

# The Rev. Glen W. Thomas

## ROSTERED MINISTER PROFILE

Completed: **Draft, Not Yet Approved**



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

*This Rostered Minister Profile (RMP) allows rostered ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America a way to share information about their faith, skills and passions for ministry. It provides basic introductory information to set a stage for conversations with Call and Search Committees. The RMP is complete once the synod bishop reviews and approves it for use and once the person selected as the outside reference has submitted the Reference Recommendation form.*

## PERSONAL MINISTRY STATEMENT

**I am daily mindful of the promise of baptism - that I am a child of God, shaped and called by his grace and love. I strive to live as an instrument of that grace in the world by serving my neighbor and working for justice in all that I say and do. I find inspiration and guidance in daily engagement with the Word of God, and purpose and hope in using my best gifts to serve the ministry of his church.**

## Part I: PERSONAL INFORMATION

### Preferred Contact Information

**14074 Drexel Cir**

ADDRESS LINE

ADDRESS LINE 2

**Omaha**

CITY

**NE**

STATE

**68137-4040**

ZIP

**United States**

FOREIGN COUNTRY

**(402)740-6395**

PREFERRED PHONE

**(402)740-6395**

OTHER PHONE

**gthomas@smlutheran.com**

E-MAIL ADDRESS

**Minister of Word and  
Sacrament**

ELCA ROSTER

**Under Call**

ROSTER STATUS

**07/28/1993**

DATE ROSTERED

**Nebraska Synod**

SYNOD OF ROSTER OR CANDIDACY

## Language Proficiencies

### English (FLUENT)

PRIMARY LANGUAGE                      SECOND LANGUAGE                      THIRD LANGUAGE

## Formal Education

<b>MASTER OF DIVINITY</b>	<b>PARISH MINISTRY</b>	<b>1993</b>
DEGREE	FIELD OF STUDY	YEAR
<b>Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary</b>	<b>St. Paul, MN</b>	
SCHOOL	CITY, STATE	
<b>BACHELOR OF ARTS</b>	<b>JOURNALISM</b>	<b>1986</b>
DEGREE	FIELD OF STUDY	YEAR
<b>University of Nebraska / Lincoln</b>	<b>Lincoln, NE</b>	
SCHOOL	CITY, STATE	
DEGREE	FIELD OF STUDY	YEAR
SCHOOL	CITY, STATE	
DEGREE	FIELD OF STUDY	YEAR
SCHOOL	CITY, STATE	

## Life Long Learning Experiences

<b>2021</b>	<b>ReFormation</b>	<b>15</b>
YEAR	TOPIC OR TITLE OF CLASS	CONTACT HOURS
<b>2020</b>	<b>Brooks Institute for Clergy</b>	<b>2</b>
YEAR	TOPIC OR TITLE OF CLASS	CONTACT HOURS
<b>2017</b>	<b>National Pastor's Conference</b>	<b>20</b>
YEAR	TOPIC OR TITLE OF CLASS	CONTACT HOURS
<b>2017</b>	<b>Essential Boundaries</b>	<b>8</b>
YEAR	TOPIC OR TITLE OF CLASS	CONTACT HOURS



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**2016**

YEAR

**Sabbatical self-study**

TOPIC OR TITLE OF CLASS

**100**

CONTACT HOURS

## Work History

*In chronological order and beginning with current, or if unemployed, most recent, list up to five significant work experiences.*

