

Esperanza Council Nominees 2022

Paige Somero



Member Since 2000, moved to Ahwatukee from Austin TX.

Church Activities: Sunday School, Ladies Night Out Coordinator, Church Council, Bell Choir, Promesa de Esperanza Choir.

I was raised in a family where service and church involvement was a key component of our family life and have carried that belief into my family. As our parents were examples to us, it is important to be examples to our children.

I believe that where your passions and priorities are, so too should be your time. Esperanza is a very important part of our family. Brad and I have raised our children here.

Career: Engineer at Motorola/Freescale/NXP for over 30 years, recently moved to individual contributor and six sigma Black Belt.

Family: Married to Brad, two grown children. Our daughter, Madison (22) attends University of Arizona pursuing a PharmD. Our son Caleb (19) attends Arizona State University pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

***I would consider it an honor to serve on
The council of Esperanza Lutheran Church.***

Julie Valenzuela



Member Since: 1994

Church Activities: Prayer Shawl Group, Bible Study, Greeter, Communion, Hospitality, Worship Planning, Communion

Early Years: Raised on a farm in Northwestern Wyoming, attended the Lutheran Church in the community.

Family: Married to Rafael (Ralph), two grown children

- Son JJ, (sp. Diana), five grandchildren aged 6 to 14, living in Florida.
- Daughter Leah (sp. Josh), one grandchild (2.5 years) living in Phoenix.

Career: Retired - 23 years at Intel Corporation with benefit groups in Human Resources

Craig Peck



Member Since: 2009

Church Activities: I was drawn to Esperanza by a great Choir. Becoming a member of the choir has been a blessing for me and I hope for you also.

My daughter, Alexandra, participated in the youth group and was confirmed in 2013. She has just graduated from the University of Arizona.

In 2010, I became involved in the formation of the "Garden of Eatin'", which has been a great outlet for myself, our church, and members of the Ahwatukee community.

I enjoy working with the current council. They are very loving, caring, compassionate and committed Christians leading Esperanza to its next chapter.

Employment: 43 years in Real Estate - I enjoy helping first timers and old timers buy and sell their real estate.

Kelly Edwards



Member Since: I have attended Esperanza since 2016 and became a member in 2020.

Church Activity: Communion Assistant, Greeter, Lector and Sunday Bible Study.

Family: I am a single parent to my daughter Paige (7). I was also a foster parent to a teenager who has been reunited with his mother. We have a chi-weenie (Bentley) and a cat (Lucky)

Career: I have been a Nurse for 15 years. I am presently attending graduate school to obtain a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Graduate Certificate.

I love the Esperanza family. I look forward to getting to know all of you better while we do God's work †

Michael Paradise



Member Since: We began attending Esperanza in 2010 and have been members since 2020

Church Activity: Council member (first term), Treasurer, Stewardship Team Lead, Technology, Property and Communications.

Family: I am married to Meghan Healy, and we have two children: Taite, (15) and Jax (11). Jax is an alum of the Children of Hope Early Learning Center. I grew up in the Pittsburgh PA area, and Meghan hails from Maryland. We have lived in Los Angeles and Washington DC. We have called Phoenix home since 2009. We enjoy travel, skiing and sports.

Career: I am the Founder & CEO of Sysazzle, Inc (Business & Information Technology systems), recognized by Inc. and earned a Tech Serve Alliance Industry Excellence Award.

Over the past 30 years, I held a role known as "Advance". I provided logistical, event and travel support on international and domestic travel to Presidents, Vice Presidents and their families, as well as other government officials.

I earned my MBA from the American University – Kogod School of Business, along with a BSBA in Labor Relations from Duquesne University.

The people and ministry of this community is second to none. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve.