



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Spring 2019

“For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

– Esther 4:14

Dear Friends in Christ,

For such a time. The world has changed and is changing. But what shapes us as Lutherans is being God’s beloved people gathered around word and sacraments. In Christ through the Spirit, God has invited us into a deeply intimate and loving relationship with God and with each other for such a time as this.

This is our time to tell the story of the church we are becoming, a church confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. As I have said previously, if God wills that there be a witness to the gospel through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), no force on earth, not even our own, can stop it.

As we gather in synod assemblies, I invite you to pray for one another and listen for God’s will. Your prayers and discernment will be crucial as the assembly season culminates at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee, Aug. 5-10. As part of our legislative business, we will be receiving and considering proposals from your synod assemblies. I hope you will have time and space to talk together, pray together and listen together as you consider resolutions and memorials before you. We need time for discernment.

This church continues to engage in God’s reconciling work through Christ in the world. At the churchwide organization, the ELCA Church Council is overseeing implementation of this church’s strategic plan, Future Directions 2025 ([ELCA.org/future](http://ELCA.org/future)). Through this initiative, we’re cultivating new leaders and revitalizing congregations. Thank you for your faithful commitment.

Thank you also for your generosity to *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* ([ELCA.org/campaign](http://ELCA.org/campaign)). Your continued support is an example of all the ways we are church, we are Lutheran, we are church together and we are church for the sake of the world.

God’s blessings to you as you gather as the living body of Christ. May you be guided by the Spirit as you do God’s will for God’s people for such a time.

With gratitude,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop

Bishop's Report  
2019

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" – Luke 24:32*

Luke 24 tells the story of two people, followers of Jesus, processing what had happened to their teacher in the past few days. They knew that Jesus had been arrested, put to death on a cross, and his remains had been placed in a tomb. They heard a story from some women they knew who had gone to the tomb that Sunday morning. The women told them that the tomb was empty and a vision of angels announced that Jesus had risen. They did not know what to make of it.

While on their way home from Jerusalem to the city of Emmaus, they encountered a stranger who had information that would clear up their confusion. But it is interesting how the stranger shared this information. He began by listening. As he joined them, he asked "What are you talking about?" They told him their story, how they had followed Jesus, hoped he was the promised Savior, but their hopes were dashed when Jesus was put to death. Only after he heard their story did the stranger speak, helping them realize that it was necessary for the Savior to suffer and die. When they arrived in Emmaus, they invited the stranger to eat with them. As he broke bread, they realized it was the risen Jesus himself who had traveled with them. Only then did they realize the power of the words they had heard Jesus speak.

We, as 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians, believe that Jesus continues to travel with us and continues to speak powerfully to us. Moreover, we trust that Christ lives in and through us. St. Paul writes "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me (Galatians 2:19b-20a), and Paul writes that not about himself alone but about all who believe in Jesus. Christ lives in and through us, and gives us experiences, glimpses of how Jesus is traveling with us in this life, personal stories of when we felt God helping us in times of struggle or times of joy.

We as the church are called to share our stories, and in last year's Assembly I asked the people of the Pacifica Synod to share a portion of their God story with someone at their table. I believe we need to practice telling our stories, because we are sometimes shy about sharing them, and the more we practice, the more we will be ready to speak. However, we also need to remember not to blurt out our stories without first listening to others. As Christ listened to the two followers on the road to Emmaus, so we are called to listen to those God brings our way, to see how their stories might help us or how our stories might help them.

The theme of our Assembly this year is *O Lord, Open our Ears: Listening for God while Listening to Others*. The planners of the Assembly and I thought this theme important because of what we were hearing in our congregations. The church lives in a world that has changed radically over the past few years. Social media and cable news networks have upped the volume of public discourse, and in doing so have also helped silo us, gathering us to listen only to those with whom we agree. Lutherans who used

to be able to disagree on politics but agree on church and faith have been having a more difficult time working together. I have noticed in my own life the desire to share my opinions is often greater than the desire to hear what others think. I know others struggle with this as well. This Assembly is designed to remind us that we hear God speak when we listen to others, and sometimes we hear God speak most clearly when we listen to those with whom we disagree. For when we hear another's story, we can ask questions, learn from their experiences, and maybe find ways that their stories reveal God's presence to us. After listening, we may also discover opportunities to tell our stories so that they may experience God's presence through us.

I have spent the last year listening to the stories and experiences of people as I have served as your bishop. I spoke to rostered leaders (pastors and deacons) at conference gatherings, visiting all nine conferences to ask these leaders about their joys and struggles in ministry. I will share what I heard in my oral report. But I also listened to lay leaders, and others who are not members of the Synod, and through them heard the voice of God. I'm going to share a little of what I experienced this past year, using Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's description of the ELCA—We are Church, We are Lutheran, We are Church Together, We are Church for the Sake of the World—to organize what I heard.

### **We Are Church.**

Most weeks when I am not traveling, I am visiting the churches in our Synod on Sunday mornings. From last year's Assembly until this year's, I will have been in 35 of our churches, for Sunday morning services, installations, anniversary celebrations, and to honor retiring clergy. I have the privilege of hearing the stories of ministry within these congregations. Some are small, some larger; some long for more people and particularly more young families; some wonder what their future holds; some rejoice in renewed ministries, others in growth in numbers. I have heard their stories of how they see God in their midst, helping them no matter what their circumstance, and I give thanks for their faithfulness and devotion to doing God's work.

I have two observations to share. First, I think that in the busy-ness of our lives, our congregations can forget they we are all a part of something greater than ourselves. As we proclaim the gospel and administer the sacraments, we participate in God's great work of reaching out with hope and help not only to our own communities of faith, but through us to the greater community, the neighborhoods in which we are situated and the people we serve. This is God at work in and through us. This is not what we do for God, but what God does for our neighbor in and through us. We are God's instrument, God's means of reaching the world. We participate in a mission that is greater than what we ourselves could do alone.

Second, the congregations that show God's love most effectively are those that love each other and seek to share God's love with the world. When Jesus commands his followers to love one another, love is a verb, not a noun. Love is what we do for one another, not necessarily how we feel about one another. We are to treat one another with love, and to pray for one another, especially when we may not like each other.

Through prayer and acts of love for one another and our neighbors, God's love is revealed to the world.

### **We Are Lutheran**

As Lutherans, we emphasize in our preaching and teaching God's unconditional love for all creation, and seek to share the good news of that love in all we do. We also join not only with Lutherans in our own communities, but with Lutherans throughout the world. In November, I traveled to our companion Synod, the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (BCCM) on the island of Borneo. I went with members of the Pacifica Synod, including Bishop Emeritus Murray and Rhoda Finck, to dedicate kindergarten buildings given by Rhoda's brother in memory of their parents. Also on the trip were Jamie Buffkin, Paul Coulter, and Judy Wiggins of Resurrection, Huntington Beach; Rich Kamiyama of Spirit of Joy, San Bernardino; Pastor Golf Chutimapongrat of Thai Shepherd of the Hills, Whittier, and Pastor Rick Fry of Ascension, San Diego.

When we arrived, we attended a graduation at the seminary in Kota Kinabalu. The first degrees given were for Lay Evangelists, lay women and men who had completed training to preach and teach in the congregations of the BCCM. Our companion synod is growing, and like a lot of the Lutheran communions in the Global South, trains and relies on lay evangelists to help support the ministries of the congregations. I have wondered if the Global North may have something to learn from our fellow Lutherans. Martin Luther was clear that the church consists of a priesthood of all believers, yet how often preaching and teaching is given only to pastors. We could do a better job of training our laypeople how to preach, lead Bible studies, and share the gospel. Our Synod Council has discussed the possibility of doing more in training lay leaders on a synodical level, and establishing a new Lay School of Theology for the Synod. I am interested in hearing from you ways we could adapt this model from the BCCM to serve the needs of our church.

### **We Are Church Together**

One of the key differences between when I began in ministry more than 30 years ago and today is there is significantly less competition between our ELCA congregations. Instead, I see congregations working together, more and more, in order to help one another. Five of our congregations are led by trustees, people from neighboring ELCA churches, who help congregations that are in danger of closing to continue their work, or to help those that have undergone holy closure to appropriately position their remaining assets to do Christ's work in new settings. I am grateful to the trustees, who willingly give of their time to help their neighbors in need.

Your Synod staff heard that stewardship helps were sometimes needed in congregations, and we responded. Our Director of Evangelical Mission, Pastor Tom Goellrich, recruited a group of stewardship preachers who were willing to provide a sermon emphasizing not the needs of the budget, but that God created all of us with a need to give, and through giving God grows our faith. We give not because our churches need money (though our churches may indeed need money). We give because God needs our faith. And we ask congregations to give generously outside of themselves, just as congregation members are asked to give. I am thankful that our

Mission Support for the past fiscal year exceeded our expectations. More than that, I am thankful that lay leaders and pastors have told me they give because they trust that God asks them to give, and they are finding joy in giving to the Synod and other ministries freely, just as God gives freely to them.

I am thankful to our Conference Deans for their work of gathering their conferences, keeping in touch with congregations, and extending the care of the Bishop's office to their near neighbors. If you read Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen's report, you will find that about a third of our congregations have been in transition this year. This large number has meant that some congregations have had to wait for names of possible future pastors longer than we would like. Also complicating these "mobility" matters is the high cost of housing in Southern California. Congregations that cannot pay full-time salaries have often had to wait longer for names as we scramble to find rostered leaders who can afford to live in our area. Our Deans have been helpful at letting us know about anxieties, cares, and ministry needs, and have been active at providing care particularly for congregations without pastors. I give thanks to God for their willingness to serve.

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

Three of our ministries—Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences; Agape House at San Diego State University; and Lutheran Social Services of Southern California—have significantly reached out to their communities and raised funds to build structures to enhance that outreach. LRCC built the Bowen barn (named in honor of Dorothy Bowen, a member of Lamb of God Lutheran in Anaheim). LRCC has transformed a part of its campus into a farm in order to help youth who come to camp connect with the goodness of God's creation. LRCC also donates a good deal of its produce and eggs to feed the poor and help those in need.

Agape House is aware that many college students struggle with poverty, and are forced to choose at times between paying tuition and paying for housing. The ministry is housed in an aging building in need of repair, and their Council has decided to raise funds for a new building which will include affordable housing for students. Agape House also has a community garden, which helps provide nutritious food for students. They seek to reach out beyond themselves to help their community.

