

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Ecumenical Ministry Team

*“To equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ.”
Ephesians 4:12*

The Ecumenical Ministry Team is focused on these major areas with our ecumenical partners:

- Meetings with members from the Ecumenical Advisory Team (Affectionately known as the EAT team! See names of ecumenical partners below).
- Planning the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity worship liturgy (NOTE: Week of Prayer is always, January 18-25).
- Encouraging participation in local communities for ecumenical partners to worship together at several Taize Prayer Services in Orange County: Northern Orange County on the 1st Thursday of each month and on each Thursday during Lent at 7:30 pm at the Sisters of St. Joseph – Sacred Heart Chapel, 480 S. Batavia, Orange, 714-744-3175 or www.thecsd.com. Southern Orange County on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at St. George’s Episcopal Church, 23802 Avenida de la Carlota, Laguna Hills, 949-837-4530.
- National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU) at the Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, May 8-11. NOTE: NWCU in 2007 will be in Washington, DC, January 29 – February 1.
- Participation with LERN (Lutheran Ecumenical Representatives Network) and LARC (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic).

For 2006 and beyond, we encourage more local participation with our ecumenical partners. There are ecumenical councils in the Inland Empire, Hawaii, Orange County, and San Diego.

For 2006 and beyond, we will encourage more ecumenical news articles for the Pacifica Synod newsletter and Website. See ECU NOTES at www.pacificasynod.org. Click on Ministry Teams. (Send articles and digital photos to: Lori Seargeant, lseargeant@aol.com.)

For 2006 and beyond, we will explore peace and social justice issues.

Ecumenical Ministry Team members: The Rev. Albert Ogle, Episcopalian; The Rev. Charles Lopez, Jr, Lutherans (ELCA); The Rev. Rafael Luevano and Ms. Renate Goutier, Roman Catholic; and The Rev. Rebecca Prichard, Presbyterian (USA).

The Bishops and Executives also participate in the Ecumenical Ministry Team: Bishop Tod Brown, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange; Bishop Murray Finck, The Pacifica Synod of the ELCA; Bishop J. Jon Bruno, The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Los Angeles; and The Rev. Steve Yamaguchi, The Presbytery of Los Ranchos, Presbyterian Church (USA).

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Charles J. Lopez, Jr.

Global Missions Ministry Team

This ministry team is passionate about Jesus’ Great Commission by:

- Supporting our ELCA accompaniment model for global mission;
- Promoting our Global Mission Events, last summer in Fargo (July 14-17) and Baltimore (August 25-28) and this summer in Amherst, Massachusetts (July 27-30, 2006);
- Encouraging congregations to be in the Missionary Covenant Program to link you with a specific ELCA missionary, especially with our Pacifica Synod members, Louis and Mytch

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Dorvilier in Senegal and David and Carla Schick in the Slovak Republic. Some of you are also supporting Tim and Holly Nelson in Cameroon or Jim and Judy Bangsund in Tanzania;

- At the 2005 Synod Assembly our synod set a goal of raising \$100,000 in 2006 for ELCA missionary support!;
- Sharing stories of what Pacifica congregations are doing in global mission, including doing short-term mission trips and supporting mission organizations such as the World Mission Prayer League (Karen Merkel, Pacifica Southwest Regional Coordinator) and Lutheran Bible Translators;
- Coordinating the “journey” through our synod of the Holy Land Communion Ware and the accompanying advocacy “Peace Not Walls”;
- Working with the Companion Synod Ministry Team in connecting us with Ethiopia (South West Synod) and East Malaysia;
- Coordinating efforts with other global mission leaders in Region 2 in a once-a-year meeting;
- Raising awareness that our synod’s global mission work includes witness to people in southern California, Hawaii and at the border with Mexico.

