



Office of the Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Spring 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ...for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure (Philippians 1: 6; 2:13).

I write this letter with profound gratitude for your leadership within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You have a very important responsibility as voting members for the spring 2009 Synod Assembly. In the midst of deep concerns about the world's ongoing wars, a global economic crisis, struggles within communities and families, and pending Churchwide Assembly decisions, we gather in hope, confidence (literally meaning "with faith"), and joy that God is at work among us.

As I travel throughout this church, people often say, "I have such hope when I hear about the church you describe to us." What do I describe? A church whose mission and ministry inspired the ELCA's new tagline: "God's work, our hands." A church excited about becoming fluent in the "first language of faith," the language of Scripture. A church that takes its time to listen deeply before making difficult decisions. A church committed to ending two major diseases of poverty: malaria and HIV/AIDS. A church with congregations that are vibrant centers for evangelical mission. A church sought by young people because it "matters and makes a difference." A church known for its generosity and long-term commitment to people affected by disasters. A church that accompanies partners, both close to home and throughout the world. A church that is "marked with the cross of Christ forever [and] claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world."

You, your congregations, and your synod are part of God's work throughout this church. The Affirmation of Christian Vocation in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* asks, "Sisters and brothers, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?" The response is my prayer as we gather for the 2009 Synod Assemblies:

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 84).

God's blessings to you as you gather for your Synod Assembly. Listen for descriptions of this church as you worship, greet friends, pray for God's presence, and discuss and make decisions about matters that are important to this church. As you gather, recall Paul's words to the Corinthians:

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ towards God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for letter kills, but the Spirit gives life (2 Corinthians 3:4-6).

In God's grace,

Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Report of the Bishop
Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
Pacifica Synod Assembly 2009**

Compassionate God...Use Our Hands

“...moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him... Mark 1:41

Prologue

As I begin this report (a short story of eleven chapters) for the 2009 Pacifica Synod Assembly, it is in the early days of the Season of Epiphany. The Gospel of Saint Mark is unfolding before us in the lectionary readings for our Sunday worship. Jesus is beginning his ministry, according to the language of this evangelist, in ways that are leaving the people “amazed.” I was especially moved this year, as I sat with this short Gospel, by the story appointed for the Sixth Sunday of Epiphany, where Jesus allowed a man afflicted with the contagious, deadly disease of leprosy to come near and kneel before him. We know this man should have kept his distance. We know most people would have turned and gone the other way if they saw such a person coming their way. We know how marginalized and ostracized people suffering from this debilitating and disfiguring disease were in that time and throughout human history. “If you choose,” the man said, “you can make me clean.” And Saint Mark tells us that Jesus was moved with compassion, with pity, with a caring emotion that came from deep within his own being and soul, and then he did the most unthinkable thing... Jesus stretched out his own hands and touched this leprous man and said to him, “I do choose...” As I read and reread that passage, contemplating this year of preaching from the Gospel of Saint Mark, thinking how I would address this story on a Sunday in the middle of February, and knowing that the theme of the Pacifica Synod Assembly had been set months before inviting a compassionate God to lead our hearts and hands and lips into compassionate living, doing, speaking, I, too, like the crowds that surrounded Jesus in the early days of his Galilean ministry, was amazed and moved and filled with thanksgiving. This is the way God loves me. This is what God is willing to do with me and for me every single day. Those same hands are stretched out in my direction now. That same choosing is choosing me. “Be made clean,” Jesus said to the leper. And he says it to me every day, every day, every day.

Could there possibly be any person on this earth that Jesus does not choose to love and touch and forgive and heal? We know the answer in our hearts and in our minds, “No, of course not! The love and the mercy of God is for all people and every person.” While society sets its boundaries as to how close a certain person may get to another, sometimes for good reasons and sometimes for poor reasons, God chooses not to be separate from anyone.

Toward the end of my reading of the short Book of Mark, I came upon the three different endings of this unique Gospel. While we cannot be certain how he ended his writing or even who it was that wrote which ending, we know the words point us to Jesus and lead us in our own discipleship. In one of the endings, Jesus sends out his followers to go from east to west with the sacred and imperishable proclamation of the love of God... the compassion, the mercy, the forgiveness, the promise, the hope, the eternal life and unbounded relationship with One whose arms and hands and heart is stretched out to us and to all.

Now we come to this assembly, the twenty-second such gathering of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We are called to come in great number and crowd together around Jesus, humbling ourselves before him, desiring just one word of care, perhaps seeking

his touch, hoping his outstretched hands might even include his embrace, and desperately needing his healing and compassionate heart. We are called to come to this assembly to be inspired and nurtured and refueled. We are called together to make important decisions for the synod and the ELCA that reflect the ways and the will of God. We are called to come together in Riverside so that we may be sent forth into all the synod and all the world with hands and hearts and lips of boundless, bold and grace-filled compassion.

Chapter One—The Book of Faith

Last May, in Synod Assembly, this synod voted to become a **Book of Faith Synod**. Several of our churches followed suit and have since become Book of Faith congregations. A Book of Faith team has been established and is diligent in its work of launching this initiative in this synod. They will have a report in this notebook and a presence in our assembly. We are also looking for others to join this ministry team. It has been uplifting to travel about the synod and hear the lay and ordained leaders referencing the Book of Faith initiative, opening meetings and gatherings with both Holy Scripture and with prayer. I trust other congregations will become part of the Book of Faith initiative this year.

Chapter Two—Pacifica Synod Staff

Everyday I am thankful for the staff members of the synod and the ELCA that serve so capably, faithfully, courageously, sacrificially and effectively. They are **servants of Christ and his church**. They lead with grace and commitment. This synod is in good hands under their ministry and missional work. We have had several changes. We give thanks for those who have moved to another vocational calling. We welcome with great joy the newest additions to our synod staff, the **Rev. Heidi Hester and Mr. Greg Shepherd**. We await, as of this writing, several more positions to be filled as the ELCA is assisting Pacifica in a search for a Director of Evangelical Mission, along with part-time support staff. As these staff changes are being made, our ministry descriptions are changing, too. At the assembly, we will share with you the current ministry descriptions and areas of work for each of the synod staff members. Some are full time employees and others part-time. For these people of faith who work with hearts and hands of compassion and care, I am most grateful. With their names are some of their key areas of ministry along with the year they began their work in this synod.

The Rev. Gordon Peterson , Mission, Discipleship, Reconciliation, Mobility...	2002
The Rev. Rich Ajer , Stewardship, Administration, Finance, Candidacy...	2007
The Rev. Heidi Hester , Pastoral Care, Worship, Education, First Call...	2009
Ms. Helga Bergthold , Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Event Planning	1997
Ms. Dorothy Aanestad , Admin. Assistant to G. Peterson, Receptionist, Hospitality, Mobility	1998
Ms. Pam Reynolds , Admin. Assistant for Candidacy, Data Management, Roster	2003
Ms. Lori Seargeant , Admin. Assistant for Communication, Website, Newsletter	2002
The Rev. Rick Schowalter , Director of Youth and Family Life Ministry & Leadership	2002
Ms. Marcelle Shaefer , Associate for Specialized Ministry/Organizational Development	2007

We are thankful to **Mr. Ron Peace**, our former part-time bookkeeper, who had been with us since 2005. Now our bookkeeping is being done on a contractual basis with **Mr. Matt Stein**, our closest next-door neighbor in the Parkcourt complex. **Mr. Alan Feddersen**, Director for Lutheran Schools of Southern California and Hawaii also has listened to the calling of retirement. **The Rev. Adrianne Heskin**, ELCA Regional Director for Lutheran Campus Ministry will be transitioning to a new call in the months ahead.

The persons listed below work closely with the synod and one or more regional synods of the ELCA. We are thankful for our partnership with the ELCA as it takes on the greatest share of financial support for their ministries.

Ms. Margy Schmitt Ajer, (ELCA) Region Two Coordinator (of five synods in the Southwest)
Ms. Carol Schneider, (ELCA) Deployed Staff for Mission Investment Fund
Mr. Mark Carlson, Director, (ELCA) Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Sacramento, California
Ms. Maria Paiva, (ELCA) Director for Latino Ministries
Mr. Anthony Briggs, Exec. Director, (Pacifica/SWC Synods) Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences
Mr. Greg Shepherd, Regional Gift Planner, (Pacifica and Southwest Calif. Synods) ELCA Foundation

Chapter Three—New Ministries in Pacifica

When we lost the ministry of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Riverside, we lamented the closing of that congregation. After several years of efforts to determine how we could use the buildings and property for a new ministry, it was decided we needed sell the site. Again, we lamented as we lost this mission location within this synod. However with those funds, new life and ministry has been emerging from around the Pacifica Synod, springing up in several locations in a variety of languages. This continues to be one of our greatest joys within the Pacifica Synod. Currently, the Pacifica Synod congregations use **15 languages and dialects** regularly in their worship services.

Chapter Four—Day-by-Day

The day-by-day work for this synod is constantly changing and challenging. In some ways, it is like ministry in every other level of the church... joyful and fulfilling on many occasions, and sometimes sad and painful. We live with the annual rhythms of events, tasks, and duties that are the ongoing work of the Synod Staff, Synod Council, Conferences and Deans, and Ministry Teams. We prepare for assemblies and conferences, meetings and gatherings, and all the programs, plans and agendas we have on our calendars. At the same time, we address and respond to the many needs, invitations, expectations and critical moments in the life of our congregations and rostered leaders. We travel and attend meetings, gatherings, consultations and symposiums near and far. **Each day is always full.** There is never a time where we want for something to do. No two days are ever the same. The opportunities for hopeful proclamation and compassionate hands and hearts are always before us as we live with and address the multi-faceted opportunities for ministry.

Chapter Five—Concerns of the Whole Church

As one of the 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Pacifica Synod shares in the ministry of our denomination week after week. We have been a faithful part of the ELCA. Over the years, we have sent from 53% to 56% of our mission support dollars for the domestic and global mission of the whole church. People from the Pacifica Synod serve on churchwide boards and commissions. Along with other synod staff members, I, too, have been very involved in a variety of capacities within the life and ministry of the ELCA. **It is always a privilege to work with other leaders from across the wide spectrum of this church as it carries out its diverse and outreaching mission.**

Some of the most important issues that we face as members of the ELCA are the ways we address the **economic downturn**. With fewer dollars being given, there have been reductions in ministry in many places. Positions are ending, retiring staff members are not being replaced. The eight ELCA seminaries and the 28 universities and colleges have been dramatically affected. Percentage-wise, ELCA congregations were already giving considerably less than they did 20 years ago, and now it has been difficult to maintain even that level of giving with the present economic shift. Together we bear the

burden and strive to work in close partnership with the churchwide expression and other synods, agencies and institutions of this fine church.

In August, the **Eleventh ELCA Biennial Churchwide Assembly** will be held in Minneapolis. During that assembly, many decisions will be made for the future direction and mission of the church, including a vote on the proposal to enter into a **full communion relationship with the United Methodist Church**. If we approve this ecumenical relationship, we will then be in partnership with six churches (currently we are in full communion relationships with the Episcopal Church USA, Presbyterian Church USA, Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ and Moravian Church). The ELCA continues to lead the way in establishing full communion relationships with other Christian Churches in North America.

The long anticipated Social Statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, is now before us, along with two other documents prepared by the Task Force for the Study of Human Sexuality—the *Report and Recommendations on Ministry Policies*. The Social Statement will require a two-thirds majority vote of the 1045 voting members in order to be approved. The *Recommendations on Ministry Policies* now requires a simple majority vote, however that in itself is already been debated in many places throughout the church. These documents are all easily downloaded from the www.elca.org website. I recommend that each voting member at this synod assembly download those documents and read them carefully before coming to our synod assembly. Please bring copies with you, either printed or in your laptop. In the weeks ahead, the 12 voting members from the Pacifica Synod who have been elected to attend the Churchwide Assembly will be meeting in preparation for that gathering.

Many other important decisions will be made in other synodical assemblies and the churchwide assembly, keeping always our focus on Christ, the cross, Holy Scripture and the missional calling we all have to reach out with the message and hope of the Good News of the Gospel.

Chapter Six—Companion Synods

We were blessed this past year with the visit of newly elected **Bishop Thomas Tsen** of the Basal Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM), one of our two companion synods. It was the first official visit from the BCCM to Pacifica (Pacifica people have been to their church on the northern tip of Borneo two times in the past nine years.) We have also stayed in regular e-mail communication with the leadership of the **South West Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus**, especially as they are building their new building and looking for ongoing support from Pacifica and our B2B2B fundraising appeal. Unfortunately, this past year, our synod did not send a delegation to Ethiopia and we did not have visitors from their church here. We hope for more opportunities to connect with these partners, our sisters and brothers in the faith, with whom we share our Lutheran heritage.

