



Bethany Lutheran Church Council Candidate Bio

Barb Baumert

Tell us about your experiences at Bethany, i.e. when you became a member and your involvement in the church.

We have been members of Bethany for almost 30 years, when we were still in the old church building on 204th Street. I have been involved with children's and youth ministry most of my life, both as a paid employee of Bethany, and as a volunteer. I have been active in the mission department and have served on prayer and care teams. I love the community that is formed when believers do something for Jesus together.

What strengths do you bring as a candidate? Spiritual gifts, education, etc.

I am not sure I possess any special strengths to the church, other than possibly wisdom. (That means I'm old!). I have seen Bethany go through a lot of great times and a lot of really hard times, and I really want to be part of a healthy, spiritually growing community.

Please share your past / present leadership and service roles (boards, councils, etc.) inside and outside the church.

In the past I have led the youth in several ways, both as an employee and as a volunteer. From mission trips to middle school VBS, to service opportunities, fund raisers and worship events, I have accompanied students on their journeys. In the past I was a member of a worship team, have led healing teams and prayer teams.

Today, I am working at a private Christian school teaching middle school students and coordinating the middle school for that school. (Alatere Academy). I also lead the Caregiver Support Group at Bethany and help with other events and services related to that group.



Bethany Lutheran Church Council Candidate Bio

Tim Darnall

Tell us about your experiences at Bethany, i.e. when you became a member and your involvement in the church.

Cheryl and I came to Bethany in 2019 during the Christmas Eve service. We were looking for a church and Bethany felt like home. We've attended ever since and subsequently joined (virtually) in 2020. During COVID, we became involved in the Worship ministry and still serve in that capacity.

What strengths do you bring as a candidate? Spiritual gifts, education, etc.

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership from Bellevue University obtained while working full time as a VP of Technology at Conagra.

My overall top 5 strengths can be categorized accordingly (all of them God given):

1. Relator - develop deep personal relationships vs. shallow broad ones
2. Ideation - love to ideate and develop the "art of the possible"
3. Responsibility - taking ownership, perhaps too much sometimes
4. Deliberative - take decision making seriously
5. Strategic - building long term ways to achieve visions

Leadership and team development has been an interest of mine for many years. I also love technology and have somewhat of a gift helping people and companies with their technology needs.

Please share your past / present leadership and service roles (boards, councils, etc.) inside and outside the church.

I served as Elder at Kingsway Christian Church for many years in the early 2000's and then as Chairman of the Eldership for the last 5ish years during a time when the church went through some major changes. I stepped out of the eldership around 2010.

Prior to becoming an elder, I served as Worship Leader for more than a decade.

In business, I've been in leadership roles for the last 20+ years. My current job is Chief Technology Officer for Mutual of Omaha where I lead strategy development for Mutual's technology modernization program.



Bethany Lutheran Church Council Candidate Bio

Ashley Hickson

Tell us about your experiences at Bethany, i.e. when you became a member and your involvement in the church.

My family and I joined Bethany in 2016 and dove in headfirst! My biggest passion is helping lead worship on Sundays as part of Bethany's musicMINISTRY team. I love helping people experience Jesus right where they're at in life's journey. My husband and I have been involved in various small groups; having made lasting, valuable relationships rooted in faith. My children LOVE being a part of children/youth ministries and attending preschool through Bethany. As a family, we do what we can to support Mission ministries and being the hands and feet of Jesus in action. Whether it's assembling LWR kits, collecting items for various drives, or branching out in our community through Beyond Bethany events, we love serving others!

What strengths do you bring as a candidate? Spiritual gifts, education, etc.

Outside of church, I am the Manager of Employee Communications at Boys Town. I have held other roles in leadership and communications for over 12 years and hold a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and communication from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

My spiritual gifts include leadership, administration, mercy, and service. When thinking about how I would bring these gifts to serving on the church council, my strengths are seeing the big picture while not discounting the details, creating a strategic plan based on a mission/vision and seeing that plan through to completion, listening to understand; not judge, communicating internally and externally, having empathy for others; ensuring they feel heard, creating connectivity and inclusivity with others, and keeping Christ at the center of all we do.

Please share your past / present leadership and service roles (boards, councils, etc.) inside and outside the church.

Other leadership and service roles I've had include event planning and being a part of planning committees for the church's September block party/ministry kick-offs and musicMINISTRY events. I have also run numerous "booster" type events in my workplace to help foster a positive work culture while recognizing and celebrating employees. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Public Relations Society of America—Nebraska Chapter as the Membership Chair.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of Bethany's Church Council to continue serving and meeting the needs of our congregation and community.



Bethany Lutheran Church Council Candidate Bio

Donni Stanton

Tell us about your experiences at Bethany, i.e. when you became a member and your involvement in the church.

We were members of Bethany back in 2002 and moved away. When we moved back in 2013 we came back to Bethany. Since then, I have been involved with being a small group leader in Sunday school as well as a small group leader for both of my boys throughout their confirmation.

What strengths do you bring as a candidate? Spiritual gifts, education, etc.

I am very dedicated to living my life according to God's will. I have an undergrad degree in Business Administration from North Dakota State University and a MBA with an emphasis in marketing.

Please share your past / present leadership and service roles (boards, councils, etc.) inside and outside the church.

