



# the mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

## Twenty-Five Years of Extraordinary Ministry

Most people remember the incense. And the drums. Everyone mentions the drums.

The incense and drums are sensory memories of a day that galvanized many in the Lutheran church to begin and continue working for the day when all may serve God according to their callings.

At that time in the church, January 20, 1990, it was lesbian and gay people who were being barred from serving as rostered leaders in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Two congregations, St. Francis Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church decided to take action and do something about it as they ordained the Rev. Jeff Johnson, the Rev. Ruth Frost, and the Rev. Phyllis Zillhart.

The congregations together held an extraordinary ordination at St. Paulus Lutheran Church in San Francisco. The term “extraordinary” was used to mark the fact that this service was happening outside the “ordinary” process of the church. Both congregations were placed on trial and expelled from the church because of the ordinations. One person who attended, Bennett Falk, shared this memory, “We were reminded in Carter Heyward’s sermon that there was something behind the hastily cobbled together celibacy policy: fear. In the years that followed, we learned that policy change is a deliberative process culminating in a vote. There is no parliamentary procedure for uprooting fear: that is the on-going task of ministry.”

Many of the current LGBTQ rostered leaders in the church were not present that day in 1990. In fact, a few of them were not even yet born. Yet the spirit that many experienced that day amid the incense and the drums still burns in them and they have shared it with us.

Just 25 years later, the policy barring partnered gay and lesbian ministers from serving has fallen in both the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Proclaim now supports 175 LGBTQ rostered leaders, seminarians, and candidates. Over 100 ELCA congregations have called an LGBTQ person as their pastor or pastoral intern. There has been a call issued to an out lesbian pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. There are LGBTQ rostered leaders or candidates in 49 of the 65 ELCA Synods.



Jeff, Phyllis and Ruth at their ordination on Jan 20, 1990

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YOU MAKE MINISTRY HAPPEN. THANK YOU.



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MINISTRIES

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#### MISSION

*ELM affirms and supports LGBTQ  
Lutheran rostered leaders and those  
pursuing rostered leadership, while  
engaging allied congregations and  
ministries to proclaim God's love  
and seek justice for all.*

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The beautiful passage from Isaiah read at the first extraordinary ordination brings the good news:

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise."*

We look back this year to mark the historic extraordinary ordinations 25 years ago and the "way in the wilderness" that God has provided through so many over the years. But even more, we look forward to the coming years of extraordinary ministry through the people that God has formed so they might declare God's praise and proclaim God's love for all people.

### Proclaim Profile: Pastor Brad Froslee

**Ten years ago I entered ordained ministry** after having been approved for ordination in the ELCA—because even though I was gay, I was not in a relationship.

Throughout divinity school and internship I came to know many leaders in Lutheran circles—Anita Hill, Jeff Johnson, Ruth Frost, Phyllis Zillhart, Ross Merkel, Craig Minich, Robyn Hartwig.

**It was always powerful to know that there were a great cloud of witness** who had...and continued...to pave the way.

By 2009 I now stood with the great cloud of witnesses as an ordained minister serving a church, but technically "on-leave from call" as I had moved to another congregation and was in a relationship with my partner.

It was at this point that my life and ministry became deeply entwined with ELM. **As both Extraordinary Roster and ELCA rostered clergy we worked hand-in-hand to create change in the ELCA and live into a dream of a new church.**

August 2009 forged a new community. I was asked to become involved with ELM and the upcoming retreat as **we visioned for a new collegial group that included people who were ordained in the ELCA and those who were ordained extraordinarily.** It was an incredible gift and witness.

We dreamed, challenged, talked, and worked to build something new that stood witness to all the Extraordinary Candidacy Project and Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries had done...and that stood witness to those who had served (some very openly in the ELCA).

**Through Proclaim, this became both promised and lived community.**

Today we continue to live out this witness as we dream of a community and church that is enriched in its diversity...a community that continues to challenge the ELCA to further broaden its welcome...a dedicated group of seminarians, candidates for ministry, and rostered leaders who believe our work continues.

I love the richness of this history...**I am drawn by the power of the vision that will not let me rest.** As part of Proclaim and ELM I know the deep witness of preaching (Word), care (pastoring), and challenge (prophetic voice) that call us to be a renewing and reformed church.



Pastor Brad Froslee serves  
Calvary Lutheran Church in  
Minneapolis, MN

# What you'll find on elm.org....

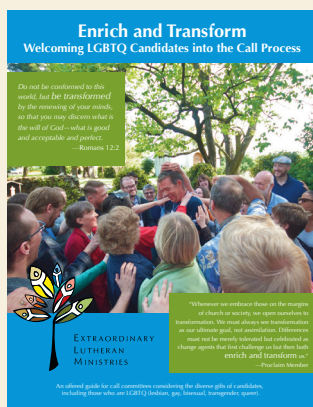
PROCLAIM PROFILES

TWO-MINUTE  
TESTIMONIALS

LATEST NEWS

## Enrich & Transform

You are helping create new resources for the church! ELM has released a new groundbreaking resource: Enrich & Transform. It is available on our website, [www.elm.org](http://www.elm.org). The 10-page resource gathers the stories and wisdom of call committees and LGBTQ pastors who have gone through the process of calling an LGBTQ pastor. The guide will help congregations and call committees make an intentional plan to include LGBTQ people in their search for a new pastor or other rostered leader. Visit [elm.org](http://elm.org) to download this or other resources - or give us a call at 773-235-0610 to get your copy.