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California oversees the work of Central City Lutheran Mission, which provides services to the poor and underserved in San Bernardino. A new shelter for homeless men has been built and is named for Jerry and Lynda Engelhardt, long-time members of Our Redeemer in Garden Grove. Sadly, Lynda died in March of this year. The shelter provides beds, showers, and safe space for the men, and is adjacent to other services, including meals, provided by LSS.

The Matthew 25 grants allow congregations to expand their ministry to help "the least of these." Congregations throughout the synod are actively involved in feeding programs, and other ministries to those in need.

In December, I was privileged to cross the border with Mary Campbell, the ELCA's AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation, and Opportunity) director; members of Pacifica's AMMPARO team; and representatives from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. We went into Mexico to see the effects of the caravan of mostly families and teenagers from Central America who were seeking asylum in the United States. Immigration policy is one of the most divisive issues in American politics, and I write this not to tell you how to think about immigration. But we in the church are called to remember that these migrants are human beings, beloved by God, and whether they are allowed to enter the US or not, we have a responsibility to care for them. One of the ways we have done so is by asking congregations and individuals to pay for a teacher for a school for migrant children in Tijuana. Since many families do not enter the US unless they are granted asylum, the need for a school was evident, and \$400/month pays for a teacher. Many of our congregations have donated, and this is one of the many ways we seek to be church for the sake of the world.

### **Words of Thanks**

I wish to thank all with whom I serve. We have a terrific staff, and I am grateful to Pastor Tom Goellrich, Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen, Pastor Dennis Laherty, Terri Robertson, Carol Youngman, and Rachel Line for their hard work.

I am thankful for our Synod Council, Vice-President Lori Herman, Secretary Angela Jackson, Treasurer Tom Pankow, and Council Members Dámaris Allen, Maura Beland, Pastor Paul Bieber, Pastor Linda Brown, Pastor Golf Chutimapongrat, Paul Coulter, Becky Draper, Emily Erisman, Mark Fornwall, Greta Goellrich, Pastor Kim Krogstad, Gerry Marecek, Jan Neuhaus, Daneen Pysz, Pastor Maria Santa Cruz, and Pastor Brian Taylor.

My thanks to Gary Kakert, who faithfully served as our Treasurer until he moved to Arizona last October.

I am thankful to our Conference Deans: Pastor Richard Vevia of East San Diego, Pastor Karen Marohn of West San Diego, Pastor Sandy Bentz of Harvest, Pastor Linda Brown of Raincross, Pastor Scottie Lloyd of Big Bear, Pastor Brenda Bos of Saddleback, Pastor Jennifer Schultz of Son & Surf, Pastor Cate Luehr of Rejoice, and Pastor Kathryn Zurcher of Hukilau.

Finally, my thanks to all of you. Your leadership and support helps our church do the work it is called to do. God's blessings to you all.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Taylor  
Bishop

<b>WORD AND SACRAMENT</b>	<b>ROSTER DATE</b>		
		Glen Egertson	7/28/2001
Hitoshi Adachi	6/26/2010	Timothy Eichler	9/16/1990
Charles R. Aden	6/29/1997	Dianne J. Eller	6/3/1984
Terry Tuvey Allen	2/21/1993	Richard L. Elliott	11/25/1962
Nathan Allen	2/08/2015	Lynda Elmer	8/03/1997
Harvey A. Anderson	6/25/1961	John R. Embree	8/25/1974
Matthew Anderson	3/23/2013	Daren Erisman	9/14/1996
Milo "Ken" Anderson	3/27/1977	W. Daniel Erlenbusch	6/26/1977
Mark C. Anderson	8/01/1977	Gloria A. Espeseth	9/20/1984
Agapito Aviles	11/02/1999	Noel C. Estergren	6/03/1969
Steven A. Awbrey	8/3/1986	Misael Fajardo-Perez	2/16/2014
Ronald D. Baesler	4/4/1976	George K.H. Falk	6/14/1970
David Barber	6/20/1971	Murray D. Finck	6/29/1975
Moses Barrios	2/02/2019	Dianne Finnecy	7/28/2017
Jake Bell	6/16/2001	Anke Flohr	5/15/1988
William C. Bengtson	4/2/1967	Derek B. Fossey	8/16/2008
Sandra L. Bentz	6/01/2000	Brian Patrick Foxworth	3/21/2010
Duane A. Berg	6/17/1962	Shane M. Freiberg	7/26/2008
Philip J. Berry	6/11/1967	Robert R. Freistedt	5/15/1960
Paul G. Bieber	9/23/1990	James Friedrich	8/14/1977
Steven K. Bieghler	6/07/1987	Jeff Frohner	5/31/1992
Virginia Bishop	9/08/2007	Richard Fry	9/14/2012
Paul H. Black	6/8/1975	Ronald Geikow	4/28/1979
Brenda Bos	8/16/2014	Thomas E. Goellrich	6/24/1990
Karin Boye	12/14/1986	M. Laurel Gray	5/28/1956
Linda Brown	10/22/2011	Solomon Hailu	10/20/1997
James Bullock	8/11/1963	James R. Hale	6/3/1973
John E. Bunge	6/26/1978	Elwood K. Hall	6/22/1977
Dale S. Burke	8/13/1972	Karla Halvorson	12/15/2007
Mark Cansino	1/5/1985	Yukio Hamada	3/01/2011
Kenneth T. Caudill	6/2/1963	Lawrence L. Hand	6/13/1982
David C.T. Chen	12/30/1964	William K. Harman	1/4/1967
Betty Chen	11/22/2009	Paul Hegele	9/19/1976
Thomas W.S. Chen	3/25/1984	David Hendrickson	07/16/2016
Pongtep "Golf" Chutimapongrat	10/21/2012	David J. Hodgson	6/3/1973
Daniel B Cole	12/03/2000	Eugene R. Holtz	9/30/1962
Cheryl Corneliussen	6/16/1991	Hyunho Hong	12/13/2010
Bruce P. Craft	5/21/1961	Phyllis Hormann	7/29/1995
Jerry A. Crawford	6/17/1972	Ron Hovick	8/14/1994
Kenneth J. Dale	6/17/1951	Martin L.T. Jacobson	6/06/1993
Jonathan S. Doolittle	7/16/1994	Steven L. Jensen	6/23/1973
Margaret A. Duttera	6/27/1982	Franklin X. Jiang	8/28/1994
Timothy A. Edmondson	6/10/1990	Theodore C. Johns	6/02/1965
Jay Carlton Egenes	2/15/2009	Donald K. Johnson	1/4/1963

George S. Johnson	4/01/1962	Skip (H.G.) Mc Comas	2/21/1999
Darin Johnson	11/22/1997	Tomas E. Meeks	7/8/1973
Joseph J. Johnson	7/26/1971	Raymond Mehl	6/09/1957
David P. Jorstad	1/05/1986	Wesley R Menke	11/30/2014
Julie Ann Kelly	10/28/2017	David H. Miller	6/7/1970
David W. Kieffer	8/4/1984	Gary W. Miller	5/05/1968
Jae-Bum Kim	2/11/2001	Keith G Miller	6/23/1996
Yutaka Kishino	7/8/1979	John H. Moody	4/15/1972
John O. Knudson	7/27/1958	Robert T. Mooney	10/22/1983
Darryl W. Kozak	7/23/2006	Gilbert C. Moore	8/16/1953
H. Ivor Kraft	6/11/1972	Donovan A. Myers	5/21/1952
Kim Eifert Krogstad	8/12/1984	David Nagler	1/30/1993
David J. Krueger	11/14/1976	Samuel O Nelson	2/25/2018
Samuel S. Kumissa	11/16/2014	Minh-Hanh T. Nguyen	8/8/1999
Ying-Chhi Kuo	10/13/1963	Anne-Grethe Nielsen	11/06/1991
David R. Kupka	6/01/1966	Patrice A Nordstrand	7/28/1978
Dennis M. Laherty	6/5/1975	William A. Norman	8/29/1965
Stephanie Lape	4/12/2015	Paul C. Oas	6/3/1956
Lowell O. Larson	6/06/1948	Deogracias Olivar	1/23/2011
Paul A. Larson	5/21/1958	Linda Salmonson Olson	8/09/1997
Simon W.S. Lee	3/8/1981	Brian Oltman	9/30/1990
Kenneth J. Licht	6/18/1967	Karen S. Parker	9/10/1978
Jeffrey Lilley	2/17/1990	Carole Parmeter Dyer	5/26/2013
Leah A. Lind	11/30/2008	Roger W. Patterson	7/09/1983
David Lindberg	6/19/1955	Steven L. Perry	6/03/1979
Jack E. Lindquist	5/30/1963	Ruth M Peterson	10/6/1991
Laura A. Line	5/26/2001	James A. Pike	6/25/2005
Cliff A. Listug	6/19/1966	Ken Puccio	11/13/1977
Scottie R. Lloyd	8/07/1983	Daniel Raaen	6/26/1994
Charles J. Lopez	9/28/1975	William A. Radatz	6/06/1971
Frederick C. Lubs	6/20/1976	R. Joseph Ramnarine	7/7/1966
Catherine Luehr	6/06/2009	Carol J. Reed	4/17/2010
Kinndlee Lund	2/29/2012	Berhanu W. Refera	6/12/2016
John A. Lundblad	7/27/1969	Amber Remillard	5/02/2007
John S. Lunn	6/7/1990	Ronald L. Rennegarbe	9/09/1979
Leslie Mahraun	10/27/2012	Manuel J Retamoza	9/17/2004
Karen Marohn	4/27/2003	David D. Reynolds	5/16/1962
Lara Martin	10/19/2008	Richard L. Rierson	6/04/1972
Diane Martinson	8/23/1992	Charles B. Riggs	7/28/1974
Joel Martyn	8/31/2003	Marda-Ruth Roberts	8/23/1992
Richard W. Martyn	6/13/1976	James L. Roessler	1/13/1974
Timothy J. Mason	5/25/1991	Richard Rollefson	8/01/1980
Joseph R. Matoush	6/6/1974	Lawrence H. Roller	2/22/1953
David R. Mattson	6/26/1987	Greg Ronning	10/29/1988

