

ReconcilingWorks

LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Beloveds, it is a joy and delight to be in this ministry with you. Facing days that bring endless policies that challenge, harm, and discriminate against people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions it is inspiring to work alongside each of you to make a difference. Together as a voice of justice and hope we can make a larger difference.

Look at some of what you have made possible in the first four months of 2025

25 trainings, engaged over **2,500+** people, staff have **preached at 10 different congregations** across the US, hosted multiple **queer rostered leader support** calls over Zoom, welcomed **30+ new Reconciling in Christ** partners, launched new **PRIDE 2025 materials**, and celebrated **Reconciling in Christ Sunday** in over 500 congregations

ReconcilingWorks will continue to need your partnership and support as we look at what is still to come in 2025.

Just a few things still to come in 2025

ELCA Churchwide Assembly, **Regional Trainings**, and the launch of NEW **"Setting New Milestones"** training

The work is big, but we have each other. The work is heavy, but there are many hands to carry it. God's love is transformational, let's be God's love for our neighbors.

Grateful to be in this work with you,

*Thank you
for all
you do!*

-Aubrey Thonvold (she/they), Executive Director

Today is a great day to ensure ReconcilingWorks is able to continue the holy ministry of welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy of LGBTQIA+ people in the Lutheran church.



How to Give

Make a gift online:
reconcilingworks.org/donate/

Mail in your gift:
ReconcilingWorks
P.O. Box 8070
St. Paul, MN 55108

Donor Advised Fund:
If you have an ADF you can request distributions be made to ReconcilingWorks.

Employer Match:
If your employer offers an employee match this is a great way to give.

Helpful Information:
ReconcilingWorks IRS Tax designation: Tax exempt under IRS tax code 501 (c)(3)
IRS Tax ID: 84-3273216
Address: P.O. Box 8070
St. Paul, MN 55108
Organization type: Human Rights, Social Justice, Advocacy, Educational, Religious

LEADING THE WAY: GET TO KNOW RECONCILINGWORKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ReconcilingWorks gives thanks to our current Board of Directors. Their leadership in our current political, cultural, and religious climate is critical. Join us in praying for them as they lead this holy ministry and partnership with the ELCA and ELCIC.



Left: Jennifer Trom, Aubrey Thonvold, Deacon David Behling, Rev. Allison Johnson, Jennie Strunk, Carley Houseman, Rev. Ellen Taube, Dan Michel, Rev. Mack Patrick, Rev. Margarett Ouji, Rev. D Porsch-Ortega, Deacon Liz Colver.

MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



Pastor D (they/them) is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. They hold a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Modern Languages and a minor in Music and Education, as well as Master in Divinity from the Evangelical Seminary in Puerto Rico. Pastor D has completed four units of Clinical Pastoral Education and has served as a chaplain in the National Guard and Army Reserves. Their ministry is steeped in social justice having worked in the field of HIV/AIDS as the director of Mujeres en Fe, a community based program for women in faith communities. They have also worked in the field of domestic violence, coordinating Union County's domestic violence hotline.

Pastor D worked passionately for the inclusive movement to celebrate and welcome the full participation of LGBTQI+ people into the life of the Church. In their leisure time they enjoy painting, crocheting, and making music.



Pastor Mack Patrick (he/they) is currently serving as Assistant to the Bishop, where he oversees communications, stewardship, and youth ministry. With a deep passion for social justice, particularly in advocating for transgender rights and the rights of individuals with disabilities, they strive to bring positive change to their community.

Though they may be quiet in nature, Mack's thoughtful and reflective approach drives their actions and leadership. Their quiet presence is matched by a strong vision for the future, committed to creating a more inclusive and compassionate world.

THANKING REV. ELLEN TAUBE FOR HER NINE YEARS OF SERVICE



ReconcilingWorks extends its deepest gratitude for the thoughtful, clear, and steady leadership Ellen has shared with our organization for the past nine years. In her time on the Board she has served as an at-large member, secretary, and treasure. She also took on the tremendous task of setting up our archives at the UMN as a part of their LGBTQIA+ Tretter Collection. Ellen is a gift to this holy ministry. “Ellen joined the board a year after I started at ReconcilingWorks. She has been a solid leader, support system, and mentor. We would not be where we are today without the many gifts she has generously shared with the organization.” - Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director.

SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY’S RECONCILING IN CHRIST JOURNEY



INTERCULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INVENTORY®



[Intercultural Development Inventory](#)

[Building an Inclusive Church Training & Toolkit](#)

This training helps you design and implement a journey for your faith community to publicly and intentionally welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and incorporate a commitment to the work of racial equity. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways to create dialogue, deepening relationships throughout your faith community rather than sparking debate and division.

