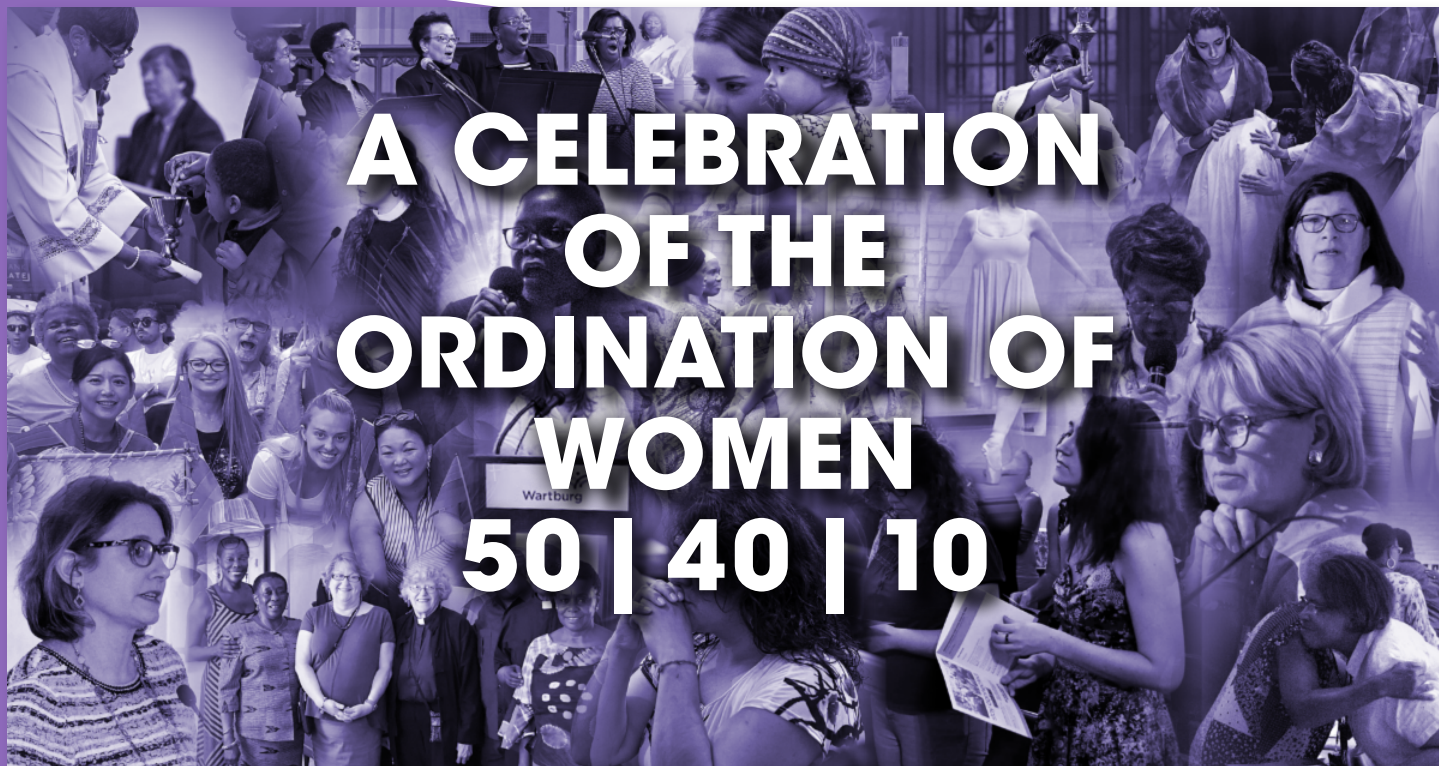




THE LUTHERAN NEW YORKER

spring
2021
ISSUE



We celebrate and recognize three important milestones for the ELCA:

- The **50th** Anniversary of U.S. Lutheran Churches' Decision to Ordain Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament
- The **40th** Anniversary of the First Women of Color Ordained in U.S. Lutheran Churches
- The **10th** Anniversary of the ELCA's Decision to Remove the Barrier to Ordination for LGBTQIA+ Individuals



METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Celebrating Ordained Women:
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STAY CONNECTED, STAY UPDATED, STAY INFORMED WITH US!

