



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

“For by grace you have been saved through  
faith, and this is not your own doing;  
it is the gift of God.”  
– Ephesians 2:8

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are Lutheran. For the past year it has been “all Reformation all the time!” So now what? The Lutheran Confessions teach that God freely and graciously creates a trusting relationship between us and Jesus. As we gather to meet in synod assemblies, let us remember that our hope is in the living Christ and share that assurance with the joy of the gospel.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are free of the burden of making ourselves acceptable to God. The cross of Christ and the living Christ assure us that God’s final word for us is life and freedom in Christ. Lutherans confidently and enthusiastically claim this promise: “For freedom Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1). How does this claim affect your faith journey as an individual, a congregation, synod or member of the church universal? Through his death and resurrection, we have a truly living Lord who meets us, forgives us and calls us to follow, and in that we find our freedom.

Because we are set free in Jesus Christ, we are free from trying to save ourselves and free for loving and serving others. As a church, we walk by faith, trusting God’s promise in the gospel and knowing that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word.

### **“Future Directions 2025”**

Through “Called Forward Together in Christ – Future Directions 2025,” we are addressing the challenges and embracing the opportunities of the church we are becoming – a church that is confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. I invite you to lift up these goals and engage how we journey forward in Christ as church together. You can learn more by visiting [ELCA.org/future](http://ELCA.org/future).

### **ELCA Youth Gathering**

Many of us will be together at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 27-July 1, 2018. I look forward to sharing in the excitement and energy of our young people as they experience the wonder and joy of being with more than 30,000 Lutherans and grow in their faith formation. For information and resources on the Gathering, go to [ELCA.org/gathering](http://ELCA.org/gathering).

### ***The Campaign for the ELCA***

We are in our final year of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Help us rally to the end! As of Dec. 31, the campaign has received more than \$138.6 million in cash and multiyear commitments, representing 70 percent of our \$198 million goal. Read more about the campaign’s progress at [ELCA.org/campaign](http://ELCA.org/campaign). Thank you for your continued support!

## **“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday**

Sept. 9 is our suggested date for the 2018 dedicated day of service. If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day. “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. To order T-shirts or download resources, go to [ELCA.org/dayofservice](http://ELCA.org/dayofservice).

## **Join the conversation**

There are two opportunities for you to provide feedback about what this church says on important issues. One is “Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice.” The draft is in two sections: basic theses and fuller explanations, which speak about how sexism harms us all in church and society. The task force wants to hear from you about the content of the draft and this innovative format. Find the draft, supplementary materials and order information at [ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://ELCA.org/womenandjustice). The other is on the draft of “A Declaration of our Inter-Religious Commitment: A Draft Policy Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” The comment period is open from now until June 30, 2018. Visit [ELCA.org/ecumenical](http://ELCA.org/ecumenical) for more information and the document.

I have shared some of the ways we are loving and serving our neighbor. This is what being free in Christ looks like. This is part of our Lutheran story. This is part of your congregation’s story and your synod’s story.

Wherever you are for your synod assembly, from the Alaska Synod to the Caribbean Synod, there is something that we all have in common – our life in Christ. We have our life in Christ – in the crucified and risen Savior, in the one who poured out his life for us, the one who gave himself away for the life of the world so we may be free. As Lutheran Christians, we live in the freedom of Christ.

With gratitude,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop's Report  
April 2018

*But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus – Romans 3:21-24*

These verses were read at services throughout our synod last October as we commemorated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. But we did not commemorate this anniversary alone. We were joined by ecumenical sisters and brothers in remembering the Reformation in every area in our Synod, joining with Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and other people of faith in services that took place in San Diego, Orange County, the Inland Empire, and Hawaii. We joined to worship and praise God in unity, to give thanks for the good news that God reaches out to us with grace, and to repent of the ways in which the legacy of the Reformation divided us from other Christians. We sought to celebrate the best of our heritage, while also acknowledging that our human faults and frailties have caused hurt to others. At one of the services, I spoke of how different this was than the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation which took place in 1967 when I was ten years old. Then, Lutherans and Catholics did not worship together. A couple came up to me following the service and told me that the wife was Lutheran, the husband Catholic, and they married in 1967. Neither the Lutherans nor the Catholics would perform the wedding. Now we worship together, engage in ecumenical dialogue, and many of us hope for a time when we will be able to share the Lord's Supper together.

The church has changed much over the years, and continues to change. But it has also sought to remain the same. We continue to seek to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments in ways that bring hope and life to one another, and to use that hope and life in service to our neighbors, our communities, and the world. But the church is always finding new and different ways to share that gospel, seeking ministries that help their neighbors both in their spiritual and physical needs. I am amazed and humbled by the ways in which the congregations, worshipping communities, and institutions and agencies of the Pacifica Synod seek to share the gospel, and I am honored to serve as your bishop, doing what I can to connect our congregations with each other in the Synod and in the ELCA, and to reach out globally with the good news of Jesus Christ.

In the pages of this report, I hope to share a little of what is happening in the Pacifica Synod, how we are connecting with one another, and how we are connected to the ELCA at large. I will do so as I did last year, using the categories our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, outlines when she talks about the mission and unity of the ELCA: **We are Church, We are Lutheran, We are Church Together, We are Church for the Sake of the World.**

## **We are Church.**

The church came into existence on the day of Pentecost when the disciples who had followed Jesus in his earthly ministry were suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit, and were able to preach the gospel in a variety of languages. Our synod continues to seek to ensure the gospel is preached in many different languages. We have congregations that speak Spanish, Mandarin, Taiwanese, Amharic, Samoan, Tagalog, Batak, Korean, Thai, Danish, Japanese, and English. Every congregation that I have visited on the islands also sings the Queen's prayer in Hawaiian, and utilizes the language in other parts of the service. I am thankful for rostered and lay leaders of these congregations, who work diligently so that the gospel may be heard and bring comfort to immigrants and indigenous peoples who live in our synod.

We gather as church around the Word and the Sacraments mostly in congregations and worshipping communities. The ELCA has recently completed a long-range planning process, after collecting information from our congregations, to see how the greater church can help congregations fulfill their calling to be the church in their neighborhoods and communities. This process, known as *Called Forward Together in Christ*, identified five goals around two major emphases. One of the emphases that emerged is the desire by our people to worship and serve in **vibrant congregations**. Work has been done to help congregations do a self-assessment to celebrate the vibrancy they have, to gauge congregational vitality, and to assess long-term congregational viability. Our Director of Evangelical Mission, Pastor Tom Goellrich, is available to help guide congregations through this self-assessment process. It is my hope this will help congregations in planning for the future.

The church is known as the body of Christ. We Christians remember that Christ's most powerful work was done when his body was placed on the cross. What looked to the world like failure turned out to be God's answer to the problems of sin and evil in the world. By dying, Christ won life for all of us. By suffering, Christ gave us hope and a sense of purpose that we are to live as God's people in the world. This means that the church, Christ's body, should not be afraid of failure, of suffering, even of death. We are called to experiment, to use our faith and discernment to imagine what Christ might be asking us to do, and to try it out, see what will happen. Trinity Lutheran in Hemet did just that. They thought they might be called to host a feeding program in their congregation, and tried out that ministry for a few months. The fit was not quite right, but the congregation discovered they were called to open their building to a food pantry, a different way of feeding the hungry. Who knows if they would have discovered this without trying out the feeding program? I would encourage all of our congregations to boldly try ministries that they think Christ might be calling them to do. Even if they don't "succeed," they may result in the formation of other ministries that help people in need.

### **We are Lutheran.**

I flew to Hawaii in January to meet with the rostered leaders of the Hukilau Conference, and my flight was delayed. To compensate us for waiting, the airline allowed the passengers to watch inflight movies free of charge. I took the opportunity to view *Wonder Woman*, which I had heard was pretty good. I was surprised when, about three quarters of the way through the movie, in a pivotal scene, I heard Lutheran theology spoken by one of the major characters. I don't want to spoil the film for those who have not seen it, but there is a point where one of the characters tries to explain that the world is not filled with people who are all good or all bad. This character says that human beings are a mixture of both good and evil, that what we believe is important as it impels us to do what is right, and that, while no one can do everything, each of us can do what we are called to do to make the world a better place.

In that speech in a very popular movie, I heard three pillars of Lutheran Theology. *Simil iustus et peccator* is Latin for "at the same time both a saint and a sinner." Luther argued that we are both good and evil, that God nurtures the good within us but the evil never leaves while we are in this life, and we rely on God's grace to allow the good within us to be brought out. The character's argument that what we believe is important reminded me of "Salvation by grace through faith apart from works of the law," trusting that such faith issues forth in good works due to the one who helps us believe. The notion that each of us can do something to make the world a better place echoes Luther's doctrine of vocation, in which he argued that all have important roles to play in serving our neighbors, and no one vocation is greater than another. Lutheran theology in a Marvel Comics movie! Imagine that.

Pastor Greg Ronning of First Lutheran and The Table in Fullerton has told me he has experienced the power of Lutheran theology among the young adults he reaches through his work at The Table. There are many young people whose only understanding of Christianity comes through non-Lutheran theologies. They think of God as being punitive, and the church as being judgmental. When Pastor Greg writes about Lutheran theology, some of these disaffected former Christians have written back to say "Where has this theology been my whole life? If this is who God really is, maybe I need to rethink what I believe." I commend our congregations for using the build-up to the Reformation to refocus on Lutheran teachings, and I encourage us all to continue to lift up the ways our tradition can speak of God's love, justice, and grace in dialogue with the world in which we live.

### **We Are Church Together.**

Sometimes churches go through difficult times. Occasionally the bishop's office is asked to intervene, and where we can provide assistance, we seek to help. I spoke to a person from a congregation where we had done what we could. This person told me that they had thought their congregation was all alone. But at a time of crisis, when they were without a pastor in their midst, pastors from the conference were available to provide pastoral care, supply pastors ensured that Sunday services could continue, the Synod provided guidance in addressing some fundamental

issues. And the congregation president told me, “Thank you for helping us to see that we are not alone.”

We Christians know we are never alone in this life, that God is always with us. But the Pacifica Synod and the ELCA seek to assure congregations that you are not alone, that other Christians and churches are there to help you. Each of our nine conferences has a Dean that meets with me once-a-month to discuss ministry throughout the Synod, to report on help that is needed or help that has been received as congregations have reached out to one another. I hear of congregations receiving help filing parochial reports, securing audits, learning of best practices from one another, and relying on each other for ideas and brainstorming in their ministry needs.

The ELCA and the Synod also provide financial support through grants. The ELCA gave hunger grants to alleviate the effects of hunger and poverty to congregations in our synod. The Synod provides Stephen Ministry grants from the Catherine Wright Trust to train lay leaders in caring ministry, Youth Ministry grants from the Warner Trust fund to help congregations build robust ministries among children and teenagers, and Matthew 25 grants to help congregations feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, heal the sick, and visit the imprisoned.

At the same time, congregations give faithfully and generously to the work of the ELCA through the Pacifica Synod. Fifty-one percent of all money we receive as mission support is forwarded to the ELCA, which uses it to plant new congregations, support seminaries, pay churchwide staff, continue the work of global missionaries, and for many, many other purposes. The 49% that stays in the synod pays for our staff, funds developing and redeveloping congregations, and provides help to congregations in a variety of ways. Thank you for your faithful and generous support.

I served as a parish pastor for almost thirty years when I was elected to this office, and have found in each of the three congregations that I served that when we made a priority of giving outside of ourselves to God’s greater work in the world, God enabled us to have what we needed for the ministry that we were called to do. I would encourage each congregation, as I encouraged those I served, to give 10% off the top to God and God’s work in Mission Support and other Benevolences. I encourage every congregation, for the joy of it, to give beyond 10% and see how God prospers your work.

Some of our congregations struggle financially, and I do not wish anything that I wrote above to make any congregations feel guilty. I do know that sometimes it is difficult for rostered leaders within a congregation to speak on stewardship in a way that their people can hear. For this reason, Pastor Tom Goellrich of our office has put together a list of pastors who can preach on a stewardship Sunday and help your congregation think through a stewardship strategy. Even for those who do this

annually and well, having someone from the outside come in to help can be a boost. And this is another one of the ways we seek to be church together.

Finally, we are Church Together when we raise up and train leaders for God's church. **Leadership development** emerged as the other major emphasis in the ELCA's *Called Forward Together in Christ* initiative. The ELCA is putting together ways to raise up candidates to become deacons and pastors, and provide them with help, both financially and in other ways, to enable them to do the ministry God calls them to do. We encourage each congregation to be on the lookout for those who may have the call to become deacons or pastors in the ELCA. We also encourage our congregations to support lay leaders in their work, both in their vocations in the world, and in the work they do through the church on councils, in Christian growth programs, and in service. Thank you for the ways you raise up leaders, both lay and rostered, in your congregations.

### **We are Church for the Sake of the World.**

Bishop Jim Gonia of the Rocky Mountain Synod likes to speak of the church as being "Glocal." By this, he means that our healthiest congregations see themselves as part of a global church, doing what they can to enable ministry far from home while also accepting the gifts of global churches and putting them to work locally in their home congregations. They see what they do locally as having a global effect, and gladly accept the love, prayers, and gifts of those of other cultures which enhances their local ministries.

