



EXTRAORDINARY
LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES

the mission

THE NEWSLETTER OF EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

A Passion for Justice and Faith

Joel Workin was one of the three seminarians refused ordination by the ELCA in 1989 because they were gay. Joel shares stories and commentary about his experience in the collection, “Dear God, I am gay – thank you!” When Joel died from AIDS in 1995, his family and friends created a scholarship in his name. This award is given to publicly identified LGBTQ seminarians who embody Joel’s passion for justice and faith in their lives and ministry. The Joel R. Workin Endowment Fund is managed by the Lutheran Community Foundation. Thanks to a special gift from Joel’s parents, Ray and Betty Workin, ELM was able to name two scholars this year.

The 2012 Joel R. Workin Memorial Scholars are Rebecca Seely and Asher O’Callaghan.

Rebecca Seely

Becca graduated from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut this past May and is spending the coming year at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Becca feels strongly that her coming out story and conversion story are forever linked as they are stories of new beginnings. Becca is passionate about creating open, diverse and safe spaces for all. Becca writes,

“I feel incredibly blessed and honored to be named a Joel R. Workin Scholar and I am excited to learn, grow and serve with the ELM and Proclaim communities in this role over the next year.”

The scholarship committee admired the way Becca proudly gives life to Joel’s memory and legacy.



Asher O’Callaghan



Asher came to Lutheranism via House For All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado. In 2011, he finished his graduate coursework at Iliff School of Theology in Denver and begins at Luther Seminary this fall. Asher has a focus on service to others through mission work, caring for those with mental health concerns, and making personal witness as a person who found Christ anew in Lutheran liturgy and theology.

“I can’t help but take off my shoes and commend my feet to go and do likewise for the sake of others receiving what was offered to me at the queer-friendly church I incredulously stumbled into a couple years ago. There I saw bread being broken and heard words that shattered my heart and transformed my life: Beloved child of God: Behold who you are. Become what you have received.”

The scholarship committee recognized in Asher a voice that like Joel’s, is fearless and prophetic in its Gospel proclamation.



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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*

“Dear God, I am Gay — thank you!” by Joel Workin

Earlier this year ELM released the 2nd edition of this incredible collection of essays and sermons. The new edition features a new foreword by the Rev. Erik Christensen and a legacy statement by the Rev. Jim Boline, as well as several never before published sermons, including the sermon Joel preached at the Rev. Jeff Johnson’s installation at First United Lutheran Church in 1990. Go to www.elm.org for information on how to receive a copy.



Dear God, I am gay
— thank you!

Writings by Joel R. Workin
New Foreword by Rev. Erik Christensen
second edition

Ministry Grants Make It Happen

Since 1995, we’ve given away grants each year to support ministry by LGBTQ Lutheran rostered leaders. Currently, ELM is supporting 9 ministries with grants totaling \$62,000. Contributions to ELM help support these grants. With 106 members in Proclaim, we have many more potential projects to fund! Your first or additional gift this year will support ELM Ministry Grants.

ELM will announce the grant recipients in early November. ELM Ministry Grants are available to all congregations and ministries that have called or want to call a Proclaim member. These grants enable new mission starts and expand existing ministries and programs. Some grants help a congregation or ministry call a Proclaim member as an intern. Learn more at www.elm.org.

Be our Guest!

Check out www.elm.org as we feature guest bloggers from the community. This is a great way to read about ministry by LGBTQ leaders happening throughout the church!

Our Board is not Bored

A good portion of our work is done by our volunteer board. This twelve person group gathers in person twice a year and by phone twice a year and does a whole lot of work in between. The fall meeting will be held Sept 23-25 in Chicago, IL. This meeting will include conversations about ELM’s organizational growth, the next steps in our strategic vision, and an anti-oppression training.

In 2010, the ELM governing body committed to work towards a deeper understanding of being an anti-oppression organization. As part of our own work, the ELM Board has committed to an annual anti-oppression training. Board members and staff also commit to additional learning on their own. In 2010, trainer Colin Kennedy Donovan led a training about ableism and universal design. This work led to developing policies related to food, communication and physical accessibility. In 2011, Stacy Kitahata, Program Director at the Krista Foundation for Global Citizenship, led our Board through the Intercultural Development Inventory, which helped us begin to understand our Board’s capacity in regards to difference and similarity. The ELM Board will be working with Jessica Vazquez Torres, lead trainer from Crossroads Antiracism & Training, at our September 2012 meeting.

