

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly Elections

2025 South Carolina Synod Assembly Nominating Committee

Silke Pyrlik, Chair
Elliott Cox
Richard Delap
Deacon Deborah Poole
The Rev. Wade Roof

Jeffrey Stringer
Sandy Derrick
The Rev. Jackie Utley
The Rev. Ken Gillikin
The Rev. Christina Johnson

Positions open for election with description summaries of responsibilities:

SYNOD COUNCIL

Terms begin after Synod Assembly. Meetings are generally schedule in June, September, December, February and April. Synod Council members have voice and vote at assemblies and are expected to attend. The Synod Council operates with internal committees. Most committees meet prior to the regular council meetings, but some may also meet at other times.

1. Lay Woman (Central Area which includes Midlands, Saxe Gotha, and Western Conferences)
2. Lay Man (Eastern Area which includes Amelia, Coastal, and Epiphany Conferences)
3. Lay Man (At Large)
4. Lay Woman (At Large)
5. Lay Man (POC/LOE)
6. Rostered Minister (Northern Area which includes Foothills, Heartland, and Upstate Conferences)
7. Rostered Minister (At Large)
8. Rostered Minister – Unexpired Term (Central Area which includes Midlands, Saxe Gotha, and Western Conferences)
9. Rostered Minister – Unexpired Term (At Large)
10. Youth
11. Young Adult

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT COMMITTEE

An Endowment Grant Committee for the South Carolina Synod Mission Endowment Fund shall consist of the Bishop of the South Carolina Synod or his/her appointee, the Treasurer of this Synod, and five members elected by the Synod Assembly. Two of the elected members shall be lay women, two shall be lay men, and one shall be an ordained minister on the roster of this Synod. The term of office for the five persons elected by the Synod Assembly to membership on this committee shall be three years; individuals so chosen may not serve more than two consecutive full terms. The members of the Endowment Grant Committee shall not receive compensation for their duties. The Endowment Grant Committee shall be responsible to the South Carolina Synod through the Synod Council and shall provide annually a report of disbursements to the Synod Assembly. The Endowment Grant Committee shall meet at least annually and provide the means, dates, and deadlines for grant requests, review such requests, and make recommendations for disbursements to the Synod Council through the synod's Finance Committee.

1. Rostered Minister

SOUTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN RETREAT CENTERS, INC.

Members of the Board of Trustees elected by the Synod Assembly (9) and by the Board (6) may serve two consecutive three-year terms. The Board generally meets four times a year with one meeting being an overnight meeting. Members of the Board benefit the work of the ministry by being active members of committees. The Board promotes and coordinates the ministries at Kinard Conference Center and Coastal Retreat Center. It establishes goals and objectives; oversees policies; is accountable for fiscal affairs; and employs and supervises the Executive Director. Board members are to be active congregational members, skilled in interpersonal relationships, visionary, able to work cooperatively, and advocates for and financial supporters of this ministry.

1. Lay Man

SC SYNOD NOMINATING PROCESS

The Synod Council recommends and invites people from across the Synod to serve on the Nominating Committee. Representation is gender and clergy/lay person balanced. Committee members serve for two years. Half the committee rotates off each year. The Synod Council names the committee in September. The Nominating Committee meeting is set for mid-October/early November.

The committee members are asked to bring names of potential nominees for the specific open positions. They are encouraged to call the church leaders in their area to solicit names for nominees.

The positions open for nominations are announced in the Synod ENews which allows us to receive nominations from the general population of our Synod.

At the meeting, all names that have been received are listed for the various positions which are up for election. The Constitution is followed on how many nominees are presented for each election.

The committee considers gifts and any potential conflicts which might be present for each potential nominee. Example: Sometimes one person is brought for two different positions and the committee has to decide which position to nominate them for; we check that a person is not nominated for a position that their spouse or immediate relative is already serving in; we make sure we are not putting two people up against each other from the same congregation or nominating someone from a congregation that is already represented on that council, board or committee, etc. This conversation and discernment is surrounded in prayer.

The committee prioritizes the nominees into the order they wish to have them contacted. The committee members divide the list and call persons who have been nominated.

Nominees are sent biographical information forms with a deadline to return the completed form. The synod office tracks and follows up on nominees with the help of the committee and prepares the slate of nominees for publication in our registration materials. Biographical information is published with registration materials for voting members of Assembly.

The Nominating Committee Chair makes the report of the ballots at Assembly and we accept additional nominations from the floor.

Slate of Positions and Nominees

Biographical Information is included for those nominees who completed the form.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – Central Area

Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)

Irina Roof

Gwendolyn Furcorn

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large

Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)

Chris St Clair

Harry Prim III

Position Nominated For: Rostered Minister – At Large **Term Ending:** 2028

Full Name: Chris St.Clair

Email Address: chris@knowjoy.com

Phone: 210-326-2166

Mailing Address: 726 Treeline Rd.

