

Have ELCA Concerns Continued Over the Past Few Months?

Prepared by Pastor Weinhold

In Short – Yes

Before going into detail, I will be upfront in saying that I do not have the heart to delve into everything that has developed over the past few months. Since the beginning of our process to leave the ELCA, our Study team has diligently highlighted incredible irreverence, disunity, and unfaithful practice within the ELCA. Such presentations were plenty sufficient to highlight the scope of the issue.

To go into another laundry list of complaints here would only serve to cause our weary hearts to droop even further.

For the purposes of this document, even though shocking statements and actions have increased exponentially in just the past few months, I will simply highlight a single incident that shows the ELCA trajectory continues to remain the same.

The picture below is from the ordination of Dawn Marie Bennett, now an ELCA pastor.



The ordination took place back in January 2020 and was presided over by Bishop Kevin Strickland.

Bishop Strickland currently serves as the Bishop of the South Eastern Synod of the ELCA. Before this he was assistant to the Presiding Bishop and Executive for Worship of the ELCA. – He is and has been an incredibly prominent and influential figure within the ELCA.

At this ordination, some drag queen nuns who call themselves the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were invited to participate in the rite. Additionally, a Wiccan Priest was invited to serve as one of the lectors. And, as can be seen in the above photo, numerous ELCA clergy came out to support and participate in the rite as well.

What does this example show?

1. Prominent Leadership – another bishop of the ELCA and one with massive influence throughout the ELCA oversees and endorses such an event. These are not rogue pastors. These sorts of displays and practices are becoming more and more the norm and standard for affairs in the ELCA.
2. Insult to Christian Faith and Witness – to be ordained is to be entrusted with the keys to the church and care of her children. Ordination is a sacred rite used within the church for two thousand years. Such a display makes a mockery of a very serious and profound event in the life of this Faith. To invite pagan priests and men dressed in heels and nun’s habits (religious vestments for nuns) to participate in integral parts of this rite is sheer insult to Christians throughout the ages. These “nuns” call themselves the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and their motto is “Go and sin some more.” This is blatantly offensive to all monastics throughout the ages who wore their vestments and took their vows to lives of discipline and sacrifice for the sake of Christ. This display is sacrilegious and offensive on numerous levels and the ELCA applauds it completely.

This sort of event is increasingly the norm for what faith and life looks like in the ELCA. It is radical, offensive, and incredibly polarizing. As of late, the ELCA makes no effort to even hide such practice.

Trinity has long sought to align herself with Christians throughout the ages. This connects us with those who have gone before and has served us well as we have shared the Christian faith for generations. The ELCA is going in a different direction than we are. It is not a direction Trinity has ever known, it is not a direction Trinity’s pastors or leadership are willing to go, it is not a direction that is faithful or lasting.

The NALC on the other hand gives utmost respect to the faith that has been handed onto us. Christians throughout the ages are revered and respected. Christianity in other parts of the world is seen as an equal partner at the table. And wisdom and love are used as guides for faithful responses to current realities.

If Trinity has been faithful in its ministry to this day. Such ministry is supported, encouraged, and taught in the NALC.

Trinity has had some good and faithful years a part of the ELCA. But the ELCA has changed dramatically. It is now time for Trinity to complete a change as well.