I think it would be great for us to see our congregations as glocal—engaged both globally and locally in a mutually enriching relationship with Lutherans, other Christians, and people of good will throughout the globe. The congregations of the Pacifica Synod have opportunities to be engaged glocally in the year to come. Our Synod will visit our companion synod, the Basel Christian Church in Malaysia, in order to dedicate a school for immigrant children. While there, we also plan to visit various ministry sites, and learn from our sisters and brothers in the Basel Christian Church. Watch for dates and information as we plan to make this trip early in 2019.

Immigration to the United States is a subject that has received a lot of attention in the news. Many of you may be aware that children who are threatened by gangs in Central America are coming to the United States and asking for asylum, as they have every right to do under U.S. immigration law. These children, many of whom do not speak English, appear before immigration judges, many of whom do not speak Spanish. If they do not have legal representation, the chances that they will receive a fair hearing are diminished. The ELCA seeks to provide legal representation for these children through the AMMPARO program. AMMPARO stands for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. We hope to have a workshop about how congregations can connect with the work of AMMPARO in the near future.

In 2016, a resolution was passed to form an anti-racism task force to help the people of the Pacifica Synod coordinate our efforts to battle racism in all its forms. Also in 2016, the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA mandated that every synod put together diversity goals and report on those goals annually. We have put together the task force, and will continue our work on our diversity goals. As we confront racism, we acknowledge that we are all both saints and sinners. We have all been affected by racism in ways that are subtle and not-so-subtle, and all of us are called to turn from this system of oppression in order that God's reign might be more fully revealed through how we live.

### **Final Words of Thanks.**

I want to thank all who work tirelessly to help us live out our call as the church. I thank our synod staff: Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen, Pastor Tom Goellrich, Pastor Dennis Laherty, Rachel Line, Terri Robertson, and Carol Youngman, who work faithfully to provide the care and service needed by congregations, rostered and lay leaders, institutions and agencies. A special word of thanks to Pastor Hitoshi Adachi, our former Asian ministries coordinator and Assistant to the Bishop for Finance, who left our staff in January of this year to take a call with his wife, Satoko, to serve as ELCA missionaries in Kumamoto, Japan. One of the ways you can live out the call to be global would be to support their work financially. Contact our Synod Office for opportunities, both as individuals and as congregations, to give to this important ministry.

I'd also like to thank our Deans: Rev. Richard Vevia, Rev. Karen Marohn, Rev. Sandy Bentz, Rev. Linda Brown, Rev. Scottie Lloyd, Rev. Cate Luehr, Rev. Brian Taylor, Rev. Brenda Bos, and Rev. Kathryn Zurcher. They have spent countless hours working for the sake of the rostered leaders and congregations of our synod, and I am indebted to them for their love and their labor.

Finally, thank you to all of you. Many of you know my father died in late February. I received countless cards, emails, and messages, letting me know that you were keeping me and my family in your prayers as we grieve. Your concern means more than I could ever express. Thank you. And thank you for your prayers. I covet your prayers, for your congregation, for the Synod, for Presiding Bishop Eaton, for Synod staff, and for me. It is a privilege to serve among and with you.

May God's blessing be upon our synod, and through us, may the world be blessed.

Rev. Andrew A. Taylor  
Bishop

**PACIFICA SYNOD 2018  
ROSTERED MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT  
AND YEAR OF ORDINATION**

Adachi, Hitoshi	2010	Egenes, Jay C.	2009
Aden, Charles R.	1997	Egertson, Glen	2001
Ajer, Richard D.	1985	Eichler, Timothy	1990
Allen, Nathan	2015	Eller, Dianne J.	1984
Anderson, Harvey A.	1961	Elliott, Richard L.	1962
Anderson, Mark C.	1977	Elmer, Lynda	1997
Anderson, Milo Ken	1977	Embree, John R.	1974
Anderson, Matthew	2013	Endter, Charles A.	1952
Armstrong, Erin	2016	Erickson, Carl W.	1963
Aviles, Agapito	1999	Erisman, Daren	1996
Awbrey, Steve A	1986	Erlenbusch, W. Daniel	1977
Baesler, Ronald D.	1976	Espeseth, Gloria A.	1984
Barber, David	1971	Estergren, Noel C.	1969
Beard, David P.	1979	Falk, George K.H.	1970
Bell, Jake	2001	Finck, Murray D.	1975
Bengtson, William C.	1967	Finnecy, Dianne	2017
Bentz, Sandra L.	2000	Flohr, Anke	1988
Berg, Duane A.	1962	Fossey, Derek	2008
Berry, Philip J.	1967	Foxworth, Brian P.	2010
Bieber, Paul G.	1990	Freiberg, Shane M.	2008
Bieghler, Steven K.	1987	Freistedt, Robert R.	1960
Bishop, Virginia	2007	Friedrich, James	1977
Black, Paul H.	1975	Frohner, Jeffrey	1992
Bos, Brenda	2014	Fry, Richard	2012
Boye, Karin	1986	Gearhart, Frank S.	1964
Brashear, Elizabeth	2005	Geikow, Ronald	1979
Brown, Linda	2011	Goellrich, Thomas E.	1990
Bullock, James	1963	Gray, M. Laurel	1956
Bunge, John E.	1978	Hagenow, Michael J.	2007
Burke, Dale S.	1972	Hailu, Solomon	1997
Cansino, Mark	1985	Hale, James R.	1973
Caudill, Kenneth T.	1963	Hall, Elwood K.	1977
Chen, Betty	2009	Halvorson, Karla	2007
Chen, David C. T.	1964	Hamada, Yukio	1979
Chen, Thomas W.S.	1984	Hand, Lawrence L.	1982
Chutimapongrat, Pongtep	2012	Harman, William K.	1967
Cole, Daniel	2000	Hodgson, David J.	1973
Corneliussen, Cheryl	1991	Holtz, Eugene R.	1962
Craft, Bruce P.	1961	Hong, HyunHo	2010
Crawford, Jerry A.	1972	Hormann, Phyllis	1995
Dale, Kenneth J.	1951	Hovick, Ron	1994
Doolittle, Jonathan S.	1994	Jacobson, Martin L.T.	1993
Duttera, Margaret A.	1982	Jensen, Steven L.	1973
Edmondson, Timothy A.	1990	Jiang, Franklin X.	1994
Johns, Theodore C.	1965	Matoush, Joseph R.	1974

**PACIFICA SYNOD 2018  
ROSTERED MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT  
AND YEAR OF ORDINATION**

Johnson, Darin	1997	Mattson, David R.	1987
Johnson, Donald K.	1963	McComas, H.G. (Skip)	1999
Johnson, George S.	1962	Meeks, Tomas E.	1973
Johnson, Joseph J.	1971	Mehl, Raymond	1957
Jorstad, David P.	1986	Menke, Wesley	2014
Kelly, Julie	2017	Miller, David H.	1970
Kieffer, David W.	1984	Miller, Gary W.	1968
Kishino, Yutaka	1979	Miller, Keith	1996
Knudson, John O.	1958	Moody, John H.	1972
Kozak, Darryl	2006	Mooney, Robert T.	1983
Kraft, H. Ivor	1972	Moore, Gilbert C.	1953
Krogstad, Kim E.	1984	Myers, Donovan A.	1952
Krueger, David J.	1976	Nagler, David	1993
Kumissa, Samuel S.	2014	Nelson, Sam	2018
Kuo, Ying-Chhi	1963	Nguyen, Minh Hanh	1999
Kupka, David R.	1966	Nielsen, Anne-Grethe	1991
Laherty, Dennis M.	1975	Nordstrand, Patrice A.	1978
Lape, Stephanie	2015	Norman, William A.	1965
Larson, Lowell O.	1948	Oas, Paul C.	1956
Larson, Paul A.	1958	Olivar, Deogracias	1992
Lavin, Ronald J.	1960	Oltman, Brian	1990
Lee, Simon Wing-Shing	1981	Parker, Karen S.	1978
Licht, Kenneth J.	1967	Parmeter Dyer, Carole	2013
Lilley, Jeff	1990	Patterson, Roger W.	1983
Lindberg, David	1955	Perry, Steven L.	1979
Lindquist, Jack E.	1963	Peterson, Ruth M.	1991
Line, Laura A.	2001	Pike, James A.	2005
Listug, Clifford A.	1966	Puccio, Kenneth A.	1977
Lloyd, Scottie R.	1983	Raaen, Daniel	1994
Lopez, Charles J. Jr.	1975	Radatz, William A.	1971
Lubs, Frederick C.	1976	Ramnarine, R. Joseph	1966
Luehr, Catherine	2009	Reed, Carol	2010
Lund, Kinndlee	2012	Refera, Berhanu	2016
Lundblad, John A.	1969	Remillard, Amber	2007
Lunn, John S.	1990	Rennegarbe, Ronald L.	1979
Mahraun, Leslie	2012	Retamoza, Manuel J.	2004
Malloch, Charles W.	1964	Reynolds, David D.	1962
Marohn, Karen L.	2003	Rierson, Richard L.	1972
Martin, Lara	2008	Riggs, Charles B.	1974
Martinson, Diane	1992	Roberts, Marda Ruth	1992
Martyn, Joel	2003	Roessler, James L.	1974
Martyn, Richard W.	1976	Rollefson, Richard	1980
Mason, Timothy J.	1991	Roller, Lawrence H.	1953
Ronning, Greg	1988	Sweetman, Sherry G.	1979
Roschke, Daniel E.	2006	Symons, Luther	1998

**PACIFICA SYNOD 2018  
ROSTERED MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT  
AND YEAR OF ORDINATION**

Rozen, Lee B.	1971	Taylor, Andrew A.	1986
Rufsvold, Victoria J.	1999	Taylor, Brian	1978
Sabbithi, Jayaprakash "JP"	2017	Tsui, May	2006
Salmonson Olson, Linda	1997	Tuohino, Kent	1988
Salomon, Esaul	1982	Tuvey Allen, Terry	1993
Santa Cruz, Maria	2000	Vadis, Bohdan	2003
Scheer, Tony W.	2000	Van Tassel, P.E.	1945
Scheitlin, Paul F.	1979	Vasta, Sabrina M.	2010
Schlechter, Kathryn	1994	Vevia, Richard W. Jr.	1981
Schneider, Michael D.	1996	Volkman, Edward J.	1956
Schowalter, Richard P.	1978	Wade, Raymond W.	1981
Schultz, Jennifer	1996	Waltz, Kathy	1996
Schumacher, William H.	1954	Watland, A. Joris	1968
Severa, Kenneth	1987	Waworuntu, Robert	1985
Seyb-Stockton, Karla M.	1988	Wayne, Robert J.	1952
Shaw, Jennifer	2016	Wenger, David E.	1963
Shonk, Ronald E.	1967	Winick, Mark E.	1978
Snyder, William J. Jr.	1977	Witt, Carl R. Jr.	1977
Spann, John W.	1949	Wolter, Keith	1984
Stienstra, Bradley R.	1975	Worthing, Carol	1982
Stott, Albert W.	1963	Zarate, Juan Ramon	2013
Sumner-Eisenbraun, Sarah	2007	Ziehl, Laura	1997
Sundry, Charles W.	1965	Zurcher, Kathryn	2006

**PACIFICA SYNOD – 2018  
ROSTERED MINISTERS OF WORD AND SERVICE  
AND YEAR OF COMMISSIONING/CONSECRATION**

Bugaj, Mindy	2017	Lee, Shirley J.	2002
Darrow, Betty L	1966	Lind, Leah	2008
Decker, Georgia	1986	Martyn, Barbara	2001
Deming, Phillip	1996	Prechel, Lynne	2007
Evans, Ann	1980	Rennegarbe, Paula	1973
Fisher, Taflin	2003	Rube, Linda	2004
Herbert, Benjamin	1970	Sumner-Eisenbraun, Kevin	2009
James, Melissa	2004	Stohlman, Mary	1987
Kieschnick, Melvin M.	1950	Wall, Roberta	2015

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**P**eace and joy, from God our Creator who called our world into being, spoke through the prophets, and entered our lives, the word made flesh in Christ Jesus our Lord.

One of my favorite poems written by James Weldon Johnson is The Creation. He begins,

***And God stepped out on space,  
And God looked around and said:  
I'm lonely ---  
I'll make me a world.***

The story of creation is nothing short of miraculous, fascinating. Spoken words take shape. God speaks and order arises out of chaos, light and dark are differentiated,

***The God smiled,  
And the light broke,  
And the darkness rolled up on one side,  
And the light stood shining on the other,  
And God said: That's good! .....***

Then God creates the plants and animals and us

***Up from the bed of the river  
God scooped the clay;  
And by the bank of the river  
God kneeled down;  
And there the great God Almighty  
Who lit the sun and fixed it in the sky,  
Who flung the stars to the most far corner of the night,  
Who rounded the earth in the middle of his hand;  
This great God  
Like a mammy bending over her baby,  
Kneeled down in the dust  
Toiling over a lump of clay  
Till God shaped it in God's own image;***

and life is breathed into dirt to become living beings.

