



# Nativity Lutheran Church

## COUNCIL 2025

[nativitychurch.org](http://nativitychurch.org)

### What is Nativity Council?

Nativity Council is the governing board for Nativity Lutheran Church. The Council is made up of the officers of the congregation, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, Senior Pastor and 4-6 members of Nativity identified as “members at large.” Terms of service are two-year terms, with council members serving up to three terms (6 years). The Council focuses on vision for the future, defining budget to accomplish that vision, and setting policy as needed to govern the vision. Nativity Council does not manage the day-to-day ministry of Nativity. Nativity staff, with the leadership of the Senior Pastor, develop, implement and give oversight to the day-to-day ministries. Nativity Council has identified priorities and initiatives for 2025. Council meets 11 times a year, and meetings last approximately 90 minutes. Council minutes are available in hard copy at the Welcome Desk and online at [nativitychurch.org](http://nativitychurch.org).

### Elections for Church Officers and Council December 7 & 8, After All Worship Services

The Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers and Council and to approve the 2025 Budget will convene December 7-8, after all worship hours and will be livestreamed on December 7. The proposed budget and council officer information brochures are available in the Commons and on our website at [nativitychurch.org/news](http://nativitychurch.org/news).

### Elections

Church Officers and Council are volunteer positions. This is why you will only see one name suggested for each position to be filled. The names are presented to the congregation as an approving election. This means that the congregation has a process whereby the community can dialog about suggested names and upon a rare occasion suggest another if a serious concern is raised.

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### LEAVING THE COUNCIL - With Gratitude for Their Service

With gratitude for Jodi DeFeyter and Josie Gustafson, who served as Members At Large.

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## **Erik Hegg, President - Nominated for 1-year term**

I have served on the Nativity Council since 2020. My wife, Kirsten, and our two daughters, Signe and Lyla (ages 8 and 6), live in Arden Hills. I work at a community bank in Coon Rapids called Border Bank. We were drawn to Nativity by the sense of inclusiveness that permeates the church as well as the wonderful music program.



## **Keith Setterholm, Vice President - Nominated for 1-year term**

Nativity has been my community for over 40 years, through my working years and now into my retirement. I married Tori here in 1982, and our children Noah and Abby were baptized and confirmed here. Twenty-four years ago, I served on the Nativity Council, including a year as President during Pastor Hoffman's final year. I've seen many changes and expect to see many more! As Nativity continues to renew itself following the pandemic years, we know that the world has changed, and Nativity will as well. I'm eager, as well as honored, to be invited to help our church community address these new challenges and to find new ways to be a light to all we encounter.



## **Leigh Erickson, Treasurer – Nominated for 1-year term**

My wife, Beth, our two boys, Henrik and Mats, and I joined as Nativity members in 2015. I grew up in Andover, Minnesota, and graduated from St. Cloud State. Beth and I have lived in New Brighton since 2005 and started attending Nativity's 'Cradle' services, which we affectionately called 'basement church'. I've always appreciated the great music and positive, action-oriented messages that Nativity provides each week across all of the service times. Nativity has also given our boys the opportunity to be engaged in confirmation, faith formation, summer service trips, and Luther Park camps. As a people leader at work for more than 20 years, I look forward to joining this team to help define the vision that continues the passion for 'Love God, Love Neighbor' at Nativity!



## **Donna Steinwand, Secretary - Nominated for 1-year term**

My husband, Jim, and I were married here in 1995 and love this community. I learned just how important this community is as we experienced Jim's decline in health and hospice at home as he separated from life. Nativity friends surrounded us during the most difficult time of our lives, and cared for us more than words can describe. Nativity is a special community, and I'm overwhelmed by the caring generosity and welcoming nature of this congregation. In so many other ways, Nativity cares for those on the margins of society. Isn't that what God asks of us? And isn't that how we strive to live in God's grace? I've been on the Nativity Council before in several capacities and am looking forward to serving on Council again. Let's explore together where God is leading us!

