

The Rev. Murray D. Finck

Bishop ♦ Pacifica Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Murray Dale Finck (born April 15, 1949 in Saint Charles, Missouri) was elected to the office of Pacifica Synod bishop at the synod assembly in May 1998. As bishop, he is the leader of 127 congregations and some 60,000 baptized members in Southern California and Hawaii. Currently serving his second term, he is one of 65 synodical bishops in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

From 1993 to 1998, Finck served the Pacifica Synod as Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Pastoral Care with now-retired Bishop Robert L. Miller. Before that he was senior pastor at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Garden Grove, California. (1986-1993); associate pastor at Hope Lutheran Church in Fresno, California (1983-1986); and pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Los Baños, California (1975-1983). He also was a church developer in Tollhouse, California, and a church builder in Togo, West Africa.

Finck is a 1975 graduate of Concordia Seminary–Seminex in St. Louis, Missouri where he earned his Masters of Divinity. His Bachelor of Arts degree, conferred in 1971, is from Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Finck began special training in congregational leadership in 1979 and has been conducting parish-planning consultations, workshops, seminars and retreats for nearly three decades. In 2005, he authored *Stretch and Pray, A Daily Discipline for Physical and Spiritual Wellness* (Augsburg Books). A DVD edition was released in 2006.

Finck has traveled extensively in North America, Europe, West and East Africa, Russia and Ukraine, parts of the Middle East, Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand, studying and teaching abroad, as well as leading and participating in overseas pilgrimages. His leisure pursuits include woodworking, river rafting, backpacking, trekking, and mountain climbing.

He and his spouse, Rhoda Marie (Etzold) Finck have been married for nearly 37 years. Their home is in Anaheim, California. They have three children...Erin Marie Farnaes, a speech pathologist in San Diego, California (Spouse—Malte Farnaes and grandchildren, Helena and Erik Farnaes)...Annie Elisa Finck, a registered nurse working in ICU at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, California...Adam Micah Finck, Director of Mission with the Invisible Children NGO, working between San Diego, California and Gula, Uganda.