Daniel Erik Roschke	7/16/2006
Lee B. Rozen	11/13/1971
Victoria Rufsvold	5/23/1999
Jayaprakash "JP" Sabbithi	3/11/2017
Maria A. Santa Cruz	1/23/2000
Paul F. Scheitlin	7/22/1979
Kathryn Schlechter	3/06/1994
Michael D. Schneider	3/21/1996
Richard Schowalter	6/01/1978
Jennifer M Schultz	8/04/1996
Kenneth Severa	6/01/1987
Karla M. Seyb-Stockton	9/04/1988
Jennifer Shaw	1/31/2016
Ronald E Shonk	3/20/1967
William J. Snyder	7/10/1977
John W Spann	5/19/1949
Bradley R. Stienstra	8/31/1975
Mary Stohlman	9/27/1987
Albert W. Stott	5/26/1963
Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun	7/01/2007
Charles W. Sundry	5/31/1965
Sherry G. Sweetman	3/18/1979
Luther W. Symons	1/11/1998
Andrew A. Taylor	8/10/1986
Brian Taylor	10/29/1978
Andreas M Thode	1/26/1996
May Tsui	6/20/2006
Kent Tuohino	3/06/1988
Bohdan Vadis	6/22/2003
Sabrina M. Vasta	1/24/2010
Richard W. Vevia	6/26/1981
Linda Vogelgesang	5/19/2002
Edward J. Volkmann	6/17/1956
Raymond W. Wade	7/12/1981
Roberta Wall	8/23/2015
Kathy Waltz	7/21/1996
A Joris Watland	1/5/1968
Robert Waworuntu	12/29/1985
Robert J. Wayne	6/15/1952
David E. Wenger	8/11/1963
Mark E. Winick	3/12/1978
Carl R. Witt	6/26/1977
Keith Wolter	10/21/1984
Carol Worthing	7/25/1982

Juan Ramon Zarate	5/18/2013
Laura Ziehl	8/30/1997
Kathryn Zurcher	7/12/2006

<b>WORD AND SERVICE</b>	<b>ROSTER DATE</b>
Mindy Bugaj	7/09/2017
Betty L. Darrow	2/13/1966
Georgia Decker	6/8/1986
Phillip Deming	6/29/1996
Taflin Fisher	2/23/2003
Melissa James	11/07/2004
Melvin M. Kieschnick	9/9/1950
Shirley J. Lee	2/17/2002
Barbara Martyn	12/9/2001
Lynne L. Prechel	10/28/2007
Paula Rennegarbe	5/01/1973
Kevin Sumner-Eisenbraun	06/21/2009

## **PACIFICA SYNOD STAFF**

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

Fax: (714) 692-9317, email: office@pacificasynod.org

### **BISHOP**

**THE REV. DR. ANDREW A. TAYLOR**

ext. 736, email: AndyTaylor@pacificasynod.org

### **ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP**

**THE REV. TERRY TUVEY ALLEN,**

Learning, Worship & Care, ext. 739,  
email: TerryTuveyAllen@pacificasynod.org

**THE REV. TOM GOELLRICH,**

Director for Evangelical Mission, ext. 735  
email: TomGoellrich@pacificasynod.org

**THE REV. DENNIS LAHERTY,**

Congregational Development and Legacy, 714-401-0873  
email: DennisLaherty@pacificasynod.org

### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**MS. RACHEL LINE,**

Bishop's Executive Assistant, ext. 733  
email: RachelLine@pacificasynod.org

**MS. TERRI ROBERTSON,**

Accounting/Communications, ext. 732  
email: TerriRobertson@pacificasynod.org

**MS. CAROL YOUNGMAN,**

Rostered Leaders and Congregation Support, ext. 731  
email: CarolYoungman@pacificasynod.org

## **Pacifica Synod Assembly, May 10 & 11, 2019**

### **The Rev. Dennis M. Laherty, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Development and Legacy**

The second year of this position with the synod, has produced results both as congregational development and legacy.

#### **Through Development**

**Salem L.C., Whittier** continues under synodical administration. Salem serves as host for Whittier Presbyterian Church. The understanding held by the congregations has Salem administering the property and Whittier Pres administering the personnel. In the coming months, a mission redeveloper will be sought to serve both congregations.

**Lord of Life L.C., Moreno Valley** has been guided by synodical administration for six months. The trustees have been working with the congregation to prepare the ministry to call a pastor in the near future. Ministry and outreach goals are being set and implemented to make Lord of Life's presence better known in the community.

#### **Through Legacy**

**Hope L.C., San Diego** requested the synod to assist in closing the congregation last June. On August 26, the people of Hope, along with Bishop Taylor and clergy from the area, celebrated the years that Hope served in the community, providing faithful Word and Sacrament ministry. Since August, a Filipino Lutheran group has been worshipping and fellowshiping at Hope and reaching out to the surrounding community.

**Atonement L.C., San Diego** came under synodical preservation last June. Since then, there has been a worshipping community at Atonement with the leadership of trustees provided by the Pacifica Synod. Although Atonement no longer exists as an established congregation of the synod, plans are being considered to provide a site with a Lutheran presence and an interfaith emphasis. Atonement has been located adjacent to the largest Mosque in San Diego and has had fellowship opportunities together over the years. The site is viewed as having rich opportunities for future outreach and ministry.

**Calvary L.C., Santa Ana** was placed under synodical administration by the Synod Council on August 25. Three to five members of the congregation had been worshipping at St. Peter's, Santa Ana since fire destroyed their building several years ago. Assets obtained from Calvary will be placed in the Pacifica Mission Funds and applied to future development within the synod.

Finally, synodical administration or preservation could not work without the commitment of trustees. Trustees are both clergy and lay people who come from neighboring congregations to the one being served. Thanks is given for those who serve; Mary Ann Carlson, Tom Pankow, Kristee Laiva, Nicolette Rohr, LeRoy Loseke, Jim Grutkowski, Meri Jo Petrivelli, Kathy Conterez, Paul Coulter, Bishop Emeritus Murray Finck, Prs. Steve Bieghler, Brian Taylor, Kent Tuohino, David Nagler, Kim Krogstad, Richard Vevia and Karen Marohn.

**Reverend Terry Tuvey Allen**  
**Assistant to the Bishop**

According to USA Sports, Big-wave surfer Tom Butler of England rode a wave some estimated to be 100-feet tall at Nazare on Friday in what he and others believe could be a world record for the biggest wave ever surfed.



Nazare, Portugal. Credit: Francisco Leong/Getty

row of silhouetted onlookers in the foreground, as another line appears, the wake of a figure at first too small to see, slashing across the growing mountain of water. The behemoth, which Rodrigo Koxa surfed in November 2017, is considered the biggest wave ever ridden, topping out at 80 feet (24 meters) off the coast of Nazaré, Portugal.



Earlier in November 2017, an astonishing video that circulated on Twitter shows a surreal and stomach dropping scene: An azure wave, streaked with vertical white lines, rises up and up — and, somehow — up higher, until it dwarfs a red tower and

I'm not a surfer. However, I am drawn to and fascinated by the beauty and utter terror of these giant waves. A sociologist's lecture in the late 1980s caught my attention, when she compared the coming social changes to a mammoth wave. She told us about the theory of the 500 year cycle, in which one looks back through the lens of history to predict the future. She concluded that human history showed massive changes in societies, approximately every 500 years and that our wave was coming. While listening, I was astonished to realize that our beloved, irrasible **Martin Luther was a big-wave rider**. The waves he rode were political upheaval, spiritual dissatisfaction, class unrest, and Guttenberg's new contraption; a communication device (the printing press) that revolutionized the world in his era. He used the massive changes to let the people know that God loved them. We can reach back further (about 2000 years) to find the revolutionary life and words of **Jesus, riding a bahemath wave** with a startling message of God's grace and mercy and love for people of every shape, size, social and economic status, political party, male, female ... Galatians 3 tells us that all these divisions are drowned and washed away in God's love.

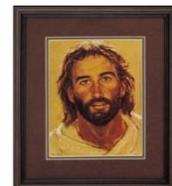
So what does "giant wave" riding have to do with us – well, first, giant waves are formed deep under the surface, often in canyons we cannot see, amplifying and condensing until their energy bursts up - building, gathering speed, and strength. I believe God has called us, **you and I, to ride this epic wave**. Not so that we can grab a mention in the history books, but so that the people around us, people we love, some that we don't particularly like, and those who are standing terrified on the shore can know that God loves them, **God loves us all**.

Many congregations are feeling the pressures of societal changes building. The massive gathering of energy reflected in the realization that the upheaval in the economic, gender,

race, political, and spiritual realms of our day will leave us in a new reality, nothing will ever be the same. Our tried and true categories are disintegrating; which is both disturbing and awesome. I can communicate with you through a tiny hands-free device, they are experimenting with self-driving cars, and we send movies and tv shows through space. I don't doubt that *beam me up, Scotty* may be a reality sometime in the not too distant future. Some of it terrifies me, but most of all I'm entranced. We are living Galatians 3 [<sup>26</sup>*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,* <sup>27</sup>*for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* <sup>28</sup>*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* <sup>29</sup>*If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*] we are heirs of the promise that God is with us in this, that while barriers are broken down, we are called to build up one another and our neighbors in God's love.

We are blessed when we experience constant transition, from one stage or movement or development or evolution to another – it is what it means to be **alive**. The church, in the midst of transitions, is far from dead. Whether your congregation is raising up a candidate for rostered ministry (**candidacy**), writing a ministry site profile (**mobility**) to call a new pastor or deacon, re-writing by-laws, updating a constitution, aging, feeding people in your community or building a well on the other side of the world, reading scripture, inviting someone to church (**mission**), praying for the healing of a friend or a congregation (**pastoral care**), sharing a meal at the Lord's table (**worship**) you are safe in the promise of God's immense, enormous, sometimes terrifying, always awesome love.

This liquid avalanche is upon us. I admit, I can't surf worth beans. I am as terrified and awe-struck by this epic wave as many of you are. However, I am not afraid to get wet. Romans 6 reminds us, <sup>3</sup>*Or don't you know that all of us who were **baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?*** <sup>4</sup>*We were therefore buried with him through **baptism** into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.* I'm ready to do this with you. To use the new technology, the new norms of society, the immense energy of this wave to tell you, and all people in everything that we do and say, that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus. Let's go surfing, let's ride this wave with Jesus!