***Then into it he blew the breath of life,  
And man became a living soul.  
Amen.        Amen.***

Please forgive me for changing the masculine pronouns for God to God.

I'm interested in the words people use to shape their thoughts, hopes, and dreams. We hear and read all kinds of predictions about the future the world and of our churches. Some say the church is irrelevant, some say society has moved beyond the bounds of scripture. Some insist that humankind can fix our problems, while others insist that our recklessness is irreversible, that all creation is primed for annihilation. It is disturbing to hear that some of us, who belong to God, are allowing our lives, our thoughts, our dreams and our words to be shaped by the world rather the Spirit. That we, who have been claimed in the waters of baptism live as though God is no longer actively creating, breathing the Spirit into our hearts and minds. I find some using words that are aimed at crushing hearts, rather than lifting up spirits. Words, our words, can conjure hatred and violence, or encouragement, peace, and love. We have a choice. We can hunker down to protect what was or look up to see what God is doing now by the river of life.

Here is what I've found when I look up: congregations, people of God are encouraging and helping one another, serving communities that have been disenfranchised and those who are forgotten. Lifting out of their midst, those who are called to serve on the rosters of the ELCA through word and sacrament, and word and service. Leaders rising up to preach and teach, to guide and encourage, to love and admonish us. Together, here in Pacifica, we are feeding and clothing thousands of people each year, visiting the sick and the lonely, praying for one another, encouraging, accepting and sheltering one another. Using their words and actions to point to God's Spirit moving among us, still creating. I am so thankful to have been called to work among you, in this time and place; with those who are dreaming dreams of bold new ministries, and those who are faithfully serving in congregations whose roots trace back to the beginning of the last century. Faithful people, who are finding their way through the challenges of finances, time, and education to be our leaders into the future and whatever that may bring. I see the hands of God molding and forming us for ministry. To serve and be served. And yet, amid this new burst of creativity, it sometimes seems as though we who know the story, we who hold the answer are afraid. Afraid of this great God who kneels in the dirt to shape new life. Fearful that the One who stooped to shape us, who enlivened us with this powerful Spirit, has turned away from us. I know for sure that God is with us. Inviting us to come and play by the river in the clay and the mud and create what will be. To speak words of life to each other, and our neighbors, to bear the Spirit to the world. Now I admit, I used to throw clay – to mold it and shape it and sometimes when I was finished it was just a lump. But sometimes it was miraculously lovely, a vessel with enough shape to hold water or wine or spirit. If God is willing to get down in the dirt with us, to work and move among us, and make a way – then what we are doing is important. Our words are empowered to create life and love. The opportunities are endless!

The answer, despite all of that doomsday rhetoric, is that “the God of creation, who shaped us and breathed life into us, continues to breathe life into the world and into the body of Christ, the church. God, who so meticulously shaped the universe, is intrinsically involved in all aspects of creation, in every fragment of our lives. Together we are God's answer to the worlds questions! What about your life – your community – your church? Tell me – tell us. I want to hear your stories. It is my great honor to travel throughout the Pacifica Synod, meeting the people of our congregations, striving to empower, encourage and support you as you seek to follow Christ, as your congregation moves through transition, as you seek to share God's love for all people. You can see from the reports that people are answering the call to serve, that churches are calling pastors. Take a moment during the assembly to talk to each other, to ask about one another's church and ministries. To speak and see how we are answering God's call. Blessings, Pastor Terry

*There's a box at registration, drop me note, tell me your story, I promise to pray for you and I covet your prayers, as together we join God by the river, in the dirt, to see what God will do!*

**The Rev. Tom Goellrich**  
**Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM)**  
**Report**

**Worship God +++ Be Transformed +++ Love People +++ Change the World**

It has been just short of an official year (as of this writing) that I began serving in the role as your DEM and A2B in our Pacifica Synod. This has been an incredible adventure filled with various turns of joy and challenge. I am often asked how is it going or are you enjoying your new call? My answer is always, yes! To see the work of faithful disciples of Jesus ... lay and rostered leaders alike... is inspiring and touches my soul!

As disciples of Jesus, we have the fantastic privilege and opportunity to share the love of Jesus through word and deed. We have been entrusted with this by God and we should never take this responsibility lightly. Mission is just that, talking and doing things that point to what God has done and is doing now for you and the world. Our activity is solely initiated by God working through us by the Holy Spirit.

**Mission Begins**

When we begin by gathering in community to **WORSHIP GOD** (Exodus 20:3)... when we check our personal agendas at the door ... when we empty ourselves of “stuff” and gather to give God our hearts and minds in worship ... when we forget about “what am I going to get out of church today” ... when we are ready to give every part of our being in worship to God our creator ... more space is created for God to do what God does.

What does God do, you ask? God’s Holy Spirit enters into all that space and begins to **TRANSFORM** our hearts and minds to the ways of God (Romans 12:2). It is always about God’s actions in and for us. Since creation God has been at work ... at the cross and the empty tomb God reconciles us through the blood and resurrection of Jesus ... and God as Holy Spirit continues transformative work in us today.

This transformation opens our hearts and our minds to **LOVE PEOPLE** (Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:44-45) ... we love by caring for others ... we love by advocating for those who live in the margins of society ... we love by speaking to matters of justice ... for voices who feel voiceless ... we love by loving our enemies and by sharing the pure message of the Gospel to all who will listen.

In the end, this brings **CHANGE** to **THE WORLD** (Matthew 5:14-16) ... one person at a time.

**Looking Forward**

Be on the lookout for opportunities around stewardship, evangelism, building missional capacity, congregation vitality and more. **AND** ... if you are looking to connect in a more powerful way with **MissionInsite**, contact me, Pastor Larry Hand or Carol Youngman in the synod office. This is a powerful tool that can assist you in getting to know your community and the neighborhoods that you are called to serve.

**Worship God +++ Be Transformed +++ Love People +++ Change the World**

Respectively Submitted,  
Rev. Tom Goellrich  
DEM and A2B

**The Rev. Dennis M. Laherty**  
**Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Development and**  
**Legacy (Part-time) Report**

This position of Assistant to the Bishop was newly created in February, 2017. It is part-time and is intended to address the various needs of congregations with average worship attendance of approximately 50 per week or less. It is recognized that there are various needs to be addressed in these congregations that make up nearly one-third of the Pacifica Synod. The needs addressed in these congregations include various elements of mission and ministry, pastors, lay leadership, property, and the list goes on. It is not intended that I would have all the answers for congregations but I can certainly find a resource that can assist in the particular need(s) of a congregation.

As these congregations look back 25 years, there are parts of the congregational life that still exist today. A valid question to ask is; 25 years from now how will the present time be remembered and still impacting the local community? What are some new ways to serve in our community?

Smaller congregations have all of the facets of ministry that are found in larger congregations of our synod. It's apparent that the two most significant and ongoing concerns of smaller congregations, however, are property related and financial. The goal is to address both of those concerns in a way that doesn't distract from vigorously proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the community. With, at times, a small number of people to call on for carrying out a congregation's ministry, continuing as a vital force in the community becomes a significant challenge.

Serving together, small congregations and others of the synod, along with the synod staff as well as churchwide, positive change can take place.

It is a gift and a pleasure for me to serve the smaller congregations of the Pacifica Synod. It is also extremely helpful and a joy to serve with Pastor Tom Goellrich, the Director of Evangelical Mission and with Pastor Terry Tuvey-Allen, the synod's mobility and candidacy guru. The staff of Terri Robertson, Rachel Line, and Carol Youngman are invaluable for the day to day ministry I witness among congregations. And most certainly, the guidance and support provided by Bishop Andy Taylor makes our working, serving and living for the Lord possible in the synod we love, Pacifica.

In Continuing Blessed Service,

Dennis M. Laherty

## Pacifica Synod Children, Youth & Family Ministries Report to 2018 Synod Assembly

Our Synod's ministry with those serving our congregations in the areas of Children, Youth and Family Ministries continued in 2017 through the work of volunteers. We have two active networks of youth ministry leaders who get together monthly to share ideas and resources, joys and concerns, and to support one another. Our South Network (San Diego region) is coordinated by Pastor Manuel Retamoza of St. Andrew's, San Diego and typically meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our Orange/LA County network typically meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month and is coordinated by Terri Robertson, Pacifica Synod staff member. We continue to work to find the best way to connect youth ministry leaders in the Inland Empire, who often are volunteers who have full-time positions outside the church.

As of March 2018, 27 of our congregations are preparing to bring a total of 281 youth and adults leaders to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering, which will take place from June 27 to July 1 in Houston, Texas. Many hours of planning, fundraising, organizing, communicating and relationship-building go into leading a group to the Gathering, and our synod's youth ministry leaders are working hard to make this a life-changing experience for our youth. We are grateful for their dedication and service. We especially give thanks for the gifts of Amanda Pulos, youth minister at King of Glory, Fountain Valley who is serving as our Synod's Gathering Coordinator and Pastor Ramon Zarate, who is serving as our Synod Day Director for the Gathering. We appreciate their service as volunteers in these roles.



The Pacifica Synod Youth Team is currently made up of ten high school youth and three adult advisors from across our synod. The mission of this team is to walk with youth as they develop leadership skills, grow in faith and build relationships. Our team works in conjunction with the Southwest California Synod Youth Team to plan, organize and lead events for elementary, middle and high school youth. Many of our team members serve as Synod Assembly voting members and visitors and at the 2017 Assembly, the Youth Team led workshops and evening activities for other youth attending the assembly. Current Synod Youth Team members are:

President – Sydnie Brown – Carlton Hills, Santee  
Co-President Elect/Big Bear Conference Rep – Marit Hendrickson – First, Redlands  
Co-President Elect/Saddleback Conference Rep – Gabriella Mark – Mission, Laguna Niguel  
Secretary/At-Large Rep – Ashley Nadolny – St. Olaf, Garden Grove  
Multi-Cultural Rep – Penelope Barrios – Crave Life, Whittier  
IT Rep – Stone Sharp – Resurrection, Huntington Beach  
Hospitality Rep – Reed Sharp - Resurrection, Huntington Beach  
Son & Surf Conference Rep – Sam Rice – Resurrection, Huntington Beach  
Rejoice Conference Rep – Max Hodges – St. Paul, Fullerton  
At-Large Conference Rep – Connor Switzer – Resurrection, Huntington Beach  
Adult Advisors – Terri Robertson, Jamie Buffkin (Resurrection, HB)  
and Pastor Erin Armstrong (Trinity, Hemet)

We are seeking high school youth to serve in the following open positions: Definitely-Abled Representative, along with representatives from the following conferences: E. San Diego, W. San Diego, Harvest, Raincross and Hukilau Conferences. Those interested in serving or who would like more information are encouraged to contact Terri Robertson in the synod office.

In November 2017, two of our Synod Youth Team members, Sydnie Brown and Gabriella Mark, along with an adult advisor, attended the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in Houston. They joined youth and adult representatives from most of the 65 synods for three days of leadership development and faith formation. Then, in February of 2018, Gabriella was selected to serve on the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team as a representative of the Pacifica Synod. We are very proud of and excited for Gabriella!

We are blessed in this synod by the gifts and dedication of leaders working with those in the first third of life. These leaders serve in a variety of ways – paid, volunteer, full-time, part-time – and face the ongoing challenges of often diminishing numbers of youth and young families in our congregations – and along with it – reductions in what is budgeted (if anything) for ministry to children, youth and families. The theme of this January's ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza conference was "Finding Forward" and during our time together, we wrestled with questions such as, "How do I find forward in the messy, muddy, middle?" We are definitely in the "messy, muddy, middle" as we discern what ministry to young people looks like these days. But we were also given hope, that often, this is the place where new life thrives, where the soil is the most fertile, when we look forward to the future, while honoring the past.



Please keep our ministry leaders in your prayers and offer them your support, care and love. Our young people aren't the future of the church – they are the present – here, now and in this place. They deserve more than our leftover time and resources. We are ALL called to walk with them in their faith journey and to do so, it's important to provide encouragement and support for their parents as well. Let's show them with more than just words that they are a priority to us as we work to find forward as church together.

In peace,  
*Terri Robertson*



Pacifica & Southwest California Synod Youth Team Members  
Annual Planning Retreat – January 2018



ELCA Youth Leadership Summit – November 2017  
Houston, Texas

## **Pacifica Synod Council Vice President Report to the 2018 Pacifica Synod Assembly**

Friends in Christ,

I bring you greetings from the entire Synod Council as we gather for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Pacifica Synod Assembly. We hope you find this time in the desert restorative and that it leaves you renewed - ready to give voice to faith, justice and blessing; ready to go and tell!

Since the last time we gathered as an Assembly, the Synod Council has had four regular meetings and several conference calls. The first meeting in Redlands and at Luther Glen was a time for orientation, business and a council retreat. Other day-long meetings were held in Santa Ana at the Lutheran Center for Mission and Learning, and we will meet again in the desert just ahead of this Assembly. In addition to approving Synod Call changes, monitoring budgetary items, hearing reports of the Synod staff and conducting other business on behalf of the Assembly, we listen and learn about the congregations in our Synod. Lately we have listened and learned that some of our congregations are struggling – with membership, with the changing socio-economic status of their communities, with declining mission support. Some of our congregations have needed to make difficult choices or are in the process – to close, to move from their beloved buildings, to change from what they once were to what they are now called to be. Being made new is no simple task, but in Christ all things are possible. Please hold these congregations in prayer as they discern where God is calling them.

