

**WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONVENTION 2019**

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

(= incumbent)*

- 1. Glen Hieb***
Age: 65 **Member:** Our Savior, Strongsville, Ohio
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. John, Dowagiac, Mich.; missionary to Japan; Michigan District Ministry of Christian Giving member
Current: Pastor at Our Savior, Strongsville, Ohio; campus ministry pastor; military contact pastor; circuit pastor; Board for World Missions member
- 2. Timothy Satorius**
Age: 56 **Member:** Grace, Falls Church, Va.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Missionary to Puerto Rico; pastor at St. John, St. John's, Antigua; teacher at Nebraska Lutheran High School, Waco, Neb.
Current: Pastor at Grace, Falls Church, Va.; circuit pastor; North Atlantic District Nominating Committee member
- 3. Nathan Wagenknecht**
Age: 47 **Member:** Faith, Anchorage, Alaska
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Missionary to Cuba and Puerto Rico; Latin American Traveling Theological Educators team member in Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Mexico; Multi-Language Publications
Current: Pastor at Faith, Anchorage, Alaska
- 6. Craig Breitreutz**
Age: 39 **Member:** Faith, Antioch, Ill.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at St. Stephen, Fallbrook, Calif. / California Lutheran High School, Wildomar, Calif. / Peridot-Our Savior's, Peridot, Ariz. / St. John, Baraboo, Wis.; Arizona-California District Nominating Committee member
Current: Teacher and principal at Faith, Antioch, Ill.
- 7. Martin Plocher**
Age: 45 **Member:** Bethany, Manitowoc, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Our Savior, Bylas, Ariz. / Peridot-Our Savior's, Peridot, Ariz. / King of Kings, Maitland, Fla.; school principal; Arizona-California District Nominating Committee member
Current: Teacher at Manitowoc Lutheran High School, Manitowoc, Wis.

8. **Chris Pluger**
Age: 45 **Member:** St. Martin's, Watertown, S.D.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Lay worker, WELS Mass Communications for Latin America; teacher at Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, Wis.; worked on an independent project with the Bible Society of Zambia and lived in Zambia from 2011–16
Current: Teacher at Great Plains Lutheran High School, Watertown, S.D.; Dakota-Montana District Board of Appeals member
11. **Keith Dickson**
Age: 65 **Member:** Resurrection, Chesapeake, Va.
Occupation: Professor of military studies
Past service: Church council president; building committee chairman; extensive travel in Russia, Ukraine, Europe, and Gabon; military service in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Horn of Africa
Current: Catechism teacher; speaks French and Russian
12. **Paul Sauer**
Age: 72 **Member:** Immanuel, Greenville, Wis.
Occupation: Semi-retired consultant
Past service: Congregation board of education member, vice president, and church council member; synod and district convention delegate
Current: Church council member
13. **Mark Schulz***
Age: 66 **Member:** St. Matthew, Janesville, Wis.
Occupation: Attorney
Past service: Undergraduate study abroad in Italy and Russian major; travel experience in developed and underdeveloped countries; numerous congregation offices including chairman; Asia-Pacific Rim Administrative Committee secretary and chairman; Thailand-Laos Oversight Committee member; WELS Kingdom Workers board of directors member and chairman; Milton Youth Soccer Association president; WELS Foundation member, secretary, and vice chairman
Current: Board for World Missions member; board member for State Bar of Wisconsin Real Property, Probate and Trust Section
16. **Shawn Herkstroeter**
Age: 44 **Member:** Faith, Fond du Lac, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at St. Paul, Menomonie, Wis., and Abiding Word, Houston, Texas
Current: Teacher and principal at Faith, Fond du Lac, Wis.; Commission on Lutheran Schools member; Northern Wisconsin District Commission on Lutheran Schools member
17. **Scott Loberger**
Age: 46 **Member:** First German, Manitowoc, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at St. John, Peshtigo, Wis. / Mt. Olive, Delano, Minn. / Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, Ariz. / Divine Savior Lutheran Academy, Doral, Fla.; school principal
Current: Teacher and vice principal at Manitowoc Lutheran High School, Manitowoc, Wis.

