



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Our Congregations in Transition

Updated February 24, 2025

FULL-TIME CALLS

In the Northern Illinois Synod, we currently have 21 full-time call vacancies (six of the “full-time” congregations are determining if they are part-time) and several additional congregations seeking part-time ministers.

RM= Rostered Minister (Pastor or Deacon)

MSP= Ministry Site Profile (Congregation’s “resume”)

RMP= Roster Minister Profile (Pastor or Deacon’s “resume”)

Congregations in a full-time call process or a traditional part-time call process journey through the following phases between settled calls of Roster Ministers:

PHASE ONE: RM announces departure/Placing Transition Leader in Congregation

PHASE TWO: Congregation/Council identifies Call Committee and congregation enters discernment

PHASE THREE: MSP is submitted and Call Committee Interviews Candidates

PHASE FOUR: Call Committee forwards name to Council for recommendation/Congregational vote

PHASE FIVE: Settled Minister is welcomed. Synod follows up in six months.

The Office of Bishop works with Congregations, Councils, and Call Committees during each phase of their transition. The congregation receives support to deepen their collective faith and specific activities to complete during their time of transition. We hope congregations experience times of transition as spiritual discernment and focus on what God is calling them to be and do as a community of faith.

Under Bishop’s direction and in consultation with our synod partners in Region 5, congregations will be invited to explore how the gift of diversity can deepen their reflection as the Body of Christ. These conversations and learnings around diversity, equity, and belonging will be an invitational gift for congregations in transition.

Questions can be forwarded to Pr. Jen Beamsley at jbeamsley@nisynod.org, who directs Congregations in Transitions and Rostered Minister Mobility.

PHASE ONE: Rostered Minister Announces Departure/Transition Leader Placement

1. **Bethany, Crystal Lake: Senior Pastor** (February 2025)
2. **Our Savior's, Rockford: Associate** (March 2025)
3. **First, Prophetstown** (March 2025)

PHASE TWO: Discernment/Self-Study by Transition Team and/or Call Committee

4. **Salem, Sycamore** (November 2024)
5. **Zion, Kewanee** (October 2024)
6. **Plattville, Minooka** (October 2024)
7. **St. Paul, Sterling** (August 2024)
8. **First, DeKalb** (vacant June 2024)
Transition Team formed and working on MSP.
9. **Peace, Morris** (vacant June 2024)
Call Committee formed and working on MSP.

PHASE THREE: MSP Activated/Interviewing Candidates for Call

1. **Cross and Crown, Roscoe** (vacant February 2024)
Cross and Crown Lutheran Church is seeking a part-time senior pastor for our congregation. We are praying for a new leader who will inspire and challenge us; is an effective preacher, someone who will help us cast a vision, be joyous, loving, and walk with us as we share God's gift of grace and salvation.
2. **First, Freeport** (vacant February 2024)
Our spiritual sanctuary, composed of faithful Lutheran-Christians, a diverse group that continue to change demographically. A musical lighthouse to this community with its carillon ringing daily. Sunday is alive with adults, youth and music and always coffee after service. Functioning continuously since 1881, in downtown. Our Church has great resources for growing into and thru the 21st. Resources: People, Facility and Money. Full of experiences and talents in education, healthcare, music, community/government, business, members of a number of board of directors and members of fraternal and charitable organizations. Our Endowment allows support of our mission efforts and local community programs.
3. **Cross of Glory, Homer Glen** (August 2024)
Cross of Glory is a unique, enthusiastic, welcoming RIC congregation with a contemporary worship style that is seeking a new energetic Pastor to partner with us in God's redemptive mission in the world. By doing God's work, we are on a journey together, growing in faith, hope, and love as we worship, learn, witness, serve and share with others. Our guiding principles that define us are: Jesus is Lord; Everyone is welcome; The world needs what we have; Everyone has something to offer and Love changes everything.
4. **All Saints, Byron** (vacant July 2024)
All Saints is a stable, dynamic family congregation of approximately 300 baptized members located near Rockford, IL in a vibrant community in the heart of Rock River Valley. We seek a Pastor who is an effective communicator, brings joy and humor to relationships, provides care, nurturing, and builds a sense of community.

Pastor should be active in visitation and connect with the youth. The candidate should be skilled in planning and leading programs using technology.

