



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 Bishop Panelists

The Rev. Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport, *Bishop; Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod*



The Rev. Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport assumed office as bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 1, 2018. Overwhelmingly elected by the Synod Assembly on May 5, 2018, she is the first African-American woman to be elected a bishop in the 4-million-member ELCA. At the time of her election, Bishop Davenport served the Synod as Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop, with responsibilities for new and redeveloping congregations, congregational vitality, and urban ministries.

Bishop Davenport is a member of Spirit and Truth Worship Center, Yeadon, which she served as its founding pastor/developer. She received the Master of Divinity degree from the former Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, now United Lutheran Seminary. She received a Certificate in Black Church Concentration from the seminary's Urban Theological Institute and is a certified ELCA Level One Coach.

She has served the national church in a variety of capacities, including co-chair of the ELCA's Guiding Coalition, member of the Congregational Vitality and African Descent Strategy teams, and secretary of the board of Lutheran Services in America. She is a lifetime member of the

Philadelphia chapter of the African Descent Lutheran Association and is active with the Black Clergy of Philadelphia, Metropolitan Christian Council, Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia and Vicinity, and Christians United Against Addictions.

She is the widow of Joel Davenport, with three adult children: Joel, Shanena and Jamar; and seven grandchildren, Joel III, Dominic, Chance, Cristian, Kayden, Justice and Kaleb.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, *Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton was reelected to serve a second six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Eaton is the ELCA's fourth presiding bishop and was first elected at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Eaton earned a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the College of Wooster.

Eaton was ordained in 1981 and served three different congregations in Ohio before being elected bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Ohio Synod in 2006. She was reelected synod bishop in May 2013, shortly before her election as ELCA presiding bishop.

Eaton's four emphases for the ELCA are: We are church; We are Lutheran; We are church together; We are church for the sake of the world. These four emphases are fundamental to identifying who the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is.

In 2015, under Eaton's leadership, the ELCA underwent an extensive vision process to help this church journey faithfully and effectively together in the years ahead. The process resulted in Future Directions 2025, a strategic framework that helps shared leadership across the ELCA realize common aspirations and better face the challenges of this church.

In addition, with Eaton's guidance, the ELCA launched Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative, which encourages all ELCA members to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations and communities to consider a call to the ministry of the gospel.

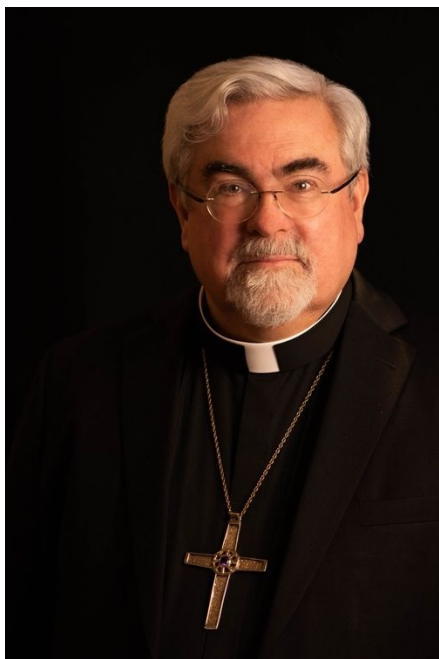
As chief ecumenical officer of the ELCA, she represents this church in a wide range of ecumenical and interfaith settings. She is vice president for North America on the Council of the Lutheran World Federation and serves on the governing board and development committee of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA and on the Religions for Peace USA Council of Presidents.

As presiding bishop, Eaton travels extensively, representing the ELCA in a variety of capacities. This has included a visit to a Syrian refugee camp; commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with Lutherans from around the world in Namibia; participating in an ecumenical service to commemorate the Reformation in the Lund, Sweden, cathedral with Pope Francis;

visiting with migrants in Honduras; and attending the fifth consultation of women pastors and theologians in Tanzania.

Eaton's husband is the Rev. T. Conrad Selnick, an Episcopal priest. They are parents of two adult children, Rebeckah and Susannah.

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, *Former Bishop, Southwest California Synod, President of United Lutheran Seminary*



From 2000 until his election as synod bishop in 2013, Bishop Erwin held the Gerhard and Olga J. Belgum Chair in Lutheran Confessional Theology at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. At Cal Lutheran he taught in the Religion and History departments, served as faculty chair for two years, and directed the university's Segerhammar Center for Faith and Culture.

During the Reformation anniversary year in 2017, Bishop Erwin was in high demand as a teacher and speaker and gave 30 lectures and presentations in the United States and Germany in addition to his normal duties as bishop. Through the Lutheran World Federation and his work with the Faith & Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, Bishop Erwin maintains an extensive set of international connections, particularly in Germany and the Nordic countries.

Bishop Erwin holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a doctorate from Yale University. He also received a Fulbright grant for two years of study at the University of Tübingen in Germany, and an IREX grant for a year at the University of Leipzig. His doctoral dissertation was on the late medieval roots of Luther's theology of the cross, and his subsequent scholarly work has focused on the religious culture of Lutheranism, particularly its worship and piety, with a special interest in the visual arts and architecture.

