

October 7, 2025

**To Gov. Walz and the Honorable Members of the Minnesota Legislature,**

As clergy and people of faith from across this state, we come to you as shepherds of our communities. We are writing to demand that you act with moral clarity and courageous leadership by immediately calling a special legislative session to pass a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Our collective heart is broken by the unimaginable tragedy at Annunciation Catholic School. This unthinkable violence, which wounded 21 others, shattered a sacred space and sent a tremor of fear through every school, church, and community in our state. We refuse to accept that our children must learn lockdown drills and live with the constant threat of gun violence as a new normal.

We are here to clear up a serious confusion: our job, as people of faith, is to offer thoughts and prayers and recommend ideas especially as they relate to faith communities. Your job, as our elected officials, is to make policy changes. It is a fundamental moral responsibility of any civil society to protect its most vulnerable members. Yet, a week and a half after this tragedy, we see no legislative commitment to call for a special session.

We gathered recently in the Rotunda of the Minnesota State Capitol because we believe that our grief must be turned into laws that protect our communities. In these days of vigils, prayers, and marches, we turn our attention to you, our legislators, because you alone have the power to do what the rest of us cannot: make laws. We gave you this power, and we now demand that you use it.

A ban on assault weapons is not a partisan issue; it is a moral one. These weapons were designed for the battlefield, not for our schools and churches. They are tools of war, not peace. Their only purpose is to inflict mass casualties, to maim and destroy. Protecting lives is a sacred duty. While we cannot erase the violence that has already occurred, you can make it far more difficult for someone to obtain these weapons tomorrow.

We stand with the thousands of students and parents across Minnesota who are demanding action. We call on Governor Walz to immediately convene a special session, and we call on every member of the legislature to honor the lives lost by finally passing a ban on assault weapons.

It is time for courage.

Sincerely,

Pastor Laura Aase, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), St. Peter

Pastor Michele Abbott, Oak Knoll Lutheran Church, Minnetonka

Rev. Dave Adams, Concordia Campus Ministry, Moorhead

Rabbi Esther Adler, Judaism, St. Paul

Rev. Dan Adolphson, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis

Rev. Keith Ainsley, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Bloomington

The Rev. Dr. Susan Allers-Hatlie, Executive Director Spiritual Care & Pastoral Education, Elko

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Rev. Dr. Dawn Alitz, Saint Paul Area Synod, Grace Lutheran Church, Apple Valley

The Rev. Jennifer Allred, Episcopal Homes of Minnesota, St. Paul

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Rev. Devon Anderson, The Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Minneapolis

Pastor Jake Anderson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Moorhead

Rev. Jen Anderson, Centennial United Methodist Church, Roseville and St. Anthony

Pastor Jon Anderson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, St. Paul

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Pastor Kyle Anderson, Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Sarah Anderson, Christ the King Lutheran Church (ELCA), New Brighton

Deacon Stephanie Anderson, Augustana Lutheran Church (ELCA), West St. Paul

Rev. Maria Anderson-Lippert, University Lutheran Church of Hope, Minneapolis

Pastor Dan Ankerfelt, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

The Rev. Alice Mae Applequist (Ret.), The Episcopal Church, Olmsted County

Rev. Michele Arndt, Roseville Covenant Church/The Evangelical Covenant Church, Roseville

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Katherine Barton, Sufism Islam, Bloomington

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The Rev. Chris Fair Beebe (Ret.), The Episcopal Church, Bloomington

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Rev. Marc W. Blakesley, Peace United Church of Christ, St. Cloud

Rev. Bryan Bliss, Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Saint Paul

Rev. Adam Blons, Macalester Plymouth United Church, St. Paul/Ramsey

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Rev. Tom Countryman, Cannon Falls & Stanton United Methodist Churches, Inver Grove Heights

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Rev. Dr. Meghan Gage-Finn, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

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Rev. Kimberly Goodman, Presbyterian Church (USA), Bloomington

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Rev. K.P. Hong, Unity Church-Unitarian, St. Paul

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Rev. Heather Roth Johnson, Bethlehem Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Holly Johnson, Spirit Garage Church, Minneapolis

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The Rev. Marta Maddy, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Duluth

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Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm, Beth Jacob Congregation, Mendota Heights

Rev. Richard A Magnus, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Bloomington

The Rev. Michael Mandsager, Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester

Pastor Debbie Manning, The Table Minneapolis, Minneapolis

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Pastor Maria Markman, Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Andover

The Rev. Dr. George H. Martin, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Bloomington

Rev. Benjamin Masters, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Minneapolis

The Rev. Susan Masters (Ret.), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Minneapolis

Rev. John W. Matthews (Ret.), ELCA Pastor, Apple Valley

The Rev. Timothy Maybee, Spring Garden Lutheran Church, Farmington

Fr. Cody Maynus, All Saints Episcopal Church, Northfield

Rev. Chris McArdle, First Congregational Church UCC of Anoka, Anoka

Rev. Jane McBride, First Congregational Church of Minnesota, Minneapolis

Rev. Ian McConnell, Fabric, Minneapolis

Rev. Diana McLean, Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Bloomington

Pastor Jenny McLellan, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Burnsville

The Rev. Jennifer McNally, The Episcopal Church, Dakota County

Rev. Laurel Meester, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Blooming Prairie

Pastor Jan Mehlhoff, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Minneapolis

Rev. Nate Melcher, Richfield United Methodist Church, Minneapolis

Jane Menning, City Director, The Minneapolis/St Paul Navigators Ministry, Minneapolis

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Rev. Steven E. Meyer, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Caledonia

Rev. Kris Tostengard Michel, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Minneapolis

Pastor Lauren Mildahl, St. Mark Lutheran Church (ELCA), Circle Pines

Rev. Paul Miller, First Lutheran Church, Lake City

Rev. Peter Weston Miller, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), Stillwater

The Rev. Susan Miller (Ret.), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Maplewood

Rev. Doug Mitchell (Emeritus), Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Kristi R. Mitchell, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Alden

Rev. Susie Modrow, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Circle Pines

Rev. Dr. Glenn L. Monson, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester

Fr. Scott Monson, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Afton

Rev. Amy Wick Moore, United Church of Christ in New Brighton, New Brighton

The Rev. Mark Moore, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Elk River

Rev. T. C. Moore, Roots Moravian Church, St. Paul

Rev. Doug Mork, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Sara E. Morse, Hazel Park Congregational United Church of Christ, St. Paul

Deacon Lauren Morse-Wendt, Edina Community Lutheran Church, Edina

The Rev. Susan Maetzold Moss, Episcopal Church in MN, Ramsey

Rev. Cindy Mueller, Creekside Clergy, Buffalo

Rev. Susan Mullin (Ret.), Hamline Church United Methodist, St Paul

Bishop Jen Nagel, Minneapolis Area Synod (ELCA), Minneapolis

The Rev. Margaret Nancarrow, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Duluth

Rev. Kent Narum, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), St. Peter

Rev. Cassandra Nault, Atonement & Cross of Glory Lutheran Churches, New Brighton & Mounds View

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Rev. Eric Nelson, Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom

Rev. John D. F. Nelson, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins

Pastor Josh Nelson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Chanhassen

Pastor Karsten Nelson, Redeemer Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake

Pastor Rob Nelson (Retired), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Rochester

Rev. Tim Nelson (Ret.), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), St. Paul

Rev. Dana Neuhauser, New City Church Minneapolis, Minneapolis

Pastor Kai Nilsen, Lutheran Church, Shoreview

Elder Khanh Nguyễn, Sanctuary Covenant Church, Minneapolis

Rev. G. Travis Norvell, Judson Memorial Baptist Church (ABC-USA), Minneapolis

Rev. Kathie Nycklemoe, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe, Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Dennis O'Brien, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Minneapolis

Rev. Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Congregational United Church of Christ, Austin

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Pastor Joe Orner, Transfiguration Lutheran Church (ELCA), Bloomington

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Rev. Hierald Osorto, Iglesia Luterana St. Paul's-San Pablo (ELCA), Minneapolis

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Pastor Duane Paetznick (Ret.), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Apple Valley

Pastor Doug Pagitt, Vote Common Good, Edina

Rev. Lois Pallmeyer (Ret.), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Eagan

Pastor Kari Pancoast, Bethel & Immanuel Lutheran Churches, Little Falls & Hillman

Rev. Emily Papke-Larson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Bemidji

Brian PaStarr, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

The Rev. Dr. Jessica Patchett, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Seth Patterson, United Church of Christ, Minneapolis

Rev. Donald Patterson (Ret.), Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), St. Paul

Rev. Douglas Paulson, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Duluth

Rev. Keith Pearson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), New London

Rev. Micah Pearson, Woodlake Lutheran Church, Richfield

Rev. Marshall Pechauer (Ret.), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Minneapolis

Rev. Mary Pechauer, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Edina

Rev. Craig Pederson, Augustana Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Dr. Dee Pederson, Bishop, Southwestern Minnesota Synod (ELCA), Redwood Falls

Deacon Elizabeth Pedersen, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Brooklyn Park

Rev. Linda M. Pedersen, River of Hope Lutheran Church, Hutchinson

Rev. John Clark Pegg, Creekside UCC, Minneapolis

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Rev Linda Petersen, Universal Life Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Hans Peterson, River of Hope Lutheran Church, Hutchinson

Rev. Matthew Peterson, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA), Moorhead