Chapter Seven—Lutheran Center for Mission & Learning

At the end of April 2008, we moved into the **Lutheran Center for Mission & Learning (LCFML) in Santa Ana**, the new home of the Pacifica Synod. On May 3, 2008, as the concluding service for our synod assembly, we dedicated the building to the glory of God and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of food and hospitality and fellowship. The new building has been a great blessing for this synod. This past year we have worked through most of the small details that needed to be addressed as we took ownership of the completely remodeled building. Along the way, the LCFML building committee (led by Jerry Engelhardt, Darrel Tuntland, Tom Shanks, Rod Anderson, Pastor John Knudson and several synod staff members) had a very good relationship with our architect, David Keitel; our project manager, Jim Korona; our construction manager, Jon Robinson, and our on-site supervisor, Dan

Egema. In the end, a beautiful, sturdy, well-furnished and up-to-date facility became the centering place for the administration of the Pacifica Synod, as a well as a place that has provided already many opportunities for classrooms and education, meeting rooms and mission planning, counseling space and pastoral care, places for inspiration and contemplation. We have hosted groups from all over the ELCA, from the Church of Denmark, ecumenical gatherings, many educational events and workshops, meetings of all sizes including some congregational council meetings in the evening, weekend retreats for church councils and the Women of the ELCA. There have been celebrations and dinners and lunches and breakfasts. At our facilities in Yorba Linda, we hosted about 35 gatherings per year. In the new Lutheran Center in Santa Ana, in the first full year of occupancy, **we hosted 141 gatherings** wherein the staff provided hospitality and presence, refreshments and food, set up and take down. It has changed the ministry of this synod in some very positive and more demanding ways. The LCFML has indeed given us a “center,” a more spacious place out of which to operate day-to-day, and a more holy place to worship, gather, learn, envision and go forth. **Every Wednesday, at 11:30 a.m., a 30-minute Eucharistic service is held**, involving hymn singing, Holy Scripture, a brief meditation and Holy Communion. Any and all are invited

Chapter Eight—B2B2B

Our synod-wide effort, **Blessed to Build Two Buildings, (B2B2B)** intended to pay off the remainder of the Lutheran Center and at the same time assist our companion synod in Ethiopia to build their new training center for Lay Evangelists, brought in \$134,991 this past year. We give thanks for every congregation and person who helped to raise these needed funds. We also are grateful for those who continue to work on this important fundraising campaign in 2009 as both buildings, the Lutheran Center in Santa Ana and the building in Ethiopia, still require substantial funding in order that both synods will be debt-free by the end of 2009 with their new facilities.

Chapter Nine—The Synod Council and Its Weekly Work

The Pacifica Synod Council has put in another diligent year of hard work and fruitful accomplishment. Almost every week of this past year found members of the Synod Council working at the Lutheran Center with teams and task forces and synod staff members and volunteers. They have not only conducted the business of the church in their quarterly meetings, but members of Synod Council and special teams of people completely reviewed and revamped our bookkeeping systems, the synod policy and personnel manuals, and the ministry team structure of this synod. The members of the current Synod Council are listed beginning on page 5-22 of this notebook. We especially give thanks for those ending their terms of service on the synod council. They are the Rev. Molly Knutson-Keller, Mr. Loren Fry and the Rev. Bill Snyder.

Chapter Ten—The Call and Highlights of the Pacifica Synod for a Bishop

As I reviewed my calendar since our synod assembly in 2008, these words frequently emerged: ordination, installation, church council meetings, LCFML meetings, staff meetings, church anniversaries, planning meetings for synod assembly and professional leaders’ conference, travel, airport, ELCA Conference of Bishops, ecumenical gatherings and meetings, continuing education, overseeing the Parish Planning Process for several of our synod congregations.

More specifically, I also finished a term on the **Executive Committee of the ELCA Conference of Bishops** and was elected to begin a four-year term as a **Liaison Bishop to the ELCA Church Council**. I finished two years of participation with the **Task Force for the ELCA Study of Human Sexuality**. I am a **board member at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary** in Berkeley and a **Convocator at California Lutheran University** in Thousand Oaks. Of the many **Ready Benches** our

Presiding Bishop, the Rev. Mark Hanson, has established within the ELCA, I have been asked to sit on two—one addressing the issues of **immigration** and the other advocates for **peace in the Middle East**.

Every day of this year past was a great day in some way or another. A **few of the highlights** for me would include

- ✦ a record number of ordinations in this synod that bring new pastors to the Pacifica Synod.
- ✦ a invitation by Roman Catholic Bishop Silva in Hawaii to be part of the anniversary celebration at Kalaupapa on the island of Molika'i.
- ✦ settling in at the Lutheran Center for Mission & Learning.
- ✦ A visit from Bishop Thomas Tsen from our Companion Synod in East Malaysia.
- ✦ a three week trip to Rome, Jordan, Israel and Palestine with the ELCA Conference of Bishops.
- ✦ Re-instituting the Parish Planning Process with several congregations.
- ✦ Reconnecting with many Asian Bishops and other church leaders at the Asian Lutheran International Conference in Hong Kong.

Chapter Eleven—On a Personal Note

This year marks my **eleventh year** as the Bishop of the Pacifica Synod. Next year, this six-year term will end on July 31, 2010. That means an election for synodical bishop will take place in our May assembly next year. Fifteen years ago, this synod set a three-term limitation for the Office of Bishop in the Pacifica Synod. During the summer, while taking some sabbatical leave, I will be in the process of discernment regarding my calling as the Bishop of the Pacifica Synod, as well as my intentions regarding the next chapter of my ordained ministry in this church. In the fall of 2009, I will announce my intentions.

As just stated, I will take some **sabbatical** time this summer, weaving into that time away a trip to New Orleans to be part of the ELCA National Youth Gathering in July and a longer journey to Minneapolis to be a voting member at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. I will also participate in an educational and cultural pilgrimage to Turkey in late June and early July.

Our **family** was blessed again this year with the wonderful gift of another grandchild. Erik joined his sister, Helena, and our daughter (Erin) and son-in-law (Malte). Erin works full time as a mother and part time as a Speech Therapist and her husband is an attorney. They live and work in San Diego. Our daughter, Annie, continues her vocation in the Neuro/Trama ICU at the UCLA Medical Center. Our son, Adam, travels back and forth from Northern Uganda with his work with the NGO, Invisible Children (IC). He is often back in the U.S., working with IC in their office in San Diego. My spouse of 37+ years, Rhoda, an elementary school educator, is currently working as a Reading Coach/Consultant with the Anaheim City School District.

Epilogue

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America summarizes its mission and ministry with the phrase, **God's Work, Our Hands**. Every day there are more and more images of how that happens in our world because of the love of God and the discipleship of the people of God. We are gathering in Riverside to focus on the compassionate mercy of God to all people and how God privileges us to use our hearts and hands and lips and legs to be about the grace and love and peace of God.

Let there be Light!

+Bishop Murray D. Finck
Spring of 2009

**PACIFICA SYNOD 2008
ROSTERED PASTORS AND ORDINATION DATES**

Aden, Charles R.	1997	Dale, Kenneth J.	1951
Ajer, Richard D.	1985	Davis, Kenneth	2002
Allert, Mark W.	1999	Dew, B. Robert	2000
Anderson, Harvey A.	1961	Dirks, R. Dennis	1971
Anderson, Milo Ken	1977	Doolittle, Jonathan S.	1994
Anderson, Mark C.	1977	Drom, Timothy N.	1983
Anderson, Michael F.	1996	Dudley, Thomas A.	1969
Anderson Booth, Dawn L.	1991	Duttera, Margaret A.	1982
Aviles, Agapito	1999	Edmondson, Timothy A.	1990
Awbrey, Steve A	1986	Egenes, Jay	2009
Babcock, David H.	1959	EGGE, Magnus S.	1952
Baesler, Ronald D.	1976	Ekeren-Moening, George	1999
Bankson, Donald P.	1957	Eller, Dianne J.	1984
Barber, David J.	1971	Elliott, Richard L.	1962
Bell, Jake	2001	Embree, John R.	1974
Bengtson, William C.	1967	Endter, Charles A.	1952
Berg, Duane A.	1962	Erickson, Carl W.	1963
Berry, Philip J.	1967	Erisman, Daren	1996
Berton, Walton F.	1961	Erlenbusch, W. Daniel	1977
Bieber, Paul G.	1990	Eskildsen, Edward C.	1954
Bieghler, Steven K.	1987	Espeseth, Gloria A.	1984
Black, Paul H.	1975	Estergren, Noel C.	1969
Bohman, Cathleen C.	1979	Evens, Tom L.	1973
Bollesen, Melius E.	1956	Falk, George K.H.	1970
Borgie, Jerald R.	1964	Fiechter, Stephen M.	1997
Boye, Karin	1986	Finck, Murray D.	1975
Brandt, Stephen L.	1960	Finley, Paul B.	2004
Brashears, Thomas J.	1986	Flohr, Anke	1988
Braun, Richard	2008	Foley, Audrey	1978
Bringman, Dale S.	1951	Foss, John D.	1996
Britton, Seth A.	1998	Fossey, Derek	2008
Brosius, George R.	1943	Foster, Howell S.	1955
Bunge, John E.	1978	Freistedt, Robert R.	1960
Burke, Dale S.	1972	Freiberg, Shane	2008
Butenshon, Donald E.	1952	Fritschel, Fred P.	1962
Califf, Stanley N.	1955	Frohner, Jeffrey	1992
Cansino, Mark	1985	Gardner, Larry A.	1959
Carlson, George W.	1954	Gearhart, Frank S.	1964
Caudill, Kenneth T.	1963	Goellrich, Thomas E.	1990
Chen, David C. T.	1964	Goodwin, Steven J.	1989
Chen, Thomas W.S.	1984	Gray, M. Laurel	1956
Christoff, Nicholas B.	1970	Greenler, Michael R.	2002
Collick, Robert O.	1953	Gunderson, Sharon L.	1991
Craft, Bruce P.	1961	Hagenow, Michael J.	2007
Crawford, Jerry A.	1972	Hailu, Solomon	1997
Dahle, Mark R.	1994	Hale, James R.	1973

**PACIFICA SYNOD 2008
ROSTERED PASTORS AND ORDINATION DATES**

Hall, Elwood K.	1977	Krueger, Kenneth A.	1954
Halvorson, Karla	2007	Kuo, Ying-Chhi	1983
Hannemann, Eugene E.	1956	Kupka, David R.	1966
Hansen, Daniel C.	1958	Kurtz, Charles F.	1995
Harman, William K.	1967	Lackey, Russell L.	2001
Hartzell, Raymond H.	1955	Laherty, Dennis M.	1975
Haas, Roland R.	1952	Lantz, Leland M.	1997
Herrmann, Theodore C.	1946	Larson, Lowell O.	1948
Hester, Heidi A.	2003	Larson, Paul A.	1958
Hewes, D. Scott	1980	Lavin, Ronald J.	1960
Hill, Dan L.	1981	Lee, Joel C.	1988
Hippen, Debra E.	1987	Lee, Simon Wing-Shing	1981
Hodgson, David J.	1973	Licht, Kenneth J.	1967
Hoenshell, Patricia W.	2006	Lilley, Jeff	1990
Hoffmann, Gregory J.	1987	Lindberg, David	1955
Holtz, Eugene R.	1962	Lindquist, Jack E.	1963
Housholder, David P.	1990	Line, Laura A.	2001
Hovick, Ron	1994	Listug, Clifford A.	1966
Janssen, Lara	2008	Lopez, Charles J. Jr.	1975
Jensen, Steven L.	1973	Lubs, Frederick C.	1976
Jerpseth, James G.	1998	Lundblad, John A.	1969
Johns, Theodore C.	1965	Lunn, John S.	1990
Johnsen, Paul C.	1952	Magalee, John	1950
Johnson, Dale B.	1962	Malloch, Charles W.	1964
Johnson, Donald K.	1963	Marohn, Karen L.	2003
Johnson, George S.	1962	Martinson, Erin	2001
Johnson, Joseph J.	1971	Martinson-Koyama, Diane	1992
Johnson, Kenneth	1989	Martyn, Richard W.	1976
Johnson, Mark R.	1996	Mason, Timothy J.	1991
Jorde, Thomas S.	1963	Matoush, Joseph R.	1974
Jorstad, David P.	1986	Mattson, David R.	1987
Kalke, David J.	1976	McCammon, James P.	1987
Keller, James W.L.	1953	McComas, H.G. (Skip)	1999
Kelly, Sean	1998	McGaw, Joseph C.	1962
Kieffer, David W.	1984	Meeks, Tomas E.	1973
Kirchner, Paul K.	1979	Melendez, Rafael	1996
Kishino, Yutaka	1979	Menacher, Mark D.	1992
Kleiber, Margrethe	1993	Miller, David H.	1970
Kline, R. Kevin	2000	Miller, Gary W.	1968
Knudson, John O.	1958	Miller, Judith A.	1992
Knutson, Mark S.	1967	Miller, Leroy	1955
Knutson-Keller, Molly	1997	Miller, Robert L.	1960
Koger, Larry A.	1987	Miller, Wilbert S.	1977
Kraft, H. Ivor	1972	Miner, George A.	1964
Krogstad, Kim E.	1984	Moody, John H.	1972
Krueger, David J.	1976	Mooney, Robert T.	1983

