

NW Washington Synod Coaches



Kevin Bates (he/him), DMin, MDiv

Pastor at Magnolia Lutheran, Seattle

Session Options: In person, phone or remote.

Contact info: 206-434-1058, batespastorkevin@gmail.com

Bio: Kevin has been a coach for 8 years. He is working toward his accreditation by the ICF as a Professional Certified Coach. He is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University (1984), the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (1991), and San Francisco Theological Seminary (2013). Kevin has served congregations in rural, suburban and urban settings. His doctoral dissertation was an exploration of the pastor as staff supervisor. He enjoys accompanying church leaders as they navigate the hurdles, hassles and hopes of ministry.



Kay Edgerton (she/her)

Contact: veep@lutheransnw.org

Bio: Kay is a newly minted coach, having completed the ELCA Segment 1 Basic Skills Coach Training in November 2023. She retired in June 2024 after 37 years as a public school educator, the last twenty-five in Renton where she resides with her spouse of nearly forty years. Throughout her nearly four decades in public education, she has been a classroom teacher, instructional coach, new teacher mentor, and a program facilitator. In addition to her professional experience, she has been a lay leader in the ELCA, serving in congregational and synod level leadership. She is currently finishing out her second term as synod vice president. Kay enjoys crocheting, reading, solving word puzzles, walk/jogging, and bicycling. She is looking forward to diving deeper into coaching now that she is fully retired.



Misi French (she/her)

Spiritual Director; Life Coach at The Heart's Way Home

Location: South Lake Union and Greater Seattle area

Session Options: In Person or Video Chat

Contact Info: 206-940-2458, heartswayhome@gmail.com

Website: www.theheartswayhome.org

Bio: I formerly was called as an Associate in Ministry, with a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies from Trinity Lutheran College in Seattle and a masters in Transforming Spirituality from Seattle University. I worked in the area of faith formation for over 25 years; specializing in cross-generational ministries, social justice education/experiences and the accompaniment model approach to mission trips. I currently have a private practice in Spiritual Direction and Life Coaching (The Heart's Way Home) and serve on the Coach Northwest administrative team. I am a 'big picture' thinker, giving great attention to organization, details, logistics and the overall vision. I also know that self-care and nurturing our own spirituality is, ironically, a challenge for those in ministry. Partnering with others on this journey is a passion and an honor. I am excited to work with Pastors, congregations and families discovering what it means to live out our faith at home, in our communities and in the world. In the coaching experience you will find an atmosphere of deep listening and thought-provoking questions that will inspire and empower you to take the next step toward your ministry and personal goals. Congratulations on taking the first step!



Sara Funkhouser (she/her)

Pastor at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Seattle

Session Options: Zoom, in-person

Contact: pastorsara@luthermemoralseattle.com

Bio: Sara is a lifelong Lutheran who is a Seattle transplant from the Midwest. She currently serves as the pastor at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church and the part-time chaplain at Foss Home and Village. Sara enjoys working with people at all stages of life,

having served as both a pediatric chaplain intern and now as a chaplain who primarily works with people at the end of life. She believes in the power of connecting with ourselves and our communities as we walk through life's journeys. Sara always thought that she would be a civil engineer, but now sees her role as building bridges between people instead of physical bridges, especially bridging the church and queer experience.



Hector Garfias-Toledo (he/him) MDiv, MEd (Bilingual English & Spanish)

Lead Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church and Schools, Lynnwood, WA

ICF Associate Certified Coach (ACC)

Session Options: Zoom, phone, in person

Contact: pastorhector@tlcs.church

Bio: Hector is a missionary and evangelist at heart. He has been involved in coaching since the early 2000's. He has served as mission developer in Mexico and Illinois, and as a missionary

pastor to the English-speaking population in Taiwan. He has been using coaching practices to develop leaders in congregations. He served as Associate to the Bishop and DEM of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for eleven years. During that time, he coached pastors and lay leaders in the areas of church planting and leadership development. He received training by the Intentional Impact Group on reproducing leadership. He took the ELCA Levels 1 and 2 coaching training, and he is working toward his accreditation by the ICF as a Professional Certified Coach (PCC). He has worked on implementing a coaching culture initiative in the congregation to create a culture of accompaniment, mutual accountability, and coaching as a way of ministry and leadership coaches informally and promotes coaching among leaders in congregations.