We invite you to stop by the Global Mission display table and pick up some “freebies” to help you pray for, learn about, support and be a partner in Christ’s call to be his witnesses “to the ends of the earth.” Also, you are invited to come to one or both of the workshops that we are leading at this assembly. Let us know if you have these same passions; we’d like you to join us on this ministry team. http://www.pacificasynod.org/Global_Missions.htm

Steve Herder (sinherder@aol.com, 562-587-4941)

Hunger and Housing Ministry Team

This ministry team supports congregation efforts in education and advocacy on behalf of poor and hungry people in our synod, in the United States, and around the world. Efforts of this team include:

- Working closely with Transformational World Opportunities and its director Bill Radatz on education, awareness, and service trips into Mexico, including the January 2006 conference “Developing Hearts that Yearn for Justice” in Tijuana;
- Advocating support for the Jubilee movement, canceling the debt of the world’s poorest countries;
- Providing speakers and guest preachers to all congregations when requested;
- Sending representatives to the 2005 ELCA hunger leaders meeting in Fargo, ND;
- Endorsing domestic hunger grant applications from four ministries within our synod;
- Seeking to establish a Hunger Contact Person in each congregation of the Pacifica Synod who will help to carry out the objectives of the ELCA Hunger Program;
- Sharing resources developed by Pacifica congregations, and by the ELCA and other partners;
- Reaching out to Pacifica congregations to learn about, support, and share in their education and advocacy efforts for hungry and homeless people.



This ministry team meets about four times a year, usually in San Marcos. It’s always an energizing time of discussion, prayer and planning. We invite you to join us and to visit the display tables at the synod assembly.

Co-chairs Herman VandenBosch and Elizabeth Corrow (ecorrow@san.rr.com, 619-985-6532)

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Immigration/Border Concerns Ministry Team

The charge of this ministry team is to encourage and facilitate congregations of our synod to be welcoming and safe places for immigrants among us, and to be advocates for fair and compassionate policies, practices and protections for immigrants both nationally and globally. Our most recent synod gathering in San Diego carried a special focus on immigration—with a workshop at the border with 65 attending, a pre-gathering overnight opportunity in Mexico, and a booth with resources for information, worship, and advocacy. We again co-sponsored the ecumenical Christmas “Posada Sin Fronteras” event at the border fence, recognizing the nearly 4000 immigrant deaths that have occurred over the past 10 years at our border with Mexico.

The Ministry Team seeks to maintain strong relationships with other faith partners in our role in advocating for immigrants. This past year we participated in the California Immigrant Lobby Day, and the national Ecumenical Advocacy Days. We maintain strong ties with and encourage congregations to keep communications with: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (www.lirs.org), The Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights (www.icir.icg.org), La Frontera Ministries, Transformational World Opportunities (<http://web.mac.com/twobill>), and Survivors of Torture, International (www.notorture.org). You can reach the Ministry Team chairperson at 619-575-2845 for information, resources, and questions.

Respectfully Submitted, Bill Radatz, Chair

Youth and Family Leadership Development Ministry Team

The youth and family leadership development of the Pacifica Synod consists of three major areas:

- Networking of Youth Ministers
- Leadership training of Youth Ministers and Youth
- Consultations and Communications with congregations and Youth Ministers

Networking of Youth Ministers

There are four networks that meet monthly:

Orange County Network meets on the third Thursday at the Spaghetti Factory in Fullerton at Noon led by Pastor Judi Miller. This network coordinates a youth rally called “IT” which hosts almost 400 youth for a day with games, youth bands and worship.

North Network meets on Tuesday afternoons at 3:00pm at the Carrows in Banning led by Pastor Tony Scheer. This network went to the Western States Youth Gathering together. They also do a 30 hour famine together and many other trips and retreats.

Central Network led by Ron Stebenne meets on the second Wednesdays of the month at 11:30am at the IHOP in Escondido. They coordinate the Peer Ministry Training and have had regular worship times together in 2005.

South Network led by Blanche Holland meets at Noon on Thursdays at the Baker’s Square in LaMesa. The network has regular meetings called High T.I.D.E. which include worship experiences, service projects and fun outings.

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Leadership Training of Youth Ministers and Youth:

The Peer Ministry retreat was held in March. The "YMT" Youth Ministry Training and the "ITS" Invitation To Service are held every August for three days at CLU. The Extravaganza is a national Lutheran Youth Minister Training held in Orange County last year. There is also a middle school gathering which has training components.

Communication and Consultation:

Pastor Rick Schowalter sends e-mails out to over 90 youth ministers about the latest in resources and events for youth ministers several times each month. Many congregations use this list to post job openings for youth ministers. Pastor Schowalter is also available to meet with churches in consultation about their youth and family ministry needs.



Stewardship Development Ministry Team

Mission

To provide opportunities and events for Stewardship education and growth for the Congregations and individuals of the Pacifica Synod.