City, State, Zip Code: Moore, SC 29369

Congregation: Joy

Congregation City: Moore

Employment/Profession: Deacon

Age Range: Under 30 (30-45) 46-60 over 60

**Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc.
Please include dates served.**

1. Triumphant Lutheran Church (SW Texas) - August 2010-August 2023
2. Program Committee - Cross Trails Ministry - August 2019-2023
3. Candidacy Committee (SW Texas) - August 2021-August 2023
4. Compensation Guidelines Committee - January 2019-March 2020

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

The most joyous time at Joy was when our congregation hosted an event called Journey to Bethlehem. This event is a walking tour through the nativity story with vignettes and music. What I love about this event is how it incorporates the entire congregation. Youth acted in

scenes and played bells, families sang hymns together, many people decorated sets and cooked snacks. Many of the people had never served in this way but it was overwhelming to see how much our congregants enjoyed being a part of it, and how much the local community came out and appreciated the event.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

My church is there for me when they trust me enough to participate in an event. One example is when we hosted our first "Shareholder's Meal" event where our youth thanked the congregation for their spiritual and financial support at the ELCA Gathering. Our church had never held an event like this but the congregation showed up to listen to the youth tell stories and talk about their experiences at the gathering. Because of my role in the congregation, I don't ask them to show up with spiritual or emotional support, but they do show up anytime they open themselves to experiencing a new program or event.

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large **Term Ending:** 2028

Full Name: Deacon Harry S. Prim, III

Email Address: hprimiii@gmail.com

Phone: (803) 360-0713

Mailing Address: 3209 Cannon Street

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, South Carolina, 29205

Congregation: Mount Tabor Lutheran

Congregation City: West Columbia

Employment/Profession: Retired from the South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services and Retired Deacon (ELCA)

Age Range: **Under 30** **30-45** **46-60** over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. In the recent past elected to Church Council for a 3-year term where I worked with the youth ministry committee and the long-range planning committee. (Mt. Tabor)
2. Active in various faith development ministries such as Sunday school teacher for youth and various established adult classes; coordinated and taught confirmation for several years; serve on the education committee; taught the adult VBS class past 2 years and previously developed the story telling time for the children one year. (Mt. Tabor)
3. Served on the strategic planning committee over the past year. (Mt. Tabor)
4. Have lead Sunday morning worship services including liturgy and sermon delivery; active communion preparer; usher; worship coordinator; lector (Mt. Tabor)

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

For me there are two “joyous” memories that stand out. The first is my wedding to the former Cheryl L. Addy on January 2, 1988. We have just celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary. It was Cheryl and her parents, Bob and Annie Ruth Addy that introduced me to the ELCA in South Carolina and had a significant impact in my deciding to join the ELCA as first a diaconal minister and then a deacon. Previous to this point, I was a deacon in full connection in the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. I share this because it leads me to the second of my two memories, my consecration as a diaconal minister in the ELCA during the regular morning worship service at Mt. Tabor on January 14, 2007, by then Bishop David Donges.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

One particular time that I felt Mt. Tabor was there for me was during an “out of the blue” health crisis. In March 2017, I was diagnosed with a melanoma on the bottom of my right foot. My surgery was late April of the same year. For 4 months I was non-weight bearing and used a knee scooter before transitioning to a boot that I wore close to 2 months before I was released to wear a regular shoe and return to driving. From phone calls and mailed cards, I received encouragement and was reminded that prayers had and were being offered for me. And, when I was able to participate in Sunday morning worship, members shared that I was missed and welcomed me back. As I went through each recovery phase gaining more of my independence and mobility, there was always someone from my church family who was willing to celebrate these various recovery milestones.

Synod Council – Lay Man – Eastern Area
Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)
Michael Lutz
Chris Frender

Full Name: Michael Lutz

Email Address: mlutzpa@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 4319 Grovecrest Circle, North Myrtle Beach SC 29582

Home Congregation: King of Glory Lutheran Church

Congregation City: North Myrtle Beach

Age Range: over 60

Employment/Profession: Retired Physician Assistant

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc.
Please include dates served.

I've been involved in church my whole life. I served on various committees and church council and even president of council at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Newton North Carolina.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

My most joyous memories and still today to see my boys and their families continue to be strong in their faith.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

For my faith, it was a Via de Cristo weekend. A weekend where we lived, studied, worshiped and communed for 3 days. It was a very spiritual and powerful experience. When my job was terminated, and looking for other positions, buying and selling homes my church was always there for support through the power of prayer. I will read Romans ch5 vs 1-5 for peace and joy.