<p><b>1. St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church</b></p> <p>ORGANIZATION</p> <p><b>OMAHA NE</b></p> <p>CITY, STATE</p>	<p><b>Pastor</b></p> <p>RECENT POSITION/TITLE</p> <p><b>United States</b></p> <p>FOREIGN COUNTRY</p>	<p><b>2007 - 2022</b></p> <p>YEAR</p>
<p><b>2. St. Paul Lutheran Church</b></p> <p>ORGANIZATION</p> <p><b>Omaha NE</b></p> <p>CITY, STATE</p>	<p><b>Associate Pastor</b></p> <p>RECENT POSITION/TITLE</p> <p>FOREIGN COUNTRY</p>	<p><b>1999 - 2007</b></p> <p>YEAR</p>
<p><b>3. American Lutheran Church</b></p> <p>ORGANIZATION</p> <p><b>Adams NE</b></p> <p>CITY, STATE</p>	<p><b>Pastor</b></p> <p>RECENT POSITION/TITLE</p> <p>FOREIGN COUNTRY</p>	<p><b>1996 - 1999</b></p> <p>YEAR</p>
<p><b>4. First Lutheran Church</b></p> <p>ORGANIZATION</p> <p><b>North Platte NE</b></p> <p>CITY, STATE</p>	<p><b>Associate Pastor</b></p> <p>RECENT POSITION/TITLE</p> <p>FOREIGN COUNTRY</p>	<p><b>1993 - 1996</b></p> <p>YEAR</p>
<p><b>5. Lutheran Campus Ministry</b></p> <p>ORGANIZATION</p> <p><b>St. Paul MN</b></p> <p>CITY, STATE</p>	<p><b>staff</b></p> <p>RECENT POSITION/TITLE</p> <p>FOREIGN COUNTRY</p>	<p><b>1991 - 1993</b></p> <p>YEAR</p>

## Current Ministry

<p><b>St Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church</b></p> <p>ORGANIZATION</p> <p><b>Omaha ,NE</b></p> <p>CITY, STATE</p> <p><b>Large city (250,000 or more)</b></p> <p>SIZE</p> <p><b>a Congregation</b></p> <p>CURRENT MINISTRY (A CONGREGATION or AN ORGANIZATION)</p>	<p><b>Pastor</b></p> <p>RECENT POSITION/TITLE</p> <p><b>Inner city</b></p> <p>TYPE</p>	<p><b>Full Time</b></p> <p>FULL TIME/ PART TIME</p>
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<b>03303</b>	<b>51 - 150</b>	<b>\$200,000 - \$250,000</b>	<b>\$15,000 - \$20,000</b>
ELCA CONGREGATION ID	AVG WEEKLY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	TOTAL CURRENT BUDGET	MISSION SUPPORT TO THE LARGER CHURCH

Describe your ministry site as to its characteristics (e.g. rural, ecumenical, multiple point, or agency), purpose and relationship to the larger church.

**St. Matthew is a mid-city congregation, built as a neighborhood church but drawing membership from a radius of more than 20 miles. We provide weekly worship and faith formation ministry to our members and a variety of service to our community, including a monthly food pantry and providing space for several community groups. St. Matthew began as a mission of Kountze Memorial Lutheran church in 1926 and was chartered as a congregation in 1952. It has grown and changed with the neighborhood around it.**

## Part II: COMPETENCIES OR SPECIALIZATIONS

### Areas of Expertise

Preaching / Worship Leadership

1.

Teaching

2.

Interpret Theology

3.

Stewardship

4.

Ministry in Daily Life

5.

### Areas of Strength

Communications / Media

1.

Social Ministry

2.

Strategic Mission Planning

3.

Evangelism / Mission

4.

Ministry in Crisis

5.

### Examples of Competencies

*Preaching / Worship Leadership*

**Worship has always been, and still remains for me, the foundation of the faith life of the community. Proclaiming God's Word is the essence of my ministry. I have been blessed to be mentored by several very good preachers in my life and take my own preparation and preaching very seriously. I believe that the deep engagement with the preached Word is at the heart of Luther's gift to the church. I have studied and led worship in a variety of styles and formats and I have come to believe that doing worship well is invaluable to the work of the church. I have learned over the course of my ministry that the format of the worship (traditional, contemporary, etc.) is less important than the spirit of the gathering and the sense of purpose and engagement of the community at worship.**

**Teaching**

We live in an age of Biblical and theological illiteracy and mis-information about the Bible, which has infected the church and created a barrier for many outside of the community. I fear that serious study of the scriptures has become a lost art among the clergy, and that has translated into a shallow relationship with the Word throughout the church. Luther's reformation flowed from a renewed engagement with the Word, and I'm sure the next one will as well. How much we have lost as we grow more distant from the Bible! I have no doubt that if we can address some of the false understandings and teachings that are assumed to represent the Word of God, we can move hearts and transform lives and change the world. My best experience with teaching is using "The Story," a compilation of narrative texts that opens up a journey of life and light.