Rev. Dr. Mark Griffith (he/him)

Pastor at Saint Luke's Lutheran Church, Bellevue

Session Options: In Person or Phone

Contact: markgriffith1@gmail.com

Bio: I grew up in Alaska, where as a young person I was steeped in a life of adventure. I love being outside in the mountains, in the wilderness, or on the water. I find all sorts of adventure out here in the Pacific Northwest from hiking and biking to paragliding and kayaking. My wife, Heather, and I have two children who are an absolute delight. I have a Bachelor of Science in Physics from Pacific Lutheran University, a Masters of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate in Semiotics and Future Studies from George Fox University. I have completed coach training within the ELCA and with Coachnet. All of these educational opportunities have uniquely prepared me to be a coach. I am able to draw on my physical science background, theological training, and work in signs and symbols to help people achieve their goals. I have found the coaching tools to have a profound impact on my own life and in my life of ministry. I am excited to share these tools with others.



S. Susan Harper (she/her), MSW, MTS

Life Coach, Congregational Consultant, Spiritual Director

Location: North Seattle,

Church/Organization: Church of the Apostles (COTA) Fremont

Session Options: In person, phone, video chat

Contact Info: s.susanharper@gmail.com, 317-509-7878, 206-257-4999

Bio: Seattle native though lived for many years in Indianapolis. Degrees from Willamette University, Smith College School for Social Work, Christian Theological Seminary in

Indianapolis, completed an internship in Spiritual Direction from the Benedictine Center, The Lilly Fellowship Program in Leadership as well as the College for Congregational Development. Awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest award of the governor of Indiana for wisdom and inspiration in leadership

Coaching areas of expertise: Negotiating complex life and congregational transitions, moving from multiple and complex challenges, including uncertainty, change and conflict, to understanding, action and the development of new skills and personal expertise. I use the gifts and skills of active and holy listening for discernment. I respond out of integrating a lifetime of experiences in life, organizational leadership and specialized trainings. with guidance, support and questions. I encourage and help discover unique spiritual practices that are satisfying and grounding. The ultimate goal is personal and congregational/organizational growth, leading to a renewed sense of call, a deepening connection to the divine in all of life including one's own intuition and truth. One's own groundedness, inner sense of balance, freedom and creativity are likely to emerge, regardless of life's circumstances or challenges.



Gil Jardine (he/him), CPC, MPA

Session Options: In person, phone, video chat.

Contact info: 415-596-5578, leadercompetency@gmail.com

Bio: Gil is a deeply experienced, retired executive coach and coach mentor who was accredited by the ICF as a Professional Certified Coach (PCC) for 10 years. He received his BA from Columbia University and his MPA from UNC Chapel Hill. Gil has served multiple congregations in lay leadership positions focusing on adult education and mutual ministry over the past 40 years. He looks forward to helping church leaders, rostered and lay to become even more effective by accompanying them as they create a path to reinvent their roles to serve and build the beloved community in these unique times. For more on Gil's experience please refer to: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/giljardine>



Rev. Jane Prestbye (she/her)

Location: Kent, WA

Session Options: In person, Zoom, Facetime, phone

Contact info: 206-373-1012, janemonsonprestbye@gmail.com

Bio: Coaching is an available asset whether one is just beginning a ministry profession or in retirement or anywhere in-between. My own experience in being coached has convinced me of the positive impact of coaching. Being coached has helped me to do what I am called to do. I offer to others what I have received. I have been using coaching skills in ministry and with clients for 12+ years but I am not yet certified. In 2023 I retired as pastor at Kent Lutheran Church, Kent, WA, having been there twenty plus years. Also, my past includes the same number of years serving as lay staff in related church ministries. Thirteen of those years include teaching ministry concepts and practices at a collegiate level. In my experience of serving as coach I enjoy working with individuals who desire change. If a

staff team or a congregational team envision wanting more in their relationships and ministry, I will walk alongside. Group coaching is also a possibility where several people want to grow in their own way but do it together. My strengths of listening and encouraging undergird my work as a coach and I trust God's Spirit to be at work through our work.



Gary Rothenberger (he/him)

CoachNW Steering Team

Session Options: In person, phone, Zoom or FaceTime

Contact: coachnw16@gmail.com

Bio: Coaching since 2010, completed my Associate Coaching Credential (ACC) in 2022. Served as coaching coordinator for six years and continues to work with Synod coaches to create pathways and partnerships to serve our Church's leaders. I have a passion for next generation leadership, especially in the Church, this is why I see coaching as a positive outcomes relationship, believing in the possibilities of your gifts, advocating for you and the realization of your personal or mission's goals. Careers include residential and commercial construction/construction management and Parish Pastor (ELCA) with an emphasis on Collaborative Leadership Styles in the Parish.



