



St. Paul
Ann Arbor

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
Candidate Packet
May 2025



Meet the Candidates for St. Paul Board of Directors and Elders:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES (Two open seats to serve a 3-year term)

*denotes currently serving and up for re-election

- **Janel Ehrman**
- **Jordyn Pair**
- **Dennis Kuhn***
- **Richard Nesbitt***

BOARD OF ELDERS (Serve a 2-year term)

*denotes currently serving and up for re-election

- **Ron Allen**
- **Nate Humphrey***
- **Zac Lahrman***
- **Vince Longo**
- **Jon Neuendorf***
- **Jerry Novak***
- **Brent O'Banion***
- **Neil Skov***
- **Matt Snapper**
- **Nick Steenstra**
- **Chris Warren***
- **Michael Woon***



St. Paul
Ann Arbor

Mark your calendars!

Congregation Voters' Meeting

MAY 20TH @ 7PM, SCHOOL GYM

Including 2025 Board of Directors & Elder Elections

Please see the following pages for information regarding each of these candidates who are willing to serve the Lord and His church here at St. Paul, Ann Arbor. We thank them for their willingness to serve.

CANDIDATES FOR ST PAUL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**denotes currently serving and up for re-election*



Janel Ehrman– St. Paul Member for 29 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Small group leader, served on the pastor call committee, ladies Bible study (host, leader, participant), organized volunteers for alpha house, Sunday School teacher, choir member, VBS helper, family worship team. School involvement: scrip coordinator, coach (volleyball, cross country, track), room parent.

Education: EMU- BS in Exercise Physiology (Currently work at UM as a clinical exercise physiologist in Cardiac Rehab).

What I Can Bring to This Position: I am open and willing to serve in whatever capacity God would like to use me. I am very organized and work well in a group. My husband Jon and I have been members of St Paul for almost 30 years. We have 4 children who attended St Paul School from Kindergarten to 8th grade. I have a unique perspective of having raised a family in this church during each different phase. I have volunteered in many different areas at both the church and school. I am deeply committed to St Paul and our mission. I am passionate about fostering unity and building strong relationships within the church.



Dennis Kuhn* – St. Paul Member for 25 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Trustee, Board of Admin. Parish Council, Business Planning Group, Policy Governance Group, Earhart Expansion Study Group and current Board of Directors.

Education: BSIM, Lawrence Technological University

What I Can Bring to This Position: Lots of St Paul experience and a continuing desire to serve.



Rich Nesbitt*– St. Paul Member for 17 years

Involvement at St. Paul: My wife Natalie and I were married at SPAA in 2002 and our two daughters are both alumni of St. Paul School. I have been attending SPAA since 1996 when Natalie and I started dating in high school and I became a confirmed member in 2008. I was an Elder for many years until I transitioned 3 years ago to the Board of Directors. I have also served as the lead coordinator for the setup crew for Sunday worship at the school.

Education: I have a BSME and an MSME from Michigan Tech University

What I Can Bring to This Position: As a long-time member, parent, and servant to SPAA I know the church, our members, and our challenges. As a recurring Board Member and acting secretary, I have an understanding of our governance and how to support our Executive Team. My corporate experience supports for governance, documentation, leadership, and guidance. I strive to be open and approachable so that topics can be openly discussed and brought to the Board. I also do not shy away from tackling challenging items.



Jordyn Pair– St. Paul Member for 1.5 years, although attended without membership for roughly 2 years

Involvement at St. Paul: I am involved in the choir and women's Bible studies

Education: I have a BA in Communications and Sociology, with a minor in journalism

What I Can Bring to This Position: I am excited to bring the perspective of a young, working professional, a position often underserved by the church, to the board. I am passionate about community building and playing an active role in bringing people together. As someone who both lives and works in Ann Arbor (and does both within walking distance of the church!), I can provide the insight of someone who is a young resident without being a student.

CANDIDATES FOR ST PAUL BOARD OF ELDERS:

**denotes current Elder up for re-election*



Ron Allen - St. Paul Member since 1978 (47 years)

Involvement at St. Paul: Previously Director of Acolytes-20+ years, Assisted at Earhart Preschool, Board of Social Ministry, Board of Education, Couples Club, Youth Group Sub Sales (Super Bowl weekend); Congregational VP; Friends in Deed, Men's Golf League Organizer.