Save the Date:

2013 Proclaim Retreat, April 12-15 The Bishop’s Ranch, Sonoma County, CA-
Check out www.elm.org/retreat for updates.

Proclaim Over 100

At the end of July Proclaim reached an important milestone: 100 members! Proclaim, a program of ELM, is a professional community for Lutheran pastors, rostered leaders & seminarians who publicly identify as LGBTQ.

Proclaim is a living witness of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries' core belief

that ministry by people who publicly and joyfully identify as LGBTQ is one way to change

the church and society to become

a place more fully inclusive of all people. These leaders proclaim the good news for all people each day, in congregations, on the street, at hospital bedsides, in the classroom, on the bus, and in all sorts of places to all kinds of people.

The Proclaim Program Chair is the Rev. Jen Rude. The Proclaim community has been very busy this summer with a variety of projects: the chaplains have organized prayer partners and monthly devotionals; a wide range of resources are shared via the Proclaim website; the Seminarian Liaisons are setting up a student contact on each campus to build local community. Looking ahead to fall we are exploring launching web and phone meet-ups to connect Proclaim leaders throughout the year.

Proclaim was launched thanks to a generous grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. The program continues thanks to our wonderful supporters. Like you!



PROCLAIM

May We Accompany You?

Thanks to your contributions, we have launched an accompaniment program for LGBTQ people following a call to ministry in the Lutheran church. Randy Nelson, former Luther Seminary contextual education director is the Program Chair for this program of ELM. Randy has brought together a committed Advisory Team representing the East, Midwest and West Coast. In addition, we've identified contact people at each Lutheran seminary and several divinity schools to share resources for LGBTQ candidates and ELM's work. ELM is working with ELCA Churchwide and synodical staff to discuss how candidacy is going for LGBTQ people in the ELCA and exploring ways that we might provide additional resources for LGBTQ candidates and the church.

We are currently working with 35 candidates for ministry, providing a range of personalized accompaniment. Sometimes all that's needed is a listening ear! In other cases, the kind of support we offer comes only through the strength of a community voice.

Thank you to Edina Community Lutheran Church and others for their generous support of this work.

Proclaim Updates

-The Saint Paul Area Synod Council issued a call to the **Rev. Anita C. Hill** to serve as the ReconcilingWorks Regional Director for Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

-**Rev. Tyler Rasmussen** was ordained August 26 at Zion Lutheran Church in Gowrie, IA. Tyler has been called to serve as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Coopersburg, PA

-**Rev. Caleb Crainer** was ordained September 1 at Zion Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, KS. Caleb has been called to serve as Pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Los Angeles, CA.

-**Rev. Bradley Schmeling** was installed at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul on August 26.

-**Matt James, Amanda Nelson, Rev. Craig Minich, and Caleb Crainer** participated in the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans during July.

-**Brenda Bos** serving as vicar at St. Paul's Santa Monica, CA.

-**Amanda Nelson** serving as vicar at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Saratoga, CA.

-**Cary Bass** serving as vicar at Christ Church Lutheran in San Francisco, CA.

-**Alex Raabe** serving as vicar this fall at House For All Sinners and Saints in Denver, CO.

-**Paul Gibson** serving as vicar at the Lord of Mercy Lutheran Church in Sparks, NV

- **Emily Ewing** serving as vicar at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kansas City, MO.

-**Cara Knutson** serving as vicar for St. Stephen ELCA in Tallahassee, FL.

Giving Thanks to YOU.

"I give credit to Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and Proclaim for my eventual ordination for several reasons. The support and love that I found in this community, along with the sage wisdom from other leaders helped me navigate the various processes. At the Proclaim retreat, I met pastors in the synod where I was assigned. It was their initiative that brought me there for the Synod Assembly, and afforded me the opportunity to meet face-to-face with synodical staff and a potential call committee. Those connections resulted in my receiving an interview and eventually a call. Proclaim helped that to happen. I hope that in the future I can be such a valuable advocate for new clergy, it really makes all the difference."

—The Rev. Caleb Crainer, ordained September 1, 2012



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