**Interpret Theology**

There is a fascinating confluence of two opposing belief systems in the church: one that has assumed that tolerance and openness negates the boundaries of faith and the other that absurdly assumes a militant posture against any questioning. Neither serves the mission of the church or our calling as followers of Jesus. There is also the very troublesome challenge of the dangerous influence of politics into the teachings and practices of the church. Finding our way to truth, breaking down barriers against seekers, opening ourselves up to a greater understanding of what we do believe is a matter of life and death, both for the church itself and for the flock we are called to tend. Bad theology is a luxury that we cannot afford at this juncture of history. We need a renewed confession of faith that invigorates our mission and re-connects the church to the community of the world. I believe that is a work in progress all around us today. In 2016 I was blessed with an opportunity to take a short sabbatical. My intent was to read and hear voices in the church which I had never heard before. The process was eye-opening. There is a healthy theological conversation emerging in the church around us, and we need to engage it now, for the sake of the church and for our own spiritual well-being.

**Stewardship**

We are incredibly blessed by the grace of God. Sometimes, in a world so focused on what we do not have, it is easy to lose sight of that. Expressing our gratitude for all that God has given us by sharing the gifts of our time, our talents, and our treasures, gives meaning to the blessings that we have been given and fills our life with hope and joy. Stewardship is the spiritual gift that frees us from fear. Everything that we do as a community of faith should inspire the gifts of stewardship in one another. I have been blessed over the course of my ministry to lead several campaigns both for important causes and for the construction and improvement of church facilities. I have found that to be very fulfilling work.

**Ministry in Daily Life**

It is notable, and often forgotten, that Jesus did not build the church or teach his followers to engage in extensive religious rituals. He came to transform lives, both by his teachings and example, and of course by the work of the cross. There is no discipleship except the one we live out in all of the settings of our daily life. Luther discovered in his own life that even changing a diaper can be a holy thing. We cannot be so busy building a church that we do not help people build lives. In fact, our anxiety about protecting the institution of the church has become a barrier to helping the members of our communities live out the promise of their baptism. Recovering our mission it's the most important thing we can do for the next generation of the faithful.

**References**

**An ELCA Pastor or Deacon**

**Rev. Dr. Damon Laaker**

**Grace Lutheran Church**

NAME

ORGANIZATION AND TITLE

(408) 211-1111

[REDACTED]

DAY PHONE NUMBER

EVENING PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL

**Lay Person (Current Ministry Setting)**

**Brent Thomason**

**Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministry**

NAME

ORGANIZATION AND TITLE

**(402)944-2542**

**Director of Guest Services**

DAY PHONE NUMBER

EVENING PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL

**Lay Person (Non-Current Ministry Setting)**

**Patrick Runga**

**Runga Law Office, LLC, Winnebago Tribal Court**

NAME

ORGANIZATION AND TITLE

DAY PHONE NUMBER

**[REDACTED]**  
EVENING PHONE NUMBER

**Attorney, Judge**

E-MAIL

**Supervisor/Colleague**

**Pastor Jan Petersen**

**Augustana Lutheran Church**

NAME

ORGANIZATION AND TITLE

DAY PHONE NUMBER

EVENING PHONE NUMBER

**Pastor**

E-MAIL

**Reference Recommendation**

**[REDACTED]**

NAME

DAY PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL

**Part III: REFLECTIONS ON MINISTRY**

**Calling:**

You are called as a Child of God and into rostered service in this church. Reflect theologically on your sense of call and the way it shapes your life and work.

**I came into the ministry later in my life. Pastor Roger Sasse, then campus pastor at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, offered me a chance to preach on a Sunday morning. The moment I stepped into a pulpit I knew that this was something different. I discovered the amazing possibility that God word could flow through me and touched the lives of others. I have sought for the nearly three decades of my ministry to listen to the Spirit and speak faithfully as I believe I am called to do. It gives me joy every day to discover anew the transforming power of God's word. The work of preparing to preach and teach strengthens my own faith and gives my own life purpose and meaning.**

