



Pacífica

Newsletter of the Pacifica Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From the Bishop</i>	2
<i>PALLMM</i>	3
<i>Parker's Kindling</i>	4
<i>Asia Experiences</i>	6
<i>Immigration/Border</i>	7
<i>I-LERT</i>	8
<i>Prayer Concerns</i>	9
<i>Board of Pensions</i>	9
<i>ELCA News</i>	10
<i>Pastoral Openings</i>	12
<i>Camping News</i>	12
<i>Notes & Notices</i>	13
<i>Dates of Interest</i>	14

2007 Synod Assembly News

by THE REV. DAVID KIEFFER ♦ Christ L.C. in Mililani, Hawaii

This is the fourth monthly column to introduce to you some of the Lutheran ministries on the Islands and also to update you on information regarding the upcoming 2007 Synod Assembly in Hawaii. For more information, please check the 2007 Synod Assembly Website at www.pacificasynod.org/Assembly.htm. This site already has airline and hotel information, tentative agenda, price packages for voting members and visitors, post-assembly cruise information and interesting Websites to visit to get more tidbits on Hawaii.

This month's congregation is a daughter church of Kauai's Lihue Lutheran. On the island of Oahu, the Lutheran Church of Honolulu (LCH) was

founded on September 9, 1900 as the Deutsch-Evangelisch-Lutherische Gemeinde zu Honolulu. The same generous Germans endowed both congregations and provided support for many years in spite of the loss of businesses and employment during World War I.

In the summer of 1916, the Rev. Dr. Arthur Hörmann, an American citizen educated in Germany, arrived to pastor the church. He served the congregation until 1946. Under Dr. Hörmann's guidance, LCH changed from a German-speaking, foreign-based congregation to an American church. Both German and English were used in the ministry until 1941, when the U.S. entered World War II and the church legally became "The Lutheran Church of Hono-

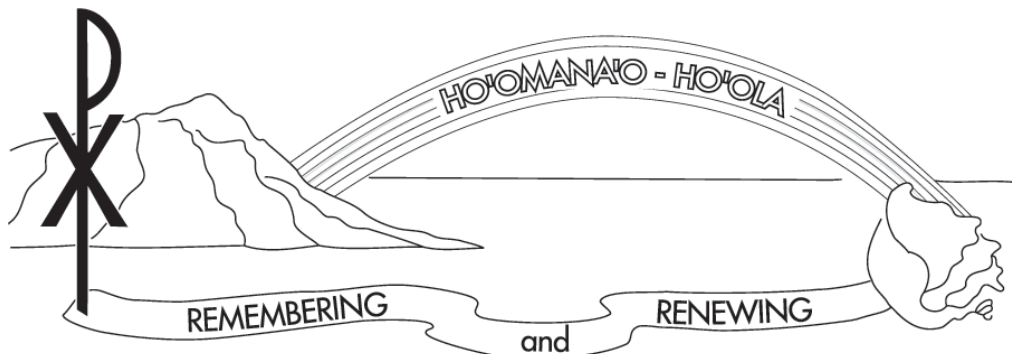
lulu."

In the late 1940s, following World War II, the Territory of Hawai'i acquired the church's first home in what is now the Hawai'i Capitol District. LCH bought its present site in Honolulu's Makiki district in 1952 and dedicated a new sanctuary and parish hall in 1953.

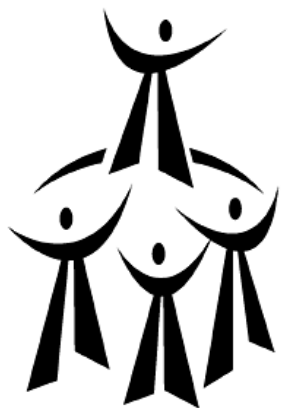
Under the leadership of Pastor Donald K. Johnson (1970-2000), LCH completely remodeled the sanctuary to enhance worship and music. A renowned music program has been created by Cantor Carl Crozier. Three choirs offer music for Sunday services, and special concerts are presented to the public on a regular schedule. An active music ministry for children is part of weekly Sunday School activities. Particu-

(Continued on page 5)

Let There Be Light!



FROM THE BISHOP



Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me. Who has announced from of old the things to come? Let them tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses! ~Isaiah 44:6-8

The Shape of Things to Come

In 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil composed the lyrics of *Shape of Things to Come*, performed by Max Frost and the Troopers and later by Paul Revere and the Raiders. It became the primary song in an album of the same title. Six times in its three verses are the words, "Nothing can change the things to come..." Woven into the lyrics is a message of hope announcing that in spite of the bleakness of those war times of dying and the tolling of bells, "...the future's comin' in, now...sweet and strong... ain't no one gonna hold it back for long... there are new dreams crowdin' out old realities..."

Speaking through the voice of Isaiah, God encouraged the people to not be afraid or fearful of what is to come. Instead Isaiah called the people to be witnesses, proclaiming God to be Ruler and Redeemer of all. Some parts of today compare to the days of Isaiah, who experienced war, invasion, conquests and a variety of threats upon the nations and the peoples of Israel and Judah. Today's world is sadly filled with violence that is escalating rather than diminishing. The shape of things today is much like that of the '60s and '70s and not so different than the days of Isaiah.

So we listen to the prophets of the past and present. Isaiah...reminding us that the Lord God, Ruler and Redeemer, is the first and the last; and that our lives, our being, our today, our tomorrow, our past, our present and our future can only be placed in the hands of God. He tells us that God will send us forth in word and deed to tell another about God's love and be public witnesses of the ways and will of God.

Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil took on a self-appointed prophetic role when they wrote that the future is coming in now "sweet and strong" as they sang, "There are changes, lyin' ahead in every road, and there are new thoughts ready and waiting to explode when tomorrow is today, the bells may toll for some, but nothing can change the shape of things to come. The future's comin' in, now..." We hear other words of prophets today, those like our President Bishop, Mark Hanson, calling us to "recover what it means to live by the Spirit's power, entrusting our whole lives to God's promised grace and mercy in Jesus."

