



EXTRAORDINARY  
LUTHERAN  
MINISTRIES

# the mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

## Who? What? Why?

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries has been busy! We've adopted updated mission and vision statements and affirmed our plan for 2013 - 2015. Yes, this involved some serious butcher block paper & post-it notes...

We began by identifying people who are closely connected to the work of ELM. Next, we agreed upon 9 goals for the next 2-3 years. Then we agreed on the strategies to achieve these goals. Lastly, we adopted a new mission and statement to more accurately describe and guide our work. A big shout-out to the fabulous Jessica Vazquez Torres who facilitated this process for us.



This piece of art by Kristen Gilje captures the vision, diversity, beauty, passion and energy we see in the present and future of ELM! ©1999 Kristen Gilje, "Tree of Life," 8 feet by 12 feet, acrylic on panel, used with permission. Kristen Gilje was the artist who created worship banners for ELM. See more of her work here: web site [www.kristengilje.com](http://www.kristengilje.com).



EXTRAORDINARY  
LUTHERAN  
MINISTRIES

2649 N. Francisco Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60647  
www.elm.org  
info@elm.org

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Julie Boleyn, Co-Chair  
Chicago, IL

Rev. Michael Wilker, Co-Chair  
Washington, D.C.

Jeremy Posadas, Secretary  
Sherman, TX

Charlie Horn, Treasurer  
Pitman, NJ

Rose Beeson  
Washington, DC

James Kowalski, San Francisco, CA  
Carolyne Schultz, Denver, CO

Rev. Dr. Randy Nelson,  
Minneapolis, MN

Rev. Elise Brown  
New York City, NY

Asher O'Callaghan, St. Paul, MN

Ángel D. Marrero,  
Philadelphia, PA

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amalia Vagts  
Decorah, IA

#### PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Rev. Jen Rude  
Chicago, IL

#### 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.*

#### WHO:

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries is focused on the following 8 constituencies: LGBTQ people called to ministry, congregations and ministries, ELM donors and supporters, ELM's growing edge, ELCA decision-makers, theological and ministry educators, movement partners, and ELM leadership.

#### WHAT:

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries is committing to the following 9 goals:

1. Expand our role as a leader in extraordinary and innovative ministries.
2. Identify 90 congregations open to calling rostered leaders in Proclaim.
3. Identify and/or create at least 12 viable internship sites that would make excellent settings for LGBTQ candidates.
4. Distribute candidacy resources to every synodical candidacy committee.
5. Increase our intercultural competency and our capacity to raise up ministry candidates connected with underrepresented communities.
6. Proclaim members will be actively engaged in planned strategies geared toward creating a church where all may serve according to their callings.
7. Develop new relationships with key leaders whose work directly impacts ELM's constituencies.
8. Become an organization that meets widely accepted benchmarks for nonprofit excellence.
9. Expand organizational capacity through increased giving from existing and new supporters.

#### WHY:

### VISION

Freed and compelled by the Gospel of Jesus Christ to proclaim God's love and seek justice for all, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries envisions a church where all may serve God according to their callings.

### MISSION

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries affirms and supports LGBTQ Lutheran rostered leaders and those pursuing a call to rostered leadership while engaging allied congregations and ministries to proclaim God's love and seek justice for all.

You support this work through your gift, prayer, and by telling others about ELM.

**Proclaim** is the professional community for publicly identified lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) Lutheran rostered leaders and those preparing for rostered leadership. This community serves as a source of connection, renewal, support, and training for creative, innovative and bold leaders doing extraordinary ministry in our church. Proclaim gathers annually in retreat and throughout the year and is supported by the Proclaim Leadership Team and 3 chaplains.



**Accompaniment** supports LGBTQ persons in the Lutheran candidacy process through direct work with candidates and by developing relationships with synods, seminaries, candidacy committees and other church leaders. This work is candidate-driven and takes on many forms. Part of this work includes the recently published resource: *Candidacy and LGBTQ individuals: An Offered Resource for ELCA Candidacy Committees*. This resource is available on the ELM website [www.elm.org](http://www.elm.org).



**Ministry Engagement**, our newest program, is grounded in our history of extraordinary congregations and ministries who are the heart of this movement. This program is committed to supporting, connecting, and creating extraordinary congregations and ministries as they are both gift and witness to the wider church.



# PROCLAIM

## INTERNSHIPS

Rachael Anderson Lord of Mercy Lutheran Church—Sparks, Nevada

Jay Berry Lutheran Church of the Reformation on Capital Hill—Washington, DC

Rob Bork Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church—Chicago, IL

Jason Clifton Trinity Lutheran—Vermillion, SD

Moose Flores House for All Sinners and Saints—Denver, CO

Fritz Fowler Resurrection Lutheran Church—Portland, OR

Carolina Glauster Lutheran Church of the Cross—Victoria, BC

Paul Johnson St. Stephen's Lutheran Church and Chaplain Intern at St. Luke's Hospital—Cedar Rapids Iowa

Emmy Kegler Light of the World Lutheran Church—Apple Valley, MN

Rachel Knoke Lutheran Church of Christ the King—Tacoma, WA

Ángel D. Marrero First Lutheran Church—Waltham, MA

Asher O'Callaghan University Lutheran Church—East Lansing, Michigan

Rebecca Seely St. Paul's Lutheran Church—Santa Monica, CA

Kyle Severson Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit—Lincolnshire, IL

## OTHER NEWS

Amanda Nelson (PLTS) and Joe Graumann (LTSG) are both serving as Student Association President at their seminary this year.

Cara Knutson Chaplain Resident at Gunderson Health System—La Crosse, WI

Julie Wright Part-time chaplain at Augustana Care Center—Minneapolis, MN

ORDINATION: Sara Cogsil, December 7 at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH, 10 am.

Erik Haaland—called as associate pastor at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis.

OUR THREE PROGRAMS





“I give to ELM because I believe LGBTQ pastors can lead the ELCA to deeper and more diverse understandings about identity, grace and vocation.”

Brenda Bos sent in this note with her most recent gift to ELM. Brenda is a member of Proclaim. She recently graduated from PLTS and is awaiting first call. In the meantime, she is serving a short-term interim ministry role, providing volunteer Communications support to ELM, and recently steam-cleaned her entire house.



Brenda Bos (on right) with her wife Janis Reid.

## Welcome to the Rev. Jen Rude, Program Director for ELM

We are expanding our support of LGBTQ pastors, seminarians, candidates and their ministries, thanks to our committed supporters. Each of these vital programs will now be led by the Rev. Jen Rude, who began October 1 as Program Director for ELM. Jen will work with the 139 members of Proclaim, with the 71 people we are accompanying through candidacy, and with an ever-expanding group of allied congregations and ministries through Ministry Engagement. We do this work to proclaim God's love and to seek justice for all. We are able to do it thanks to YOU.



## ELM is now eligible for Thrivent Choice<sup>®</sup> dollars!

It's official! We're in the catalog. Thrivent members who have Choice Dollars to designate can direct them to ELM. This is a wonderful new way to increase your support for our growing ministry. Please consider designating your 2013 Choice dollars to ELM. You can learn more on our website, or contact us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ANNUAL OR SPECIAL GIFT. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR SUPPORT  
OR GIVE ONLINE TODAY AT [WWW.ELM.ORG](http://WWW.ELM.ORG)