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- Convictions:** Identify the three most prominent themes that others would say are strongly evident in your speaking, teaching, leading and living.
- The overwhelming love and grace of God gives us life.  
We are our best selves when we are our best self for others.  
The community of faith is created to embody the Kingdom of God in its work for justice and peace.**
- Context:** Describe the ministry setting(s) that would energize you and make the best use of your gifts, skills and passions.
- After a long and joy-filled tenure in my current setting, I'm looking for opportunities to bring my perspective and gifts to congregations who are in transition. I believe that my years of ministry (and especially my last few) have given me some important insights to what lies ahead for the work of the community of faith. This is an important time for the church. It is vital that we renew our relationship with the Word of God and recover our sense of mission, for the sake of a new emerging generation of faith.**
- Accomplishments:** How has your current ministry setting developed in the last three years, and in what ways have you contributed to this growth or development?
- Prior to the onset of the CoVid pandemic, St. Matthew had just completed its commitment to the reconciling works movement in the church and was exploring what that could mean for our ongoing ministry. We were engaging in the conversation with the emerging generation of faith. The work I did on my sabbatical (and continuing afterward) formed the basis for this exploration. I was able to introduce the congregation to new voices and viewpoints that generated a new excitement about the future.  
Because of the pandemic we have had to develop many new skills. We have built new capabilities for livestreaming worship and study. We have learned to use the tools of technology to maintain the relationships that are so important to our community. The challenges and stresses of the pandemic have given us an opportunity to learn a lot about who we are as a community of faith, and to reconnect to that essential grace of God which sustains us.**
- Denominational Relationship:** What are your hopes for the ELCA? Describe how you help others understand their relationship to the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- We all know that the religious landscape has changed in society, but it is false that churches like the ELCA are dying. The true life of a church cannot be measured in attendance or financials, and I am proud to be a part of the ministry the ELCA does on an international, national and synodical level. I think it is part of a Pastor's work to help the congregation connect to the larger church, both the ELCA and other local congregations. I have come to believe that although people have turned in other directions in their search for a spiritual home, they will return to mainline churches like the ELCA that preach the Gospel in all of its fullness and live out their discipleship in service to the world. This is a great time for the renewal of the church, and the foundation of our faith and theology will be the base of a new life for Lutheranism.**
- Public Ministry:** In your public role as a minister within the congregation or organization, how would you describe your preferred approach, style and manner?
- I think that my calling is to the spiritual leadership of the congregation, and I try to devote myself to that role. I seek to help the members and leaders of the community understand the uniqueness of the work of the church. While there are certain organizational necessities, it is far too easy to fall forget what a community of faith is and to try to run our congregations like any other business or institution. I believe it is the role of the Pastor to provide spiritual guidance to the congregation as it goes about its ministry. I see my role as a "leader among leaders," preferring to build consensus in the community as we discern our calling in the world.**

## Part IV: CANDIDATE COMMENTARY

*The Candidate Commentary is an optional component that allows you to expand your Rostered Minister Profile with information that reveals your passions for ministry, your expertise, your experience or your vision for ministry. You are invited to be creative as you add any commentary that you feel will support this RMP.*

### Supporting Information

If requested, are you able to supply the following items?

	Selected Answer
* Video recording of a worship, preaching, teaching or speaking occasion?	Yes
* Audio recording of a worship, preaching, teaching or speaking occasion?	Yes
* Most recent Congregation/ Organization Annual Report?	Yes
* Samples of writing or communication pieces from your ministry?	Yes
* Letters of Reference?	Yes
* Resume or curriculum vitae?	Yes

### Comments or Explanations (Regarding this RMP)

### Disclosure Information

*Out of care for the church, the following questions are asked of all rostered ministers and First Call candidates who are making themselves available for conversation with call committees.*

	Selected Answer
Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, charged with, or convicted of illegal conduct or a crime, including conduct resulting in suspension or revocation of your driver's license?	No
Do you have any addictive behavior, including a history of drug, alcohol, or pornographic addictions that might interfere with your ability to serve or continue serving as a rostered minister?	No
Have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, sued, or charged with sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, substance abuse, child or spousal neglect or abuse, or financial improprieties?	No
While in candidacy or on the roster, have you ever engaged in, been accused of, investigated for, charged with, or disciplined for any conduct proscribed in <i>Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline</i> ?	No
I understand that I am responsible for informing my bishop regarding any current or future circumstance that might subject me to discipline according to <i>Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline</i> .	Yes