In 2000, after teaching church history and historical theology at the Yale Divinity School for six years, Bishop Erwin moved to Southern California with his husband, Robert T. Flynn, a West Virginia native and YDS alumnus, who has worked in scholarly publishing at Yale University Press, Columbia University Press and the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, in addition to serving two terms on the Board of Trustees of 1517 Media, the publishing house of the ELCA. Bishop Erwin is the ELCA's first gay, partnered bishop and the first openly gay male to serve in that office in the churches of the Lutheran World Federation. As an enrolled member of the Osage Nation, on whose reservation he was born in Oklahoma, he is the first Native bishop in the ELCA. In the ELCA Conference of Bishops, he served on the Executive Committee and as Region 2 liaison bishop to the ELCA Church Council, and as chair of the bishops' Theological and Ethical Concerns Committee.

The Rev. William Gohl, Bishop; Delaware-Maryland Synod



The Rev. William (Bill) Gohl Jr. was elected to be bishop of the Delaware-Maryland Synod at the 2016 Synod Assembly. At the time of his election, Bishop Gohl was Lead Pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church and Intern Supervisor/Vice Pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, both in Baltimore, MD. Previously, the bishop served at Peace Lutheran Church in Glen Burnie, MD and vice pastorates at Our Saviour, Lansdowne; Zion, City Hall

Plaza; Faith, North Avenue and assisted at All Saints, Loch Raven and Peoples' Community, Baltimore.

He attended Gettysburg College (BA, 1996) as well as The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Master of Divinity, 2000). He is caught-up somewhere between a Masters of Sacred Theology and a Doctor of Ministry at United Lutheran Seminary.

Bill is married to the Rev. Arwyn Pierce Gohl and they have four children, Saliese, David, Andrew and Joyanne.

The Gohls make their home in the northeast corner of Baltimore City and enjoy time with their families; the Gohl side in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania (by way of Long Island, where the bishop grew up) and the Pierce side in Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

The Rev. Leila Ortiz, Bishop; Metro DC Synod



The Rev. Leila M. Ortiz is a pastor and theologian in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and has served as the Bishop of The Metropolitan Washington DC Synod since September of 2019. She works alongside pastors, councils, and church members as they discern their call in the church for the sake of the world. Leila joined the synod staff in 2016 as Assistant to the Bishop.

Bishop Leila completed graduate degree coursework and comprehensive exams at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary) and is currently "all but dissertation." Her concentration was in Systematic/Contemporary Theology with a special interest in Protestant Latinx Liberation Theologies in the United States

and the impact of Latina hermeneutics on Lutheran ecclesiology.

Given her particular perspective and call to the church, in the fall of 2012 Bishop Leila served as a representative from the United States at The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Global Theological Consultation in Wittenberg, Germany, to assess Lutheran heritage and the Reformation in defining what it means to be Lutheran in a fast-changing world. She served in this capacity again at the 2016 consultation in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the spring of 2013, Bishop Leila served as a member of the LWF Resource group, which prepared Lutheran Theological Education Network guidelines that would define the goal, process, roles, and responsibilities of the network at different levels within Lutheran communion. That fall she was invited to participate in The Global Ecumenical Institute in Busan, South Korea; an initiative of The World Council of Churches that gathered theological students and lecturers for a major project promoting ecumenical leadership formation, intense theological learning, and mutual dialogue.

Bishop Leila is an alumna of the 2015 Lewis Fellowship sponsored by the Lewis Center of Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary. She is also an alumna of A Convocation of Christian Leaders, a series of four gatherings designed for promising young leaders from around the country who seek extended conversation about the theology and practice of leadership in Christian institutions hosted by Leadership Education of Duke Divinity.

Bishop Leila is a contributing author in "Global Lutheranism: Vitality and Challenges," co-authored a chapter titled "Pentecostal Latinas: Engendering Selves in Storefront Congregations" in *Faith on the Avenue: Religion on a City Street* (Oxford University Press, 2014), and has published articles and commentaries in *Gather Magazine*, in the journal *Dialog: A Journey of Theology* (Wiley Online Library), and *workingpreacher.org*. Currently she serves as the Conference of Bishops liaison to the Association for Teaching Theologians of the ELCA and is on the board of Select Learning.

Moderator: The Honorable Yolanda Tanner, *Former Synod Vice President; Delaware-Maryland Synod*



The Hon. Yolanda Tanner has served as an Associate Judge for the Baltimore City Circuit Court, 8th Judicial Circuit, since August 27, 2010 and Presiding Judge for the Juvenile Drug Court since April 2014. Judge Tanner attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts; University of Maryland Baltimore County, B.A. (economics), 1980; and the University of Maryland School of Law, J.D., 1991 (moot court board, 1990; trial team, 1991). She served on the Board of Trustees for the National Lutheran Home (now National Lutheran Communities & Services) from 1993-1995 and on the Board of Directors of the Coalition of Lutherans Advancing in Mission. She was elected to the first of two terms as Vice President of the Delaware-Maryland Synod in 2007, having previously served as a member of the Synod Council, the Mission Through

Congregations team, the Bishop's Task Force on Youth Substance Abuse; and as chair of Reference & Counsel. Recently, she hosted the Delaware-Maryland Synod's podcast, [word for Word](#), engaging in conversations around Scripture with fellow lay people.