

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONVENTION 2015

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

*(*incumbent)*

1. **Matthew Brown**
Age: 44 **Member:** Beautiful Savior, Clarksville, Tenn.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: South Atlantic District Evangelism Commission member
Current: Pastor at Beautiful Savior, Clarksville, Tenn.; South Atlantic District Mission Board member; campus ministry pastor; circuit pastor; Commission on Lutheran Schools member; military contact pastor

2. **Wayne Uhlhorn**
Age: 51 **Member:** Fount of Life, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Christ the King, Jamestown, N.D./St. Paul, Valley City, N.D./Atonement, Baltimore, Md.; Colorado District Mission Board member; North Atlantic District Adult Discipleship Commission member and Lutheran Schools Commission chairman; circuit pastor
Current: Pastor at Fount of Life, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Colorado District Mission Board chairman; Board for Home Missions executive committee; campus ministry pastor; military contact pastor

3. **Charles Westra***
Age: 53 **Member:** Christ Our Savior, Columbia, Tenn.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis.; South Atlantic District Mission Board chairman, Evangelism Commission coordinator, and second vice president; Board for Home Missions member; Commission on Evangelism member
Current: Pastor at Christ Our Savior, Columbia, Tenn.; Board for Home Missions chairman; Board for Home Missions executive committee; South Atlantic District first vice president; Joint Mission Council member and alternating chairman; Synodical Council member

6. **John Bortulin***
Age: 37 **Member:** St. John, Mukwonago, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. Paul, Plymouth, Neb.; Nebraska District Commission on Worship member and Nominating Committee member
Current: Pastor at St. John, Mukwonago, Wis.; Board for Ministerial Education member

7. **Mark Voss**
Age: 51 **Member:** Divine Grace, Orion, Mich.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Salem, Milwaukee, Wis.; Southeastern Wisconsin District Adult Discipleship Commission coordinator; Michigan District Ministry of Christian Giving member
Current: Pastor at Divine Grace, Orion, Mich.; military contact pastor; circuit pastor
8. **Michael Zuberbier**
Age: 49 **Member:** St. Peter, Fond du Lac, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. John, Gladwin, Mich.; Good Shepherd, Beaverton, Mich.; and Emanuel, Tawas City, Mich.
Current: Pastor at St. Peter, Fond du Lac, Wis.; circuit pastor
11. **David Bartelt**
Age: 56 **Member:** Redeemer, Cedarburg, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Bethany, Hustisford, Wis.; and California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, Calif.
Current: Teacher at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, Wis.; Southeastern Wisconsin District Board of Appeals member
12. **Frederick Lohmiller**
Age: 58 **Member:** Lord of Life, Thornton, Colo.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Northwestern Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis./Trinity, Kaukauna, Wis./Trinity, Nicollet, Minn.; Minnesota District Lutheran Schools Commission coordinator; California Lutheran High School vice principal
Current: Principal and teacher at Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School, Federal Heights, Colo.
13. **Kurt Rosenbaum***
Age: 52 **Member:** Emmanuel, Tempe, Ariz.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Good Shepherd, Burnsville, Minn./King of Kings, Maitland, Fla./Ascension, Sarasota, Fla.; Michigan Lutheran Seminary governing board member and secretary; South Atlantic District secretary, Lutheran Schools Commission member, and Worship Commission coordinator
Current: Teacher at Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Ariz.; Board for Ministerial Education member

16. **Richard Bakken**
Age: 36 **Member:** Risen Savior, Chula Vista, Calif.
Occupation: Adjunct faculty, Martin Luther College and ITC at San Diego State University
Past service: Served at various WELS congregations (past and present) as evangelism committee member, organist, choir director, music coordinator, head usher, and in music and worship ensembles; president and communications director, West Central Milwaukee Chapter of Thrivent; Milwaukee Federation of WELS Churches board of directors member
Current: Organist at Risen Savior, Chula Vista, Calif.; volunteer at California Lutheran High School
17. **Paul Fick**
Age: 49 **Member:** Good Shepherd, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Occupation: President and owner of Paul Fick Homes (residential homes builder), Fick Commercial Construction (commercial building), and Cherry Creek Corp. (residential and commercial land development)
Past service: Great Plains Lutheran High School board of directors member and chairman; Thoughts of Faith board of directors vice president
Current: Good Shepherd board of education committee chairman, church council member, and building committee member
18. **Kyle Koltz***
Age: 51 **Member:** St. Matthew, Oconomowoc, Wis.
Occupation: Medical products director, Humana
Past service: Congregation financial secretary, head usher, board of administration member, vice president, and coach
Current: Church elder, Board for Ministerial Education member, Luther Preparatory School Mission Advancement Committee member
21. **Joel Hoff**
Age: 32 **Member:** Divine Peace, Renton, Wash.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Missionary to Cameroon; lay worker in Albania and Cameroon
Current: Pastor at Divine Peace, Renton, Wash.; Pacific Northwest District Board of Appeals
22. **Mark Johnston**
Age: 63 **Member:** Our Savior, East Brunswick, N.J.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. John, Bowdle, S.D./Good Shepherd, Deltona, Fla./Lord and Savior, Waunakee, Wis./Beautiful Savior, Spooner, Wis.; missionary to Malawi; Dakota-Montana District Evangelism Commission chairman; South Atlantic District Evangelism Commission chairman and Constitution Committee chairman; Western Wisconsin District secretary and Evangelism Commission chairman; circuit pastor
Current: Pastor at Our Savior, East Brunswick, N.J.; campus ministry pastor; North Atlantic District first vice president; military contact pastor; Support Committee chairman