Synod Council – Lay Woman – At Large

Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)

Cheryle Noyes

Laura Lindler

Position Nominated For: Synod Council -Lay Woman-At Large **Term Ending:** 2028

Full Name: Cheryle Noyes

Email Address: cheryle.noyes@gmail.com

Phone: 704-307-6692

Mailing Address: 2018 Hartwell Lane

City, State, Zip Code: Indian Land, SC 29707

Congregation: Crossroads Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Indian Land

Employment/Profession: Retired Director of Human Resources

Age Range: **Under 30** **30-45** **46-60** over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Chaired Call Committee for First Lutheran Church, Decatur, IL 1974
2. Elected to Synod Council, Central Southern IL Synod, Springfield, IL 1988
3. Served as Office Manager to the Bishop of the Central Southern IL Synod, 1988-1990
4. Elected to Church Council, Crossroads Lutheran Church, President, 1/2014 -1/2017
5. Chaired Call Committee for Crossroads Lutheran Church, 6/2016 - 8/2016
6. Lead Altar Care Team, Crossroads Lutheran Church, 9/2018 - current

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|---|------------------|
| 7. Chaired Call Committee for Crossroads Lutheran Church, | 3/2023 - 1/2024 |
| 8. Served on Interior Design Team, Crossroads Lutheran Church | 7/2023 - 9/2023 |
| 9. Serve on SC Synod Candidacy Committee | 1/2022 - current |
| 10. Serve on SC Synod Personnel Committee | 2024 - current |

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

In January 2016 my husband and I had the opportunity to travel with a group to the Holy Lands. This group consisted of members of my own congregation, Crossroads Lutheran, as well as my pastor, members of the SC Synod staff, professors from LTSS, seminary students and other fellow Christians. Words cannot express the wonder this experience brought to me and how walking this path has deepened my faith journey. As we began our journey in Bethlehem and ended in Jerusalem each step seemed to parallel significant events in Jesus' life. As a lifelong Lutheran I thought I understood His story. However, this trip brought His message into clearer focus and helped me to truly live the life He wants me to live. I am ever so thankful I was able to witness the story I have studied throughout my life. This would not have happened without my faith community, those who share the passion to understand His story and His desires of us as Christians.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

Upon our graduation from college, my husband and I became wandering nomads. Ron's profession was as a civil engineer in construction management, a position that usually required us to move from project to project every few years. These moves often took us to states far from our families in Illinois. When our two daughters were born, we lived far away from home. We didn't have family close by to guide us through this new path so we relied on our friends and our new church family in Louisville to be that family. When, in the same month, our home flooded and my mother died unexpectedly, we had no one close by to support and comfort us. However, our pastor provided the love and understanding we needed at such a difficult time. I also lost my sister way too early in her life and I thought I could not move forward. But I was wrong. My church family was again my support mechanism. They lifted me up in prayer, sat with me, comforted me. They were and are my family today. They can be a lifeline when I need it most. My church family brings me such joy and their presence and kindness keep me grounded and remind me I am never alone.

Position Nominated For: Synod Council - Lay Women at Large

Full Name: Laura Lindner

Email Address: llindner22@gmail.com

Phone: 843-601-0780

Mailing Address: 2741 Cypress Bend Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Florence, SC 29506

Congregation: St Luke Lutheran Church

Congregation City: Florence

Employment/Profession: Retired

Age Range: **Under 30** **30-45** **46-60** over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. President of St. Luke WELCA - 2012- 2014
2. Director of Community Learning Ministries - Bible study classes for the community - 2013 to present
3. Volunteer for First Friday homeless events - 2010 to present
4. Volunteer for Help4Kids - 2023 to present

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

1. There have been so many moments in my faith life that have been joyous – from our wedding, the baptisms of our children and grandchildren, leading a week long summer day camp program, leading a Bible study for women, worshipping in the glorious chapel at Valparaiso University, and meditating on God's Word, but the most memorable moment happened at the communion rail when we had been praying over a big decision and our pastor gave us the bread and then came back and placed his hand on my husband's hand. I looked at my husband and knew the decision had been made.
2. Prayer is such a wonderful gift from God. I have been prayed over with a large prayer chain from our church and my parents' church following brain surgery several years ago. I could actually feel the strength in my shoulders of those prayers. Many years later, a group of women prayed for me as I cared for my in-laws who were both ill with Alzheimer's disease. They could not be left alone for very long and it really uplifted me to know I was remembered in prayer.

Synod Council – Lay Man – At Large
Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)
Travis Spainhour
Thomas "Van" Matthews

Position Nominated For: Synod Council

Full Name: T. Van Matthews

Email Address: tvmatthews@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 623 N Main St., Apt 7, Greenville, SC 29601

Congregation: St. Michael

Congregation City: Greenville, SC

Employment/Profession: Retired Certified Financial Planner (CFP)

Age Range: **Under 30** **30-45** **46-60** over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

Synod: Nominating Committee. Early 2000s, Currently serving on the Synod Stewardship Committee

ELCA: ELCA Board of Pensions (now Portico) Trustee. 6 year term ending 2010

National Lutheran Campus Ministry Inc. : Board member. Currently serving.

