

Anniversaries—Rostered Ministers



25 Years:

Rev. Byron Arledge
Rev. Jaclyn Gasior
Rev. Alan Smearsoll

55 Years:

Rev. Joseph Allen Jr.
Rev. George Keeler
Rev. H. Dixon Slingerland

50 Years:

Rev. Robert Linsz
Deacon Jeanette Rebeck
Rev. Lynn Schlessman
Rev. Daniel Wenger
Rev. James Zingale

60 Years:

Rev. Rodney Funk
Rev. Robert Handson
Rev. William Medford

70 Years:

Rev. James Metzger

Anniversaries—Congregations



75 Years:

Bethel, Middleburg Heights
Divinity, Parma Heights

150 Years:

Trinity, Clinton

175 Years:

Zion, New Middletown

Report of Changes to the Roster



April 10, 2023 - April 16, 2024

*Designates Deacon

ORDAINED

Jane Mokren	Zion, Doylestown	June 17, 2023
Mark Knauss	Redeemer, Brook Park	June 25, 2023
Morgan Walker Annable	Grace, Wadsworth	September 17, 2023
Andrea McDonough	Luth. Church of the Master, Bedford	February 3, 2024

RECEIVED FROM OTHER SYNODS

*Sally Kerr	Southeastern Pennsylvania	June 23, 2023
*Jane Roper	Southeastern Pennsylvania	June 23, 2023
*Nancy Wagner	Upstate New York	July 27, 2023
*Jenny Frantz	Southern Ohio	September 18, 2023

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SYNODS

Angela Storer	Southern Ohio	August 7, 2023
Ruth Anderson	Northwest Intermountain	September 1, 2023
Eli Seitz	Southern Ohio	November 13, 2023

RETIRED

Mark Williams	July 1, 2023
Dawn Richie	July 1, 2023
Laurie Miller	July 1, 2023
Julie Thoms	November 1, 2023
Paul Thoms	November 1, 2023
Deborah Wissner	November 1, 2023
*Nancy Wagner	January 1, 2024
Julianne Smith	February 1, 2024

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

*Erin Bodenstab
*Marla Wood Kay (study leave)
Sarah Taylor
Deborah Pinnegar

INSTALLED

Mark Knauss	Redeemer, Brook Park
Brad Ross	Divinity, Parma Heights
*Jenny Frantz	Northeastern Ohio Synod
Morgan Walker Annable	Grace, Wadsworth
Alan Smearsoll	Zion, New Middletown
Jane Mokren	Zion, Doylestown
Tina Crog	St. Jacob, Massillon

Report of Changes to the Roster



INSTALLED (*continued*)

Andrea McDonough

Church of the Master, Bedford

Church of the Covenant, Maple Heights

Jonathan Stufft

Northeastern Ohio Synod

CALLED BY SYNOD COUNCIL

Andrew Genszler

Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Heights

April 13, 2024



NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD ROSTER REPORT

As of April 16, 2024

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

<u>CODE</u>	<u>SETTING</u>	<u>CALLING BODY</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
1.0	Congregational Ministry	Congregation	69
1.13	Associate/Assistant Pastor	Congregation	3
1.5	Interim Ministry	Synod Council	3
2.1	Bishop	Synod Assembly	1
2.2	Assistant to the Bishop	Synod Council	1
4.1	Presiding Bishop or Secretary	Churchwide Assembly	1
4.3	Staff of the Churchwide Organization	Church Council	1
5.1	Institution/Agency	Synod Council	2
6.1	Campus Ministry Staff	Synod Council	2
8.1	Ecumenical Ministry	Synod Council	1
9.1	Inter-Lutheran Ministry	Synod Council	1
10.1	ELCA Related Seminary	Church Council	3
13.0	On Leave from Call	Synod Council	2
14.0	Retired		117

TOTAL

207

MINISTERS OF WORD AND SERVICE

1.0	Congregational Ministry	Congregation	1
4.3	Churchwide Ministry	Church Council	1
5.1	Institution/Agency	Synod Council	1
13.0	On Leave from Call	Synod Council	2
14.0	Retired		12

TOTAL

17

Necrology Report



DEACON EDWARD KIRST | September 8, 1930 - June 6, 2022

Deacon Edward Kirst passed away on June 6, 2022. He was born September 8, 1930, and grew up in Wisconsin. In 1952, he graduated from Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, IL with a Bachelor's in Education. That same year, he was commissioned as a working professional with the English Synod Association of Evangelical Churches in Chicago, IL. In 1985, he obtained his Masters in School Administration from Cleveland State University. While beginning his ministry in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Deacon Kirst moved intentionally out of that denomination, into the predecessor bodies of the ELCA, and then became a deacon in the ELCA in 2016.

He was employed as a teacher at First St. John Lutheran in Chicago from 1952-1954. From there, he taught at St. Matthew Lutheran in Garden City, MI, between 1954-1958, where he also became principal. Following his time with St. Matthew, he became employed as a teacher for Messiah Lutheran in Fairview Park, OH, in 1958, becoming principal in 1974. He remained employed there until his retirement in 1995. Throughout his career, he assisted in planning and implementing professional growth conferences for teachers and principals in the Greater Cleveland church schools. In 1991, he was the recipient of the Outstanding Lutheran School Leadership Award.