Upcoming Online Trainings:

1. May 10th, 2025
2. September 13th, 2025
3. November 8th, 2025
4. January 10th, 2026
5. March 14th, 2026
6. May 9th, 2026



Are you and your community looking for a way to build and strengthen your capacity and awareness in Intercultural Competence, Culture, Diversity, and Inclusion? The Intercultural Development Inventory® could be a helpful resource and tool for you and your community. Through a practice of nonjudgement and Graceful Engagement, ReconcilingWorks will work with you and your community to explore co-creating goals for policy, practices, and structural changes.

The Intercultural Development Inventory® IDI is a theory-based assessment of intercultural competence -the capability to shift cultural perspective and appropriately adapt behavior to cultural differences and commonalities- which allows individuals and groups to see their progression along the Intercultural Development Continuum® (IDC).

The capability of deeply shifting cultural perspective and bridging behavior across cultural differences is most fully achieved when one maintains an Adaptation perspective.

PRIDE CHASUBLE RAFFLE

Add a little extra color to your faith community this PRIDE season!

ReconcilingWorks is raffling off this beautiful custom PRIDE chasuble. If you or someone you know would love to add this to their collection with PRIDE, enter to win! A \$25 gift gets you one entry to win, for larger gifts in \$25 increments, your gift will get you an equal number of entries (for example \$100 = 4 raffle entries).

Raffle drawing will be held on Friday, May 23rd at 12 pm CT.

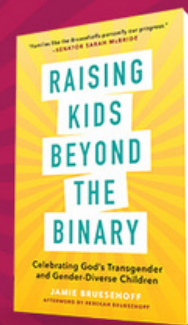


May 2025

RAISING KIDS BEYOND THE BINARY

Celebrating God's Transgender
and Gender-Diverse Children

JAMIE BRUESEHOFF



Join ReconcilingWorks and our guest presenter Jamie Bruesehoff for an important and timely conversation.

Parent Support Zoom: Faithfully Protecting and Supporting Our Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Expansive Youth

May 27, 2025 at 7 PM ET

Join us for a FREE 90-minute virtual gathering for parents and caregivers of transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive young people. In these tumultuous times, this space will offer an opportunity for sharing resources, networking, and connection in our faith's call to love, protect, and advocate. Together, we'll explore how as parents we can stand strong for our children (of all ages), centering their joy, resilience, and sacred worth.

[Register HERE](#)



Jamie Bruesehoff (she/they) is a nationally known speaker, award-winning LGBTQ+ advocate, and a heartfelt writer. Rooted in her queer identity, her experiences raising a transgender child, and two decades of working with youth and families, Jamie Bruesehoff equips leaders to create safer, more inclusive spaces for LGBTQIA people of all ages. She is the author of *Raising Kids beyond the Binary: Celebrating God's Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children*.

Her family and their work have been featured by media outlets and organizations around the world, including Disney, NPR, Good Morning America, USA Today, The Today Show, Forbes, Marvel, People, Parents, the Trevor Project and the Human Rights Campaign. She has partnered with families, congregations and faith communities, youth-serving professionals and advocacy organizations across the country.

Jamie holds a B.A. in Religion from Gettysburg College and an M.A. in Religion from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Whether it's in front of ten people or more than thirty thousand, Jamie shares her experience in a way that touches hearts, changes minds, and inspires positive change.

Newsletter

PRIDE 2025

Queer Justice is Intersectional



ReconcilingWorks celebrating PRIDE with you!

As an organization centered on the care and liberation of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, ReconcilingWorks knows just how important the voice of people of faith is in sharing their support! As we prepare to celebrate PRIDE month in June, this is an important time to affirm and advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community. ReconcilingWorks has worked to create resources for you and your faith community to use to celebrate PRIDE and speak up and advocate for LGBTQIA+ people.

May this PRIDE season be a time for us all to see the ways the Divine is embodied in our beloved LGBTQIA+ siblings and recommit to the work of justice!

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Jesus replaced judgement and exclusion with the message of God's unconditional, unearned love. This is what Queer justice that is intersectional looks like, as the blessed community Jesus founded learns again how to do what Jesus did. This theme is reflected in the language of this worship service, naming and including people with many different identities and in the repeated call for all of God's beloveds to act with justice for all people.

Please [complete this form](#) to receive access to the following PRIDE worship resources:

- Worship Liturgy: Queer Justice is Intersectional (English and Español)
- Sermon (video and transcript)
- Children's Message



COMMUNITY SAFETY SUPPORT

With divisive political rhetoric targeting trans and queer people and often weaponizing transphobia in particular, our concerns have led us to create these Community Safety Guides to use as you plan for and participate in PRIDE events:

- [PRIDE Community Safety Planning Guide](#) (PDF) - Use this to plan for community safety in the weeks leading up to PRIDE (or other event).
- [PRIDE "Day of" Community Safety Guide by Role](#) (PDF) - Print and bring these "cards" to PRIDE (or other event). We suggest you print them double-sided and laminate for use on the "day of" the event.