18. **Daniel Markgraf**
Age: 55 **Member:** Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Zion, Valentine, Neb., and St. Peter, Kekoskee, Wis.
Current: Teacher and principal at Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio; Michigan District Board of Appeals member; Michigan District Commission on Lutheran Schools coordinator
21. **Brent Nemmers**
Age: 55 **Member:** Atonement, Plano, Texas
Occupation: Engineer
Past service: Congregation president, evangelism committee chairman; graduate of Congregational Assistant Program; Tel Tech II Task Force member; DFW Chapter WELS Kingdom Workers president; South Central District Commission on Evangelism member; South Central District Committee on Constitutional Matters member
Current: South Central District Committee on Constitutional Matters chairman
22. **Brian Scheele***
Age: 58 **Member:** St. Paul's, Plymouth, Neb.
Occupation: Owner of an electrical contracting company (40 years); owner of central pivot irrigation company (15 years)
Past service: Congregation elder, chairman, and trustee; Luther Preparatory School Mission Advancement Committee member
Current: Board of education chairman; WELS Board for Ministerial Education member
23. **David Schroeder**
Age: 52 **Member:** St. Paul's, Ixonia, Wis.
Occupation: Sales
Past service: Board member at Morning Star, Jackson, Wis.
26. **Curt Backhaus**
Age: 55 **Member:** St. Paul, Tomah, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at King of Kings, Suffolk, Va., and Emmanuel, Las Cruces, N.M.; teacher at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.; military contact pastor; Arizona-California District Nominating Committee member; Western Wisconsin District Nominating Committee member
Current: Pastor at St. Paul, Tomah, Wis.; campus ministry pastor
27. **Gregory Gibbons***
Age: 66 **Member:** Lola Park, Redford, Mich.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Cross of Glory, Baton Rouge, La. / Good Shepherd, West Bend, Wis. / Mt. Zion, Kenosha, Wis.; school principal; Southeastern Wisconsin District Commission on Evangelism member
Current: Pastor at Lola Park, Redford, Mich.; campus ministry pastor; Board for Ministerial Education member; Michigan Lutheran Seminary Governing Board chairman

- 28. Harmon Lewis**
Age: 44 **Member:** Messiah, Alpharetta, Ga.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Saving Grace, Mobile, Ala.; teacher at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.; circuit pastor; Christian Aid and Relief Committee chairman
Current: Pastor at Messiah, Alpharetta, Ga.; circuit pastor; campus ministry pastor; military contact pastor
- 31. John Bortulin**
Age: 41 **Member:** St. John, Mukwonago, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. Paul, Plymouth, Neb.; Nebraska District Nominating Committee member; Nebraska District Commission on Worship member
Current: Pastor at St. John, Mukwonago, Wis.; Joint Mission Council member; Board for Ministerial Education member; Hymnal Project Committee member
- 32. Timothy Spaude**
Age: 51 **Member:** St. Jacobi, Greenfield, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Cross of Christ, Universal City, Texas; teacher at Luther High School, Onalaska, Wis.; Luther Preparatory School Governing Board vice chairman and member; South Central District secretary; South Central District Commission on Evangelism member
Current: Pastor at St. Jacobi, Greenfield, Wis.
- 33. Aaron Steinbrenner**
Age: 49 **Member:** Peace, Hartford, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Redeemer, Edna, Texas
Current: Pastor at Peace, Hartford, Wis.; circuit pastor; Southeastern Wisconsin District Commission on Discipleship coordinator
- 36. Kent Holz**
Age: 48 **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/Our Redeemer, Union City, Tenn.; circuit pastor; military contact pastor; South Atlantic District Nominating Committee member
- 37. John Koelpin**
Age: 53 **Member:** Calvary, Dallas, Texas
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Circuit pastor; Translation Feasibility Committee member; South Central District Commission on Worship coordinator
Current: Pastor at Calvary, Dallas, Texas; South Central District Commission on Discipleship coordinator; military contact pastor, Hymnal Project Committee member

