Women’s ordination in Lutheran Churches

Women pastors minister in Lutheran Churches around the world

Did you know:
1. There are over 10,000 women pastors in Lutheran Churches around the world.
2. More than 30 women are Bishops or Church Presidents of Lutheran Churches.
3. Worldwide, about 70 million Lutherans are served by ordained women pastors.
4. Over 4 million Indonesian Lutherans belong to churches that ordain women.
5. In 2000, over 90 Lutheran churches ordained women and since 2000 the number has increased each year.

2012 Cameroon: Evangelical Lutheran Church ordains first women ministers

2012 Iceland: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland ordains its first female Bishop

2011 Hong Kong: Jenny Chan ordained as Head of Lutheran Church Hong Kong

“Ordaining women goes to the heart of the Gospel”*

2010 Hong Kong: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong ordains first woman Bishop

2009 Mexico: Mexican Lutheran church ordains first three women

2008 Sweden: Church of Sweden celebrates 50 years of women’s ordination

2005 Zambia: Zambian Lutheran Church ordains its first female pastors

2004 Taiwan: Lutheran Church of Taiwan ordains first women pastors

2003 USA: Evangelical Lutheran Church of America celebrated 35 years of women’s ordination

* K. L. Bloomquist (2009), Journal of Lutheran Ethics, 9 (12)

2011 Ethiopia: Ethiopian Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus marks a decade of women’s ordination

2011 India: South Andhra Lutheran Church ordains first women pastors

2010 Finland: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland elects First Woman Bishop

2010 Hong Kong: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong ordains first woman Bishop

2009 Great Britain: First woman Bishop of Lutheran Church of Great Britain is consecrated

2006 Norway: The Evangelical Free Church ordained its first Female pastors

2004 Taiwan: Lutheran Church of Taiwan ordains first women pastors

2008 Sweden: Church of Sweden celebrates 50 years of women’s ordination

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The LCA ordains its first women pastors in 1999.

The majority of the LCA Commission on Theology and Interchurch Relations (CTICR) concluded that: “scripture and theology permit the ordination of women.”

Support women’s ordination in the LCA

Send a delegate from your congregation and vote for women’s ordination at the general Synod of the Lutheran Church of Australia, in April 2013.

Open ordination in the LCA to women now

Support women’s ordination in the LCA

Did you know:

1. There are Lutheran women in Australia who have been ordained in overseas churches and are not able to work as pastors in the LCA.
2. There are Australian Lutheran women who are theologically qualified or studying for ministry.
3. There are Australian Lutheran women who are Lutheran pastors in other countries.
4. There are a number of Lutheran women who are called to the ministry and are now exercising their ministry in other churches.

Pastor Kathrin Koning: ordained in South Africa. Chaplain and Director of Christian Life, Immanuel Lutheran College, Buderim

Pastor Silke Moolman: Chaplain, St Peters Lutheran College, Indooroopilly, 10 years as pastor in ELCSA

Kirstin Munchenberg: BTh, BPsych Chaplain St. Peter’s Lutheran College, Indooroopilly

Jenni Wegener: BTh, MA, Chaplain & Director: Centre for Clinical Pastoral Education: Royal Melbourne Hospital

Dr Tanya Wittwer: BA, DipEd, DipRED, MDiv, PhD (preaching), taught preaching to UCA ministers and laity

Dr Margaret Hunt: BTh, PhD, served on the Lutheran - Roman Catholic Dialogue (1998-2012) and CTICR, member of Aboriginal Ministry (ABMINSA) committee

Sue Westhorp: BTh, BMus, Chaplain, Palliative Care, Royal Melbourne Hospital, Member LCA/UCA Dialogue

Heidi Smith: BTh, BA, DipEd, DipLuthEd, Chaplain, Immanuel Gardens Retirement Village, Buderim

Pastor Helga Jansons: Pastor in ELCA

“I have been aware of a call to pastoral ministry since my early teens, but without opportunities within my own church I have sought to fulfill my vocation in broader ways and places. I have trained many men and women for pastoral ministry in the church and yet am denied the fundamental ministry of word and sacrament in my own. This is a sadness I carry and experience repeatedly as I continue to facilitate and celebrate the movement of others - men and women - into the ordained ministry, and as I minister to people in need of the comfort of sacramental ministry.”

“24 years ago I left my home, family and friends solely because the Lutheran Church in Australia does not ordain women.”

“It is painful to be so far from my parents and extended family. I would love to come home and be a Pastor.”

This brochure has been developed to advocate women’s ordination on behalf of the LCA laity and pastors who attended the 2012 All Saints and Time to Soar conferences on women’s ordination in the LCA. Information about overseas Lutheran Churches is available on the LWF website and respective overseas church websites. The Australian women have consented to be represented in this brochure.