Rev Nissa Peterson, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Chatfield

Rev. Matthias Peterson-Brandt, Cherokee Park United Church, St. Paul

The Rev. Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski, Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Duluth



Rev. Dr. John E. Phelan, Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Stillwater

Rev. Rory Philstrom, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville

The Rev. Gretchen Pickeral, Grace Episcopal Church Minneapolis, Hennepin

Rev. Joyce Piper, ELCA, Duluth

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Rev. Elise Tweten Pokel, Transfiguration Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Rev. Matt Polsdofer, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, East Bethel

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Rev. Ryan Prondzinski, St. John's Lutheran Church, Mound

Rev. S. Lindy Purdy, Wayzata Community Church, Wayzata

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Rev. Kirkland Reynolds, Christ United Methodist Church, Rochester

Rev. Jacie Richmond, Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA), Mankato

Rev. Max Richter, Good Samaritan United Methodist Church, Edina

Rev. Dr. Kristin Riegel, St. Luke Presbyterian Church, Minnetonka

Rev. Cynthia Riffin, Lead Minister, United Church of Christ New Brighton, New Brighton

Deacon Deborah Robinson, Resurrection Lutheran Church, St. Joseph

Rev. T. Michael Rock, Lyndale United Church of Christ, Minneapolis

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Pastor Gretchen Rode, House of Hope Lutheran Church, Roseville

Rev. Jill Rode, St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, St. Paul

Rev. Gretchen Roeck, The Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Minneapolis

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Former Bishop Peter Rogness, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), St. Paul

The Rev. Dr. Paul Rohde, Transfiguration Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Rev. Sarah Rohde, Grace Lutheran Church, Apple Valley

Deacon Susan Wold Rohde, Transfiguration Lutheran Church/ELCA, Bloomington

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The Rev. Philip J. Rose, Episcopal Homes of Minnesota, St. Paul

Rabbi Jessica Rosenberg, World to Come Twin Cities, Minneapolis

Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf, Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Rev Kristin A Ross, Edina Community Lutheran Church, Edina

Rev. Leah Rosso, Love First United Methodist Church of the St. Cloud Region, Sartell

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Rev. Tim Rotman, Zumbro Lutheran Church (ELCA), Rochester

Rev. Thomas Roy, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Annandale

Rev. Tom Roy, Justification, Benton

The Rev. V. Beth Royalty, Calvary Episcopal Church, Rochester

Rev. Michelle Ruen, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa

Rev. Erik Rundquist, First Lutheran Church, Hinckley

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The Rev. Dr. Peter Samuelson, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis

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The Cody J. Sanders, Luther Seminary, St. Paul

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Rev. Anne Schaefer, Elk River Lutheran Church, Elk River

Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Schattauer (Ret.), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Minneapolis

The Rev. Carrie S. Scheller, ELCA, Chaplain, Ecumen Hospice, Duluth

Rev. Erica Schemper, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker, Luther Seminary, Lake Elmo

Rev. Kevin Schill, Hamline Church United Methodist Church, St. Paul

Rev. Dr. David Tsai Shinn, Westminster Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), Minneapolis

Rev. Merlin Schlichting (Ret.), St. Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Paul

Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul

Rev. Christoph Schmidt, Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Hermantown

Rev. Dr. Peter Schmidt, Grace Community Lutheran Church, Bigfork

Rev. Timothy Schroeder, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), West St. Paul

Rev. Jamie Schultz, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Rev. John Schwehn, Augsburg University, Minneapolis

Deacon Mark Sedio, Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis

Rev. Dr. Patrick H. Shebeck, St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church, St. Paul

Rev. Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, All Nations Indian Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Craig F. Simenson, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Rev.-Elect Morgan Simmons, Luther Seminary, St. Paul

Rev. Amanda Simons, University Lutheran Church of Hope (ELCA), Minneapolis

Rev. Matthew P. Sipe, Hilltop United Methodist Church, Mankato

Pastor Kristin Skare, Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie

Pastor Rick Skare, Word of Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA), Rogers

Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Skinner, Luther Seminary, St. Paul

Pastor Trevor Skorborg, Zion Lutheran Church, Buffalo

Rev. JT Smiedendorf, Acting Lead Minister, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Amy Mihelich Smith, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

Rev. Georgianna Smith, St. Clements Episcopal Church, St. Paul

The Rev. Lisa White Smith, The Episcopal Church, Plymouth

Pastor Marta A. Smith, The Table MPLS, Minneapolis

Pastor Dave Sorenson, Trinity/Wanamingo Lutheran Churches ELCA, Wanamingo

Rev. Ruth Sorenson, Lyngblomsten, St. Paul

Rabbi Adam Stock Spilker, Mount Zion Temple, St. Paul

The Rev. Jon Spinillo, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Winona