**PACIFICA SYNOD 2008
ROSTERED PASTORS AND ORDINATION DATES**

Moore, Gilbert C.	1953	Santa Cruz, Maria	2000
Morrow, Constance	1995	Scheer, Tony W.	2000
Mundt, Randall A.	1984	Scheitlin, Paul F.	1979
Myers, Donovan A.	1952	Schick, David A.	1986
Nelson, Donald E.	1956	Schneider, Carl R.	1957
Nguyen, Minh Hanh	1999	Schneider, Delwin B.	1951
Nielsen, A. Everett	1960	Schneider, Michael D.	1996
Nordstrand, Arthur M.	1950	Schowalter, Richard P.	1978
Nordstrand, Patrice A.	1978	Schumacher, William H.	1954
Norman, William A.	1965	Seibert, John F.	1961
Oas, Paul C.	1956	Seyb-Stockton, Karla M.	1988
Olson, Donald I.	1960	Sieber, John H.	1964
Olson, Douglas R.	1958	Snyder, William J. Jr.	1977
Olson, George L.	1949	Spann, John W.	1949
Parker, Karen S.	1978	Spielman, Larry	1980
Patterson, Roger W.	1983	Starkey, Frank L.	1955
Pedersen, Jon W.	1995	Steinhauer, Frank G.	1992
Perkins, Karen D.S.	2005	Steward, John R.	1979
Perry, Steven L.	1979	Stief, Harry F.	1945
Peters, Harvey S.	1959	Stienstra, Bradley R.	1975
Peterson, Gordon D.	1980	Stone, Judith E.	1987
Peterson, Ruth M.	1991	Stott, Albert W.	1963
Philips, Timothy A.	1987	Strausser, Charles W.	1954
Pike, James A.	2005	Stump, John P.	1940
Plummer, Jeffrey S.	1997	Sundry, Charles W.	1965
Puccio, Kenneth A.	1977	Sweetman, Sherry G.	1979
Qiu, Lin	2006	Symons, Luther	1998
Raaen, Daniel	1994	Taylor, Andrew A.	1986
Radatz, William A.	1971	Taylor, Brian	1978
Ramnarine, R. Joseph	1966	Tengbom, Luverne C.	1946
Reeb, James	2005	Tran, Vanson T.	2007
Reeb, Kay	1984	Tsui, May	2006
Retamoza, Manuel J.	2004	Tuohino, Kent	1988
Reynolds, David D.	1962	Tukua, Philip A.	1981
Rierson, Richard L.	1972	Uthus, Gregory J.	1979
Riggs, Charles B.	1974	Vadis, Bohdan	2003
Roberts, Marda Ruth	1992	Van Tassel, P.E.	1945
Roessler, James L.	1974	Vevia, Richard W. Jr.	1981
Rohr, E. Jeff	1965	Volkman, Edward J.	1956
Rollefson, Richard	1980	Wade, Raymond W.	1981
Roller, Lawrence H.	1953	Waltz, Kathy	1996
Roschke, Daniel E.	2006	Warne-McGraw, Ryan D.	2002
Rozen, Lee B.	1971	Warren, Robert R.	1983
Rufsvold, Victoria J.	1999	Watland, A. Joris	1968
Salmonson Olson, Linda	1997	Wayne, Robert J.	1952
Salomon, Esaul	1982	Weinberger, Brian	2008

PACIFICA SYNOD 2008 ROSTERED PASTORS AND ORDINATION DATES			
Weiss, Hillard J.	1957	Wolff, Samuel J.	1976
Welchert, Werner P.	1943	Wright, Dick L.	1995
Wenger, David E.	1963	Wuebbens, Everett P.	1956
West, James E.	1982	Ziehl, Laura	1997
Will, Mark S.	1976	Zimmermann, E. Carl Jr.	1977
Winick, Mark E.	1978	Zuber, Richard S.	1987
Witt, Carl R. Jr.	1977		

PACIFICA SYNOD – 2008 ROSTERED AIMS AND COMMISSIONING DATES			
Christopherson, Mildred	1975	Lee, Shirley J.	2002
Dahlen, Eloise	1965	Lewis, Richard W.	1985
Darrow, Betty L.	1966	Nixon, Al	2004
Decker, Georgia	1986	Olson, Esther	1939
Emerson, Leah	2008	Prechel, Lynne	2007
Evans, Ann	1980	Rustad, Rena	1966
Heinaman, Angela	1998	Schaefer, Marcelle	2001
Herbert, Benjamin	1970	Stief, Lavonne	1968
Kieschnick, Melvin M.	1950	Stohlman, Mary	1986

PACIFICA SYNOD – 2008 ROSTERED DIACONAL MINISTERS AND CONSECRATION DATES			
Combs, Marvin	2007	Fox, Linda	2004
Deming, Phillip	1996	Martyn, Barbara	2001
Faulk, Sheryl	1999	Schmitt Ajer, Margaret	1996

PACIFICA SYNOD STAFF

1801 C Parkcourt Place, Santa Ana CA 92701 (714) 692-2791

BISHOP

THE REV. MURRAY D. FINCK,

ext. 736, e-mail: murrayfinck@pacificasynod.org

ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP

THE REV. RICH AJER

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THE REV. GORDON PETERSON,

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THE REV. HEIDI HESTER

Learning, Worship & Care, ext. 739, e-mail: heidihester@pacificasynod.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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Associate for Specialized Ministry/Organizational Development

MS. MARCELLE SCHAEFER, AiM, e-mail: js-ms@sbcglobal.net

Director of Youth & Family Life Ministry Leadership

THE REV. RICK SCHOWALTER, (619) 258-8775, e-mail: rickschowalter@pacificasynod.org

ELCA PARTNERS SERVING OUR SYNOD

Division for Ministry

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Diaconal Minister, Deployed Staff

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margaret.schmitt-ajer@elca.org

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MR. MARK CARLSON

Director

1701 L St., Sacramento CA 95814

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ELCA Mission Investment Fund

MS. CAROL SCHNEIDER,

Building Consultant

4423 N. 24th St., Ste. 530,

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carol.schneider@elca.org

Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, Discipleship & Reconciliation

Voting Members and Guests of the Assembly:

Grace to you and peace from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our assembly theme, “Compassionate God, Use our Hands” reminds us of the phrase “God’s work, our hands” which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has claimed as part of our identity as a church body united in Christ. It is also a wonderful prayer that draws us together in our calling as “one great company of disciples”¹ - the Pacifica Synod!

As I begin another year in my call as an assistant to the bishop, I also celebrate over two decades of service to Christ’s mission as an assistant to the bishop. I began serving as an assistant to the bishop in 1988 in the Central States Synod (Kansas and Missouri). It was an exciting time in our life together as we all worked to give shape to God’s call that gathered together the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches to create the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As I begin my twenty-second year in synodical ministry it is interesting to remember with thanksgiving how far we have come and to look ahead knowing that God continues to call and send us to be witnesses of God’s love and compassion into a world still hungry for peace, wholeness, justice and new life.

I have appreciated the opportunity to work with so many of you in a great variety of ministries. There is never a dull moment in our life together. God has blessed us to be a blessing to one another and together proclaim the good news as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to bear the sign of Jesus as God uses our hands, our hearts, our minds, our generosity, our weakness, our strength, and our faith for the sake of not only our own congregation or synod or denomination, but for the sake of the world.

If you have questions about the areas of ministry for which I have some responsibility, please send me an e-mail or give me a call. These areas, include: Mobility and Congregational Transitions, Preparing Adult Lay Leaders for Mission and Ministry, Congregation Leadership Development, Congregational Conflict and Reconciliation, Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, Lutheran Office of Public Policy, Western Mission Cluster Network, Ethnic Ministries, Intentional Interim Ministry, Coaching, Natural Church Development and New Ministry Starts and Congregational Transformation (until the new Director for Evangelical Mission begins their work on behalf of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission of the ELCA).

Thank you for another year of ministry with you and I look forward to our walking together in the days still to come.

I continue to ask you for your prayers and support for our bishop, the executive staff, the administrative staff and all who contribute to our life together in Southern California and Hawaii.

The Rev. Dr. Gordon Peterson
Assistant to the Bishop for Mission, Discipleship and Reconciliation

¹ Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ’s mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, pg. 75)

Assistant to the Bishop for Administration, Finance, Stewardship & Candidacy

Dear Partners in Christ,

It continues to be a joy and a privilege to serve this synod and our bishop! I have so much to be thankful for in my calling as an assistant on the staff.

The past two years have gone by quickly. The learning that is required in this work is ongoing and challenging, but there are always people ready to help and most days I experience as being incredibly satisfying. Again and again I am privileged to see the Holy Spirit at work in the people and ministries where I am called to serve this church.

Areas for which I am responsible on behalf of Bishop Finck and the Pacifica Synod include the following:

- Attending to many matters related to the new Lutheran Center for Mission & Learning.
- Overseeing all areas related to the finances of the synod.
- Encouraging congregations in year-round stewardship planning and mission support.
- Working with several teams and committees of the synod.
- Being responsible for the process of having candidates for ministry move from an initial interest in becoming a leader in the church through their actually becoming a pastor, a diaconal minister or an associate in ministry.
- Leading workshops and preaching in congregations as often as possible.
- Serving on the boards of a number of Lutheran partner agencies and institutions.

Suffice it to say the days are full for all of us on synod staff, but we find meaning and purpose in the work we do. Please do not hesitate to call upon us. We look forward to serving you as best as we are able.

In closing, I am so grateful for our bishop, our executive and administrative staff, the synod leaders I work with most closely, and my wife and family. I ask your prayers to help me do this important work I am called to do as faithfully and well as I can.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rich Ajer

Assistant to the Bishop for Learning, Worship & Care

Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:45-47

To the Voting Members and Guests of the Pacifica Synod Assembly,

Easter greetings to all! It is my honor and privilege to join the Synod Staff as the newest Assistant to the Bishop. Since February 1, 2009 in this new part-time call, I have been given the task to assist this synod to live into the scripture passage above. As the church began to live their lives as resurrection people, they gathered together to study scripture, to worship and praise God, and to take care of one another. So, too, am I called to help us as a synod grow in LEARNING more about God's love for us, in bringing us together for times of WORSHIP and to help us pool resources together for the CARE of our rostered leaders and congregational members.

The following can be found in my portfolio:

LEARNING

PALLMM (Preparing Adult Lay Leaders for Mission and Ministry)
FCTE (First Call Theological Education)
Book of Faith Initiative
Professional Leaders' Conference
Days of Theological Reflection and Dialogue

WORSHIP

Synod Assembly
Professional Leaders' Conference
Weekly Worship at the Lutheran Center for Mission & Learning
Working with the Synod Worship Team

CARE

Oversight for Pastoral Care of Rostered Leaders
Retired Rostered Leaders' Retreat

I live in constant hope that we will continue to be God's hands and feet in Southern California and Hawaii. May the risen Christ continue to strengthen us on this journey together!

Peace and blessings,

Rev. Heidi A. Hester

Associate for Specialized Ministry, Organizational Development

It has been a year of great blessing for me to work with and among the leadership of the Pacifica Synod! My work has been focused on a few specific projects:

1) **Conference Deans:** We have continued to work together to bring clarity to the role of the dean and to lift up the role of the conference. At last year's synod assembly each conference had the opportunity to gather and reflect on three questions:

1. *What opportunities for mission do we have that are unique to our setting?*
2. *What special gifts and resources can each of our congregations offer?*
3. *What can we do together that we are unable to do as individual churches?*

Some of our work together this year has been to look for ways the Deans can support the conferences as you continue to explore and respond to these questions and continue to seek ways to participate in God's mission in your own local setting.

2) **Synod Council:** Part of my work has been to assist the Council to examine its structure and function. We have redefined and broadened many of the positions on council by identifying specific duties for them, such as serving as members of committees and task forces so that the communication link between council and its sub-groups is stronger. We have also defined the role of the Conference Representatives to Synod Council as being responsible for communicating with the conference dean and/or lay chair more regularly; the purpose is so that conference reps have more information about what is happening in their conferences when making decisions on behalf of the synod. We still have some work to do in terms of finding ways to efficiently manage the administrative aspect of Synod Council meetings, but we are making progress here, too. Our goal is to carve out more time to attend to the *mission and learning* aspects of Synod Council's responsibilities.

3) **Synod Council "Sub-groups"** (Ministry Teams, Committees Task Forces): One of my tasks has been to "take inventory" of the many groups that carry out the work of the synod. We identified factors that lead to effectiveness, established some basic operating principles for each of these types of sub-groups, reviewed the charters, and made a number of changes in terms of purpose and function. *Check out the synod website "Who We Are" link to learn more about the work these amazing volunteers are doing, and especially to learn about how synod Ministry Teams can be a resource for your congregation or conference ministry initiatives.*

God has blessed this synod with gifted and dedicated people who serve as rostered and lay leaders, who worship in our churches, and who do God's work with their own hands... thanks be to God!

Marcelle Schaefer

Director of Youth Ministry Leadership

The responsibilities of the Pacifica Synod Youth Ministry Network are the following:

- To provide training, support and resources to those called by the Spirit to lead youth, children and family ministry
- To develop leadership that will equip parents and caring adults to nurture the faith of youth, children and families
- To network youth, children and family ministry leaders from congregations of the Pacifica Synod for mutual support, inspiration and shared programs

To accomplish the above the following ministries are offered the youth ministers of our synod:

- Four regional networks that meet monthly under the direction of Rick Schowalter. There is a North Network that meets in Banning, a Central Network that meets in Escondido, a South Network that meets in La Mesa and an Orange County Network that meets in Fullerton. The purpose of these network meetings is primarily mutual support however there is also a lot of shared ministry that takes place and the distribution of resource information. Pastor Judi Miller, Blanche Holland and Rob Horne are leaders in these networks. A youth ministry network also meets in Hawaii independently of the others.
- The Peer Ministry Retreat that teaches the mechanics of building quality relationships in a ministry context. This retreat is offered in cooperation with Camp Yolijiwa of the LRCC.
- Youth Ministry Training (YMT) event at California Lutheran University. This retreat was eliminated this year because of a conflict with scheduling and the Western States Youth Gathering. However YMT is again scheduled this year. This youth ministry training is offered over 4 tracks which can be taken each year the training is offered. After completing all 4 tracks the youth minister is honored as a "Recognized Youth Minister of Region 2 of the ELCA".
- Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) event that takes place during the Synod Assembly and continues the day following at an event called "IT" which is the largest youth ministry gathering offered our youth through the synod. Three officers are elected at this LYO event to represent our youth at National Youth Gatherings and this event also taps into the ministry potential of our youth as they come to the LYO event with display boards that tell of their ministry efforts. Terri Robertson of Peace Lutheran in Corona helps to coordinate our LYO ministry.

