

WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONVENTION 2017

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

*(*incumbent)*

1. **Luke Boehringer**

Age: 39 **Member:** Gethsemane Davenport, Iowa
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Salem, Owosso, Mich.; Teacher at Michigan Lutheran Seminary;
Michigan District Nominating Committee
Current: Pastor at Gethsemane, Davenport, Iowa; campus ministry pastor

2. **Joel Jenswold***

Age: 50 **Member:** Bethlehem, Hortonville, Wis..
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Shepherd of Peace, Powell, Ohio; Michigan District Mission Board
member; Michigan District Adult Discipleship committee member; campus ministry
pastor
Current: Pastor at Bethlehem, Hortonville, Wis.; Synodical Council member

3. **Philip Kieselhorst**

Age: **Member:** Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, Colo.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Gethsemane, Oklahoma City, Okla.; WELS Military Services; 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.;

4. **Jonathan Schroeder***

Age: 44 **Member:** Faith, Sharpsburg, Ga..
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: 2007 Ad Hoc Committee member; South Atlantic District second vice president;
South Atlantic District Nominating Committee member; Committee on
Infrastructure member; Translation Feasibility Committee member; Technology
Advisory Committee member
Current: Pastor at Faith, Sharpsburg, Ga.; South Atlantic District first vice president; South
Atlantic District Board of Appeals member; campus ministry pastor; Hymnal
Project Committee member; Institute for Worship and Outreach presenter; military
contact pastor; Synodical Council member

5. **Timothy Spaude**
Age: 49 **Member:** St. Jacobi, Greenfield, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: South Central District Evangelism Committee member; South Central District secretary
Current: Pastor at St Jacobi, Greenfield, Wis.; Luther Preparatory School Governing Board member;
8. **James Moeller***
Age: 49 **Member:** Trinity, Watertown, WI
Occupation: Principal and Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Abiding Word, Houston, Texas and St. Andrew, Chicago, Ill.; Western Wisconsin District Board of Appeals member; Western Wisconsin District Lutheran Schools Committee member and coordinator; Western Wisconsin District Early Childhood Committee coordinator
Current: Principal and teacher and Trinity-St. Luke, Watertown, Wis.; WELS Board of Appeals member
9. **Benjamin Priebe**
Age: 36 **Member:** Mount Olive, Appleton, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Trinity, Marshfield, Wis., Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis., Bethel, Sioux Falls, S.D., and New Hope Lutheran Academy, West Melbourne, Fla.; school principal
Current: Teacher at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, Wis.;
10. **Gregory Thiesfeldt**
Age: 63 **Member:** St. Paul, New Ulm, Minn.
Occupation: Principal and Teacher
Past service: Teacher at St. John, Two Rivers, Wis., First, Lake Geneva, Wis., Faith, Fond du Lac, Wis., and Evergreen Lutheran High School, Tacoma, Wash.; 2007 Ad Hoc Committee member;
Current: Principal and Teacher at St. Paul, New Ulm, Minn.;
13. **David Bivens**
Age: 40 **Member:** Christ the Lord, Sienna Plantation, Missouri City, Texas
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Layworker at Christian Life Resources, Missionary in Brazil, and Pastor at Christ the Lord, Houston, South Central District constitution committee member; circuit pastor; South Central District
Current: Pastor at Christ the Lord, Sienna Plantation, Missouri City, Texas; South Central District board of appeals member; Texas; Africa Administrative Committee chairman