*Blessings, Pastor Terry*

Please ask me about:

**Candidacy:** We are all called to serve, using our God given gifts to help and encourage one another. Some are called to serve as a rostered leader in the ELCA. Do you know someone that God is calling? **Mobility and Congregational Transitions:** The Spirit has been very active in the area of Mobility/Pastoral Transitions this past year. **Lutheran Retreats Camps and Conferences:** a ministry of Pacifica and Southwest California Synods. This vital ministry continues to shape the faith of people of all ages. **First Call Theological Education:** During their first call deacons and pastors participate in First Call Theological Education (FCTE.) Pacifica Synod does this jointly with the other four Region 2 Synods. **Pastoral Care:** Caring for one another and bearing one another's burdens is part of our call to be in community together. If you know of a concern, please let us know in the synod office. **Worship:** Weekly throughout the Pacifica Synod we gather as communities of faith to hear the Word proclaimed, be reminded that we are forgiven, to be strengthened and sent into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. While the words, music and images may differ, what remains steady is the promise that where two or three are gathered, God is there in the midst of us and **Bingo**, look at the display table for candidacy.

**Rev. Tom Goellrich**  
**Director for Evangelical Mission**  
**Assistant to the Bishop**

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

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! It's been a busy year around the synod from a missional perspective. A few highlights:

- ❖ Vitality ministries are running full steam. Since the summer, we have two ministries at a time working through the survey that takes about 3 months for the basic work. If your congregation is interested, please get in touch with me.
- ❖ Our new ministry start in Palm Spring has held its first worship service (Easter Sunday) and is bolstered by the partnership with Hope Lutheran Church, Palm Desert.
- ❖ Shepherd of the Hills and Crave Life in Whittier are doing new ministry together (along with Thai Shepherd) with Pastor Moses Barrios. Pastor Moses was ordained in February and joined the ELCA roster.
- ❖ It looks as if we are making headway for our ELCA Batak ministry in Redland of identify a pastor from Indonesia to serve. I don't want to jinx it but it has been a long journey to get to this point.
- ❖ Pastor Steve Bieghler is our synod Mission Interpreter. Thank you, Steve for stepping up for this. I am looking for two more people who would be interested in considering this. Ideally one person from the Inland Empire, one from San Diego, or one from Hawaii. Training would be in August in Pittsburgh. Then next year we will send one person from the final area of the three listed above. Talk to me about interest and details. This is open to a rostered leader or lay person in a congregation.

**UPCOMING on September 30 – Oct 2!**

Happening in our territory in the San Diego area is a joint event on Stewardship with the ELCA and Presbyterian Church. We don't get this opportunity often and it is my hope that our congregations will take advantage of this. The event is Stewardship Kaleidoscope – Real Tools for Real Ministry. The theme is The Pulse of Generosity – Vital Signs of A Healthy Steward. Please find at the end of this report, important information for the event.

**Look for new initiatives in the coming year on two fronts!**

**Evangelism:** It is my hope that our congregations can strike up conversation and action plans around this vitally important and urgent need. We have a unique Lutheran perspective on this and we need to claim it and do it! Watch for possibilities.

**Stewardship: I want to thank our congregations for a strong Mission Support year! Your gifts are critical for supporting ministry both synodically and churchwide. THANK YOU!!!!** The next challenge is sustaining this. Again, the need to strike up conversation and action plans. Watch for possibilities.

When you think about it, these two ministries are like the research and development areas tasked with engaging future ministries, sharing the love of Jesus in the world, always with a Lutheran perspective and understanding.

It is exciting to do what I do as DEM. It is God, Jesus and Holy Spirit that sustains me in this work. Also, interacting with the people of Pacifica is both a privilege and honor. Call on me anytime ---- Here's my mobile number – 714-478-2753!

Blessings ... Pastor Tom

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



THE PULSE OF

generosity

VITAL SIGNS OF  
A HEALTHY STEWARD

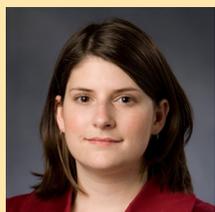


Stewardship  
**Kaleidoscope**  
*Real Tools for Real Ministry*

September 30 – October 2, 2019

San Diego, California

Catamaran Resort



**Keynote**

Melissa Spas  
*Managing Director for  
the Lake Institute on  
Faith & Giving*



**Keynote**

Eric Law  
*Author of "Holy Currencies:  
6 Blessings for Sustainable  
Missional Ministries"*



**Worship Leader**

Diane Moffett  
*Executive Director of  
the Presbyterian  
Mission Agency*

Plus over 30 workshops covering topics such as annual stewardship, planned giving, theology of giving, current trends in stewardship, capital campaigns, and generosity

To register and for more information visit:  
[www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org)



# generosity

## Who should attend?:

Pastors, lay leaders, judicatory staff, and anyone who is looking to learn more about stewardship in today's church context.

## Conference Fee and Location:

\$300 on or before August 1, 2019

\$325 after August 1, 2019

Catamaran Resort in San Diego, CA

Conference Room Rate of \$169/night

## Conference includes:

Four plenary sessions

Four workshops (30+ to choose from)

Two worship services

Dinner Monday

Lunch Tuesday

## Conference schedule:

### Monday, September 30

Registration (12-2 p.m.)

Conference begins (2 p.m.)

Plenary 1, Workshop Session 1

Dinner, Worship

### Tuesday, October 1

Plenary 2, Workshop Session 2

Lunch

Workshop Session 3, Plenary 3,

Free Evening

### Wednesday, October 2

Plenary 4, Workshop Session 4, Closing Worship

Conference ends at 12:30

## Workshops:

*(This list is just a sampling of the 30+ workshops that will be offered.)*

### Teaching and Preaching Biblical Stewardship

*Barbara Rossing, Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago*

### Asset-Based Stewardship in the Small Church

*Olanda Carr, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation*

### Practicing Generosity of Body, Mind and Spirit: Loving Kindness

*Cheryl Galan, Interim Executive Presbyter with The Presbytery of Carlisle and Certified Yoga Instructor*

### Stewardship Across Cultures: A panel discussion

*Neil Bullock, Stewardship Project Coordinator, Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA and Jerry Cannon, Pastor of C.N. Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC and Jonah So, Lead Pastor of the English Ministry of Korean Presbyterian Church of Winchester, NY*

### AirBnB and the Early Church: a Theology of Possessions for the Sharing Economy

*J. C. Austin, Pastor/Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, PA.*

### Creating a Culture of Generosity

*Robert Hay, Jr., Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation*

### Vulnerability and Courage: The Practice of Stewardship

*Roy Howard, Pastor, Saint Mark Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD*

### When enough is enough: the sufficiency of God's blessing

*David Loleng, Director of Church Financial Literacy and Leadership at the Presbyterian Foundation*

### Active Community Stewardship for Hunger and the Environment

*Phoebe Morad, Lutherans Restoring Creation*

To register and for more information visit:  
[www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org](http://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org)

## Pacifica Synod Children, Youth & Family Ministries Report to 2019 Synod Assembly

Our Synod's ministry with those serving our congregations in the areas of Children, Youth and Family Ministries continued in 2018, as it has since 2015, 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 Retamozo of St. Andrew's, San Diego and typically meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 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 are still trying to find the best way to connect youth ministry leaders in the Inland Empire, and welcome input into how best to facilitate this.



In the summer of 2018, 27 of our congregations sent over 280 youth and adult leaders to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. While at the Gathering, participants experienced speakers who inspired and challenged them. They had a chance to learn, grow in faith, worship and serve the community. Bishop Andy attended the Gathering as well and was able to share in the Synod Day when both Pacifica and Southwest California Synod attendees joined together for the day. We give thanks for our synod's youth ministry leaders who spent countless hours of planning, fundraising, organizing, communicating and relationship-building preparing to accompany their group to the Gathering. We are grateful for their dedication and service.

Our Pacifica Synod Youth Team was active in 2018, working alongside the Southwest California Youth Team to plan, organize and lead events for other youth of all ages in both synods. The mission of this team is to walk with youth as they develop leadership skills, grow in faith and build relationships. Some of our youth team members attended the 2018 Synod Assembly as voting members or visitors. Many are active in their home congregations as well.

Youth that serve on the Synod Youth Team are from congregations of varying sizes. Often youth team members come from smaller congregations, without a formal or active youth group. The Synod Youth Team often helps to provide community for the team members. But without encouragement and support from adults in their congregation (pastors, youth leaders, parents), it's hard for youth to learn about the opportunity to serve on the team or participate in events. Every young person has the potential to be a leader, they just need someone who believes in them and is there to encourage them.

Presently, our team is made up of four high school youth and three adult advisors from across our synod. Our current Synod Youth Team members are:



President – Gabriella Mark – Mission, Laguna Niguel  
Multi-Cultural Rep – Penelope Barrios – Crave Life, Whittier  
President Elect/Son & Surf Conference Rep – Ashley Nadolny – St. Olaf, Garden Grove  
Secretary/Raincross Conference Rep – Gabriel Allert – Bethany, Norco  
Adult Advisors – Terri Robertson, Jamie Buffkin (Resurrection, HB)  
and Deana Allert (Bethany, Norco)

Many who served on our team last year were high school seniors, so we currently have many unfilled positions. We are seeking high school youth to serve in the following open positions: Definitely-Abled, IT/Media, and Hospitality Representatives, along with representatives from the following conferences: E. San Diego, W. San Diego, Harvest, Big Bear, Saddleback, Rejoice 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 2018, two of our Synod Youth Team members, Penelope Barrios (Crave Life) and Marit Hendrickson (First, Redlands), along with an adult advisor, attended the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in Ashland, Nebraska. They joined youth and adult representatives from many of the 65 synods for three days of leadership development and faith formation. The ELCA Youth Leadership Summit is planned and led by high school students from across the country who serve on the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team, including Gabriella Mark from our own synod.

Ministry with those in the first third of life looks very different than it has in the past. 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. There are no easy answers or quick-fix solutions. This ministry is relational, and we are all called to care for and walk with the young people in our congregations - encouraging, supporting and inviting them to be active members in the life of the church. As is usually the case, for something to grow, we must invest our time and resources to help it do so.

