



EXTRAORDINARY
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MINISTRIES

the mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

You. Action. Ministry.

Your support is providing \$62,000 in funding for ministries this year. Read on to find out more about all of the great ministry you are supporting. Please visit www.elm.org for more information.

New Mission Grants for 2012

[East Bay Lutheran Youth Program, Oakland:](#)

[Rev. Craig Minich](#)

The East Bay Lutheran Youth Program is a joint youth ministry program made up of five congregations, which ministers to youth and their families from birth to after college. This ministry has been thriving for eleven years and is served by Pastor Craig Minich.

[Welcome and the Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies, Bay Area, CA:](#) [Rev. Megan Rohrer](#) and [Rev. Dawn Roginski](#)

This grant funds ministry to LGBTQ homeless youth through empowerment and leadership fostering. This ministry will focus attention on LGBTQ youth issues and bring in people of faith to provide support to them.

[Anti-bullying Ministry, Wisconsin:](#) [Rev. Cindy Crane](#)

This grant supports a new ministry project that addresses bullying, and how people of faith can prevent and take action effectively against bullying. The ministry will work with the South Central Synod of Wisconsin's parishes. The team will create action plans and resources on how to engage their congregations on preventing bullying.

Internship Grants

In response to a growing need, ELM added a new grant category this year to support internships for LGBTQ seminarians.

[St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Florida:](#) [Edwin Weber](#) internship

This grant provides support for Charles Edwin Weber's seminary internship at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Tallahassee, Florida.



EBLYP's Rev. Craig Minich & Youth on retreat



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MISSION

*expanding ministry opportunities
for publicly-identified LGBTQ
Lutheran rostered leaders who are
changing the church and society
through their ministry*

Christ Church Lutheran, San Francisco, CA: Cary Bass Internship

This grant provides support for Cary Bass' internship at Christ Church Lutheran in San Francisco, CA. Cary is a student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. The Rev. Steve Sabin is his internship supervisor.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA: Brenda Bos Internship

This grant provides support for Brenda Bos' seminary internship at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Santa Monica. Brenda is a student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. The Rev. Jim Boline is her internship supervisor.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, CA

Continued Mission Grants for 2012

St. Luke's Church of Logan Square, Chicago, IL: Rev. Erik Christensen

St. Luke's is a congregation in redevelopment on the northwest side of Chicago in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. This support grant assists St. Luke's continued redevelopment, expansion and a path to self-sustainability. This is the 5th grant ELM has given St. Luke's as part of our commitment to this redeveloping congregation. In cooperation with St. Luke's, ELM has decreased the grant amount each year as St. Luke's has worked to increase their sustainability.



Worship at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Logan Square

EcoFaith Recovery, Portland, OR: Rev. Robyn Hartwig

This grant will fund the continued development of EcoFaith Recovery as a ministry of Lutherans and ecumenical partners based out of the metropolitan Portland area. EcoFaith Recovery develops and supports spiritual recovery from the addictive patterns of human life that contribute to the climate crisis, heighten social injustice, deprive people of spiritual meaning, and threaten life on earth. The grant will expand the Mission Developer position to ensure the goals of the program are met.

Grace Lutheran Church, Houston, TX: Rev. Lura Groen

Grace Lutheran Church in Houston continues to grow and minister to the Montrose neighborhood they have called home since 1922. This fall the church launched a new campaign centered on the idea that Grace is "A Place to Come Home To." The campaign has encouraged members to get out and engage the community. This is ELM's third year of funding for Grace Lutheran Church.

Candidacy Accompaniment Update

Contributions to ELM also support future LGBTQ rostered leaders. We are currently working with 18 seminary and divinity school students in the ELCA's candidacy process. Program Chair Randy Nelson will attend the Proclaim retreat to lead a workshop and meet one on one with seminary and divinity school students to talk about candidacy. This volunteer-managed program is candidate-driven and provides a range of support to those seeking to serve as rostered leaders in a Lutheran denomination.

Giving Thanks for Margaret and Erik

This spring we give our thanks to two long-serving board members, Margaret Moreland and the Rev. Erik Christensen, who have each completed two terms on the ELM Board.

Margaret first became involved in the early 1990s with Extraordinary Candidacy Project. Since then she has served in numerous leadership roles, including as President of the ECP board, a member of the Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries board, the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries transition team, and the founding Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries Board. She previously served as Call Placement Coordinator, helping numerous congregations go through the process of calling a pastor from the ELM roster. Since 2007, she has served as Chair of the ELM Grants program. Margaret and her partner, Bennett Falk, attended every extraordinary ordination, a distinction held solely by the two of them. Margaret shared some of her thoughts about ELM in a blog post at elm.org writing, "The change of policy in the ELCA has not changed my commitment to the work of ELM. LGBTQ clergy, rostered lay leaders, and seminarians still will have a difficult time being accepted in many parts of the church. I will continue to support this work which has changed so many lives, including mine."



Margaret Moreland



Rev. Erik Christensen

Erik has served on the ELM board as Co-Chair for six years. Erik joined the board of Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries while he was in the process of seeking ordination in the Lutheran church. Following the merger of Extraordinary Candidacy Project and LLGM, Erik was asked to serve as co-chair of the the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries transition team and then the newly formed Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries board. In that role, Erik was frequently called on to describe ELM's vision and mission. His future vision for the organization was critical as ELM responded to the changes in ELCA ministry policies in 2009. Erik advocated strongly for a process of reception rather than reordination for those in the ELM community who had been extraordinarily ordained, and was given a rare opportunity to address the Conference of Bishops as they discussed that topic. Erik recently wrote, "This community, the ELM community, was the first to step out and publicly support my ministry – and I have been publicly, and financially, supporting the work of ELM ever since."

You may send a note of thanks to Margaret or Erik via Amalia (director@elm.org) and we will forward it to them.

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin Joins Board



The Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin, joined the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors on March 1, 2013. Rev. Erwin is the first full-time holder of California Lutheran University's first endowed chair, the Gerhard and Olga J. Belgum Chair of Lutheran Confessional Theology. He also serves as Director of the Segerhammar Center for Faith and Culture.

Erwin is a native of Oklahoma and an active member of the Osage Tribe of Indians. He is a member of a number of scholarly societies, a loyal alumni volunteer of his various alma maters, and enjoys book collecting, the study of genealogy, opera, letterpress printing, and his Jardine's parrot. Erwin is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a member of Proclaim; he and his partner Rob Flynn are members of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, CA, and are very active in Lutheran circles locally, nationally, and internationally.



PROCLAIM

A sampling of activities by Proclaim members and their ministries.

-The Rev. Richard Andersen was installed on Thursday, Feb 9 in a service at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He has received a synodical call from the St. Paul Area Synod for his ministry with Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota.

-Salem Lutheran Church, led by the Rev. Jen Nagel, has moved into SpringHouse Ministry Center, their new shared home with Lyndale United Church of Christ and First Christian Church.

-Rev. Julie Boleyn was ordained January 14 and serves as pastor of Unity Lutheran Church of Berwyn, IL. Julie was originally approved for ordination through ELM. Following the 2009 ELCA policy change, she was also approved for ordination by the ELCA. Julie is a Proclaim member and serves on ELM's board of directors.

-Rev. Chuck Witschorik has been called as Acting Associate Pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco, CA.

-Rev. Robyn Provis has been called as pastor at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis, MN.

-Rev. Jen Rude was received in a Rite of Reception on Sunday, March 18 at Grace Lutheran Church in Evanston. Jen received a synodical call from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for her ministry with Night Ministry.

-Rose Beeson is on internship at Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Washington DC. Rev. Michael Wilker, long-time ELM supporter is the supervising pastor.

-Rev. Tim Weisman was installed as on January 8 as pastor at Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsfield, MA. Over 150 members, friends, and clergy colleagues attended and supported Tim and his new ministry.

"Dear God, I am Gay — thank you."

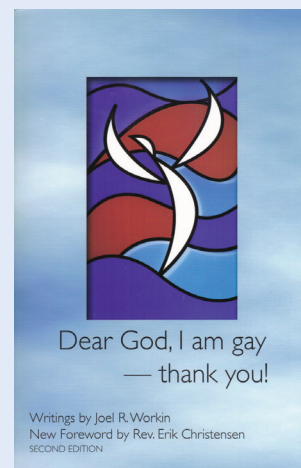
We are thrilled to announce the 2nd edition of this collection of essays and sermons from Joel Workin entitled, "Dear God, I am Gay — thank you."

The new edition includes a new foreward by the Rev. Erik Christensen and a legacy statement from the Rev. James Boline, both members of Proclaim. The edition features never before published sermons, including the sermon Joel preached at the Rev. Jeff Johnson's installation at First United Lutheran Church in 1990.

Editor Michael Nelson went through stacks of material to select pieces for the new book. Joel's parents, Betty and Ray Workin generously underwrote the costs of the second edition.

You may request a copy of this book to be mailed to you as a thank you gift for your donation to ELM. Please note, \$15 of your gift (for each book requested) will be non-tax-deductible. We also ask that you consider adding \$3 or more in shipping costs. Please write "Joel Workin Book" in the memo line of your check or the "note" section of your online gift.

Following Joel's death from AIDS in 1995, his family and friends established the Joel R. Workin Memorial Fund with Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries. This fund is now an endowment and provides support to publicly-identified LGBTQ Lutheran seminarians. Please contact Amalia at director@elm.org if you would like to discuss including this Endowment in your will.



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