

Deacon Nominees 2026 (Vote for 4) page 1 of 2

**Jill Anderson**

ejanderson10@comcast.net

Spouse: Eric Children: Lauren (Tyler Voss), Lindsey, Collin

ECRC Ministry Involvement: SHE ministry (children's program director, steering committee), Jr GEMS counselor, Children's Worship and Nursery Volunteer

Spiritual Gifts: Mercy, Service, Giving

What aspect of serving as a deacon is especially compelling for you?

I am a service-oriented person, who enjoys helping others in Christian love. Deacons respond compassionately to the benevolent needs of our congregation, ministering to all who are in special need.

Psalm 42:1 *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.*

**Judy Cook**

rcook121@comcast.net

Spouse: Rick Adult Children: Jessica Hoshell, Joshua Cook, Tiffany Wadsworth, Trevor Cook

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Present: Little Lambs Teacher and Nursery Attendant

Past: Deaconess, MOPS, Jr Cadets, GEMS

Spiritual Gifts: Mercy, Compassion, Service

What aspect of serving as an Deacon is especially compelling for you?

Supporting others through practical acts of care

Philippians 4:13 *I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*

**Matt Gritters**

mgrits76@yahoo.com

Spouse: Joanne ChildrenMatthew, William, Emmett

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Currently serve on the Hospitality Team as Security Host and have participated in various service opportunities for 5th Sunday Serve. Previously a member of the Brass Ensemble.

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Giving, Encouragement

What aspect of serving as an Deacon is especially compelling for you?

Furthering God's Kingdom through serving others.

Psalm 23

**Rob Roedell**

robroedell1970@gmail.com

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Prison ministry, Choir, Hospitality Greeter

Spiritual Gifts: Serving, Helping, Evangelism, Giving

What aspect of serving as a Deacon is especially compelling for you?

I love to help others either going in to a prison to pray for someone or going to a nursing home to sing to elderly and help. A deacon fills this goal of compassion and mercy.

*There is a **prayer/poem** that I like: My Life is but a weaving between my Lord and me; I cannot choose the colors He works steadily. Oft times He weaveth sorrow And I, in foolish pride, Forget He sees the upper, And I the underside. Not till the loom is silent And the shuttles cease to fly, Shall God unroll the canvas And explain the reason why. The dark threads are as needful In the weavers skillful hand as the thirds of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned. He knows, He loves, He cares; Nothing this truth can dim. He gives the very best to those Who leave the choice to him. by Corrie ten Boom*

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Nancy Van Hout

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Spouse: John Children: Luke, Tessa, Kate

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Coffee Break, nursery, Elmhurst Farmers Market, Little Lambs, GEMS

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Giving, Service

What aspect of serving as a Deacon is especially compelling for you? I look forward to caring for those in need within and outside of our church community, as well as having the opportunity to encourage others and share Christ's love with them.

Ephesians 3: 17-19 and Psalm 121



Neil Verhagen

neil.verhagen@bairdwarner.com

Spouse: Jodi Children: Skyler (Jacob), Chloe

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Security

Other Involvement: Compassion International

Spiritual Gifts: Helping, Teaching, Faith

What aspect of serving as an Deacon is especially compelling for you?

My hope is to assist the church in coordination of outreach and management of church business. I am a local real estate broker by trade and hope to incorporate that as well to help our church family and community grow. I feel that by becoming a Deacon, I will further connect with our congregation to grow my spiritual values.

Philippians 3:13-14 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.



John Wilbraham

jwilbraham@gmail.com

Spouse: Kelly Children: Katelyn, Libby

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Currently: Fifth Sunday Serve Committee. Past: Ten Talents Committee, Finance Committee.

Spiritual Gifts: Knowledge, Mercy, Discernment

What aspect of serving as a Deacon is especially compelling for you? I attempt to love all my neighbors as we are called by God to do. I realize that I am blessed with the ability to help others in a variety of fashions and attempt to follow God's will and do so. I realize that there is pain and suffering in the world and the Church and, with God's grace, could help to deliver on the Deacon's mission of showing mercy to those that are burdened and suffering.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



Peyton Wyatt

peytonwyatt22@gmail.com

Spouse: Lindsay (VanderBrug) Children: Reggie, Brooks, Baby due end of March

Other Involvement: Boys Head Varsity Basketball Coach at Timothy Christian, mentoring young men and modeling Christ-centered leadership.

Spiritual Gifts: Administration, Service/Helps, Leadership

What aspect of serving as a Deacon is especially compelling for you?

ECRC is home to me and my family. At a time when church attendance and engagement—particularly among Millennials and Generation Z are widely understood to be declining, I see a meaningful opportunity to be part of the solution. I believe I can bring a younger generation's perspective, energy, and understanding to the table while remaining firmly rooted in biblical truth along with ECRC's values. Making a difference in our community through the love of Jesus Christ is something I feel God has uniquely gifted me to do, and I see no better place to live than by serving the church as a Deacon.

Proverbs 24:10 "If you falter in a time of trouble, how small is your strength."