Responsibilities:

1. To encourage and equip each of the synod's congregations and their leadership to promote stewardship as a way of life.
2. Facilitate the practice of first fruits percentage giving of financial resources from individuals and congregations.
3. Facilitate a vision of stewardship that engages the resources of time, talent and spiritual gifts.
4. To provide training, interpretation, resources and support for stewardship leaders in congregations of the synod.
5. To develop and promote resources that allow congregations to embrace the overall mission of the Pacifica Synod and the ELCA.

Action Plan for 2005 - 2006:

- < Conduct StewardShops in an effort to define the resources available to congregation leaders and to encourage broad participation in the ministry of stewardship among our congregations.
- < Begin development of StewardShops for 2006 which focus on the year's church-wide Stewardship campaign. These will be provided to assist congregations with their annual campaign, and to help them to define year-around stewardship education in their congregations.
- < Continue to assimilate downloadable resource material on the Synod Web page to place needed tools and training at the fingertips of Stewardship Leaders throughout the Synod.
- < Encourage congregation stewardship leaders to contact the team or Synod for information and resources needed in their local programs.
- < With the assistance of Synod staff and leadership, conduct face-to-face consultation with the leaders of each congregation. Consultations will lift up the work and ministry of the greater church and challenge congregations to stretch their Mission Support giving to the Pacifica Synod/ELCA.

Congregation Action: Congregations/conferences should contact Tom Dudley to schedule StewardShops in your local area.

The Team: Jack Pavelich, Leader; Charon Schalge, Synod Mission Interpreter; Tom Dudley, Resource - Stewardship Consultant; Lyle Peterson, Resource - Pacifica Synod Staff



California Lutheran Homes
and Community Services

SYNODICAL ASSEMBLY REPORT - 2006



Meeting needs through excellence in human services

... the front porch difference

Now in its eighth year, Front Porch, created by California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services* and two other long-standing not-for-profit organizations in 1999 to assure (a) effective service delivery and (b) that not-for-profit organizations not only **do good**, but also **do well**, has been joined in various ways by three other not-for-profit organizations/systems: National Housing Ministries, Sunny View Lutheran Communities and Services, and Brookmore Housing Corporation.

Front Porch is designed as an arena for not-for-profit organizations to preserve, strengthen and expand their missions and build much needed financial and management capacity without losing their corporate status, religious affiliations, identities, or constituent bases.

Today, the Front Porch system has grown to include eight organizations directly utilizing Front Porch as their parent system and 15 other not for profit organizations utilizing Front Porch as their management agent.

Front Porch is Southern California's largest nonprofit provider of senior living communities and skilled nursing facilities. 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 retirement communities in Louisiana and Florida. The Front Porch affiliate, CARING Housing Ministries, manages 30 affordable housing communities in California and Arizona.

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 Center for Spirituality 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 and ethics in long-term care. To the Church community, through a program called *Elder Ministry in the Congregation*, the Center offers to congregations a vision of elder ministry where older persons are truly valued for their gifts of character, experience and personal contributions. To the wider long-term-care community, the Center offers the encouragement needed to tend to the essentially spiritual nature of older persons and not merely to their physical and social needs. The Center's director, The Rev. Donald R. Koepke, has distinguished himself and the work of California Lutheran Homes through a recently published book, *Ministering to Older Adults* (The Haworth Pastoral Press).

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 Synodical 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 30 affordable housing communities serving the elderly, low income families, persons with developmental disabilities, and persons with chronic mental illness. CLH and Front Porch are currently working with Lutheran congregations in Santa Barbara, Northridge and Arcadia 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 found a permanent home at Carlsbad By The Sea in 2005.

SUNNY VIEW MANOR and SUNNY VIEW WEST On January 1, 2003, Sunny View Lutheran Communities and Services (Cupertino, CA) became the newest Front Porch partner, joining CLH as the second Lutheran affiliated and recognized social ministry organization to choose Front Porch as the way to preserve and strengthen its mission into an uncertain future. During 2005, re-structuring of the Sunny View partnership led to a strengthened mission.

LUTHERAN PLANNED GIVING PARTNERSHIP In 2005, CLH remained a primary “funder” and charter member of the *Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership*, building stewardship across the Pacific and Southwest California Synods. Recognizing the essential nature of philanthropy in making service delivery possible to those with the “least,” CLH retains its participation in the Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership in large part to assure that smaller Lutheran organizations have a deferred giving capacity that would not be available if the Partnership did not exist.