There are many other youth events that are communicated and supported by our networks. Many of our youth ministries will travel to New Orleans this summer to attend the National Youth Gathering. All other events are communicated through an e-mail network that shares important events and network news. If you would like your youth minister to receive this information please contact Rick Schowalter at SYMCN1@aol.com to be placed on the communication list.

The Rev. Rick Schowalter

**PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT
REPORT TO THE 2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

Have you been there, have you seen, have you worshipped, have you attended meetings? Our Lutheran Center for Mission & Learning has become a whirl of activity for this synod while remaining peaceful and worshipful at the same time. This beautiful facility will be a blessing to our congregations and the community for years to come. We are still grateful for the vision and the completion of this holy place. Come see, come feel, come experience! It is your synod home.

The Synod Council met four times during this past year, beginning with our Council Retreat in August 2008. This retreat is a time for greeting newly elected council members, a time for fellowship, for spiritual development and for worship. During this retreat we reflect on the past year, we look at our current ministries and we chart a path for the future of this synod's efforts on your behalf. The official actions of your Synod Council for this past year follow this report.

The Pacifica Synod is blessed with so many people who give freely of their time and talents in order to serve you on ministry teams, committees, task forces and conference groupings. I am grateful for the work of your Synod Council and their dedication to the mission of the synod as they share their knowledge, their care and their concern for you as congregations and people who make up this synod.

No words will ever be sufficient to thank our Bishop, Murray Finck, and the synod staff for their devoted service, commitment and support for the ministries and people of this synod. They each bring their own special gifts to their calling. It is a blessing to serve our bishop and our synod and I am grateful for the opportunity.

Please remember in prayer our bishops, Mark Hanson and Murray Finck, in your weekly church services as well as your personal prayers. Your continued prayerful support for your synod staff and synod council are appreciated and do not go unheard by our loving and gracious God. Thank you.

In Christ's Service,
Sheila M. Wenzel

**ACTIONS OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL
May 2008 through March 2009**

EXTENSION OF SYNOD CALLS

The Rev. Karin Boye to interim ministry at Christ Lutheran, Orange.

The Rev. Kent Tuohino to interim ministry at Trinity Lutheran, Riverside.

The Rev. Tim Drom to interim ministry at Eden Lutheran, Riverside, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2008.

The Rev. Kathy Waltz to chaplaincy staff at St. Mary's Medical Center, Apple Valley.

Extended a one-year contract of interim service to the Rev. Daren Erisman to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in San Diego for one year.

ROSTER MATTERS

APPROVED request for On Leave from Call Status:

The Rev. Steve Fiechter: 1st year

The Rev. Steve Perry, 1st year

The Rev. Dawn Anderson Booth: 1st year

The Rev. Yutaka Kishino: 1st year

The Rev. John Embree: 1st year

The Rev. Connie Morrow: 1st year

The Rev. Bob Dew: 1st year

The Rev. David Housholder: through December 31, 2009.

The Rev. Ken Johnson: 3rd year retro December 2008.

The Rev. Dan Raaen: 1st year

The Rev. Jim Reeb: 3rd year retro August 2008.

VOTED to extend first year of On Leave from Call status to Marv Combs, DM.

VOTED to receive with joy the Rev. Roland Haas onto the roster of the Pacifica Synod and ELCA.

CONGREGATION MATTERS

APPROVED the establishment of the Oromo Ethiopian, Thai Community, and HBKP Lutheran as Synodical Area Worshiping Communities (SAWC)

APPROVED the adoption of the Policies and Procedures for Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities document

APPROVED the constitution for Emmanuel Lutheran Church, La Habra, CA

APPROVED the proposed relocation of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Rowland Heights/Mission Pointe and purchase of site land.

APPROVED the name "Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA" for a new mission church in Irvine.

GRANTED the request of the members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, La Mirada, and assume Synod Administration under provision S.13.24. of the Pacifica Synod Constitution.

VOTED to begin the process of reception as outlined in section 9.25 of the ELCA constitution of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Coronado into the Pacifica Synod and the ELCA.

ACCEPTED the constitution of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Chula Vista.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

VOTED to sign contract with the Hyatt Hotel in Anaheim, CA and underwrite the Middle School Youth Gathering with stipulations to be decided at a later date by Bishop Murray Finck and director of the Middle School event.

VOTED to continue to have ELCA Mission Investment Fund and the ELCA Foundation remain as the sole vehicles for the Committee to use in its investments.

VOTED to accept the housing allowance for all Synod Staff Rostered Leaders at the same levels as 2008.

VOTED to approve the grant to Christ Lutheran in Orange.

VOTED to extend the LCFML loan for an additional year at exactly the same conditions contingent on establishing a new LCFML Capital Campaign led by someone other than Synod Staff.

VOTED to end the B2B2B effective Synod Assembly 2009 and authorize Synod staff to put together a detailed plan of another campaign and have a target and dates for the council meeting in March.

VOTED to increase the rostered compensation guidelines by 2%.

VOTED to approve the 2009/10 base spend plan as recommended by the budget committee.

VOTED to allow the proposed change in grant distribution to be effective 2010/11 rather than 2009/10.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY MATTERS

VOTED to resubmit the Lutheran World Federation Partner Church Clergy in the ELCA resolution to the 2009 Synod Assembly.

VOTED to request Churchwide Assembly voting members from this Synod attend the pertinent business sessions of the 2009 Synod Assembly if possible.

VOTED to give 100% of the 2009 Synod Assembly Offering to our companion synod in Ethiopia.

VOTED to submit a revised section of constitution for ratification at the 2009 Synod Assembly contingent upon the approval of the Conference of Deans.

VOTED to extend the deadline to submit resolutions regarding the Human Sexuality draft from 90 days to 30 days before the 2009 Synod Assembly.

VOTED to recommend to the 2009 Synod Assembly the adoption of what the budget committee has identified as the 2010/11 baseline budget.

VOTED to accept the Constitutional changes S09.04.01 and S12.01 as presented by the Conference of Deans and recommend adoption by the 2009 Synod Assembly.

VOTED to accept the proposed constitutional change of S9.03 and recommend adoption by the 2009 Synod Assembly.

VOTED to adopt the proposed revision of S10.07.A96 when the equivalent is reflected in policy and recommend adoption by the 2009 Synod Assembly.

VOTED to invite the Churchwide Assembly voting members to the 2009 Synod Assembly as guests.

APPOINTMENTS

VOTED to establish a new budget committee with same membership as the previous year.

Committee members: Sheila Wenzel, Dale Schmidt, Jack Pavelich, Loren Fry, The Rev. Rich Ajer, with support of bookkeeper.

VOTED to approve the appointments to Nominating, Resolution, Constitution, and Warner Trust Fund Committee with addition of Pete Martinez for Nominating Committee and Beverly Erck for Resolutions Committee.

VOTED to re-elect Lyle Roberts and the Rev. Karen Marohn as members of the Executive Committee.

VOTED to appoint the Rev. Tim Edmondson to fill the vacancy of Clergy, Big Bear Conference.

VOTED to appoint the Rev. Gloria Espeseth, Pete Moenter, Betty Dean Anderson, and the Rev. Chuck Aden to the Resolution Committee.

SYNOD MINISTRY TEAMS/TASK FORCES

VOTED to close all inactive ministry teams as listed on document provided with the word *inactive* being added to the teams: Mission Support and Open Hearts/Open Hands.

VOTED to authorize gathering of Ministry Teams (#2 of immediate actions) approve #2 as printed. Loren Fry, The Rev. Karen Marohn, The Rev. Steve Bieghler, and Beverly Erck will be part of that group.

VOTED to close current Synod Council Renovation Task Force as suggested by the research done by Marcelle Schaefer.

VOTED to adopt the charter to form the Synod Policy Task Force. The task force will appoint Rod Anderson as chair.

MISCELLANEOUS

VOTED to approve the staffing formula with the additional staff member from EOCM as presented by Bishop Murray Finck.

VOTED to approve the motion that the Synod Council, when establishing the Budget Committee, give guidance on priorities relative to major budget categories including Bishop and Staff salaries, benevolence, grants, Pacifica Synod Office, and other items the council feels appropriate. 2) that the Personnel Committee prepare recommended bishop and staff compensation guidelines for council disposition at the December 2008 council meeting. 3) that the Personnel Committee recommend a standard annual schedule that integrates the performance review, compensation review and budget approved processes at the December 2008 synod council meeting.

VOTED to approve the motion that in the event of a decline in voting members, each conference would continue to elect a voting member. Lots would be drawn from the elected persons to determine who becomes the alternate voting member to the Churchwide Assembly.

VOTED to approve the ethnic representation list for 2009 as printed on the hand-out.

VOTED to authorize the Executive Committee to amend this list as needed.

VOTED to approve a continuing resolution on Background Checks for all candidates for Bishop and Synod Council Officer as printed.

VOTED to rescind the continuing resolution regarding background checks and direct it to the Policy Task Force to go in Policy and Procedure Manual.

VOTED to delete 2.8 schedule of assembly from the Policy and Procedure manual and refer to the Synod Policy Task Force.

VOTED after lengthy debate and not being of one mind, not to ask the ELCA Church Council to add the provisions to rules of procedure for the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly as presented in the resolutions by Emanuel Lutheran Church of La Habra and Good Shepherd Lutheran of Irvine.

VOTED to go forward with the contract with Warner Center Marriot of Woodland Hills for the 2009 Middle School Gathering.

PACIFICA SYNOD LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS OF PACIFICA SYNOD 2008-2009

Term of Office - 4 Years

NAME	POSITION and Assignments	TERM	EXPIRES
The Rev. Murray D. Finck, Bishop 1801 C Parkcourt Pl Santa Ana CA 92701 (714) 692-2791 (w) E-mail: mdfinck@aol.com	President Executive Committee	Second	2010 (6-yr. term)
Ms. Sheila Wenzel 18328 Santa Laurretta Fountain Valley CA 92708 (714) 964-4723 (h) E-mail: rswenzel@earthlink.net	Vice President Executive Committee	First	2012
Ms. Rachel Line 8815 Tamberly Way #B Santee CA 92071 (619) 871-0428 (c) E-mail: rline@gmail.com	Secretary Executive Committee Personnel Committee	First	2012
Mr. Loren Fry 8177 E. Bailey Way Anaheim Hills CA 92808 (714) 280-1970 (h) (714) 350-6223 (c) (714) 281-1582 (fax) E-mail: lorenfry@roadrunner.com	Treasurer Executive Committee Personnel Committee	First	2009

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bishop Murray D. Finck
Ms. Sheila Wenzel
Mr. Loren Fry
Ms. Rachel Line

2-yr. terms:
Mr. Lyle Roberts
The Rev. Karen Marohn
The Rev. Tom Goellrich

MEMBERS OF PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL 2008-2009
Term of Office - 3 Years

NAME	POSITION and Assignments	TERM	EXPIRES
The Rev. Chuck Aden 30400 Grand Ave Lake Elsinore CA 92530-6943 (951) 678-1561 (w) (951) 674-1856 (h) E-mail: shepherd.of.life@verizon.net	Clergy Raincross Conf.	First	2009
Ms. Betty Dean Anderson 1665 Magnolia Ave San Bernardino CA 92411 (909) 885-6958 (h) (909) 889-0278 (fax) E-mail: betfel@verizon.net	Lay-at-Large Resolutions Committee	Second Council Liaison to CCLM	2010
The Rev. Jake Bell PO Box 727 Fontana CA 92334-0727 (909) 822-7212 (w) (909) 856-6905 (h) E-mail: gloriadei@earthlink.net	Clergy Mariposa Conf.	Second	2010
The Rev. Steve Bieghler 621 S Sunkist St Anaheim CA 92806 (714) 772-2772 (w) (562) 946-6447 (h) E-mail: skbiegh@earthlink.net	Clergy-at-Large	First Council Representative to PALLMM Cabinet	2009
Ms. Georgina Califf 1231 E Sycamore Ave Orange CA 92886-1240 (714) 516-9448 (h) E-mail: georginacaliff@gmail.com	Lay Son & Surf Conf. Elections Committee	Elected to fill term	2009
Ms. Beverly Erck 659 Golden West Dr Redlands CA 92373 (909) 798 7449 (h) E-mail: erckb@adelphia.net	Lay-At-Large	First	2011