14. **Aaron Christie**
Age: 46 **Member:** Trinity, Waukesha, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past Service: Southeastern Wisconsin district worship commission member;
Current: Pastor at Trinity, Waukesha, Wis.; Commission on Worship member; Hymnal Project committee member
15. **Paul Janke***
Age: 61 **Member:** St. Martin's, Watertown, S.D.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Beautiful Savior, Gray, Maine, Apostles, San Jose, Calif., and St. Peter, Modesto, Calif.; Arizona-California District president; Arizona-California District Board of Appeals member; Arizona-California Adult Discipleship Commission member; 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
19. **Glenn Bechler**
Age: **Member:** Bethany, Appleton, Wis.
Occupation: Retired
Former social worker in foster care programs in Wisconsin and Hawaii and Green Bay, Wis. public schools
Past service: National Association of Social Workers Group member; congregation leadership team secretary and mission and vision team chairman; assisted with a medical clinic in Thailand with Christians Forward
Current: Retired Peace Corps Volunteers of Wisconsin Madison group member; The Friends of Korea member; congregation board of elders chairman
20. **Arlin Bornschlegl**
Age: 47 **Member:** Christ the Lord, Brookfield, Wis.
Occupation: Financial consultant, Thrivent Financial
Past service: Teacher, Faith, Anchorage, Alaska; Teacher missionary to Russia; Staff minister of youth and evangelism, Rochester, Minn.; Congregation evangelism committee chairman, education committee chairman; stewardship committee chairman, Sunday school superintendent and preschool principal
Current:
21. **Stephen Strecker**
Age: 58 **Member:** Atonement, Plano, Texas
Occupation: Retired from IT enterprise technology management in the hospital and banking industries
Past service: Congregation stewardship chairman, properties committee member, parsonage sale and compensation restructuring committee member, grade school funding committee, and financial auditing committee
Current: Usher

24. **Joel Schulz**
Age: 46 **Member:** Divine Savior, Coral Springs, Fla.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Cross of Life, Mississauga, ON, Canada; North Atlantic District Mission Board member; North Atlantic District Nominating Committee member
Current: Pastor at Cross of Life, Mississauga, ON, Canada.; Canada Mission District Board member; North Atlantic District Evangelism Committee member
25. **Wayne Uhlhorn***
Age: 53 **Member:** Beautiful Saviour, Carlsbad, Calif.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Fount of Life, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Colorado District Mission Board member; North Atlantic District Adult Discipleship Committee member; North Atlantic District Lutheran Schools Committee chairman; circuit pastor; Lutheran Women's Missionary Society spiritual advisor
Current: Pastor at Beautiful Saviour, Carlsbad, Calif.; Board for Home Missions chairman and executive committee member; Joint Mission Council member; Synodical Council member; campus ministry pastor; military contact pastor
26. **Matthew Vogt**
Age: 45 **Member:** Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nev.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Arizona-California District Mission Board member; Arizona-California District Youth and Family Ministry Committee chairman and coordinator;
Current: Pastor at Water of Life, Las Vegas, Nev.; Arizona-California District Mission Board chairman
29. **John Bortulin**
Age: 39 **Member:** St. John, Mukwonago, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. Paul, Plymouth, Neb.; Nebraska District Worship Committee member; Nebraska District Nominating Committee member
Current: Pastor at St. John, Mukwonago, Wis.; Board for Ministerial Education member
30. **Joel Jenswold**
Age: 50 **Member:** Bethlehem, Hortonville, Wis..
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Shepherd of Peace, Powell, Ohio; Michigan District Mission Board member; Michigan District Adult Discipleship committee member; campus ministry pastor
Current: Pastor at Bethlehem, Hortonville, Wis.; Synodical Council member

31. **Duane Rodewald***
Age: 54 **Member:** Abiding Peace, Simpsonville, S.C.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. Paul, Tomah, Wis.; Teacher at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.; Ad Hoc Commission 2 member; Martin Luther College Governing Board member; circuit pastor
Current: Pastor at Abiding Peace, Simpsonville, S.C.; South Atlantic District second vice president; Synodical Council member; Board for Ministerial Education chairman; South Atlantic District Board of Appeals member; campus ministry pastor
34. **Adam Harvey**
Age: 34 **Member:** Garden Homes, Milwaukee, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Hope, Milwaukee, Wis.
Current: Teacher at Garden Homes, Milwaukee, Wis.
35. **David Wilson**
Age: 43 **Member:** Immanuel, Manitowoc, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Lord and Savior, Crystal Lake, Ill. and Peace, Livonia, Mich.; Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Governing Board member
Current: Teacher at Immanuel, Manitowoc, Wis.
36. **Gerald Zeamer**
Age: 57 **Member:** Morning Star, Jackson, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, Waco, Neb. and Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, Colo.
Current: Teacher at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, Wis.
39. **Paul Hahm**
Age: **Member:** Prince of Peace, Fairport, NY.
Occupation: Retired
Eastman Kodak Company for 34 years, project/group./technical leader, developing photo product, process and systems; EKTACOLOR paper product design engineer for 14 years; Special project technical leader/research scientist for 2 years;
Past service: North Atlantic District Seaway Circuit representative; North Atlantic District Constitution Committee member; Charter member of two WELS mission churches; congregation treasurer, financial secretary, elder, Bible class leader, and president
Current: North Atlantic District Mission Board member; WELS Historical Institute member
40. **Richard Krahn**
Age: **Member:** St. Matthew, Oconomowoc, WI
Past Service: Congregation board of education and secretary
Current: Silgan Containers (1992-202, retired); Oconomowoc Fire Department 1972 to present