God is in the midst of our today and tomorrow, just as God has been with us in the past. Our world is broken, suffering, hungry, hurting, fighting, impoverished. It is also a world filled with prosperity, abundance, prayers and efforts for peace, justice, equality, and hope. A future is enfolding before us. We cannot change that reality. Things to come will come. While we cannot stop the future, we may influence "the things to come" as we continue faithful proclamation and bold declarations of the ways of God, the Ruler and Redeemer of this world. We are called to be witnesses with hands and heart and feet and voice, with generosity and care, with compassion and love, with grace and mercy for all.

God bless and keep you all in this new year as we give thanks for the past, live fully in the present and walk with boldness and faithfulness into God's future.

Living each day the light of Christ,

—Murray D. Finck^t • Bishop

A Wonderful Opportunity for Our Laity

by THE REV. ESAÚL SALOMÓN ♦ Clairemont Lutheran Church in San Diego

For over a year, with much love and care, we have invited and will continue to invite our congregations to be an active part of PALLMM. Brothers and Sisters—once the people of God understand and experience what PALLMM has to offer, they look forward with eager anticipation to continuing their studies in the program. With the help of the Lord, the possibilities are endless in training and strengthening the laity.

Christ said: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Luke 10:2) The opportunities presented to us to do ministry are numerous. Our synod equips our laity for service by synodically licensing them in different areas such as: evangelism, spiritual care, Sunday school, Word and Sacrament, liturgy, stewardship, etc.

The purpose is for our laity to be able to assist in the different areas of ministry within the church and to be able to more effectively strengthen the Lord’s kingdom within the

Christian community. “But you are the chosen race, the king’s priests, the holy nation, God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, who called you out of darkness into his own marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

During 2006 we were overjoyed to have on average 8-12 people in our program with representation from seven congregations in San Diego, including Temecula and Escondido. Five instructors taught the following courses: Theology of the Cross, How to Teach Sunday School, Introduction to the New Testament, Christology and Lutheran Confessions. The instructors are pastors, university professors, or professors from our seminaries. The classes are monolingual (English or Spanish) or bilingual (English and Spanish) depending upon the language abilities of the instructors.

Each course offering for 2007 will be held on four consecutive Mondays at Clairemont Lutheran Church, San Diego. Please refer to the chart below for course titles, start and end dates, hour of day and instructors.



2007 PALLMM SCHEDULE

Course	Start Date	End Date	Time	Instructor
Lutheran Liturgy	Jan. 15	Feb. 5	6-9 p.m.	Rellefson (E)
Introduction to the Old Testament	Feb. 26	Mar. 19	6-9 p.m.	TBA (E)
Preaching	Apr. 16,	May 7	6-9 p.m.	Taylor (E)
Law & Gospel	May 21	June 18	6-9 p.m.	Salomón (S)
The Gospels	Sept. 10	Oct. 1	6-9 p.m.	Kirkegaard (E)
The Pentateuch	Oct. 15	Nov. 5	6-9 p.m.	Schowalter (E)

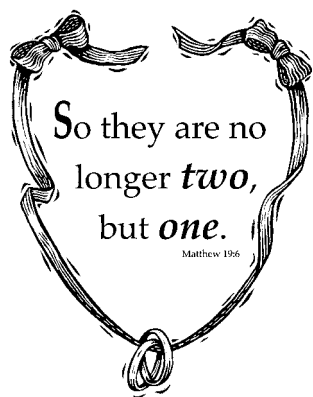
(TBA= To Be Announced; (E)=English Class; (S)= Spanish Class)

The response from pastors about their Hispanic groups attending PALLMM has been very favorable. The experience that I have also had with the four Hispanic individuals from my congregation who have taken these courses during the last year has been outstanding and a tremendous blessing. Now I can rely upon this team to assist me with the liturgy, at the altar and with evan-

gelism. They have even held services in my absence. They have been trained and are ready to preach sermons. In addition, two of these individuals are serving on the church council. When I say that “with the help of the Lord, the possibilities are endless in training and strengthening the laity,” I speak from the practical experience that I have witnessed with my own eyes.

The harvest is great but the workers are few.

*...parker's
kindling
pastor karen's
pastoral kernels*



—*kp* (karen parker)
assistant to the bishop
for ministry and
pastoral care

The good news is...I'm getting married! If you read to the *end* of my article in October that started with the words "Things change" you discovered that the article you *assumed* was all about the new hymnal really had something else important to say! But the part about our relationship was in the last two paragraphs and I know not everyone made it that far, so I decided to be more explicit, right out front.

Mark Klever and I got to know each other about ten years ago when we both served on the ELCA Church Council, and kept in touch as couples via Christmas cards over the years. Both widowed, we've become re-acquainted and discovered that life together would be much more delightful than apart. Yes, *things change!*

Mark lives and works in Iowa and that's a long way from Southern California! Both of us had long wonderful marriages, will always love those first spouses and find it easy to talk about them together and with our six adult children, their spouses and the 12 grandchildren we soon will share. Yes, change has its challenges: for a while we'll still have a long distance relationship as I continue my work in Pacifica and he continues with the business of which he is part owner. That arrangement leaves a lot to be desired, but oh the joys and blessings of being loved and in love again! Mark and I share many things in common, among which is a deep love of God and this church, and a host of common friends we've come to know through our years of involvement in it. Family is very important to both of us and we're blessed to be close to our kids and grandkids in relationship, if not in distance. Fortunately we both love to travel and have been to many of the same places in our "former lives." We'd choose more vari-

ety than back and forth between Des Moines and LAX or SNA if we had our "druthers" for the present but we know we can make it work. Mark actually lives in Dayton, Iowa, a very small town about an hour north of Des Moines. Imagine my surprise when my sisters told me our great uncle (our mother's uncle) was pastor there (in the very church Mark belongs to) for about 25 years! They remember visiting there when they were little. And Mark taught and coached in another small town where our uncle (our dad's brother), had been a pastor years before. What a small world! We don't know how the future will unfold, but we are excited to see how the Spirit will lead us into it. Mark will join me in Hawaii at the synod assembly, so you can meet him there if not before.