St. Michael, Greenville: Stewardship Committee chair for the last 6 or 7 years, Finance Committee for the last 5 or 6 years. Program Leader in "The Carpenter's Shop". St Michael Choir

Lutheridge: was on the financial development committee under Keith Johnsen. Helped start the Ridge/Rock Builders program

Newberry College: Chair of the Foundation Board also a member of the Board of Trustees approximately 6 years Early 2000's.

SC Alzheimer's Association. Board Member for the last 26 years. Helped to organize the SC Ride to End Alz. A bicycle ride from Greenville to Charleston which has raised over \$7 million for the last 16 years.

Greenville Woodworkers Guild: Board Member for the last 16 years -VP Fundrasing.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

Being a life-long Lutheran, growing up in Newberry County, and attending Newberry College where I met my wife, Melinda Hollinger, has certainly provided me a life full of wonderful Lutheran memories. Our marriage in Clearwater, Florida was an introduction to having outstanding in-laws, Pastor and Mrs. Richard Hollinger who were so influential in our lives as well as the lives of our daughters who are now wonderful parents. Richard, a WWII veteran,

demonstrated the true values of gratitude and service. He and Delouris enriched our family and instilled “service to the church” as a basic element in our lives.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

My church family in different locations has been there for me in so many ways that it is impossible cite one specific situation. The church has been there in both Joys, Sorrows, and Trials: The death of my dad at his age 48 (I was 22). The death of my grandmother and my mother, and finally at the death of my brother were times when the support of my church family was so important. The births and baptisms of our children and grandchildren were milestones of faith and friendships. When I was on the ELCA Board of Pensions, they sponsored and supported me and Melinda for a bicycle ride up the Mississippi River from St. Louis to Minneapolis, where we visited Lutheran Churches all along the way for 11 days. We raised \$45,000 for the Special Needs Retirement Fund with the support of the ELCA on a great adventure. Truly the Church has been there all my life.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Northern Area
Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)
Heather Apel
Josh Kestner

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Northern Area **Term Ending:** 2028

Full Name: Rev. Heather K. Apel

Email Address: pastorheather@sjlc.church

Phone: 317-937-0472

Mailing Address: 415 S. Pine Street

City, State, Zip Code: Spartanburg, SC 29302

Congregation: St. John's Lutheran

Congregation City: Spartanburg

Employment/Profession: Co-Pastor at St. John's Lutheran, Spartanburg

Age Range: **Under 30** 30-45 **46-60** **over 60**
Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc.
Please include dates served.

1. Co-pastor, St. John's Lutheran, Spartanburg – Dec. 2022 – present
2. Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA – July 2011 – October 2022 (which included non-voting participation on the IN-KY Synod Council throughout my time serving the IN-KY Synod)
3. Indiana-Kentucky Synod Candidacy Committee (via my role as Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership) – July 2011 – October 2022
4. Boundary Workshop Facilitator across Region 6 Synods of the ELCA – 2018 – 2022

5. International Companion Synod Team for IN-KY Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile – 2016 – 2022

6. ELCA Churchwide Assembly Worship Team Volunteer – 2013, 2016, 2019 and 2022

7. Girl Scout Troop 4615 Leader, McCordsville, IN – 2017 - 2022

8. Associate Pastor, Bethel Lutheran, Noblesville, IN – August 2006 – June 2011

9. Seminarian Intern – Mt. Olive Lutheran, Hickory, NC – August 2004 – July 2005

10. Youth Director, Grace Lutheran, Tallahassee, FL – August 2000 – July 2002

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

It is difficult to pick one joyous memory from being a part of a faith community as there are so many that come to mind. I have fond memories of the youth group from my childhood church that was a large part of helping me develop my faith and leadership through weekly gatherings and special events or trips. When I was in high school, we traveled from south Florida to Lutherock for a week of service in the community around the camp. I still remember the work we did to help clean up and repairs people's homes (and the paint fight our leaders let us have on the last day). I was deeply affected by the impact that our seemingly small efforts had on the people we served. Taking a week of my summer to go have "fun" in the mountains with my friends gave me an experience that deepened my faith in a way that I never anticipated. I discovered and felt what it meant when Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35). I didn't realize it at the time, but experiences like this mission trip, and the church's people and leaders who supported me as I grew up, nurtured and developed gifts in me that would take me years to discover on my own.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

When we were serving in our first congregation, we were expecting our first child. Near the end of the pregnancy, our son, Jedidiah, was stillborn, and I became very sick. Our closest family was 3 hours away and the church supported us through this difficult time. I was much more accustomed to being on the "giving" end of providing care and kindness for people, and it was very heartwarming to have the church bring us meals, keep us in prayer and shower us with love and grace in our time of grief and healing. We experienced the way that a church can support its own people in many ways, but especially as love showed up in a 9x13 casserole dish.

