

Hope Lutheran Church Council Nominees

Nominee for Treasurer

Michael Brown

Former Occupation: Michael holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Bradley University. He worked for Caterpillar Inc. for 21 years managing inventory accounting and compliance auditing.

Experience: Michael was an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Peoria, IL. He sat on the finance committee for 2 years helping to oversee budgets and spending approval.

Special Talents: Michael was in a management position with Caterpillar Inc. for 21 years before retiring seven years ago. He and his wife joined Hope Lutheran Church in 2023. They live in the Village of DeLuna and attend Hope at the Everglades Rec Center. I believe it is important to not only attend, but pledge to the many important ministries of the church. One very important role is to help manage the resources to align the goals of the ministries. I would be proud to serve as part of the leadership team and will do my best to help support Hope Lutheran Church any way I can.



Nominee for Vice-President

Pam Bixler

Former Occupation: High School Graduate. I was working full-time at a savings and loan institution upon graduation. I continued with the company in various departments (Secretary to CFO, HR, IT, Operations) for the next 30 years. I have attended many continuing education classes. I left the company when the headquarters relocated to Atlanta. I then worked for Findlay City Schools in the Student Services department as Assistant Secretary to the School Psychologists. Jeff and I both retired and moved to Florida in June 2007.



Experience: I was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church for 13 years. I served as Recording Secretary for six of those years. I am currently on the Council of Hope Lutheran Church and am running for another term. I also count donations on Monday morning and am an usher at Hope Lake Weir Campus.

Special Talents: I have a heart to serve and it has been an honor to be a member of Council for the past year. I have learned so much about the church operations and have a much greater appreciation for how well this church is run. It would be an honor to continue for the next two years.

Nominees for Council Member-at-Large

Fred Conger

Former Occupation: Fred taught Science and was the Head Baseball and Football Coach for 20 years at Charlotte Latin, Charlotte, NC.

Experience: Fred served on the church council and attended Southern Evangelical Seminary, Charlotte, NC.

Special Talents: I love Jesus and live my life as an example of His love for me. Also, I am a trained Apologist. I studied under Norm Geisler and with Frank Turek.



Sean Gormley

Former Occupation: Retired Police Chief. Former Executive Director for Law Enforcement Labor Services. I served 30 years as Police Chief prior to retirement. I worked with City Councils, prepared budgets, and created long-term capital improvement forecasts. During my years in law enforcement, I was a member of several boards, both as rank and file and as Chief of Police. Upon retirement, I became the Executive Director of the largest police labor union in the state of Minnesota. The union covered the entire state, with over 5,000 members and a 12-person board made up of active members of the union. It was my responsibility to create and present to the board of directors our organizations long-term forecast and be responsible for the financial stability of the union through day-to-day operations and investments.



Experience: Prior to moving to The Villages, my family were members of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Maple Grove, MN. While in my position as Chief of Police, I created a Chaplin organization that represented my community and 5 other cities. The Chaplin group worked with members of the community during critical incidents and mentored the police officers. I participated in numerous events such as our men's retreat and bible study. I have no other rolls involving church leadership.

Special Talents: I am well organized and enjoy meeting and working with new people. I like to think of myself as someone who thinks outside of the box and looks for new ideas. I am engaged during meetings.

Bonnie Kay Schallmo

Former Occupation: United Airlines Reservations and sales for 8 ½ years. Served as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent in the East Stroudsburg Area School District, PA for 10+ years before retiring.

Experience: Choir Director – Teen choirs and children's choir (Illinois), President – Women of the Church Organization (Illinois), Choir Soloist (Illinois and PA), Couples Club Organization, PTA President, Secretary and PTA Council President (Illinois and PA), Committee for Church Anniversary (25th and 50th anniversaries) in Illinois.

Special Talents: Leadership skills, Music, Organizational Skills, Love for Christ and sharing His love with others.



Mary Kay Schroeter

Former Occupation: I am a retired teacher of first, second, and third grade for 33 years, for Utica Community Schools in Utica, Michigan. We moved to Lake Havasu City in 2004 where I taught methods classes for perspective teachers and supervised student teachers locally for Northern Arizona University out of Flagstaff for 3 years. My husband, Richard, and I have been happily married for 38 years. We live in Del Webb Spruce Creek Golf and Country Club. We attend Hope Lake Weir campus.



Experience: My Undergraduate degree was from Eastern Michigan University and my Master's degree and Educational Leadership was from Oakland University. I have served on several church councils in Michigan and in Lake Havasu City. They include St. Thomas in Sterling Heights, MI (ELCA), St. Trinity in Clarkston, MI (LCMS), Good Shepherd in Lake Orion, MI (LCMS), Mt. Olive in Lake Havasu City, AZ (ELCA), and Lamb of God in Lake Havasu City, AZ (LCMS). I have also served as Co-Coordinator for a Capital Fund Drive and a member of a church School Board helping to develop and open that school. I also have been a choir member in each church I have attended. I love to sing.

Special Talents: I consider myself to be loving, caring, compassionate, and patient. I am a teacher, a good listener, a leader, and an organizer. I profess my Love of Christ and people.

Ellen Welsh

Former Occupation: Ellen has worked in Law enforcement/probation officer, real estate sales, mortgage origination, and corporate relocation. I enjoyed all my jobs, some more than others. Each one gave me the opportunity to make important decisions regarding the lives and money of other people. Ellen earned a B.A. degree in 1967 and M.A. degree in 1981.



Experience: Shortly after joining Hope Lutheran Church, I took over running the widow/widower group from Diane Kupchak. Currently, I am the liaison for Hope to the Walk to Emmaus. I participate regularly in Faith and Fellowship every Monday morning.

Special Talents: I made the creation (Genesis) tapestries hanging in the hallway. I am trustworthy, having been responsible for other people's lives and money. I (and my late husband) raised two productive and responsible citizens. I cared for my Vietnam Veteran husband 24/7 for three months before his passing.