



Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Synod Staff

Our synod staff is made up of both full-time and part-time team members who work together to support congregations, leaders, and ministries across Northwestern Minnesota.

Full-time staff serve in ongoing roles and provide leadership, support, and coordination across a wide range of synod ministries and operations. You'll find them regularly engaged in day-to-day synod work, available for questions, and present at most synod events.



Rev. Bill Tesch

Bishop

btesch@cord.edu



Rev. Genelle Netland

Associate to the Bishop
for Leadership

genellenetland@cord.edu



Rev. Rebel Hurd

Associate to the Bishop
for Mission

Director for Evangelical Mission

rebelhurd@cord.edu



Rev. Keith Pearson

Minister for Generosity

keithpearson@cord.edu



Morgan Olson

Communications &

Events Coordinator

morganolson@cord.edu



Rachel Haun

Office Administrator

rhaun@cord.edu



Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Part-Time and Contract Staff

Part-Time staff serve in part-time or specialized roles. They bring unique gifts to the synod for a particular project, area of ministry, or time-limited need. While they may not be involved in all aspects of synod life, their contributions are essential to our shared mission.

Engagement Ministers

CONFERENCE 1

Roseau

Rev. Dave Swonger

CONFERENCE 2

Thief River Falls

Rev. Genelle Netland/
Rev. Bill Tesch

CONFERENCE 3

Crookston

Rev. Chris Leach

CONFERENCE 4

Bemidji

Rev. Chris Leach

CONFERENCE 5

Moorhead

Rev. Laurie Skow-
Anderson

CONFERENCE 6

Detroit Lakes

Rev. Laurie Skow-
Anderson

CONFERENCE 7

Fergus Falls

Rev. Dennis Preston

CONFERENCE 8

Alexandria

Rev. Dennis Preston

Financial and Data-Systems Specialist

Joan Meulebroeck

Synod Authorized Ministers Coordinator

Kip Fontaine

Minister for Vocations

Rev. Jon Olson

Minister for Mental Health & Wellness

Rev. Dr. Aaron Suomala Folkards

Minister for First-Third Ministry

Kristina Johnson-Dernier

Behold The New Has Come! Project Coordinators

Jody Johnson
Rev. Melissa Pickering