Position Nominated For: Rostered Minister - Northern Area

Full Name: Josh Kestner

Email Address: jkkestner@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 111 Sloan Street, Clemson, SC 29631

Congregation: University Lutheran

Congregation City: Clemson, SC

Employment/Profession:

Age Range: **Under 30** **30-45** **46-60** **over 60**

**Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc.
Please include dates served.**

Staff Advisor for Lutheran Student Movement – USA and the regional Lutheran Student Movement group (2023-25).

Board Member for LuMin, the national Lutheran Campus Ministry Network for the ELCA (2023-25), Board President (2024-25).

SC Synod Council 2023-2025

SC Synod Children, Youth, and Family Support Team (2024-25)

SC Synod Congregational Vitality Team (2023-25)

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

**What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?
Tell about a time your church was there for you.**

My most recent, joyous memory as a part of the faith community at University Lutheran Church was celebrating the graduation of one of our PhD Students. This student showed up my first year as campus pastor, and it feels as though we've been together through all of the ups and downs over the years. To see that his hard work is finally paying off is such a wonderful thing.

It's also been so powerful to see how the congregation has welcomed him in and supported him along the way. He's far from home and family, but he's found a home and family in our community. While his network of support has grown over the years, he's continued to be a fundamental part of our ministry. And he is always so quick to give back.

To celebrate with him has given me such joy because this is a testament to what ministry is supposed to look like: welcoming in new neighbors, mutual systems of love and care, and an opportunity to celebrate milestones together. What a blessing.

My church has shown up for me by helping me to grow as a pastor. This is my second call as a rostered minister, and I was still fairly inexperienced when I showed up. They had the grace to welcome me in and we have come a long way together. From this congregation I have learned that ministry is so much more than a group of folks who worship together. Ministry is: a place where people can come to explore and learn in a life of faith, a community that supports people in all that they need for a comfortable and successful life, a force of energy that extends beyond the walls of a building and out into the world, an opportunity for deep and meaningful

relationships, and a bond that connects people in ways that allow them to show up for one another in times of joy, grief, hope, fear, anger, compassion, uncertainty, and adventure.

When I first showed up in Clemson, I was ready to perform a role. But what the church has done is show up for me over and over again so that I can understand that the multi-dimensional vocation of a pastor is something that is personal, empathy-forward, and unconstrained by a building.

Again, what a blessing.

Synod Council – Youth
Term Ending 2027 (Elect 1)
Morgan Nesmith
Sloan Girard

Synod Council – Young Adult
Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)
Mary Katherine Goynes
Grayson Cribb

Synod Council – Lay Man – POC/LOE
Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)
Jamie Lleras
Kenny Hastie

Jaime A. Lleras
U S Air Force Chief Master Sergeant (Ret)

Jaime was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, on March 11, 1950, where he lived until 1954 when his family moved to the United States. He grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and after graduating from private High School. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in August 1968 as a Security Police Officer. He served in Vietnam with the 632nd Security Police Squadron (SPS), from December 1969 to December 1970. He then completed his 4-year enlistment in August 1972.

After a ten-year break, he reenlisted with the Washington DC Air National Guard with the 113th SPS, followed by 21 years with the Maryland Air National Guard 135th Fighter Wing, where he was a First Sergeant, a Human Resource Adviser and retired as the Wing Command Chief, in May of 2004, after completing 29-½ years of total service. He also worked at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, DC, as Director for Shared Services and Mail Operations, and retired in May 2012, after 23 years of federal service.

He and his wife Patricia (Pat) moved to Surfside Beach, SC in 2015. They have been married for 42 years; and have four grown children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Jaime is also a Chapter Service Officer and the Adjutant for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)'s Myrtle Beach, SC, Chapter 30, where he also spent 5 years as Commander. He's also Vice President of Chapter 925 Vietnam Veterans of America.

He has also held the following volunteer positions:

– A current member of the Church Council at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church, Murrells Inlet, SC and serves four years as the Council President. He is currently working on the Growth Committee and assisting in the proposal of building a new worship facility to meet the congregation's growth.

- A passed member of the Church Council at Peace Lutheran Church in Waldorf, MD, where he also served as the program coordinator and teacher of English as a Second Language (ESL) at Peace Lutheran Church.
- Has spoken to various youth groups at local Middle Schools in Horry County; to Vietnam Veterans Groups; and to Women Veteran Groups.
- He is a member of the Vietnam Security Police Association; American Legion and Myrtle Beach Military Appreciation Committee.
- He was a big brother in the Big Brother Big Sister of Southern Maryland program for 10 years.
- He volunteered at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland, for 3 years doing veteran visitations and assisting where needed.

