

# 2021 Nominees Board of Elders and Board of Directors

**Bylaw 4, Lines 80-89:** “The names and biographical information of the nominees shall be presented in writing to the congregation at least four (4) weeks prior to the Annual Voters Assembly. Any voting member of the congregation may raise objections of conscience about any nominee (s), based upon biblical precepts and prayer. The objecting voter shall submit a signed, written objection to the Joint Nominating Committee at

## **JulieAnn Detweiler**

### **Board of Directors**

#### **1. How have you been actively involved at OSLC?**

In the last 20 plus years I have been a tithing member of OSLC and spent my time in various roles and endeavors serving women, children and youth. I started years ago on the Women's Retreat Committee, I have served in the nursery, helping out at the Fall Festivals each year, serving as a greeter, communion server, various VBS roles from co-lead to games, tour guide, storyteller and cleanup crew. I have been a speaker for the Annual Day of Prayer, Church parenting events and B4K. I have been blessed to have been a part of two search committee's, a Youth Board member for five years, and a Sunday School teacher for K-12th grade. At the present moment I am serving on Wednesday nights with Cary Hoff as a middle school youth volunteer.



#### **2. How do you give regularly to OSLC of your time, talent, or treasure?**

I am a regular tithing member who has often served through the B4K program, offering my counseling abilities to specific members in need. See above for additional time talent and treasure references.

#### **3. Have you ever served on a board and why do you want to serve on this board?**

Yes, I have served on the Youth Board for five years at church. I am currently on the Washington School Safety Organization (WSSO) Board serving as their secretary. I have served on this board for over two years. I believe that as a church body, it is a member's privilege and duty to serve as a board member if we are called. Through prayer and petition I am willing to put my name on the ballot to serve for the next term.

#### **4. Have you read the OSLC BOD job description, church constitution and by-laws?**

Yes

#### **5. What qualities or gifts can you offer as you serve on the board in any of these subcommittees: Finance, Human Resources, or Governance?**

Communication, discernment and organizational skills. I am skilled at de-escalation difficult situations, listening to others in hardship and gathering and interpreting data. I have been a National Board Certificated Counselor for eleven years, a school counselor for twenty-five years. I am trained in Threat Assessments level I and II, Trauma Recovery CPS and ACES. Prayer and constant communication with God gives me the mindset to work in difficult situations easily.

#### **6. Will you serve as the Vice President, which would provide you a future opportunity to become the President of the Board? (Also known as the "President of the Congregation" in Lutheran church bodies.)**

I am willing to pray about it.

## Shelley Moman

### Board of Directors



**1. How have you been actively involved at OSLC?** In addition to regular attendance on Sunday mornings, I've been involved in volunteering my time at OSLC in the nursery, B4K, Financial Peace University, and the back to school fair. Additionally, we attended last year's Family Camp and a few of the family activity nights over the past year.

**2. How do you give regularly to OSLC of your time, talent, or treasure?** I believe firmly in the importance of giving of all three: time, talent, and treasure. **Treasure:** As a family, we tithe monthly as well as give extra when we are able. My husband and I tithe on our income and then we "strongly encourage" our children to tithe with money they earn and that which they receive for birthdays and Christmas. **Time:** Before Covid, I volunteered in the nursery with my husband at least one Sunday each month. We've also participated in the fall school supply fair giving out supplies to kids in need. And, I've brought our older kids to help pack food for Backpacks 4 Kids several times. **Talent:** I have had the opportunity to share my specific talents a few times over the past few years. When OSLC kicked off offering Financial Peace University to members, I facilitated classes in both English and Spanish – I had been an FPU graduate in my 20's and was able to draw on that experience as well as my language skills to help. And I was able to use my work experience in Organizational Change Management in a working session with the staff in 2020. It was amazing to be able to use experience I've gained at work to serve the Lord.

**3. Have you ever served on a board and why do you want to serve on this board?** I have not served on a church board before. However, I was on staff and on a few board sub-committees at Opportunity Presbyterian Church in Spokane. I would like to serve on the OSLC Board of Directors because I believe God has placed this opportunity in my path as a way to serve Him. I believe in the strategic vision of OSLC and I love the people that make up the congregation. I have some unique skills I can bring to the table that are particularly valuable and necessary following the difficulties of 2020 and early 2021.

