



**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

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*Rev. Genelle Netland*

Associate to the Bishop  
for Leadership

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*Rev. Rebel Hurd*

Associate to the Bishop  
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Director for Evangelical Mission  
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*Rev. Keith Pearson*

Minister for Generosity

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*Morgan Olson*

Communications &  
Events Coordinator

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*Rachel Haun*

Office Administrator

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# 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 Folkerds

### Minister for First-Third Ministry

Kristina Johnson-Dernier

### Behold The New Has Come! Project Coordinators

Jody Johnson  
Rev. Melissa Pickering