THE MNYS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER is an excellent tool to stay **connected** and **informed**. Now, more than ever, we must remain engaged with one another, relevant in our faith communities, and prepared for what lies ahead.

From providing continually updated COVID-related resources, to offering access and information regarding digital synodical events, to raising awareness of congregations' upcoming online events, **MNYS email is here for ALL of us.**

WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER!



SIGN UP

Help us **create awareness** of our email program among your congregation members!

To list your congregation's digital Service of the Word or online event, please send us an email with the pertinent information and links, at info@mnys.org.

CELEBRATING. *ordained* WOMEN

BY THE REV. GLADYS DÍAZ, MNYS ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP



Following the recommendation from our memorial titled, “The ELCA’s Anniversary of the Ordination of Women,” the MNYS Office of the Bishop was **planning a celebration and special recognition of our ordained women** during the 2020 MNYS Annual Assembly.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 crisis, our assembly was canceled, and this important celebration was postponed. While we look forward to hosting an in-person event once it is safe to do so, **for the entire month of March—Women’s History Month—we will be celebrating the thousands of women who inspire and shape our synod.**

We celebrate and recognize three important milestones for the ELCA:

- **The 50th Anniversary of U.S. Lutheran Churches’ Decision to Ordain Women to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament**
- **The 40th Anniversary of the First Women of Color Ordained in U.S. Lutheran Churches**
- **The 10th Anniversary of the ELCA’s Decision to Remove the Barrier to Ordination for LGBTQIA+ Individuals** (During this occasion, we will focus our efforts on celebrating woman-identifying, ordained ministers)

In dedicating this issue of *The Lutheran New Yorker* to these important celebrations, **woman-identifying ministers of our synod share with us highlights of their ministry as ordained leaders in this church, in powerful video testimonials.** “Many women in this church have shared that people continue to disrespect or ignore their voices and authority. Today, women of color continue to wait longer for calls than do all men and all white women. But there is hope...What didn’t seem possible a generation ago is becoming a reality in our church.” (The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA)

I am delighted to share with you some aspects about my own journey as an ordained minister. I was ordained as a Priest on Saturday, September 23, 2006, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. I have served in different capacities and in a variety of ministry settings: I’ve planted missions and have served as parish pastor as well as interim pastor in very different contexts within the territory of the diocese including New York City, the Bronx, Westchester and Dutchess Counties. I planted the first mission in 2010. Serving in different capacities have had a pleasure and a privilege that have come with many blessings and challenges. When I was interviewed for the **50|40|10 video** that is featured below, I was finishing up with the new mission, *Mission Walk*, located in the heart of the South Bronx. I feel very honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve in the neighborhood I lived in for many years. I am a proud Puerto Rican Latina and a product of the struggles and social justice activism of the South Bronx.

There was one experience I had many years ago that I still cherish deeply involving a congregation where most of the members were illiterate. I did not know this at first. Once I found out I had to become very creative with the liturgies of word and sacraments, and with leadership education and formation. I vividly remember the moment one day when I was able to step back and realize that all those who were present had learned to say the entire liturgy and were doing so with palpable devotion and grace! **So many along my path have not been nourished by the body of Christ.** In one congregation in Westchester County, I met dedicated leaders who had not received the holy Sacrament of Communion for as long as fifteen to twenty years. I remember one man in particular and the first time I saw his hands extended to receive the sacrament; that moment also really marked my priesthood and my ministry. It is beautiful to now watch the wonderful lay leader he has become and especially in his capacity as a Lay Eucharistic minister. **It is these types of sacred moments I deeply cherish and know that they have truly shaped me as a pastor.**

When I reflect on the challenges I have faced as a female pastor, I remember, times, when I felt a lonely walk and what it means to be the first one or the only one, but it is always worth the risk to step

into new frontiers where you really and truly must live completely by faith. Jesus has called us too, and uses us to build His church where everyone is welcome. There have been plenty of times in which I have had those moments of rejection, simply because of my gender and, in my case, there was and is the added layer of rejection for being a Latina woman. I look back on a noteworthy experience that involved a very loving woman and her husband. I noticed that her husband seldom accompanied her to church, and one day she built up the courage to tell me that, sadly, the reason why her husband was never in attendance was because he could not accept receiving Communion from a woman. **Some people do not expect that the one leading and ministering in the name of Christ, with a collar, to be a woman.**

While we look forward to hosting an in-person event once it is safe to do so, for the entire month of March—Women’s History Month—we will be celebrating the thousands of women who inspire and shape our synod.

This is such a wonderful time and I feel so privileged and so humbled to be able to serve on the bishop’s staff as one of his assistants as a woman, as an ecumenical partner in the Episcopal tradition, and as a Latina, in fact a Puerto Rican! This speaks loudly about what the Holy Spirit is doing, as she leads us forward as the beloved community and the wonderful mosaic of diversity God created us to be.

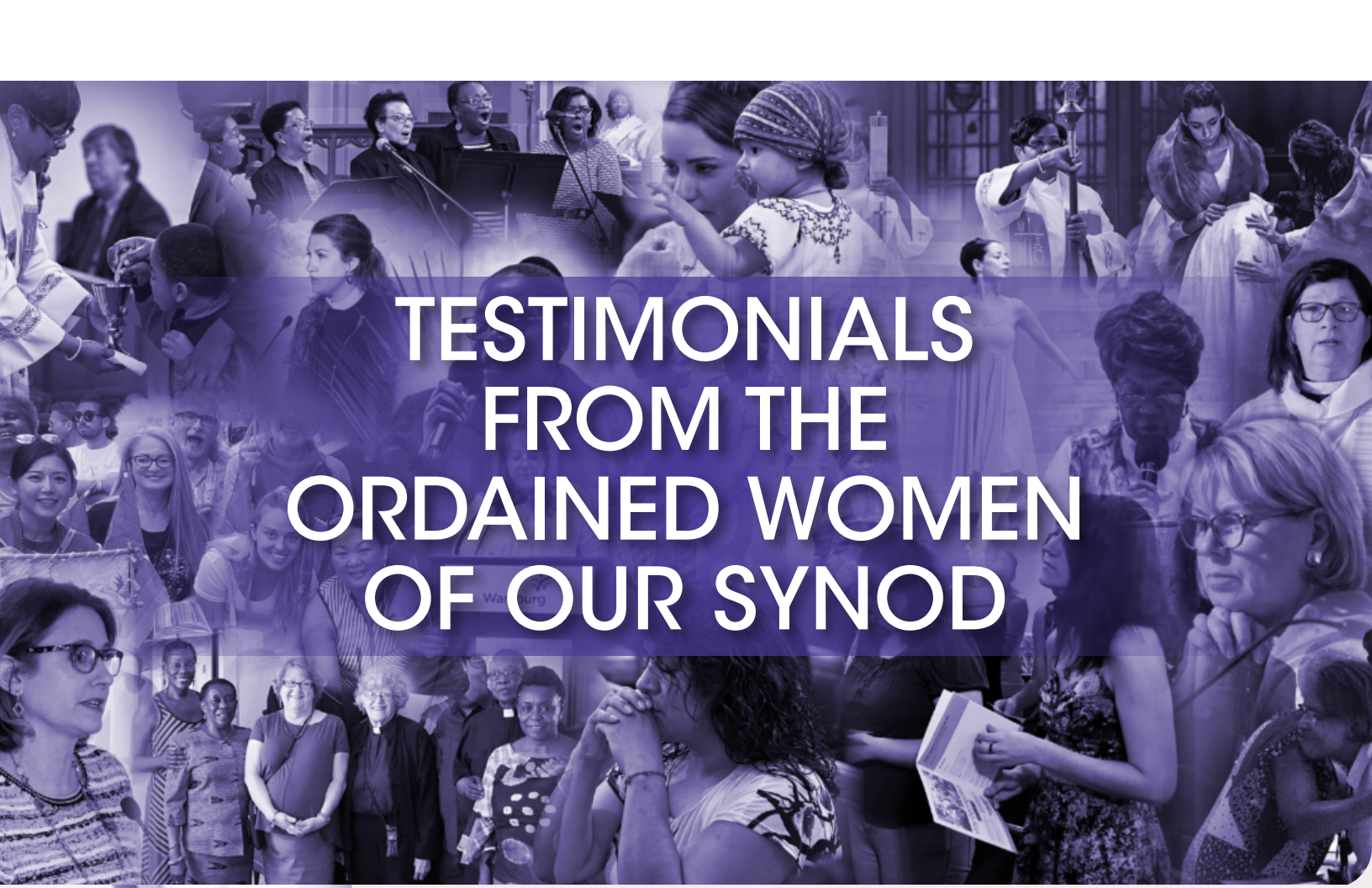
My advice to the next generation of female pastors is to be faithful! Be faithful to God above everything and anything, because Jesus said, “I will build my church.” He calls us to and gave us all a clear job description, in the great commission, to “go and make disciples of all nations” and He assured us, “I will be with you, always!” So, even at times when we feel lonely, remember we are never alone. **My best advice is to take good care of yourself:** select a spiritual director, therapist and/or a coach wisely. Remember to hold on to, and be centered and anchored on your prayer life, because that will sustain you and guide you. Learn about feminist, womanist and Mujerista theologies. And, above all, make sure you bear witness to others so that others may realize that they too are called. That is so important, so very important. **In my journey, I’ve often been the first one or the only one, and the one thing I have learned is that I need to do everything within my capacity, to ensure that I do not remain the only one or the first one.**



Watch
The Rev. Gladys Díaz’s
50 | 40 | 10 video
[**HERE.**](#)

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.





TESTIMONIALS FROM THE ORDAINED WOMEN OF OUR SYNOD



**THE REV.
REBECCA SEELY**
*MNYS Candidacy
Coordinator & Executive
Director of Lutheran
Ministries in Higher
Education*

"I was ordained in August
of 2015.

I think there was a time, like fifty years ago, when many congregations or ministry sites couldn't imagine a woman as a pastor, a woman of color as a pastor, or an LGBTQIA+ woman as a pastor. The gift of the last fifty years is for so many congregations and ministries among us to realize, to recognize, and be blessed by the gifts of leadership that God has given to a fantastic diversity of people.

I think my best advice would be **to build relationships, build friendships, and build collegial support systems with all your colleagues**, but particularly with other people who may share your identities, whether that's with other women, with other LGBTQIA+ women, or with other

women of color, to make sure you find those people who understand what you're going through and can be a life-giving place of processing and support and partnership in prayer. **Keep bringing all of who you are, because that is what God is calling you to do, and even when it's hard, that's the kind of stuff that creates space for the people who come after you and creates space for people to live meaningfully, the way God created them to be. So, keep showing up and keep supporting each other!"**

Watch **The Rev. Rebecca Seely's 50 | 40 | 10** video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.





THE REV. DANIELLE MILLER

Director of Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministries & currently serving Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan

"I was ordained on November 20, 2008. I served in Oceanside Lutheran Church in Oceanside, New York, and currently serve at Advent

Lutheran Church in Manhattan. Additionally, I serve as director of Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministries, which is a faith and leadership development camp for youth and young adults. When I think about my time there, I think about all the youth and young adults I've seen come through and **how their lives have been affected and changed by the gospel in such real ways**, ways that have been life-giving, ways that have directed their paths, ways that have really transformed them. **The fact that I get to have any hand in that, is such a gift.**

When I first met a female pastor and really got to understand that *This is possible!*, it was quite

educational for me, because I just had never experienced that model, and thankfully that's changing. There are many more folks who have that model now and are able to see that, and how it affects the way others see women and how it affects how others experience, work for, and walk with people in just ways. That is really important to me.

My advice to younger generations of woman-identifying pastors is don't give up! Don't sit down! Don't shut up! You have been called; be brave enough to follow that calling. Just don't give up!"

Watch **The Rev. Danielle Miller's 50 | 40 | 10** video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.



THE REV. PATRICIA ÁVILA

Currently serving at Ascension Lutheran Church/Ascensión Iglesia Luterana, Deer Park

"I was ordained in June 2017, but I have been in ministry since 2001 as a synodical deacon and a Latina evangelist for MNYS.

When I began my ministry here, there were probably only ten to fifteen people coming to my congregation. The majority of them were women, but there were also some men. I think the challenge was more for them than it was for me, especially at the time of sharing Holy Communion. It was difficult for them to receive Communion from me. I think it was a mix of many things: cultural, for one, and for those who were Roman Catholics, it was a shock to see a woman at the altar. They didn't know what to make of it, but, again, I think the challenge was for them, and **I think God did what He usually does. He changes people's hearts and minds, and we now have a congregation that is filled with families, and we have an equal number of men and women in the congregation.**

There have been many women who have given us examples through the years, of what ministry is all about, but I think it is important to just hear the Word of God, be yourself, and do what God has called you to do. It has been a blessing to do what I do!"

Watch **The Rev. Patricia Ávila's 50 | 40 | 10** video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.





**THE REV.
LINDA BELL**
*Program Chair of the
Metro NY African Descent
Lutheran Association*

"How can I forget that day!
It was April 2, 2011.

As women, we know that
the battle will not be easy,
**but we know that we
must continue, because
there is a legacy whose**

shoulder we stand on. We have the Biblical women, to
know exactly what they did and how they fought, and we
have the modern-day women, who have paved the way for
us to get even this far.

**I think our churches need to see more women out there
in ministry, because more of the congregations I go to
have never had a woman in the pulpit, especially a black
woman, so I do believe that communicating this is a part
of my ministry, a very important part of my ministry.**

**Keep on fighting the beautiful fight of faith and know
that you're not alone.** We, as women, all women, whether

we are womanist theologians or feminist theologians, are
beginning to organize in a way that will be meaningful in
enabling to help all women in ordained ministry. We realize
that sometimes the support that is needed is not there, and
it is for that reason we are beginning to make changes to
make certain that change comes about. **So that everyone
will be able to know they are not alone and that we will
continue to walk that journey with them, the journey to
which they have been called, the journey that God has
called them to travel."**

Watch **The Rev. Linda Bell's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.



**THE REV.
ELSA MARTY**
*PhD Candidate in
Theology, University of
Chicago Divinity School*

"I was ordained on
November 10, 2018, so,
pretty recently!

**It feels like it's a new
thing for a lot of people
to see a female pastor,
and so I'm constantly**

getting questions on the subway because I'm wearing a
collar. **People are really confused now that I'm pregnant;
it's really blowing people's minds.** People are like, *I've
never met a pregnant priest before; this is so exciting!* **It's
a calling that we can all be called to, and I love being
able to embody that for people just by my presence in
the space.** Most people don't talk to me or ask me *Are you
actually a priest?* **But it's working on them just by seeing
me present; it expands their ideas about what ministry
can be, where the church is active in the world, and how
God moves in our lives and calls us.**

God has given us these gifts and called us to our various
vocations, and whatever your calling is, know that
God is with you in that. That God is using you to serve
the world, to share the good news of this grace, this
forgiveness, this mercy, this new abundant life that we
have received through Christ. So, go with God's blessing
and share that good news."

Watch **The Rev. Elsa Marty's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.





THE REV. BRENDA IRVING

Currently serving at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Cambria Heights, is the co-chair of our 2025 VISION "For the Sake of the World" Working Group, and a member of the Metro NY African Descent Lutheran Association

"I was ordained on February 26, 2006.

There are many challenges being a pastor and being a woman. **It's terrible when people don't accept you as being a female pastor.** I am sure very few people ask their male pastors to bake a cake, or cook something for the potluck dinner, or run to the store to pick up this or that, and **I find myself doing these chores all the time, because the expectation is that, because I'm a woman, this is what I'm supposed to do, even though I am their pastor.**

I love the Lutheran Church; I have been a Lutheran all my life! I just hope we can figure out some way to have those people, who are not part of our church, learn more about us, and to get them to join us, or to get our churches out to them, enabling our church to grow. The church is very relevant and very much needed in this world."

Watch **The Rev. Brenda Irving's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.



THE REV. NICOLE SCHWALBE

Currently serving at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Mount Kisco

"I was ordained on August 25, 2007.

I think I have been the first woman everywhere I've gone, so I feel I am always having to prove that women can do it.

Being a woman in what has been, traditionally, a men's profession, sometimes is hard when you need to claim authority.

Don't be afraid to just be who you are. You don't have to be anybody other than the person God made you to be. So, be that person and bring all the gifts that you bring as a woman. **Don't let the sexism that is still rampant slow you down."**

Watch **The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.





THE REV. DR. KATRINA FOSTER

Currently serving at St. John's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn

"I was ordained on December 4, 1994.

Are we going to fall back into a spirit of fear and scarcity, or are we going to hold on to a spirit of faith and abundance?

I think every pastor, in every congregation, in every conceivable setting, has to fight between these feelings every day, because we're told that there is a lot to be afraid of. But with Christ, there is enough.

Remember your baptism. **You have been called, no matter what anybody says; you have been called; you have been gifted with what you need.** Hold on. Find companions to work with, to walk with, to pray with, to play with. Do not do this alone. **When you hold onto Christ and to one another, it's amazing what can happen."**

Watch **The Rev. Dr. Katrina Foster's 50 | 40 | 10** video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.



THE REV. JEANINE OWENS

Currently serving at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, Bronx, and a member of our Synod Council and the Metro NY African Descent Lutheran Association.

"I was ordained on December 4, 2010.

During my journey toward the ministry of word and sacrament, I worked a full-time job in the New York City Police Department for twenty-three years, during which time I had a commanding officer who allowed me to take time off for an internship as a chaplain in a local hospital. So, when this opportunity occurred, it was just wonderful, because **people were encouraging me and supporting me to take that journey into the ministry. That was a special time for me, and shortly after that, I was ordained as a pastor.**

Sometimes it is not easy to accomplish your goals and get the things you want, but you just have to rely on the strength of God, and He will make things happen for you that you least expected."

Watch **The Rev. Jeanine Owens' 50 | 40 | 10** video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.





THE REV. LETICIA ALANIS

*Currently serving at
Todos los Santos, Jamaica*

"I was ordained on
December 8, 2017.

My greatest happiness is to see how the community I serve flourishes as members go out and bring the message of the Gospel to others in the

neighborhood. Another source of joy is when I see the faces of children and young women light up when they see a woman in this role, and they connect with me as a spiritual leader.

This is a wonderful call and a wonderful opportunity to lift up our communities and our world with our spiritual values, by exerting the wonderful leadership we are capable of. Make sure to cultivate the gifts that God has given us and bestowed in our communities, and to multiply spiritual leaders. I see in our Latino community so many gifts that the spirit is bestowing on us, and we have a lot of

work to do to cooperate with God's mission. **I want us to develop our leadership and bring all these gifts to the service of the church and the world in impactful ways."**

Watch **The Rev. Leticia Alanis'**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.



THE REV. MARY CHANG

*Stated Supply Pastor at
St. Jacobi Evangelical
Lutheran Church, Brooklyn*

"I was ordained on
October 20, 1996.

Although I grew up as Lutheran, I never thought I was going to be a pastor. I had been doing a lot of things before I

was ordained. So, I just do whatever God calls me to do to reach people, and tell them about the joy of Jesus Christ. That's life! And the difficulties I went through later became my strength. That is my privilege.