23. **Howard Mohlke***
Age: 52 **Member:** Messiah, Nampa, Idaho
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Missionary in Zambia; pastor at St. Paul, Norfolk, Neb.; Board for World Missions member
Current: Pastor at Messiah, Nampa, Idaho; Board for World Missions chairman; campus ministry pastor; Joint Mission Council member and alternating chairman; Synodical Council member
26. **Paul Janke**
Age: 59 **Member:** St. Martin's, Watertown, S.D.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Beautiful Savior, Gray, Maine/Apostles, San Jose, Calif./St. Peter, Modesto, Calif.; Arizona-California District Board of Appeals member, Adult Discipleship Commission member, and president; Commission on Inter-Church Relations member; North Atlantic District Ministry of Christian Giving chairman; Synodical Council member; Conference of Presidents member; Translation Feasibility Committee member
Current: Pastor at St. Martin's, Watertown, S.D.; campus ministry pastor
27. **David Kolander**
Age: 58 **Member:** Christ the Lord, Brookfield, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Tutor at Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis.; pastor at St. Paul, Saginaw, Mich., and St. John, New Ulm, Minn.; teacher at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.; Michigan District Worship Commission member; Minnesota District second vice president; Southeastern Wisconsin District second vice president; Pension Commission member
Current: Pastor at Christ the Lord, Brookfield, Wis.; Southeastern Wisconsin District Board of Appeals member; Pension Commission vice chairman
28. **John Vieths***
Age: 50 **Member:** Grace, Norman, Okla.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Calvary, Dallas, Texas; Board of Appeals member; Commission on Inter-Church Relations member; South Central District Evangelism Commission member, Constitution Committee chairman, and second vice president; circuit pastor
Current: Pastor at Grace, Norman, Okla.; campus ministry pastor; South Central District first vice president
31. **David Knittel**
Age: 49 **Member:** Beautiful Savior, Grove City, Ohio
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Bethany, Saginaw, Mich., and St. John-St. James, Reedsville, Wis.; Michigan District Evangelism Commission member
Current: Teacher at Beautiful Savior, Grove City, Ohio; Michigan District Board of Appeals member; school vice principal

32. **Alan Schaffer**
Age: 53 **Member:** Christ, Oakley, Mich.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Gethsemane, Cibecue, Ariz.
Current: Teacher and principal at Christ, Oakley, Mich.
33. **Stephen Schultz**
Age: 60 **Member:** Faith, Antioch, Ill.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Emanuel, West St. Paul, Minn./St. Paul Lutheran, Plymouth, Neb./Zion, Chesaning Mich./St. John, Juneau, Wis.; Michigan District Ministry of Christian Giving member and chairman
Current: Teacher and principal at Faith, Antioch, Ill.
36. **Gregory Galler**
Age: 53 **Member:** Salem, Stillwater, Minn.
Occupation: District court judge, tenth judicial district, State of Minnesota
Past service: Congregation president, spiritual growth committee chairman, and long-range planning committee chairman; guest speaker/lecturer regarding "justice in the courts, here and hereafter;" St. Croix Lutheran High School board of delegates member
Current: Volunteer coach; football team volunteer (film and sidelines work); congregation Care Committee for Called Workers member, usher, altar assistant, and ad hoc/special tasks committee member; Friends of China volunteer
37. **Bruce Krug**
Age: **Member:** Good Shepherd, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Occupation: Retired U.S., National, and Canadian Manager, Flying J Transportation/Big West Oil; currently part-time crop adjuster for Iowa Mutual Insurance
Past service: Congregation evangelism committee member, financial secretary, treasurer, president, preschool chairman, and Sunday school teacher; Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School Federation representative
Current: Congregation board of elders member
38. **John Postelli**
Age: 55 **Member:** St. Paul, Stevensville, Mich.
Occupation: Attorney in private practice
Past service: Michigan District Board of Appeals member; congregation chairman, board of Christian education chairman, and board of outreach chairman; Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Board of Control member; trained in and practices dispute mediation
Current: Michigan District Board of Appeals chairman; WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship member
41. **Gary Pufahl**