Pastor Liesl Spitz, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Paul

Pastor Sara Spohr, Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Pastor Vickie Spyhalski, United Methodist Church, Austin

Pastor Michael Stadie (Ret.), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Golden Valley

The Rev. Denise Ione Stahura, Episcopal Church of the Advent, Farmington

Rev. Christy Stang, The Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Edina

The Rev. Deacon Chelsea Stanton, Christ Episcopal Church, Woodbury

The Rev. Peter Stebinger, St John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Wendy Steger, All Saints Lutheran Church (ELCA), Eagan

Rev. Luke Stevens-Royer, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Rochester

Rabbi Sharon Stiefel, Mayim Rabim and Shir Tikvah, Minneapolis

Rev. Jullan Stoneberg, First Unitarian Society, Minneapolis

Rev. Dana Fath Strande, The Episcopal Church, Burnsville and Woodbury

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Rev. Larry E Streng, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Sartell

Rev. John Strommen, Central Lutheran Church Minneapolis, Plymouth

Rev. Siri Strommen, Atonement Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Rev. Kimberly Sturtz, French River Lutheran Church (ELCA), Duluth

The Rev. John Sullivan, Christ Church, Episcopal, Austin

Pastor Rebecca Sullivan, Christ the King Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake

Rev. Rebecca Sullivan (Ret.), Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA), Mankato

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Rev. Lydia Svenulski, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Hopkins

The Rev. Cynthia Bronson Sweigert, St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, St. Paul

Rev. Kate Taber, Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Rev Donald L. Tastad, Roseville

Rev. Annie Taylor, Park Avenue United Methodist Church, Minneapolis

Rev. David G Taylor (Ret.), United Methodist Church, St. Paul

Pastor Natalia Terfa, Edina Community Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

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Bishop Bill Tesch, Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA, Moorhead

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Rev. Dr. Rebecca Thurman, All Saints Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove

Pastor Connie Tiede, Zion Lutheran Church, Anoka

Pastor Mark A. Tiede, St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA, Minneapolis

Pastor Chuck Tindell (Ret.), Apple Valley

The Rev. Michael Tippet, The Episcopal Church in Minnesota, St. Paul

Pastor Susan Tjornehoj, St. Paul Reformation Church (ELCA), St. Paul

Pastor Nancy Toensing, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Spring Valley

Rev. Mariah Tollgaard, Hamline Church United Methodist, St. Paul

Pastor Megan Torgerson, Easter Lutheran Church, Eagan

Rev. Ali Tranvik, Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Center

Rev. Manda Truchinski, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), North Branch

Rev. Dr. Terry E. Turner (Ret.), United Methodist Church, Roseville

Rev. Canon Robert Two Bulls, Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Minneapolis

Rev. Alanna Simone Tyler, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis

Rev. Steve Tyykila, Associated Church, Owatonna

Pastor Desirée Uhrich, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Plymouth

Rev. Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Sleepy Eye

Rev. Grant Vanderfors, Bethesda Lutheran Church, Moorhead

Rev. Wendy VanderHart, MN Conference United Church of Christ, Northfield

Rev. Michelene Verlautz, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Arden Hills

Rev. Dr. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud, United Methodist Church, Minneapolis

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Rev. Mark Vinge, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Minnetonka

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Voelkel, Lyndale United Church of Christ, Minneapolis

Rev. Schuyler Vogel, Carleton College, Northfield

Rev. Shannon Wachter, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Redwood Falls

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, New Hope



Rev. Mike Walerius, Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA), Owatonna

Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mankato

Rev. Beth Wanamaker, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Hastings

Pastor Jennifer Warnock, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Madison

The Rev. Lisa Watson, The Presbyterian Church (USA), St. Paul

Rev. Tom Watson, First Presbyterian Church, South St. Paul

The Very Rev. Jered Weber-Johnson, Saint John the Evangelist Episcopal Church (Rector), East Metro Mission Area (Dean), St. Paul

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Rev. Molly Weiss, Christ Episcopal Church, Woodbury

Pastor Kate Reuer Welton, Lutheran Campus Ministry - Twin Cities, Minneapolis

Pastor Glen Wheeler (Ret.), Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

The Rev. Marilla Whitney (Ret.), Episcopal Church in Minnesota, Minneapolis

Rev. Jan Wiersma (Ret.), Southeast Minnesota Synod (ELCA), Rochester

Pastor Arthur E. Wiese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Sunburg

Pastor Gayle Wilcox, Hamline Church United Methodist Church, Burnsville

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Deacon Julie Wilson, Good Shepherd Church, Moorhead

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Rev. Julie Wright, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA), Apple Valley

Pastor Andrew Yackel, Our Savior's Lutheran Church (ELCA), Faribault

Rev. Courtney Young, Faith Lutheran Church, Becker

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