THE REV. DANIEL ROSSBACH | November 30, 1946 - September 3, 2022

The Rev. Daniel Rossbach passed away on September 3, 2022. He was born November 30, 1946, in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada to Darlene (Bolte) and Walter Rossbach. In 1969, he received his B.A. in Social Science and Secondary Education from Kearney State College in Kearney, Nebraska. From there, he also received his M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Kearney State College in 1973, and in 1981, he received his M.Div. from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He was ordained at St. John's Lutheran Church in Randolph, Nebraska on October 18, 1981.

He was employed as a drug and alcohol counselor and mental health therapist at Southern Central Community Mental Health Center in Kearney, Nebraska from 1969-1971. From 1981-83, he was a chaplain at the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center, and from 1983-2018, he was employed as the Director of Pastoral Care at Metro Health, where he created a Pastoral Care department that was used as a model in surrounding hospital systems. Throughout his lifetime, he also held positions as a Protestant chaplain for Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital, a program coordinator and renaissance effort director for the Kearney Drug and Health Education Committee, and as an instructor of social sciences for Benkelman Public Schools in Benkelman, Nebraska. He retired on July 1, 2018.

Necrology Report Cont'd



THE REV. CARL WILLIAM CUNFER | July 5, 1932 - November 19, 2023

Reverend Carl William Cunfer passed away Sunday, November 19, 2023.

Born in Slatington, PA on July 5, 1932, he was the son of the late Charles and Mary (Brobst) Cunfer. He graduated from Slatington High School in 1950 then was a proud member of the US Army from 1953-1954, including service in the Korean War. Carl then continued his education, graduating from Wittenberg College in 1959, and Hamma School of Theology (now Trinity Lutheran Seminary) in 1962.

Carl was ordained May 22, 1962 at Zion Lutheran Church in Canton, OH and was called as Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Mansfield, OH where he served for 34 and ½ years until his retirement on December 31, 1996.

As an active member of his community, Carl was a member of the Mansfield Area Lutheran Pastors Association and served Mansfield General Hospital as a member of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee, Institutional Review Board, and Gerontology Committee. Carl served on the board of directors of Good Shepherd Home for Aging in Ashland, OH for 6 years, was treasurer of Richland Branch: Lutheran Brotherhood for 15 years, as a volunteer at Camp Mowana for 24 years, and on the Community Action Board for 6 years.

Carl took pride in his gardens and was a 35-year member of the Mansfield Men's Garden Club. In retirement, he found much enjoyment in traveling, making 25 trips overseas, and visiting 30 different countries, and spent his winters in Florida. The Christmas season was a favorite of Carl's. He loved to decorate and for many years would host an open house for people to enjoy the decorations.

Carl is survived by his friend, Michael Bing; a brother, Edwin Cunfer; as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his siblings, Arvilla, Ralph, Ernest, and Dean Cunfer.

THE REV. EDWIN RICHARD BOWEN | September 9, 1926 - November 19, 2023

Reverend E. Richard Bowen returned to his heavenly home on November 19, 2023, following a brief illness. His devotion to his family and firm belief in God supported him throughout his life and gave him peace.

Born in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia on September 9, 1926, Richard was the son of William and Iva Bowen. Pastor Bowen graduated from Harding High School in Fairport Harbor, Ohio in 1944 and proudly served for 51 months in the U.S. Army. While stationed in Europe for 43 months, he

Necrology Report Cont'd



met his wife, Edeltraud Kuhr, in Bremen, Germany. Upon return to the states, they lived in Fairport Harbor where he worked as a butcher for Mackey's Groceries. In 1963, Richard responded to a call to the ministry and moved the family to Springfield, Ohio where he continued his education, graduating from Wittenberg University in 1967 and Hamma School of Theology in 1968.

Pastor Bowen was ordained September 15, 1968 at Zion Lutheran Church in Fairport Harbor, Ohio and was called to Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylvania, OH and Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Toledo, OH. In March of 1970, he began his second call to Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Master in Bedford, OH before following the call to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Conneaut, OH from November of 1973 until his retirement in September of 1991. He then continued to serve in Northeastern Ohio as a pulpit supply and visitation pastor.

Pastor Bowen was a gentle, loving, caring man who left a permanent impression in the hearts of many. He will be greatly missed by his son, daughter-in-law and friends.

Richard was married to Edeltraud for 61 years before her death in 2010. They had two sons, Gary, who resides in Colorado with wife Kathi, and James who also passed away in 2010.

THE REV. BRUCE BOND HATHAWAY | January 17, 1938 - November 23, 2023

The Reverend Bruce Bond Hathaway of Bedford, Ohio, passed away on November 23, 2023. He was 85 years old. He was the beloved husband of Kristi Maren (Kaushagen) Hathaway; dear father of Jennifer Hathaway (Steve) Stucker and Ryan Bruce (Erin) Hathaway; loving grandfather of Margaret Stucker, Audrey, Henry and Emma Hathaway; dear brother of Margaret Hathaway Lieb (Richard, deceased) and the late William Henry (Sarah) Hathaway and Clayton Bishop (Carol) Hathaway, Jr.