41. **Brent Nemmers**
Age: 52 **Member:** Atonement, Plano, Texas
Occupation: Engineer
Past service: South Central District Evangelism Committee member; congregation president, evangelism chairman, school board member, and Sunday school teacher; Tel Tech II Task Force member; congregational assistant
Current: South Central District Committee on Constitutional Matters chairman
42. **Peter Sahlstrom**
Age: **Member:** Abiding Grace, Covington, Ga.
Occupation: Engineer
Georgia Tech Microelectronics Research Center for 3 years, IBM for 5 years, Damballa for 3 years, Mailchimp since 2016
Past service: Congregation evangelism committee chairman and choir member
Current: Congregation president; Atlanta Intown Mission core group and mission planning team member
43. **Kenneth Teske**
Age: **Member:** Shepherd of Peace, Powell, Ohio
Occupation: Plant manager , Vitale Poultry Co.; Prior to Vitale, personal banker for First Merit Bank, buyer for maintenance department for Packaging Corp. of American, and VP of the local paperworkers union.
Past service: Congregation stewardship chairman and day school ministries
Current: Congregation evangelism board chairman and choir member
44. **Dean Waldschmidt***
Age: 59 **Member:** Faith, Fond du Lac, Wis.
Occupation: Owner, Fond du Lac Wilbert Burial Vaults
Owner, Overnight livery service
Owner, Midwest Express Shuttle
Past service: Capital projects committee
Current: Board for Ministerial Education member; congregation board of elders member; Winnebago Lutheran Academy Mission Advancement Committee member
47. **Jonathan Scharf**
Age: 42 **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 Committee coordinator; South Atlantic District Mission Board member; circuit pastor; military contact pastor; Commission on Congregational Counseling member

48. **Eric Steinbrenner**
Age: 54 **Member:** St. Paul, Livonia, Mich.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Prince of Peace, Yanton, S.D. and St. Paul's, Menomonie, Wis.; circuit pastor; Michigan District Ministry of Christian Giving Committee member; Western Wisconsin District Nominating Committee member
Current: Pastor at St Paul, Livonia, Mich.; Michigan District Nominating Committee member
49. **Joel Heckendorf**
Age: 43 **Member:** Immanuel, Greenville, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Teacher at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High school, Pastor at St. Peter, Schofield, Wis.; Western Wisconsin District adult discipleship committee member; circuit pastor; Outreach to Muslims committee member
Current: Pastor Immanuel, Greenville, Wis.; Northern Wisconsin District second vice president; Multi-language publications committee member; Northern Wisconsin District evangelism committee member
52. **Joel Leyrer***
Age: 62 **Member:** St. John, Wauwatosa, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Sola Scriptura, Conyers, CA., Grace, Indianapolis, Ind., and St. John, Sleepy Eye, Minn.; Minnesota District Mission Board member; WELS Board for Parish Services chairman; circuit pastor; WELS Synodical Council pastor-at-large member; WELS Historical Institute Board of Directors member
Current: Pastor at St. John, Wauwatosa, Wis.; Southeastern Wisconsin District first vice president; Southeastern Wisconsin District second vice president; Southeastern Wisconsin District Board of Appeals member; Support Committee member
53. **Paul Naumann**
Age: 65 **Member:** Good Shepherd, Benton Harbor, Mich.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Teacher at Northwestern Lutheran Academy, Mobridge, S.D.; Pastor at St John, Hemlock, Mich. and St. John, Riga, Mich.; Constitution Committee secretary and chairman; Michigan District second vice president; Michigan District Nominating Committee member; Support Committee member
Current: Pastor at Good Shepherd, Benton Harbor, Mich.; Michigan District First Vice President
54. **David Rosenau**
Age: 47 **Member:** St. Mark, Leesburg, Fla.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service:
Current service: Pastor at St. Mark, Leesburg, Fla.; circuit pastor

