



EXTRAORDINARY
LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES

the mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Snapshot of our 2017 Numbers

Total Raised*: \$269,758 Goal: \$258,000

Total Friends: 511 Goal: 515

New Friends: 82 Goal: 100

Board & Staff: 100% Goal: 100%

*Preliminary Numbers as of 1/18/2017. Total Raised does not include funds raised for the Joel R. Workin Endowment Fund

Hello, 2017!



Thank you for being part of another extraordinary year! Thanks to you we had a full and successful 2016. While much about our the current political and social landscape ahead may seem daunting, we enter in grounded in God's love and grace. We're living in extraordinary times and we need extraordinary leaders.

Amalia

2017 Proclaim Gathering: Healing the Violence

Chicago, Illinois, July 16-19

Proclaim, a community of 241 publicly identified LGBTQ+ Lutheran people doing and pursuing rostered ministry, is committed to bringing good news and positive change to the world. During these turbulent times, the Proclaim Community will gather in 2017 around the theme "Healing the Violence." The program will focus on current happenings, including the Black Lives Matter movement, the 2016 elections,



HEALING^{THE}
VIOLENCE

INSIDE.....

You're Making the Difference

3 Easy Ways to Get Ready

Profile: Tom Jacobson

**In Memory:
Betty Workin**



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PURPOSE

ELM believes LGBTQ leaders have extraordinary gifts for ministry. Through their public witness, these leaders enrich and transform our church and proclaim the Gospel now.

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and environmental destruction. We'll reflect on a number of specific events like the shootings in Charleston and Orlando, and the sharp increase in homicides in Chicago (where our retreat will be held). We'll consider Lutheran responses like the ELCA's social message on "Gender-based violence."

Together Proclaim will explore different pathways of healing: the arts, activism, prophetic preaching, communication strategies, and more. How can LGBTQ+ ministers lead communities of healing in these violent times? How can we and our communities give public witness to the healing that God offers? Through a number of hands-on workshops filled with practical tools and strategies, we'll work to develop responses to these questions that we can adapt for use in our ministry contexts. We'll also worship, socialize, relax, and build community with one another.

LGBTQ+ Lutheran rostered leaders have gathered in one form or another for an annual retreat since the early 1990's. The Gathering is open to all members of Proclaim - visit www.elm.org to learn more. ELM friends make it possible for all to attend by providing funds for scholarships- you gave close to \$10,000 in scholarships last year! In a few weeks, we'll invite you to give in support of our scholarship fund for the 2017 gathering.

Proclaim by the Numbers

241 Proclaimers (almost 20% growth in 2016)

26 new Proclaim members since May of 2016

10 Proclaimer ordinations since June of 2016

Proclaimers make up **10%** of all ELCA seminarians



PROCLAIM

Your Support is Strengthened by Others

We've received a \$30,000 grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation for our work in 2017! Most of our supporters are individuals and congregations just like you. For many years, however, we've been able to do even more thanks to the Carpenter Foundation's generous support. With the help of a few friends, we received our first grant in 2009 and it was the beginning of a faithful partnership that has been a consistent catalyst for ELM's growth. We're filled with gratitude for those who helped make this connection and to the Carpenter Foundation for their support!

Congregations: 3 Easy Steps to “Get Ready”

We continue to hear from congregations that “aren’t quite ready” to consider calling an LGBTQ rostered leader. If this is your congregation, we’d like to help you get ready!

Here are three easy first steps:

1. **LEARN.** Watch the video *Sailing on Faith*. This wonderful 25-minute video about diverse pastors was made by the United Church of Christ and is easily found online. We LOVE this resource!
2. **TALK.** To make even better use of the video, watch it as a group and have a discussion. Contact us for discussion guide if you would like!
3. **ENGAGE.** Invite an openly LGBTQ+ person to preach at your congregation. We have a list of Proclaim pastors available for pulpit supply - and we’d love to help you find someone nearby.



You can also check out Enrich & Transform at www.elm.org. We’ve created a six-minute video and 10-page resource to help your congregation get ready to welcome all of the kinds of people God may be calling to serve your congregation.

ELM Gets Social!

Do you read our weekly email, the “interMISSION?” Do you follow ELM on twitter? Have you liked our page on Facebook? We love to tell the stories you make happen!

Get connected now:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/extraordinarylutheranministries
- Twitter: @ExtraLuthMin
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/ELMvideo

Get caught up:

To read past news (going back to 2007) visit www.elm.org



Donor Profile: Tom Jacobson

Tom Jacobson is a lifelong Lutheran raised in Oklahoma who goes to church every Sunday. He's also an internationally-produced playwright and openly gay artist who is deeply invested in the liberating work of organizations like ELM and its predecessor, Lutheran Lesbian and Gay Ministries.

Tom combines playwriting with his deep understanding of the LGBTQ+ Christian community, a combination that most recently resulted in the premiere of his newest play, *Captain of the Bible Quiz Team*. In this play, an LGBTQ+ pastor returns to their home church in rural Minnesota, and encounters a small congregation caught in the tension between the way things have always been, and a new vision that can lead to renewal. The solo role of the pastor was played in Los Angeles by four actors in alternating performances: two female, two male, two of color, two white. The Los Angeles production received rave reviews, and Tom is in conversation with theatres and congregations in Minneapolis, Chicago, and New York for upcoming productions.



What Tom uncovered in his research was a narrative not only, in his words, “of oppression, of anger, of discouragement,” but also stories of people whose “passion for God and the church was impressive.”

Through Tom's creative and philanthropic work, he is able to create the change that he knows must happen in the world and the church. As Tom said in a recent visit with Program Director Asher O'Callaghan, “If the Church isn't good FOR something, it's good for nothing.”

Thank you, Tom, for your creative work and for being a Faithful & Fabulous Friend to ELM!

In Memory: Betty Workin

Betty Workin, longtime supporter of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and advocate for LGBTQ+ justice passed away on November 22, 2016, following a two-and-a-half- year battle with cancer. Betty was Joel Workin's mother (Joel was one of the first openly gay Lutheran seminarians). Betty will be remembered by the compassion, strength and love she showered on her son Joel and others who were cast aside for being gay and having AIDS. God's all-encompassing love was made real to many through her actions.

Betty and Joel's legacy lives on in the Joel R. Workin Scholarship Fund, created by family and friends after Joel's death in 1995. We've received over \$4,200 in memorial gifts in Betty's name for the Joel R. Workin Scholarship Fund and are thrilled to share that the fund passed the \$100,000 mark at the end of 2016!