- 38. David Scharf***
Age: 41 **Member:** St. Paul, New Ulm, Minn.
Occupation: Pastor and professor
Past service: Pastor at Immanuel, Greenville, Wis.; Commission on Congregational Counseling member; Northern Wisconsin District Commission on Evangelism coordinator
Current: Professor at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.; Commission on Congregational Counseling chairman; Institute for Worship and Outreach member
- 41. Aaron Christie**
Age: 48 **Member:** Trinity, Waukesha, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Faith, Antioch, Ill.; Southeastern Wisconsin District Commission on Worship coordinator
Current: Pastor at Trinity, Waukesha, Wis.; Commission on Worship member; Hymnal Project Committee member
- 42. Jonathan Micheel**
Age: 46 **Member:** Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, Utah
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. Peter, Modesto, Calif.; Nebraska District Commission on Worship coordinator; Arizona-California District Nominating Committee member; circuit pastor
Current: Pastor at Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, Utah; Hymnal Project Committee member; campus ministry pastor
- 43. Jon Zabell***
Age: 50 **Member:** St. Paul, Green Bay, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Gethsemane, Omaha, Neb.; Nebraska District Commission on Worship coordinator
Current: Pastor at St. Paul, Green Bay, Wis.; Commission on Worship chairman; Northern Wisconsin District Commission on Worship advisor; Hymnal Project Committee member
- 46. Edward Frey**
Age: 50 **Member:** Messiah, Nampa, Idaho
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Missionary to Malawi; pastor at Immanuel, Findlay, Ohio / Trinity, Abita Springs, La. / St. Paul, Cudahy, Wis. / Zion, Kingston, Wis. / St. John, Kingston, Wis.; Northern Wisconsin District Commission on Special Ministries member and coordinator; South Atlantic District Commission on Youth and Family Ministry member; campus ministry pastor
Current: Pastor at Messiah, Nampa, Idaho; Pacific Northwest District Commission on Special Ministries member and coordinator

47. **Joel Gaertner***
Age: 54 **Member:** St. Paul, Cudahy, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Amazing Grace, Florence, Ky. / St. Paul, Algoma Wis. / Faith, Fond du Lac, Wis.; Northern Wisconsin District Nominating Committee member and chairman; Northern Wisconsin District Commission on Youth and Family Ministry member; campus ministry pastor
Current: Vice president of ministry and national director of Jesus Cares Ministries, The Lutheran Home Association, Belle Plaine, Minn.; Commission on Special Ministries chairman; Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Committee member
48. **Richard Waldschmidt**
Age: 56 **Member:** St. Jacobi, Greenfield, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. Paul, Lake Mills, Wis. / Grace, St. Joseph, Mich. / St. Paul, Tomah, Wis.; Michigan District Ministry of Christian Giving member
Current: Pastor at St. Jacobi, Greenfield, Wis.; Southeastern Wisconsin District Commission on Special Ministries coordinator; Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries chairman
51. **John Boggs***
Age: 48 **Member:** Divine Savior, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Teacher at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis. / Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich. / Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Fond du Lac, Wis.; pastor at Saving Grace, Mobile, Ala.; Commission on Youth and Family Ministry member and chairman; campus ministry pastor; military contact pastor
Current: Pastor at Divine Savior, West Palm Beach, Fla.; circuit pastor; Commission on Discipleship chairman; campus ministry pastor
52. **Alexander Groth**
Age: 34 **Member:** Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Michigan District Commission on Youth and Family Ministry coordinator
Current: Pastor at Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio; Commission on Discipleship member; campus ministry pastor
53. **Joel Heckendorf**
Age: 45 **Member:** Light of the Valleys, Reno, Nev.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at St. Peter, Schofield, Wis., and Immanuel, Greenville, Wis.; teacher at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School, Jackson, Wis.; Northern Wisconsin District second vice president; Northern Wisconsin District Commission on Evangelism chairman; circuit pastor; Western Wisconsin District Commission on Adult Discipleship member; Outreach to Muslims Committee chairman
Current: Pastor at Light of the Valleys, Reno, Nev.; campus ministry pastor; Multi-Language Publications Committee chairman

