

# GLOBAL LINKS



June 2022

## A Milestone for Women Leaders in Poland



The first nine women pastors in the Lutheran church of Poland during their ordination ceremony. Photo: Mirek Nowak

On May 7, the first women pastors were ordained in the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland. The ceremony, which took place in Warsaw at Holy Trinity Church, marked the conclusion of a discussion about women's ordination that has been ongoing for decades. Several ELCA representatives were able to attend and celebrate this joyous milestone with our partner church in Poland.

The nine women who took their vows were already serving the church as deacons. Rev. Karina Chwastek-Kamieniorz, who works in the largest country parish of Goleszów in southern Poland, noted that from a practical perspective, she will continue doing the same pastoral work she has done for many years. But she said she hoped the decision to ordain women would bring equality of salaries and an end to discrimination against women in the church.

One of the newly ordained pastors, Rev. Halina Radacz, gave the sermon during the service. "We want to speak about love and bear witness to it," she said. "We want to speak about equality for all and show that it is possible; we want to teach mutual respect and show how to do it."

This story was adapted from the Lutheran World Federation. [Read the full article here.](#)

## News Around the World



In addition to continuing to accompany partners in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, Lutheran Disaster Response is now working with Church World Service in Moldova to accompany refugees from Ukraine. As the war goes on, host communities in these countries are going beyond immediate relief efforts and helping refugees find jobs, education opportunities and long-term housing.

[Learn more on the Lutheran Disaster Response Facebook page.](#)

## Mission Personnel

We are excited to welcome three new ELCA Horizon International interns for the 2022-2023 year!

**Elizabeth (Liz) Kuster** is a Master of Divinity seminarian at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and will serve with the Bratislava International Church in Bratislava, Slovakia.

**Jennifer (Jennie) Norberg** is a Master of Word and Service seminarian at Luther Seminary and will serve with St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo and St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) in Cairo, Egypt.

**Julie Gerrish** is a Master of Divinity seminarian at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and will serve at Luther House Chapel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The [Horizon International Internship program](#) provides ELCA seminary students with an opportunity to have their ministry shaped by the witness of the world. An intensive and transformational opportunity, it aims to enrich the talents and skills of future church leaders for the ministry and mission of the ELCA. The Horizon International Internship program is an exciting collaborative venture between the ELCA Service and Justice home area and the synods and seminaries of the ELCA.

## Get Involved



- You are cordially invited to celebrate the 2022 graduating class of International Women Leaders scholars. This year, the fourth full graduating class will earn their undergraduate degrees at ELCA colleges and universities. Hear from them as they complete one phase of their leadership journeys and begin the next. The event will premiere on [Facebook](#) at 10 a.m. Central time on Thursday, June 16, and will stream on [YouTube](#) at 7 p.m. [RSVP now!](#)
- One week now to apply for the Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith! This unique global program offers people with only a few hours a week the chance to engage online with a cohort of other emerging leaders in a variety of fields. The deadline is June 10 — [apply here.](#)

Give to the International Women Leaders endowment fund



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