WALNUT MANOR RE-DEVELOPMENT In 2005, the effort to re-develop Walnut Manor (Anaheim) continued. Over the next several years, the Walnut Manor campus will be re-built and emerge as Walnut Village.

The Board of Directors for California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services* thanks those individuals in the Church who have understood and supported the need for significant change in how ministry among and to persons who are aging will be accomplished in the years ahead.

Front Porch continues to breathe new life into what CLH has done well for fifty-nine 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*

The Rev. Gary L. Wheeler, *President/CEO*

<u>Audited Financial Statements</u>		<u>3-31-2005</u>	<u>3-31-2004</u>
• Total Assets:			
California Lutheran Homes	\$	7,311,542	7,281,939
Front Porch and Affiliates		381,394,000	373,789,000



- Outstanding higher education since 1959
- 36 majors, 28 minors
- Graduate programs in Education, Psychology, Counseling and Business.
- 17:1 student to teacher ratio
- 225 acre campus in a safe residential area
- New buildings and facilities with state-of-the-art equipment
- Committed to students' intellectual and spiritual growth and the development of personal character and civic values
- Championship athletic programs
- Fulfilling student life
- Formative Worship Life and Spiritual Development
- Diverse student population with students from 30 countries

I want to provide youth with the benefits of a Christian education in a day when spiritual values may well decide the course of history.
--Richard Pederson



In 1957, Richard Pederson donated his 130 acre ranch to provide a place where the vision of California Lutheran College could become a reality. Today that vision has flourished to become California Lutheran University, ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of the top 25 universities in the West.

At California Lutheran University, we teach not just academics, but vocation. Rooted in the Lutheran tradition of the Christian faith, our mission is to prepare leaders for our global society who are strong in character and judgment, confident in their identity and vocation, and committed to service and justice.

More than 300 CLU graduates have gone on to become pastors. Countless others have immersed themselves in the life of the church as AIMS, youth workers, camp counselors, camp directors, social workers, political activists, teachers, parish administrators, church musicians, etc.

Beyond the formative experience of campus life, CLU is also dedicated to being a resource for training and preparation for Lutheran congregational members and their ministries. For fifteen years CLU has hosted Invitation To Service (ITS), an annual 3-day event that helps young persons to hear and discern their call from God. For eight years the university has hosted the Youth Ministry Training Event (YMTE), another annual 3-day event which coincides with ITS. At YMTE paid and volunteer youth workers receive four levels of Youth Ministry training which covers everything from activities planning to counseling and legal issues.

Thanks to a recent gift, the Segerhammar Center for Faith and Culture was established at CLU to provide a forum for interfaith dialogue, faith formation, and conversations about ethical issues facing church and society. In the future, the university also plans to establish a Center for Parish Life which will prepare and certify students for lifelong service to the church.

PLEASE HELP US HELP! CLU needs your help to provide Summer Servant Scholarships. These scholarships will be used to help pay students' wages when they work for our camps or for non-governmental agencies such as Lutheran Social Services. Your personal or congregational gift can help make it possible to staff our camps and relief ministries with highly qualified young people who might otherwise take better-paying summer jobs out of necessity. For more information on this program, stop by the CLU display, pick up a flyer and talk to our representative, or call the CLU Church Relations Office at (805) 493-3936.

The Rev. Dr. Howard Wennes,
Interim President
California Lutheran University

ELCA Foundation/Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership 2005 Annual Report

The ELCA Foundation/Lutheran Planned Giving (LPG) Partnership of Southern California and Hawaii serves ministries of the Pacifica and Southwest California Synods, which includes 267 Lutheran Churches and 15 Lutheran Ministry Partners. Craig Smith served as the ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner and the LPG Partnership Executive Director through January 31, 2006 and is replaced by interim Rev. Keith Nelson. During this past year of ministry, he has worked with many donors who have given present and deferred asset planned gifts of property, securities, and cash totaling \$2,871,550 benefiting many Lutheran ministries. The planned gifts made during 2005 consisted of Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities, Donor Advised Funds, Outright Gifts, and Beneficiary Designations.