In 2019, we are working to host several "Plan-It" workshops, created by Peer Ministry Leadership under the direction of Lyle Griner. This one-day workshop is a guided planning and sharing experience for those responsible for children, youth and family ministries. During the day, we will review essential youth ministry lenses, planning tools, and usable templates. Participants design a well-balanced, one-year framework, with an emphasis on self-care and building a leadership producing culture. For a very reasonable registration fee, you can bring as many from your congregation as you like. Watch for details to come in the months ahead.

We are grateful for all those in our synod who give of their time and talents to serve with our children, youth, young adults and families. Please keep them in your prayers and offer them your support, care and love. Take the time to get to know and pray for the young people in your congregation and listen to what they have to share. It will be a gift to both them and you!

In peace,  
*Terri Robertson*



## Vice President Report to the 2019 Pacifica Synod Assembly

Dear Pacifica Friends in Christ,

Welcome to the 32nd Annual Pacifica Synod Assembly, our second gathering in Palm Desert. On behalf of the Synod Council, I want to thank you for being present and for participating in the work of the Synod.

You may have wondered, what exactly does the Synod Council do? Our constitution states in **S10.02**: *The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions that are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or that are not precluded by provisions of this constitution or the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

Since our last Assembly, the Synod Council has continued the business of this Assembly, meeting four times and utilizing conference calls as needed. Our annual council retreat was once again held in the Inland Empire at First Lutheran in Redlands and at Luther Glen in Oak Glen. Subsequent meetings were held in Santa Ana at the Lutheran Center for Mission and Learning, and we will have met again, just ahead of this Assembly, in Palm Desert, part of Riverside County. The Executive Committee meets on a separate date before Synod Council, and our various steering committees, including the Mission Funds Committee and Finance Committee, convene regularly as well.

Synod Council acted on a myriad of regular business, including approving changes to Synod Calls, monitoring budget items, approving the recommendations of the Mission Fund committee and hearing the reports of Synod staff. This past year the council was called upon to make the difficult decision to place two congregations into Synodical Preservation. Each decision was made only after careful discernment and much discussion by the Council, with major consideration given to the legacy of past members of the congregation, the mission and ministry of the present, and the promise of the future.

I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to Bishop Andy Taylor and the entire Synod staff, as well as to the members of the Synod Council and Synod committees, 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 those Synod Council members who have served out their terms. The talent, dedication and time these faithful people of God have given to Synod Council is a true blessing and their presence, counsel and faithful service will be missed.

Peace,  
Lori Herman, VP Pacifica Synod

## ACTIONS OF THE SYNOD COUNCIL

May 2018-March 2019

### SYNOD CALLS

On Leave from Call / Rev. Steven A Awbrey (extension of OLFC 4.30.18)

SC.18.05.02 VOTED to approve the above synod calls. (m/s/c)

#### Interim Synod Calls

Rev. Karin Boye – St. Mark’s Chula Vista 05.16.18

Rev. Karla Seyb-Stockton, Shepherd of the Valley, La Mesa – 06.01.2018

Rev. Brad Stienstra, Our Saviour’s, Orange – 08.01.2018

Rev. Milo Ken Anderson, Trinity, Hemet – 08.25.2018

#### Synod Calls

Rev. David Hendrickson, Pohai Nani Healthcare – 07.01.2018 (to go to COB)

Rev. Deogracias (Jogy) Olivar, Chaplain, Apreva Hospice – 08.27.18

SC.18.08.11 VOTED to approve the above changes to the roster. (m/s/c)

### ROSTER MATTERS

**On Leave from Call**            Rev. David Beard – 07.01.2018

#### **Remove from Roster**

Rev. Esaul Solomon — submitted written resignation (joined LCMC)

#### **Retirements**

Rev. Patrice Nordstrand – 04.25.2018 (Portico 5.1.2018)

Rev. Cheryl Corneliussen – 07.30.2018 (Portico 8.01.2018)

Rev. Paul Scheitlin- 10.31.2018

Rev. Ron Hovick – 06.01.2018

Rev. Ken Severa – (informational only/vote not needed)

#### **Deaths**

Rev. Charles Malloch – 07.04.2018

Rev. William Schumacher – 07.20.2018

Rev. Ronald Lavin – 08.07.2018

SC.18.08.11 VOTED to approve the above changes to the roster. (m/s/c)

SC.18.09.01 VOTED to approve the extension of on leave from call for Rev. Amber Remillard (m/s/p)

SC.19.03.05 VOTED to approve the roster changes. (The Rev. Steve Awbrey-On Leave from Call; the Rev. Betty Chen, retirement effective 1/27/2019; Deacon Roberta Wall, retirement effective 3/1/2019; the Rev. Rich Ajer, bridge pastor for First Lutheran, San Diego.) (m/s/c)

### CONGREGATION MATTERS

*Motion: Executive Committee recommends that Synod Council invoke 13.24 for Atonement Lutheran Church, San Diego.*

After further discussion,

EC.18.05.02 VOTED to approve the above motion.

SC.18.05.05 VOTED to approve the constitutions for King of Glory, Fountain Valley, and Christ Lutheran, Mililani. (m/s/c)

*Motion: Synod Council finds that Atonement Lutheran Church, San Diego being diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for the congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized, invokes Synodical Administration 13.24 effective Sunday May 20, 2018.*

SC.18.05.09 VOTED to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

*The following trustees will be appointed: Rev. David Nagler, Rev. Karen Marohn, Rev. Dennis Laherty, Meri Jo Petrivelli, and Jim Grutkowski. The Rev. Kate Schlechter will be issued a synod call to serve as pastor of the worshipping community at Atonement Lutheran effective Sunday May 20, 2018.*

SC.18.05.10 VOTED to approve the above motion (m/s/c)

SC.18.06.01 VOTED to accept the closure and receive the property of Hope Lutheran Church, San Diego. (m/s/c)

*Motion: Synod Council appoints the following Trustees for Hope Lutheran Church, San Diego: LeRoy Loseke, Rev. Richard Vevia, and Kathy Conterez.*

SC.18.06.02 VOTED to approve the above referenced trustees as listed. (m/s/c)

SC.18.08.15 VOTED to approve the updated constitutions for First Lutheran, San Diego, and Shepherd of the Hills, Whittier. (m/s/c)

*Motion: That we implement S13.24 for Calvary Lutheran Church, Santa Ana.*

SC.18.08.16 VOTED to enact S13.24 for Calvary Lutheran, Santa Ana (m/s/c)

*Trustees to be appointed: Bishop Emeritus Murray Finck, Rev. Brian Taylor, Carol Bracken, and Paul Coulter as an alternate. Motion: Synod Council to appoint the above people as trustees.*

SC.18.08.17 VOTED to approve the trustees for Calvary Lutheran, Santa Ana (m/s/c)

SC.18.10.01 VOTED to place Lord of Life, Moreno Valley under S13.25, Synodical Administration effective 10/11/2018. (m/s/c)

*Trustees to be appointed: Rev. Kent Tuohino (Pastor, Trinity, Riverside), Rev. Kim Krogstad (Pastor, First, Redlands), Ms. Nicolette Rohr (member of Eden, Riverside), and Ms. Kristee Laiva (member of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church of Glen Avon, Riverside).*

SC.18.10.02 VOTED to approve the trustees to serve alongside 3 council members from Lord of Life, Moreno Valley. (m/s/c) *Rev. Kim Krogstad abstained from the vote.*

SC.18.12.06 VOTED to approve the reauthorization of Center City Lutheran Mission as a SAWC. (m/s/c)

SC.18.12.09 VOTED to approve the transfer of Cross and Crown, Rancho Cucamonga to the Big Bear Conference. (m/s/c)

SC19.03.07 Voted to approve the constitutions of Gethsemane Lutheran, San Diego, St. Peter by the Sea, San Diego, Prince of Peace, Honolulu, and St. Andrew's San Diego. (m/s/c)

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

EC.18.05.03 VOTED to ratify the Finance Committee action of moving \$250,000 from the CLC-Agape House demand account to an additional 1-year variable rate MIF CD.

EC.18.05.04 VOTED to approve the Finance Committee to merge Synod Mission Funds & LCC Congregational Mission Fund.

Charitable Gift Annuity to College Lutheran Church – currently deposited into Undesignated account (with Oromo Legacy funds) pending council designation (\$34,000)

SC.18.05.08 VOTED to approve the merger of the L.C.C. Congregational Mission Fund with Mission 2015 Fund into one fund labeled Pacifica Mission Fund.

(m/s/c)

*Motion: That we adopt the policy concerning the “Disposition of Current Inactive /Low Activity Designated/Temporarily Restricted Accounts”*

SC.18.08.03 VOTED to adopt the policy stated above. (m/s/c)

*Motion: That we accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the “Disposition of Current Inactive /Low Activity Designated/Temporarily Restricted Accounts”*

SC.18.08.04 VOTED to approve the above referenced motion. (m/s/c)

*Motion: To recommend that “Portico Gold+ Plan” continue as the medical plan for Synod staff.*

SC.18.08.05 VOTED to recommend the above motion. (m/s/c)

*Motion: that we adopt the language to update the Warner Grant Trust application.*

SC.18.08.06 VOTED to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

*Synod Assembly Surplus 2018 Motion: to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee to transfer \$10,000 back into the Bishop Transition Fund for future use and hold \$13,493 in a carryover fund for future needs (reducing congregational costs, scholarships, subsidizing future hotel-based assemblies).*

SC.18.08.07 VOTED to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

**Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Ramona Loan Guarantee:** *Motion: That Pacifica Synod approves the recommendation from the Finance Committee & Mission Funds Committee to fund this request with funds from the Thrivent Investment/Mission Fund 2015 in the amount of \$50,000.*

SC.18.08.10 VOTED to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

*Motion: to authorize up to \$3200.00 from Mission Funds to pay the 2<sup>nd</sup> year MissionInsite contract.*

SC.18.08.12 VOTED to approve the motion. (m/s/c)

The Mission Fund Committee recommendations for GEM Fund (\$10,000) and Matthew 25 Fund (\$25,900) disbursements were received.

EC.18.11.02 VOTED to approve the distribution requests as requested. (m/s/c)  
Finance Committee recommendation to reduce fees for the Synod Assembly.