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## **Heidi Still, Member at Large - Nominated for 2-year term (new)**

I was born and raised in North Minneapolis and for the past 12 years have lived in NE Minneapolis with my husband, Guy, and our nine-year-old son, Oliver. I graduated from Bethel University and have worked in education, real estate, and as a stay-at-home mom. We have been attending Nativity for almost two years, recently becoming members this past spring. Our family had previously visited a number of churches in the area, and Nativity stood out to me in a number of ways: warmth, inclusivity, intergenerational congregation, solid children's programming, and many opportunities to serve, give, and be involved. This church feels like a place that is thriving! I am excited to serve on the Council, where I can both learn more about the direction Nativity is headed and collaboratively contribute to that process as well.



## **Jodi Hanson, Member at Large - Nominated for 2-year term (new)**

My late husband, Kelly, son Sebastian (13), and I joined Nativity in 2015, shortly after moving to St. Anthony. We were immediately impressed by Nativity's inclusiveness and fabulous music program. Nativity has been a place of comfort and community for Sebastian and me after losing Kelly. Sebastian was baptized here and attended NCFC. I serve as a confirmation small group leader. I am self-employed as an executive coach and bring to the Council more than 20 years of human resources experience. I'm grateful for the opportunity to influence Nativity's trajectory as a community of faith and to help us live the spirit of Love God, Love Neighbor.



## **Nate Kerl, Member at Large - Nominated for 2-year term (new)**

In 2019, my wife, Ruth, and I were searching for a new church home that better fit what we thought fit the teachings of Jesus—one that was inclusive, walked the steps of social justice, displayed the love of God, and reached out into the surrounding community. We found this congregation just down the block from us in Nativity, and our three kids and the two of us have embraced it ever since. You'll find us in the music groups and active participants in youth and family activities. I serve as an usher and a member of the Racial Equity and Justice team (REJM). I also look for ways to use my gifts of service where needed, whether it be a clean-up crew on Wednesday nights or volunteer needs throughout the year. Professionally, I've worked for over 20 years in user experience design, currently at Medtronic, bridging the gap between customers and businesses via delightful digital experiences. I also sing in a local community choir, love to garden, and am involved in Cub Scouts and our local parent association. I believe that my gifts and talents would be useful and fitting for the Nativity Council at a time when we need to look to the future of our church and how we can reach and serve our surrounding community.

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## **Kim Borton, Member at Large - Nominated for 2-year term**

My husband, Michael, ten-year-old Connor, and I joined Nativity not too long after becoming “Villagers.” From our very first visit, it was evident that God’s ministry was clearly occurring within and beyond the church’s walls, and we wanted to be a part. Our son attended NCFC and is involved in Faith Formation. As a family, we’re proud to be a part of an active faith community rooted in furthering justice and equity. I’m honored by the opportunity to serve the Nativity congregation on the Council.



## **Julie Chattopadhyay, Member At Large - Nominated for 2-year term**

When I met my husband over 20 years ago, I was looking for a new church, and he said I should try the place he went. Well, I did, and I loved it, and since then we have gotten married here, met friends here, mourned losses here, and raised our three children with the help of this village. I have been blessed to represent the congregation on Council these last two years, and I look forward to continuing to do so!



## **Karen Volker, Member at Large - Nominated for 2-year term**

I live in Vadnais Heights with my husband, Heinz, and we both recently retired from rewarding careers. We have two daughters, Anika (22) and Jaden (19), each currently attending college. We have been members of Nativity for over 20 years. I am truly awed by this community’s eagerness to include and meet people where they are in their faith journey. I am energized by our willingness to engage in dialogue regarding our mission, even when it is challenging, and to find meaningful, creative ways to Love God, Love Neighbor. And I am grateful for the nurturing support Nativity has provided for our family over the years.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **Our Strategic Plan for 2025 features one initiative: Shared Ministry**

The Shared Ministry initiative will encourage people to grow spiritually through meaningful engagement, loving God and loving neighbor.

### **We continue to focus on these key things:**

- **Leadership for the Future of Nativity**—call process for new pastor;
- Rooting **Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices** into the life of our community;
- **Building Belonging Capital Campaign.**



**Nativity**  
**Lutheran Church**

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