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ~ Philippians 1:3-6*

Thank you to all the members of the Synod Council, Bishop Andy Taylor and the entire Synod staff for their dedicated service to our congregations through the Synod. As we are on the eve of annual elections, I would especially like to thank the following Synod Council members – some who completed their term on council last May, and some who will finish their terms at this Assembly. We are all better for the talent, dedication and time these faithful people of God have given to Synod Council: Raphael del Castillo, Jeffrey Roberts, Linda Blanche, Jeff Cours, the Rev. Darin Johnson, the Rev. Lara Martin, Paul Moehlman, the Rev. Laura Ziehl and Darrell Tuntland. You will be missed, but the work you have done with council, and continue to do within the Synod, will be a constant reminder of your faithful service.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Herman, Vice President, Pacifica Synod

**ACTIONS OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**May 2017-March 2018**

**SYNOD CALLS**

**SC.17.05.09 VOTED** to approve a synod call for The Rev. Karla Seyb-Stockton to Carlton Hills Lutheran Church, May 8, 2017. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.12.09 VOTED** to approve the extension of Rev. Dennis Laherty synod call beginning February 12, 2018 and ending January 2019.

**SC.17.12.11 VOTED** to approve the list below of synod calls. (m/s/c)

Rev. Tim Edmondson, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Whittier (Interim Pastor, start date: October 16, 2017)

Rev. Daniel Cole, Sonata Hospice, San Diego – 12/2/2017

Deacon Kevin Sumner-Eisenbraun to Silverado

**SC.18.02.05 VOTED** to approve the Synod Call for Rev. Wes Menke – LRCC, El Camino Pines 12.1.17

**ROSTER MATTERS**

**SC.17.05.08 VOTED** to approve retirement status to The Rev. Patrice Nordstrand effective July, 2017. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.08.06 VOTED** to accept the following changes in the referenced roster statuses. (m/s/c) a. Retirement

- The Rev. David Hodgson - July 1, 2016
- The Rev. Dale Burke – August 15, 2017

b. Synod Calls

- The Rev. David Beard – Interim, Faith, Menifee
- The Rev. David Kieffer – Interim, Maluhia, Waianae
- Melissa James, Deacon – Moved from non-stipendiary to regular Synod call, serves Agape House, SDSU

c. Rescind/Retract Retirement

- The Rev. Patrice Nordstrand – previously approved in May, for July, 2017 retirement; desires retraction of retirement status

**SC.17.12.10 VOTED to approve the on leave from call status for those listed below. (m/s/c)**

On Leave from Call:

Rev. Ron Hovick – year 1

Rev. Leslie Mahraun – year 1

Rev. Samuel Kumissa – year 1

Ms. Roberta Wall – year 2

Ms. Lynne Prechel – year 2

Rev. Michael Hagenow – year 3

Rev. Carole Parmeter Dyer – year 3

Rev. Amber Remillard – year 4 to go to COB

Rev. Carol Reed - Retroactively approve On Leave from Call Status from 1/1/2016 to 3/14/2016.

**SC.18.02.05 VOTED** to approve the status changes below. (m/s/c)

1. On Leave from Call:

Angela Denker – request received (OLFC date: 5.22.2017)

Carol Reed – awaiting request (OLFC date: 1.1.2018)

Daniel Cole – awaiting request (OLFC date: 12.5.2017)  
Carole Parmeter-Dyer (extension of OLFC status,  
recommendation to COB)

**Retirement**

Rev. Patrice Nordstrand – 6.3.18

**CONGREGATION MATTERS**

**SC.17.05.05 VOTED** to accept Christ Lutheran’s request to be released from the ELCA. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.05.10 VOTED** to approve The Table transfer from Son & Surf to Rejoice Conference (m/s/p)

**SC.17.08.07 VOTED** to approve Taiwanese Lutheran transfer from West San Diego to Harvest Conference. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.08.17 VOTED** to approve the Constitution revision of Calvary Lutheran Church, Solana Beach. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.08.18 VOTED to NOT** approve the constitution revision of LC of the Master, La Habra, and will notify the congregation in person. (m/s/c)

*Motion: Pending receipt and completion of the documents outlined in the Relocation Procedure passed by Synod Council, (SC.17.08.20) August 26, 2017, we will reconsider St Mark’s, Chula Vista, request to sell their property, at a special council meeting.*

**SC.17.08.24 VOTED** to pass the above referenced motion. (m/s/c)

*Motion: That the request for relocation by Highland Ave. Lutheran Church (DBA, Spirit of Hope), from San Bernardino, CA to Highland, CA area, be approved.*

**SC.17.12.12 VOTED** to approve the above referenced motion. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.12.15 VOTED** to approve the move of Cross and Crown Lutheran in Rancho Cucamonga, CA, from the Big Bear to the Raincross Conference. (m/s/c)

**SC.18.02.11 VOTED** to release the Oromo Congregation from the ELCA with regret. (m/s/c)

**SC.18.02.12 VOTED** to accept the constitution committee’s recommendation to approve Trinity, Victorville’s constitution. (m/s/c)

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**SC.17.05.06 VOTED** to approve the Baseline Salary Increase Resolution be brought to the Synod Assembly (m/s/p)

*Motion That 10% of net proceeds from property sales be tithed to Pacifica Synod, beginning with the College Lutheran sale, and continuing with all future property sales that have Designated Legacy Gifts. 10% of the tithe to Pacifica would then be given to the ELCA. A percentage of the holding account, approved by the Executive Committee, would be used for redeveloping and renewing congregations.*

**SC.17.08.04 VOTED** to approve the above referenced motion. (m/s/c)

*Motion: From the proceeds of College Lutheran Church the following distributions will be made. Pacifica Synod will serve as the fiscal agent for these distributions, as well as for any future distributions where Legacy Gifts are designated:*

*\$2,000,000.00 to Agape House Campus Ministries at San Diego State University*

*\$ 100,000.00 to Clothes Closet/Pantry housed at Calvary Lutheran*

*\$ 628,997.37 to Oromo (if they stay in the ELCA)*

*\$ 303,221.93 to 10% tithe (\$30,322.19 would go to ELCA)*

**SC.17.08.05 VOTED** to approve the above referenced motion. (m/s/c)

*The Rev. Darin Johnson & Dámaris Allen abstained because they are employed by Agape House.*

Mission Fund Committee Recommendation to Fund the Latino Ministry Group from the Latino Mission Fund in the amount of \$28,000.

**SC.17.08.08 VOTED** to approve the disbursement above. (m/s/c)

*Motion: To recommend to Pacifica Synod Assembly that the assembly offerings for the years 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the Ethiopian Mekane Yesus synod, totaling 11,103.01, be designated to the GEM fund.”*

**SC.17.08.12 VOTED** to approve the above referenced motion. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.08.14 VOTED** to accept the gift of \$1700 from St. Peter’s and use to help cover the costs of Mission InSite. (m/s/c) *Jeff Cours abstained as he is on the council at St Peter’s.*

YAGM 2017 Assembly offering – proposal to split designated YAGM assembly offering 50/50 to Carlee Woods (YAGM volunteer) and general YAGM fund.

**SC.17.08.16 VOTED** to approve sending \$1526.45 to Carlee Woods as stated above. (m/s/c)

*Motion: Executive Committee recommends that Synod Council approve the following actions:*

- A. Finance Committee recommendation to move \$24,700 from the Bishop Transition Fund to zero out the Synod Assembly deficit. The Bishop Transition Fund would retain remaining funds.*
- B. College Lutheran funds - \$273,000 - Finance Committee recommends half held for synod administration cash flow, half to LCC MF Thrivent Fund.*
- C. Undesignated Funds - \$1255 – Finance recommends depositing in Bishop’s discretionary fund.*

**SC.17.12.03 VOTED** to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.12.04 VOTED** to approve the Spend Plan FYE 1/31/19. (m/s/c)

*Motion: The Executive Committee approves the 10% tithe from the sale of College Lutheran to the Synod to be given to Campaign for the ELCA for whatever is needed, (1% of net sales amount), instead of the general fund.*

**SC.17.12.05 VOTED** to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

*Motion: Synod Council to ask Executive Committee to review Calvary's request that \$100,000 from the College Legacy Fund be used to repair Calvary's parking lot for the Clothes Closet and Food Pantry that relocated to Calvary, and bring that recommendation and bring that recommendation electronically to Council after due diligence.*

**SC.17.12.06 VOTED** to approve the above referenced motion. (m/s/c)

Calvary Legacy gift increase – *Motion from Executive Council: That Synod Council authorize an additional \$100,000 to be given to Calvary Lutheran from the College Legacy funds originally designated to the Oromo Congregation in support of the Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, and for hosting our African Immigrants Ministries.*

**SC.18.01.01 VOTED** to pass the above motion. (m/s/c) *Note: the Rev. Darin Johnson abstained from the vote.*

**SC.18.02.03 VOTED** to approve the Spend Plan for 2018-2019 as presented. (m/s/c)

### **SYNOD ASSEMBLY MATTERS**

**SC.17.05.07 VOTED** to approve the Full Participation of All Rostered Leaders in Professional Ethics and Boundaries Training Events to be brought to the Synod Assembly (m/s/p)

2018 Synod Assembly Offering Recipients:

**SC.17.12.14 VOTED** to approve the recommendation by Executive Committee (m/s/c) to give ½ to our Companion Synod in Malaysia, and ½ to CCLM for the building of its new facility

**SC.18.02.04 VOTED** to present the Budget for 2019-2020 to Assembly as proposed (m/s/c)

*Motion: Synod Council authorizes Rachel Line & Bishop Andy Taylor to research and decide which groups from the list provided will be given space at the assembly.*

**SC.18.02.06 VOTED** to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

**SC.18.02.07 VOTED** to recommend First Call Theological Education (FCTE) 18-01 resolution to the synod assembly. (m/s/c)

*Motion: That we recommend to the Assembly that S10.06 be amended to the model language for Synod Constitutions for S10.06.*

**SC.18.02.09 VOTED** to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

### **APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS**

**SC.17.08.10 VOTED** to approve Ellen Kaminski & Tom Pankow as members of the Finance Committee. (m/s/c)

Murray and Rhoda GEM Fund Committee members: Bishop Emeritus Finck, LeRoy Loseke, Rev. Darren Erisman, Rhoda Finck, Richard Kamiyama, & Dámaris Allen

**SC.17.08.13 VOTED** to approve the GEM Fund committee members above. (m/s/c)

**SC.17.08.15 VOTED** to approve hiring Philip Allen as our counsel. (m/s/c)

*Note: Damaris Allen abstained as she is related to Philip Allen.*

Audit Committee appointment: Gary Kakert, Tom Pankow, Ellen Kaminsky, Darrel Tuntland, Elizabeth Lossing, and Fred Luhman.

**SC.17.08.19 VOTED** to approve the Audit Committee members as stated above.

**SC.17.12.13 VOTED** to ratify the LRCC Board Members Sara Zimmerly and Linda Blanche. (m/s/c) *Linda Blanche abstained from the vote.*

**SC.18.02.13 VOTED** to appoint the Rev. Laura Ziehl (chair), the Rev. Jay Egenes, the Rev. Jennifer Schultz, the Rev. Brian Taylor and Shelia Wenzel to the Resolutions Committee. (m/s/c)

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**SC.17.05.11 VOTED** that upon request and review of the Executive Committee, an organization may use the Pacifica logo. Organizations may request approval by Executive Committee for permission to use the logo on their websites and/or printed materials.

*Motion: This synod council establish a procedure for churches wanting to relocate.*

- a. The congregation shall follow the relocation policy and constitutional directive from the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit.*
- b. The congregation shall submit a written plan to the Director of Evangelical Mission. Such plan should include a 1, 3 & 5 year plan, and a description of their current situation and opportunities and vision for the new location. It will also include a plan for the monies received from the sale, including how they would like them to be allocated and administered.*
- c. The Director of Evangelical Mission will review and make recommendations to the Synod council.*
- d. After the above steps are completed, the Synod Council will receive the Director of Evangelical Mission's recommendation and consider it in their decision.*

**SC.17.08.20 VOTED** to pass the above referenced motion. (m/s/c)

*Recommendation from Executive Committee: to approve that funds be transferred from the Portico account to cover hotel & registration fees for Terri Robertson and Carol Youngman for TheOasis 2017.*

**SC.17.12.16 VOTED** to approve the above recommendation. (m/s/c)

**SC.18.02.14 VOTED** to authorize the sale of the El Camino burial plot, which was a gift given to College Lutheran and now belongs to the Synod, for \$1950.00, and name Bishop Andy Taylor as authorized signer. (m/s/c)

## PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL, 2017 - 2018

### Officers

Term of Office – 4 Years

NAME	POSITION	EXPIRES
Bishop Andrew Taylor 1801 C Parkcourt Place Santa Ana CA 92701 (714) 692-2791 andytaylor@pacificasynod.org Bishop, First Term, 2022	Bishop, First Term	2022 (6 year term)
Ms Lori Herman 1919 Falmouth Dr El Cajon CA 92020 (619) 992-0995 C lehermannew@gmail.com Vice President, First Term, 2020	Vice President, First Term	2020
Ms Angela Jackson 5711 Roswell St San Diego CA 92114 (858) 740-7609 angelagangstad@hotmail.com Secretary, First Term, 2020	Secretary, First Term	2020
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Ms. Angela Jackson	The Rev. Lara Martin, First, 2018
Mr. Gary Kakert	The Rev. Kim Krogstad, Second, 2018

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## **EAST SAN DIEGO #1 and WEST SAN DIEGO #2 CONFERENCE REPORT**

East San Diego – Dean: Rev. Richard Vevia Lay Leader: Sue Connors

West San Diego – Dean: Rev. Karen Marohn Lay Leader: Angela Jackson

With the approval of the Synod Council we redrew the conference boundaries and adjusted the make-up of both conferences to be more equal in number. Ascension, Tierrasanta, and St. Andrew's are now part of the East San Diego conference and Taiwanese Lutheran Church is in the Harvest Conference.