NAME	POSITION and Assignments	TERM	EXPIRES
The Rev. Tom Goellrich 111 W Las Palmas Dr Fullerton CA 92835-1529 (714) 879-8290 (w) E-mail: prchrtom@aol.com	Clergy Rejoice Conference Executive Committee	Second First	2011 2009
The Rev Tim Edmondson 25557 Salerno Way Yorba Linda CA 92887 (909) 585-3452 (w) (909) 692-2777 (h) E-mail: tmedmondson@sbcglobal.net	Clergy Big Bear Conference	elected by council to fill term until synod assembly	2009
The Rev. Molly Knutson-Keller 5863 Hardy Ave San Diego CA 92115 (619) 583-3972 (w) (619) 469-1631 (h) E-mail: mollykk@hotmail.com	Clergy-at-Large Liaison to Ministry Teams	First	2009
The Rev. Karen Marohn 1371 Sunset Cliffs Blvd San Diego CA 92107-3845 (619) 224-2894 (w) (619) 223-3155 (h) E-mail: pastor@stpetersbythesea.org	Clergy W. San Diego Conf. Executive Committee Annual Review of Synod Letter of Call Committee	First First	2009 2009
Mr. Peter Martinez 867 N Redondo West Anaheim CA 92801 (714) 772-7660 (h) E-mail: dolorespete@dslextreme.com	Lay-at-Large	Second	2010
Ms Kristen Naus 2101 W Nicolet Banning CA 92220 (951) 849-1250 (h) E-mail: kristenaus@msn.com	Youth Representative	First	2009 (2-yr. term)

NAME	POSITION and Assignments	TERM	EXPIRES
<p>Ms. Jan Neuhaus 9540 Hinton Dr Santee CA 92071 619-448-688 (h) E-mail: markneuhaus@cox.net</p>	<p>Lay Sonshine Conf.</p>	<p>First</p>	<p>2011</p>
<p>Mr. Lyle Roberts 27340 Big Springs Ranch Rd Hemet CA 92544 (951) 925-9021 (h) (951) 662-3501 (c) E-mail: lylepizza@aol.com</p>	<p>Lay-at-Large Executive Committee</p>	<p>First First</p>	<p>2009 2010</p>
<p>Mr. Dale Schmidt 1541 Encino Dr Escondido CA 92025 (760) 746-2020 (h) E-mail: daleschmid@cox.net</p>	<p>Lay Harvest Conf. Constitution Committee</p>	<p>Second Council Representative to PALLMM Cabinet</p>	<p>2010</p>
<p>The Rev. Bill Snyder 24360 Yosemite Rd Laguna Niguel CA 92677-4540 (949) 831-8820 (w) (949) 716-3825 (h) E-mail: seniorpastor1@aol.com</p>	<p>Clergy Saddleback Conf.</p>	<p>First</p>	<p>2009</p>
<p>Ms. Jeannie Sullivan 98-2060 Kipikua St Aiea HI 96701 808-295-6902 (h) E-mail: jeanniesullivan@hawaii.rr.com</p>	<p>Lay Hukilau Conf.</p>	<p>First</p>	<p>2011</p>

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Sonshine Conference #1 and West San Diego Conference #2

The Sonshine and the West San Diego Conferences do their conference work together. There is a remarkable collegial spirit shared within the two conferences. The rostered leaders gather every Wednesday for lectionary study, Word and Sacrament worship, and discussion. It is not unusual to have twenty or more pastors present at these meetings.

The pastors' weekly discussions vary considerably depending upon concerns and interest. During the past year, once a month, we have focused on mission in the San Diego area. The guiding question has been: how might we do ministry more effectively as Lutheran Christians in our communities.

The first Wednesday of the month is always "Deans' Day." This is an opportunity to catch up on synodical and conference news as well as for the different congregations of the two conferences to highlight any areas of ministry that are significant and important to be shared with one another.

In addition to these weekly gatherings, the two conferences meet twice a year with pastoral colleagues from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In October 2008, participants explored the respective traditions of the ELCA and LCMS and examined how we have gotten to where we are today. In May 2009, Bishop Murray Finck and President Larry Stoterau of the Pacific Southwest District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod will address the question, "Is the Lutheran Heritage Still Relevant for Ministry?" The tentative topic for our October 2009 gathering is "New Perspectives on St. Paul."

The Sonshine Conference welcomed Pastor Dan Roschke as the new pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church-La Mesa. The West San Diego Conference welcome Pastor Daren Erisman as the interim pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church- San Diego. The two conferences said farewell and Godspeed to three trusted colleagues: Pastor Truls Pearson resigned from Our Savior Lutheran Church-San Diego to accept a call to Trinity Lutheran Church-Santa Barbara; Pastor Doug Knutson-Keller resigned from College Lutheran-San Diego to accept a call to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church-Olympia, Washington; and Pastor Molly Knutson-Keller resigned from Lutheran campus ministry at San Diego State University as her husband begins his new ministry in Washington and where she will be on leave from call in order to spend more time with their two young children.

The collegial spirit of these two conferences is astonishing! This spirit was evidenced throughout the year as almost every congregation in the two conferences, in addition to five Episcopal congregations, participated in the "Fifth Annual Hotter Than Thou Chili Cook-Off" to support Lutheran/Episcopal campus at San Diego State University, raising a record \$38,000. In addition to the support of campus ministry, congregations support the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) at First Lutheran both financially and with volunteers. Four of our congregations (Clairemont Lutheran-San Diego, St. Mark's Lutheran-Chula Vista, College Lutheran-San Diego; Lemon Grove Lutheran) house offices for various programs of Lutheran Social Services.

We pray for God's blessings as we are called to do ministry to San Diego city and county through the gifts of Word and Sacrament and service.

Respectfully Submitted in Christ's Name,
Pastor Wilbert "Wilk" S. Miller, Dean-West San Diego Conference
Pastor Laurie Line, Dean-Sonshine Conference

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Raincross Conference #4

Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12.32 (NRSV)

Conference life in Raincross this past year has been one marked with giving and good pleasure. Last year at our conference break-out time during the synod assembly we began to discover new ways that we could be church together where we previously we had not. A small band of committed faithful began to come together from our various congregations and cities and push the questions, what needs do our communities have? What resources have we been blessed by God to steward? How might we join God's work in this place together in ways we can not apart?

Attentions were given to needs being addressed by Lutheran Social Services. Care was given to good stewardship of resources through an auditing workshop. Connections were deepened with each other in the chance to work together for the kingdom of God. We have a new dean now, the Rev. Mark Cansino, who now gets to preside over the good pleasure that is our promise in faith and in life together. Thanks be to God!

In the peace and promise of Christ,
The Rev. Mark Wm Allert, former Dean

Big Bear Conference #5

Our Conference covers from Rialto to Barstow, Palm Desert to Victorville. It is one of the most spread out conferences in the Synod. Generally, the pastors gather at a different church on the second Thursday of each month. We go over some things from the Dean and the Synod Office, time for fellowship and sharing what is going on in each church. We then have a devotional time and head to lunch. Generally, despite the distance and travel time, the majority of churches in the conference are represented each month. Because of distance, we have found it hard to have any lay conference events. I sent out several updates each month to keep the lines of communication open.

In 2008, following the Conference time at the Synod Assembly, we put together some goals for our conference, such as a conference newsletter, doing some training events together and so on. We shared some email addresses for some key people to help with those goals. In August, Patricia Hoenshell led two workshops, one on Safeguarding Our Children and the other was a Sunday School teacher training. We discussed sharing Audit groups to be sure congregations do audits in a legitimate fashion. We also agreed to work on improving communications with a blog. This will be developed more in 2009 after some "training" in January. We continue to meet with the Synod Youth ministry team and Pastor Rick Showalter. For the Fall "Bishop's Gathering" in 2009, we began to work on a format of gathering for Church Council leaders to share what's working and some frustrations of the different leadership positions.

Once again, as in all conferences, we had some pastoral positions filled and another become vacant. And, as always, new clergy bring new ideas and energy to our Conference, just as new members do in our congregations.

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On another note, I turned in my resignation as Dean effective December 31st. Another capable leader, the Rev. Charles Riggs, will fill the position in 2009. May God continue to bless our church, our leaders and our members with the Spirit of discipleship and mission!

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul F. Scheitlin, 2008 Dean
Our Savior's, Banning

Saddleback Conference #7

Saddleback Conference Churches:

Church of the Master, Corona del Mar	Newport Harbor, Newport Beach
Gloria Dei, Dana Point	Community, Rancho Santa Margarita
Good Shepherd, Irvine	Christ, San Clemente
Mission, Laguna Niguel	Our Savior, San Clemente
Church of the Cross, Laguna Woods	Red Hill, Tustin
Mount of Olives, Mission Viejo	

The Saddleback Conference meets monthly at the various conference churches. It is our goal *“To gather, connect, and create belonging among conference rostered leaders through prayer and mutual sharing of concerns and joys.”* In order to accomplish this purpose, the leaders of the Saddleback Conference agreed on the following:

The Saddleback Conference meets regularly, the second Thursday of the month, at Red Hill Lutheran Church in Tustin. The purpose of the conference gatherings is to encourage collegiality among the rostered leaders. Specifically, we encourage one another through prayer, personal connections, confidentiality, discussions, and a place to be “real”—i.e. how to deal with boundaries between life, work, home, and faith.

Our past meetings have been focused on viewing and discussing changes in the external environment and in the church. Specifically, we have explored and discussed:

- *The “Emerging Church” within the mainline church.
- * Dr. Pete Steinke’s “Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times.”

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Seth Britton, Dean Saddleback Conference

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Son and Surf Conference #8

The leaders of the Son and Surf Conference gather on the third Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for a brown bag lunch meeting. We spent several months in 2008 meeting at and enjoying the hospitality of the Lutheran Center for Mission and Learning in Santa Ana, which is located within our conference.

Our meetings begin with a brief Eucharist service, a time for fellowship and checking-in, the opportunity to hear from guests representing various constituencies and ministry partners, and some form of mission presentation. From January of 2008 through January of 2009, we have had guests from synod staff, the Lutheran Credit Union of America, Lutheran Social Services, Go and Do Likewise Kenya, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, the ELCA Foundation, and PALLM.

In October of 2008 we hosted a conference-wide “Prepare to C.A.R.E.” Training Event, which was facilitated by Pastor Ken Anderson. The workshop explored disaster preparedness for individuals, families, and congregations.

With several changes in pastoral leadership occurring within our conference over the past year, we decided at the beginning of 2009 to return to the practice rotating the location of our monthly meetings from congregation to congregation within the conference.

The host congregation is asked to facilitate the brief Eucharist service and to prepare a “Ministry Assessment Presentation,” to give the other conference leaders a better understanding of the history, the joys, and the challenges of their particular ministry setting. Our goal is to get to know one another and our ministry settings on a deeper level.

Our meetings are open to clergy and lay leadership from each congregation within our conference. We welcome guests and ministry partners as well. For a list of meeting locations or to be included in our meeting agenda, please contact me at PastorTim@kogchurch.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Tim Philips, Dean

Rejoice Conference #9

It has been a great joy to serve the Rejoice Conference as Dean. I want to thank my colleagues and lay leaders of the conference who work faithfully each day to be the hands of God in their communities. The congregations in the Rejoice Conference continue to be diverse in language, culture, size, traditions and missions. And yet each congregation remains a vital part of the larger church body and an integral part of the mission of the Pacifica Synod.

The rostered leaders of the conference meet monthly at the Lutheran Credit Union in Brea for fellowship, discussion and prayer. Numerous churches continue to work together sharing resources for programs, worship and education. There remain numerous congregations that are in transition; pulpit supply, interims and in the midst of call processes. The conference blessed Rev. Dan Roschke as he

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accepted a call to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in La Mesa, CA and rejoiced as Rev. Dick Braun was ordained and installed at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Buena Park.

As I have accepted the call to serve as Assistant to the Bishop for Learning, Worship and Care, the Rev. Dennis Laherty of Emanuel Lutheran in La Habra has been appointed by Bishop Finck to be the Dean of the Rejoice Conference. Rev. Laherty began his service in February and continues to share his gifts with the conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Heidi A. Hester
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Whittier

Hukilau Conference #10

Aloha from the Islands,

This has been a great year of ministry here in the islands. We welcomed Pastor Kevin Kline to begin his ministry of St. John Lutheran in Kailua and welcomed back Pastor David Barber to the ministry at Holy Trinity in Kailua Kona on the Big Island (Hawaii).

Another celebration was the burning of the mortgage at Kihei Lutheran on Maui after only three years. This congregation under the leadership of Pastor Dave Krueger is now looking to continue its building program. They also installed a solar electrical system that is providing a great deal of electricity for free – thanks be to God for the sun!

Prince of Peace with its pastor, Nick Christoff is celebrating its 50 anniversary this year. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. This ministry is located in Waikiki in one of the hotels.

Seven churches on the island of Oahu continue to minister to the youth of Oahu through our newly incorporated ministry – OYEA – Oahu Youth Education and Activities. We held our first ever summer camp on the North Shore and had a blast with over 50 young people attending this camp. We will again have a camp this summer the week before July 4 and your young people are invited to join the fun. The youth from the Hukilau also continue to attend the Regional and National Youth Gatherings of the E.L.C.A.

OYEA continues with once a month activities with the youth along with regular monthly meetings for Confirmation ministry. Six of the OYEA churches are using the same weekly material from Augsburg.

We thank you for your prayers and support for the people on the Waianae Coast and Maluhia Lutheran and St. Philips Episcopal Churches served by Pastor Karen Perkins. The churches of the Hukilau raised over \$5,000 for those families that were affected by the mud and water slides during this past year.

