

## **2026 Luther Park Board Nominees**

### **Pastor Mara Ahles-Iverson**

Mara is currently serving as Pastor of Central Lutheran Church in Mondovi, Wisconsin. This is her third call to serve the church as pastor, her second being in Kewanee, Illinois, and her first in Hixton, Wisconsin. It was in Hixton that she was introduced to Luther Park, and grew to love it and the community. She was introduced by her late husband, Rev. Ben Ahles-Iverson who served on the Luther Park board from 2009 until his death in 2018.

Mara first started coming to Luther Park with campers as she accompanied them for confirmation camp, and in 2019 she attended family camp with her daughter, they have been coming every year since.

Mara lives in Durand, Wisconsin with her husband, Ken Pauley, her daughter Elizabeth, 10, and their two pups - Ranger and Trixie. She has 2 step-sons - Josh, 28, and Alex, 20. She loves to play board games, plant flowers and garden (even if she can't always keep them growing), listen to audio books, watch shows and movies, fish, and just be with people she loves. She grew up in Iowa, attending the University of Iowa (Go Hawkeyes!), and Wartburg Seminary.

Mara is excited to serve Luther Park Bible Camp in this way, and can't wait to see where these next few years will take the ministry of Luther Park!

### **Cheri Brudos**

Cheri lives in rural Trempealeau, WI. She has two sons, in their early twenties, who both attended Luther Park. She previously was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Galesville, and is currently a member of French Creek Lutheran Church, Ettrick, serving on church council as treasurer and deacon, as well as Sunday School teacher, women's choir, choir and bell choir member. Cheri has been involved in the planning of Ettrick area's Community Vacation Bible School since its inception. 2025 VBS was in partnership with Luther Park. Cheri says that her heart swells with joy watching the kids participating in all the VBS activities!

Cheri is employed by Emplify Health by Gundersen in Accounts Payable.

### **John Skoug**

John Skoug enjoyed a more than 30-year career as a scientist in the pharmaceutical industry with expertise in new drug product development. Since retiring from AbbVie in 2019, he consults part-time for small biopharmaceutical companies to help them advance novel drug candidates toward clinical development. John and his wife Connie

retired to an 85-acre farm near Osseo, WI where they practice their version of sustainable agro-forestry, which includes an array of fruit and vegetable gardens (specializing in garlic), removing invasive trees and re-planting acres of pine, oak and walnut trees, and planting our “back yard” with 1.5 acre in pollinator habitat, soon to be expanded. John cares deeply about the natural environment and pragmatic solutions to ensure clean water and air, and to mitigate the impacts of climate change. John’s volunteer activities have a strong focus in environmental and climate advocacy. He is involved in Citizens’ Climate Lobby serving as Eau Claire chapter lead and state liaison to Wisconsin District 3; Wisconsin Farmers Union serving as President of his local chapter; and he is active in his church, Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls, where he is currently President of Church Council and leads the Creation Care Team. It is through church that he became aware of Luther Park Bible Camp because of the many youth campers that have attended over the years. John is also a member of the NWSWI Care of Creation Team which led to his participation in the EcoFaith Summit in Duluth since 2023, both as a member of the organizing committee and as a presenter. John has become active as a solar energy advocate. He installed solar panels on his previous home in Libertyville IL (2010) and on his current home in rural Osseo (2019). John led a small subcommittee of the Peace Lutheran Creation Care team to install a solar array that has been producing power since March 2023; he participated in helping Hope Village in Chippewa Falls to install a solar system with battery backup in 2023/24, and this past year he worked with Eric Klein to initiate a solar array project at Luther Park (that project is currently ongoing). John earned a B.S. in Chemistry from UW-River Falls and a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Purdue University in 1987. He has 3 children and 3 granddaughters (age 9, 7 and 3) of whom he is immensely proud! He enjoys being with family, loves the outdoors, and is an avid sports fan.

### **Pastor Anna Sorenson**

Anna is passionate about helping all children of God know they are beloved and discover their Spirit given gifts to make the world a more loving place.

Anna holds degrees from Gustavus Adolphus College, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and Princeton Theological Seminary. Prior to attending seminary, she served in outdoor ministry sites in Minnesota, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Jersey. She is the associate pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in La Crescent, MN, and serves as the co-director of the Engaging Children Initiative, which equips ministry leaders to creatively engage children in prayer and worshipful experiences through the arts, movement, playful curiosity and story (and is proud to bring a sub-grant for this children-forward ministry initiative to Luther Park). With her husband Jacob, she co-founded Sacred Playgrounds, an entrepreneurial ministry that uses data to generate insights, equip leaders, and connect partners to help camp ministries thrive. She is parent to two adult children who were both Luther Park campers, is an avid reader of fantasy, and recently joined a community band.