The rostered leaders of our two conferences continue to meet weekly for worship and dialogue. After the closing of College Lutheran Church we continued to meet in that sanctuary until the sale of the property. The Wednesday morning gathering is now held at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

There are a number of congregations in transition awaiting new pastoral leadership. Pastor Ron Hovick resigned at St. Mark, Chula Vista and Pastor Gloria Espeseth has been providing pastoral care and Sunday supply until an interim pastor is named. Also under interim care are Carlton Hills, Santee; First, San Diego; and Gethsemane, San Diego. Soon to join that list is Shepherd of the Valley, La Mesa when Pastor Dan Roschke leaves to take a new call at the end of May. St. Andrew's called Rev. Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun as associate pastor in September, 2017.

As conferences together we support the many ministries of our congregations and neighborhood. An example of that is the Agape House, the Episcopal/Lutheran campus ministry at SDSU, Chili Cook-off/Cookie Chill-off. Each year this friendly competition and fund-raising event brings many of our congregations together. We also come together for Empty Bowls (for TACO) and Take A Hike (for LRCC) as well as other fund-raising and faith-raising events in our congregations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Richard Vevia, East San Diego Conference dean

Rev. Karen Marohn, West San Diego Conference dean

## HARVEST CONFERENCE #3 REPORT

The Harvest Conference includes north San Diego County and Temecula (in Riverside County). Below are some highlights of how God is powerfully working in and through our congregations' ministries to embody the Gospel locally and globally . . .

**Bethlehem, Encinitas**, is pleased to have recently called Pastor Sam Nelson as Associate Pastor. We have increased our partnership with the interfaith community by hosting Hands of Peace and a Ramadan meal with our Muslim neighbors.

**Hope, Temecula**, dedicated our new church and preschool building in February 2018, after 3 years in a local business park. Worship attendance is again growing and we are especially rejoicing as we welcome preschool staff, students and families back to school. Amidst finishing touches on the campus, we are celebrating and looking forward to deepening ecumenical and interfaith partnerships that have had us powerfully working together to serve God and our community.

**House of Prayer, Escondido**, did some assessment and came up with a five-year plan that includes renovating the sound system and adding video capability in the sanctuary. The hope is to better serve the new families that have been coming in -- particularly for the second service.

**Incarnation, Poway**, is excited for the ministry opportunities in our parish, local, domestic, and global missions. Highlights include our growing involvement in Cameroon and India where we continue to work against human trafficking. We are sponsoring a refugee family from Central Africa Republic, assisting them with housing, education, etc. The coming year is sure to bring more opportunities to serve our community. Serving God in the service of God's people!

**San Marcos, San Marcos**, continues outreach to the community through work with the immigrant community, working side-by-side with the Muslim community, North County Immigration Task Force, and through the local elementary school. We are excited about the many musical opportunities and growing partnerships with so many local organizations.

**Spirit of Joy, Ramona**, continues to look for new ways of reaching our community. Gods Work. Our Hands. had over 150 members involved in 10+ projects throughout our community. Bible studies and Home groups are a great way in which we are involving our members. In the midst of ministry we are building. There has been a tremendous effort on the part of the congregation to finish our construction. For a complete picture please go to [gofundme.com/sojbuilding](http://gofundme.com/sojbuilding).

**Taiwanese Lutheran Church of San Diego**, recently added to Harvest Conference, is a trilingual church in Taiwanese, Mandarin and English. While their building is in Rancho Penasquitos, just off the I-15, their ministry "to bring people to Christ and to equip the saints for the work of ministry" has significant global impact through radio teaching across Asia, efforts to build a missionary training center on their church campus and more.

Our sisters and brothers at **Calvary, Solano Beach, First, Vista (Primera Iglesia), King of Kings, Oceanside, and Spirit Harbor, Carlsbad** are also actively and faithfully serving Christ and our neighbors in exciting and creative ways.

In God's Gracious Grip, Pastor Sandy Bentz, Harvest Conference Dean

## RAINCROSS CONFERENCE #4 REPORT

**Trinity Lutheran, Hemet** Over this last year, we have recommitted to building our relationship with our surrounding community, and using our campus more intentionally to serve those in need. That vision took on concrete form in December when we entered into an agreement with the Community Pantry, the oldest continuously running food pantry in Riverside County. The Community Pantry is now housed in our previously unoccupied Preschool Building, serving the community four days a week. We are excited for the new use of space, and the partnerships it will foster. We are also planning a week-long "Arts Exploratorium" this summer, with the help of Warner Trust Grant money, to encourage the children in our neighborhood to engage with the arts, and utilize the many gifts of our congregation members. God is moving in Hemet, and we are excited to be along for the ride!

**Faith Lutheran** is a strong and faithful community of believers in Jesus Christ. Serving the 55+ communities of Sun City in Menifee, they have a strong volunteer base of committed members, who give of their time, talents and treasures freely. The church community serves as their primary social connection. They are well organized with an active WELCA, and strong outreach ministry, offering a vital campus ministry to MSJC, and support through the Interfaith community which is engaged in the growing community of Menifee that surrounds the core 55+ residences. The congregation has made use of a detailed mission plan with numerous objectives over the past 10 years. With the departure of Pastor Mark Cansino in late April 2017 due to disability, the congregation entered a time of transition. Pastor Joel Martyn was appointed to serve as a Bridge Pastor for three months. Pastor David Beard was appointed to service as the Interim Pastor in September 2017. A Transition Team was formed at the beginning of summer and has made substantial progress in creating the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The profile will be approved in early April 2018. A Call Committee is being formed and should be in place by mid-April 2018.

**Grace in Riverside.** Our ministry is going well but we have had a bit of excitement. In late March, someone who apparently was driving while under the influence, traveling in excess of 100 mph came up onto our property and took out our brick & rebar sign, a power transformer, and a concrete-encased street light.

**Spirit of Joy in Hemet**—they received a Matthew 25 grant whereby they are looking to start a lunch time feeding program in the area. To increase efforts to serve their community they just finished building a prayer and meditation garden which is open to the community.

At **Eden** we have been very busy once again this past year. We have been blessed with many avenues for outreach. Our quilters made and distributed over 250 quilts over the course of the year. These included full sized quilts, baby quilts, and prayer quilts. They went to LSS, LWR, local charities, Santa for Seniors, etc. We gave out nearly 80 food cards for those in need who came into our office as well as hygiene packs. Receiving the Matthew 25 grant helped us and is helping in this ministry. Each week our 'Homeless Lunch Ministry' bags 50 lunches which go to LSS for people who come into their office in need of some food. We also support CCLM during the year and this year our Christmas Eve offering was designated to help fund their project of building the new men's shelter at the facility. Our preschool is functioning at capacity. As a matter of the fact, for the first time in a number of years, we have a waiting list. This is a ministry which has been a part of Eden for more than 45 years. This last year we were approached by the city of Riverside to be a part of their 'Open Doors Riverside' event. It was an

mid-week evening event that gave the community at large an opportunity to visit some of the city's historic buildings. We were honored to be asked as it was a wonderful way to open our doors and meet people who might not come to the church on a Sunday morning. Last but not least, we have begun to have a weekly bulletin insert called 'Taking Faith Home'. This has been a very popular addition as this insert includes devotions, bible readings, prayers, etc. for the week. As I said, thanks be to God, we are blessed to be a very active congregation.

### **Trinity, Riverside:**

- We continued to serve a free dinner every Monday and a free breakfast every Saturday for homeless, seniors and low-income residents of our community. An average of 40-50 people attend each meal. We recently received a \$2,500 grant from ELCA World Hunger to support and expand this program.
- We participated in "Faith in Motion," a partnership between churches, social service providers, and the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services. Through this partnership we helped launch "Beds & Blessings" to provide beds to children and families in need, and we participated in other projects to help foster children and families.
- We helped launch the CarePortal program in Riverside County and were the first church in the county to register as a participating church. CarePortal is a network of churches that respond to requests from county social workers to help children and families in crisis.
- We continued support for a children's home in Tijuana which cares for about 50 children. Sister Lilita Camacho Angulo visited Trinity on Sunday, April 30. "Sister Lily" is the founder and director of the Casa Hogar Sonrisa de Angeles (Angels' Smile Children's Home).
- We sponsored the formation of a new Threshold Choir chapter in Riverside. Threshold Choirs sing for people who are on the threshold between life and death, such as those in hospice care.
- Our summer day camp program in July brought 21 kids to Trinity for a week of faith-building activities, led by staff from Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences.
- In September we began an afterschool program to help elementary school students with their homework. Participation in our Homework Club has been small so far, but we hope it will grow in time.
- We welcomed 10 new members to our congregation.

**Hope, Riverside** was excited to welcome their new full time pastor, Julie Kelly, in November. This change comes in the midst of continued growth and stability for the congregation. The children's programs are growing and there is a new young adult program (21-29) that allows young adults to converse openly about obstacles, challenges, and benefits of faith and religion. Average worship attendance is steadily rising and congregational events of every sort are on the rise as well.

Nearly half of the congregation is actively engaging the social statement on women and justice. Plans to engage in active learning and social justice work after their review of the statement is a top priority of those participating. Hope continues to feed the hungry through Path of Life Ministries and is now implementing a bag lunch support program for the hot meal kitchens in the area. The congregation continues to advocate for homeless housing through the Housing First initiative and has been able to offer financial support to both Luther Glen and LRCC, even as they work toward increasing their support of Synod Benevolence. The work to be a truly welcoming congregation for the whole community is on FIRE! Thanks be to God.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Linda Brown, dean

## BIG BEAR #5 CONFERENCE REPORT

**Lutheran Church of the Desert, (Joshua Tree)** is the result of a merger in 2017 of ELCA congregations at Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree. This move brought items from Immanuel Prince of Peace. One item was the stained glass window now in the sanctuary at Joshua Tree. A highlight was Day Camp for 10 youth with counselors from Luther Glen. We engaged in an aggressive media campaign this year in preparation for Easter sending 4300 cards. **Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church in Big Bear City** is experiencing growth, stability, and visibility. We've re-instituted a food and fellowship program, established a good relationship with the local media, weekly Coffee with the Pastor, Simple Suppers, and a new fundraiser for CCLM and LSS/Big Bear. Our continuing challenges include leasing space for worship, separate office space, and operating with all volunteer office staff. **Trinity Victorville** is moving strongly into a new era of ministry. During Lent members engaged in the Evangelism study "Unbinding Your Heart," focusing on faith-sharing and prayer. From that came a prayer group. During Lent, 16 newcomers experienced faith practices and life at Trinity through Wellspring, the congregation's catechumenate ministry. All this is oriented around Trinity's theme for the year: "God is on a mission...join in!" **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Fontana and Lutheran Church of the Cross, Rialto**, celebrate many blessings in peoples' lives: birthdays, healings, new employment, visitations, transference to the Church Triumphant, and reaching people in our midst. We also give thanks to those who rent our facilities, for through their programs countless people of all ages, within our neighborhood and beyond, are touched. This is possible with the excellent facilities with which we have been blessed. **First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Redlands** continues to preach the gospel in word and deed in our community. **Our Savior's, Banning**, conducted several events including a parish drama, sermon series, "Matthew's Jesus as King", a "Support the Troops" event with area groups, Reformation activities, and an effort to relieve financial struggles via parish conversation on stewardship. Pastor Paul set a challenge for financial health by increasing unit giving and bringing at least 3 first-time visitors to worship so we can have "70 visitors for our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!" **St. John's, Palm Desert**, shares the Gospel through Worship and various ministries. We started a second Women's Ministry Circle, a Prayer Shawl ministry, and a new Stewardship team, welcomed 22 new members, celebrated 2 baptisms, and confirmed 2 youth, installed a new camera in our sanctuary with live-streaming capabilities, and continued to serve the community in partnership with organizations like FIND, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, and Narrow Door. **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Bernardino**, continues to partner with community organizations in using its facilities and to reach out with the Gospel of Christ inviting all people to join them in building the kingdom of God. Growth is a challenge, with new efforts underway. **Spirit of Hope has moved to Highland** and temporarily worships at Cram Elementary School. Our church office is on Our Savior's campus in San Bernardino temporarily. Everything is on the move, exciting, and with great hope. **Shepherd of the Desert/St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Barstow**, has numerous outreach ministries offering a wide variety of assistance supporting a pregnancy center, homeless shelter, food closet, 2 seminarians towards ordination, an African radio ministry, and an orphanage in Sierra Leone We donate to Lutheran World Relief and Episcopal Relief and Development. **Hope in Palm Desert** celebrates Christ with sharing their new facility to many groups besides a renewed youth effort and a greatly increased attendance and giving. Our facility will host this year's Pacifica Synod Assembly and we are supporting the Synod's starting a new mission site in Palm Springs. We are seeking a new associate pastor currently with exciting hope. **Faith in Yucaipa** supports many ministries as they do so with a new interim pastor and no longer yoked with the local Episcopal parish. **Central City Lutheran Mission** is increasing its support activities to the poor and fundraising for a new homeless men shelter building in the next year. **Luther Glen** did a "Take a Hike" fundraiser across the Synod and is planning on a barn raising event in June, 2018. Their farming operations continue to increase...**The Big Bear Conference** is engaging its communities for Christ with evangelism, social justice, and help in numerous ways. Praise God for the blessings to serve all peoples. Respectfully Submitted, the Rev. Scottie Lloyd, dean

## SADDLEBACK #7 CONFERENCE REPORT

Saddleback conference continues to faithfully proclaim the good news to the people of South Orange County.

