



Center for
LGBTQ & GENDER STUDIES
in Religion **25** YEARS

CLGS News and Updates | November 2024



A Queer Spirituality for the Wilderness by Ish Ruiz

"When I reflect on the Trump era, what comes up for me is not so much the policies, but the feeling – that cold, anxious pulse of knowing that people like me are being targeted as unacceptable threats. Christian theology has served as justification for this scapegoating.

For queer Christians, this era has been a kind of wilderness. It has forced us to decide what faith would mean when our very own political and ecclesial institutions are the very ones wounding us..."

[Click here to read Dr. Ish Ruiz's Reflection!](#)

**Celebrating
the Courage**





of our Trancestors A CLGS/PSR Chapel Service

We invite you to view a video recording of this CLGS chapel service, which was planned by our **Trans Religious Leadership Cohort** on 4 November 2025!

[Click here to view the video recording of this chapel service!](#)



We invite you to join us for this online CLGS Lavender Lunch, which will feature a distinguished panel of leaders from various LGBTQ+ ministry organizations, including **CLGS, Outreach, New Ways Ministry, Dignity USA**, and the **Marianist Social Justice Collaborative LGBT Initiative**.

ONLINE Tuesday, 11 November 2025 @ 1pm (Pacific Time)

[Click HERE to join this CLGS Lavender Lunch via Zoom!](#)

Queer Indigenous Thrival: Remembering Our Histories and Ancestors with Professor Chris Finley

In this CLGS *Lavender Lunch* we will address the tensions between thrival and survival and move towards theorizations of **Queer Indigenous hope and generosity** in these times of despair because this is not the first time we have faced annihilation and world-ending events and survived.



Tuesday, 9 December 2025 at 1pm (Pacific) | ONLINE

[Click HERE to join this CLGS Lavender Lunch via Zoom!](#)



Our Trans Religious Leadership Cohort Class of 2025-2026

CLGS is a proud co-sponsor of the **Trans Religious Leadership Cohort**, which is a collaborative partnership between CLGS, the Freedom Center for Social Justice, and the National LGBTQ Task Force.

This month we celebrate Pastor **Corii Gino Varner**, a Black, transmasculine, male-centered, Spirit-filled individual. After serving 8 years in the Air Force and working in computer technology, Corii moved to Minnesota in 1994, becoming involved with the LGBTQ community.

Corii began their ministry journey as a Deacon in 2002, becoming an ordained Reverend in 2008. They currently pastor Nu Generation Gathering in Minnesota and are members of TFAM. Pastor Varner earned an MDiv degree in 2017 in Social Justice/Reconciliation and Pastoral Care/Counseling, and is currently pursuing a DMin degree. Corii cares for family, enjoys kids, dogs, basketball, bowling, billiards, and music.



This Month In Queer Religious History

NOVEMBER:
REV. DR. PAULI MURRAY

During our 2025-2026 Anniversary Year, we will honor each month one person, community, and/or event of significance in LGBTQ+ religious history.

This month, November, we celebrate the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. **Pauli Murray**!

[Click here to read more!](#)



52 Ways to Expand Your Welcome to LGBTQ+ People and Our Families

Each week during our Anniversary Year of 2025-2026 we are sharing ideas on how your faith community can become more welcoming to – and inclusive of –

52 Ways
to
Expand
Your Welcome!

LGBTQ+ People and Our Families. Join us in expanding YOUR welcome!



Click [HERE](#) to check out our 25th Anniversary Edition!

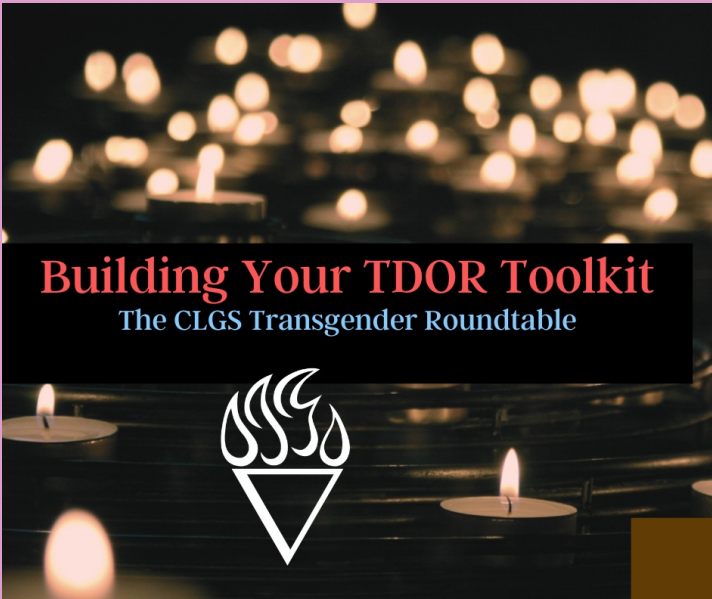
Check Out These Resources!



As we enter Year A of the Lectionary, this **CLGS *Queering the Word* preaching workshop** explores creative ways to queer Advent and to set a strong foundation for the coming liturgical year.

With workshop leaders Revs. **Lauren Bennett** and **Jakob Hero-Shaw**.

Click [HERE](#) to view a video recording!



20 November 2025 is Trans Day of Remembrance

In this workshop from the **CLGS Transgender Roundtable**, we explore ways to honor **Trans Day of Remembrance** in congregations and community organizations. Workshop leaders share ideas from a variety of faith-based and secular settings, and participants shared ideas from their own faith and community contexts.

Click [HERE](#) for a video recording of this CLGS Event!

2025-2026 is our 25th Anniversary Year!

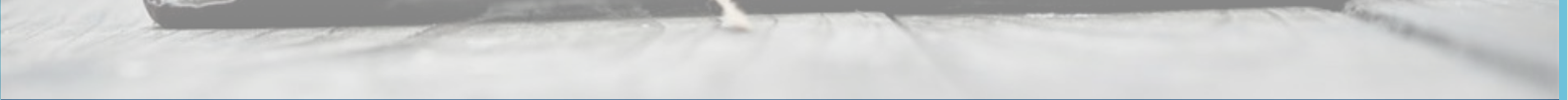


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