We wish to thank our Conference Leadership Team – Brad Perkins – Lay Chair, Betty Flom – Secretary, Bob Zimmer – Treasurer, and Jeannie Sullivan – Synod Council Representative.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, *Makua*, Son, *Keiki Kane*, and Holy Spirit *Uhane Hemolele* the God of goodness and lovingkindness, whose Son was sent to save us and whose Spirit is poured out on us and renews us. **Amen.**

Dean, Rev. David Kieffer

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Board of Outreach

The activities of the Board during the 2008 year have been minimal. The ELCA Grant Application process, the interview process for potential Mission Developers, and the review of the numerous previously approved and funded congregational grants extending up to 3 years were the primary focuses of the Board. But, let us not forget the excellent work of The Rev. Gordon Peterson, Mission Director, who has maintained ongoing relationships with the mission developers and numerous mission congregations, and has encouraged congregations to participate in the ELCA Mission Grant Application process.

With the recently implemented ELCA reorganization and the Churchwide realignment of Mission Developer staffing, job description and accountability framework, this has placed the Board of Outreach's ministry on a plateau. With the anticipated advent of such a major change the Board awaits how this will impact the future ministry of the Board of Outreach and its impetus within the Pacifica Synod.

We give thanks for the numerous members of the Board who have offered up their time and talents to our synod's mission: The Rev. Gordon Peterson- Mission Director, Mrs. Lorna Kenney, Mr. Taylor Avery, Carol Schneider- Mission Investment Fund, and The Revs. Bill Snyder, David Krueger.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Elwood K. Hall
Chairperson

Book of Faith Ministry Team

With the approval of the Book of Faith resolution last year at the Pacifica Synod Assembly, the Pacifica Synod became a Book of Faith synod, committing itself to live in and from the Word of God in all meetings, assemblies and events. Therefore, we have committed to lead by example in faithful service and holy living as we regularly and increasingly hear, read, study, share and are engaged by the Holy Word of God.

To that end, the Book of Faith Ministry Team, Jake Bach (Inland Empire), Kim Cabodi (Orange County) and Teresa Kaldor (San Diego County), was formed and joined by Pastor Heidi Hester and Bishop Murray Finck. The ministry team is searching for additional participation from congregations of Pacifica Synod, especially from the Hukilau Conference. We are hoping more congregations will become "Book of Faith" congregations in the months ahead.

The team will coordinate its work with the synod staff, the Synod Council, the PALLMM (Preparing Adult Lay Leaders for Ministry and Mission) program, and other related ministry teams of the synod.

You can access several links to help your congregation become a Book of Faith congregation at our ministry team page on the Pacifica Synod website www.pacificasynod.org/BookofFaith.htm

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Cherish Our Children Ministry Team

In May 2009, the Pacifica Synod enters its third year as a Cherish Our Children Synod. Officially adopted at the 2007 Pacifica Assembly the resolution: “**RESOLVED**, that the Pacifica Synod of the ELCA will adopt the Cherish Our Children Initiative, and will establish a Cherish Our Children Ministry Team, reporting to the Bishop and the synod council, charged with implementing the ELCA Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation” has a goal of 50% of congregations involved by 2012. As a Synod, the progress we have made thus far is:

In August, 2007, Amy Hartmann, ELCA Diaconal Minister and National Director for the non-profit Cherish Our Children Ministry based in St. Paul, MN, came to Pacifica to lead the initial training event for Synod Staff, Synod Council and interested pastors and adult lay persons. That weekend, Synod Council adopted a Cherish Our Children Ministry Team description and a committee was formed from the training session and began to meet: Rev. Judith Miller, Rev. Brian Taylor, Ms Caroline Anderson, Ms Terri Robertson, and Dr. Norm Beyer. In November, Caroline Anderson and Pastor Judi made a presentation to the Pacifica WELCA Assembly and WELCA adopted its own resolution similar to the Synod.

By January of 2008 the Team had met several times, conducted training sessions by phone with Amy Hartmann, designated Rev. Judith Miller as Chair, written a purpose statement, produced an Enrollment Document for congregations, produced information packets that were distributed to all congregations at Synod Assembly in May 08 (packets not taken as Assembly were mailed to each congregation), led an information session at Assembly and prepared for and announced three training sessions around the synod for congregational teams. Several congregations attended training at Peace Lutheran in Corona, CA. In November, another training was conducted at First Lutheran in Vista, CA at the Pacifica WELCA Assembly - representing an additional twenty to thirty congregations. To date, nine congregations have either sent in Enrollment Forms, donations, indicated some degree of participation in, or desire to begin, the ministry:

<u>Congregation, Location</u>	<u>Main Contact Person</u>
Lamb of God, Anaheim	Rev. Steve Bieghler
King of Glory, Fountain Valley	Ms Caroline Anderson
St. Paul, Fullerton	Rev. Judith Miller
Our Redeemer, Garden Grove	Rev. Brian Taylor
Resurrection, Huntington Beach	
Shepherd of Life, Lake Elsinore	Ms Pam Reynolds
Bethany, Norco	Rev. Sharon Gunderson
San Marcos, San Marcos	Rev. Karla Halvorson
Shepherd of the Hills, Whittier	Dr. Norm Beyer

New workshops will be announced soon and information or resource people are always available. Check the Synod Web-Page and click on the Cherish Our Children logo or call the Synod for more information. May God bless all who pray and work for the safety of the children God cherishes.

The Rev. Judith Miller
Chair of the Pacifica Cherish Our Children Ministry Team

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Global Mission Ministry Team

The mission of this Ministry Team is:

Engage the Pacifica Synod in faithful response to the Biblical mandate to be Christ's witnesses "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

A few key highlights *from the last year* of this Ministry Team's work are:

- Intercessory circle of prayer for missionaries and their families.
- Strategic planning for our Global Mission Ministry Team and its vision.
- Sending Karen Merkel to the ELCA Global Mission Event Planners Gathering in Chicago.
- Holding our meetings at the new Pacifica Synod Lutheran Center in Santa Ana.

For the coming year, this Ministry Team plans to focus on our Responsibilities:

- To support the global mission and ministry efforts of the ELCA through obedience to the words of Jesus in the Great Commission. (Matt. 28:18-20)
- To challenge individuals and congregations to:
 1. "Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matt. 9:38)
 2. Uphold missionaries.
 3. Pray for open doors.
- To educate Pacifica Synod congregations and members about Global Mission efforts and concerns.
- To motivate and encourage members and congregations of the Pacifica Synod to respond faithfully and compassionately to the pressing global needs that are daily before us.

This Ministry Team asks the people of Pacifica Synod to pray for:

- The missionaries and their families who are supported by the Pacifica Synod congregations.
- A permanent Ministry Team Leader for the Global Mission Ministry Team.
- God's Word of salvation to be known by all peoples of the world.

The members of this Ministry Team are:

Karen Merkel
Carol Tonjes
Several prayer partners

The Ministry Team Leader is:

Trisha Gebhardt (Interim Chairperson)

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Hunger And Housing Ministry Team

The mission of this Ministry Team is:

To stir up within the Pacifica Synod compassion and response for those who are poor, hungry, homeless or otherwise lacking the resources for basic human needs.

A few key highlights *from the last year* of this Ministry Team's work are:

- We shared with other synods our experiences developing a Hunger and Housing video communication tool for Pacifica.
- We have been preparing to welcome the Tour de Revs in 2009. Tour de Revs is a 100 day bike ride to benefit world hunger and to promote wellness. Three ELCA pastors are riding a single tandem bike across the country and will be stopping in Pacifica on July 15.
- We promoted the resource called "Taking Root: Hunger Causes, Hunger Hopes", a colorful and compelling ELCA World Hunger curriculum for children and youth. It includes five sessions each for three different age groups.

For the coming year, this Ministry Teams plans to focus on:

- Developing a hunger and housing internet resource.
- Organizing a welcoming event for the Tour de Revs.
- Collecting and sharing resources with congregation members who are looking for new ways to think about and respond to human suffering.

This Ministry Team asks the people of Pacific Synod to pray for:

- All who labor but go hungry to their rest.
- Those who cannot find work for their hands.
- The children who go unfed.

The members of this Ministry Team are: Susan Bolduc, Carol Bruns, Elizabeth Corrow, Michael Hagenow, George Johnson, Doug Knutson-Keller, Mark Lowry, Wes Menke, Barbara Norton, Paul, Oas, Bill Radatz, Dan Roschke, Ellen Tewell

The Ministry Team Leader is: Elizabeth Corrow

Immigration/Border Concerns Ministry Team

The mission of this Ministry Team is to engage the Pacifica Synod in faithful response to the Biblical mandate to welcome the stranger among us.

Responsibilities:

1) To support programs and efforts that serve the needs of immigrants and displaced persons through such programs as Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Services.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- 2) To advocate hospitality, compassion and safety for the immigrant “in our midst.”
- 3) To educate Pacifica Synod congregations and members about immigration, border and amnesty issues in response to the prophetic Biblical challenge to welcome the stranger.

A few key highlights *from the last year* of this Ministry Team’s work are:

The Ministry Team met 5 times in 2008, and has worked on the following items:

- Designed a resolution supporting the principle of Family Unity in immigration reform for last year’s Synod Gathering, which passed.
- Maintained a list of resources for congregations and individuals to use on the Synod’s web site: www.pacificasynod.org/Immigration
- Maintained communications with partners working in immigration concerns, including: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, Survivors of Torture, International,
- Sponsored Raleigh Deffenbaugh, Executive Director of LIRS, with the Synod for a two-day-long workshop with rostered leaders and an evening with lay members.
- Participated in an inter-agency conference on detention practices and abuses.
- Co-sponsored the 15th annual Posada Sin Fronteras (Posada without Borders) at the border fence with Mexico in San Diego.
- Offered leadership at 3 congregations for adult education opportunities around immigration.
- Hosted an information booth at the 2008 Synod Gathering.
- Sponsored a workshop at the Synod Gathering on Family Reunification Principals in immigration reform.

For the coming year, this Ministry Teams plans to focus on:

Goals of the Ministry Team for 2009 and 2010.

- 1) Pursue making the Synod Banquet at the Gathering into an educational event for hunger and immigration concerns. The thought is to obtain the menu well in advance and research the stories those ingredients have to tell about hunger and immigration. For example, a fruit salad might contain information about the places those fruits are grown, if migrant labor is used in producing them, ways in which the system might be exploiting migrant labor, etc. Hunger issues might trace the path of the beef on our plate, how cattle consume 30% of all corn that is raised, and the exchange value of the proteins/calories few to cattle verses the protein/calories of the meat end product. These might be at each plate for banquet participants to read and take home.
 - a. Georgina will inquire with Helga at the Synod about creating this opportunity
 - b. Mike will present this idea to the Hunger Committee to partner with us
 - c. Team members will each take one menu item to research, if this is a go
- 2) Put an article into the Synod newsletter explaining what has happened with the construction of the border fence here at Friendship Park in San Diego, raising questions about the wisdom of continuing the heavy use of resources in this way along the rest of the border.
 - a. Bill will fashion an article out of what Pastor John Fenistil has written
- 3) Pursue the idea of a study, beginning with our synod and then perhaps expanding to the wider USA, on nativism/tribalism and the damage such policies cause to others. First step is to identify and approach possible funders, and outline such a study. Purpose would be

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to raise self-awareness of the ways we function in comparison to the gospel challenge that we are all global citizens in the kingdom of God.

- a. Mike will approach Paul Oas about spearheading such a project
 - b. Bill will investigate some possible grant options for funding such a project, and touch base with the ELCA offices about participating.
- 4) Legislative advocacy. Challenges members of the synod present at the Gathering to participate in advocacy with public policy makers on behalf of immigrants through legislative post cards to be passed out at tables at the Gathering. Primarily focus on detention issues.
- a. Bill and Kathi will research (perhaps through LIRS) what legislation may be pending about that time.
- 5) Involving new and different people on the ministry teams of the synod. Encourage the Synod Council to prepare and use a time/talent type sheet at the Synod Gathering, identifying needs within the Synod structure and Ministry Teams, that participants will be challenged to complete and offer during a worship event at the synod. Also to be used in the annual conference gatherings with the Bishop.
- a. Gerogina will present this idea to the Synod Council
- 6) Request a 15 minute time slot on the synod gathering agenda to present real stories from the detention system, partly to inform about the resolution on detention that will be presented
- a. Bill will make request to the Synod planning committee
 - b. Kathi and Bill will design the presentation, either will live guests, or pre-recorded interviews or stories
- 7) Develop a resolution for the synod gathering on the inhumane and unconstitutional practices and conditions in detention centers, and speaking out against the construction of the proposed CCA center in Otay Mesa, which is suppose to become the largest in the country. A “background” document might be attached to the resolution or available on Synod Gathering tables.
- 8) Bill and Kathi to design a resolution, and run it by the team in the next few weeks. The Synod deadlines for resolutions in Feb. 20, but we would like to submit it a week or two before that. We will consult with LIRS and other partners on framing such a resolution.

This Ministry Team asks the people of Pacific Synod to pray for:

- Immigrants who are abused and exploited throughout the world and in our own land
- God’s guidance and wisdom for policy makers who are seeking constructive reform in immigration policies of our nation

The members of this Ministry Team are: Bill Radatz, Kathi Anderson, Maria Santa Cruz, Gerogina Califf, Michael Hagenow, Solomon Hailu, Richard Zuber, with Rich Ajer from the Synod Staff and Molly Knutson-Keller from the Council

The Ministry Team Leader is: Bill Radatz

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Youth and Family Leadership Development Ministry Team

The mission of this Ministry Team is:

The mission is to offer children, youth and family ministry leadership trainings, to bring leaders together for mutual support, to offer ministry events that facilitate ministries and to offer information on the events and resources that can be used as tools in ministry settings.