Our marriage will take place in Arizona in February. It will just be our immediate families so they can get to know each other. Mark has five siblings and I have three. My brother will officiate and one of Mark's brothers will play the piano and sing. One of my granddaughters asked if she could be flower-girl, but I had to explain that there would be five little girls who would all like to be flower-girls so we aren't going to have one.

I've chosen to keep my name so I'll still be karen parker, though Karen Klever sounds kinda cute and I won't be offended if people call me that. So there you have it—the rest of the story; all without reference to the new hymnal. But I don't want to disappoint you, so a quick commercial: I hope to see all of you at the Introductory Workshops — they will be well worth your time!

And yes, we'll be using the marriage service from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* for our wedding.

Congregation Administrator/Treasurer/Bookkeeper Event

Saturday, Jan. 27, 2006 ~ 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

at Shepherd of Life L.C., 30400 Grand Ave., Lake Elsinore

Cost is \$10 per person (to include lunch and reference materials)

Registration is online at www.pacificasynod.org

This seminar is for congregational treasurers, bookkeepers, administrators and anyone who is involved with finances within a congregation. Pastors are encouraged to attend also. Seminar topics will include Financial Oversight, Insurance for Congregations, Independent Contractors, Clergy Salary, Reporting to the Synod, and Budgeting.

Registration is limited. Registration deadline is Jan 22. For more information, contact Ron Peace at the Pacifica Synod office (714) 692-2791 or by e-mail at synodron@aol.com.

Honolulu *(Continued from page 1)*

larly notable were two Honolulu premier performances of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* as part of the congregation's celebration of its Centennial year in 2000.

In an effort to model the healing love of Christ, church members voted overwhelmingly to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation in 1993. The congregation's growing diversity has challenged and immeasurably enriched corporate life as people of God. In 1995, LCH also led the Pacifica Synod to become a Reconciling in Christ synod within the ELCA.

Through direct service and collaboration, the congregation offers its time, talents and resources to further the mission of Christ. The focus tends to be hunger programs and HIV/AIDS, and the congregation seeks to respond to the pressing need at every level, locally, nationally and internationally.

Now 106 years young, The Lutheran Church of Honolulu is a dynamic Christian community. While shaped by history and grounded in tradition, the people of LCH desire to deepen faith, expand understanding, and contribute to the healing of our broken world through worship, education and service. Currently engaged in the call process for a new pastor, the congregation of Lutheran Church of Honolulu looks forward to developing a new partnership for ministry.

The congregation extends an open invitation to all synod convention atten-

dees for Sunday services (8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.). The evening service of Compline is at 9 p.m. This half hour service of readings, responses and music is sung in candlelight by a men's choir. It's a perfect way to bid *aloha* to the 2007 Pacifica Synod Assembly and Hawaii.

The 2007 Assembly will again need a whole host of volunteers and we are beginning to collect names of those who would like to volunteer for registration and other duties during the assembly. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Pastor David Kieffer at pdave@clcmililani.org. Pastor Dave is the Volunteer Coordinator for the 2007 Assembly. This is a wonderful opportunity for spouses of voting members to attend the assembly and also volunteer.

A special invitation for the pastors of Pacifica – you are invited to extend your stay in Hawaii until Sunday and preach at one of the local congregations on Oahu or the neighbor islands. This is a first-come, first-serve opportunity. The coordinator for pastors and congregations is again Pastor Dave at pdave@clcmililani.org. The special hotel rates are good before and after the actual assembly. Book your rooms early.

Please continue to check the 2007 Assembly Web page for updated information at www.pacificasynod.org/Assembly.htm. New information is being added monthly.

Pacifica Synod



Mission Support

Fiscal Year
Feb. 2006 - Jan. 2007

2006 - 2007	
November	Year to Date
\$188,178	\$1,657,475

2005 - 2006	
November	Year to Date
\$127,244	\$1,567,426

• WORLD HUNGER •	
Nov. 06	Year to Date
\$19,687	\$182,221

Many ministries and agencies depend on your faithful giving each month.

Asia Study Tour Reflection

by THE REV. DAVE AND KATHY KRUEGER ♦ Kihei Lutheran Church, Kihei, Hawaii

Our involvement in the Asia Study Tour was part of a three-month sabbatical for us. Because the Asian culture plays a significant role in Hawai'i, we wanted to gain a deeper appreciation of it through direct exposure to this culture. Our greatest joy was meeting people who showed us what hospitality really meant, as well as the joy of life in the midst of challenging living conditions. They also showed us the meaning of living out your faith in everyday life through caring for those in need, and sharing what little they had with those who had even less.

Tokyo and Hong Kong are huge cities. At night the lights sparkled brightly. During the day the streets were crowded with millions of people. It was quite a contrast from Maui. We frequently stared in awe at the size of these places. We worshiped in a Lutheran Church in Kyoto, attended the ordination of May Tsui in Hong Kong, and met bishops and church officials of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong (ELCHK). Pastor Tim Mason (Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church) guided us around Tokyo and Kyoto to see different temples and shrines. In Hong Kong, Pastor Simon Lee and Wai-ling (Chinese Lutheran Church) showed us the seminary, a number of churches and church-run schools, as well as taking us on a night-time trip up to Victoria Peak to see the Hong Kong city and harbor lights.