Erik Samuelson (he/him), MDiv, MA, PCC

CoachNW Steering Team

Session Options: In person or remote.

Contact: eriksamuelson@gmail.com

Bio: Erik is a leadership, vocation, and transformation coach who works with individuals, teams, companies, churches, non-profits, and educational institutions. Erik holds the Professional Certified Coach (PCC) credential from the International Coaching Federation and is a certified Church Planter Coach through Fuller Seminary. He is the founder of "Come Alive Coaching" which offers coaching, workshops, practices, and resources to individuals and communities looking to deepen their impact, renew their organization, and develop leaders. As a former college professor and campus pastor, Erik delights in helping young adults (and not-so-young adults) discover their calling and live into their vocational potential. He is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and has led, consulted, or coached a number of new ministry starts, networks, and congregational renewal efforts. He also coaches with and is a member of the coaching school faculty for Vibrant Faith. More information can be found at www.ComeAliveCoaching.org and <https://vibrantfaith.org/coaching/>



Deb Squires, MS, MDiv

Assoc. Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Preschool

Mission Pastor of Friends & Family Gathering

215 Mukilteo Blvd., Everett.

Contact: deb.squires@oslc-everett.org

Bio: Available for coaching by phone, online or in person.

The answers are already yours—I'm just privileged to help you ask the questions.

After a career in Communications and Nonprofit Management, I am blessed and a tad surprised to find myself serving as pastor, mission developer and coach. What a joy! And what a challenge. Others have given me the time, attention and the careful listening that help me hear and affirm what is inside of me so that I can live into what is most life-giving to

me and others. I would be honored to do the same with you.

Past work includes writing, teaching from preschool to college, leading retreats, fundraising, and board development.

Past homes include Mexico, Italy and a good smattering of these United States.



Kasey Shultz (she/her). (English & Spanish)

Location: Seattle, WA

Session options: in-person, phone or video call

Contact: kdotc30@gmail.com

ELCA Coach Trainings: Level 1, Level 2 (focus on Care for Creation), Team Coaching

Bio: Kasey is a lifelong Lutheran and a firm believer in the power of lay leadership. She serves as the treasurer for a small community-powered church in south Seattle and as the administrative assistant for the coaching ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod. She has worked a variety of jobs, including barista, paralegal, farm assistant, habitat restorationist, and trail crew leader and has yet to work a job without an end date. She feels called to build authentic community, accompany young adults in discernment, and embody queer joy.



Cara Tanis (she/her)

Pastor at Emmaus Table at 7400 Woodlawn

Available for coaching by phone, on Zoom, or in-person - including walking sessions

Contact: pastor@7400woodlawn.org

Bio: We have more power than we often remember to make our life dreams and goals reality. Giving time, attention and intention is essential in the process of growth and flourishing. Having listening partners for the unearthing and tending of meaning and action for what is of great importance in your life is a gift you give yourself. As a spiritual director and coach, I am available as a partner committed to asking questions and deeply listening to the knowing and skill you hold to evoke your best life.

A few notes about Cara's Experience:

- NW WA Synod Coach Coordinator
- Coach since 2015, holds Associate Coaching Credential (ACC) with International Coaching Federation
- ELCA Level 2 Coach, Focus - Stewardship and Financial Empowerment
- Spiritual Director since 2011
- Pastor since 2001
- Mission Developer
- Hospice Spiritual Care and Bereavement Coordinator



Chienyu Jade Yi (she/her)

MDiv, MA TESOL and Intercultural Studies (Bilingual: English & Mandarin)

ELCA Pastor — Interim Pastor, NW Washington Synod, WA

ICF Associate Certified Coach (ACC)

Session Options: Zoom, phone, or in-person

Contact: pastor.yi.jade@gmail.com

Bio: Jade is a dedicated missionary and evangelist at heart. Since 2010, she has actively practiced coaching through the Intentional Impact Group, integrating its methods into her pastoral leadership development. Her journey includes a series of formative milestones: ELCA Segment 1 in 2018; Segment 2 (Discipleship) in 2019; Segment 2 (Vitality) in 2022; and certifications in Team Coaching, Mental Health Coaching, and Professional Life Coaching (2022–2023). She earned ICF ACC certification in 2024 and is currently pursuing the PCC pathway, along with specialized training in Coaching at the End of Life to deepen and refine her coaching competencies. Jade believes coaching is a form of ministry—essential in daily life and leadership alike—and is committed to empowering others through authentic, full presence and transformative dialogue.