EC.18.11.03 VOTED to recommend approval of the reduced fees for the 2019 Synod Assembly. (m/s/c)

Tom Pankow to replace Gary Kakert as check signer for Farmers & Merchants, Mission Investment Fund and ELCA Endowment Funds

EC.18.11.04 VOTED to approve Tom Pankow to be an authorized signer on these accounts. (m/s/c)

Regarding College Lutheran specifically: the \$34,307.37 annuity received earlier this year. It was moved and seconded that 50% of this distribution go to Agape House, 40% to the Synod in undesignated funds (with a tithe of 10% to the ELCA), and 10% to Calvary/The Closet for whatever they need.

EC.18.11.07 VOTED to approve the distribution of the College Lutheran Charitable Gift Annuity as stated above. (m/s/c)

SC.18.12.04 VOTED to approve the 2019 housing amounts. (m/s/c)

EC.12.18.04 VOTED to approve the motion to amend the spend plan and budget by \$12,000. (see attached)

*Motion to recommend the spend plan and budget as amended to synod council for approval.*

EC.12.18.03 VOTED to recommend the spend plan and budget as amended to the Synod Council. (m/s/c)

2019 Staff Housing Allowance

Motion: to approve the updated staff housing allowances for 2019.

EC.18.12.04 VOTED to approve the synod staff housing allowances for 2019.

*Motion: That \$120,000 be transferred from the College Lutheran account to the Synodical Administration fund to assist in financing the ATTB position.*

EC.18.12.07 VOTED to approve the motion to transfer funds from the College Lutheran fund to Synodical Administration. (m/s/c)

EC.18.12.08 VOTED to approve and accept the amended Synod Council policies regarding reimbursements.

*Motion: We approve mileage reimbursement for trustees related travel where reimbursement has been recommended by rostered synod staff.*

EC.18.12.09 VOTED to approve the motion for mileage reimbursement for trustees where reimbursement has been recommended by rostered synod staff.

(m/s/c) *Tom Pankow abstained*

*Motion: To approve the revised spend plan per financial packet.*

SC.19.03.03 VOTED to approve the spend plan. (m/s/c)

SC.19.03.04 VOTED to approve the revised housing allowance. (m/s/c)

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY MATTERS

SAI8.05.01 VOTED to accept the amendment to the standing rules of 30 minutes discussion, with 2-10 minute periods to follow if approved by the assembly.

(m/s/c)

SAI8.05.02 VOTED to approve the rules and agenda for the 2017 Pacifica Synod Assembly. (m/s/c)

SA.18.05.03 VOTED to accept the recommendation for Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders. (m/s/c)

*The Pacifica Synod Council recommends to the 2018 Synod Assembly for approval a 2.5% increase\* in the Baseline Salary for Rostered Leaders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament &*

Ministers of Word and Service) of the Pacifica Synod for the year 2019. This action would bring the current baseline salary (including salary and housing allowance) to \$65,596 for Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Constitution Bylaws update S10.06 is amended and restated as noted in the notebook.

SA.18.05.04 VOTED to accept the constitution bylaw update.

SA.18.05.05 VOTED to accept the bylaw change.

Resolution 18-01: First Call Theological Education

SA.18.05.06 VOTED to pass Resolution 18-01, First Call Theological Education.

(m/s/c)

Resolution 18.02 to Encouragement to Study “Women and Justice”

After discussion regarding the resolution,

SA.18.05.07 VOTED to pass Resolution 18.02, Encouragement to Study “Woman and Justice”

SA.18.05.09 VOTED to pass memorial 18.03: Towards an Open and Healthy Articulation of Human Sexuality

SA.18.05.10 VOTED to amend the memorial, and the final resolved to read:

*RESOLVED, that this synod assembly submit ~~the following~~ **this** memorial for consideration at the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly*

*Amendment: RESOLVED, that the Bishops, Seminaries, and their committees be ~~empowered to impose proper discipline~~ **encouraged to engage counseling and correction** for those whose actions are incompatible with the character required by the constitution and/or by-laws of the ELCA. Be it finally*

*Amendment:*

*RESOLVED, that the Bishops, Seminaries, and their committees be ~~empowered to impose—proper discipline~~ **encouraged to engage counseling and education** for those whose actions are incompatible with the character required by the constitution and/or by-laws of the ELCA. Be it finally*

SA.18.05.11 VOTED to cease debate.

SA.18.05.12 VOTED to accept the memorial as amended.

After further discussion of the memorial,

SA.18.05.13 VOTED to defeat the amended memorial

Motion: 2019 Synod Assembly Offering Recipients – Basel Christian Church of Malaysia

Lutheran Disaster Response (50/50)

SC.18.12.08 VOTED to approve the assembly offering designations. (m/s/c)

SC19.03.06 Voted to approve the list of display requests for Synod Assembly.

(m/s/c)

## APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS

Motion: That Tom Pankow be appointed as treasurer to replace Gary Kakert effective November 1, 2018 until the Synod Assembly 2019 elections.

SC.18.08.13 VOTED to appoint Tom Pankow as treasurer. (m/s/c)

**SC.18.08.14 VOTED** to appoint Becky Draper (2 years, 1<sup>st</sup> term), Paul Coulter (2 years, 2<sup>nd</sup> term), Rev. Brian Taylor (2 years, 1<sup>st</sup> term) to serve on the Executive Committee. (m/s/c)

*Motion: Remove Carol Bracken as trustee for Calvary Lutheran Church, Santa Ana, and appoint Paul Coulter to be a trustee.*

**SC.18.12.07 VOTED** to approve the motion. (m/s/c) *Paul Coulter abstained.*

Mission Funds Committee appointment – Alan Griesemer to replace Fred Luhman who has resigned from his position on the committee

**EC.12.18.01 VOTED** to approve the appointment of Alan Griesemer to replace Fred Luhman on the Mission Funds Committee.

### MISCELLANEOUS

*Motion: That we use Portico Wellness Award funds to cover the meals & hotel costs for Terri Robertson & Carol Youngman to attend Theoasis.*

**SC.18.08.08 VOTED** to approve the above motion. (ms/s/c)

*Motion: That the Synod support efforts to raise funds for the Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Scholarship Fund, and we endorse Bishop Emeritus Murray Finck to enlist support for the fund from our congregations and individual members.*

**SC.18.08.20 VOTED** to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

*Motion: To extend the same offer of mileage reimbursement to trustees for their work as trustees as set forth in the synod council expense policy.*

**EC.18.11.05 VOTED** to approve the motion. (m/s/c)

*Motion that Synod Council affirms the following:*

*A: to endorse the Agape House campaign: Building Sustainable Campus Ministry.*

*B: endorse support for advocacy with presentation at Synod Assembly and Synod-wide participation in the campaign (offerings)*

*C: Synod advocacy for congregation and legacy gifts to the campaign and that the Synod will investigate how a grant to the campaign might be possible.*

**SC.19.03.01 VOTED** to approve the above motion (m/s/c)

**PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL, 2018 - 2019**

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
Mr Tom Pankow 837 Rodeo Road Fullerton CA 92835 714-447-0369 H TomPankow@SBCGLOBAL.net Treasurer, Appointed	Treasurer, Appointed	2021

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Bishop Andrew Taylor	2-yr Terms:
Ms. Lori Herman	Mr. Paul Coulter, Second, 2020
Ms. Angela Jackson	The Rev. Brian Taylor, First, 2020
Mr. Tom Pankow	Becky Draper, First, 2020

**PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL, 2018 - 2019**

Ms Dámaris Allen  
4211 Clairemont Mesa Blvd  
San Diego CA 92117  
626-807-9318 C  
Azhina\_23@hotmail.com  
Ethnic Lay at Large, First Term, 2020

Ms Becky Draper  
20845 Viento Valle  
Escondido, CA 92025  
(858) 382-8719 C  
beckdraper@yahoo.com  
Harvest Conf. Rep, First Term, 2019

Ms Maura Beland  
10113 Holborn Street  
Santee, CA 92071  
(619) 379-7212 C  
MauraBeland@gmail.com  
E. San Diego Conf. Rep, First Term, 2021

Ms Emily Erisman  
101 Memorial Pkwy, #292  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
(760) 815-4527 C  
eerisman@callutheran.edu  
Youth Representative, First Term, 2019

The Rev. Paul G. Bieber  
6355 Radcliffe Drive  
San Diego, CA 92122  
(858) 578-7445 C  
paul.bieber@sbcglobal.net  
W. San Diego Conf. Rep, First Term, 2021

Mr Mark Fornwall  
45 Laukona Street, #2203  
Wialuku, HI 96793  
(808) 280-5878  
MDFMKD@yahoo.com  
Hukilau Conf. Rep, First Term, 2020

The Rev. Linda Brown  
4725 Brockton Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92506  
(951) 684-3336  
pastor@edenlutheran.net  
Raincross Conf. Rep, First Term, 2021

Ms Greta Goellrich  
1330 Ditwood Place  
La Habra CA 90631  
(714) 390-5762 C  
greta.goellrich@gmail.com  
Rejoice Conference, First Term, 2019

The Rev Pongtep "Golf" Chutimapongrat  
15215 Janine Drive  
Whittier CA 90605  
(626) 497-2008  
Gibson\_ku@yahoo.com  
Clergy at Large, First Term, 2021

The Rev Kim Krogstad  
1207 Cypress Avenue  
Redlands, CA 92373-5725  
(714) 296-2178 C  
(909) 793-2267 W  
kekrog@earthlink.net  
Big Bear Conf. Rep, Second Term, 2020

Mr Paul Coulter  
21621 Zamora Lane  
Huntington Beach CA 92646  
(714) 469-1262 C  
pjchb@aol.com  
Lay at Large, Second, 2019

Mr Gerry Marecek  
10498 Sioux River Circlce  
Fountain Valley CA 92708  
(310) 977-8486  
gerry.marecek@gmail.com  
Lay at Large, First Term, 2021

**PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL, 2018 - 2019**

Ms Jan Neuhaus  
9540 Hinton Drive  
Santee, CA 92071  
(619) 922-6888 C  
mjneuhaus52@gmail.com  
Lay at Large, First Term, 2019

Ms Daneen Pysz  
33172 Desoto Way  
Dana Point CA 92629  
(949) 290-0381 H  
daneen.pysz@gmail.com  
Saddleback Conf. Rep, First Term, 2020

The Rev. Maria Santa Cruz  
4011 Ohio Street  
San Diego CA 92104  
(619) 283-5936  
prmaria@sbcglobal.net  
Clergy at Large, First Term, 2021

The Rev Brian Taylor  
12301 Magnolia  
Garden Grove, CA 92841  
(909) 973-2405  
revbst@aim.com  
Son & Surf Conf Rep, First Term, 2021

## EAST SAN DIEGO and WEST SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE REPORT

East San Diego – Dean: Rev. Richard Vevia, Jr.

