



Nativity Lutheran Church

COUNCIL 2021

www.nativitychurch.org

What is Nativity Council?

Nativity Council is the governing board for Nativity Lutheran Church. The Council is made up of the officers of the congregation, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, Senior Pastor and 4-6 members of Nativity identified as “members at large”. Terms of service are two year terms, with council members serving up to three terms (6 years).

The Council focuses on vision for the future, defining budget to accomplish that vision and setting policy as needed to govern the vision. Nativity Council does not manage the day-to-day ministry of Nativity. Nativity Staff with the leadership of the Senior Pastor develop, implement and give oversight to the day-to-day ministries. Nativity Council has identified priorities and initiatives for 2021. Council meets 11 times a year and meetings last approximately 2 hours.

Council minutes are available in hard copy at the welcome desk and online at www.nativitychurch.org.

Elections for Church Officers and Council January 17, 2021 11:15AM

Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers and Council and to approve the 2021 Budget will convene via zoom January 17, 11:15 AM. A video presentation of the proposed 2021 budget and Nativity Council candidates and officers will be available for viewing beginning Saturday January 9 at noon. Please watch and then attend the zoom meeting.

Elections

Church Officers and Council are volunteer positions. This is why you will only see one name suggested for each position to be filled. The names are presented to the congregation as an approving election. This means that the congregation has a process whereby the community can dialog about suggested names and upon a rare occasion suggest another if a serious concern is raised.

LEAVING THE COUNCIL - With Gratitude for Their Service

Lisa Blanksma having served 2 years

Apryl Campbell having served 2 years

James Smith having served 6 years as Treasurer of the congregation.

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Donna Steinwand, President - Nominated, 1-year term

My husband Jim and I are regulars at the Saturday evening worship service. We were married here in 1995 and love this community. Most recently, we worked to make the Abundant Harvest meal a reality. Together with the volunteers and diners, we raised \$1000 for the Little Kitchen Food Shelf! This is an example of one of the many reasons Nativity is a special place - taking an idea and making it happen and openness to trying something new. I'm overwhelmed by the generosity and welcoming nature of this congregation, and it's care for those on the margins of society. Isn't that what God asks of us? And isn't that how we strive to live in God's grace? I've been on the Nativity Council before in several capacities and am looking forward to serving on council again. Let's explore together where God is leading us!



Keith Kendall, Vice President - Nominated, 1-year term

My wife, Patty, and I have been attending Nativity since around 2002 after a work colleague's recommendation. We have two children, Leah and Gregg, both attended NCFC, Faith Formation, and are now attending Nativity's confirmation program. I served on the long-range planning team back in 2008 and have also written a couple "Sharing the Story" articles for the newsletter. We live in Northeast Minneapolis.



Dan Tight, Member at Large - Nominated for 2nd, 2-year term

Dan Tight has been attending Nativity since 2003. During that time, he has sung in the choir; participated on the Love Courageously, Live Generously Appeal Team and the 2014-15 Strategic Planning Committee; and collaborated on a number of other initiatives (e.g., Habitat for Humanity, Feed My Starving Children). He lives in St. Anthony with his wife, Leah Reddy, and their 8-year old son, Graham. Dan teaches Spanish at the University of St. Thomas and enjoys playing sports and the guitar in his free time.



Grant Wyffels, Member At Large - Nominated for 2nd, 2-year term

I have been a member of Nativity since 2008 when my wife (Tina) and I joined this congregation. We have two sons (Luke 12 and Jack 8) and live in Shoreview. We love that Nativity is a welcoming congregation with a strong faith formation program. I have been involved with the Nativity Building Committee and served on the Youth Pastor Call Committee. I am excited for the opportunity to continue to serve on the Council and contribute to this great faith community.



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Emily Sauey, Member At Large - Nominated, 2-year term

I was born and raised in the Southwest, and while my permanent address has been pretty nomadic my family and I moved from Phoenix 3 years ago and are happy to have settled in St. Anthony Village. In search of a connection to our immediate community, my husband Carl, and children Theo (6) and Faye (3) sought out Nativity as our home church. My kids have since benefitted from the child care and education that Nativity provides, and look forward to continuing with them as they grow. We have stayed committed to Nativity based on the dedication to truth and hard conversations, a commitment to bettering our community, the strong Lutheran theological beliefs and like many others, the outstanding musical gift given each Sunday.



Jodi DeFeyer, Secretary - Nominated, 2-year term

In 2005, my husband and I were in search of a church where we both felt at home. My sister-in-law (Nancy Karkula) recommended we attend a service at Nativity. After one Saturday night service our search was over. My husband John and I, have 3 children, Renee (13), Jay (10) and Reid (10) and they keep us very busy. I love that our children have grown up at Nativity and how valued, accepted and comfortable we have always felt here. I have always appreciated the many opportunities Nativity facilitates to serve our congregation and our community. Not only opportunities for myself but for the entire family. I very much appreciate this opportunity to serve on the Nativity Council and hope to help continue to make Nativity a place where members are valued, accepted and comforted.



Erik Hegg, Treasurer - Nominated, 2-year term

I was born and raised in Sioux Falls. My wife and I and our two girls (3 and 1) live in Arden Hills. I work at a community bank in Coon Rapids. We were drawn to Nativity by the sense of inclusiveness that permeates the church as well as the wonderful music program. As our girls get older we look forward to getting them involved in faith formation and other children's programs.



Karen Volker, Member At Large - 2nd year of 2-year term

I live in Vadnais Heights with my husband and two daughters, Anika (17) and Jaden (14), and have attended Nativity for 20 years. I truly appreciate the openness of the congregation to receive everyone, irrespective of their background or where they are in their faith journey. I am energized by our willingness to engage in dialogue regarding our mission, even when it is challenging, and to strive to answer our call. And I am grateful for the nurturing support Nativity has provided for our family over the years.



2021 Priorities

Nativity Council and Staff propose the following as priorities for 2021

1. Dismantle Systemic Racism beginning with the community of Nativity.
2. Information Technology upgrades in hardware and software.
3. Continue the Implementation of the organizational system, called Traction, to assist staff and congregation in being more effective in accomplishing our mission.
4. Implement small group ministry entitled Growth Groups.
5. Implement Spiritual Growth Survey to better assess Nativity's ministry.
6. Develop Nativity's "online" community.
7. Manage the return of face-to-face activities in Nativity's building.

Our Core Values:

- **Spiritual growth**
- **Hospitality**
- **Innovation and adaptability**
- **Community**
- **Authenticity**
- **Justice and mercy**

Our Mission:

Love Courageously, Live Generously.



**Nativity
Lutheran Church**



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