

2025 Luther Park Board Nominees

John Moen

I first fell in love with Luther Park as a camper. I then served on summer staff as a senior counselor during the summers of 1975, 1976, and 1977. During the 1980's – 1990's, I served two terms on the Luther Park Board, including as board president. During that time, I was elected to the ELCA Churchwide Outdoor Ministries Advisory Committee, including serving as Chair. As part of my role as Chair, I sat as an advisory member on the Board for the Division for Congregational Ministries at the churchwide offices, representing outdoor ministries in the ELCA. Three years ago, I was asked if I would once again be a nominee for the Luther Park Board. I took the opportunity, was elected, and have served the past three years as board president.

I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree from UW – Eau Claire in Criminal Justice and a Master of Science Degree from UW – Stout in Media Technology. I served as a member of the Eau Claire Police Department, 1978 – 2011, with the last 11 years serving as one of the patrol supervisors on the midnight shift. After retiring, I embarked on a second career with Mayo Clinic Security at Luther Campus in Eau Claire, and I am still with that team.

I am married to Leslie, and we have two daughters, Makayla and Makenna. Makayla has a Bachelor of Music Degree from Concordia – Moorhead and is an elementary music teacher and 5th and 6th grade band director in Pelican Rapids, MN. Makenna is a student at UW – Stout, majoring in Art, with an emphasis in photography. We live in Eau Claire and are members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

I have a passion for Luther Park and ELCA Outdoor Ministries and I would be honored to serve another three-year term!

Susan Mommsen

I currently live in Colfax, WI and attend Christ Lutheran Church in Menomonie. I was born and raised in Chetek, attending LPBC as a child and eventually returning as a counselor and interpreter for LPBC while in college. I attended Augustana College for my undergrad, where I graduated with a degree in English as well as Education of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing. I have worked in Calumet, MI, Brainerd, MN, and Menomonie as a teacher. I have spent the past 16 years working as an administrator in Menomonie. I have four children: Hannah (24), Thomas (22), Emma (20), and Michael (16), who have all attended LPBC as a camper. I am currently engaged to an educator in Chetek and have plans to move back to Chetek in the near future to open our Christmas tree farm.

I have always found Luther Park to be a special place and look forward to the opportunity to help support its mission.

Rod Nordby

Rod has a long history and interest with Luther Park, beginning with being a camper in the 7th grade. Rod's father served on the Luther Park Board of Directors several decades ago.

Rod grew up in Barron, WI, where he still lives, and is a longtime member of First Lutheran Church in Barron.

Rod is the owner and operator of Nordby Construction in Barron. Rod is also currently serving as the Mayor of the City of Barron.

Rod is married to his wife, Carla, and they have three adult children.

Rod is looking forward to a new challenge in serving on the Luther Park Board.

Elizabeth Schoenknecht

Luther Park Bible Camp was an integral place for me to explore my call to a vocation in ministry and form my Lutheran identity and theology. From attending as a Jr High Camper, PALS camper, and high school camper in '89-'92 to being on staff as a counselor and coordinator '96-'98; I was able to spend my key developmental years in this place of God's nurturing grace.

My vocation in ministry has included serving as a Youth Director, attending Luther Seminary to receive my Master of Divinity (2004), being a congregational representative at Augsburg Fortress, Director of Admissions at Luther Seminary (St Paul, MN), Director of Major Gifts at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, and now a Sr. Philanthropic Adviser at Luther Seminary.

I live in Hudson, WI with my spouse Didrik Peterson and our two children, Solveig (age 14) and Soren (age 7). I was raised in Trinity Lutheran Church Eau Claire, WI where my mom, Mary Schoenknecht served as the Director of Children's Ministry. My dad, Bob Schoenknecht has served in the Northwest Synod of WI and the La Crosse area synod as a second career Pastor. My family is currently in the process of joining Bethel Lutheran Church in Hudson, WI. For the last 12 years we have been members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in St Paul, MN where I have served on the church council for two terms (2014-2016 and 2022-2024)

I would be honored to be able to serve in Board Leadership for LPBC; a place that has deep meaning to me and my vocational journey.