ReconcilingWorks is here to remind you, our partner communities, organizations, and the world PRIDE community, that we - all of us together - are the living embodiment of hope for LGBTQIA+ full inclusion and equity.

INCREASE IN HATE COMMENTS

ReconcilingWorks is noticing an increase in the amount of hate comments on our posts on Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, and Bluesky). Hate speech and discrimination is not tolerated at ReconcilingWorks. We want you to know that we are doing our best to monitor these comments (blocking individuals and deleting comments); however it is impossible to catch them all. We are weighing the benefits of keeping the comments open to help support each other against closing the comments completely. For now, we are choosing to leave commenting available with some parameters around who is allowed to post. These parameters may help, but we know it will not completely prevent hate comments. Know we are holding you all in our hearts as we navigate this life together, even as some would try to pull us apart and isolate us.

RECONCILINGWORKS AT CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY



ReconcilingWorks is looking forward to attending the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. As we prepare to be there in less than 80 days, ReconcilingWorks would love to extend a number of invitations to those who will be attending.

Invitations for you:

1. If you are a voting member, please let us know by completing [THIS FORM](#). ReconcilingWorks would love to be connected with you while we are in Arizona.
2. ReconcilingWorks will be hosting morning prayer from 8:30 - 8:50 am every morning. Join us to pray for the assembly and lift up the work and ministry of ReconcilingWorks. Prayers will be led by a diversity of leaders. There will be signs, flags, and handouts for folks.
3. ReconcilingWorks would like to celebrate you and all the support and leadership you provide to the organization. In the evening of 7/31/25 ReconcilingWorks will be hosting a reception. Location is still TBD, but we will gather and celebrate our shared ministry in the life of the church and give a brief program.
4. ReconcilingWorks will be watching and sharing updates and information on important CW voting.
 - a. Presiding Bishop's Election
 - b. Secretaries Election
 - c. Human Sexuality Updates
 - d. Commission for Renewed Lutheran Church Information



2025 ELCA Synod Assembly Materials

Synod Assembly Season is always an impactful time in the life of the larger church. 2025 will be no exception. This year almost one third of the 65 synods of the ELCA will be holding Bishop elections. The role of Bishop is critical in how LGBTQIA+ people experience welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy in the church. One of the many responsibilities of a bishop is to determine how LGBTQIA+ rostered leaders experience candidacy and call. If you are looking for way to provide resources, tabling ideas, or support a Bishop's election, ReconcilingWorks has created materials for you. Use code **SYNOD2025** for 25% off items in our [eStore](#).

We pray for the 20 Synods who will be holding Bishop Elections in 2025, 11 of which are **Reconciling in Christ**.

- Northwest Washington Synod: May 16 - 17, 2025 (RIC)
- Southwestern Washington Synod: June 13 - 14, 2025
- Oregon Synod: May 30 - June 1, 2025 (RIC)
- Montana Synod: May 29 - June 1, 2025
- South Dakota Synod: May 30 - June 1, 2025
- Northwestern Minnesota Synod: May 30-June 1, 2025
- Southeastern Minnesota Synod: May 30 - 31, 2025 (RIC)
- Central States Synod: June 5 - 7, 2025 (RIC)
- Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod: May 15 - 17, 2025 (RIC)
- Metropolitan Chicago Synod: May 30-31, 2025 (RIC)
- Western Iowa Synod: June 13 - 14, 2025
- North/West Lower Michigan Synod: May 18 - 20, 2025
- Southern Ohio Synod: June 6 - 7, 2025
- New Jersey Synod: June 5 - 7, 2025 (RIC)
- Metropolitan New York Synod: May 2 - 3, 2025 (RIC) - *Elected Rev. Katrina Foster*
- Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod: May 30-31, 2025
- Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod: May 17 and June 12 - 14, 2025
- Lower Susquehanna Synod: June 5 - 7, 2025 (RIC)
- Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod: June 6-7, 2025 (RIC)
- Southeastern Synod: May 29-31, 2025 (RIC)

We pray for these synods in their discernment.

God of love and liberation, as the synods of the ELCA prepare to gather, we ask that your Holy Spirit fill your people, accompanying them as they discern what it means to be people of faith and the church in this season of history. We ask that you inspire and lift up leaders for the office of synodical bishop who will do the work of justice, liberation, inclusion, and celebration of all you have named beloved. May we be a people and a church who reflect your love in all we do. Amen

SYNOD ASSEMBLY MATERIALS

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/2025-elca-synod-assembly-materials/>

Since 1974, ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual/romantic (LGBTQIA+) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community.

