2017-Present
 - Congregation Council Secretary - 2015-2016
 - Audio/Visual Supervisor - 2019 - Current - I have supervised the installation, trained others and operated our AV system. During the pandemic when we all went 100% virtual worship, I was the sole operator for four months. We were fortunate enough to have had our system installed in 2019.
 - ELCA's SAS Implementation Team Chair - 2017 - 2019 - Our giving increased by over 15% the first year of implementation, which funded our AV system installation.

Synod Council Young Adult

Erik Ingram - Transition Analyst



- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Logan, UT – member for 4 years .
- In the nine years I've been an active participant at Prince of Peace, I've been called to challenges that I certainly could not have planned or foreseen, and they've really given me an incredible sense for what our congregation is capable of doing in our community. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the synod's mission of building an inclusive faith community for its members and those seeking one in some of the states that could use that the most!
- I think that I possess a strong work ethic, sense of organization, and an ability to see big-picture issues and develop plans to meet them. While I have had a relatively-stable Lutheran upbringing, I also have a strong appreciation for the fact that our synod is made up of people in any number of different places on their faith journey, and that there is a wide range of needs for current younger members as well as prospective ones.
- Service Activities:
 - Church Council Vice-president/President, 2019-21
 - Outreach and Community Partnership Committee Chair, 2022-present
 - God's Work, Our Hands participant, 2014-19

Cynthia Bailey - Logistics Analyst



- St. Paul Lutheran Community of Faith, Denver, CO – member for 2 years
- As a 6th generation Lutheran I feel I have been called to serve to the best of my ability from a very young age, you could say it's in my blood. One of my first memories is leading a Churchwide Assembly in prayer at the age of 5. I don't remember being asked but I know I've answered God's call in a very literal way before I could conceptualize abstract thought. From before this moment and through my graduation from Grace Lutheran in River Forest, Illinois I have been raised in Lutheran theology and it would be my honor to use this opportunity to give back to the Lutheran community that made me who I am.
- In this office I will be able to use my experience to give voice to those in my age group. Unfortunately, this is a group that is often underrepresented in the Lutheran Church. I am confident my involvement in Synod Council will allow Young Adults in the Synod to feel heard as I act as our representative.
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Increasing level of participation in my home congregation
- Service Activities:
 - ELCA New Mission Intern, 2014

- Walking What Jesus Talked About Event - Volunteer Administrator, April 2023
- International host to South African students for MYLE/Youth Gathering, 2009

Stephani Shumaker - Pastor, Atonement Lutheran Church- Boulder, CO

- Associate Pastor, Atonement Lutheran Church- Boulder, CO, 1 year



- As Lutherans, I think what is so unique about our mission in the world is how we have a distinctive message of radical welcome which helps bring about the Kingdom of God. This message of radical welcome is especially important to young adults who often feel spiritually under, forgotten, and ostracized within organized religion. As someone who is often profiled as someone too young or inexperienced by synod and parish members, I bring a specific witness from the young adult demographic.

- One of my strengths is creativity and innovation, thus finding new ways to spread God's radical love. This is something I find great joy in.

One of the biggest manifestations of this creativity and innovation is serving as the ELCA tik tok collective moderator. A position that allows me to converse with young adults who have questions about religion, spirituality and the ELCA. In the year of 2021, I completed a year long CPE residency in pediatric chaplaincy which included developing a spiritual assessment specific for teens and young adults experiencing chronic illness. I also currently serve as a Air Force Reserve chaplain, a ministry that comprises of 87% of adults under the age of 26. To stay connected to young adults and their specific needs, I remain a member of Ukirk (PC-USA campus ministry organization) and the ELCA gather network.

- Service Activities:

- Lutheran School of Theology (LSTC) 2021 Class President, 2017-2021
- Duties: attending student government meetings, faculty meetings, and planning the senior class fundraiser.
- Founder and Supervisor of Katie's Closet, 2018-2021
- Katie's Closet was a food pantry for LSTC students, faculty, and staff experiencing food insecurity.
- Duties: Advocating and securing funds for the closets operating budget. Attending LSTC board and alumni meetings, faculty meetings, and president cabinet meetings to address the food insecurity issue on campus.
- ELCA Tik Tok Moderator 2022-present
- I am a contractor for the ELCA to run a collective of video creators who create videos over Lutheran theology, church ethics, and church inclusivity.