A few key highlights *from the last year* of this Ministry Team's work are:

- The first Lutheran Youth Event (LYO) event took place at the Synod Assembly.
- IT5 is the 5th annual youth event took place that offers fun, games, education and meaningful worship for synod youth
- 4 networks meet in monthly to support youth ministers, share resources and ministry events in 4 different areas of the synod
- Training events as Peer Ministry Training and the Region 2 ELCA recognized Youth Ministry Training took place at California Lutheran University

For the coming year, this Ministry Teams plans to focus on:

- The National Youth Gathering in New Orleans
- One of our network meetings will be at the Synod offices bringing all four networks together to meet with Bishop Finck
- LYO has a national convention that takes place following the National Gathering that we want to participate in and bring delegates
- We want to work more closely with LRCC (Lutheran Retreats Camps and Conferences)

This Ministry Team asks the people of Pacific Synod to pray for:

- Youth Ministers are often underpaid and overworked. Please pray for resources and support for youth ministers
- Pray for youth to take leadership roles in their churches and that they will be recognized and honored for their unique ministry gifts
- Pray that children, youth and families will appreciate their roles a ministers in a hurting world

The members of this Ministry Team are:

Pastor Judi Miller
Pastor Tony Sheer
Blanche Holland
Terri Robertson
Rob Horne

The Ministry Team Leader is:

Pastor Rick Schowalter



California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services*

SYNODICAL ASSEMBLIES/DISTRICT CONVENTION REPORT – 2009
Southwest California Synod; Pacifica Synod; Pacific Southwest District

Meeting needs through excellence in human services ...



the front porch difference

Now in its eleventh year, Front Porch, created in 1999 by California Lutheran Homes and Community Services and two other long-standing, not-for-profit organizations whose constituencies were of Methodist and California Teacher's Association backgrounds, continues to preserve, strengthen and expand not for profit missions by assuring two necessities for success: (a) resources for effective service delivery, and (b) the ability to be "doing good," while also "doing well" [Mission AND Margin]! Since the inception, three other organizations have chosen Front Porch as the place to preserve and strengthen their missions; they are: National Housing Ministries and Brookmore Housing Corporation (Baptist affiliated), and Sunny View Lutheran Communities and Services [Sunny View Retirement Community and Sunny View- West].

Even as Front Porch allows organizations to preserve, strengthen and expand their missions and build much needed financial and management capacity, it simultaneously retains each participating organization's corporate status, religious affiliation, identity, constituent base, unique program capacities, endowments and other philanthropy.

Today, the Front Porch system has grown to include eight organizations directly utilizing Front Porch as their parent system, 17 other not for profit organizations utilizing Front Porch as their management agent, and two for-profit corporations geared to serving persons 55 years of age and up.

Front Porch is Southern California's largest nonprofit provider of senior living communities. Headquartered in Burbank, the organization is made up of 11 full-service retirement communities in California: The Alhambra (Alhambra); Carlsbad By The Sea (Carlsbad); Casa de Mañana (La Jolla); Claremont Manor (Claremont); Fredericka Manor (Chula Vista); Kingsley Manor (Los Angeles); Sunny View Lutheran Home (Cupertino); Villa Gardens (Pasadena); Vista del Monte (Santa Barbara); Walnut Manor (Anaheim); and Wesley Palms (San Diego). Front Porch also owns two independent (55+) retirement communities in Louisiana and Florida. The Front Porch affiliate, CARING Housing Ministries, manages 42 affordable housing communities in California and Arizona.

Two major expansions are underway – the re-development of Walnut Manor into Walnut Village (Anaheim), and the first U.S. style retirement community for persons 55+ in Mexico, Luma (Puerto Vallarta).

In 2008 the Center for Technology Innovation and Wellbeing was incorporated through support from California Lutheran Homes to foster emerging technologies for improved living among older adults.

Because of the financial strength of Front Porch, many of the resources of California Lutheran Homes are available to pursue qualitative programming in behalf of the CLH communities operated through Front Porch, including:

CHAPLAINCY Chaplaincy is provided to all California Lutheran Homes' communities and to other communities that have partnered with Front Porch.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY IN AGING The California Lutheran Homes' Center for Spirituality in Aging continues to bring immeasurable value to the lives of those we serve, and to have significant impact upon the entire long-term-care delivery system in California and beyond. The Center is responsible for research, education and advocacy in the areas of spirituality in long-term care/retirement living and community-based services. The Center is under the direction of The Rev. Nancy Gordon, with the Center's Founder, The Rev. Donald R. Koepke, continuing to serve as Director Emeritus.

THE CLH AUXILIARY For decades, the CLH Auxiliary has been a leader in improving resident life at CLH communities through volunteerism. Now, the Auxiliary reaches out to affordable housing communities, as well, including those sponsored by CLH and those managed through Front Porch. The Auxiliary continues to be a major provider of volunteers who staff the CLH Hospitality Centers at Synodcial Assemblies and District Conventions.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING Long a part of the CLH mission, affordable housing remains a primary emphasis under Front Porch. CLH serves as a sponsor for South Bay Retirement Residence in Compton, Pilgrim Tower in Los Angeles (serving primarily the deaf elderly), and St. John's Manor in Glendale, AZ. Additionally, CLH supports the work of

CARING Housing Ministries through Front Porch, which includes 42 affordable housing communities serving the elderly, low income families, persons with developmental challenges, and persons with chronic mental illness. CLH and Front Porch are currently working with Lutheran congregations in numerous geographies to utilize land resources for the provision of affordable housing.

THE FRONT PORCH ART GALLERY The Gallery was initiated by CLH in 2002 and exists to showcase the creative talents of residents, staff, and members of the local communities in which CLH and Front Porch services are provided. The Gallery is an example of how CLH extends beyond its original mission of providing senior housing, health care, and related services to enriching lives by celebrating people's artistic expression. Through a partnership with the Pacific Homes Foundation, the Front Porch Gallery established a permanent home at Carlsbad By The Sea in 2005.

SUNNY VIEW Lutheran Communities and Services Sunny View Lutheran Communities and Services (Cupertino, CA) is the newest Front Porch partner, joining CLH as the second Lutheran affiliated (ELCA/LCMS) social ministry organization to choose Front Porch as the way to preserve and strengthen its mission into an uncertain future.

LUTHERAN PLANNED GIVING PARTNERSHIP In 2008, CLH remained a primary "funder" and charter member of the Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership, building stewardship across the Pacifica and Southwest California Synods.

CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION AND WELLBEING The Center was birthed by a grant from CLH in 2007. It is designed to create, support, and enhance emerging technologies in the areas of health and residential services. The Center is involved in building public-private partnerships to fulfill its mission. Front Porch continues to breathe new life into what CLH has done well for more than sixty years. The Church can rest assured that the CLH future has been secured for decades to come, at a time when many are wrestling with survival.

Robert Chillison, Board Chair
President/CEO

The Rev. Gary L. Wheeler,

<i>Audited Financial Statements</i>	<i>3-31-2008</i>	<i>3-31-2007</i>
• Total Assets:		
California Lutheran Homes	\$ 8,550,264	\$ 9,027,209
Front Porch and Affiliates	\$ 540,077,000	\$ 425,259,000



In April of 1958, CLEF, (California Lutheran Education Foundation) appealed to the congregations of California saying, *"We in the West have the privilege of helping to create a new college. It is an investment in our Church, our Community, our Nation, and our Youth. If we move forward together we cannot fail; if we do not we cannot succeed."* We have succeeded and along the way gained new partnership with congregations throughout Region 2. Now on the verge of our 50th anniversary California Lutheran University is proud of the partnership in ministry that has grown through the years, and looks forward to the next 50 years as we serve the youth of *"our Church, our Community, and our Nation."*

In the early days of this ministry cooperation took hard work. CLEF brought together congregations of the ELC, UELC, ULCA, Augustana and ALC church bodies. In many ways their efforts were unprecedented. Funding for the ministry of California Lutheran College came from national and district church budgets and congregational benevolence. The UELC even asked for \$5 from each confirmed member! Together they formed a partnership called the "fair share goal." It is that partnership of congregations and their ownership of CLC that has brought us to today.

This past September the largest freshman class in CLU's history arrived on campus. Applications for fall have exceeded last year by 31%. Our students come from 44 states and 54 countries. 91% of our students share \$17.1 million dollars in financial assistance. We have come a long way from those students who began in the chicken coops of the Pederson ranch. Our reach has extended far beyond the Conejo Valley and our alumni serve the church, communities, nation and world.

This past September I accepted the call to serve as the Director of Church Relations. It is a position I accepted in large part because of the commitment of President Chris Kimball that CLU is university of the Church. As an ELCA pastor since 1985 and a graduate of Lutheran institutions of higher learning I am convinced of the importance of the ministry of our 28 colleges and universities. I am privileged to be able to join with you in this partnership that is making such a difference for our students but also for our Church.

We know how CLU has benefited from the support of Lutheran congregations. That partnership began so long ago continues and CLU will always understand itself as YOUR University. As we begin the celebration of our first half-century we ask that you continue to remember CLU as a resource for your congregation as well as a partner with you in sharing the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you,
Rev. Arne Bergland, Director of Church Relations
California Lutheran University



March 2009

Inter-Lutheran Emergency Response Team (I-LERT)

Each judicatory office participated in the Great Southern California Shakeout, part of the state's annual emergency preparedness exercise, by following earthquake procedures and implementing their emergency plan. This afforded them the opportunity to demonstrate their preparedness training, review and practice their plan. Areas of deficiency were noted and are being addressed.

Under the leadership of LSS-SW's staff, I-LERT developed a strategic plan for 2009 that involves establishing and training county I-LERTs. These teams will be able to respond in their geographic regions in a pre-planned and coordinated effort. They will be connected to LDR and its partners in their region. Two training dates are scheduled—September 12 and 26, 2009. To learn more about I-LERT's strategic plan or volunteer to join a local team, stop by the LDR table and attend the workshop, *God's Work, Our Hands: Responding to Disasters*.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)

LDR and its affiliates thank God for the partnership with the congregations in the synods and districts throughout the nation. Without your financial support, prayers and commitment to service, we would not exist. We do God's work through your hands.

In 2008, San Diego County 2007 fire survivors received \$83, 804 in services from Lutheran resources and \$221,591 in services from all sources since October 2007. Services are still being provided to 2007 fire survivors.

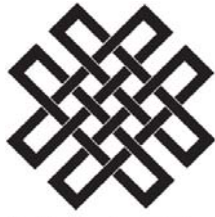
Did you know that LDR relies solely on donations to provide the resources needed for disaster preparedness and response work? Your help is urgently needed. By making a contribution to LDR, you can be a blessing to disaster survivors as they rebuild their lives. Donations may be made at www.ldr.org/donate or sent to Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. You may also donate by phone at (800) 638-3522 or through your synod or district office.

Disaster Services Division - Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW)

LSS-SW actively participates in local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) and is viewed as a key faith-based provider of disaster preparedness and response services. The agency was asked to represent the Lutheran community and serve as disaster response experts in the formation of a San Diego Faith-based Coalition to more effectively respond to disasters. Staff facilitated a national ELCA Consultation on Disaster Preparedness for the Poor that developed initial plans for serving this vulnerable population.

The agency provides a dynamic competency-based training program that enables congregations, groups and community organizations to develop effective strategies for preparing and responding to disasters within their communities and nationally. Staff conducted 26 preparedness trainings or workshops with more than 600 participants and 56 congregations or community groups represented. If your congregation has not taken advantage of this program, stop by the LDR table to get more information and sign-up for a training session. **"It is better to have a plan that you don't need, than to need a plan you don't have."**

Respectfully Submitted,
Tempie D. Beaman, LDR Coordinator



Lutheran Association
of Christian Educators

2008 Report for Region 2 from the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators

The Lutheran Association of Christian Educators (LACE) is an independent organization recognized by the ELCA. It was established as a non-profit organization in 1995. LACE is an organization created for individuals who serve in the areas of adult education, youth and family ministries, confirmation ministries, and children's ministries and are interested in lifelong faith development. Volunteers, pastors, youth directors, children's directors, parents, grandparents are invited to become a part of the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators. For more information please go to our website at www.faithfulteaching.org.

LACE consists of individual members and congregational memberships. In some areas of Region 2, like the state of California, there are chapters. Chapters are LACE members that get together and share faith stories, resources, and support each other. Each LACE Chapter is required to have at least two members from different congregations and meet together at least four times a year. Chapter meetings consist of resource sharing, prayer time together, devotions and lots of laughter and fun. Chapters offer informative workshops that encourage Christian educators to keep researching, to keep developing and nurturing their own faith life and to encourage one another along the way. San Diego area chapters are sponsoring the Fifth Annual Christian Educators Training Event on September 19, 2009 at the Pacifica Synod offices in Santa Ana. Watch for further details on the website and in the mail.