Position Nominated For: Synod Council

Full Name: Calvin K. Hastie Jr.

Email Address: kennyhastie@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 4626 Clemson Ave Columbia, SC 29206

Congregation: St. Andrews Lutheran

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Attorney

Age Range: **Under 30** **30-45** 46-60 **over 60**

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

I am committed to serving my community, particularly through youth sports, where I have found a meaningful way to mentor, encourage, and invest in the next generation.

I currently serve as the Associate Head Coach for the varsity boys' basketball team at Heathwood Hall Episcopal School (2022–present), where I help lead practices, coach games, and support student-athletes both on and off the court. In addition to high school coaching, I have volunteered with local recreational basketball, football and soccer leagues for elementary students in the Columbia area over the past several years.

These roles have allowed me to foster teamwork, faith, discipline, and personal growth among young athletes while building lasting relationships with families in our community. I view this as an extension of my faith in action—modeling leadership, compassion, and integrity in ways that resonate with both youth and their parents.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community? Tell about a time your church was there for you.

While it's hard to pinpoint a single most joyous moment in my faith journey, there are two experiences that deeply resonated with me and helped me rediscover what it means to be part of the church.

The first came at a time when I was feeling lost. I grew up Southern Baptist, but like many young adults, I drifted away during college and early adulthood. For a long time, I believed I couldn't find my way back because of some of the choices I had made. It felt like I had to be perfect before I could return to the church, and that burden kept me away. But then I met my wife, who gently encouraged me to come with her one Sunday to hear her pastor, John Trump. That Sunday I went with her, he delivered a message about faith being like a Rubik's cube—not something we solve before coming to God, but something we wrestle with because of our faith. He said it was okay to try and fail, that what mattered most to Christ was the striving. That message really resonated with me. For the first time in years, I felt like I could come back to church—not as someone who had it all together, but as someone who was trying to figure it out.

The second experience was more quiet, but just as powerful. There's an old saying in the South: the most segregated hour in America is Sunday at 11:00. As an African American man beginning to rebuild his faith in a predominantly white congregation, I worried—would I be welcomed? Would I be accepted? But from the very beginning, especially at the 8:30 service at St. Andrews, I was met with nothing but love. That service was mostly older and white, and yet they embraced my wife and me with open arms. As we started our family, that community became an extension of our own. They celebrated our children, supported us, and showed us what it means to live in Christian fellowship. That quiet, faithful welcome—week after week—was a blessing I will never forget.

Both experiences reminded me that joy in the church isn't always loud or showy—it's often found in grace, in community, and in the persistent, patient journey of faith.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Central Area
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Unexpired Term
Eric Fink
Jason Antley

Position Nominated For: Synod Council – Rostered Minister – Central Area **Term Ending:** 2026

Full Name: Eric Eugene Fink

Email Address: pastoreric@livingspringscolumbia.org

Phone: 803-736-0661

Mailing Address: 4224 Hardscrabble Rd.

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29223

Congregation: Living Springs

Congregation City: Columbia

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: **Under 30** **30-45** **46-60** over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Pastor: Living Springs Columbia (2013 –), Grace Prosperity (1994–2013). Internship: Trinity, N. Easton, MA.
2. Synod, etc: Boards (LTSS, Lutheran Services, SCLMM, PALM-USC Campus Ministry); ELCA Youth Gathering Synod Day Coordinator (15/18/22/24); Leadership for Faithful Innovation Cohort (2018-21); LTSS Teaching Parish Supervisor (2010-present); Conference Dean (2000's); Parish Leadership Institute-Synod coord. (1990's); Synod Stewardship Committee (1995-present); Lutheridge staff/CARE (1983-94) & Campfirmation leader (1996-present)
3. Community: Midlands MORE Justice Organization (2017-present); NE Columbia Racial Reconciliation Cluster (2015-present); Richland2 Ministerial Alliance (2013-present); Mid-Carolina School-Time Bible Release (2007-13); SC First Steps County board (2000's); lay Stephen Ministry (1990's).

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

As a HS student, I was blessed to be part of a small weekly NC Synod teen Bible Study, and cling dearly to the memory of the Synod Youth Coordinator having personal conversations with each of us about our faith journeys. My joyful memory relates to passing along this gift. At the end of Lutheridge weeks, youth retreats, GraceWorks, Youth Gatherings, Youth Mission trips, etc., I am blessed to sit with each youth personally and invite them to talk about their experience: to welcome their questions, talk about when they felt closest to God, muse about what God might be calling them to do with their lives, share what they are learning about Jesus or how the Spirit might be working in their hearts. My most joyous "memory" is the ongoing hundreds of responses from all these young hearts & minds – and marveling with ever-growing wonder at how the Spirit never fails to work in young hearts, speak through young voices, and bless/guide the Church with the faith of our youth.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