56. **Nathaniel Beibert**
Age: 36 **Member:** Risen Savior, Austin, Texas
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Grace, Wausau, Wis., and St. Paul-Naugart, Athens, Wis.; teacher at Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, Waco, Neb.; campus ministry pastor
Current: Pastor at Risen Savior, Austin, Texas; campus ministry pastor
57. **James Janke**
Age: 60 **Member:** St. Matthew , Janesville, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Nebraska Ministry of Christian Giving member; Dakota-Montana Commission on Lutheran Schools member; Dakota-Montana Appeals board member
Current service: Pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran, Janesville, Wis.
58. **Bruce Mueller**
Age: 57 **Member:** First Lutheran, Gary S.D.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Dakota-Montana District Board for Parish Services chairman; Dakota-Montana District Committee on Constitutional Matters chairman
Current service: Pastor at First Lutheran, Gary, S.D./Trinity, Henricks, Minn.; campus ministry pastor; circuit pastor
59. **Jared Oldenburg**
Age: 43 **Member:** Eternal Rock, Castle Rock, Colo.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Light of Life, Covington, Wash.; Pacific Northwest District Commission on Evangelism coordinator
Current: Pastor at Eternal Rock, Castle Rock, Colo.
60. **Randall Ott**
Age: 55 **Member:** Zion, Greenleaf, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Minnesota District Worship coordinator; Ministry to the Aging Committee chairman; Commission on Special Ministries member; circuit pastor
Current service: Pastor at Zion, Greenleaf, Wis.
61. **Daniel Schroeder**
Age: 50 **Member:** St. Peter, Modesto, Calif.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Morning Star, Jackson, Wis., and Risen Savior, Chula Vista, Calif.; editor at Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wis.; Commission on Adult Discipleship advisor; Arizona-California District Board of Appeals member; Arizona-California District Commission on Adult Discipleship member and coordinator; military contact pastor
Current: Pastor at St. Peter, Modesto, Calif.; campus ministry pastor

62. **Luke Werre***
Age: 52 **Member:** Peace, Sun Prairie, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Grace of God, Dix Hills, N.Y.; circuit pastor; North Atlantic District Mission Board member
Current: Pastor at Peace, Sun Prairie, Wis.; Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors member; Western Wisconsin District Board of Appeals member
63. **Aaron West**
Age: 37 **Member:** St. Matthew, Spokane, Wash.
Occupation: Pastor
Past Service: Professor at Asia Lutheran Seminary
Current Pastor at St. Matthew, Spokane, Wash.; campus ministry pastor
66. **Brian Hennig**
Age: 51 **Member:** St. John, New Ulm, Minn.
Occupation: Pastor and professor
Past service: Pastor at King of Kings, Garden Grove, Calif., and Emanuel, New London, Wis.; teacher at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.
Current: Professor at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.
67. **Jonathan Schaefer**
Age: 39 **Member:** St. John, New Ulm, Minn.
Occupation: Teacher and professor
Past Service: Teacher at Siloah, Milwaukee, Wis.; school principal and vice principal
Current: Professor at Martin Luther College
68. **Jeffrey Schone**
Age: 60 **Member:** St. Paul, New Ulm, Minn.
Occupation: Pastor and professor
Past Service: Pastor at St. Paul, Winneconne, Wis., and St. Paul, Arlington, Minn.; Committee on Mental Health Needs member; Minnesota District Board of Appeals member and chairman; Ministry to the Aging Committee member
Current: Professor at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.
71. **Ronald Jorgenson**
Age: 64 **Member:** Divine Grace, Lake Orion, Mich.
Occupation: Retired General Motors financial executive
Past service: Congregation finance board, Sunday school teacher, adult Bible class teacher, church council president, Sunday school superintendent, church council vice president, financial secretary, youth group leader, treasurer, planning committee chairman, building committee chairman, and stewardship committee chairman; founding member of mission congregation
Current: Member of various boards