In Malaysia we visited the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM),

Pacifica Synod's companion synod. While there we met parish council members in each place we visited, as well as touring churches and church-run schools. In each place we were welcomed with meals and boundless grace. We ate some new foods – chicken feet, wild boar, fish float-bladder soup and sea cucumber, just to name a few. Some we would choose not to try again. Others weren't as awful as they sound. But behind every meal, whether we found the food appetizing or not, was the fact that it was given as a gift of love. Therefore we ate with joy and thanksgiving for the generosity shown us.

The most touching experience we had was attending the dedication of a new youth center in Telupid. Many children from the remote villages come here to live and attend school, since there is no school in their village, and it's too far for them to walk each day. There we met many wonderful youth. It was challenging to talk due to the language barrier. Yet, we communicated with smiles, laughter and love. It was such fun taking digital pictures and showing them the photos. They crowded around the camera, looked and giggled endlessly. Those faces, and their smiles, will be etched in our minds forever.

As we recall our trip, we thank God for the opportunity that we were given. We know that we are so much richer for it. We ask that you would daily consider lifting up the BCCM, as well as the JELC and ELCHK, in your prayers. This is something we have committed to do.

Warner Trust Application

available online at www.pacificasynod.org. Grant is for the construction of Sunday School facilities and/or to further youth Christian education.

Deadline to file for grant is January 15, 2007

From the Immigration/Border Ministry Team

Strawberries, Just a Dollar Each

by SYLVIA HERMAN ♦ First Lutheran Church, San Diego

Back in 1978, you could drive from Penasquitos to Del Mar on a two-lane dirt road. I drove it sometimes to reach the beach quickly from my home near Black Mountain. The road cut through a forest of eucalyptus, which gave way to a huge expanse of open fields. It was a truck farm, raising kitchen produce all year round. In the hot months it was mostly tomatoes and in the cooler months strawberries. Both are tricky crops because they ripen and go soft quickly. They must be hand-picked and sped to market. Picking them is stoop labor, often under a hot sun, and includes exposure to toxic chemicals.

I stopped in front of the farm's office building once to watch two kites hover in the sky. Kites are small, light gray raptors, the same family as hawks and eagles, but they hover like helicopters or, more poetically, kites. They were seldom seen, even back then. While I stood with my head craned back, the owner of the ranch approached me on foot. He enjoyed a long look at the kites as well and we began to talk.

He was about 55 with the leathery skin of a man who made his living outside. I don't remember much of our conversation that day but I do remember one thing he said.

"As long as I've been here," he told me, "not one American-born person of any color has ever come and asked me for a job. You wouldn't pay what it would cost to buy *any* crop if you had to pay native-born Americans to do it."

His observation stayed with me. When have I ever heard anyone, regardless of their straits, say "Well, I can always pick seasonal crops"? It seems a given that picking crops is for "other" people. If that's the case, then we have to ask, who IS picking the avocados, almonds, broccoli, berries, corn, cotton, grapes, hay, lemons, melons, rice, tomatoes, and watermelons that represent such a huge chunk of California's gross domestic product? We all know that it is

immigrant labor, much of it from Mexico and Central America, but we might be a bit more grateful for it.

That point was brought home to me again in an editorial that ran in the Union Tribune a few years ago. The author calculated how much we spend in expenses for illegal aliens versus what this "dirt cheap" labor saves us, not only in produce costs but in the cost of eating out, or a night in a hotel, or countless other areas of life where illegal, and therefore exploited labor, is in use. The latter outweighed the former by a country mile. If you tried to go out to dinner on May 1 this year, you might have gotten the point. Without this unskilled but hard working labor force at our disposal, we would be helpless. So why can't we work out ways to let them come here and do what they are willing to do, and let them go home again, as most wish to do?

It is morally wrong to look the other way at these people. They pick our crops, make our beds, fix our meals, wash our dishes, and live in canyons under cardboard. We provide them no means at all for health care, and then resent them for appearing in our emergency rooms. They have no protection under the law so can be beaten, raped, or stolen from without reprisal.

I don't have a program or a proposal, no ready solution to suggest. I just wish that the polemic discussions we have about illegal immigrants might for once take into account that these are brothers and sisters in Christ. If there are a few that cause problems, the vast majority are so afraid of authority, they don't utter a peep. There is no work back home for them and they must feed their families somehow, so they brave a dangerous and uncertain journey to a hostile place in the hopes of making it home alive with some money. Can we not find in our public policy a way to allow them to come here with some dignity and human rights? The only other ethical choice is to agree to pay a dollar each for strawberries.

Center for Spiritual Development

● Life from Within: Enneagram Spirituality

Saturday, Jan. 6 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Presented by: Jane DeLisle, CSJ
Self-knowledge enables us to recognize the graces that are available to us and is the key to healthy personal integration. The Enneagram is a tool for self-knowledge that offers insight into the creative energies and the destructive behaviors in one's life. Based on the Hurley/Dobson Enneagram Experience®, practical pointers on how to claim the freedom and wholeness which grace offers will be examined in this study. Cost: \$50 (includes lunch)

● Wide Open Presence: Living from the Radiant Heart

Saturday, Jan. 20 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Presented by: Tilden Edwards, Ph.D.
From the early desert elders onward we hear the call to let our minds sink to our hearts, as the way to authentic spiritual life. How can we live more fully from the freedom, confidence and loving wisdom of our contemplative hearts, and less from the grasping, anxious, narrow ego surface of our minds? Participants will dip into an appreciation of this mind in heart awareness together through a rhythm of teaching and guided contemplative practices, which will include some periods of silence. The day can provide a fresh perspective both for people who already have a contemplative orientation and for those who are drawn to it but have little exposure to its understanding and practice. Cost: \$50 (includes lunch)

The Pacifica Synod maintains close ties with the Center for Spiritual Development, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange. The center is located at 434 Batavia St. in Orange. For a complete listing of events go to their Website at www.theccsd.com or to register, call (714) 744-3175, ext. 4409.