57. **David Knittel**
Age: 52 **Member:** Beautiful Savior, Grove City, Ohio
Occupation: Principal and teacher
Past service: Teacher at Bethany, Saginaw, Mich., and St. John-St. James, Reedsville, Wis.; Michigan District Evangelism Committee member; school vice principal
Current: Teacher at Beautiful Savior, Grove City, Ohio; Michigan District Board of Appeals member; school principal
58. **James Moeller***
Age: 55 **Member:** Trinity, Watertown, Wis.
Occupation: Principal and teacher
Past service: Principal and teacher at St. Andrew, Chicago, Ill. and Abiding Word, Houston, Texas; Western Wisconsin District Board of Appeals member; Western Wisconsin District Board for Parish Schools member and coordinator
Current: Principal and teacher at Trinity-St. Luke's, Watertown, Wis.; Wisconsin Lutheran State Teachers Conference chairman; Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools Western Wisconsin District representative and secretary; Western Wisconsin District Board of Appeals member; Synodical Council teacher-at-large member
59. **David Voss**
Age: 63 **Member:** St. Paul, Appleton, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at East Fork Lutheran School, Whiteriver, Ariz.; Ministry of Christian Giving committee member
Current: Teacher at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, Wis.
62. **Mitchel Dietzel**
Age: **Member:** Abiding Grace, Covington, GA
Occupation: Retired IT manager (18 years at IBM and 15 years at Macy's)
Past Service: Congregation board of education chairman, church council member, and canvassing team
Current Congregation elder

63. **Kennith Gosch***
Age: 71 **Member:** Trinity, Aberdeen S.D.
Occupation: Lawyer
Past service: South Dakota State Bar Corporation, Banking and Business Law Committee member; South Dakota State Bar Civil Pattern Jury Instruction Committee member; Executive Council of the Real Property and Probate Section, South Dakota State Bar member and director; Real Property Uniform Probate Code and Guardianship Review Committee member; South Dakota Defense Lawyers Association director; Brown County Indigent Defense Committee chairman; WELS Board of Trustees member; Church Extension Fund Board of Directors member; Dakota-Montana District Mission Board member; Congregation board of elders and board of education member; Great Plains Lutheran High School Board of Directors member
Current: Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce member; Wartburg Project Board of Directors member; Synodical Council at large member; Board of Appeals member;
64. **Roger Price**
Age: **Member:** Mt Calvary, Menasha, Wis.
Occupation: Retired from Outagamie Co. Sheriff's Department
Past service: Has served on every committee and in every possible elected office of his congregation
Current: Congregation vice president and school board member; Assists with school maintenance
67. **Donn Dobberstein***
Age: 49 **Member:** Our Savior's, Port Orange, Fla.
Occupation: Pastor
Past Service: Pastor at Beautiful Savior, Topeka, Kansas; Nebraska District Mission Board member; Board for Parish Services member; Commission on Evangelism member
Current: Pastor at Our Savior's, Port Orange, Fla.; campus ministry pastor; Commission on Evangelism chairman
68. **Kent Holz**
Age: 46 **Member:** Beautiful Savior, Clarksville, Tenn.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Abiding Peace, Simpsonville, S.C. and Word of Life, Appleton, Wis.; campus ministry pastor
Current: Pastor at Beautiful Savior, Clarksville, Tenn. and Our Redeemer, Union City Tenn.; South Atlantic District Nominating Committee member; military contact pastor
69. **Joel Thomford**
Age: 57 **Member:** Zion, Chesaning, Mich.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor St. Mark, DePere, Wis. and Immanuel, Willmar, Minn.; Michigan District Evangelism Committee member
Current: Pastor at Zion, Chesaning, Mich.; Michigan District Evangelism Committee coordinator; circuit pastor

