

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM:
NOMINEE FOR BISHOP OF THE CENTRAL STATES SYNOD**

- 1. Name:** Jay Grave
- 2. Current Position:** Senior Pastor
- 3. Congregation Membership:** Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mandeville, Louisiana
- 4. Date and Year of Birth:**
- 5. Date and Year of Ordination:** December 11, 2005

6. Previous Positions:

Associate Pastor, Zion Lutheran, Fredericksburg, TX. Pastor, Big Bend Lutheran, Big Bend, MN. Sr. Pastor, American Lutheran Church, Windom, MN. Pastor, Our Savior's, Camdenton, MO,

7. Education and Earned Degrees (with institutions and years, most recent first):

Doctorate of Ministry, Luther Seminary, 2016
Masters of Divinity, Luther Seminary, 2005
Zertificate Deutsch, Prein Am Chemise, 2004
Bachelors of Arts, Wartburg College, 1996

8. List up to five (5) current or past synod or churchwide activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

Tri-Synodical Planning Team (TX-LA, North TX-LA, Southwestern Texas Synods)
Interim Assistant to the Bishop (Southwest MN Synod)
Synod Assembly Presenter of Yearlong Stewardship Program (Central States Synod)
Senior High Synod Gathering Presenter (Southwest MN & Southwest Texas Synods)
Resolutions Committee (Central States Synod)

9. List up to five (5) current or past community-related activities that would inform your service as bishop of this synod.

City Council Prayer Leader, Mandeville, LA
President of Ministerium, Windom, MN
National Day of Pray Planning Team, Camdenton, MO
Assistant Wrestling Coach, Montevideo High School, Montevideo, MN
Civil Air Patrol Chaplain, Fredericksburg, TX

10. What gifts would you bring to the office of bishop of this synod? (1,000 characters maximum)

I have spent my entire life studying and worshiping in the Lutheran tradition. I have a love our Lutheran traditions, but having served as a parish pastor in multiple settings, I am acutely aware of cultural changes in our communities and churches. I believe that our Church must adapt in practical and adaptive ways to reach the lost in our communities. I bring strategic planning, clear communication, and a passion for success to help bridge the gap between these changes and theologically Lutheran heritage.

11. What do you see as the principal challenge to this synod in the next six (6) years, and how would you address it? (1,000 characters maximum)

The world is changing whether we like it or not, and our greatest challenge is learning to be bold about our progressive understanding of who God is, while at the same time, adapting our Lutheran heritage to a new language of a modern culture. I would encourage congregations of the Central States Synod and their leaders, to make bold and strategic decisions to share the Gospel with our neighbors; learning their languages, their cultures, and their experiences.

12. Describe your leadership style. (1,000 characters maximum)

I am a hopeful pragmatist. I believe that God has invited us to participate with His mission in the world, and that scripture confirms that this mission will be triumphant. That's the hopeful part. The pragmatist in me is more concerned with participating in the mission of the Church, than the manner with which we achieve the mission. In other words, is what we are doing accomplishing what we say we are trying to do? If the answer is no, then let's find a path that does. In leadership, I look for opportunities to lift up individuals to use their gifts to enflesh God's mission into our ever changing world. My management style is to strategically select team members to achieve the same goal, wrapping all of this with clear communication and community support.