I-LERT, LDR and Disaster Response: What's the Connection?

by TEMPIE D. BEAMAN ♦ Assistant Disaster Response Coordinator, Lutheran Social Services Southwest

The recent earthquake in Hawaii and the fires in the Inland Empire were the first disasters since Inter-Lutheran Emergency Response Team (I-LERT) was formed. What we learned was that there were assumptions, expectations, misinformation and confusion about who or what responds to disasters in our region. There was confusion about the roles of I-LERT and Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) and its affiliate agency, soon to be Lutheran Social Services Southwest.

When we are in a disaster, we want and need help right away. It's the role of "first responders" to provide critical emergency assistance. There are faith-based and secular agencies whose role is to be "first responders." Typically they are the ones we see in the media; the police and fire departments, the Red Cross, Salvation Army and some faith-based organizations that are cleaning up areas, feeding and sheltering survivors and providing emergency funds to meet immediate needs. If the area is declared an official disaster area, then governmental agencies such as FEMA will respond. Lutheran congregations may collaborate with first responder organizations to provide shelter or other critical items to survivors.

LDR provides long term recovery services. This means that we arrive a few weeks after the incident, around the time "the first responders" are preparing to leave. LDR's role is to assist in meeting the "unmet needs" of those impacted by the disaster; what FEMA, personal insurance, Red Cross and others were unable to provide. When others have returned home, LDR is still in the impacted area working with all, regardless of religious affiliation, to return their lives to a stable condition. LDR is in partnership with disaster response agencies on a national and local level. This partnership allows for coordination so that duplication of services is reduced and services and funds are maxi-

mized.

LDR works through a network of affiliated agencies. Lutheran Social Services Southwest, headquartered in Arizona, is the agency responsible for disaster preparedness and response in Southern California, Southern Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico. With the October 15, 2006 earthquake, Hawaii was added to the region. Southern California was added in 2005, after the San Diego fires of 2003. LDR funded a part-time position in Southern California to provide disaster preparedness training and coordinate LDR's response to a disaster specifically in this portion of the agency's region. Part of the role of the Southern California coordinator is to develop relationships with the local emergency response network in the region. There are 10 counties in Southern California plus Hawaii. Each has its own network of agencies. It is a tremendous task. I-LERT may assist in this task.

I-LERT is a committee of clergy and lay members of the ELCA Pacifica Synod and Southwest California Synod and the LCMS Pacific Southwest District. LSS Southwest's disaster program staff co-chair I-LERT. With the approval and support of the judicatory leaders and the expertise of the LSS Southwest staff, I-LERT seeks to encourage the preparedness of congregations and their members, encourages the creation of disaster ministry teams within our congregations, and the development of community disaster response sites throughout the judicatories. I-LERT is not an organization. It does not have financial resources. It is a formal group of committed individuals who want to see that we are well-prepared to face any disaster and available to assist in the inevitable disasters common to Southern California. I-LERT is in its formative stages and is constantly evolving to develop the best processes for meeting its stated purpose.

Congregation Observers for Churchwide Assembly

Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may register with the secretary of this church one congregation observer for the Churchwide Assembly prior to May 31 in the year of a Churchwide Assembly

Seating and Materials: Provision shall be made for such an individual to have reserved seating in the observers section of the plenary hall. Such congregation observers will receive a copy of the report of recommendations for assembly action and also materials distributed on the plenary floor to voting members, advisory members, and non-voting members during the assembly. Such observers shall have neither voice nor vote in

plenary sessions of the assembly.

Registration Fee: A registration fee shall be established by the secretary of this church for registration and related costs, including enabling observers to receive the same meals as are provided for voting members. The 2007 registration fee for congregation observer is \$150. The meal package is not included, but may be purchased separately.

Other Expenses: Transportation costs, housing, other meals, and related expenses shall be the responsibility of the registered observer or sending congregation. For more information contact the ELCA at (800) 638-3522.

2007 Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly will be held at Navy Pier in Chicago, Illinois, August 6-12, 2007.

UPDATE:

CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE ALLOCATION AND STICK WITH IT

Wouldn't it be great if we knew ahead of time which way markets were going to move? But...we don't know for certain what markets are going to do until after they do it. Market timing fails as an investment strategy because no one (not

even the experts) knows for certain how markets are going to perform today, next month or next year. Learn about the dangers of market timing and how to make the most of your Retirement Plan at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/investment_education.

Pacifica Prayer List

Pastor Jim Hale (Good Shepherd L.C., Irvine) and family on the death of his father • **Pat Reenstjerna**, widow of **Pastor Henry Reenstjerna**, in the death of her mother, **Ruth Johnson** • **Pastor Paul Kirchner** (Lihue L.C., Lihue) on the death of his mother • **Pastor Anke Flohr** (Chaplain at Pohai Nani, and with Pacific Health Ministry) on the death of her father • **Pastor Randy Mundt** (Holy Trinity L.C., Kailua-Kona) • **Pastor Paul Black** (House of Prayer L.C., Escon-

dido) • **Pastor Karen Bolton** (Central City Lutheran Mission, San Bernardino) • **Pastor Wilk Miller** (First L.C., San Diego) • **Pastor Rick Schowalter** (Carlton Hills L.C., Santee) • **Pastor Patrice Nordstrand** (Chaplain, Walnut Manor) • **Pastor Bruce Craft** (retired, Kailua) • **Pastor George Olson** (retired, Claremont) • **Pastor Ev Nielson** (retired, Fallbrook) • **Pastor Maria Santa Cruz** (Our Savior's L.C., San Diego) • **AiM Lavonne Stief** (retired, Anahiem) • **Rebekah Fulton**, daughter of **Pastor Harry Stief** (retired, Anaheim) and **AiM Lavonne Stief** • **Caroline Sapp**, widow of **Pastor Fred Sapp** • **Audrey Elliot**, spouse of **Pastor Richard Elliot** (retired, Bonita) • **Kay Kupka**, spouse of **David Kupka** (retired, Ocean-side) • **Shannon Ekeren-Moening**, spouse of **Pastor George Ekeren-Moening** (St. John L.C., El Cajon) • **Natalie Retamoza**, sister of **Pastor Manuel Retamoza** (St. Andrew L.C., San Diego) • **Pastor Tim Mason's** (Calvary by the Sea L.C., Honolulu) mother • **Gary Bergthold**, spouse of **Helga Bergthold** (Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Pacifica Synod)



CHURCHWIDE NEWS

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, bishop of ELCA Pacifica Synod, Yorba Linda, Calif., said participants should listen to "what the voice of God and the Word of God say to us today about the brokenness" caused by walls in the world.