Each year LACE recognizes an outstanding Christian educator. The recipient of the 2008 LACE Educator of the Year Award is Teresa Kaldor. Teresa is the Christian Education Team Leader at Calvary Lutheran Church in Solana Beach, California. LACE President Diane Shallue presented the award to Teresa on January 30, 2009 at the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in New Orleans. Teresa was chosen for her active leadership in the field of Christian Education. She began her work in Christian education by volunteering to help with Vacation Bible School when her son was four years old. Eventually, she became the Director of Christian Education at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Indianapolis, Indiana before moving to southern California. In her current congregation, she also serves on the Protection of Minors Committee (which designs and promotes safety protocol and training.) Teresa is also a part of the Vision Team (which is bringing a more youth and family oriented vision to Calvary Lutheran.) She also participates in the Small Group Ministry subcommittee. Teresa is passionate about helping families nurture their children's faith; cross-generational learning opportunities, and still loves working with Vacation Bible School.

LACE members are spread out across Region 2 with the highest concentration in the state of California and with growing numbers in Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico.

Respectfully submitted by
Patty Stroup
Lutheran Association of Christian Educators Region 2 Representative



LUTHERAN OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY – CALIFORNIA

1701 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95811 (916) 447-6666 FAX (916) 447-6668
director@loppca.org www.loppca.org www.elca.org/advocacy

Compassionate God, Use Our Hands . . . In 2009, the Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California (LOPP) marks the 25th year of service as a ministry of public policy education and advocacy, operating as a partnership of the Pacifica, Sierra Pacific, and Southwest California Synods, and the ELCA's Church in Society Program Unit. Founded as the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry in 1984, under the theme of *Set Free to Serve*, our hands (and voices) are joined in a common effort to participate in the public arena with and on behalf of "the least of these," those who experience poverty, discrimination, and violence. Our freedom in Christ and our gratitude for God's redemptive love impel us to embrace the Gospel values of equity, harmony, healing, restoration, and reconciliation. Our mission, guided by official ELCA social statements and messages, is to serve the church as we step forward together as a "public church which witnesses boldly to God's love for all the God has created" (a strategic direction of the ELCA).

The state budget and three statewide elections, with numerous ballot propositions, defined most of the work of LOPP in 2008. LOPP provided ballot analysis and selected recommendations (opposing measures which threatened housing and state funding for programs serving people in poverty). The ongoing structural state budget deficit was already eroding health and human services – the safety net for the poor and people with special needs – when the economic recession accelerated in the fall, shortly after a record-setting budget stalemate. Facing an estimated \$42 billion gap between projected revenue and expenditures for the next 18 months, a special session of the Legislature reached a controversial February agreement that included spending cuts, tax increases, and borrowing, and a special election on May 19. Protecting health and human services and the safety net (including housing and nutrition programs) is an even more urgent priority for LOPP in 2009. The links between poverty, crime, and violence, and California's costly, overcrowded prison system, are getting attention from LOPP and others as the ELCA moves to develop a new social statement on criminal justice. The anticipated revision of the ELCA social message on immigration is also expected to give further policy guidance on an important issue. Care for creation receives ongoing attention, especially in the area of climate change and green jobs. We were pleased to support passage of the landmark SB 375 in 2008, which links carbon reduction goals with land use and transportation planning.

LOPP operated in 2008 with a budget of about \$130,500, of which \$105,700 was provided by the ELCA Church in Society Program Unit (primarily ELCA Hunger Program funds allocated to address systemic causes of hunger and poverty). In 2008, Pacifica Synod's partnership support was \$7,626. Sierra Pacific Synod (\$6,000), Southwest California Synod (\$6,953), and congregational, Women of the ELCA, and individual gifts make up the balance. Churchwide Hunger Program support has been reduced by 50% in 2009, the LOPP director position was reduced from full time to half time beginning May 1, and operating expenses are being curtailed. Larry Dodson (Chair), Kaz Oshiki, Rev. Michael Hagenow, and Rev. Bill Radatz represent Pacifica Synod on the LOPP Policy Council. Rev. Gordon Peterson is the synod staff representative, and Violet Quist represents Pacifica Women of the ELCA. Thanks be to God for this faithful support and participation! The director and Policy Council welcome invitations to your congregation, and your visits to the State Capitol.

Compassionate God, Use Our Hands as we share your love and care for our neighbors and all of your creation through deeds of mercy and justice. – Respectfully submitted, *Mark E. Carlson*, Director

Administrative Office P.O. Box 3288, Camarillo, CA 93011 (818) 243.8700

El Camino Pines 11900 Frontier Road, Frazier Park, CA 93225 (661) 245.3519

YOLIJWA 39136 Harris Road, Oak Glen, CA 92399 (909) 797.9183



Report to the Synod 2009

A few simple words. Amazing to believe that a young life was forever changed...at camp!

“Mom, I’ve gone to church my whole life, and I always knew there was a God, but now...it’s like I have a personal faith in the Lord now. It’s like, now I get it.” - 2008 summer camper

This short quote from a letter from a mom in Long Beach pretty much sums up why we at LRCC (YOLIJWA, Luther Glen Conference Center, El Camino Pines, Day camps, Beach Camps, etc...) do what we do! Our programs are designed with great care to assist parents and strengthen the ministry of our congregations here in Southern California.

It is our philosophy that we miss the mark if a camper returns home after an adventure with LRCC and is not energized in a new way. Energized in their faith! Energized to be a more active and faithful member for their home community and church. Energized to live as a beloved, forgiven and sent child of God!

Now, more than ever, young people must have a place like camp to retreat to...to spend real time having fun outdoors (not in front of the TV or computer screen), a place with really bad cell phone reception, and a place where they can grow in their relationship with God.

We are grateful to the Synod, congregations and individuals who partner with us in this ministry. The cost of camp would be well out of reach of many people if it were not for the generous gifts of our many supporters.

LRCC is more than summer camp, winter retreats and Outdoor School. We host and partner with many groups year round at both our sites. We host many churches for adults, staff or Council retreats. We host the Royal Family Kids Camp, The Rodiger Center, YMCA, Tilden Boys Group, CLU Residence Life, Deaf Camp and the Department of Children’s Services and the GEM Program.

Lives have been touched, faith is being passed on, and young people have a place and time apart to develop a deeper relationship with God. We are committed to offering the strongest Christ-centered camping programs anywhere. We will not have the fanciest cabins, the biggest pool, the greenest irrigated fields.... we are dedicated, however, to insuring an experience like no other to help strengthen faith, provide people the opportunity to discover their unique gifts, and deepen their relationship with God.

Thanks again for helping to make the camping experience possible for so many!

Peace!

Anthony Briggs, Executive Director

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California

Founded in 1946, Lutheran Social Services of Southern California, a social service agency of LC-MS and ELCA churches in southern California, has been reaching out to people in need, as it “celebrates the love of Christ for all people through acts of service”.

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California currently provides direct services for low income and homeless individuals and families in seven area offices and several more sub offices in six counties, from Ventura County to San Diego County. The services include emergency assistance, including food pantries and rental assistance; employment assistance; homeless services; mental health counseling; minor home repair programs for seniors; senior companion programs; transitional housing for women and children and veterans outreach and support. A day program for people with developmental disabilities operates in Pasadena.

While many of our area offices have grown in their ability to serve more people, others have had to shrink, due to budget constraints. We have seen an increase of at least one-third or more hungry people coming to our food pantries just in the past three months. Although we have been able to serve the great majority of them, with the assistance of local food banks and the generosity of churches and retail food stores and restaurants, the food is often gone by Thursday. Some of our food pantries have reduced their hours to four days a week. We have been able to connect veterans with jobs and job training in Van Nuys. We have helped seniors get their homes repaired inside and their yards cleaned up. We have helped families stay together through our counseling programs. We have given some homeless individuals and families a place to stay overnight and help to connect with public programs to help them with money and medical care.

This past year, LSS/SC has visited many Lutheran churches to share information about our work and to request help supporting our mission. We have a new web page, lsssc.org, where anyone can see what we are doing and where we are doing it, can read news about us and our programs, and even donate online. The Rev. Bob Warren served us well in these areas. In mid February, the Board of LSS/SC appointed Patricia Digre interim President of the agency, upon the resignation of Rev. Warren. Having served previously on the board, and more recently as Program Administrator for LSS, Pat’s many years of social work experience at the administrative level makes her a good fit for the agency during this time of transition.

On a final note, we would like to express our deep gratitude to all those who have volunteered their help to LSS/SC. We have been constantly encouraged by those who come forward willingly to give their time and their talents to help others. Although times are very difficult in the present economic climate, we have seen an increased spirit of giving of time and resources that heartens us as we seek to move forward in fulfillment of our vision that “all people will have the opportunity to live and work in a community with dignity and hope.”



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Report to the Pacifica Synod Assembly from the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA

The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA continues to serve this synod by providing vital loans for capital projects to new mission congregations, established congregations, and ELCA-related ministries. MIF is able to fund these loans through the sale of investments to ministries and congregation members.

More than **800 MIF loans** totaling nearly **\$500 million** are at work today in ELCA ministries throughout the United States, the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean.

In the Pacifica Synod, 19 congregations and ministries currently have Mission Investment Fund loans totaling \$14,786,617, while many individuals, ministries and the synod have investments in the fund totaling \$10,695,470.*

MIF serves ELCA ministries. In addition to the ministry loans and investments that it offers, the fund provides consulting services to ELCA congregations through its church building consultants and staff architects. The consultants review plans for building projects and assist with church construction financing. Staff architects provide initial schematic design proposals that congregations can take to local architects. The consultants and architects' services are provided **at no charge**. MIF's area representatives are available to meet with congregations and ELCA-related ministries related regarding the loan and investment opportunities offered by the fund.

Has your congregation invested? Have members of your congregation invested? Join the thousands of individuals, ELCA congregations, ELCA-related ministries, and synods – [including our synod] – that are earning interest on their investments as they help to build the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Your participation enables the fund to continue this vital ministry. A variety of fixed- and adjustable-rate investment opportunities are available and may be opened with initial investments of as low as \$5. Information on investments and ministry loans is available at www.elca.org/mif and through the fund's representatives listed below who serve this synod.

Thank you for your support of and participation in the Mission Investment Fund. It is a joy to work in partnership with you for the advancement of God's kingdom.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Thomas A. Dudley
MIF Area Representative
619.750.6271
Thomas.Dudley@elca.org

Carol Schneider
MIF Church Building Consultant
602.957.5288
Carol.Schneider@elca.org

* as of January 31, 2009

Greetings from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary!



Dear Friends in the Pacifica Synod,

Our mission at PLTS is to equip and prepare strong leaders for the church, so that together we can all become more and more faithful, wise, passionate disciples of Jesus Christ reaching out in love to the world.

We are filled with gratitude when we think of our friends and partners in the Pacifica Synod who continue to send us the most amazing students, receive our graduates as your pastors and lay leaders, and continue to support us generously even in these difficult financial times. We invite you to celebrate how PLTS is living into its promise as **Abundant, Bold, and Connected.**

Abundant!

- Faith that grounds us and abiding trust in God's rich blessings
- 160 outstanding candidates for ministry in our residential and TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministry) programs
- Strong, diverse, committed faculty with three new members in the last three years
- A record of financial health through the last three years that continues in spite of the economic challenges we all are facing
- A magnificent campus with exciting plans for renovation

Bold!

- Making the connection in every course between Lutheran identity, multiculturalism, religious pluralism, and justice in the public sphere
- Innovative TEEM program providing theological education to ministry leaders across the nation
- Partnership with ten ecumenical and interfaith schools of the Graduate Theological Union

Connected to you in the Pacifica Synod!

- Through the Lutheran faith tradition and our common context in the West
- Through the **102 PLTS alums** who serve in the Pacifica Synod
- Through Board Members **Pastor Tim Phillips** and **Bishop Murray Finck**
- Through financial support from the Pacifica Synod and from **67% of the congregations** in the Pacifica Synod
- Through **Professor Tom Rogers**, who serves on the roster of the Pacifica Synod, and other faculty and staff who come to teach, preach and visit among you

Thank you for your share in this important work!

The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Anderson
President

Report to Synod Assemblies ELCA Region 2

The five synods of Region 2 (Sierra Pacific, Southwest CA, Pacifica, Grand Canyon and Rocky Mt.) continue to work very collaboratively as they seek to serve and proclaim the good news of the Gospel throughout the southwest.

There is much to celebrate in our partnership together:

- ◆ The synods of Region 2 are engaged in the building of a regional strategy for outreach. We work in partnership with EOCM to do interviews of potential mission developers. Our directors of evangelical mission in each synod work together in planning and supporting new ministries.
- ◆ Our regional First Call Theological Education events continue to flourish, as we focus this year on adaptive leadership and the call to be good stewards of all of God's gifts.
- ◆ This year we will once again have a global mission/hunger consultation, happening in the fall.
- ◆ We offer two mobility conferences a year, in which rostered leaders interested in seeking a call in region 2 have an opportunity to meet and talk with bishops and staff from all five synods.
- ◆ We are in the planning stages for next Feb. retreat for bishops and staff, one part of our work to nurture that network, and support our synodical leaders.

Much of the role and purpose of the region is not about doing programs, but in deepening and strengthening relationships. It is through those relationships that ministry is enhanced, faith is strengthened, and the message of God's wondrous love through Jesus Christ is proclaimed to a weary world.

And that indeed is something to celebrate!

Margy Schmitt Ajer, diaconal minister
Region 2 Coordinator for Ministry Leadership