



Nativity Lutheran Church

COUNCIL 2026

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 Pastors, develop, implement and give oversight to the day-to-day ministries. Nativity Council has identified priorities and initiatives for 2026. 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 nativitychurch.org.

Elections for Church Officers and Council

December 6 & 7, After All Worship Services

The Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers and Council and to approve the 2026 Budget will convene December 6-7, after all worship hours and will be livestreamed on December 6. 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 Erik Hegg, 2025 President, Donna Steinwand 2025 Secretary, and Karen Volker Member At Large.

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Nate Kerl, President - Nominated for 1-year term

In 2019, my wife, Ruth, and I were searching for a new church home that better fit what we thought fit the teachings of Jesus—one that was inclusive, walked the steps of social justice, displayed the love of God, and reached out into the surrounding community. We found this congregation just down the block from us in Nativity, and our three kids and the two of us have embraced it ever since. You'll find us in the music groups and active participants in youth and family activities. I serve as an usher and a member of the Racial Equity and Justice team (REJM). I also look for ways to use my gifts of service where needed, whether it be a clean-up crew on Wednesday nights or volunteer needs throughout the year. Professionally, I've worked for over 20 years in user experience design, currently at Medtronic, bridging the gap between customers and businesses via delightful digital experiences. I also sing in a local community choir, love to garden, and am involved in Cub Scouts and our local parent association. I believe that my gifts and talents would be useful and fitting for the Nativity Council at a time when we need to look to the future of our church and how we can reach and serve our surrounding community.



Leigh Erickson, Vice President - 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, Minnesota, 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!



James Smith, Treasurer – Nominated for 1-year term Member At Large 2-year term (new)

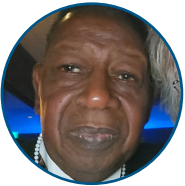
My wife Michon and I and our children Carsten and Ani live in St. Anthony. We joined Nativity in 2014, drawn to its outstanding music, children/youth programming, and a true feeling of belonging from staff and members of the congregation. Along the way we've experienced Nativity as a good neighbor in the community. I work at Thrivent Financial and have over 30 years of experience in various accounting roles and responsibilities. I previously served on council in At-Large and Treasurer capacities and look forward to having the opportunity again to serve the congregation as Treasurer to help guide future church needs and direction.

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Heidi Still, Secretary - Nominated for 1-year term

I was born and raised in North Minneapolis and for the past 12 years have lived in NE Minneapolis with my husband, Guy, and our nine-year-old son, Oliver. I graduated from Bethel University and have worked in education, real estate, and as a stay-at-home mom. We have been attending Nativity for two years. Our family had previously visited a number of churches in the area, and Nativity stood out to me in a number of ways: warmth, inclusivity, intergenerational congregation, solid children's programming, and many opportunities to serve, give, and be involved. This church feels like a place that is thriving! I am excited to serve on the Council, where I can both learn more about the direction Nativity is headed and collaboratively contribute to that process as well.



Warren King, Member at Large - Nominated for 2-year term (new)

Warren's faith formation began at the Greater Second Baptist Church in Woodland, CA. Since that time, he has served on the Church Council of Good Shepherd Lutheran (ELCA) in Oak Park, IL and been active in church choirs, theatre groups, worship leadership and youth leadership for the past forty years. He is currently a member of the Choir, Racial Equity and Justice Team and the Pride Outreach Team at Nativity.

Warren has been an Adjunct Professor since 2016, teaching undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of organizational change, sustainability and social justice. Warren is an experienced consultant and business leader, focusing on holistic solutions to client problems and is the President of Wellspring Group.

Along with being a certified ScrumMaster, Warren has been a reviewer in various USDA grant programs since 2020. He is on the boards of A Greener World, Kidz Express and the Seward Community Cooperative in Minneapolis.

Warren and his wife Kate have been married for forty-two years and live in St. Anthony, after raising their three adult children in Chicago. Enjoying the outdoors, the change of seasons and family are reasons they moved back to the Twin Cities. Camping, cycling, golf, cooking, gardening and travel are just some of the things that Warren and Kate share together.



Karen Jones, Member at Large - Nominated for 2-year term (new)

Karen has a passion for sharing her time and talents with others. During her past ten years with Nativity, her involvement includes teaching Faith Formation, chaperoning Summer Stretch, Luther Park family camp, FMSC events, Confirmation small group leader, Middle School youth trip chaperone, Easter music ensemble, walking in the St Anthony parade, Bread for the World campaign, Communion Assistant, and more.

Karen and her daughter, Matilda, have found opportunities for growth and leadership during their time at Nativity. They feel joy from these connections as they share themselves and their time partnering with the Nativity community. Karen is honored for the opportunity to serve on the Nativity Council.

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Jodi Hanson, Member at Large - Nominated for 2-year term

My late husband, Kelly, son Sebastian (13), and I joined Nativity in 2015, shortly after moving to St. Anthony. We were immediately impressed by Nativity's inclusiveness and fabulous music program. Nativity has been a place of comfort and community for Sebastian and me after losing Kelly. Sebastian was baptized here and attended NCFC. I serve as a confirmation small group leader. I am self-employed as an executive coach and bring to the Council more than 20 years of human resources experience. I'm grateful for the opportunity to influence Nativity's trajectory as a community of faith and to help us live the spirit of Love God, Love Neighbor.



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

My husband, Michael, ten-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!

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look forward to 2026, we do so knowing that Nativity is home for so many - a place to belong, a place to practice God's inclusive love, and a place where faith matters in the way we live our daily lives. In all we do together at Nativity, within our walls and beyond them, we strive to love courageously, just as God loves us.

We continue to focus on these key things:

- Continued spiritual growth through leaning into our strength areas of worship, music, and children, youth and family ministries, and through exploring new opportunities in shared ministry and community outreach;
- Living into the Elijah-Elisha model of leadership transition as Pastor Glenn steps back and Pastor Angela steps forward;
- Stewardship of the Building Belonging campaign through Phase II construction.



**Nativity
Lutheran Church**

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We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.
ReconcilingWorks.org