ELCA Conference Explores Christian Responses to Walls, Barriers

FROM ELCA NEWS SERVICE

Fifty church and civic leaders from Germany, Mexico, Palestinian territory in Israel and the United States gathered Nov. 8-14 in Wittenberg and in Berlin for a conference exploring Christian responses to walls. More than a dozen presenters shared their perspectives on walls or barriers in their contexts – the Berlin Wall, the separation barrier being erected in Palestinian territory and the proposed extension of the barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"Mighty Fortresses and Mustard Seeds: Life in the Shadow of a Wall" was sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Network of International Learning Centers, ELCA Global Mission, ELCA Vocation and Education and the Evangelical Academy of Sachsen-Anhalt.

Conference participants discussed the church's role in breaking down visible and invisible walls.

The Rev. Murray D. Finck, bishop of ELCA Pacifica Synod, Yorba Linda, Calif., said participants should listen to "what the voice of God and the Word of God say to us today about the brokenness" caused by walls in the world. "If we don't look at these problems theologically with those who are examining it from economic and sociological perspectives, the voice of the church is silent," said Finck.

The conference began in Berlin, where participants observed the 17th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Participants heard from German civic and church leaders, who described the German church and its role as a force for peaceful resistance that mobilized hundreds of thousands in 1989 on the road to Germany's unification. One German participant stated that the church did a lot more than pray for the wall to fall: "Prayer (was) important, but in Germany the wall came down due to spectacular activity" on the part of the church.

A pastor in the former East Berlin, the Rev. Manfred Fischer, declared that during the Cold War "local politics became world politics all of a sudden," because his church

lay directly on the dividing line between East and West. The Church of the Reconciliation was demolished by the East German government on Jan. 28, 1985, "a day when we lost hope because we lost our church."

But less than five years later the wall fell and congregation members gained new hope. They built a chapel using rubble from the old church. "We can't forget what happened, but we can't turn the clock back either," said Fischer.

The conference then moved to Wittenberg, the historic heart of the Lutheran Reformation. Presenters compared the Berlin Wall to the barrier in Palestinian territory and the barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, examining similarities and differences of "life in the shadow of a wall" in each context.

The Rev. Said R. Ailabouni, director, Europe and Middle East program, ELCA Global Mission, said: "How do we express ourselves as Christians with regard to the wall in Palestine? We insist that God calls us to be peacemakers. We are committed to peace, not walls."

Several Palestinian Christians examined the Israeli wall's impact from economic, societal, urban planning and political perspectives. They described how it cuts off Palestinians from access to water, farmland, trade, health care and education. "This wall puts us in a big prison," said Victor Batarseh, mayor of Bethlehem.

In the area surrounding Bethlehem, the barrier is a 30-foot high wall. According to a May 2006 report of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 225 of the 437 miles planned for the West Bank barrier have been constructed; 26 miles are concrete wall and 199 miles are electric fence with ditches and patrol roads.

Dr. Bernard Sabella, a Roman Catholic and a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said that the wall has been presented as a way to stop suicide bombings and reduce Israeli incursions into Palestinian territory. He said, "You cannot banish Pales-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

tinians within their own land in the name of security."

The Palestinian Christians called for justice, asking that the international community uphold United Nations resolutions and the International Court of Justice ruling in July 2004 against the separation barrier. In 2005 the ELCA Churchwide Assembly established the "Peace Not Walls" campaign to advocate for the removal of the barrier.

The Rev. Munib A. Younan, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, Jerusalem, stated in a letter read to conference participants, "The wall that is surrounding us in Palestine is growing every day into a tighter concrete noose around our cities, towns, homes and churches." Younan wrote that he is opposed to violence on all sides. "In the face of oppression and violence, we are called to be prophets for justice, instruments of peace, voices of hope, and hands of healing and reconciliation."

Palestinian participants presented ways they are providing alternatives to violence and hopelessness, witnessing to Palestinian youth and reaching out to international partners with a message of peace. Rana Khoury, deputy general director of the International Center of Bethlehem (ICB), said ICB programs address the wall's isolating effects on young Palestinians. "We work with a lot of young people with art, music, multimedia. These are very important tools to break the isolation that is being imposed on (them), and at the same time (they) connect with the rest of the world."

The conference focus then shifted toward the wall proposed by the U.S. government in the Secure Fence Act of 2006, which would extend a barrier along more than 700 miles of the nearly 2,000 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border. The Rev. Kim Erno, ELCA program director of the Lutheran Center in Mexico City, introduced a set of presentations that included photography, film, cultural and historical analysis, and personal testimony. Erno asked whether the \$8 billion needed to extend the barrier on the border would be better invested in the lives of the poor, who suffer in their attempt to cross

over to the United States.

Mexican filmmakers Pablo Gleason González and Armando Villegas Contreras presented a documentary, "Borders: Walls and Immigrants." The film showed the dangers associated with crossing into the desert regions of the border, which has resulted in the deaths of more than 4,000 immigrants in the past five years, the economic pressures that drive Mexicans north, and the arguments surrounding the border.