5. **Alpine, Rockford (vacant July 2023)**
Alpine Lutheran Church is seeking a spiritual leader and partner in our mission to share God's love. A beautiful facility with an annex that includes a gymnasium and classrooms offering future ministry/community opportunities. We have active volunteers with a willingness to serve and a heart for giving. We're situated a bit "off the beaten path," but definitely part of the neighborhood and City of Rockford.
6. **Shepherd of the Valley, Rockford (vacant July 2023)**
Shepherd of the Valley, a warm, welcoming congregation located in southeast Rockford, Illinois, in a neighborhood of homes and worship communities, is seeking a full-time pastor ready to join us in expanding our church ministries within our congregation, our neighboring community, and our larger community. We are excited to work with our new pastor to innovate and adapt to move forward in changing times, and to revitalize our membership and programming as we focus on God's call for us in faith and service.
7. **Christ, Belvidere- Senior Pastor, full-time (vacant March 2023)**
Christ Lutheran Church is seeking a senior pastor. We strive to make Christ known in all we do and be good stewards of the many gifts given to us. PATHWAYS: A Center for Spiritual Renewal is an important part of our life together. We are seeking a head of staff who enjoys trying new things while remaining rooted in traditional worship and spiritual practices.
8. **St. John's, Pearl City (vacant August 2023)**
St. John's Lutheran Church is located in northwest Illinois. We were established in 1888. Our mission statement "Ever Loving, Caring Always" reflects our active congregation. St. John's is blessed with beautiful worship and educational facilities. We have dedicated lay leaders, strong and active committees, and wonderful rapport with the community. We seek a pastor with a love of Christ and a heart for God's people to help us continue this good work with an emphasis on youth and family ministry, member care, and outreach/evangelism.
9. **Trinity, Moline (vacant July 2023)**
Trinity is a beloved community where our active, welcoming, and caring presence affirms that the Kingdom of God is alive and growing right here and now. We seek a new pastor who will join us in fulfilling our mission to "Grow in God, Care in Christ, Serve in Spirit."
10. **St. Paul's, Orion (vacant September 2023)**
Our position is for a full-time Pastor to lead us in making Christ known. This person should be caring, compassionate, grounded in scripture, and a gifted preacher, teacher, and leader with a deep, personal and prayerful relationship with God. St. Paul members are active in worship and the community. We have active youth, an independent parish nurse program, and After School and community VBS programs. Orion is a rural community of 1,800 people eleven miles from the Quad-Cities. We enjoy the benefits of small-town America, but have easy access to the metro area.
11. **Calvary, New Windsor- Pastor, full-time/part-time (vacant August 2022)**
Christ be the light! Set in a small rural community, Calvary has been a light for 154 years. Even with a decline in numbers, our faith and service remain steady as the steeple light that shines a welcome to all. We hope to call a pastor who will work with us to revitalize our numbers and involve our youth in new and creative ways. Our mission at Calvary Lutheran Church is to make a positive difference in the world around us.
12. **Shepherd of the Hills, McHenry- Senior Pastor (vacant August 2022)**
The members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, McHenry, Illinois are pursuing a Permanently Called Pastor who will help us achieve our mission of meeting people wherever they are and helping us to grow in faith and service. The pastor will help the congregation grow its membership focusing on worship, fellowship, Christian Education, music, and encouraging members to apply Biblical Truths to daily living.

PHASE FOUR: Recommending candidate to Council and Congregation

PHASE FIVE: Welcoming a settled Minister

Trinity, Harvard – Pastor Scott Stolberg beginning 3/17/25

PART-TIME CALLS

If you are interested in being part of innovative ways we embrace being the body of Christ through part-time ministry opportunities in the Northern Illinois Synod please contact Rev. Jen Beamsley, Assistant to the Bishop at jbeamsley@nisynod.org. Other part-time opportunities not listed here may be available in our synod, please inquire if you are interested in a particular geographic region.

Trinity, Milledgeville and Jordan (October 2024) (part-time; weekends plus pastoral care); in discernment w/synod about ministry needs

Joyful Harvest, Johnsburg (vacant October 2023)

Pr. Jen Beamsley relates this call process.

Messiah, Port Byron (vacant July 2023)

Pr. Jen Beamsley relates this call process.

Capron, Capron (vacant mid-2022)

Pr. Jen Beamsley relates this call process.

Grace, Wilmington (vacant 2022)

Pr. Jen Beamsley relates this call process.