A decade ago, I had begun to feel a growing despair – with news of the Mother Emanuel tragedy and increasing demands of people coming to our church & childcare center, needing help with so many basic necessities of life. For years, I had wrestled with the full call of Micah 6:8 to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God." While I found myself meaningfully immersed in ministries of faithfulness (worship, study, prayer) and mercy (responding to immediate needs), I always felt a little lost as how to be active in concrete ways to "do justice." Through the encouragement of the Bishop's office & synod task force ("our church") via initiatives such as the Selma movie & racial reconciliation book studies, I felt the Spirit's nudge to reach out to pastors of nearby AME and American Baptist congregations. The church was there for me to amplify the call of Scripture and help break through some barriers in NE Columbia, all of which eventually introduced me to a wonderful concrete way of responding to God's call to do justice, through a model of faith-based justice partnerships that were already

present across our nation: allowing God's people to bond together and prayerfully discern ways to address issues in our local communities; to provide concrete solutions to address the underlying root causes of all those needs; and to help the community reflect the vision of God's kingdom justice for those hurting and on the margins. As has always been the case, the church was there for me in a critical time in my ministry & discipleship, to be the conduit of the Spirit's call - and open me to things I would never have done if left to me alone.

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large
Term Ending 2026 (Elect 1)
Unexpired Term
Mike Shackelford
Leroy Cannon

Position Nominated For:

Synod Council – Rostered Minister – At Large, term ending in 2026

Full Name:

Michael T. Shackelford

Email Address:

mtshack@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

790 Judah Dr. Moore, SC 29369

Congregation:

Joy Lutheran

Congregation City:

Moore

Employment/Profession:

Part-time Interim Pastor for Joy Lutheran/ Full-time Chaplain for Spartanburg Regional Hospice

Age Range:

Under 30

30-45

46-60

over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc.

Please include dates served.

Joy, Moore -Interim: 8/2024—present

St. Matthew, Pomaria -Interim: 11/2022—5/2024

St. John, Spartanburg -Lead: 6/2010—7/2021

St. Matthew, Charleston -Associate: 10/2005—7/2008

Chaplain for Spartanburg Regional Hospice 6/2023—present

Chaplain for Affinity Hospice, Greenville, SC 7/2021—3/2023

Chaplain for Lutheran Hospice, Mt. Pleasant, SC 8/2008—5/2010

From 1997—2005 served 2 congregations in Florida and did 1 residency at Tampa General Hospital

One of the keynote speakers for the 2023 SC Synod Assembly

SC Synod Committee on Discipline 2016-2020

SC Synod Candidacy Committee 2012-2017

Voting member for ELCA Churchwide Assembly Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2003

Voting member for ELCA Churchwide Assembly New Orleans, Louisiana 2016

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

A common thread that was in most of the congregations I have had the privilege to serve in some capacity is the way we celebrated the genuineness of our faith. Allowing ourselves to laugh, to be our goofy self and to take chances and deepen our relationship with God and each other. I can truly say these experiences were what brought the most joy for me.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

October 2018 I was admitted to MUSC for a flap surgery on my tongue due to the salivary gland cancer that had grown under my tongue. St. John, Spartanburg was the church that granted me medical leave for this extensive operation, recovery, radiation and more recovery. They were very supportive of me and my family and welcomed me back a few months after treatments stopped. Also during this very special time St. Matthew-Charleston were very supportive to me and my family during our time in the hospital and various times I had to report back to MUSC for check ups. I will always be very thankful for those two communities reaching out to love and support me and my family.

Mission Endowment Fund Grant Committee – Rostered Minister

Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)

Jason Schafer

Rusty Kehl

Position Nominated For: Mission Endowment Grant

Full Name: Jason Schafer

Email Address: PastorJasonSchafer@gmail.com

Phone: 803 364-4093

Mailing Address: 4056 Saint Luke's Church Road

City, State, Zip Code: Prosperity, SC

Congregation: Saint Luke's **Congregation City:** Prosperity

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: Under 30 30-45 46-60 over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Pastor, 2003-present
2. Committee on Discipline 2006-2012

3. Volunteer Musician various nursing homes and Senior Centers 2009 - present 4. Mission Endowment Chair 2022-2024

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

One of my most joyous memories from being a part of my faith community is the tradition of visiting nursing home residents to sing and bring them comfort. There's something profoundly moving about seeing their faces light up as we share familiar hymns and songs. It's a reminder of the power of connection and the joy that simple acts of kindness can bring. Another standout moment was when the congregation came together for Homecoming Sunday and took our first picture in front of the church before processing in together. That shared sense of unity and tradition filled me with gratitude for the love and faithfulness of our community.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

A time my church was there for me was during the transition to becoming empty nesters. As Mitzie and I prepared for this new season, remodeling our home and adjusting to life with both Ella and Micah stepping into their next chapters, the love and support from our church family were unwavering. They checked in, offered encouragement, and even shared stories of their own experiences, reminding us we weren't alone in this change. Their prayers and presence gave us strength and comfort, reaffirming how much of a blessing it is to be part of such a caring community.