I have 28 years of leadership experience in the Logistics arena and am the Director of Logistics for Greater Omaha Packing here in Omaha. I also served as the President of the Nebraska and Iowa High School Lacrosse association from January 2017 until June 2021 and am most recently serving as the Vice President of the Elkhorn United Lacrosse Team. I also served as a member of the Board of Directors for The Driveway Company in 2018.



Bethany Lutheran Church Council Candidate Bio

Name: Mark Tillwick

Tell us about your experiences at Bethany, i.e. when you became a member and your involvement in the church.

Sandy and I joined Bethany in 1998 after moving back to Omaha from Minneapolis. We found that we felt most at home in Bethany, and that feeling continues today. We have made many friends at Bethany, even some I grew up with in north Omaha. We were on a welcome team for about 12 years after joining and have helped with many other activities throughout the years. Beginning in 2018, I was elected to my first term on Church Council. Also in 2018, Sandy and I volunteered to help Becky Rooker organize the mission golf tournament. During my 3 years on Council, I have been involved in projects to look at expanding the church, primarily to make more space for youth education. I also helped with the gym renovation project in 2021 that created new space for youth worship and education.

What strengths do you bring as a candidate? Spiritual gifts, education, etc.

I have always been involved in my church since growing up in Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in north Omaha and participating in many youth group activities. At our church in Burnsville, MN, Sandy and I were high school youth group leaders and participated on a welcome team. I have a strong business background, having worked in the energy industry for 32 years, with my last role as VP of Marketing and Origination at BP. I feel I can use my experiences in business and the various churches I have been a part of to help Bethany continue to navigate through the pandemic and post pandemic as we focus on encouraging people to come back to church and grow our membership at Bethany.

Please share your past / present leadership and service roles (boards, councils, etc.) inside and outside the church.

Prior to retiring from BP, I led a team of eight focusing on marketing and selling natural gas and financial products to utilities, industrials, and municipals throughout a 12-state area. Within BP I served on and/or led many teams that focused on areas ranging from improving diversity and inclusion to business acquisitions to new systems designs and upgrades. I was on the SID Board for the Huntington Park neighborhood for 4 years. I am currently on the HOA Board for Village Point Estates. I was part of the team that worked on the Bethany sign replacement that is currently in progress. As mentioned above, I was part of the team this summer to convert the gym into a youth worship and education space.



Bethany Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Board Candidate Bio

Dave Reeble

Tell us about your experiences at Bethany, i.e. when you became a member and your involvement in the church.

I have been a member at Bethany since the late-90's. As my mom said the first time she walked in the doors at Bethany, "I feel the spirit here". I couldn't agree more. I am involved in the 33 Series Ministry at Douglas County Corrections, Open Door Mission and 180 House. I have been involved in Habitat and Hands & Feet as well.

What strengths do you bring as a candidate? Spiritual gifts, education, etc.

I am not sure I possess any special strengths to the church, other than possibly I have been married to my lovely bride for 38 years, have two wonderful daughters and two high-energy grandchildren. I own my own business and have been self-employed for 17 years. I have a BS in Marketing from Millikin University.

Please share your past / present leadership and service roles (boards, councils, etc.) inside and outside the church.

I have coached countless sports! If my girls played it; I coached! Including soccer, basketball, and volleyball. I have had numerous leadership roles in those organizations as well. I have served on the Mission Council at Bethany and currently serve as a Board member and Finance Committee member for Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA).



Bethany Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Board Candidate Bio

Bill Bianco

Tell us about your experiences at Bethany, i.e. when you became a member and your involvement in the church.

I became involved in Bethany after my wife found Bethany's Mom's Day Out around 22 years ago. We started attending Bethany soon after. While my daughters were in elementary, I was involved in Sunday school and anything that involved children. When they reached middle school, I was actively involved in 5th Quarter and Confirmation. I have volunteered for various outreach projects and donated slightly used soccer cleats and soccer balls for mission trips through a nonprofit organization my daughters and I formed to help tie sports with education. I have been looking for a place to lend my skills and knowledge. When asked to consider being on the Endowment Fund Board, I knew the position matched my background and would give me another opportunity to serve.

What strengths do you bring as a candidate? Spiritual gifts, education, etc.

I find it difficult to define my spiritual gifts. All I know is that I have been blessed with determination and persistence and an ability to bring people together to solve difficult issues. I received my degree in Economics at Nebraska Wesleyan University and my law degree from the University of San Diego. My business experience and knowledge come from running my own law firm and working with clients that own businesses. I received my military experience in the U.S. Naval Reserves.

Please share your past / present leadership and service roles (boards, councils, etc.) inside and outside the church.

The first board I served on served at-risk kids in San Diego and it sparked my involvement and enjoyment in service positions. I am a long-time board member of The Papillion Community Foundation and currently am the Past President of the I-80 Cosmopolitan Club. I was a founding board member for the Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce; member of the Air Force Association (awarded committee chairman of the year); board member of the Elkhorn Soccer Club (helped transition from recreational club to full service soccer club); board member and president of the Omaha Futbol Club; Elkhorn South Show Choir board member and officer; Graduate of Leadership Omaha; Selected as Top 10 Young Omahans (TOYO); U.S. Presidential Appointee to the White House Conference on Small Business; Sarpy County Bar President; Sarpy County YMCA board member; and founding member of the Papillion School Foundation Endowment committee which focuses on raising money through estate planning.