72. **Jeremy Korell**
Age: 47 **Member:** Gethsemane, Omaha, Neb.
Occupation: Senior virtualization systems engineer, TD Ameritrade
Past service: Congregation church council member, board of discipleship chairman, and board of elders member
Current: Nebraska District Technology Committee member; Nebraska Lutheran High School Association congregation delegate; board of discipleship member; occasional worship leader and catechism class teacher when pastors are unavailable; church and school technology support volunteer; youth group chaperone and advocate
73. **Dwight Luedtke***
Age: 68 **Member:** Our Savior, Roanoke, Va.
Occupation: Military facility planning consultant
Past service: Congregation president, stewardship chairman, and elder; convention delegate
Current: Congregation president and elder
74. **Brian Schellpeper**
Age: **Member:** Mt. Olive, Overland Park, Kan.
Occupation: Retired director and vice president, MetLife
77. **Kenneth Cherney Jr.***
Age: 57 **Member:** Risen Savior, Milwaukee, Wis.
Occupation: Pastor and professor
Past service: Missionary to Brazil; pastor at Living Hope, Mandeville, La., and St. John, St John's, Antigua; teacher at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.; Translation Evaluation Committee member; Commission on Adult Discipleship advisor; Commission on Inter-Church Relations member
Current: Professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary; Board of Appeals chairman; Translation Liaison Committee member
78. **Jonathan Kolander**
Age: 54 **Member:** St. Mark, Citrus Heights, Calif.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Hope, Indian River/Our Savior, Gaylord, Mich., and Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls and Germantown, Wis.; Martin Luther College Governing Board member; Ministry of Christian Giving chairman; Ministry of Christian Giving Review Committee member
Current: Pastor at St. Mark, Citrus Heights, Calif.; WELS Foundation director; campus ministry pastor
79. **Jonathan Voss**
Age: 61 **Member:** St. Paul, Remus, Mich.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Abiding Shepherd, Sherman, Texas / Pompano Lutheran, Coral Springs, Fla. / Zion, Mount Pleasant, Mich.; South Atlantic District Board for Parish Services member; Michigan District Adult Discipleship coordinator
Current: Pastor at St. Paul, Remus, Mich.; Michigan District Constitution Committee member

82. **Thomas Jeske***
Age: 64 **Member:** Living Hope, Omaha, Neb.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Pastor at Abiding Word, Highlands Ranch, Colo.; teacher at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.; Commission on Inter-Church Relations member
Current: Pastor at Living Hope, Omaha, Neb.; Nebraska District Board of Appeals member; Nebraska District Nominating Committee member;
83. **Daniel Lindner**
Age: 42 **Member:** St. John, Minneapolis, Minn.
Occupation: Pastor
Past service: Teacher at Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School, Waco, Neb.
Current: Pastor at St. John and True North WELS Campus Ministry, Minneapolis, Minn.; campus ministry pastor; Minnesota District Board of Appeals chairman; Campus Ministry Committee member
84. **David Rosenau**
Age: 48 **Member:** St. Mark, Leesburg, Fla.
Occupation: Pastor
Current: Pastor at St. Mark, Leesburg, Fla.; circuit pastor; campus ministry pastor; South Atlantic District Board of Appeals member
87. **Nathan Kieselhorst***
Age: 52 **Member:** St. Paul, Ixonia, Wis.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at St. John, Watertown, Wis.; school principal
Current: Teacher at Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.; Board of Appeals member
88. **Erik Landwehr**
Age: 46 **Member:** Divine Savior, Doral, Fla.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Lay worker at East Fork Lutheran High School, Whiteriver, Ariz.; staff minister at Trinity, Castries St. Lucia; South Atlantic District Nominating Committee member
Current: Teacher at Divine Savior Lutheran Academy, Doral, Fla.; South Atlantic District Mission Board member
89. **Paul Liefer**
Age: 38 **Member:** St. Paul, Livonia, Mich.
Occupation: Teacher
Past service: Teacher at Hope, Penryn, Calif., and Faith, Tacoma, Wash.; Pacific Northwest District Board of Appeals member
Current: Teacher at St. Paul, Livonia, Mich.; school principal
92. **Bill Muhr**
Age: 64 **Member:** Resurrection, Chesapeake, Va.
Occupation: Assistant United States attorney
Past service: Congregation president
Current: Volunteer as needed

93. **Fred Pfothenhauer**
Age: 71 **Member:** Salem, Greenfield, Minn.
Occupation: Semi-retired credit and appraisal review for AgriBank farm credit system
Past service: Congregation finance board, elder, chairman, and vice chairman; West Lutheran High School Board of Regents member
Current: Congregation vice chairman and board of elders; Minnesota District Board of Appeals member
94. **Mark Werre**
Age: 58 **Member:** English Lutheran, Viroqua, Wis.
Occupation: Director of human resources
Past service: Congregation church council member, president, and treasurer
Current: Congregation elder on church council
95. **Shawn Wietbrock**
Age: 48 **Member:** Faith, Antioch, Ill.
Occupation: Lawyer
Past service: Congregation church council member, board of discipleship chairman, youth ministry elder, secretary, and president
Current: Congregation deacon of stewardship
96. **Paul Wright**
Age: 59 **Member:** Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio
Occupation: Fire chief
Past service: Congregation chairman
Current: Congregation board of elders chairman