**Mission Lutheran Laguna Niguel** celebrated its 40th anniversary throughout 2017 by remembering its past, honoring its present, and committing to its future. Through its Mission: GO! campaign, the church helped those in need in its community and throughout the world. Bill Snyder serves as pastor.

2017 saw **Gloria Dei, Dana Point**, not only celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation as much as possible, the other big news is that we built a new sanctuary. It seats roughly 400 and with a very open design, new technology, new instruments (organ and piano) and courtyard can accommodate all sorts of groups and events. We dedicated it in June with a Bach Celebration. We then renovated and repurposed our former sanctuary (still in process of renovation) and have seen a growth in community support groups and other fellowship events in what is now called "Bankson Hall". We also have renovated our preschool classrooms, adding a new playground. Finally, we've created an outdoor worship space that is being used for Bible studies and other groups and will eventually also become a columbarium. With all the physical changes, we have also been busy planning and strategizing future ministries. David Mattson and Sabrina Vasta serve as pastors.

**Christ San Clemente** was honored to host the funeral and pay for the cremation and internment of one of our homeless members. A gathering of seventy, equal parts Christ Lutheran church and members of the homeless community paid tribute on North Beach in February, 2018 to a man who might otherwise have been forgotten in death. Our homeless ministries continue to drive our mission and change our lives. We are now entering into a leadership position with churches in Dana Point to open a weekly engagement center for case management, showers and deepening relationships with local homeless. Brenda Bos is pastor.

**Our Savior's in San Clemente** held their first ever "Baptismal Festival" on All Saints Sunday. The idea was to remove obstacles in the way of people coming forward for baptism and to encourage neighbors and friends to come to the waters. The service itself, the liturgy, hymns, sermon and lessons all were part of a teaching moment about the promise that comes to us in Holy Baptism. Over 30 adults, children and infants were baptized at the two services. Jeff Frohner is pastor.

**Newport Harbor Lutheran Church and School, Newport Beach**, bid a fond farewell to Minister of Music, Rev. Bill Wells. Bill had served at Newport Harbor for twenty-nine years and beyond his regular duties as musician and choir director, he was a caring pastoral presence to the congregation. Richard Rollefson is the interim pastor.

**Community Lutheran Church - Rancho Santa Margarita** celebrated several mission partnerships including participating in nine mission trips with Strong Tower Ministries in helping build a medical and dental clinic for Siloé Ministries in La Mision, Baja California (Siloé Ministries provides families with free health education, medical care and Christ-centered counseling). We also supplied Lutheran World Relief with 109 quilts assembled with love by 50 quilters to provide refugees with warmth, shelter, and comfort and planned two food packaging events with Harvest Pack to package a total of 24,912 meals which were sent to help feed school children so that they may thrive and grow strong as future leaders of their developing countries. Marty Jacobson is pastor.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Brenda Bos, dean

## **SON & SURF #8 CONFERENCE REPORT**

The Son and Surf Conference continues to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at noon at the Synod office. It is a time for sharing and mutual support in our ministries.

We also conduct a pericope study. It has been the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month at 9:30a.m. at the Synod office. Beginning in 2018 the pericope study is being held only on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Pastor Wesley Menke at St. Peter's in Santa Ana took a call to LRCC and that congregation is now in the call process. They do not yet have an interim pastor assigned.

Resurrection in Huntington Beach has called Pastor James Pike. They thank Pastor Brad Stienstra for his work as interim.

Otherwise all congregations continue to provide word and sacrament ministries to their local communities.

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Taylor, dean

## REJOICE #9 CONFERENCE REPORT

We had a couple of noticeable changes in the Rejoice Conference this year including the introduction of two new ministries, The Table in Fullerton and Crave Life in Whittier. We continue to strive in all our congregation to be places when Christ is known and shown. Here are just a few examples of what congregations in the Rejoice Conference are up to.

**Emanuel Danish Lutheran Church, Yorba Linda:** As we are celebrating our 112 years of service to the Danish Community at large in Southern California, we are so blessed to increasingly continue to even more serve in our local community. We are a commuter church with faithful members, who drive between 1-3 hours to get to church or attend one of our many cultural events. With an increase in Sunday Attendance, in confirmations classes, Summer Camp and cultural events, we continue to serve with joy, presence, faith and hope. " Human first, then Christian." N.F.S Grundtvig.

**Lutheran Church of the Master (La Habra):** At Lutheran Church of the Master we continue our partnership with Korean Peace Presbyterian Church, who share our worship space and reach out to the Korean community. A new expanded website is allowing us to be more engaged with the online community. Donations to CityNet services and other southland missions serve the homeless and hungry. Other support is sent to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Arizona, and Lutheran and Christian ministries in Israel and the Holy Land. As we move forward in faith, we continue to prayerfully discern God's will for our congregation.

**First Lutheran / The Table (Fullerton):** Just over a year ago First Lutheran Church in Fullerton and The Table (Pacifica Mission Congregation) entered into a partnership exploring new and creative ways to be church in changing times. Pastor Greg Ronning serves both communities part time, essentially doing a full-time ministry at the site. Our significant accomplishments this past year include remodeling our education building to become offices for Lutheran Social Services, The Caring Hands Pantry, and other social service agencies serving people experiencing poverty and homelessness. We have also started a Sunday lunch in partnership with St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fullerton, Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Anaheim, and Messiah Lutheran in Yorba Linda.

**Messiah (Yorba Linda):** Messiah is a congregation that takes joy in the difference they make every day in the lives of others, congregationally, locally and globally. Over the past ten years the people of Messiah have funded more than 100 safe fresh water wells in Uganda, Liberia, and Kenya through Hope 4 Kids International, each well making clean fresh water available for 3,000 – 10,000 thousand people. Messiah families sponsor over 350 orphans in Uganda, Kenya, Namibia, Cuba, Philippines, and Romania. Messiah also offers Homework House, a free tutoring program for elementary school children. Our Vacation Bible School is a vibrant outreach ministry. Messiah has a Fine Arts Ministry that is a wonderful group that performs at least two plays/musicals each year. Some plays have had over 100 people participating, with 50% of those involved are not members of Messiah but come to us from the community.

**Lamb of God (Anaheim):** Despite the big changes in the homeless situation in Anaheim at Lamb of God we continue our ministry to feed those in our community who are homeless and hungry. Our long-standing commitment to this ministry keeps us involved in serving about 50 people a week in two different locations. We remain very small in number and deeply concerned for our future yet, despite the obstacles, God continues to provide and we are thankful. We have not given up hope that God will continue to guide us in ways that serve our local community and especially those in need in tangible and life-giving ways, not only with food, but also with the good gifts of God's grace and love. Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Cate Luehr, dean

## HUKILAU CONFERENCE #10 REPORT

The Hukilau Conference pastors continue to gather monthly for worship and connection. Over the last year we have gathered to talk about a couple of books, and to honor the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with a ecumenical worship service held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral in Honolulu. We brought Rev. Dr. David Lose to the islands, to preach and lead us in discussion for lay leaders and clergy over several days. We also invited Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan to join us for conversation around preaching and be part of our annual Bishop's Retreat. This year we gathered on the Big Island of Hawai'i for education/rest/ renewal...and to see Pele at work in Volcanoes National Park. We continue to meet in the spring and fall for our conference gatherings which are attended by rostered and lay leaders. Below is a summary of some of our ministries in the islands:

**Calvary By The Sea**, served by Rev. Tim Mason, is the Lutheran church in Hawai'i located right on the beach. They provide food to the hungry and offer other social programs for those in need. The congregation is also home to a Montessori pre-school.

**Christ Lutheran Church, Mililani**, issued a settled call to Rev. Keith Wolter (who has been serving as their pastor the past 3 years) on March 1st. Attendance is up nearly 10%, a Keiki (children's) church has been added to worship and catechism classes have resumed after a several year hiatus. A major gift was received that has enabled the congregation to establish a cash reserve, pay down its mortgage and embark on renovations of its physical campus.

**Joy of Christ Lutheran Church**, served by Rev. Keith Wolter, has seen attendance in worship increase and finances remain good. They are in the process of refurbishing and upgrading their physical space which is used by many nonprofit organizations and support groups in the local community.

**Lutheran Church of Honolulu**, served by Rev. Jeff Lilley, celebrates 118 years of ministry this year. LCH shares their worship space with Korean Presbyterian Church. The congregation continues to serve the community in a variety of ways, this year adding a Shallow Subsidy ministry which assists homeless and at risk families in finding housing and/or not ending up on the streets. It's been several years since they've had a pastoral intern, but the congregation is looking forward to hosting an intern from PLTS who will arrive in July to begin a year of ministry and learning with the LCH.

**Pacific Health Ministry**, served by director Rev. Anke Flohr, is celebrating its 30th year of service to the people of Hawai'i and education to students from (so far) 36 countries across the globe. PHM serves 12 healthcare facilities on 3 islands (O'ahu, Maui and Kaua'i) with 20 staff chaplains, 10 on-call chaplains, CPE residency years with 7 students each year, annual summer CPE units with 6-10 students and extended CPE unites with 6-10 students. PHM has just started their first distance learning/online CPE unit with students on 3 islands. ELCA pastors in Hawai'i who are part of PHM include it's founder, Rev. John Moody and Rev. Ruth Peterson and Rev. Phyllis Hormann who both serve as chaplains. The late Rev. Fritz Fritschel was one of the ministry's first chaplains.

**Prince of Peace**, served by Rev. Yukio Hamada, is a congregation of about 40 that continues to be active in worship, Bible & faith studies and reaching out to the community in a variety of ways. In less than 3 years, the congregation has reduced their \$500,000 mortgage with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund to about \$50,000.

**St John Lutheran**, served by Rev. Kathryn Zurcher, continues to grow and welcome younger members and families into the congregation. The congregation is especially excited to offer a week of VBS this upcoming June. St. John shares their worship space with a local Tongan congregation. Several years of conversations with other congregations and community organizations finally came to fruition in January with the start of a Homeless Hub on the windward side of the island of O'ahu. This once a month gathering held at a neighboring church is a place for homeless folks in the community to come and access resources, including clothing, a hot meal, showers, and food to take with them.

ELCA **Pastor John Lunn** serves as Vicar of Grace Episcopal Church on the island of Moloka'i with special outreach to the community through their food pantry and thrift store....a thrift store that serves the entire island with items not readily available and affordable on island.

**Lutheran Church-Holy Trinity** on the Big Island does not have a called pastor right now. Rev. David Barber, Rev. JP Sabbithi, and Rev. Phyllis Hormann are serving the congregation as Sunday preachers in the interim.

**Kihei Lutheran Church on Maui** welcomed Rev Joel Martyn and his family last year.

**Maluhia Lutheran Church on O'ahu** is served by an interim pastor right now, Rev. David Kieffer.

**Lihue Lutheran Church on Kaua'i** is served by Rev. Cindy Arndt.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Kathryn Zurcher, dean



# Agape House – Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry at SDSU

5863 Hardy Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115  
619.583.3972

www.agapehousesdsu.org

The Rev. Darin Johnson, Campus Pastor  
agapehousesdsu@gmail.com

## ***Agape House is Building!*** ***Building New Ministry Leaders***

Thanks to the Lilly Endowment and partner congregations, we are in the third year of our Mentoring Leaders Initiative, including training ministry **interns** on campus and ministry **fellows** serving in area congregations. Thanks to the Pacifica Synod Mission Fund, last year we expanded Dr. Melissa James' Diaconal Minister (Deacon) position to further grow our vocational, spiritual, theological, and leadership formation while building community. **Five Faith & Vocations Fellows have served in local congregations or agencies to expand beyond internal needs and reach new people.** New sites are applying now!