## PROCLAIM



Rev. Lori Pilatzke and Jen Macklin

**NEW CALLS** - Rev. Kelly Heide - chaplain at St. Croix Hospice, Spencer, IA

Rev. Steve Keiser, Christ Lutheran Church in Upper Darby, PA

Rev. Jim Goodyear - Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Huntingdon Valley, PA

Rev. A.J. Striffler - First English Lutheran Church in Syracuse, NY

Rev. Lori Pilatzke - St David's Anglican-Lutheran, Orillia, Ontario, Canada

## Still on Hold?

You continue to support LGBTQ leaders who await their first call. Especially as we celebrate many new calls, we remember those who are still waiting. This is a very challenging and difficult time. We provide chaplain support, collegiality through Proclaim, and networking to find out about possible new calls. We are also working with the ELCA to support and provide feedback about the Pentecost Site, a new website they have created to help synods share information about open calls and candidates awaiting call. This site is not limited to LGBTQ candidates, but is a very good resource for our Proclaim community.

**FIRST CALL** - Rose Beeson - St. Matthew Trinity in Hoboken, New Jersey

Rachel Knoke - Trinity Lutheran Church in Green Bay, WI

Jill Rode - St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN

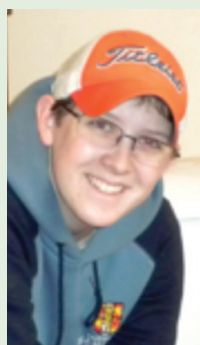
Julie Wright - Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Inver Grove Heights, MN



Rev. Rose Beeson

## Canada welcomes lesbian pastor

Rev. Lori Pilatzke is the new pastor at St. David's Lutheran/Anglican Church in Orillia, Ontario. Lori is the first member of Proclaim to receive a call in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). (History note: In 2008, the Rev. Lionel Ketola was extraordinarily ordained in Canada - in 2011, Pastor Lionel was received onto the roster of the United Church of Canada.)



Mack Patrick

**WELCOMED** - Mack Patrick - Seminarian, Wartburg

Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan - Associate Professor of Homiletics at PLTS

Rev. Manda Truchinski - Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran, San Jose, CA

Fred Demien-PLTS

Jeff McGuire-PLTS

Ben Hogue - PLTS

Rev. Leslie Welton - St John's Lutheran Church, Sacramento

Cathy Swanson - LSTC

Preston Fields - LSTC

Mark David Johnson - LTSP

## Donor Profile: Rev. Jeff Johnson and Pepe Sanchez



Amalia Vagts celebrating with the newly married Jeff and Pepe.

The Rev. Jeff Johnson and Pepe Sanchez were married September 13, 2014 at University Lutheran Chapel of Berkeley, California, where Jeff has been the pastor for the past fourteen years. Jeff and Pepe invited their guests to honor the occasion with a gift to Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries. They wrote, "During this time, we have been supported, encouraged, and blessed by the incredible work of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM) and the PROCLAIM community (ELM's professional group for Lutheran LGBTQ clergy and seminarians). On the occasion of our marriage, we would be very honored if you might consider a contribution to celebrate this happy occasion and to support the important and ongoing work of ELM. "

We can set up personalized giving pages for our supporters (you can view Jeff and Pepe's by visiting [www.elm.org/tributes/johnsonsanchez](http://www.elm.org/tributes/johnsonsanchez)). This gives you an easy way to help your friends make a gift.

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries received a total of \$2,393 in honor of their wedding. What a blessing!

Contact Amalia Vagts at [director@elm.org](mailto:director@elm.org) or 563-382-6277 to find out more information about setting up a tribute page.

## 2014 BY THE NUMBERS

Thanks to you, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries met our fundraising goals for 2014, which means we are off to a strong start with our ministry in 2015.

We will produce a comprehensive report for our wonderful supporters in the Spring MISSION. However, we wanted to share a few bits of news with you right away.

Total Number of Donors in 2014

503

105

First Time Donors

Extraordinary Friends  
(those giving \$10+/monthly)

54

\$231,735

2014 Goal

2014 Raised

\$249,927

When you give to ELM, you support these acts of affirmation, accompaniment, and advocacy for LGBTQ leaders and their ministries.

Please give today using the enclosed envelope or online at [www.elm.org](http://www.elm.org)