Education: Concordia, River Forest, IL; Chicago State University; two degrees from U of M

What I Can Bring to This Position: Servant's heart, willingness to help wherever skills/talents permit.



Nate Humphrey* – St. Paul Member for 10 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Elder, Chair set up at Earhart site, Men's weekly golf league, Men's Arcadia retreat, 3 children enrolled at the school (Grace 5th, Andrew 3rd, Elise 1st).

Education: Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University in Organizational Leadership & Supervision

What I Can Bring to This Position: Growing up in the LCMS church, I have a lifelong connection with the LCMS and provide a base of theological understanding upon which to build and grow. I am currently connected with a variety of other men in the congregation through volunteer and social involvement. I desire to deepen my faith life personally to strengthen support of pastors and the congregation while expanding my involvement in the church with a leadership role.



Zac Lahrman* – St. Paul Member for 15 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Board of Elders (currently serving as Head Elder), Usher, Greeter, St. Paul Brass and Percussion Ensemble, Men's Basketball.

Education: B.S. in Architecture, B.S./M.S. in Architectural Engineering (focus on Mechanical)

What I Can Bring to This Position: The elders at St. Paul are tasked with many things. You may see us working to ensure a worship service goes smoothly or you may see us assisting the pastors with the Sacraments. But most importantly, we are tasked with providing Christian care to the members, pastors, and staff of St. Paul; whether it be with prayer or offering encouragement and support through a difficult time just to name a few. I have thoroughly enjoyed being an elder and using the gifts God has given me to serve the congregation here, which in return has helped strengthen my faith. I look forward to continuing to use these gifts to serve as elder and keep providing that Christian care to all..."with an enthusiasm unknown to mankind"...and with as much excitement as I get when I see a beignet.

Elder candidates cont'd on next page...



Vince Longo – St. Paul Member for 8 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Family Team, Lay Reader

Education: PhD., Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan B.A., Screen Arts and Cultures, University of Michigan Technical Certificate, Film Directing, Motion Picture Institute of Michigan

What I Can Bring to This Position: I am excited for the opportunity to bridge my professional expertise in education and mentorship into the service of our Christ-centered community. I am professor of film history and media production at Western Michigan University and previously taught at the University of Michigan. In my position, I dedicate much of my time and energy to developing, publishing, and employing new strategies and programs for mentoring students. My general goal is always the same: to meet students where they are, listen to their thoughts, and learn their hopes and goals. I then use that information to get them involved, guiding them into engaged collaborators even on complex, high-level projects to mutual benefit. Successful mentorship also demands not just focusing on professional issues, but also on one's general well-being. As a lifelong Lutheran and graduate of Lutheran middle school (Living Word) and high school (Lutheran Northwest), I know that faith is the most important element of one's well-being. What I appreciated most about my Christian-education was that the pursuit of knowledge and new skills was also coupled with moral and spiritual learning and growth. The church is the single most important mentorship program there is. Likewise, it is at its best when it is: 1.) concerned with the holistic and spiritual well-being of the congregation and the greater community and 2.) empowers its members to be active, contributors working as a team. I would be honored to continue to support and embolden this mission as an Elder at St. Paul.



Jonathan Neuendorf* – St. Paul Member for 23 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Current Elder, Small group leader

Education: St Paul School, Ann Arbor Alumni, BS Electrical Engineering and BS Mechanical Engineering from Kettering University

What I Can Bring to This Position: I have the experience at St. Paul to know where we've been and the passion to look forward to where we're going while supporting our Pastors in spreading the good news of Christ in the most effective way possible.



Jerry Novak* – St. Paul Member for 28 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Many roles over the years. Key areas: support to our school staff and facilities; serving as elder over 15 years; member of 2023 Mission Task Force; participant in various call committees; involved in small group bible study; participant in men's group activities.

Education: B A L Degree from CUAA

What I Can Bring to This Position: Elders are tasked with the spiritual care and support of our pastors and congregation. I will continue to use the gifts given me to uphold and serve in that support.

Elder candidates cont'd on next page...



Brent O'Banion* – St. Paul Member for 38 years

Involvement at St. Paul: VBS song leader ~10 years, Sunday School Teacher ~12 years, Board of Discipleship – Outreach, Choir ~38 years, Elder.

Education: University of Michigan, Concordia College, Washtenaw Community College – Associates degree in Physical Therapy

What I Can Bring to This Position: A deep concern for the spiritual welfare of congregants. A desire to encourage authentic discipleship. Compassion and understanding for those undergoing health issues.

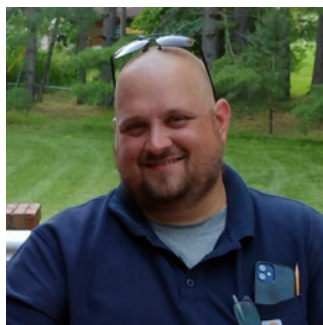


Neil Skov* – St. Paul Member for 50 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Board of Elders, 1976 – 1981 & 2003 – present. Vice President, ~1982 – 1983. Adult Bible class teacher, intermittently 1976 – 2005, regularly 2005 – present. Adult choir member, 1975 – present. Various ad hoc committees (e.g. call, worship).

Education: BSEd, Concordia Teachers College – Seward (now Concordia University Nebraska), Master of Science Teaching (Univ. of N. Dakota), MS in Computer Science (Univ. of Michigan), and EdD in chemistry education (Univ. of Michigan)

What I Can Bring to This Position: I am well versed in Holy Scripture and Lutheran theology; interested, able and experienced in serving as liturgist in public worship; interested, able and experienced in visiting homebound and hospitalized persons.



Matt Snapper – St. Paul Member for 8 years

Involvement at St. Paul: In addition to my family's deep roots at St. Paul – my parent-in-law are members, my wife grew up in the church, and our children were baptized and attend the school – I am also a member of the School's Parent-Teacher League (PTL). Furthermore, I served on the school expansion committee.

Education: BA Business Admin Calvin University

What I Can Bring to This Position: I offer a strong analytical background, enabling data-driven decision-making and effective long-term planning. Furthermore, my experience has shaped my leadership style, which is rooted in servant leadership principles, emphasizing fact-based decisions, transparency, and inclusion.

Elder candidates cont'd on next page...



Nick Steenstra – St. Paul Member for 9 years

Involvement at St. Paul: Our 3 children have attended St. Paul School since preschool and are currently in the 3rd, 2nd, and Kindergarten classrooms. Our family is involved with life group through church and have enjoyed connecting with others in this way. I have helped with Kid's Word during church services at Earhart over the last handful of years. I also have done some minor technology support for our school auction the last few years.

Education: I graduated from Calvin College in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Information Systems and a minor in Business

What I Can Bring to This Position: I enjoy doing acts of service to show God's love to others. I like to be helpful in any way I can to those around me. As a member of St. Paul Church and having children attending St. Paul School, I believe I could provide a good perspective and support both aspects of our ministry. I also think that I am patient with others in being an effective listener while helping seek understanding.



Chris Warren* – St. Paul Member for 10 years

Involvement at St. Paul: I have been actively involved at St. Paul since 2017 as part of the setup team at the Earhart facility and somewhere around 2016 as part of a small group. Between 2018 and 2023, I served as the setup coordinator for the school worship space which is responsible for coordinating the weekly setup and cleanup of the chairs and the worship space.

Education: Despite graduating in 2011 from the University of Michigan with a Master of Science in Engineering, I will forever claim to be a Michigan Tech Husky first, where I earned a Bachelors in Civil Engineering.

What I Can Bring to This Position: For the last two years I've greatly enjoyed getting to meet more of our congregation and supporting our Pastors as an elder. It has also been a joy to assist in our worship through preparing communion and praying with people who come forward after service. As when I first began, I would bring first and foremost the desire to serve our God and our church. I'd also bring an eager and ready heart to the work, should it be God's will that I continue in this role.



Michael Woon* – St. Paul Member for 17 years

Involvement at St. Paul: I have been a part of St. Paul brass, a Small Group leader, a Sunday School leader, an Elder, and lay reader.

Education: BS in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Tech and MS in Mechanical Engineering from University of Michigan.

What I Can Bring to This Position: I can bring a solid theological understanding of the Gospel, of Christ's justification of all sinners through His death on the cross, as the Scripture, the creeds, and our Catechism rightly teach. I can bring an appreciation for our rich liturgy, which stems back to historic Synagogue worship and looks forward to our eternal, heavenly worship. I enjoy sharing Christ's words with others at challenging times in their lives and visiting those who are sick or need someone to listen and pray for them.