- Age:** 38 **Member:** Christ, Big Bend, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. Paul, North Hollywood, Calif.; California Lutheran High School board of directors vice chairman; campus ministry pastor; Arizona-California District Youth and Family Ministry Commission member; Arizona-California Golden Gate Circuit Lutheran Women's Missionary Society spiritual growth advisor
Current: Pastor at Christ, Big Bend, Wis.; Southeastern Wisconsin District Adult Discipleship Commission coordinator
42. **Thomas Unke**
Age: 49 **Member:** St. Paul, Howards Grove, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Salem, Owosso, Mich./Beautiful Savior, West Des Moines, Iowa/Faith, Tacoma, Wash./Faith, Puyallup, Wash.; campus ministry pastor; Pacific Northwest District Ministry of Christian Giving member and first vice president; military contact pastor; Support Committee member
Current: Pastor at St. Paul, Howards Grove, Wis.; Ad Hoc Commission 2 member; circuit pastor
43. **Joel Vogel**
Age: 37 **Member:** St. Mark, Lincoln, Neb.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Crown of Life, Marietta, Ohio; Michigan District Adult Discipleship Commission; Campus ministry pastor; Lutheran Women's Missionary Society advisor
Current: Pastor at St. Mark, Lincoln, Neb.
46. **Philip Kieselhorst**
Age: 46 **Member:** Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, Colo.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Gethsemane, Oklahoma City, Okla.; WELS Military Services chaplain in Germany; Native American Administrative Committee member, secretary, and chairman; campus ministry pastor; circuit pastor; military contact pastor
Current: Pastor at Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, Colo.
47. **David Scharf***
Age: 37 **Member:** Immanuel, Greenville, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Current: Pastor at Immanuel, Greenville, Wis.; Commission on Congregational Counseling chairman; Northern Wisconsin District Evangelism Commission coordinator
48. **Jonathan Scharf**
Age: 40 **Member:** Abiding Grace, Covington, Ga.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Lay worker at Christian Life Resources; teacher at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.
Current: Pastor at Abiding Grace, Covington, Ga.; campus ministry pastor; South Atlantic District Evangelism Commission coordinator; circuit pastor; military contact pastor

51. **Joel Gaertner**
Age: 51 **Member:** Redeemer, Fond du Lac, Wis.
Occupation: Director of Jesus Cares Ministries, The Lutheran Home, Belle Plaine, Minn.
Past service: Pastor at Amazing Grace, Florence, Ky./St. Paul, Algoma, Wis./Faith, Fond du Lac, Wis.; campus ministry pastor; Northern Wisconsin District Youth and Family Ministry Commission member and treasurer and Nominating Committee chairman; WELS Nominating Committee member
Current: Director of Jesus Cares Ministries at The Lutheran Home, Belle Plaine, Minn.; Commission on Special Ministries member; Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Committee chairman
52. **Jonathan Kehren**
Age: 46 **Member:** Hope, Penryn, Calif.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Bethlehem, Manassas, Va., and Peace, Eagle River, Ark.; campus ministry pastor; circuit pastor; North Atlantic District Worship Commission member and Nominating Committee member and chairman
Current: Pastor at Hope, Penryn, Calif.; Arizona-California District Special Ministries Commission coordinator; military contact pastor
53. **David Rosenbaum**
Age: 62 **Member:** Redeemer, Merritt Island, Fla.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Peace, New York, N.Y., and Peace, Boulder, Colo.; South Atlantic District Nominating Committee member
Current: Pastor at Redeemer, Merritt Island, Fla.; campus ministry pastor; South Atlantic District Special Ministries Commission member and coordinator; military contact pastor
56. **Aaron Christie**
Age: 44 **Member:** Trinity, Waukesha, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Faith, Antioch, Ill.
Current: Pastor at Trinity, Waukesha, Wis.; Southeastern Wisconsin District Worship Commission member and coordinator; Commission on Worship member; Hymnal Project Committee member
57. **Paul Meier**
Age: 46 **Member:** Immanuel, Neenah, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Christ Redeemer, Trumbull, Conn.; North Atlantic District Worship Commission member and coordinator; North Atlantic District Nominating Committee member
Current: Pastor at Immanuel, Neenah, Wis.; campus ministry pastor; Northern Wisconsin District Worship Commission member