The LPG Partnership has provided guidance and support to many congregations, families, and individuals in the area of planned giving through living trusts, wills, and bequest planning, estate preservation, life income agreements, memorials and endowments, and outright gifting. The 15 member ministries in the partnership include:

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Pacifica Synod
- Southwest California Synod
- California Lutheran Homes and Community Services
- California Lutheran University
- Central City Lutheran Mission
- Lutheran Campus Ministry
- Lutheran Health Ministries of the Foothills
- Lutheran Maritime Ministry
- Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences
- Lutheran Schools of Southern California and Hawaii
- New City Parish
- Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- Solheim Lutheran Home
- Solvang Lutheran Home

Lutheran Planned Giving has brought together the many ministry partners in the two Synods along with the many Churchwide ministries of the ELCA. Since the inception of the LPG Partnership in October of 1998, planned gifts have reached nearly \$11,000,000.

Craig is a deployed staff member of the ELCA, paid on salary and not on commission. He has helped congregations through temple talks at services, teaching at bible studies, reaching small groups at seminars, and meeting each interested family/individual through personal visits. He has also met with several congregations regarding the establishment of Mission Endowment Funds through the ELCA Foundation and the Mission Investment Fund (MIF). In 2005, he made 41 presentations to assemblies, conferences, congregations, councils, and committees. The LPG Partnership stewardship ministry is here to serve you and the whole church, without cost or obligation, to advance God's work in this world.

"Give to Bless ... and ... Leave a Legacy for Ministry: Gifts that Nurture the Whole Church"

Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California

Stepping forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God's love for all that God has created – A strategic direction of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

California's dynamic public policy arena continues to present needs and opportunities for our church, in its varied expressions, to be engaged in ways which witness to God's love for all that God has created. The Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California is completing its 21st year of representing the institutional church – synods and the churchwide expression – in matters of public policy in California, and seeking to engage and serve congregations and members in learning about and influencing public policy. LOPP-CA is responsible for applying ELCA social statements (www.elca.org/socialstatements) and other policies of our church in our context, in a way that reflects the light of Christ and demonstrates that we are a community of believers which seeks to bring healing and the message of God's intentions for justice to a world broken by violence, poverty, disease, discrimination, and environmental degradation.

Legislation for the most part in 2005 was overshadowed by direct democracy, Governor Schwarzenegger's call for a special election, and the resulting diversion of legislative attention. All eight initiatives were defeated by voters in November, and the LOPP-CA Policy Council offered "oppose" recommendations on two measures which were judged to threaten safety net programs for people living in poverty, and funding for health, human services, and environmental protection programs generally. LOPP-CA recommended a "no" vote on one of the pharmaceutical benefit initiatives and, based on a careful interpretation of the ELCA Abortion social statement, also recommended a "no" vote on an initiative related to abortion for minors. The underlying problems which the initiatives sought to address continue to be real and urgent. Attention was also given to initial analysis of other proposed initiatives for 2006, including the Reiner preschool effort, the tobacco tax for health care, and measures related to same gender marriage, border police, sex offenders, redistricting, tax policy, and infrastructure bonds.

Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed bills increasing the minimum wage (because of indexing) and child health (projected cost in a budget deficit context), and these concerns continue to receive legislative attention. The Governor's bipartisan Million Solar Roofs initiative was supported by a broad array of organizations including LOPP-CA, but was trapped in special interest and partisan politics. The California Public Utilities Commission subsequently moved to continue and expand the solar cell subsidy program, which has and will aid congregations wishing to install photovoltaic electric systems. Toward the end of the 2005 session, a controversy arose over the taxation and marketing of flavored beer or flavored malt beverages (kiddie booze, girlie beer). LOPP-CA was part of an effort which led to a veto of an industry-sponsored bill which would have locked in the beer tax rate of 20 cents per gallon instead of the \$3.30 per gallon for distilled spirits. The issues around the tax rate, marketing, and underage drinking continue to receive attention in 2006.

The death penalty continues to be on the list of issues of concern to LOPP-CA. The Director was part of a Catholic-led, interfaith delegation which visited San Quentin, met with the warden, spoke with condemned inmates on death row, worshipped and talked with other inmates in the

chapel, and received a detailed account of the execution process while viewing the execution chamber. LOPP-CA participated in execution vigils at the Capitol and other activities.