Full Name: Rev. Rusty Kehl

Email Address: rbkehl1776@aol.com

Mailing Address: 3102 Greystone Drive

Congregation: St. Luke Lutheran **Congregation City:** Florence

Employment/Profession: Pastor

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

Pastor – Immanuel Lutheran Church – Greenwood, SC – 2016 – 2021
Pastor – St. Luke Lutheran Church – Florence, SC – 2021 – Present
SCLRC – Board Member – 2018 – 2024
Camp Kinard Building Chairman – 2021 – Present
Synod Office Property Team – 2020 – Present
Board Member – Help 4 Kids – 2023 – Present
St. Luke Endowment – 2021 – Present

Helping Florence Flourish – 2021 - Present

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

I have been blessed by watching our community of faith respond to the needs of the community in various ways, and their energy and desire does not seem to waiver. Recently we agreed to walk with an immigrant family through Lutheran Family Services. We were set to receive one family from Guatemala; it turned out that there was a second family that desired to be placed with this family also due to family relationships. The members of St. Luke did not falter when deciding to accept the addition responsibility in helping these families acclimate to the United States and Florence, SC.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

Every day, I am blessed to be a part of a true community of faith that consistently watches after me. They insist on time away from church matters when they recognize the consistency of days being worked. They are aware of the demands of tending to those that are enduring health challenges and do much to relieve those expectations by being involved in the struggling of our church community. The Mutual Ministry Team is steadfast in checking in on my health. There is just an overall awareness of how I may or may not be doing. What more could you ask for.

South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers – Lay Man
Term Ending 2028 (Elect 1)
Larry Kyzer
Don Caughman

Full Name: James Larry Kyzer

Email Address: larrykyzer395@gmail.com

Phone: 803-237-4965

Mailing Address: 395 Briarpatch Road

City, State, Zip Code: Lexington, S. C. 29073-6722

Congregation: St. James

Congregation City: Lexington

Employment/Profession: Retired

Age Range: over 80

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

1. Lifelong member of St. James, Lexington. Have served on council (chair on two occasions, taught Sunday School, Evangelism and Stewardship committees, Lutheran Men (President twice) and Mission Endowment Committee Chair.
2. SC Synod – Served on council, Lutheran Men (President in 1983). Evangelism Committee. Was delegate to the ELCA Assemble on two occasions.
3. SC Lutheran Retreat Centers – Have served on the board on several occasions. Was chair from 1996-2002
4. Have served on the Golf Tournament committee for the last 10 years.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

While I received great strength while serving beyond my home congregation, I found that my lifelong membership at St. James has provided a wonderful Christian grounding that serves me until this day. The mentorship of the pastors at St. James (Edgar Lindler, Bill Cobb, Olin Chassereau, Bill Eiwen) as I became a young adult was excellent.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

St. James is an integral part of my life. From baptism to confirmation, I have been a very active member. I raised my family there and my daughter received a wonderful upbringing. My wife and I were married there in 1964. Sadly, my wife died in 2021 and St. James opened their hearts to me as I grieved her death. They continue 3 years later to minister to me. I can't imagine what my life would be like had I not had St. James in my corner.

Full Name: Donald A. Caughman

Email Address: dodgerfan@sc.rr.com

Phone:

Mailing Address: 3425 Deerfield Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29204

Congregation: Good Shepherd **Congregation City:** Columbia

Employment/Profession: Retired AT&T Community Relations

Age Range: over 60

Service in synod, ELCA, interchurch agencies, local congregation, community, etc. Please include dates served.

Not sure of dates, but served two terms on Lowman Home Board and two terms on board of Lutheran Homes of S.C.

Previously served two terms on SCLCRC board, including term as chair.

Served on Synod Youth Ministry Committee, chairing two terms

At Good Shepherd, 10 or so congregational council terms, including service as president.

Youth group advisor 1975 to 2000 or so. Various other service including Sunday School teacher, choir and visitation ministry.

In the past we asked for your resume in regard to your service to your church, community, etc. We place greater value on your faith story. Please take time to answer the following:

What is your most joyous memory from being a part of your faith community?

I think my most joyous memory as part of a faith community was watch six of our young members at Good Shepherd, whom I had taught in Sunday School, be confirmed.

Tell about a time your church was there for you.

My church has been there for me many, many times but something that especially stands out is the period when we had a "parking lot service" during the Covid pandemic. Even though I was isolated in my car, there was still a great feeling of unity in the faith among the members in their cars in the parking lot.

NovusWay
Board Elected, Assembly Ratified
Term Ending 2028