This verse has been especially meaningful to me in this season as a reminder that faith is revealed not when things are easy, but when challenges arise. It calls me to depend fully on God for strength, remain steady under pressure, and lead with perseverance, humility, and trust in Him....whether in my family, my coaching, my work, or my service to the church.

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Rick Bulthuis

rbulthuis64@gmail.com

Spouse: Brenda Children: Four married children and nine grandchildren

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Care Coordinator, Consecrated Capital Campaign Co-Chair, Deacon Chair, Elder, Forward-In-Faith Capital Campaign Chair, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Chair, Usher

Other Involvement: Caring Network Board Chair, Camp Roger Board, Elim Christian Services Board Chair, Elim Christian Foundation Board Chair, Partners Worldwide Board Chair, Timothy Christian Schools Foundation Board

Spiritual Gifts: Administrative, Discernment, Giving, Leadership, Wisdom

What aspect of serving as an Elder is especially compelling for you?

Seeing our church and the church thrive!

Philippians 4:9 "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."



Judy Doot

judithdoot@gmail.com

Children: 4 married children, 10 grandchildren

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Worship Coordinator, CoffeeBreak Leader, Elder

Spiritual Gifts: Prayer

My primary spiritual gift is prayer. As a widow, I think God's gift of the church is such a blessing. Worshiping together, having brothers and sisters in Christ is really important. Serving as an elder is such an honor. I care deeply about ECR so if I'm chosen to serve I pray that God's Spirit will give me the wisdom, energy and compassion necessary.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Kyle Groters

kgroters@gmail.com

Spouse: Grace Children: Roseanne

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Teaching SML, Children's Worship, Prison Ministry, Coffee Break, Preaching, Nursery

Spiritual Gifts: Faith, Teaching, Shepherding, Wisdom, Knowledge, Discipleship

What aspect of serving as an Elder is especially compelling for you?

Formation of and care for the spiritual life of our community through prayer, teaching, preaching, life on life discipleship, and the administration of the sacraments.

Mark 10:51a "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.



Tim Lundeen

tim@timlundeenvo.com

Spouse: Jennifer Children: Luke, Lauren

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Worship Team (Leading and Supporting), Student Ministries (large and small group)

Spiritual Gifts: Faith, Wisdom, Prophetic

It's my prayer that the Holy Spirit would lead the church back to a complete reliance upon the Word of God; that the Word of Christ would dwell in us and guide our thoughts, attitudes, and actions (Colossians 3:16). I pray that God would protect ECRC from falling prey to a different gospel (Galatians 1:6-7), that we would always tolerate sound doctrine and never turn away from the Truth (2 Tim 4:3-4). And as we proclaim the Truth in love, may God strengthen us with power through His Spirit to remain on the narrow road (Matthew 7:13-14).

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**Brent Molendyk**

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Spouse: Tania Children: Nicole Moxon – Kevin, Jason, and Roy. Victoria Laswell – Jared, Ellenor, Cassandra, and Graham. Kara Molendyk

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Tech booth sound and video, Small group, Journeymen

Spiritual Gifts: Service, Administration

What aspect of serving as an Elder is especially compelling for you? I am looking forward to exploring God's word in more depth with the leadership of the church.

The Lord's Prayer I love looking at the structure of the Lord's prayer and how this simple example given by Christ can be applied to all of our prayers.

**Ken Vander Wal**

vandeke@gmail.com

Spouse: Cindy Children: Sonja Corrigan and Steve, Dave, Dan, and Kevin Vander Wal

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Greeter, Small Group Leader, Journeymen, SOS, Elder, Sunday morning prayer

Spiritual Gifts: Compassion, Encouragement, Faith, Hospitality, Serving

What aspect of serving as an Elder is especially compelling for you?

Shepherding our church families, providing pastoral care, and contributing to our church's vision and mission of nurturing believers.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**Karen Van Prooyen**

gvanprooyen@comcast.net

Spouse: Gary Children: Adam, Matthew

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Chairperson of Prison Ministry Team, Nursery, Ten Talents Team, Land Acquisition Team, Little Lambs, Sunday School, Garage Sales, 5k fundraiser

Spiritual Gifts: Discernment, Compassion, Administration, Leadership

What aspect of serving as an Elder is especially compelling for you?

I enjoy serving at ECRC as a way to live out my faith, grow spiritually, and help foster meaningful connections in a community I hold dear.

Luke 15: 4-7 The parable of the lost sheep shows us God's heart. He wants all of us, especially those who are lost. He joyfully searches for sinners, even leaving the ninety-nine who are safe to find the one who has strayed the farthest. No place is too distant or too dark for Him—He will find you behind prison walls, in hospital rooms, and in moments when you feel ashamed, forgotten, or unwanted. You are never beyond His reach.

**Dick Zylstra**

rjzylstra@yahoo.com

Spouse: Lisa Children: Kate Hanchett, Jenny Zwagerman, Mark Zylstra

ECRC Ministry Involvement: Elder, Deacon, Usher, Sunday School Teacher

Spiritual Gifts: Discernment, Encouragement

I care deeply about ECRC, the Christian Reformed Denomination, and Christian education. Upholding Biblical truth and being a welcoming and loving body of believers is very important to me.

Ephesians 4:29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.