72. **Timothy Mueller**
Age: 58 **Member:** St. Mark, Watertown, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Grace, Waupun, Wis. and Immanuel, Medford, Wis.
Current: Pastor at The Watertown Recreation and Outreach Center for Youth, Watertown, Wis.
73. **James Henrickson**
Age: 53 **Member:** Calvary, Dallas, Texas
Occupation: Principal and teacher
Past service: Teacher at Zion, Torrance, Calif.; South Central District Lutheran Schools Committee member
Current: Teacher at Calvary, Dallas, Texas; South Central District Board of Appeals; South Central District Lutheran Schools Committee coordinator; Continuing Education for Called Workers Committee member
74. **James Sievert***
Age: 65 **Member:** Good Shepherd, West Bend, Wis.
Occupation: Principal and teacher
Past service: Teacher at St. Paul, Riverside, Calif. and Brillion, Wis.; Board for Parish Services member; Southeastern Wisconsin District Lutheran Schools Committee coordinator
Current: Teacher at Good Shepherd, West Bend, Wis.; Commission on Lutheran Schools chairman
77. **Daniel Habben**
Age: 46 **Member:** St. Peter, St. Albert, AB, Canada
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Teacher at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.; Pastor at St. John, Wetaskiwin, AB, Canada; Dakota-Montana District Mission Board secretary
Current: Pastor at St. Peter, St. Albert, AB, Canada; WELS Canada vice president; Dakota-Montana District Mission Board vice president
78. **Joel Schroeder***
Age: 68 **Member:** Mt. Olive, Overland Park, Kansas
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Rock of Ages, Madison, Tenn.; WELS Board of Trustees chairman; Commission on Inter-Church Relations member
Current: Pastor at Mt. Olive, Overland Park, Kansas; Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors vice chairman; circuit pastor; institutional ministries pastor
79. **Joel Gawrisch**
Age: 45 **Member:** New Life, Shoreview, Minn.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Teacher at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.; Pastor at Christ, North St. Paul and Hugo, Minn.
Current: Pastor at New Life, Shoreview, Minn.; Minnesota District Worship Committee member; Hymnal Project Committee member

82. **Luke Hartzell**
Age: 39 **Member:** Divine Savior, Doral, Fla.
Occupation: Principal and teacher
Past service: Teacher at Pilgrim, Minneapolis, Minn. and Cross of Glory, Peoria, Ariz.
Current: Teacher at Divine Savior, Doral, Fla.
83. **David Payne**
Age: 60 **Member:** Eternal Love, Appleton, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service:
Current: Teacher at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, Wis.;
84. **Matthew Groth**
Age: 39 **Member:** St. Paul, Saginaw, Mich.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Beautiful Savior, Milwaukee, Wis. and St. Philip, Milwaukee, Wis.
Current: Teacher at St. Paul, Saginaw, Mich.
87. **Dwight Luedtke**
Age: 66 **Member:** Our Savior, Roanoke, Vir.
Occupation: Business Owner and consultant, military facilities planning and facility data
Past service: Officer, United States Army; Military facilities planning consultant for various firms; congregation stewardship chairman, building committee chairman, and elder
Current: Church president; business owner
88. **Joel Raasch**
Age: 56 **Member:** Pilgrim, Menomonee Falls, Wis.
Occupation: Donor relations coordinator, WELS Ministry of Christian Giving
Past service: Teacher at Lincoln Heights, Des Moines, IA, Shepherd of the Hills, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and Manitowoc Lutheran High School, Manitowoc, Wis.; Christian Giving Counselor; WELS Foundation Secretary; has served in various congregation offices
Current: Donor relations coordinator, WELS Ministry of Christian Giving; congregation capital campaign manager

89. **A. John Wiley**
Age: **Member:** Bethel, Menasha, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher of English and history, 8th grade slower learners and discipline problems
Past service: Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce executive; Neenah and Menasha Chamber of Commerce executive; Perin Press owner (small community publisher); Shopper Publications manager; baseball card printing operation manager; church council member; Fox Valley Lutheran Fans of the Foxes and fresh Start Committee chairman
Current: Elipticon Wood Products Board of Directors member; Steadfast Networks Board of Directors member; Badger Innovative Technologies Board of Directors member; Rotary member
90. **Edward Wolf***
Age: **Member:** Peace, Hartford, Wis.
Occupation: Retired from E.H. Wolf & Sons, Inc.
Past service: Congregation chairman; Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School Board of Directors member and chairman; Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Services Board of Directors member; Luther Haven Board of Directors member; 45 years on the Slinger volunteer fire department
Current: Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors member