



celebrating
50 YEARS OF
Ordaining Women and the
 Rev. Elizabeth Platz

**We Are Church,
 We Are Called**
 50•40•10

SAVE THE DATES

Panel Conversations with Women of the ELCA
 November 5, 12, and 19
 at 8:00 PM EST

Conversation with Pastor Platz and Celebration Service
 Saturday, November 21
 at 2:00 PM EST




Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Meet our Word & Sacrament Panelists

The Rev. Judy Cobb, *Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care, Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD; Delaware-Maryland Synod*



Pastor Judy Cobb is a native of Baltimore where she attended Ascension Lutheran, Towson, and graduated from The Bryn Mawr School. She is a graduate of Upsala Lutheran College, and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary) and course work at Lutheran Southern Seminary.

She served the church as an Associate in Ministry during child-rearing times. Her assignments included an instructor at a community college, pastoral counselor, director of education and youth ministry, and chaplain at Old Dominion University. Upon ordination she served large congregations in Norfolk, Virginia, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and returned to her home congregation, Ascension, as co-pastor with her spouse, Pastor Jim Cobb. In addition, she has served as Region 8 Coordinator, deployed staff for the ELCA,

Interim Assistant to the Bishop in the Delaware-Maryland Synod, and interim at Apostles Lutheran, Gloucester, Virginia. Pastor Cobb has served on committees for the ELCA: Division for Ministry, Augsburg Fortress, the Means of Grace task force, and varied synod committees including Candidacy. Pastor Judy and Pastor Jim came out of retirement to serve as interim pastors at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore's Inner Harbor. She is mother to Christopher, who lives in Baltimore, and Stephen, who lives in Richmond.

The Rev. Dr. Karis Graham, *Hope Lutheran Church, Clinton, MD; Metro DC Synod*



The Rev Dr. Karis Graham is a retired career Civil Servant with the Department of the Interior. She also served at the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and within USAID's Middle East Bureau. She served as the Deputy Director for the North Africa and Arabian Affairs (NAA) Office. Dr. Graham also served as a liaison with Middle East religious leaders to assist with USAID's Community and Faith Based Initiatives Office.

Prior to USAID, the Rev. Dr. Graham served with the Department of the Army as a Senior Social Scientist and Team Leader in Afghanistan analyzing local cultures and conducting research to support senior-level military leaders within combat. The Rev. Dr. Graham is a retired Chaplain, Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserves. She earned the Legion of Merit Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, multiple Air Force and Navy Commendation Medals, and Navy Achievement Medals. She is also a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Desert Storm.

The Rev. Dr. Graham holds a Doctorate of Psychology from Capella University, a Masters of Theology in Pastoral Counseling from Princeton Seminary, a Masters in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola College (Columbia), and a Masters of Divinity from Luther Seminary. She completed the US Air Force Air Command and Staff College. In addition, she is a graduate of the US Air Force Air War College.

The Rev. Dr. Graham is an ordained clergy member within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). She was ordained in 1988 and initially served as a Pastor in the Northwest Pacific Washington Synod and currently serves within the Metro DC Synod as the spiritual leader and God's vision caster for the ministry at Hope in Clinton, Maryland.

The Rev. Sarah S. Scherschligt, *Lead Pastor, Peace Lutheran Church, Alexandria VA; Metro DC Synod*



Pastor Sarah sees her primary calling as creating a Christ-centered community that helps people trust God's love and follow Christ in their daily lives. Pastor Sarah was raised in the Missouri Synod. She was ordained in 2007 and was called to Peace in 2012. Prior to becoming a pastor, she served in the Peace Corps in Malawi and worked for the Center for Global Education at Augsburg College in both Minneapolis and Namibia.

She attended Valparaiso University, Yale Divinity School and the Pacific Lutheran School of Theology. She loves the outdoors, house projects, pottery, ultimate Frisbee, reading, and time spent with friends and family – most of whom live in Minnesota. Pastor Sarah is passionate about

environmental stewardship. She is a Board Member and Treasurer of the [Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions](#). She is married to Ridgeway Addison and they have two young daughters, Magdalene and Lydia. During coronavirus, she is writing daily reflections on the blog [God Holds You](#).

The Rev. Jeanette Surita-Vazquetelles, *Pastor, St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eastpoint, MD; Delaware-Maryland Synod*



Pastor Jeanette Surita-Vazquetelles (she, her) is an Afro-Latinx Puerto Rican originally from the Bronx, New York. She is married to her best friend and blessed to be called Mom by her adult daughter who continues to reside in NYC. She holds a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Latino Ministry from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; a Bachelor of Arts from CUNY – Hunter College with a major in Spanish Literature and an Associate in Applied Science from SUNY – Fashion Institute of Technology specialized in fashion design and construction. This last preparation served as the underpinning of her earlier career operating her own bridal couture business. Her spiritual formation is defined by “...a cord of three strands is not easily broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12

As a child, Pastor Jeanette was baptized in the Roman Catholic tradition. In her early teens, she became involved in community evangelism through a Pentecostal Assemblies of God church, David Wilkerson’s Teen Challenge Program and Crossroads Youth Program in East Harlem, New York. In 2010, a friend invited her to “check out” a Lutheran Church. Jeanette’s involvement with the children and voluntary work “wherever needed” at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran led to her completing the Metro New York Synod’s three-year Diakonia program and subsequently an 18-month internship toward becoming a Synodical Deacon. In 2013, she was set apart as a Synodical Deacon for the Metro NY Synod and St Paul’s in Parkchester, Bronx, NY.

In the Summer of 2014, Pastor Jeanette was accepted to the then-new three-year Master of Divinity Cooperative Program at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. That October, she began an internship at and was installed as the Vicar at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Eastpoint/Colgate neighborhood of Baltimore County, Maryland. Two weeks into her vicarage, she was granted special dispensation by then Bishop Wolfgang Herz-Lane to serve as the Shepherd and Fisherwoman of St. Peter. Having accomplished the MDiv, Jeanette was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in June 2017. She recently celebrated her sixth year at St. Peter’s.

The Rev. Dr. Andrea Walker, *St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C.; Metro DC Synod*



Before accepting the call to St. Paul's, DC in January of 2020, the Rev. Dr. Andrea L. Walker served, beginning in 2012, as ELCA Global Mission Area Director for Madagascar, West and Central Africa. In that capacity, she supervised missionary personnel, facilitated programs of teaching, and managed the budget and projects for the ELCA in ten countries on the Continent of Africa. The Rev. Dr. Walker served from 2003-2012, as senior pastor of St. John's Summit, New Jersey a traditional suburban congregation where she trained five pastoral interns. Her first call from 2000-2003, at St. John's in the Bronx, New York, an urban African American congregation.

Andrea graduated from Georgia State University with a BA in History; she attended the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta and received her Master of Divinity in 1999 and Doctor of Ministry in 2007 from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Her discipline is preaching, and her doctoral thesis is titled, "A Place at the Table: An African American Lutheran Preaching from Margins to Mainstream."

She has a forty-one-year-old son, Jawon Vincent Walker, and a fourteen-year-old grandson Jawon William Walker, who live in Delaware.

Moderator: Jennifer Slagle Peck, *member of the Metro DC Synod Council and Epiphany Lutheran Church, Burtonsville, MD; Metro DC Synod*



Jennifer Slagle Peck (she/her) joined an ELCA congregation in fourth grade when her family sought out a church that ordained women. She has been active in various ministries ever since, including Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Minnesota and Lutheran Student Movement USA. She joined Lutheran Volunteer Corps after graduating from college and then moved to DC for law school. Jennifer is now counsel for a federal bank regulator, where her focus is on consumer law and ensuring that national banks provide fair access to financial services and treat customers fairly. She is a registered yoga teacher, Girl Scout Leader, and member of the Metro DC Synod Council. She is a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church in Burtonsville, MD, along with her husband, the Rev. David Slagle Peck, and two children.