Dr. Olivia Ruiz, cultural anthropologist at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte in Tijuana, Mexico, presented a history of U.S. border policy, pointing out the push-pull factors that drive immigration: the U.S. "economic addiction" to cheap Mexican labor mixed with increasing poverty and desperation in Mexico.

The conference ended with members of each country's delegation gathering to strategize and plan next steps for action in their home country.

The Rev. Terry K. Boggs challenged the group to take on big issues boldly. "What I'd like you to be about is imagining a new future. We will not solve the world's problems, but dare we not take this moment in time with the Spirit moving among us to do the best we can?" said Boggs, director for congregation-based community organizing, ELCA Church in Society.

The Palestinian delegation sought to build awareness through sharing narratives and exchanging experiences, to promote nonviolent resistance, to encourage church involvement internationally, and to provide services for those who are suffering because of the separation barrier.

The Mexican delegation denounced economic policies that increase Mexico's dependence on the United States.

The Germans focused on raising awareness and engaging the German church more fully.

The U.S. delegation focused on ways to better advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and increase support for the Peace Not Walls campaign.—More conference information and interviews with participants are available at <http://wallsconference.blogspot.com> on the Web.



PASTORAL OPENINGS

✠ PACIFICA (as of early Dec.)

CITY	CHURCH	FOR	STATUS
Alpine	Gd. Shep./Hills	Solo/Pt	1
Anaheim	Grace	Solo/Pt	2
Big Bear City	Spirit of Peace	Solo	3
Buena Park	Good Shep.	Solo	1
Claremont	Good Shepherd	Solo	1
Cypress	Mt. Calvary	Solo	2
Encinitas	Bethlehem	Solo	3
Fullerton	St. Luke's	Solo/PT	1
Garden Grove	St. Olaf	Solo	2
Honolulu	L.C. of Honolulu	Solo	2
La Mesa	St. Luke's	Solo	2
La Mirada	Prince of Peace	Solo	1
Los Alamitos	Bethlehem	Solo	1
Kailua	St. John's	Solo	1
Moreno Valley	Lord of Life	Solo	1
Newport Beach	Newport Harbor	Solo	1
Oceanside	King of Kings	Solo	3
Poway	Incarnation	Senior	2
Rch Cucamonga	Cross/Crown	Solo	1
San Diego	Clairemont	Assoc.	2
San Diego	Ethiopian	Solo/PT	1
Seal Beach	Redeemer	Solo/PT	1
Sun City	Faith	Solo	2
Whittier	Salem	Solo/PT	1

MINISTRY CHANGES

- **Pastor Ken Johnson** from Interim, Cross/Crown, Rancho Cucamonga to OLC
- **Pastor Roger Patterson** from OLC to Interim, St. Olaf, Garden Grove
- **Pastor Steve Perry** from Grand Cyn. Synod to OLC
- **Pastor Tim Edmondson** from Assoc. Our Redeemer, GG to Pastor Spirit of Peace, Big Bear City
- **Pastor Mark Winick** from SW CA Synod to Chaplain, St. Bernardine Medical Center, San Bernardino
- **Pastor Seth Britton** from Assoc. Red Hill Lutheran, Tustin to Pastor Bethlehem, Encinitas
- **Pastor James Jerpseth** from Pastor Atonement, San Diego to Pastor King of Kings, Oceanside
- **Pastor Joaquin Figueroa** from Assoc. Christ the King, Fallbrook to Retirement
- **Pastor Lyle Peterson** from OLC to Interim CEO/Pres LSS Southern California

✠ SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA

Encino	Bethel	1
Glendale	Salem	1
Granada Hills	Bethlehem	1
La Verne	Rock of the Foothills	1
Los Angeles	Bethel	1
Pasadena	Messiah	1
Santa Barbara	Trinity	1
Santa Monica	Mt. Olive	1
Van Nuys	Christ the King	1
West Covina	Mt. Calvary-Faith	1

✠ SIERRA PACIFIC

Auburn	Bethlehem	1
Citrus Hts.	Ascension	1
Fairfax	Christ	1
Los Altos	Immanuel	1
Mariposa	Mariposa	1
Modesto	Emanuel	1
San Jose	Grace	1
San Leandro	St. James	1

KEY: (1) Interim (2) Interviewing Candidates (3) Call Issued

NOTE: For full vacancy lists for Southwest California and Sierra Pacific and current information, contact . . .



SW CAL.: (818) 507-9591
 SIERRA PACIFIC: (510) 430-0500
 PACIFICA: (714) 692-2791



LUTHERAN

Retreats, Camps and Conferences



If you didn't receive your copy of the "Connections" newsletter and would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Star McCain at the address below.

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH LEADERS & PASTORS!

2007 Winter Youth Retreats

"Call Waiting"

Another great lineup of spirit-filled weekend experiences for your youth.

We'll provide the programming, you provide the youth & chaperones.

Your kids will get hooked up with God (and hopefully, some snow!)

Cost: \$114 Chaperones attend free*

*Up to 2 adults for each 10 kids (ratio 1:10, but mixed-gender groups will need 2 chaperones regardless of group size)

** Note Date Changes below, due to school district schedules

At EL CAMINO PINES:

Middle School: Jan. 19-21 & March 9-11

Senior High: Jan. 26-28 & Feb. 23-25

Elementary: Feb. 2-4 & Feb. 9-11**

Call Lauri for details: (661) 245-3519

At YOLIJWA:

Middle School: Jan. 26-28

Senior High: Feb. 23-25

Elementary: Feb 9-11**

Call Jessica & Lando for details: (909) 797-9183

For EVERYONE - Save the Date!

FAMILY WINTERFEST AT EL CAMINO PINES - MARCH 2-4, 2007

Watch for the Winter Retreat flyer with full registration information - coming soon!