The California Interfaith Coalition's annual Legislative Issues Briefing was held for the first time at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento. Through LOPP-CA initiative, it featured University of Alabama Law Professor Susan Pace Hamill (a theologically trained tax policy expert who spoke in 2006 to the ELCA Conference of Bishops). LOPP-CA and St. John's also provided hospitality and space to other groups which brought their concerns to the Capitol, including the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, Parent Voices, and Families to Amend California's Three Strikes. St. John's was the venue for the first Sacramento showing to legislators, staff, and advocates of the film *After Innocence*, which tells the stories of wrongly convicted inmates who are cleared by DNA evidence. LOPP-CA also helped catalyze a community event which filled a theater for a showing of *Not In Our Town – When Hate Happens Here* (Northern California), a documentary telling the story of several incidents of hate violence. LOPP-CA gave significant support to an interfaith, bipartisan public policy breakfast on global warming which drew about 280 people. The Director continues to help provide leadership as a steering committee member of California Interfaith Power & Light, an effort to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and less consumptive lifestyles. The Director of LOPP-CA continues to serve as a staff consultant to the ELCA Education Social Statement Task Force. A draft statement has been distributed and is open for comment until October 15, 2006, with a final draft to be considered at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly. LOPP-CA welcomes Lutheran groups for tours of the Capitol. For example, a small group of pastors in their First Call continuing education program spent part of a day experiencing the context of ministry at the Capitol.

The budget for LOPP in 2006 is about \$111,000, of which \$88,737 is provided by the Church in Society Program Unit of the ELCA and includes both general benevolence resources and ELCA World Hunger Appeal funds. The Pacifica Synod (about \$8,500), Southwest California Synod (\$5,800) and Sierra Pacific Synod (\$5,315), provide most of the balance, with some funds from individual, congregational, and WELCA contributions. These resources support a fulltime director, part-time support staff, a presence in California's capital, and a statewide advocacy network. Oversight is provided by a Policy Council appointed by the California ELCA bishops as well as representation from LSS agencies (John Clawson in Southern California). Rev. Karen Parker, Rev. Bill Radatz, Kaz Oshiki, and Larry Dodson currently represent the Pacifica Synod, and as this is written there is one vacancy as well as a position available to represent Pacifica Women of the ELCA.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. Carlson
Director

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA & HAWAII

Lutheran Schools of Southern California and Hawaii is a geographical network of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) and serves the 105 preschool and 22 elementary school church ministries of the combined Pacifica and Southwest California Synods.

Early childhood centers and elementary schools of LSSCH comprise a broad spectrum of schools large and small, homogeneous as well as culturally and economically diverse, self-supporting and congregation dependent. They are all active ministries of their sponsoring congregations. Many have moved beyond servicing the needs of congregation member families to an outward expression of Christ in the local community. Our schools come into contact with and minister to a community oftentimes otherwise untouched by the congregation. Supporting congregations can truly say that their schools mark their children with the cross of Christ forever.

School/congregation membership in LSSCH provides the benefits of national ELEA membership as well as personalized services from the LSSCH director based in Southwest California Synod's Glendale office. While membership is encouraged, all Lutheran schools in the two synods have access to free LSSCH services and are invited to participate in supporting each other within their mutual education ministry.

Financial support for LSSCH ministry is budgeted 60% from membership fees, 26% Pacifica and Southwest Synods, 10% grants & gifts, and 4% programs with a total budget of \$66,500.

LSSCH provides:

ECE center and school visitations and consultations
Mediation and legal counsel
Leadership in the ELEA preschool certification and elementary school accreditation processes
Convention, conference, retreat and workshop opportunities
Counsel regarding school openings, staffing, licensing and funding
Representation to Federal and State Education Departments, CAPSO, ELEA, LPGP, LSEM,
Representation to Pacifica and Southwest California Synod offices

Director activity this year has included:

Preschool and elementary school visits and consultations
Board of Directors, Lutheran High School of South Orange County
LSSCH Preschool Workshop, San Diego, Ventura, Anaheim
Board of Directors, LSSCH – Lutheran Schools of Southern California & Hawaii
Board of Directors, ELEA – Evangelical Education Association
Board of Directors, CAPSO – California Association of Private School Organizations
Board of Directors & Executive Board, LPGP – Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership
Board of Directors, LSEM – Lutheran Special Education Ministry
Fall, Winter and Spring Administrator Meetings
LSSCH Administrator Retreat, Rancho Capistrano
Event Planning – CAPSO Teacher Conference, LSSCH Teacher Conference, LSSCH Administrator Retreat, LSSCH ECE Director Gatherings, LSSCH Administrator Meetings
CAPSO Teacher Conference, Long Beach
Pacifica Leadership Training Retreat, Palm Springs and WELCA Convention, San Bernadino
Southwest California Synod Staff Retreat and Bishop's Colloquy, Santa Barbara
Synod Assemblies – Pacifica and Southwest California
SWALDE Conference, Las Vegas – Southwest Assoc. of Lutheran Development Executives
Preaching at congregation and synod services