Resources to Begin your Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Journey
reconcilingworks.org/ric/become/

- How to Become Reconciling in Christ (RIC)
- Faith Community Assessment Survey
- Building an Inclusive Church (BIC) Toolkit
- Reconciling in Christ Frequently Asked Questions
- "We're Already Welcoming, Why Do We Need to Say So?"
- Living the Journey - RIC Video Vignettes
- Online Trainings
- ReconcilingWorks eStore

Resources to Set New Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Milestones
reconcilingworks.org/resources/

- Resources for Liturgy, Preaching and Worship
- Deepening & Expanding Worship: A Worship Planning Supplement
- Lutheran Guide to Advocate for LGBTQIA+ People in Church and Society
- Online Trainings
- ReconcilingWorks eStore

Preparing for PRIDE Season
reconcilingworks.org/purchase/

- PRIDE Worship Service
- PRIDE Parade Guide
- Apparel and Swag
- Buttons & Pins
- Temporary RIC Tattoos
- Banners

ReconcilingWorks P.O. Box 8070, Saint Paul, MN
 (651) 665-0861 reconcilingworks.org

One pager to support folks who will be tabling or sharing information about ReconcilingWorks.

2025 ELCA Synod Bishop Election Questionnaire

- How have you worked with congregations to encourage them to be open to calling as rostered ministers - pastors and deacons - to who people who are BIPOC or identify as LGBTQIA+?
- What training/educational resources have you participated in that helped you recognize how white supremacy, misogyny, and queerphobia have impacted your life?
- How do you see the Bound Confessionals compromise (ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2009) and the four positions it describes having an impact on the church today?
- What actions steps will you put in place to provide financial, systematic, and pastoral support for people who are Rostered Ministers or in candidacy who are also from underrepresented or marginalized communities, especially those who are BIPOC or identify as LGBTQIA+?
- Nationally, the average age for someone to "come out" as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community is 16 and the percentage of youth and young adults identifying as Queer or LGBTQIA+ is now over 20% of their demographic. Given that, what do you think congregations and this synod need to do to see, name, and care for these young adults and their families?
- How will you choose to handle expressed homophobia, transphobia, racism, and sexism by a Rostered Minister or member of your synod?
 Can you define systemic racism/institutional racism and give an example where the ELCA is culpable in this system?
- With white supremacy still the cause of prejudice, discrimination, and violence perpetrated against marginalized people all over this country what would you see as your role as bishop in this synod, in the ELCA, and in the larger community?
- Are you committed to making this synod an organization that is actively anti-racist? If yes, name the steps you will take after becoming bishop to do this work. If not, explain your reasons for not doing this work.
- If elected, will you assemble a staff that reflects the rich diversity of the realm of God? What does that look like to you? Why is this important to you?

Bishop Election Questionnaire. For Synods who are electing a new bishop, consider including these questions in your discernment.

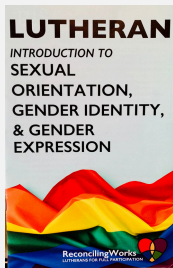
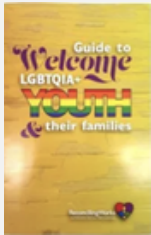
CELEBRATING NEW RIC PARTNERS



GET YOUR SWAG & MATERIALS FOR PRIDE

ReconcilingWorks has a multitude of resources to help support you and your faith community available in English and Spanish. Check out each store below.

Orders are shipped out weekly, so order soon to ensure you receive your package in time!



www.reconcilingworks.org/purchase/

Community Lutheran Church (Sterling, VA)
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church (Greendale, WI)
Redeemer Lutheran Church (White Bear Lake, MN)
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church (Eagan, MN)
St. John's Lutheran Church (Dubuque, IA)
Unity Lutheran Church (Milwaukee, WI)
Crown of Glory Lutheran Church (Chaska, MN)
Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Hamden, CT)
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Manasquan, NJ)
Central Lutheran Church (Van Nuys, CA)
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Olympia, WA)
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church (York, PA)
Salt House Church (Kirkland, WA)
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (West Hempstead, NY)
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Jackson, MI)
River of Hope (Palm Springs, CA)
Common Ground Recovery Community (Wyomissing, PA)
WingspanILM (Wilmington, NC)
St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Newark, DE)
New Life Lutheran Church (Dripping Springs, TX)
Light of Christ Lutheran Church (LaPorte, TX)
New Spirit Lutheran Church (Tucson, AZ)
Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church (London, ON)
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (Tucson, AZ)
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Wheaton, IL)
Nativity Lutheran Church (Weeki Wachee, FL)
Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji (Bemidji, MN)
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Overland Park, KS)
Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) Gathering (Winnipeg, MB)