Dear sisters, wherever you get called from God, just **pray and press on in your journey, regardless of how hard it is, because you know God loves you, God chose you, and you're the only ones on this planet who are being called to do His special ministry.** Don't be discouraged. He loves you and He chose you, and you will become a good and successful pastor."

Watch **The Rev. Mary Chang's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.





THE REV. ELISE BROWN

*Currently serving as
Executive Minister at
Marble Collegiate Church*

"I was ordained on
September 26, 1993.

**There were people along
the way who I know could
never really understand
or support having a
woman in the pulpit as**

**pastor of the church, but I have also seen people's
attitudes change. When you are with people through
life's greatest challenges, it creates a sense of *Okay,*
this person ministered to me through such a challenging
time, and I felt the power of God there and the support
of the Holy Spirit through them, and this enables me to
*see this person as my pastor.***

For woman-identifying persons who feel called to the
ministry, trust your instincts. Trust your own judgment,
really dig deep within, and find that confidence within that
enables you to overcome the second-guessing, overcome
the insecurity, overcome the things that say *No, you're not*

*enough. Trust your instincts, because the spirit speaks to
us through the deepest parts of our souls, and a lot of
times, our instincts can be the Holy Spirit's voice saying,*
"You can do this, because I called you, and I will be with
you. You can do this!"

Watch **The Rev. Elise Brown's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.



THE REV. DR. MARITZA ORTIZ CRUZ

*Currently serving at
Redeemer Lutheran
Church, Queens Village*

"I was ordained on October
16, 2017. I was ordained
outside of another tradition
I was serving for twenty-five
years. I have been doing
the work and service of a
pastor for twenty-nine years.

Coming into the ELCA, it was rewarding is to see **the
beauty of so many women ordained. This is great! And
women from different ethnic backgrounds, the diversity
and the richness of this is wonderful. It is just such a
great celebration—it is such a joy.**

**I think it is great that the church is moving forward, that
we come together as one and we affirm the call for all,
a call inclusive of gender and inclusive of queer. So, my
hope is that this conversation of women coming into the
call of ordination will only continue getting stronger."**

Watch **The Rev. Dr. Maritza Ortiz Cruz's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.





THE REV. CHRYLL CREWS

Currently serving at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, and is a member of our Synod Council

"I was originally ordained as a Baptist minister in Missionary Baptist Church in Athens, Alabama, and my second call was in February 2015, at Our Saviour's

Lutheran Church in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

It's been quite a challenge fitting in being a female leader. I am at a predominantly Caribbean church, and aside from one other person, I am the only African American there, so it was a culture shock for them and for me. There really are some cultural differences, because **people don't always think leaders should be female and in charge.**

I think most of the adaption usually has to do with the female leader, regardless of what profession you go into. People just assume you can't do it, so women have to find some good mentors, caring family, and

colleagues to support them in their leadership roles. If you focus too much on the hurdle, you will never get where you're going.

My advice: make sure you're fully trained, because the **worst thing we can do is get an opportunity and then not be ready!"**

Watch **The Rev. Chryll Crews'**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.



THE REV. MARIANNE TOMECEK

Currently serving at Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, Hempstead, and Grace Lutheran Church, Uniondale

"I was ordained on September 16, 2001.

Being taken seriously was a challenge. **I started out at the age of thirteen,**

feeling called even before women were ordained in our denomination. A pastor I spoke to told me I should be a clinical psychologist. I guess now that I have been ordained and I am being called I, am taken more seriously, but **I think there is still a difference between how men and women in the ministry are perceived.**

I think it's just about time that, finally, we are allowing people to serve God as God has called them, and that we are not allowing past prejudices and biases to determine how we allow people to serve God."

Watch **The Rev. Marianne Tomecek's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.





THE REV. SARAH GEDDADA

*Currently serving at
St. Paul's International
Lutheran Church, Floral
Park*

"I was ordained on
November 19, 2005.

**The joy of walking with
people at the loneliest
moments of their lives is
a wonderful privilege as**

**pastors. The fact they trust us, especially as women, is
because we bring that emotional courage and strength
that is different from male pastors. This is the most
encouraging gift to me: the joy to be with the people.**

I struggled a lot and experienced multiple challenges: How
can I fill my calling, my family responsibilities, and serve the
Lord using my gifts as an Asian, female, new immigrant,
spouse of a pastor, and as a pastor myself? **I made Christ
the center of my life, and these themes—hope, peace,
joy, love—helped me to go on, no matter what people
thought of me.** God gave me strength to serve and I was
never discouraged, no matter what challenges I faced."

Watch **The Rev. Sarah Geddada's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.



THE REV. JENNIFER BOYD

*Currently serving at Trinity
Lutheran Church, Brewster*

"I was ordained on
November 2, 1992.

**Celebrating the
anniversary of my
ordination on Día de
los Muertos made me
think of all the people
who brought me to this**

**point...all the women who went before me and all
the women who led the way. I have such appreciation
for their being part of that communion of Saints, that
company of Saints that has brought us all to this day.**

My advice is, as always, to pray, but also to **talk with other
women who have gone through it.** We have all had the
joys and the challenges of being in this ministry, to hear the
stories and see the reality of it, the good and the bad, but
also just to trust that God will enable us to use our gifts the
way we are called to use them. **That God does bless us all
with gifts, in a variety of ways, and if we feel called to
the ministry, God will use us in some way, and we are**

to trust in that. Also, claim who you are, as a woman, as
a child of God, and as one of God's people sharing the
good news. Just trust and believe in that."

Watch **The Rev. Jennifer Boyd's**
50 | 40 | 10 video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and
scan the code below to watch the video.





THE REV. JEANNE WARFIELD

Dean of the MNYS Western Queens Conference, and currently serving Grace English Evangelical Lutheran Church, Forest Hills

"I was ordained on June 13, 1986.

Kudos to all those who are celebrating

this particular time: the 50th, the 40th and the 10th anniversary of people being able to serve in capacities that we could not have imagined even one generation ago.

I say to anyone who is identifying the call to be pastor in this church to seek first **what is in your heart, build upon that baptism promise** we've been given, and see **what is the passion you carry**. When you have that, then **go forward and don't stop**, no matter what. **Just keep at it, become who you are intended to be, gather people around you who can be of support to you, and do not let the turkeys get you down!"**

Watch **The Rev. Jeanne Warfield's 50 | 40 | 10** video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.



THE REV. MARY LOU BAUMGARTNER

Currently serving at King of Kings Lutheran Church, New Windsor

"I was ordained on February 10, 1990.

I was thirteen years old when women were first ordained in our Lutheran churches in the United States, and I had a very

strong sense that God was calling me to serve in the church, but I didn't have any language for that. I wasn't aware that women were being ordained or that women couldn't be ordained. So, it's a significant time for me, because it's been fifty years since I received the call to the ministry.

My advice to younger generations of women is to be part of the community, test the call, take a religion class in college, work in some sort of church related field, but also to do anything else, and whatever we do I think God brings those experiences and those skills into our work as ordained

pastors. **Find community, learn what it means to be part of the body of Christ and live together in all of the messiness of human community as that body of Christ."**

Watch **The Rev. Mary Lou Baumgartner's 50 | 40 | 10** video [HERE](#).

Or open the camera on your phone and **scan the code** below to watch the video.



RESPONDIENDO A LA CRISIS DEL CORONAVIRUS: RECURSOS EN ESPAÑOL

COLLECTIVE EFFORT: MNYS COVID-19 RESOURCES PAGE

En [esta página](#) podrá encontrar recursos que le ayudarán a navegar la crisis del coronavirus con su congregación.
#SomosIglesiaJuntos

Visit our comprehensive [Coronavirus Resources](#) page, with continually updated resources, articles & how-to's.

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THANK YOU!

"Our MNYS Ordained Women during the Installation of Bishop Egensteiner."

Photo by The Rev. Linda Bell



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