[Agape Leader Training & Retreat at Camp Stevens]

## ***Building a Seminary Extension***

Building on our growing Fellowship program, where we train, mentor and support emerging ministry leaders, we are excited to partner with Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (California Lutheran University) to **start a seminary extension in San Diego.** Thanks to guidance from our Bishop Andy Taylor, Southwest California Synod Bishop Guy Erwin, PLTS Rector Ray Pickett, and the Rev. Dr. Daren Erisman, we are planning to offer accredited graduate-level theological education based in a San Diego cohort. We are exploring ecumenical cooperation in this, with early

enthusiastic interest from Episcopalians and Methodists.

***“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” – Jeremiah 29.11***

## ***Building Sustainable Ministry***

Thanks to the legacy of College Lutheran Church, San Diego, and leadership from Bishop Andy Taylor and the Pacifica Synod Council, we are now in conceptual design to replace our 80-year-old house with a **two-story ministry center below affordable student housing in community for 40-50 people.** The funds generated by sharing our facility will significantly fund and allow us to expand campus ministry for decades to come. This draft project drawing will give you a rough idea of our concept:



***Agape House needs more partners to build this!***

If this vision for **self-sustaining ministry** excites you too, you know a **student or recent graduate**, or you would like to learn how you can **leave a legacy for future generations of leaders**, contact:

Pastor Darin Johnson      619.583.3972  
pdnjohnson@gmail.com

**Thank you, Pacifica Synod, for investing in new leaders!**

**“Bridging the Gap. Fulfilling the Need. Together.”**

**SYNODICAL ASSEMBLIES REPORT - 2018**

Pacifica Synod; Southwest California Synod

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Since its founding in 1948, California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services (CLH)*, continues to preserve, strengthen and expand not-for-profit missions in the service of the elderly and other disadvantaged persons, primarily through providing:

- **Charitable Care funds** to support seniors who experience financial hardship,
  - **Furnishings, Equipment and Programs** to improve the seniors’ quality of life,
  - **Funding for Technology** initiatives for supporting seniors,
  - **Employee Scholarships** for retirement community staff,
  - **Direct Ownership** of an emancipated youth home for girls,
  - **Seed Capital** for developing affordable housing projects,
  - **Sponsorship** of subsidized housing projects, and
  - **Financial Support** of Lutheran Church bodies.
- 

In 1999, CLH and two other non-profit retirement community organizations transitioned the daily operations of their owned retirement communities and managed affordable housing communities to the non-profit Front Porch in exchange for relief of their debt obligations. Since then, CLH has been able to focus its strength, resources and energy in serving its constituents.

Because of the financial strength of Front Porch, many of the resources of CLH that used to be required to sustain community operations are now available to pursue other “human serving” endeavors that would not otherwise be possible without CLH’s support. Hence,

*Bridging the Gap*..... in funding and resources,  
*Fulfilling the Need*.....to serve those in need, and  
*Together*..... working through other like-minded non-profit agencies.

**RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES** CLH provides direct funding to support seniors who out-live their resources. CLH also supports resident programming and equipment purchases that would not occur otherwise. For decades, the CLH Auxiliary has been a leader in improving resident life at CLH communities through volunteerism.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LEGACY MINISTRIES** Long a part of the CLH mission, affordable housing remains a primary emphasis for CLH, both in partnership with Front Porch and with other organizations. CLH serves as a sponsor for several affordable housing communities. CLH has developed expertise in helping Lutheran congregations and Synods/Districts in numerous geographies to utilize land resources for the provision of affordable housing as “Legacy Ministries.” CLH maintains a revolving affordable housing seed fund with capital funding to initiate affordable housing in cooperation with congregations; most recently the former Grace Lutheran Church in Santa Barbara.

**EMANCIPATED YOUTH HOME** In February 2018, CLH purchased a 4 unit apartment complex in Orange County, CA, which will be used to provide low-cost housing to young women who “age-out” of the foster system. Daily operations and case management are being provided by a local non-profit who leases the apartments from CLH for \$10 per month.

**TENHNOLOGY INITIATIVES FOR SENIOR LIVING** Created by a grant from CLH in 2007, the Center for Innovation and Wellbeing creates, supports, and enhances emerging technologies in the areas of health and residential services. The Center is involved in building public-private partnerships to fulfill its mission.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH SUPPORT** Throughout 2017 CLH remained a significant “funder” and charter member of the *Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership*, building stewardship across the Pacifica and Southwest California Synods. CLH is also a direct financial supporter of the Southwest California and Pacifica synods, and of *Lutheran Services in America*, the ELCA and LCMS’s network of Social Ministry Organizations.

Through its collaboration with Front Porch and other non-profit partners, CLH has been able to secure its future, and take bold steps towards serving those most vulnerable and in need in our local communities. THANKS be to God!

Sarah Olsen, *Board Chair*

William E. Jennings, *CEO*

[www.californialutheranhomes.org](http://www.californialutheranhomes.org)

# COACHING MINISTRY REPORT

There have been some great strides in the ELCA to demonstrate the accountability and the professionalism of the Trained Coaches in this church. It is not a good thing to share with you that very few churches or rostered leaders have been taking advantage of having a coach walk along-side them as we struggle in ministry. We are excited and ready to serve this synod with well-trained coaches. At the end of 2017 we now have 9 specialized Coaches in areas such as Stewardship, Mission Development, Redevelopment, Hospice and grief support, From Promise to Practice a Baptismal reflective coaching and personal coaching.

The other great news is that there are now five of us who have completed the full ELCA Certification Coach Training and the others are very close in accomplishing this level of training. This year as your Coaching Coordinator I have completed my training requirements for an ACC license resulting in being a credentialed coach through the International Coaching federation (ICF) . The International Coaching Federation (ICF) regulates professional Coaching throughout the country and trains coaches which are among the most qualified Professional Coaches for all industries and corporations throughout the world.

In other words, the ELCA is so committed to establishing a Coaching culture within all areas of the greater church and church leaders that they are investing in our coaches by making it possible for all of them to attain an accredited professional status. We want YOU to realize YOU have the abilities to attain your goals and expectations.

Your Coaches have at least 60 hours of coaching experience and have go through extensive continuing education through scheduled working labs to assure their credibility and accountability keeping them at their best. Our goal is to have all our coaches complete their accreditation so that our synod can get some of the best coaching available to you! Your coaches have worked hard this year. Thank you for supporting the Coaching ministries in so many ways! It is important that everyone know that Coaching is meant to be a ministry where our committed LAY LEADERS are to be trained to support our synod. If you are a lay leader who would like to be involved in coaching please contact us!

## **Our Coaching Priorities:**

To develop an adequate number of trained coaches (10) in specialized ministry such as Strategic Evangelical Mission Planning / congregational redevelopment / individual rostered and lay leadership coaching ,including call discernment/ Natural Church Development / and First Call Coaching.

To create clarity and awareness at the synod and congregational level of how coaching can provide resources to help us accomplish the mission and ministry of our synod and congregations.

To have all Pacifica Synod congregations and leaders have the opportunity to work with a trained coach.

To partner with the Synod staff, council, leaders and congregations to use and develop new resources to strengthen our understanding of what it means to be a missional church together.

<b>Current Active ELCA Trained Coaches:</b>	<i>Rostered Leaders:</i>	Pastor Tony Scheer ACC - certified
<i>Lay Leaders:</i>	Mrs. Deenna Eley (cert)	Pastor Hitoshi Adochi
	Ms. Valarie Schmidt	Pastor Sandy Bentz
	Mrs. Tracy Vevia (cert.)	Pastor Darryl Kozak
	Mrs. Joanne Larson (cert)	
	Ms. Carol Schmidt	

It is an honor to serve the Pacifica Synod as the Coaching Coordinator. ***Reverend Anton (Tony) Scheer***



## I-LERT ASSEMBLY REPORT 2018



I-LERT is a collaborative ministry of the Southwest California and Pacific Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church-

Missouri Synod. I-LERT demonstrates Christ's compassion for people by promoting hope, healing, and wholeness for disaster survivors.



I-LERT is connected to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) through Lutheran Social Services of the Southern California (LSS-SC) headquartered in Fullerton. We also work with

Pacific Southwest District office. I-LERT focuses on ministry in the Southern California area, from Hawaii to western Arizona.



### I-LERT's Goals:

- Raise awareness in Lutheran congregations about the importance of disaster preparedness and response.
- Enlist and engage congregations to provide spiritual support to those recovering from a disaster.
- Identify the needs and capabilities of the diverse populations within the region to respond to disaster.
- To provide training for congregations through the Prepare to C.A.R.E. program

### HIGHLIGHTS

We are updating the PREPARE TO C.A.R.E. program:

Check out the web-site <http://www.i-lert.org/>

The Team continues to meet, with our Judicatory Leaders - Bishop Taylor and Bishop Emeritus Dean Nelson, and President Stoterau, providing leadership with the Team.

We are looking at the pros and cons of being a 501.c3 non-profit.

The LDR Program leaders are Pastors Mike Stadie and Joe Chu, <http://www.ldr.org/>

### LOOKING AHEAD 2018

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH - I-LERT will be working to help our congregations be aware and involved in September.

See <https://www.ready.gov/september>

GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT - On Thursday, October 18th at 10:18 a.m., millions of people throughout the state will be involved in the 2018 *Great California ShakeOut* earthquake drill!

Will you, your family and your Church be involved?

See <http://www.shakeout.org/california/>



*Pastor Ken Anderson and Mercedes Smith, I-LERT Co-Chairs*

## PACIFICA SYNOD LATINO AREA MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

As a Multi-Cultural Church, we seek harmony by blending our Lutheran and cultural traditions. It is necessary that we boldly proclaim that we are “Saved by Grace” because this is countercultural in many Latino communities. The Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus are core to our understanding that salvation is through Grace by Faith. We are free to proclaim this message (Galatians 5:1) “For freedom Christ has set us free.” As a Latino ministry of the ELCA we seek to maintain our principals through Evangelism, the use of diverse liturgies, our universal legacy based in God’s Word Jesus Christ, and our Lutheran confessional heritage.

There are six active Latino Ministry sites for the Pacifica Synod:

St. Peter’s, Santa Ana – Interim  
First, Vista – Pastor Ramon Zarate  
First, Ontario – Pastor Auggie Aviles  
Clairemont, San Diego– Pastor Nathan Allen and Pastor Jon Doolittle  
St. Mark’s, Chula Vista – Alicia Garcia and Interim  
Our Savior’s, San Diego – Pastor Maria Santa Cruz

This year we were able to revise our application to distribute funds from the Latino Ministry Trust. In 2017 the following grants were made:

Our Savior’s San Diego: \$ 10,000  
First, Vista: \$4,000  
Clairemont, San Diego: \$ 6,000  
St. Peter’s, Santa Anna: \$ \$4,000

In regards to Latino Ministry here in Southern California Pastor Nathan Allen and Dámaris Allen will be **leading a group of Latino young adults to the Holy Land in June of 2019** to learn about the conflict there and connect with local networks. The cost of the trip will be approximately \$2,300 including airfare, meals, transportation and lodging. We hope to be able to reduce some of that cost further through grant applications on the synod and church wide levels, plus with other partner organizations. Please think of Latino young adults in your communities and networks that would be good fits for this trip especially those that might become leaders within our churches and the struggle for justice and peace. Have them contact Pastor Nathan Allen at [pastornate19@gmail.com](mailto:pastornate19@gmail.com) or by cell phone 626 627 5802 if they are interested. An application process will be posted online soon and distributed throughout the Pacifica and SW CA Synods.

Also this year on **Memorial Day Weekend** a team of pastors from the Pacifica and SW CA Synods will together be presenting a new **bilingual (Spanish and English) retreat at El Camino Pines**. The goal is to promote Latino culture as well as grow in our multicultural church identities. This retreat is especially for families and for all people who are, or are interested in, working in and connecting to Latino culture.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Doolittle



## Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

### **“GO & TELL – Giving Voice to Faith, Justice, & Blessing**

The Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California ([www.loppca.org](http://www.loppca.org)) listens to, accompanies, and helps amplify the voices of those who tell stories of hunger, poverty, injustice, and discrimination, connecting faith and life, ethics and public policy, and congregations, members, and California's Capitol. We have been blessed with the freedom of our redemption in Christ, with the example of Jesus' life, with voices, hands, feet, and votes, and with a rich body of ELCA social statements and messages (some still in the works!). May these blessings be a blessing to all – and all mean all!

2017 was a good year, and LOPP engaged in moving significant legislation through the process in “all hands on deck” style: The extension of our greenhouse gas reduction law, and new air quality legislation; the Values Act and other immigrant and refugee protection bills; a new housing fee for permanent funding of low-income housing; and campaign spending disclosure for ballot measures.

