

Southern Ohio Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This form should be completed by the nominee. Completion of this form indicates willingness to serve in the nominated position indicated below.

I. Please provide nominee information below.

Name: Patti Morrow

Congregation Name & City: St. Paul Lutheran Church (North Berne), Lancaster, Ohio

What Conference is your congregation a part of? Scioto Conference

(Optional) I am a person of color and/or my primary language is something other than English: Yes No

II. Please check the position for which you are nominated.

Churchwide Assembly 2022: X Lay Woman

IV. Please help the Assembly know you better by providing a brief (few sentences) answer to each question below:

What leadership experience have you gained through service in your congregation, synod or Churchwide expression?

I have participated and cared for my congregation in just about every way possible; prepare & print Sunday bulletins including choosing hymns for Sundays for the past 20 years, VBS Director, Sunday School teacher, WELCA member & Bible study leader, choir director, pianist/worship accompanist, altar committee, council member (first female council president), stewardship leader and coordinator of mission projects (LSS, LWR, local projects and shelter programs, worldwide projects), coordinator of funeral and other community meals, assisting with physical needs of the building and grounds. I write and/or compile the liturgy for Sunday worship – especially festival Sundays and seasons. One of the most rewarding things I have done is to prepare and serve the meal to the homeless clients of the LSS shelter which our congregation does on a monthly basis. I was an elected leader of the synod women's organization (before we became the WELCA) and an elected leader to the LSS women's auxiliary board. The only thing I haven't done is bake a pie for a dinner or bake sale; I make ugly pies...edible, but ugly.

In 1994 I did my first sermon at St. Paul-North Berne (my home church) and in 2002, after 3 years of classes, instruction and mentoring, I was certified as a Lay Worship leader in the Southern Ohio Synod. At that time I began leading worship services throughout the synod on a monthly basis. In 2018, after the ordained minister retired, I was installed as a SAM (Synod Authorized Minister) at my home church where I have lead worship weekly, presided over communion, conducted baptisms, funerals and weddings as well as instructed children in first communion...and all the other stuff that comes with leading and caring for a Lutheran congregation. I still write and/or compile the services, prepare and print the bulletin, choose hymns and coordinate worship assistants.

What leadership experience have you gained through your employment or service in your community?

Probably the thing I'm most proud of, as a volunteer, is being a t-ball coach for my children's teams but I have also been a PTA member, coordinator for the 4th of July celebration in Sugar Grove, Ohio, director of the annual craft fair at Berne Union School, coordinator of the annual basketball tournament for 4 – 6 graders, as well as assisting in many other school and community events or projects.

Professionally I worked at a homeless shelter for 7 years and then went on to be a housing counselor for people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness at a 211/Information & Referral agency for another 12 years. Besides caring for the physical and housing needs of the individuals or families I served I visited homeless camps where I brought food and/or information that would assist people in finding shelter or permanent housing and assisted in the annual national homeless count by seeking out the people who were sleeping under bridges, in parks or doorways and other places not meant for human habitation. I was the director of the LSS food pantry for a year and have volunteered there for over 20 years. I have counseled and donated to the women of the domestic violence shelter. I have also answered calls and counseled people on the local suicide crisis line (24/7).

In 2020, right before the pandemic hit, I traveled to Uganda as a missionary with the Field of Dreams agency. A faith experience almost beyond description.

What gifts/perspectives are you eager to share with the whole church as a voting member at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly?

All that I listed above...and the love, faith and peace of God; compassion and caring for our neighbors in our churches, our community and the world...what else is there?

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This form should be completed by the nominee.

I. Please provide nominee information below.

Name: Kris Thrush

Congregation Name & City: St. Paul North Berne, Lancaster

What Conference is your congregation a part of? Scioto

(Optional) I am a person of color and/or my primary language is something other than English: Yes No

II. Please check the position for which you are nominated.

Churchwide Assembly 2022

Rostered Minister Lay Man Lay Woman Young Adult Youth

IV. Please help the Assembly know you better by providing a brief (few sentences) answer to each question below:

What leadership experience have you gained through service in your congregation, synod or Churchwide expression?

I have served on the church council for approximately five years as a deacon, and youth chair.

What leadership experience have you gained through your employment or service in your community?

I was a high school science teacher for thirty years, I helped run the local and district science fair each year. I was also on the board of the local Ohio Education Association as a representative, vice president, and president for over 25 years.

What gifts/perspectives are you eager to share with the whole church as a voting member at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly?

I look forward to approaching to church's business from a scientific standpoint, looking at environmental issues and how the church reacts to them.

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This form should be completed by the nominee. Completion of this form indicates willingness to serve in the nominated position indicated below..

I. Please provide nominee information below.

Name: Rebecca Witt (Becky)

Congregation Name & City: St Paul Lutheran, Lancaster OH

What Conference is your congregation a part of? Scioto

II. Please check the position for which you are nominated.

Churchwide Assembly 2022

Rostered Minister Lay Man Lay Woman Young Adult Youth

IV. Please help the Assembly know you better by providing a brief (few sentences) answer to each question below:

What leadership experience have you gained through service in your congregation, synod or Churchwide expression?

I have been a member of the Synod Finance Team, serving as Chair since the team's inception in 2018. I am also currently a member of the Synod Out of the Box Team and was a member of the Synod Stewardship Committee from 2015-2019. I. have served as a Treasurer in multiple previous congregational settings and am currently providing Payroll/Tax services and support for St Paul in Lancaster.

What leadership experience have you gained through your employment or service in your community?

I hold a CPA certification and am on the Executive Staff at South Central Power Company in Lancaster Ohio, serving as the Chief Financial Officer. In addition to the Finance and Accounting group, I also lead the Human Resources, Safety, Purchasing, and Information Technology teams at South Central.

My prior work experience includes 10 years in public accounting, during which I was responsible for auditing school districts and other not for profit entities, as well as providing accounting and tax services to individuals and businesses. I also spent 3 years as a Controller for a for profit privately held company in Owensboro Ky.

What gifts/perspectives are you eager to share with the whole church as a voting member at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly?

I believe that I possess strong analytical and financial skills which can be of value during the Assembly by being able to quickly evaluate items that will be presented, and to apply best business practices in church settings.

My leadership experiences in both my professional and church related positions has given me the ability to collaborate, listen, and empathize with others, which I believe is critical in role of a voting participant.

The amount of exposure I have had at the congregational and Synod levels has given me a great understanding of how all expressions of the church: Congregational, Synodical, and Churchwide interact and support each other in spreading the Gospel. I have a passion for Stewardship and Lay involvement in the church.