Bruce Bond Hathaway was born in Auburn, Indiana and spent his first eighteen years in neighboring Butler, Indiana. His father, Clayton Bishop Hathaway was a small town doctor who worked long hours and made house calls. His mother, Mildred Elizabeth (Painter) Hathaway was a nurse and homemaker. His older brothers, William Henry and Clayton Bishop Jr. became doctors and his younger sister Margaret Ann Lieb is a nurse. Bruce, becoming a Lutheran pastor, claimed his calling as a different kind of caregiver.

Bruce went to Wittenberg University (B.A. in sociology and philosophy), continuing his education at Hamma School of Theology (M. Div). His internship at First Lutheran Church in Cincinnati with Pr. Les Schultz was a treasured experience. He was ordained at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Lima, Ohio in 1965 and served as assistant pastor there. He served at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Springfield and St. Luke Lutheran Church in Toledo, both in Ohio. His final parish for 25 years was The Lutheran Church of The Master in Bedford, Ohio, where he retired in 2004. As a pastor he particularly enjoyed personal ministry and found it satisfying to minister to many generations of a family. He had great respect for the liturgy, its historical richness and varieties of music. He

Necrology Report Cont'd



enjoyed events held by the Society of the Holy Trinity, a pan-Lutheran organization.

Bruce loved his family. He was married to his wife, Kristi Maren Kaushagen, for nearly 56 years. Bruce was a considerate and supportive husband and father of his two children, Jennifer Kristi and Ryan Bruce. He was pleased to preside at the weddings of his daughter Jennifer to Steve Stucker and his son Ryan to Erin Roberson. He delighted in baptizing all four of his grandchildren: Margaret Elizabeth Stucker; and Audrey Louise, Henry Ryan, and Emma Lorraine Hathaway. Bruce enjoyed traveling. He took pride in his home and keeping up the yard. He liked to shop, especially at Costco. He was very good at keeping track of maintenance for the home, the cars, and health. He enjoyed Cleveland Orchestra concerts and trips to the Cleveland Museum of Art. Bruce loved to eat, be it at restaurants or at home.

Bruce was a kind, considerate and appreciative man, patient and able to understand other people's points of view. He enjoyed telling stories and jokes, but also listening to others. He went out of his way to please others and especially loved family get-togethers. However, God and the Church held first place in his life, his faith informing everything he did.

THE REV. JAMI LEE HAYES | October 23, 1953 - November 21, 2023

Reverend Jami L. Hayes of Rockton, Illinois, passed away on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. Jami was born October 23, 1953, in Tinley Park, Illinois to James and Goldie Lee.

Jami attended Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin and graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. She then continued her studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, graduating in 1979. Pastor Hayes was ordained on June 15, 1979, and followed her first call as Associate Pastor to Zion Lutheran Church in Wooster, Ohio. She served there until 1981 before earning a Master of Arts in Counseling in 1984 from Governors State University in Illinois. Pastor Hayes returned to congregational ministry at Christ Lutheran Church in Lexington, Ohio from 1999 until 2002.

Jami married William Hayes on August 5, 1998, in Columbus, Ohio. She is survived by her husband, William; children, William Hayes, Wolfie Jeras, Heidi Hayes, and Amy (Brian) Greene; grandchildren, Damian, Collin, Cillian, Andrew, and Maddelynn; and sister.

Necrology Report Cont'd



THE REV. ELIZABETH MCGEEHAN FOX | July 4, 1943 - December 11, 2023

Reverend Elizabeth Fox passed away peacefully on December 11th, 2023 surrounded by her family.

Elizabeth was born on July 4, 1943 in Chester, Pennsylvania to her beloved parents, Tom and Jean McGeehan. She met the love of her life, Jim Fox, as a sophomore at Akron Central School in Akron, New York. They dated for four years and were married in 1963.

Elizabeth lived a life of service to others. She was active in the church and in the community. When she was in her late thirties she felt called to become a Pastor. Elizabeth graduated with a Bachelors in Sociology from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1986 and continued her studies at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Elizabeth graduated with her Master of Divinity in 1991. It was a nine year journey that culminated with her ordination August 4, 1991 at Greenford Lutheran Church in Greenford, Ohio where she was called to serve for thirteen years until her retirement on February 1, 2004.

Elizabeth loved with all her heart, served with all her strength, and inspired all who knew her.

Elizabeth is survived by her husband Jim Fox, son the Rev. Tom Fox, daughter-in-law Diana Fox, daughter Leslie Swaim-Fox, and son-in-law Mark Swaim-Fox. She is also survived by her sisters Margaret Barker and Barbara McGeehan. Her brother Patrick McGeehan and her parents Thomas and Jeannette McGeehan preceded her in death. She will be missed by her grandchildren Abbey Fox, Anna Fox, and James Fox, Jordan Swaim-Fox (Sarah Lentz) and Callan Swaim-Fox.