

Nominee Information

Board of Directors

Introduction

This document contains information provided by the nominees for the open Board of Directors positions. The information is being provided to assist the congregation in preparation for the Voters Meeting on June 15, 2023 at 11:00 AM. We will be electing five candidates for 2-year terms.

Nominee

Neill Barker

Shanna Caceres-Reed

Rebekah Kramer

Sal Pagano

Brad Seiter

What are the responsibilities of a member of the Board of Directors?

The Board of Directors is a governing board. Its main duty is to ensure the fulfillment of St. John's Mission and Vision. It does this by holding the Lead Pastor accountable for implementing a ministry plan that pursues the mission and vision for our church and school, and supporting him in the fulfillment of that plan. The Board of Directors also prepares and maintains a policy manual that defines the goals of the congregation, the relationship between the Board and the Lead Pastor, the limitations on the Lead Pastor, and the way in which the Board will carry out its duties. The Board members do not represent any particular group or constituency in the church. Rather, the Board acts on behalf of the entire congregation, especially as it confesses its purpose through the Mission and Vision statement.

What are the qualifications to serve on the Board of Directors?

The By Laws state that Board members must be committed to the mission and vision of the congregation. Therefore the ideal board member is someone who is:

- Faithful in Worship
- Regularly in the Word: Bible Study or Small Group
- Active in service: Serving in a ministry of the congregation
- Supportive of tithing: Either tithing or working toward it.
- Strong support for the Mission and Vision
- Strong support for the new governance structure
- Able to see the big picture of the church's mission

Neill Barker

Employment/Experience Background

Former Managing Pharmacist at Queen of the Valley Hospital. I have served on a board of directors for several years at a previous congregation.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

I serve as a member of the worship band, work on the Mission Farm, help with the coffee ministry, have hosted bible study in our home.

How are you regularly in the Word?

I regularly attend the men's Saturday morning Bible study as well as follow two daily devotionals.

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

I am committed to enhancing my understanding of Christ's mission. It would be a privilege to serve on the Board, providing prayerful support for the congregation's mission and vision. I hold this congregation in high regard and have built meaningful relationships with its members through various small groups. My leadership roles in my career and other organizations have prepared me to comprehend the challenges facing the Board. This is a pivotal moment for St John's as we seek to call a new pastor who will assume the role of Lead Pastor.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

The St John's Mission and Vision statements are exceptional, making it difficult to single out a most important. What impresses me most is how St John's serves the community and supports Christ's mission worldwide. We serve the community by offering an exceptional school, providing food to the food bank through the Mission Farm, and support growth of the Kingdom of God through donations to Mission India.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

The school exemplifies the fulfillment of St John's Mission and Vision. It serves as a platform for many children and their parents to learn about the teachings of Jesus. Students are guided into developing a deeper relationship with Christ and often builds enduring friendships with each other. The school is renowned within the community for providing exceptional education. Additionally, there are opportunities to engage with parents who may not be currently affiliated with any church.

Shanna Caceres-Reed

Employment/Experience Background

I work at Kaiser Foundation Rehabilitation Center in Vallejo. For the past 8 years I have been in leadership as an Assistant Nurse Manager and recently as a Quality Nurse Consultant. I love working in rehab, and I am blessed to work with amazing people. We work with people who have had debilitating illness or injury and get to see them improve to where they can go home. I love rounding on patients where I get to answer their questions, solve their problems, or help them with their needs. I also love working with the nursing staff. They go above and beyond to care for patients, and I am privileged to support and educate them.

I recently completed education for Family Nurse Practitioner. I am content in my current position, but I am open to where God leads me to use those skills best.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

I had the pleasure of assisting with the Confirmation class of 2023. It was so much fun to work with the kids and see them practice and confirm their faith. I will be going to New Orleans with the youth to the LCMS Youth Gathering. I went twice when I was in high school, and it was inspirational. I am excited to watch our youth experience such an amazing gathering of their peers.

While my daughters attended St. John's school, I was engaged in field trips, I helped in the classroom, and I chaperoned the 7th and 8th grade Washington DC trip. My girls were blessed to have an extremely close class, and I loved watching as they all grew up.

How are you regularly in the Word?

I regularly attend church on Sundays with my daughters. I was brought up in the Church and I am glad my girls come willingly. I love when they have sleepovers and I get a few extra girls to attend Church. To me, it is more than just showing up at Church. I am a Christian every day, but I am also a sinner every day. I find peace that I can offer thanks as well as ask for forgiveness and guidance from the Lord. I have handed many things to Him, He has guided me through many difficult decisions, and comforted me in hard times. Additionally, I have tried to be a source of comfort to my patients, praying with those of faith and praying for those who do not believe.

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

The Church has been so good for me and my girls. I believe that God is calling me to this work. Also, I am in a place where I have time and I am ready to serve the Church. I lead and I serve in my profession, and I believe I can use those skills and translate them to the work of the Board. Also, I have been a member of the Church for 40 years. I did spend time away, but I eventually

came back. I attended St. John's School, I went through confirmation, and I attended youth group. My daughters have done the same. I have seen a lot of changes over the years. I believe knowing the past and the present can help me make decisions for the future of the Church.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

It is important to grow the Church as well as to make disciples who go out into the world to spread the Word. Most important to me is to make members of our school families. I would love to see more families stay in the Church after the children graduate from St. John's. I believe the children are our future.

