

May 16, 2026 Special Online Meeting Elections - Nominee Packet

We will be electing:

A Synod Vice President
A Synod Secretary and
A Synod Council Youth Member

[Find position descriptions here](#)

Short bios of nominees (alphabetical within roles) are below.
We give thanks for their willingness to allow their names to go forward!

SYNOD COUNCIL YOUTH MEMBER NOMINEES

Sierra Ferrell Member at Fir-Conway Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon

Activities or positions the nominee has held in their congregation:

Youth Leader

Activities or positions the nominee has held in the synod, the churchwide level, and/or in the wider community:

Youth leader for VBS for three years

Gifts and skills this nominee would contribute to the position

Sierra is 16 and wants to be a military chaplain after she graduates. She leads her wrestling and softball team prayers before each game/match. She leads the prayers at our Sea Cadet events as well.

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Elizabeth Tanis Member at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, Seattle

Activities or positions the nominee has held in their congregation:

Church Council Youth Representative, Youth Choir, Youth Group, Usher

Activities or positions the nominee has held in the synod, the churchwide level, and/or in the wider community:

Attended Leadership Lab (ELCA church leadership camp/workshop), attended 2024 National Youth Gathering, attended Lutherwood and Holden Village for 10+ years, Teen Eclipse Guild: part of student founded club that fundraises and spreads awareness for cancer research

Gifts and skills this nominee would contribute to the position

I am passionate about the church, and I want to see more people, particularly young people, getting involved with the church community as a means to grow in their faith and help the wider community. I am a person who is very empowered to lead others and uplift the ideas of those around me. Being honest, considerate, and doing things well are important to me. I am good at bridging intergenerational and interfaith gaps between people. In order to help people who are young or lost in their faith to find a place amidst the diversity of the Christian expression, it's important to me to provide the foundation of the Lutheran faith so that the church can be more welcoming.

Find VP Nominees on next page

SYNOD VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEES:

Brent Hicks Member at Northlake Lutheran Church, Kenmore

Activities or positions the nominee has held in their congregation:

Council member; Chair of Human Resources Committee, Member of Communications and Property Committees; Choir member; sometime Sunday school teacher

Activities or positions the nominee has held in the synod, the churchwide level, and/or in the wider community:

Synod Assembly Voting Member

Gifts and skills this nominee would contribute to the position

Principally, I have time; I am retired from working life. In my career, I managed a company division with up to 100 employees, which required strong organizational and time management skills. I manage people from a position of empathy, allowing me to create teams of complementary skills and abilities for specific tasks, both ongoing committee-like needs and one-off projects. Having worked for and with Native American tribes, I learned to practice listening and having patience in speaking and encouraged the same from my employees. One of my regular duties was technical editing of our (near) final products, thus clarity in writing is also a strength.

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Cindy Shultz Member at Emmaus Table@7400 Woodlawn, Seattle

Activities or positions the nominee has held in their congregation:

Leadership Team, Kitchen Coordinator, Fundraising Team

Activities or positions the nominee has held in the synod, the churchwide level, and/or in the wider community:

NWWA Synod Council Member, Member of Synod Council Executive Committee, Equity Listening Team Member, LiVE Project Board Member

Gifts and skills this nominee would contribute to the position

Clear thinking, articulate, responsible, reliable, hardworking, get stuff done, good decision making, committed to following the way of Jesus, strong Lutheran background, familiar with Lutheran faith and teachings, compassionate, caring, community builder.

Find Secretary Nominee on next page

SYNOD SECRETARY NOMINEE:

Rev. Netsie Griffith Member at Faith Lutheran Church in Bellingham

Activities or positions the nominee has held in their congregation:

- 1) Facilitator for our congregation's "One Parish One Prisoner Team"
- 2) Occasional leader/presenter for adult education opportunities
- 3) Cantor and Choir Member

Activities or positions the nominee has held in the synod, the churchwide level, and/or in the wider community:

- 1) Completing first term as Synod Council Secretary
- 2) Currently serving as chair of the synod's Policy Review Committee
- 3) Served as Assistant to the Director for Peace Education in the former Division for Church in Society of the ELCA
- 4) Served as chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee when in the Oregon Synod

Gifts and skills this nominee would contribute to the position

Pr. Netsie Griffith brings a wide variety of experience in the church having served on multiple lay rosters and now on the ELCA roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Her time serving as staff in the ELCA Churchwide Office broadened her understanding of the church. Pr. Griffith has also served in significant volunteer leadership positions in multiple synods of the ELCA. Having served a first term as synod secretary, she has learned much in the past four years about this specific role. It has been a privilege to serve in this position. If elected to a second term, she will continue to value the opportunity to share her gifts and work alongside and in collaboration with other synod leaders and staff.