

2025 Board Nominees



Christina Knizner

Christina, her husband Ryan, and son Cole have lived in Allendale and been a part of the Life Stream community since 2013. She has worked as a Learning & Development and Change Management practitioner since 1999, consulting with organizations that are going through change. Christina served on the Life Stream search committee and on various boards throughout the community, including March of Dimes, Engine House 5, Highland Trails Association, and others. Christina enjoys gardening and camping.



Cory Buter

Cory and his wife Kristen have been married since 2013 and have two daughters, Grace (4) and Natalie (2). They have been part of Life Stream Church since 2017. Cory is a Public Safety Officer trained in police, fire, and as a medical first responder for the City of East Grand Rapids, where he has worked for 8 of his 13 total years in law enforcement. He also serves as a Major in the Michigan Army National Guard, where he has served for over 15 years. At Life Stream, Cory currently serves on the security team and has previously served on the tech team. The Buter family enjoys camping throughout Michigan and trips to visit the National Parks in their free time. Cory appreciates this opportunity and looks forward to seeing how God will use him, wherever he is called to serve at Life Stream Church.



Ellen Scripsema

Ellen and her husband Marc have been married since 2002 and have resided in Allendale since that time. They are blessed with two children, Caden and Mikaela, who attend Allendale High School. The Scripsema family began attending Life Stream twelve years ago and during that time, Ellen has served in both women's and youth ministries. Ellen attended Western Michigan University to complete her nursing degree in 2001 and Ferris State University for her master's degree in nursing administration in 2022. She now works and loves her job as a practice manager at Corewell Health Urology. When not cheering on her kids at their volleyball matches, Ellen loves travelling, hiking, and camping with her family.

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Gail Roelofs

Gail Roelofs and her husband, Joel, have been married for nearly 45 years and have resided in the Allendale area for 35 years. They have three married children, Justin, Jed, and Brittany, and have been blessed with eight grandchildren whom they love to cheer on and support at sporting events. Gail and Joel have been members of Life Stream Church since 2020. In January 2022, Gail retired from the Allendale Post Office, where she served as a Rural Carrier for 33 years. She volunteers at Life Stream as a Greeter, Usher, with the Meals Ministry, and on the Prayer Team. Gail is excited to see what God has in store for Life Stream!



Kathy Hanes

Kathy and her husband, John, have been married for over 40 years. They have 5 grown children, 10 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren! They moved to Allendale in 1988 and started attending Life Stream, becoming members in 1992. Kathy serves in several ministries at Life Stream as a small group leader, chaplain, greeter, and as part of the meals ministry. Kathy has previously served on several boards, including Allendale Wesleyan Church, Love INC, and Allendale Chamber of Commerce. She retired from Allendale Township in 2023 after 22 years as director of the Lifelong Learners group. In her free time, Kathy enjoys family and friend time, camping, sewing, and traveling. Kathy is passionate about friendship evangelism; building relationships centered on Christ and furthering His Kingdom.



Sharon Bylsma

Sharon is mom to three young adult children. In 2019, she was widowed after nearly 24 years of marriage to her husband, Scott, a Grand Rapids Police Officer. Sharon has been a part of the Life Stream family since 2011 and has served as a youth leader and in women's ministry. She currently serves on the count team for tithes and offerings. Sharon works full-time as a Para Pro in alternative education at West Ottawa High School and has served as an advocate in local non-profit youth programs, including Kids Hope, Grace's Table, and Remembrance Ranch. When not busy with work and family, Sharon loves being active outside in God's creation.