I am also interested in thinking outside the box, to find new ways to bring people to the Lord as well as into the Church. Perhaps inviting the local FFA chapter to help in the garden, or ensuring the Church/School has a fun float in parades. Also, I have seen joy in the children when they were given the opportunity to serve others. I would love to see more opportunities for the children to be disciples by serving others.

Additionally, I felt that Aaron was a wonderful opportunity to reach those not in the Church. Aaron would come to the hospital and visit my unit. He would light up the patients as well as the staff. I am hopeful that ministry will continue soon.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

As I said above, I believe the school is incredibly important in making disciples. Within the framework of the school, the children are led up in the Word of God. Not only do they learn about God and the Bible through memorizing Bible verses and Religion class, they also practice attending Church through Wednesday Worship and when they sing in Church. St. John's School children know what it means to be a Lutheran and a person of faith, while other children may find the Church a mystery. I believe knowing God and the Church will serve them as they leave the school and as they make decisions into their adult lives.

Rebekah Kramer

Employment/Experience Background

Partner at a local Certified Public Accounting Firm specialized in financial statement audit and assurance services as well as financial advisory services.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

I am currently serving on the Pastoral Call Committee. I am also a member of the Comfort Dog Ministry and have served as a handler and ministry partner. In the past I have volunteered for VBS assistance, worship band, mission trips to Mexico, and the acolyte training program.

How are you regularly in the Word?

I attend Church almost every week, whether in person or virtually and do bible studies with my family during Lent and Advent seasons.

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

As I have become more comfortable in my professional role, I have felt called by God to expand my footprint in different areas where I can use my skills in business and leadership to assist St. John's mission in a different capacity. I also have a desire to be a part of different mission or service groups within the Church to expand my outreach.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

The most important factor for me is to ensure that we, as a Church, are ensuring our focus remains on the Mission and Vision set out in our current year budget. Not to just ensure we are following it fiscally, but to ensure our support and prayers are being focused on those areas highlighted in our Mission.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

It is an essential piece to our daily Mission and Vision as it is an extremely large mission field that is right at our doorstep. Ensuring the Day School is aligned with the Mission and supported by the Church is key to achieving the Vision.

Sal Pagano

Employment/Experience Background

- 30+ years public school teaching Napa, Sonoma, and Solano counties, grades 4-12
- 14 years military service, US Navy and Air Force reserves – explosive ordinance and military police

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

- 20+ years playing guitar and singing in the worship band
- Serving as an usher and reader in worship
- Help with set-up and take-down for various events
- 2 trips abroad building housing (Habitat for Humanity) with Pastor Mark
- St. John's Lay Delegate to the 2022 CNH District Convention

How are you regularly in the Word?

- I have been reading and reflecting on a daily devotional guide for over 30 years.
- I have memorized about a dozen verses that are especially meaningful to me

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

- 3 different long time members of the congregation have asked that I serve in this capacity

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

- To welcome everyone at worship and events, to encourage study of Scripture, and to support families and members of the congregation when they have special/unmet needs.

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

- Encourage the knowledge/understanding of the Bible, and be followers of the teachers of Jesus, and be in service of our community

Brad Seiter

Employment/Experience Background

Retired, after 21 years, Fire Captain with Contra Costa Fire District.

Duties: Station Budget, training, incident commander until relieved by a chief officer.

Previous Service at St. John's Church and School

One of the core volunteers with the Mission Farm since April 2011.

Have assisted with setting up and or breaking down of tables/chairs for different events.

How are you regularly in the Word?

Reading "New Morning Mercies," a daily devotional book.

Attending Bible studies

Watched Wednesday night Bible studies online during COVID.

Why do you desire to serve the Lord and His people as a member of the Board of Directors?

I was not raised in a church attending family. St. John's is the first church I have ever committed to. I owe this to my wife Anna. I have a completely different relationship with Jesus now and I can say that it is because of St. John's and its mission of leading people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

What is most important to you regarding our Mission and Vision as we seek to make disciples in our community?

To be a welcoming congregation to people we don't know. We have welcomed people we did not know, and almost always, they commented on how appreciative they were for the gesture. That first impression is really important.

Our ministries such as our Comfort Dog and Mission Farm and Mission India are the ministries I am most familiar with. The clients at the food pantry have gone out of their way to thank our group for the high Quality of our produce and fruit. The Comfort Dog Ministry not only supports our local community, but also travels nationwide supporting people in tragic circumstances. Mission India is another ministry that is having amazing results under oppressive government scrutiny.

These are just a few of the ministries that St. John's supports that impact our mission "Leading People Up" and "Leading People Out."

What is the role of our Day School in light of our Mission and Vision?

Helping students to grow in their relationship with Christ and to develop the knowledge and skills to be confident, academically capable individuals who serve Christ, His Church and His World.

