

2018 Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA

**Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Lutheran Women**

**WHEREAS**, we give thanks for the many traditional ministries of women over the centuries and for those who have paved the way for new opportunities for women to minister; and

**WHEREAS**, 1970 was the year of the ordination of the first Lutheran women, The Rev. Elizabeth A. Platz, elected on November 22 by the Lutheran Church in America, and The Rev. Barbara Andrews, elected in December by the American Lutheran Church, both churches being two of the ELCA's predecessor church bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton is the first woman to hold the title of Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, elected in August, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, The Rev. Deborah Hutterer is the first woman to hold the title of Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod, elected in June, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Lutheran women clergy serve in a variety of roles including campus ministers, chaplains and missionaries, with the majority as pastors in ELCA congregations, as well as 15 others who now hold the title of Bishop within the ELCA's 65 synods; and

**WHEREAS**, 31 women in our Grand Canyon Synod are active rostered clergy;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first ordination of Lutheran women, occurring in 2020, is an occasion to honor, support, lift up and celebrate the gifts and talents that rostered women have brought, and continue to bring, to our Grand Canyon Synod and to the ELCA; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we give thanks for the gifts of all women, those actively rostered and those retired, and the many active lay leaders, who helped prepare the way and whose vision and faith inspired them to persevere; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we continue to encourage discussions and actions that foster equality and healthy ministry opportunities for all women in leadership, including rostered women and those discerning the call to become a pastor.

Submitted by Grand Canyon Synod Women's Board