**4. Have you read the OSLC BOD job description, church constitution and by-laws?** Yes I have. I read the constitution the first time several years ago when becoming a member of OSLC. But, as part of this process, I have re-read that along with reviewing the job description and by-laws.

**5. What qualities or gifts can you offer as you serve on the board in any of these subcommittees; Finance, Facilities, Human Resources, or Governance?** My skills lie in the areas of Governance and Human Resources. With my work experience in Organizational Change Management and Business Development, I am positioned to weigh in on measuring congregation and staff needs, building plans to meet those needs, and executing in a way that causes the least amount of disruption.

**6. Will you serve as the Vice President, which would provide you a future opportunity to become the President of the Board? (Also known as the "President of the Congregation" in Lutheran church bodies.)** If I am asked to serve in that position, I would do so.

## Jim Grant

### Board of Directors (Incumbent)

- *How long have you been an active member of OSLC?* 18 years
- *What ministries have you previously been involved with and how do you believe this has equipped you to serve on the board?* I have served in Men's ministry, 40 Days of Purpose, Elders, and was a member of the youth ministry team. I am not sure that any of these ministries have equipped me to serve on the Board of Directors other than to say that they have given me the opportunity to meet and get to know many, many people of our congregation.
- *Tell us how your life and/or work experience prepares you for a role on the Board of Directors/Elders.* I work as a software engineer specializing in system integration in support of acquisitions and mergers. My career has blessed me with a variety of opportunities, many in management, handling budgets, personnel, projects and more. With that said, I do believe that more than all of that, it is the calling of God that we must follow. He doesn't always call the qualified but He always qualifies the called.
- If our Lord is calling me to serve on the board then so be it, I am honored to do so. It is far more important to discern the will of God and the direction He has chosen for me than really anything else in life. My interest lies in obedience to God.
- The last 26 years of my life has been spent in Bible Study Fellowship. That experience has taught me the important things in life, one of those being service to others. We have a great church, full of great people I have come to love and admire. To serve in this capacity will allow me to give back to everyone in the congregation.
- Know that I believe we must seek God's plan for our church and be obedient to His calling. To this end my priorities are to bless and guide the congregation in all the board's decisions and to ensure the highest level of integrity as we work together to accomplish our God-given mission.
- *Is there anything that would make you hesitate to serve in this capacity?*  
No



## Tony Granata

### Board of Elders

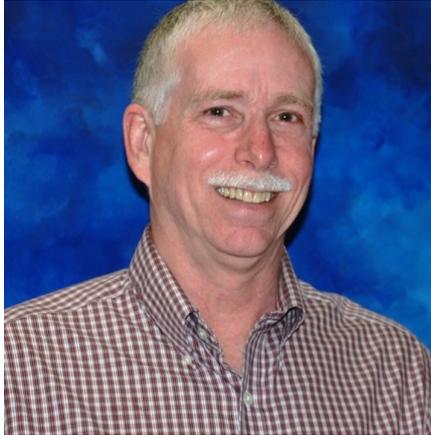


- I have been a member at OSLC since 1995. In 2019, I married my wife, Dawn, and she joined me on this journey!
- I grew up an Air Force brat and moved around a bit in my younger years. I became a Christian in 1995. Even though I did not attend church or walk with Jesus in my early years, my experiences since have given me clarity that even though I did not walk with Him, He was always walking with me. I enjoy sharing and relating this experience with others!
- At OSLC, I have been involved with Faith in Action, middle school Sunday School, DivorceCare, and the math tutoring ministry. I also look forward to meeting with the mens' groups on Saturday and Wednesday.
- For the last 30 years, I have been privileged to teach mathematics at Pierce College in Puyallup. Math was my worst subject in high school, so it gives me great joy to be able to help others learn and understand math.
- Dawn and I enjoy taking long walks (when we have the energy) and talking simple road trips to towns we haven't been to before. We also enjoy working in the backyard making things look nice!
- I am both humbled and blessed to be asked to be an elder at OSLC. The men that currently serve on this board have always been role models to me. I look forward to working and serving with them and continuing to grow in my faith and serve God.