Lay Leader: Sue Connors

West San Diego – Dean: Rev. Karen Marohn

Lay Leader: Angela Jackson

Since the last Synod Assembly in 2018, the 20 congregations and 1 Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community of the East and West San Diego Conferences have seen a number of changes:

- Hope, San Diego, and Oromo Ethiopian Lutheran Ministry, San Diego concluded their ministries.
- After Hope, San Diego closed, the Rev. Jogy Olivar organized the International Evangelical Lutheran Church which seeks to be a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community.
- Atonement, San Diego has been placed under Synodical Preservation.
- The Rev. Dan Roschke left Shepherd of the Valley, La Mesa to take a new call in Fairfax, Virginia at the end of May. The Rev. Kate Schlechter resigned from Atonement, San Diego and is serving St. Mark's, Chula Vista as Visitation Pastor while pursuing a post-graduate degree. The Rev. Karla Seyb-Stockton was installed at Gethsemane, San Diego in March. The Rev. Karen Marohn has announced her retirement.
- The Rev. Betty Chen retired from Glory Lutheran in Chula Vista.
- The Rev. Karin Boye, the Rev. Gloria Espeseth, Cyndi Jones, the Rev. Darryl W. Kozak, the Rev. Carol Reed, the Rev. Rick Showalter, and the Rev. Karla Seyb-Stockton have served or continue to serve as interim and bridge pastors. We are thankful for their work.
- The Welcome Church, El Cajon (a Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community meeting in Wells Park, El Cajon) is expanding their scope of ministry to include refugees.

As of this report, five congregations are in transition awaiting new pastoral leadership: Carlton Hills, Santee; First, San Diego; St. Mark's, Chula Vista; Shepherd of the Valley, La Mesa; and St. Peter's, San Diego.

From September through June, the rostered leaders of our two conferences meet weekly for worship and dialogue at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. During the summer we "hit the road" and meet at various congregations.

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 San Diego State University, 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, Jr., East San Diego Conference dean

Rev. Karen Marohn, West San Diego Conference dean

## HARVEST CONFERENCE REPORT

The Harvest Conference includes north San Diego County and Temecula (in Riverside County). We meet monthly on the second Thursday (except July and August) with our meetings rotating among our congregations. Below are some highlights from 2018 of how God is powerfully working in and through our congregations' ministries . . .

**Bethlehem, Encinitas.** We are an RIC congregation gathered under the promise and grace that all are welcome. Highlights this year include: Assisting our neighborhood elementary school and its large immigrant population as we help families in need, and as we host an after school lending library. This year we sent 45 high school students and leaders to Santa Rosa to assist in a Habitat for Humanity build after their devastating fire. We began teaching American Sign Language Classes, and welcomed again a group from Tanzania who run a middle school near Arusha. We partnered this year with our Episcopal Church neighbor across the street to feed hungry people every Saturday and welcomed a small worshipping community, Inglesia De Cristo Ministerio, to use our worship space on Saturday night. Beyond this, we joy in worship and community and the opportunity to be the people of God in our corner of North County.

**Calvary, Solana Beach,** has been engaged in a long range planning process for the past 12 months resulting in 7 initiative teams focusing on specific areas of growth and change. We have developed a new mission statement: "Gather by God, Inspired to Love, Empowered to Serve". We have developed an intentional discipleship path encouraging engagement in our mission and ministries for all participants and members "Come, Connect, Serve, Give, and Go". We have added a contemporary worship service to compliment our traditional worship offerings. We have developed many new faith formation and mission outreach programs to help our people grow in faith and service to the world.

**First, Vista (Primera Iglesia),** is excited about our new Church Council leadership this year and plans to use LRCC to lead our VBS this summer. We are planning for 100 children. We are also joyful about future plans to remodel our commercial kitchen in support of the community.

**Hope, Temecula,** has had huge cause for celebration in 2018. After 3 years in a storefront following the sale of our building, Hope moved into and dedicated our new home, finally having our church and preschool under one roof! While our first year included adding flooring and other finishing touches, we were also able to offer special Preschool Summer Fun weeks, VBS, Day Camp with LRCC, a new Centering Prayer Workshop, and restart our Sunday morning Bible studies, Faith Explorer and Puppet ministries. We celebrated many other "firsts", including our first Holy Week, Easter and Christmas celebrations. We celebrated Hope's 40th Anniversary on February 10, 2019, as we rededicated ourselves to Growing Hope for the Future, partnering with other churches and our interfaith brothers and sisters to serve our neighbors and grow God's kingdom.

**Incarnation, Poway,** is excited for the ministry opportunities in our parish, local, domestic, and global mission settings. In 2018, we celebrated the addition of the Reverend Tim Mason as our new Associate Pastor. Our parish mission activities include our growing preschool, successful vacation bible school, creative congregational fellowship times, and varied styles of worship. Local mission outreach is a very active ministry area which serves TACO, Interfaith Community Services,

and other local agencies. As a domestic outreach, we support ELCA ministries around the country. Our efforts to be involved in God's work globally include continuing our involvement in Cameroon where we work with the Foyer de l'Esperance to expand the services available to young homeless women who are at risk of human trafficking. As a special part of his continuing education, Rev. Dr. Luther Symons continues to respond to international invitations to teach abroad, providing keen insight into the social and religious climates around the world. Incarnation is "Serving God in the service of God's people!"

**King of Kings, Oceanside**, 2018 saw increased in Sunday Morning Worship attendance as well as being able to hold 2-new member classes. This is significant growth after a number of years of transition. We also completed a major refurbishment the parsonage. Our drama ministry provided dramatic Lenten readings and a outreach program with our Christmas Musical that saw 2 performances with a total attendance over 230.

**San Marcos, San Marcos** God has been good to San Marcos Lutheran Church. We continue to reach out to our community through our preschool, expanding Sunday school, and through increased involvement with our immigrant community. We are actively involved with AMMPARO, the North County Immigration Task Force, North County Interfaith Community Services, All Saints food bank and a variety of other community ministries. We thoroughly enjoyed God's Work Our Hands Sunday, during which we helped a local elementary school prepare for their school year (along with many other projects) and for the third year, invited our Muslim neighbors to join us. We continue to support worship services at a local skilled nursing facility and involve our children and youth in all aspects of these ministries. Our music program attracts many through our concert series and accomplished musicians.

**Spirit of Joy, Ramona**. This past year has certainly been a challenge, with the congregation looking for a clear path for the completion of construction. It has not been easy, but we are deeply grateful for the support of our Pacifica Synod and everyone's prayers! Our focus is always on the ministry going on in our midst. We once again had a great day with "God's Work, Our Hands". With over 10 projects throughout the community, we invited the United Methodist Church to join us in a service of commissioning, and then a day of service in our community. With 125 -150 involved in the day, it was truly an incredible experience. We look to our Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry to continue growing in outreach to our community with weekly activities, Bible stories, worship time, and retreats. Our Home Group ministry has expanded and involves many of our congregational families in dinner, fellowship, and study each week. We are grateful for the ways that God continues to bless our life together.

Our sisters and brothers at **House of Prayer, Escondido** 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 REPORT

**Spirit of Joy in Hemet:** Right now they are taking bids to complete their second phase of their prayer garden which will quadruple it in size. They signed a contract with AT&T for a cell tower which will bring in steady passive income. They have a new volunteer for their youth ministries program. Also, they have had some very nice growth in attendance and may have to consider 2 services in winter to accommodate the snowbird population. They are working on a master plan for developing their property for recreational use to bring all generations together for fun, health, and fellowship.

**Trinity in Riverside:** They celebrated 125 years of being a congregation this year as well as launching a special Anniversary Fund Drive to replace some roofing, get a new air conditioning system, and donate to Central City Lutheran Mission. They welcomed in 9 new members this past year. They continued to support ELCA missionaries in Malaysia. They fed the homeless and low income people in Riverside each week. Trinity participated in the CarePortal program as well as 'Faith in Motion' both of which are partnerships between churches, social service providers, and the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services. This led them to take part in several projects to help foster children, youth, young adults, and families in crisis. They also funded a number of ministries through Thrivent Action Team grants.

**Shepherd of Life in Lake Elsinore:** They called a new pastor in July 2018 which was a great blessing for this congregation. They began and continued many events: Wednesday evening meals, gave collected gifts to the Veteran's Hospital for God's Work Our Hands Sunday, learned new liturgy for Advent, gave large baskets of food and turkeys at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and had a workshop on Centering Prayer. These are just a few of the things new and exciting going on at their church. The Holy Fire came dangerously close to their church building with mandatory evacuations and road closures. A local Missouri Synod congregation allowed them to have afternoon services at their church during this time. They are praising God for all the great things that have happened in their congregation this year.

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Claremont, CA:** Highlights of our ministry in 2018 included:

- The congregation took the Congregational Vitality Survey and is discerning next steps in facilitating our continued vitality
- Hosted numerous community concerts including; Dinner and Jazz, Silver Edge Flute duo, The New Life Band of Tanzania, The LA Harpette, Canyon City Brass and our own choir, chimes/bell choir and children's choir spring and Advent concerts.
- Hosted Summer Vacation Bible Experience with the theme Hero Central.
- Two of our youth and our youth leader attended the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas
- Jenifer Overy-Brown began as our part time director of youth and family ministries
- We have added a children's table to our worship space to intentionally include young children into our worship service.
- We have various outreach opportunities in our community including serving meals at CCLM, Walking for Hunger with Inland Valley Hope Partners, providing Christmas care packages for women in prison, partnering with our interfaith community on various projects and supporting global partners in Kenya and Egypt.