To register for LRCC's programs, make a tax-deductible donation, or to book our facilities for your own group retreats, please contact us!

El Camino Pines - (661) 245-3519 or legertson4@hotmail.com

Yolijwa (including Luther Glen) - (909) 797-9183 or yolijwa.directors@yahoo.com

Anthony Briggs, Executive Director: anthonybriggs@lrccsca.org

Visit our website at www.lrccsca.org

Invisible Children

Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007, 5 - 8 p.m. at First L.C. in Vista

Through inspiring photos and stories, Adam Finck will share his incredible experiences living with the Invisible Children of Uganda, Africa this past year. Adam is only back in the United States for several weeks and is giving us the opportunity to share in his passion to make a difference in this world.

All middle and high school youth of the Pacifica Synod are invited to gather at FIRST. Dinner will be provided, so please RSVP by Wednesday, January 10 to the church office at 760-724-5440. Bring your friends to learn about these children who live on the streets and in refugee camps, seeking to survive in a war-torn world.

Conference for Large Congregations

“Let the River Flow” is a connecting event for pastors, program and ministry staff, and key lay volunteers and leaders of large ELCA congregations where a river of ideas, songs, and prayers will flow into the mission of the church.

This is an event for large congregations in the ELCA and for anyone who feels they can benefit from this opportunity. All are welcome. The event will be hosted on the campus of one of the large ELCA congregations, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Burnsville, Minnesota.

- Keynote messages will set the tone and shape our conversations.

- Devotions and worship will anchor us in the faith and set our spirits soaring.
- Evening celebrations will remind us of the joy of being the Body of Christ together.
- Over 50 workshops will encourage and strengthen the gifts we have in all facets of parish ministry .
- “Best practices” opportunities will share the best ideas or experiences from particular ministry areas.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to connect with the ministries of other large ELCA congregations. Registration forms can be downloaded at www.elca.org/largecongregations/registration/.

NOTES & NOTICES

• **Good Shepherd L.C. in Irvine** is hosting an Experimental Worship seminar for pastors, worship leaders and volunteers on Saturday, Jan. 13, 8:30 a.m.—4 p.m. For more info, e-mail ryan@gslc Irvine.org or call (949) 552-1918.

• **Trinity L.C. in Hemet** has a 1991 Kawal Digital Electronic Organ - SR7 free as a memorial donation. This instrument will fit any musical personality/setting... and is not to be had for limited use. Deserving recipient must be involved in more than one style of presentation. For details and inquiries, please call (951) 658-0513.

• **Mount of Olives L.C. in Mission Viejo** is seeking a part-time or full-time administrative assistant. Applicants must be organized, friendly, team-oriented with competent computer skills. For addi-

tional information or to apply, visit www.moochurch.org and click employment or call Robin Horton at (949) 837-7467 x203.

• **Emanuel L.C. in La Habra** has an opening for an office secretary. Work Schedule: 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., 1/2 hour lunch break, Monday through Friday. Starting date negotiable. Please contact Pastor Dennis Laherty, (562) 691-0656 for further information.

• **Good Shepherd L.C. in Irvine** is seeking an energetic worship leader at each of their two sites. These two part-time (10-12 hrs. a week) paid positions would work with the Pastors to lead our Praise Team and engage our congregation in meaningful worship. Send a resume, list of references, examples of work and salary expectations to: Pastor Ryan Warner-McGraw at ryan@gslc Irvine.org.

• **Hope L.C. in Temecula** is seeking a Music Minister to lead music weekly for grades 6-12, as well as lead worship music for two services, 17 Sundays per year. Contact or send resume to: Pastor Larry Koger, at lkoger@hopetemecula.org.

• **St. Timothy L.C. in San Diego** is looking for a part-time youth director and a part-time worship leader (keyboard or guitar). For more information contact Patsy Long at the church office (619) 475-1575 or sttimothy@aol.com.

• **Trinity L.C. in Riverside** seeks a part-time organist/choir director responsible for choral and instrumental music at the liturgical service (one choir rehearsal and one service weekly). Some worship planning will be required. Contact Trinity Lutheran Church, 5969 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506. (951) 682-1350.

Pacifica

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Deadline for articles is the **1st of each month** for the following month's edition.

That issue will be available on www.pacificasynod.org near the 15th of the month as well as mailed to each congregation.

For possible use in a future issue of *Pacifica*, send your article (preferably in electronic format) to LoriSergeant@pacificasynod.org or by fax to (714) 692-9317. Please include a contact name and phone number.

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Living in God's amazing grace

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We're on the Web!
pacificasynod.org

You'll find information about Pacifica programs and events. Download the newsletter or registration forms. Find resources and links to other helpful sites, and much more! Check out these links:

⇒2007 Synod Assembly Information

⇒2006-2007 Supply Pastor Compensation Guideline

⇒Warner Trust Application

⇒2007 Clergy Compensation Guidelines

⇒Forms & Newsletter

⇒ ELCA Website

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

DATES OF INTEREST

January

- 1 *PACIFICA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE*
New Year Holiday, Synod Office closed
- 6-11 Bishop's Academy, Chicago
- 13 Invisible Children, 5 – 8 p.m., First L.C., Vista
- 15 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Synod Office closed*
- 17 Staff Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Synod Office
- 20 ELW Event, Hawaii
- 27 ELW Event, Buena Park
- 27 Treasurer's Workshop, Shepherd of Life, Lake Elsinore
- 28 ELW Event, San Diego
- 30 Synod Staff Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Synod Office

2007 Synod Assembly Registration NOW Available
Online at www.pacificasynod.org

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Events

Start making plans to attend one of these workshops!
Online registration—available NOW!

Saturday, January 20, 2007 - Calvary by the Sea L.C.
Saturday, January 27—Good Shepherd L.C.
Sunday, January 28—Clairemont L.C.