

MEET THE council candidates

The Congregation will meet via Zoom at 11am on February 7th to elect four members to a three year term and one confirmed youth to a one year term. The Nominating Committee has nominated the following members to serve on the Congregational Council. Brief biographies of each nominee has been provided to aid your prayerful consideration. Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting.



JENNIFER BOBBE • My family and I moved to Willmar from Andover in June 2019. My husband Michael and I have been married for 17 years and we have four children (Eavan, Caelan, Miera and Griffin) ranging in ages from 7 to 15 years-old. I am an Assistant Principal at Willmar Senior High School. We were blessed to feel immediately at home at Vinje and we happily became members after only a few visits. I enjoy adventures with my family, running, skiing, and being active in my faith community, particularly Children's Ministry and programming. Since moving to Willmar, I've served as a member of the Children's Ministry team and the Vinje COVID Task Force. In my prior congregation, I was a Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School leader, director of the annual Christmas pageant, facilitator of Wednesday programming for K-5th graders, and leader of the Children's Ministry committee. I am grateful for the connections I have made at Vinje and I am eager to continue contributing to my faith family as a member of the Vinje Council, if elected.



CECILIA BUZZEO • Hello, my name is Ceci Buzzeo and I have been a member of Vinje Church my whole life. I live in Willmar and am a Sophomore at Willmar Senior High. I am involved in activities at the Highschool including Speech, Student Council, Choir, Orchestra, Swimming, and The Fall Musical. I have also been involved in many productions at the Barn Theatre. I take piano and voice lessons, and I enjoy singing in church. My parents are Carla and Christopher Buzzeo and I have one Brother, Anthony, who is a 6th grader here in Willmar. I love to travel and spend time at the lake with my two dogs. I would be honored to serve on the church council and be a part of this church community.



ANGIE HOPPE • I was born and raised in Willmar, being the last class to graduate from the old Willmar Senior High School (now Kennedy). I returned to the area after college. My husband, Steve, and I have been members of Vinje since 2008. We are blessed with two boys, Alex and Ethan, who were both baptized at Vinje. They both attended Loving Arms from birth until preschool which is when I served on the Loving Arms Advisory Board, including several years as their president. I have been active in teaching Sunday School and serving as the chairperson on the Children's Ministry Committee. I have been a social worker in this community for over 20 years; the first 15 years working with families at Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services and the past 6 years as a school social worker with Willmar Public Schools. My profession has allowed me to build many relationships and to serve on several committees within our wonderful community. Our family loves sports, especially baseball. You can find us in the summer playing on the Vinje softball team or watching a Stingers game. We have welcomed 6 collegiate baseball players into our home for the past 7 summers and I am currently the co-host family coordinator for the Willmar Stingers. I look forward to building new relationships and to serve this congregation on the Council.



JOHN HOTEK • My wife Heidi and I joined Vinje in 2016 shortly after moving to Willmar from Austin, Minnesota. We have four children: Logan, Jayden, McKenna and Lewis. I work for the Jennie-O Turkey Store in engineering while Heidi works for the Willmar Public School district. I'm presently on the Vinje COVID-19 task force and personnel committee. Our family loves the Willmar area and the Vinje congregation. In our spare time we enjoy boating, traveling and spending time at our cabin in Wisconsin. Yes; we're Packers fans. We were drawn to Vinje because of the unique balance and forward thinking our congregation enjoys. If elected, I look forward to a seat on the council to continue the work of making Vinje the best it can be in serving God, our members, our ministries and our community.



JOE KUEHN • I was born and raised in Crookston, MN. After graduation, I furthered my education at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND and obtained my Bachelors in Elementary Education. I spent my first two years teaching in Park Rapids, MN before moving to Willmar in the fall of 2012 as I accepted a new teaching position with Willmar Public Schools. During my time in Park Rapids, I met my best friend and now wife Rylee. We have two children Brody (5) and Evelyn (22 months). We started attending Vinje in 2015 and felt at home right away. I am currently serving on two committees at Vinje, children's ministry and internship committee. During my free time, you will find me at the lake with family or on the golf course. Coaching is also a passion of mine as I currently coach junior high football and boys varsity golf. I would be honored to get the opportunity to serve on church council. I enjoy being involved at Vinje as I continue to deepen my faith.