



Nativity Lutheran Church

COUNCIL 2024

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 2024. Council meets 11 times a year, and meetings last approximately 90 minutes. Council minutes are available in hard copy at the Welcome Desk and online at www.nativitychurch.org.

Elections for Church Officers and Council December 2 & 3, After All Worship Services

The Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers and Council and to approve the 2024 Budget will convene December 2-3, after all worship hours and livestreamed on December 3, at 6:30 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 Tracy Christianson and Beth Erickson who served as Member At Large.

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Keith Setterholm, President - Nominated 1-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 our children Noah and Abby were baptized and confirmed here. Twenty-four years ago, I served on the Nativity Council, including a year as President during Pastor Hoffman's final year. I've seen many changes and expect to see many more! As Nativity continues to renew itself following the pandemic years, we know that the world has changed, and Nativity will as well. I'm eager, as well as honored, to be invited to help our church community address these new challenges and to find new ways to be a light to all we encounter.



Karen Volker, Vice President - Nominated 1-year term

I live in Vadnais Heights with my husband, Heinz, and we both recently retired from rewarding careers. We have two daughters, Anika (21) and Jaden (18), each currently attending college. We have been members of Nativity for over 20 years. I am truly awed by this community's eagerness to include and meet people 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 find meaningful, creative ways to Love God, Love Neighbor. And I am grateful for the nurturing support Nativity has provided for our family over the years.



Leigh Erickson, Treasurer – Nominated for 1-year term

My wife, Beth, our two boys, Henrik and Mats, and I joined as Nativity members in 2015. I grew up in Andover, MN, and graduated from St. Cloud State. Beth and I have lived in New Brighton since 2005 and started attending Nativity's 'Cradle' services, which we affectionately called 'basement church'. I've always appreciated the great music and positive, action-oriented messages that Nativity provides each week across all of the service times. Nativity has also given our boys the opportunity to be engaged in confirmation, faith formation, summer service trips, and Luther Park camps. As a people leader at work for more than 20 years, I look forward to joining this team to help define the vision that continues the passion for 'Love God, Love Neighbor' at Nativity!



Donna Steinwand, Secretary - Nominated for 1-year term

My husband Jim and I were married here in 1995 and love this community. I learned just how important this community is as we experienced Jim's decline in health and hospice at home as he separated from life. Nativity friends surrounded us during the most difficult time of our lives, and cared for us more than words can describe. Nativity is a special community, and I'm overwhelmed by the caring generosity and welcoming nature of this congregation.

In so many other ways, Nativity cares 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!



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Kim Borton, Member at Large - Nominated for a 2-year term

My husband, Michael, nine-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 within and 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.



Julie Chattopadhyay, Member At Large - Nominated for 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 been blessed to represent the congregation on council these last two years, and I look forward to continuing to do so!



Jodi DeFeyer, Member at Large - Nominated for a 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 three children—Renee (17), Jay (14) and Reid (14)—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.



Josie Gustafson, Member at Large – Nominated for 2-year term

I have been going to Nativity since 2012, and am a member of our Student Action Leadership Team (SALT) as well. I am a Senior at South High School in Minneapolis. I live in Northeast Minneapolis with my parents, younger sister, and our three pets. I have been on three Service and Learning Trips with Nativity, which 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.



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Erik Hegg, Member at Large - Nominated for a 2-year term

I have served on the Nativity Council since 2020. Kirsten, and I, and our two daughters, Signe and Lyla (ages 7 and 5), live in Arden Hills. I work at a community bank in Coon Rapids called Border Bank. We were drawn to Nativity by the sense of inclusiveness that permeates the church as well as the wonderful music program.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we look to 2024 these are some key things we plan to focus on

- **Leadership for the Future of Nativity**—what staffing and volunteer leadership will we need to move forward into the future;
- Rooting **Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices** into the life of our community; and
- **Capital improvements**, including a new flat roof with solar panels, increased building security, technology, and energy upgrades. .



Nativity
Lutheran Church

3312 Silver Lake Rd. | St. Anthony, MN 55418

churchoffice@nativitychurch.org | 612.781.2766

nativitychurch.org   