For information regarding membership, programs and services of ELEA and LSSCH contact:

Alan Feddersen, Lutheran Schools of Southern California and Hawaii

1300 E. Colorado St., Glendale, CA 91205

Phone: 1-818-956-1485 – E-mail: afeddersen@lssch.org



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

The ELCA Mission Investment Fund provides Lutheran congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related organizations with opportunities to invest in the future of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. As these financial resources earn interest, the invested funds are used to make loans to new mission congregations for purchases of land and construction of initial church buildings, and to established ELCA congregations for purchases of land, renovation, expansion or relocation projects. The Fund is also a source of loans for capital projects for ELCA-related organizations.

Thanks to the stewardship of investors, the Fund today has over \$318 million in investments and \$500 million in total assets. More than \$335 million is currently at work in 630 loans to ELCA ministries throughout the United States, the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean.

In addition to the loans and investments that it offers, the Mission Investment Fund provides services to congregations through its church building consultants and staff architects. A congregation's relationship with the Fund usually begins with an initial meeting with a building consultant. This consultation enables the consultant to understand future plans for the ministry and provides an opportunity for congregational leaders and the consultant to explore feasible options for church construction financing and plans for building projects. The staff architects provide initial schematic design proposals for mission congregations that can then be taken to a local architect. The consultants' and architects' services are provided without charge. The Fund's Area Representatives are available to meet with congregations and ELCA-related ministries regarding loan and investment opportunities.

The participation of congregations and their members, synods and church-related organizations is vital to the future of the Fund. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Mission Investment Fund of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
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PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2006 Report to the Pacifica Synod

It is a new day at PLTS! This has been an extraordinary year of renewal and revitalization!

EXCELLENCE IN PREPARING LEADERS FOR THE CHURCH

PLTS faculty, staff, and leadership are committed to excellence in preparing leaders for the church by deepening faith, challenging the mind, expanding the heart, and energizing for mission. This year we are pleased to report:

Growth in Student Enrollment

Student enrollment has grown three years in a row, with 43 new students entering the residential program this fall, more of whom are in their twenties and early thirties. An additional 53 students from all over the country come to PLTS for intensive courses three times a year to prepare for ordained ministry through the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program (TEEM). The Lilly Endowment, Inc., awarded a grant of \$1 million to PLTS and Luther Seminary to expand and enrich the TEEM program as it becomes a Western Mission Cluster program involving both seminaries.

Enhanced Curriculum

This is the second year of a new curriculum that brings into sharper focus the practicalities of parish ministry. New required courses help students experience differing worship styles in congregations, learn from experts about legal and property issues in the parish, gain more competence in managing finances and personnel, and learn about resources for evangelism and stewardship. Our faculty is committed to teach every course through four lenses: Lutheran identity, multiculturalism, religious pluralism, and the public face of ministry in society.

EXCELLENCE IN GENERAL OPERATIONS

All sectors of the seminary community are working together to achieve a new level of operational excellence that will support and empower our faculty and students for the primary work of a seminary: preparing leaders for the church. This year we have made great progress in the following ways:

Financial Sustainability

We have taken a hard look at the financial health of the seminary in order to move toward sustainable strength and recognized abundance. Debora Ow became Director of Finance & Operations in June. She brought a new level of professionalism and competence. We have made strategic decisions to solidify our financial situation through prudent control of spending, protecting and enlarging the endowment, and regularizing procedures related to personnel, facilities, and the overall management of the institution.

Expanding Connections

We continue to look for ways to connect with the people and congregations of our eleven supporting synods and beyond. The President, Vice President for Development, and faculty are available to preach and teach in congregations. You can also follow the unfolding story of the Seminary through an online newsletter, The President's Page. Simply contact seminaryrelations@plts.edu to become a recipient. We have produced a new DVD that tells the story of PLTS. Our website is currently being overhauled and should be up and running by this summer. Check it out at www.plts.edu.

