



Nativity Lutheran Church

COUNCIL 2023

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 2023. 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 December 3 & 4, After All Worship Services

The Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers and Council and to approve the 2023 Budget will convene December 3 and 4, after all worship hours and via zoom on December 4, at 6:40 pm. The proposed budget and council officer information brochures are available in the Commons and on our website at nativitychurch.org/news.

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

With gratitude for Emily Sauey who served as Member at Large.

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Karen Volker, President - Nominated for 1-year term

I live in Vadnais Heights with my husband and two daughters, Anika (20) and Jaden (27), and have attended Nativity for over 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.



Donna Steinwand, Vice President - Nominated for 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 its 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!



Jodi DeFeyer, Secretary - Nominated for 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 for 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.



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Tracy Christenson, Member at Large - 2nd year of 2-year term

I have been a member of Nativity for 20+ years. I was born and raised in St. Anthony, and lived in St. Anthony until 2012 when I moved to Spring Lake Park. My two girls, Megan and Piper, both went through Confirmation at Nativity. I recently started working as the Controller for a company that runs group homes for intellectually-disabled adults. Nativity has been my spiritual home for a long time, and you will find me in the front pew by the piano every Saturday night! Now that I am an empty-nester, I have some time that I would like to share in service to Nativity. Having taken the spiritual gifts inventory a number of years ago, the Council seems like a perfect place to exercise my gifts for administration and leadership. I look forward to serving Nativity in this new capacity!



Julie Chattopadhyay, Member At Large - 2nd year of 2-year term

When I met my husband over 20 years ago, I was looking for a new church, and he said I should try the place he went. Well, I did, and I loved it, and since then we have gotten married here, met friends here, mourned losses here, and raised our three children with the help of this village. I have worked with several different groups at Nativity over the years, and I'm excited for the opportunity to learn new ways of serving with the Council.



Beth Erickson, Member at Large - 2nd year of 2-year term

I live in New Brighton with my husband Leigh and our 2 sons, Henrik (12) and Mats (10). I was born and raised in small-town North Dakota and moved to Minneapolis in 2002 to attend Law School at the University of Minnesota. In 2015, after many years without a church home, our family spent several months searching for a church that felt right for us. A friend suggested Nativity, and we attended service downstairs at the Cradle. During that first worship service I felt a sense of belonging that I had never experienced during all my years growing up in church and knew that this was a special place. I was drawn to Nativity's inclusive nature, focus on social justice, and desire to love God and neighbor. My boys have been active in faith formation since we began attending Nativity and have fallen in love with their week at Luther Park each summer. I am a licensed attorney with a background in both civil rights work and non-profit governance and leadership. I believe that my gifts and talents are well suited to service on the Nativity board and look forward to serving in this capacity..



Kim Borton, Member at Large - 2nd year of 2-year term

My husband, Michael, and eight-year old, Connor, and I joined Nativity not too long after becoming "Villagers." From our very first visit it was evident that God's ministry was clearly occurring beyond the church's walls, and we wanted to be a part. Our son attended NCFC and is involved in Faith Formation. As a family we're proud to be a part of an active faith community rooted in furthering justice and equity. I'm honored by the opportunity to serve the Nativity congregation on the Council.



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Keith Setterholm, Member at Large - 2nd year of 2-year term

Nativity has been my community for over 40 years, through my working years and now into my retirement. I married Tori here in 1982, and Noah and Abby were baptized and confirmed here. It's been more than 20 years since I last served on the Nativity Council, and I've seen many changes and expect to see many more! As Nativity has begun to return to face-to-face church, it is abundantly clear that, as in the larger world, things will not, and cannot, revert back to the way they were before the pandemic came upon us. I'm eager, as well as honored, to be invited to help our church community address these new challenges and find new ways to be a light to all we encounter.



Josie Gustofson, Member at Large - 2nd year of 2-year term

I have been going to Nativity since 2012 and was recently confirmed last year. I am a junior at South High School in Minneapolis. I live in Northeast Minneapolis with my parents, younger sister and our 3 pets. I have been on two Service and Learning Trips with Nativity that have helped form my desire to help others. I am looking forward to helping shape Nativity's vision of inclusivity for all. I enjoy swimming and reading in my free time and am excited to be attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering with Nativity this summer



MINISTRY INITIATIVES

As we look ahead to 2023, we will seek to deepen our ministry with focus on three areas:

GROW in Our Relationship with God

1. Nativity will grow faithful disciples among all ages.
2. Young people experiencing God's love through more dedicated youth programming;
3. Adults from ages 18 to 118 growing in faith with more classes and discipleship opportunities like our "Listening for God" classes;
4. Generations supporting each other in faith through intergenerational learning and service experiences.

2023 Priorities

LOVE Our Neighbor

1. As a spiritual community, we move our faith into action and our love into practice by a commitment to love our neighbors.
2. A family at risk for homelessness will have an affordable home and support services as Nativity partners with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to make possible the building of one apartment at the new Gladstone Crossing Development in Maplewood;
3. Investment in a new Department of Public Ministry will help us learn more about how we can answer God's call to love our neighbors in the world today.

STRENGTHEN Connections

The pandemic disrupted our connection to one another. We faithfully stepped into the challenge. Now, as we build on our strong ministry, we will take the next steps to deepen our connections as a community of faith.

4. More people will grow in self-identity and self-worth as they clarify their spiritual gifts and passions. Classes make this possible.
5. More people will experience the satisfaction of meaningful service through improved means of connecting gifts and passions to volunteer opportunities.
6. People will feel more connected to one another through improved communications and will be inspired by one another as we do a better job of sharing our "faith stories" of how God is working in our lives.

TOGETHER IN 2023, we will follow God's call to become a future church, ready to step into the opportunities that God places before us.

NOTES



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Lutheran Church

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