## David Kernan

### Board of Elders

- I was not raised in church. However, by the grace of God I became a Christian in August, 1974. Since then I attended churches in several denominations. In 1989 I was confirmed in a Missouri Synod Lutheran church in Illinois, where I served as an elder.
- I have been a member of OSLC since 1991.
- At OSLC, I have served as a deacon, have served communion, participated in men's retreat committees, have been in several bible studies and prayer groups. For several years I coordinated providing holiday gifts from our church to service members deployed from Fort Lewis. I sing as a tenor in the choir, and recently started serving on the church AVL team.
- I have been in the health and safety field since 1977, and in 1998 started my own environmental health and safety practice. Through my profession I have had the wonderful opportunity to meet many people in various backgrounds and cultures over the years.
- I have two grown married children, and two grandchildren that I enjoy doting on. My hobbies include pretty much anything that takes me outdoors, cycling, kayaking, hiking, boating, fishing, skiing, surfing. I also enjoy gardening and working with my hands.
- I am looking forward to this new opportunity to serve our congregation.



## **Larry Forschler**

### **Board of Elders (Incumbent)**

My wife Jan and I are both retired. We have been married twenty years and have four children and twelve grandchildren. I was baptized in 2006 at Immanuel Lutheran Church and we attended there until November of 2017 when we started coming to Our Savior. We attended the new member class and became

members in February of 2018. I am currently serving in the Visitation Ministry and I am a Stephen Minister. I also co-lead a life group. It would be an honor to serve as an elder as together we worship our Lord, grow in our faith, and serve our community.



## **John B. Merz**

### **Board of Elders (Incumbent)**

I have been a member at OSLC for about 8 years. Prior to transferring my membership, I was attending Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Tacoma for 30 years. At Good Shepherd, I served as an Elder, Church President, Vice President, Evangelism Committee, Sunday school teacher, and eighth grade confirmation teacher, during a Pastoral vacancy.



I have been in Spiritual walk my entire life. I was baptized as an infant and confirmed into the LCMS in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and have been serving my Lord and Savior ever since.

I have been serving as an elder at OSLC for the past two years. In June of 2017 I completed a Masters in Divinity Degree from Covenant Bible Seminary in Lakewood. Previously, I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and a MBA degree. I am now serving Our Savior Lutheran as the Director of Care Ministries on a part time basis.

Until I recently retired I owned and operated assisted living homes for 30 plus years. I have been the CEO, Administrator, and a resident caregiver when I had the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I also had the honor of caring for two wives with terminal illnesses until they were called to glory.

I have served on the Concordia School Board. I served 20 plus years on the Washington Health Care Association Board of Directors in Olympia, and as their President in 2008. I have also served the community as a Puyallup Rotarian, and as their President in 2013-2014. Currently I am in the Sumner Rotary.

**Can you think of anything that would hinder you from serving on the board?** No, God willing.

## **Steve Pyle**

**Board of Elders (Incumbent)**

I am a believer in Christ's saving power from childhood. Married to Erin Pyle. I have three boys, ages 24, 15 and 13. Born and raised in Central Florida, I fell in love with the Pacific Northwest after visiting a high school friend who had moved out here many years ago. Erin and I had talked about retiring to this area, but there were too many



things keeping us there. When all the right things (that seemed wrong at the time) occurred, we were free to move. We love Tacoma.

OSLC was the second church we visited. My resolve to visit at least 3 churches before settling on one was quickly overridden after our initial visit and we have been here since. We love worshipping at OSLC.

I am in my 33<sup>rd</sup> year of law practice. My focus is on Labor & Industry representing injured workers.

I enjoy hiking, spending time with my family and hope to get back into beekeeping.

## **Kirk Van Natta**

### **Board of Elders (Incumbent)**

I have been a member of OSLC since 1963 and am presently serving as an elder and choir member. I lead Stephen Ministry and am the Care Minister at OSLC. I visit and make calls on members and attenders who are hospitalized, homebound, in crisis or have just lost touch with our church. I have also worked with the youth as a Splash leader, and other duties where directed by the Holy Spirit. One of my passions is Men's ministry. I enjoy organizing men's events, and cooking and grilling, especially when bacon is involved!



I am married to the love of my life Lyn who has served by my side for 30 years.

I am certified in Specialized Pastoral Care Ministry for both LCMS and ELCA. I also hold a Master of Divinity Degree from Faith Seminary, and Washington Teaching Certificate for K-8 Elementary, K-12 Social Science and K-12 Physical Education.

My Goal in life is to Love God, Love People, and Live like Jesus in whatever God directs me to do. I feel God is leading me to continue as an elder for OSLC as we continue to grow together in Christ to reach out to each other as well as the community.