58. **Jon Zabell***
Age: 45 **Member:** St. Paul, Green Bay, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Tutor at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.; pastor at Grace, Spring Hill, Fla., and Hope, Hampton, Ga.; campus pastor; Northern Wisconsin District Worship Commission coordinator
Current: Pastor at St. Paul, Green Bay, Wis.; Commission on Worship member and chairman; Hymnal Project Committee member
61. **John Boggs**
Age: 44 **Member:** Redeemer, Fond du Lac, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Instructor at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., and Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.; pastor at Saving Grace, Mobile, Ala.; military contact pastor
Current: Director of Communications and Mission Advancement at Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Fond du Lac, Wis.; Commission on Youth and Family Ministry member
62. **Matthew Holtz**
Age: 40 **Member:** Shepherd of the Hills, Greeley, Colo.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Grace, Prairie du Chien, Wis.
Current: Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills, Greeley, Colo.; campus pastor; Nebraska District Youth and Family Ministry Commission coordinator; institutional pastor for prisons/jails
63. **Snowden Sims**
Age: 53 **Member:** St. Paul's, Columbus, Ohio
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Tutor at Northwestern Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.; instructor at Northwestern Preparatory School and Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.; pastor at Salem, Milwaukee, Wis., and Emmanuel, Tempe, Ariz.; Native American Administrative Committee member; campus ministry pastor; Arizona-California District Youth and Family Ministry Commission member and coordinator; Arizona-California District second vice president
Current: Pastor at St. Paul's, Columbus, Ohio; institutional pastor for aged; Michigan District Board of Appeals member; district conference officer; Commission on Youth and Family Ministry member
66. **Michael Enderle**
Age: 57 **Member:** Trinity, Clear Lake, S.D.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Divine Peace, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and Willow Lake, Willow Lake, S.D.; Dakota-Montana District Adult Discipleship Commission secretary and coordinator, Ministry of Christian Giving chairman, second vice president, Nominating Committee member, and stewardship secretary
Current: Pastor at Trinity, Clear Lake, S.D.; institutional pastor for aged; district conference officer; Dakota-Montana District first vice president

67. **Jonathan Kolander**
Age: 55 **Member:** Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Our Savior, Gaylord, Mich.; Southeastern Wisconsin District Ministry of Christian Giving chairman
Current: Pastor at Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls, Wis.; Martin Luther College Governing Board member; district conference officer; Southeastern Wisconsin District second vice president
68. **Michael Woldt***
Age: 60 **Member:** David's Star, Jackson, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Tutor at Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis.; pastor at Christ, Oakley, Mich.; teacher at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.; Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Governing Board member; circuit pastor; Committee on Mental Health Needs member; Commission on Youth and Family Ministry advisor; Institutional Ministries Committee member
Current: Pastor at David's Star, Jackson, Wis.; Martin Luther College Governing Board chairman; Board for Ministerial Education member
71. **John Brenner**
Age: 64 **Member:** Calvary, Thiensville, Wis.
Occupation: Professor, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Past service: Tutor at Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis.; pastor at Redeemer, Big Rapids, Mich.; teacher at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.
Current: Professor, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; Southeastern Wisconsin District Board of Appeals member; Commission on Inter-Church Relations member; WELS Historical Institute Board of Directors advisor; Military Chaplaincy Study Committee member
72. **John Hartwig**
Age: 62 **Member:** Calvary, Thiensville, Wis.
Occupation: Professor, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Past service: Missionary to Malawi and Thailand; Committee for India Missions chairman; Multi-Language Publications Committee secretary; *Mission Connection* Editorial Board member; Task Force on Telecommunication member; Tel-Tech Task Force 2 member
Current: Professor, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors chairman
73. **Thomas Kock**
Age: 49 **Member:** Calvary, Thiensville, Wis.
Occupation: Professor, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Past service: Pastor at Living Word, Gray Tenn.; South Atlantic District Adult Discipleship Commission coordinator; campus ministry pastor; circuit pastor; Spiritual Growth Project member

Current: Professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; Commission on Adult Discipleship member

76. **Paul Baker**

Age: 72

Member: St. Mark's, Citrus Heights, Calif.

Occupation: Previous owner of Paul Baker printing (51 years in printing field)

Past service: Congregation church council, stewardship chairman, board of education, congregation president, Care Committee for Called Workers member, adult Bible study leader, church expansion committee member

Current: Board of elders chairman

77. **Gary Frey**

Age: 65

Member: Gloria Dei, Memphis, Tenn.

Occupation: Retired, FedEx Express International Operations Manager

Past service: Chemistry and science teacher, Fox Valley Lutheran High School; congregation treasurer, church council member, board of elders member, chairman, youth ministry committee member; WELS Africa Administrative Committee member

Current: Bible class leader and volunteer on various committees and in various capacities

78. **Christopher Snyder**

Age: 50

Member: St. Matthew, Milwaukee, Wis.

Occupation: Battalion chief, City of Milwaukee Fire Department

Current: Congregation choir director, outreach board chairman, youth Bible class leader, and president; Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors member and secretary