Leadership in Development

In September, Rev. Jack Niemi began as Vice President for Development. Through his leadership, the creative efforts of his staff, and the support of the president, we have increased giving to the annual fund by more than one third. We continue to implement practices and strategies that will increase our capacity to raise the funds PLTS needs to fulfill its mission. We are on the way!

Thoughtful Stewardship

The location of PLTS on nine acres atop the Berkeley hills has always been one of its most treasured assets. The Board has engaged expert counsel to determine the best use of those property assets to fulfill the mission of PLTS.

My first year as President of PLTS has been satisfying and rewarding beyond all expectations. I am grateful for the hard work and support of both staff and faculty as we honestly faced and resolved tough issues together. I have been personally empowered and encouraged by the deep sense of community and the enduring trust in God's faithfulness. There is a clear commitment to the vision and mission of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary that is Abundant, Bold, and Connected. I invite the synods, congregations, and pastors across the West to share with us in that vision. Your sustained synodical support is absolutely essential. Your advocacy on behalf of the seminary is invaluable. Spread the word:

It's a new day at PLTS!

Phyllis Anderson
President

Report to Synod Assemblies 2006 ELCA Region 2

This year has been one of ongoing development in the relationship among the synods of region 2. Most notably:

- We have moved to a regional consultation model through which we explore our shared ministry opportunities and challenges in an effort to determine where it makes sense to work together.
- We have begun the development of a regional outreach strategy, in which we consult together in planning ahead for mission development in our region.
- We have begun conversation around the issue of vocational discernment, and are experimenting with different models of helping individual discern what God is calling them to do with their lives.
- We continue to provide twice yearly mobility conferences for those rostered leaders interested in a call to our region.
- Our regional First Call Theological Education program continues to be well received and is held up as a model throughout the church.
- Our bishops and synod staff persons meet together on regular basis to share ideas and concerns, as well as to offer support and encouragement to one another.
- Because of the increase in our work together over the last several years, the regional coordinator position has been increased from quarter time to half time.

Life together is rich and rewarding throughout the synods of Region 2!

Thanks be to God,

Margy Schmitt Ajer, Diaconal Minister
Region 2 Coordinator



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January 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

St. Olaf College is a college of the whole ELCA. Voting members elected to the Churchwide Assembly elect our Board of Regents and ratify changes to our college's constitution. I hope this message is a way for you to get to know St. Olaf College better.

We at St. Olaf College are engaged in a strategic plan with the following components:

- To strengthen our nationally recognized academic program of teaching, learning, and performing by enhancing our distinguished programs in mathematics and the natural sciences

A key part of this is building a new science facility that reflects current practices of teaching science. Our new Science Complex will support the college's long-held priorities and guiding principles: interdisciplinary work; investigative learning; interaction among faculty and students; innovative education methods; and strong integration of both the liberal arts and the natural world.

- To create an inclusive community that welcomes and embraces men and women of potential and ability, regardless of background

We will continue to make progress in identifying, recruiting, and enrolling men and women of color and men and women from lower socio-economic classes so that the St. Olaf community will more closely resemble the rich diversity of God's creation, so that our educational program might be enriched by the voices of a wider range of men and women, and so that the great benefit of a St. Olaf education might be enjoyed by more people, for their good and for the good of our society.

- To plan for a sustainable economic future so that the resources needed to support the college are in line with the college's revenue.

Environmental "Sustainability" is the theme of the 2005–06 academic year — a green year on campus, with speakers, convocations, workshops and other campus-wide events planned to inform, challenge and encourage us to include our natural environment in our understanding of community, and equip us to act in ways that sustain the earth and the air and the fellow creatures with whom and among whom we live and work.

The price of a St. Olaf education is another strategic focus this year. The offices of Admissions and Financial Aid have already begun to gather data around the issues of costs, price, tuition and the distribution of financial aid.

In all of these ways we will strive to be a living example of what it means to be a distinguished community where teaching, learning and performing are informed by the life of the Gospel, for the sake of our students.

This year 2005-06 is a time of transition for St. Olaf, as you may know. Thank you for the many ways in which you have supported my work as president. Please welcome our new president with your prayers, good will, and generosity.

May God bless your deliberations in assembly.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C.M. Thomforde".

Christopher Thomforde, President