Legislative priorities for 2018 are addressed in a dynamic process that calls for flexibility. Together with other faith advocates, LOPP supports raising the CalWORKS/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families grant, attending to deep (and traumatic) childhood poverty. LOPP supports a water fee to address the need for safe, affordable, water for drinking and hygiene in disadvantaged communities with contaminated water or inadequate infrastructure. Bail reform, a factor in impoverishing families, is our top criminal and racial justice priority. Immigration, access to food, health care, and child care, care for creation, and violence prevention are ongoing areas of work at the state level, as well as at the national level in collaboration with [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy). The ballot propositions (a blessing and curse) on the 2018 ballots are again calling for our collective voices. In June ballot, LOPP strongly supports Prop. 68, a bipartisan parks and water bond with strong social equity and environmental justice components. We oppose Prop. 70, requiring a 2/3 vote for allocation of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds in 2024, because of the potential for fiscal gridlock and special interest influence. The housing bond on the November ballot is the top LOPP priority for the year. Please give it your loudest, most compassionate voice, and learn and share how the housing bond may improve your community and help your neighbors (ditto for Prop. 68). November could get more interesting, with the possibility of rent control and various tax measures reaching the ballot.

LOPP priorities are pursued through direct advocacy, by supporting congregations and members engaged in advocacy, and by providing hospitality to groups visiting the Capitol at facilities at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento, which donates office space for LOPP. In 2018, the projected LOPP budget is about \$135,000, including \$114,354.77, provided by the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit, through an ELCA World Hunger grant to address systemic causes of domestic hunger and poverty. Other income includes support from the Pacifica (\$1,058.96 in 2017), Sierra Pacific, and Southwest California Synods, and congregational and individual gifts.

A special thanks to Christ Lutheran Church, Orange, for its many years of faithful support.

As my “retirement” nears at the end of the year, deepest thanks to Policy Council members representing the Pacifica Synod: Kathi Anderson, Larry Dodson, Karin Kloehn, and Violet Quist (Women of the ELCA), and many others over the years. Thanks to rostered leaders, bishops, and lay leaders who have blessed this justice ministry for so long. Please continue to do so!

– Respectfully submitted, *Mark E. Carlson*, Director

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California (LSS-SC) continued its core ministries of serving people in need as reflected in our Mission, Vision and Values. **“Ignited by faith, we live out God’s love by embracing, equipping and empowering vulnerable people in Southern California.”**

### **Ministry Highlights:**

- **Central City Lutheran Mission (CCLM)** started a capital campaign that will underwrite serious rehabilitation efforts, bringing the campus into compliance with ADA governmental standards. Currently over \$90,000 has been received towards the goal of \$250,000. Thank you for assisting with this effort as we anticipate a ‘grand opening’ of a new shelter in the early part of 2019. Look forward to hearing more soon.
- **Housing Counseling Services** After a year-long process, LSS-SC is now a HUD certified provider of Housing Counseling Services (March, 2018). While it will take some time, the goal will be to have most, if not all, of the following services available by year-end: Pre-Purchase Counseling; Pre-Purchase Homebuyer Education Workshops; Mortgage Delinquency and Default Resolution Counseling; Resolving/Preventing Mortgage Delinquency Workshops; Non-Delinquency Post-Purchase Workshops for Homeowners; Financial, Budgeting and Credit Repair Workshops; Rental Housing Counseling and Workshops; Services for Homeless and Financial Management/Budget Counseling. It is projected that these services will significantly impact your members and surrounding community! Contact Ben Garcia, 909-254-4048 for more information.
- **Orange County** is growing, with the relocation of our corporate office to First Lutheran Church in Fullerton, where we are now working in the remodeled education building. Our vision is to create a collective of nonprofit organizations to expand our reach and program resources. Our Garden Grove office, located at St. Olaf Lutheran, continues to thrive with the expansion of *The Lutheran Counseling Center’s* grief counseling, clinical and case management services as well as our traditional emergency services, food and clothing pantry.
- **Riverside County** continues to support low-income members of the community while providing emergency services and referrals to those most in need.
- **San Diego County** Managed by Lutheran Social Services since 2017, the *Cathy Hopper Friendship Senior Center*, has served the Clairemont-Mesa community for over 40 years. LSS continues to honor that legacy with a 30-year commitment to the property and the continuing development of a client inspired curriculum of specialized classes, activities and resources dedicated to the enrichment and protection of our seniors. *Our Senior Companion* program also shares this location while the *food pantry* in Chula Vista continues to serve hundreds of people every month. Our *TRIO* program diligently tutors hundreds of first generation teenagers

towards college and Santee's *Caring Neighbors* continues to provide in home assistance for those clients who are home bound and/or the care givers who provide for them.

- **San Fernando Valley** shifted their operations to *Valley Lutheran Church* in North Hollywood, serving the community through direct emergency and pantry services while also deploying case managers and related programs in churches throughout the San Fernando Valley. This allows our team to reach more clients, support the ministries of congregations and provide better stewardship of our resources and opportunities.
- **San Gabriel Valley** continues to integrate participants with developmental challenges through the *Avanti* program in Pasadena. This unique curriculum provides training and experience in community volunteer work settings. We are currently in conversation with Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran to move the Avanti program and our Pasadena office to their campus.
- **South Bay/Long Beach** is the anchor of a project throughout the South Bay that will assist 1,800 homeless individuals annually with state and federal benefit enrollment. Many recipients are unaware of their eligibility for these entitlements and the extensive number of resources available to help them make a fresh start. The long standing emergency and outreach services continue to be a hallmark of this office and a valuable resource to the South Bay community and beyond.
- **Ventura County** hosts monthly gatherings of 8-10 friends, sharing the story of our mission, vision and clients with prospective ambassadors and volunteers. These gatherings, affectionately known as *Voices of Hope* emphasize our current programs and projects. We would love for you to join us whether at our offices in Thousand Oaks or at a location of your choosing, to share the good news of LSS. Contact Walker 714-685-1800 to schedule a gathering.
- **The Inland Empire** has also held multiple *Voices of Hope* gatherings to share the stories of *CCLM*, *Riverside* and *the High Desert Children's Project*. As in Thousand Oaks, we have seen these small intimate gatherings respond to the ministry in very positive ways. Please contact Claire at 909-381-6921 to attend a *Voices of Hope* gathering or schedule a visit to your church.

We are grateful to the Synod and all the congregations for your prayers and your many levels of support. At this time, when many services for the poor and disenfranchised are being reduced, your faithful commitment allows us to continue reaching those in greatest need. Thank you and may God continue to bless you now and forever. Amen



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



**The Mission Investment Fund (MIF)** is the lending ministry of the ELCA. MIF makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building and renovation projects. With MIF loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, and expand or renovate existing facilities.

MIF loans expand the capacity for ministry. MIF loans help create expanded worship spaces, updated space for education and youth ministry, new kitchens for community meals and soup kitchens, affordable housing units for the community and much more.

At year-end 2017, MIF had 888 loans outstanding, totaling \$539.1 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2017, MIF investments totaled \$506 million.

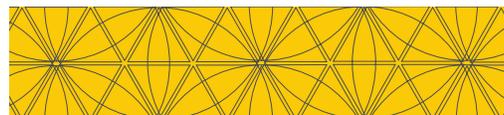
MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$715.7 million and net assets of \$203.9 million at year-end 2017, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 28.5 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds. For more information, visit [mif.elca.org](http://mif.elca.org).

**MIF loans and investments in the Pacifica Synod (as of December 31, 2017):**

- 20 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$16,439,408
- \$12,925,823 in Mission Investment Fund investments.

**MIF representative:**

Joel S. Wudel, Regional Manager, Tel: (773) 682-1765; email: [joel.wudel@elca.org](mailto:joel.wudel@elca.org)

***We are church together.***

This call from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is at the core of Portico's identity: We serve those who serve the church, so they can serve others. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reads, "a three-fold cord is not easily broken."

Imagine, then, the resilience that comes from a community more than 50,000 strong that includes:

- Active and retired rostered ministers, lay employees, and family members
- Congregations, synodical and churchwide ministries, and social ministry organizations
- The dedicated and talented staff at Portico Benefit Services

Together, we pool our resources and carefully steward our gifts, leveraging our collective strength to provide the care our members need. Together, we walk the path toward financial, emotional, and physical well-being, so all might experience God's abundant life. Together, we are church.

In 2017, our community's size and scope allowed Portico to:

**Deliver personalized support that helps our members live well.**

- Skillful Portico Care Coordinators by Quantum Health helped more than 70% of members with ELCA-Primary health coverage navigate the complex world of health care.
- More than 400 members enrolled in Livongo's innovative diabetes management program to make living with diabetes easier and more cost-effective.
- 35% of our sponsored members used Portico's Retirement Planning Tool to get a comprehensive picture of how much they're saving, and how it might last in retirement.
- 3,500+ members gained a better understanding of their financial picture after talking with our new in-house team of credentialed Portico Financial Planners.

**Exceed our goals for practicing good financial stewardship.**

- Over and above a record-breaking year for the markets, the expertise of our investment management team demonstrated our commitment to a long-term, diversified approach to investing.
- For the second year in a row, administrative efficiencies and innovative plan adjustments allowed us to hold our baseline increase for ELCA-Primary health benefits to 5% — below the national trend of 6.5%.
- Benefiting from the run of growth in the markets and strategic fund management, we announced a 4.0% increase in the ELCA Participating Annuity payments for 2018, the sixth consecutive annual increase.

**Speak with one voice on behalf of those who serve the church.**

- As part of the Church Alliance, Portico joined with 37 other denominations to advocate for legislation to protect 403(b)(9) plans designed to help churchworkers save for retirement.
- On behalf of ELCA investors, our shareholder advocacy team championed a history-making climate-change resolution at a major energy-producing company.

The church is a shining example of what happens when we come together to care for one another. Lives are changed, hearts are touched, hurts are healed, hope is shared. We are grateful to lead the ELCA in the good work of wellness, and thankful for your partnership that makes this possible.

We are church together — and together, in Jesus' name, we are creating abundant life for those who serve.

In Christ,

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann  
President and CEO

Thank You to Pacifica Synod,  
and its Congregations for welcoming me as your new  
Regional Gift Planner. It is my greatest privilege to serve you.

A special Thanks to those churches actively working with me on raising  
the level of awareness in gift, legacy and endowment process, and  
creating sustainability for the future!

*Agape House, San Diego*  
*Bethany Lutheran, Norco*  
*Bethlehem Lutheran, Encinitas*  
*Christ Lutheran, San Clemente*  
*Eden Lutheran, Riverside*  
*Hope Lutheran, Palm Desert*  
*St. John's Lutheran, Palm Desert*

Faithfully Yours,



Lisa Marie Higginbotham  
ELCA Foundation, Regional Gift Planner  
Pacifica and Southwest Synods  
(805) 910-5048  
[lisa.higginbotham@elca.org](mailto:lisa.higginbotham@elca.org)

Under the theme “All Anew”, our Women of the ELCA met in triennial convention and gathering in Minneapolis MN in July 2017. In convention we acted on several memorials and resolutions and elected a new executive board – four officers and seventeen board members. Becky Shurson was elected vice president – she recently moved to Oregon but comes from Yucaipa and served as secretary on our Pacifica Women of the ELCA synodical board. Keala Simoes was elected to the board. She has also been on our synodical board and was serving as vice president at the time of her election to our churchwide executive board. Both women will serve well!!

During the “All New Gathering”, there were over three thousand women in attendance. And over a thousand of those were first timers. A variety of keynote speakers and workshop leaders inspired and challenged all. Worship services were awesome including the music and the sermons. Our next triennial convention and gathering is July 14-19 in Phoenix AZ which means we in CA will be able to drive which helps make it more affordable. Make your plans now to attend. Pre-registration at a reduced rate is still available.

Our Pacifica Women of the ELCA annual convention last year was held at Calvary Lutheran in Solana Beach. It became our very first bi-lingual convention. Pastor Meghan Johnston Aelabouni (CO), our keynote speaker, and Pastor Karla Halverson (San Marcos) got together with Alicia Saenz (St Mark’s, Chula Vista) and planned out the keynote, Bible study, and worship. Alicia did on the spot translating. It is impossible to tell all and acknowledge all in this short article but I invite you to go to [www.pacificawomen.org](http://www.pacificawomen.org) and under “Blog” there are a number of pictures which will tell more of the story.



Our March Event is planned with the specific purpose of learning about a local social services organization. Like our convention, the site rotates, and this year was in Orange County. We met at Gloria Dei Lutheran in Dana Point and enjoyed their new sanctuary. In the morning Daneen Pysz presented a program/Bible study on Dorcas – a woman of the Bible who had a ministry of serving orphans and widows. Then we heard about FAM -Family Assistance Ministries which serves southern Orange County and focuses on the homeless. Pastor Sabrina Vasta led us in closing worship.

Our convention planning team has met and begun plans for our convention November 2-3, 2018. We have decided that the site will be Faith Lutheran in Sun City/Menifee as the Inland Empire has the rotation for site this year. It is easy to get to and their women’s organization is enthusiastic about hosting us. Keep watching our web site for up to date information. It will be a Friday & Saturday event again with one day registration available for Saturday.

Pacifica Partners has graduated to higher technology. Go on our web site and you can find a couple places to click and subscribe. You will then receive an email when a new issue is ready. The email that you will read is directly from our web site. But you can also find a PDF version under “Resources and Links” which can be printed. If you do not have access to a computer, let us know and we will connect you with someone who will print and mail a copy to you – or you can check with your church office and request a copy.

*Anew in Christ!*  
*Eunice Hanson, President*  
*Pacifica Women of the ELCA*