**First Lutheran in Ontario:** God has spoken to us here in First Lutheran in every aspect of our ministries. We have baptized four children this year; nine children have made their First Holy Communion; three young men were Confirmed and made their Public Affirmation of Faith; our Food Pantry and Feeding programs have fulfilled our calling as a church to feed the hungry; we celebrated the lives of the seven saints who have gone to be with the Lord this past year. As a church, we have listened to God speaking and have been obedient to the instruction given. We have begun a Prayer and Healing Ministry to be God's hands here on the corner of G Street and Lemon. God is still speaking to every one of us, so when you hear His voice be obedient and see what God can do through you.

**Hope Lutheran in Riverside:** Hope Lutheran, Riverside is continuing to break into new ministries and new ways of responding to the world. We are in the process of a "facelift" and re-branding to bring our website up to date and make our presence more obviously ELCA connected.

In the past year we have added a new office administrator and new musician to the staff as well as had 7 positions in council turn over, with 5 new faces!

The "new" council is excited to be trying some new ways of reaching our community and being responsive to community needs rather than our own desires; in other words, leaning more into what ministry looks like. We continue to ask two questions: "what are we doing differently?" and "what does the local community need a church to do differently?"

Our young adult group is thriving and we have added an additional day of feeding the hungry into our monthly calendar. Along with our usual giving of items such as glasses, world hunger, etc, we gave over \$5,000 in food goods to local food pantries this winter and over \$3,000 worth of new coats, gloves, and hats to those who are cold.

The ministry of Hope is small, strong and growing stronger as we learn to look to the needs of the world.

**Eden Riverside:** This year Eden celebrated its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They continued their ministry of giving of food cards to people who came to the church who were hungry and in need. They also gave out hygiene packs which included personal items for both men and women. They welcomed 11 new members and baptized 8 children during the year. The number of children in worship continues to grow along with the Children's Church program. The quilters of Eden continue to surprise by turning out and donating more than 250 quilts each year. At Christmas, Eden supported 50 foster children with gifts of toys as well as other requested items. The preschool continues to be a ministry of the church which has been a source of gratitude to God for more than 40 years. The Homeless Lunch program continues to supply Lutheran Social Services with 40 brown bag lunches each week for people in need.

These things are an example of the great things that God is doing in the Inland Empire. Each of our congregations are doing wonderful work in God's name to be of service and support to God's people. For that we are grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

Pr. Linda Brown, Dean of the Raincross Conference

## **BIG BEAR CONFERENCE REPORT**

### **St. John's in Palm Desert**

St. John's continues to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through weekly Worship Services and various ministry, fellowship, and educational opportunities - we began live streaming our 11 am Service; launched a Single's Ministry, a Prayer Partners ministry, and Advent Worship Services; created a Legacy Team and opened a Legacy Fund; welcomed thirty-five new members, celebrated five baptisms, confirmed one youth, and continued to serve the community in partnership with organizations like FIND, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, Narrow Door, and the Salvation Army.

### **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Fontana**

Signs of a strong ministry are demonstrated by the mission work fulfilled by its people. For this we give thanks! We are honored to reach out in conjunction with our sister congregation Lutheran Church of the Cross, Rialto, CA with a strong ministry to Central City Lutheran Mission, San Bernardino, CA and our bag meals distribution to those in need in Fontana and Rialto. We look forward to conducting our first Confirmation classes, in a number of years, beginning in 2019. We give thanks to the numerous faith communities (6) which share our facilities on a lease basis. Their mission is strengthened by our site and we are strengthened by their financial support.

### **Lutheran Church of the Cross, Rialto**

We give thanks we can pool our volunteer and financial resources for various mission activities with our sister congregation, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Fontana, CA., reaching out into the communities of Rialto and Fontana. For many years we have held weekly Bible Studies on Wednesday morning. In late 2018, we began our in depth study of the Book of Revelation. We give thanks to the Star Kids Preschool and a faith community who share our facilities on a lease basis. Their mission is strengthened by our site and we are strengthened by their financial support.

### **Spirit of Peace, Big Bear**

Spirit of Peace in Big Bear continues to thrive by the grace of God, despite a difficult winter of severe weather, illness, and injury of parishioners. We only had to close one Sunday due to snow. The lake level is up and we hope our attendance and giving will be soon too. God has provided an abundance that we share. Our Simple Supper ministry for food and fellowship is well received in the area. Our second annual Festival of Trees raised \$900 for our local LSS site. We are launching a new youth program and hope to begin a WELCA chapter with Bible Study. Coffee With the Pastor and Breakfast Club provide opportunities for fellowship and learning out in the community and highlight local businesses. We give God thanks and praise for all we are, all we have, and all ways we can share the love of Christ to our neighbors.

### **Trinity, Victorville**

Trinity Victorville's catechumenate ministry, Wellspring, had 16 newcomers participate in Lent 2018, half of whom became members. We celebrated 30 years of service from our Director of Music Leslie Gullett. This winter we took the opportunity to be the back-up site for our community's Winter Warming Shelter, hosting around 50 homeless individuals in our Fellowship Hall on four weekends. This may lead to greater partnerships with service agencies in our community in the future. We've had a growing VBS program over the last few years, and a fabulous

group of volunteers made last summer's program the best yet. We're looking forward to the new opportunities God is opening for us to serve our community!

### **First Lutheran Church, Redlands**

First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Redlands continues to preach the gospel in word and deed in our community.

**Lutheran Church of the Desert, based in Joshua Tree**, serves the Morongo Basin from Twentynine Palms to Yucca Valley through services, activities, and through all our members. To merge the two former congregations we still do much study and discussion. To help the move from Twentynine Palms to Joshua Tree we brought integral parts of the worship space of the former Immanuel Prince of Peace. One part was the stained glass window incorporated in the sanctuary at Joshua Tree. It is inspirational to walk in on Sunday morning and see the light streaming through the window!

One highlight this year was Day Camp, with counselors from Luther Glen. They taught the story of Jesus through Bible studies, song, and activities to 10 youngsters. The adults, who housed and dined the counselors, also greatly enjoyed their stay!

We engaged in an aggressive media campaign this year through radio, newspaper, Facebook, and postcards sent through the USPS's Every Door Direct Mail program. In preparation for Holy Week and Easter we sent out 4300 cards in the Joshua Tree area.

Blessings to all!

### **Shepherd of the Desert and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Barstow**

Shepherd of the Desert, in cooperation with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, continues to be involved in several exciting outreach ministries. On a weekly basis, we support multiple organizations throughout our community impacting folks in a wide variety of ways. In addition, we help sponsor two seminarians for ordination, support African Radio Ministries, an orphanage in Sierra Leone, Lutheran World Relief and Episcopal Relief and Development. We have a small Prayer Shawl and Lap Blanket ministry. We are engaged across our community!

### **Cross and Crown, Rancho Cucamonga**

At Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, we believe Jesus made clear our mission to love God, love neighbor, and love self. We love God by listening to God, and to this end we meet for weekly Bible study and world religions classes. We love our neighbors through service. So we enjoy partnering with two homeschool groups, Boy Scouts, a Korean congregation, and (about to begin) an Indonesian congregation. One exciting new venture is digging more deeply into the world of social media. We updated our website and added a YouTube channel, showing weekly Sunday sermons, classes, and 3-7 minute "Spirit and Soul" video clips related to current events or spiritual issues. This has allowed us to move beyond our walls and into the digital world that is now being used by so many. We also serve the Rancho Cucamonga Family Resource Center, Central City Lutheran Mission, and several other "special" service projects every year. We love ourselves through fellowship and play, meeting monthly for restaurant outings, sporting events, and educational field trips. We keep our mission simple, but we love deeply. We feel blessed to be

part of a compassionate congregation, and look forward to seeing what else God will bring to us in the future!

### **Spirit of Hope, San Bernardino**

Acts Chapter 16 tells the story of how Paul and Silas began to preach the good news of Jesus Christ in Europe. They didn't quite do it on purpose. After stopping to visit churches Paul had founded in Galatia (what we would call central Turkey), they travelled west, intending to preach in the cities of Turkey along the way. But they were "kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word" there. When they tried to enter the province of Bythnia (northern Turkey), "the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to." Eventually they sailed from Troas to Macedonia.

2018 felt like that for Spirit of Hope. We sold our building on Highland Avenue in San Bernardino, and secured temporary worship space while attempting to finalize a lease on commercial space in Highland. But a review of the building plans revealed that the necessary modifications would be prohibitively expensive.

As we continued our unsuccessful search for suitable space, while worshiping in a school cafeteria, it became clear that God did not intend us to relocate to Highland. And an idea resurfaced. We contacted Lutheran Church of Our Savior, in San Bernardino, and began discussions about potentially uniting our congregations.

With those discussions underway, we began worshiping together in December, and are pursuing a process that we hope will lead to combining our ministries for the purpose of God's mission in San Bernardino. Great thanks to God and to Lutheran Church of Our Savior for opening their doors to us.

### **Central City Lutheran Mission**

Central City Lutheran Mission continues to operate several housing programs, the largest of which is a shelter for up to 70 homeless men. In 2018, CCLM was able to acquire bunk beds for the mens' shelter, providing more dignity for our residents. Plans to build a new shelter building are being processed with the City of San Bernardino. Approximately 15 to 30 people, mostly homeless men, gather for worship at our 5 p.m. Sunday Night Service. Breakfast and dinner are provided daily for shelter men, and four community meals are served each week, including Sunday evening after worship.

### **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Bernardino**

Lutheran Church of Our Savior in San Bernardino is jointly worshiping with Spirit of Hope on Our Savior's campus with current unification talks of one congregation. Also efforts to engage our neighborhoods are translating into new members with a greater diversity and younger population. Mission drive continues to push with the Gospel in a variety of ways across the spectrum of our community. It's a great time to be the Church!

### **Hope Lutheran-Palm Desert**

The Holy Spirit is very active at Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert. We have placed a strong emphasis on reaching young families in our Valley. This summer, we will be sending 100 middle school and high school students to camp to help grow their faith in Christ, and our Hope Kids program continues to expand with the addition of our Joyful Noise Children's Choir. We are also excited to be partnering with a new mission development site in Palm Springs. Hope will be walking

alongside mission developer Pastor Tim Edmondson and offering our support in this new community of faith. We have a vision of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone, especially the unchurched. In order to reach a multitude of people, we have both modern and traditional services. At Hope we are always dreaming up new ways to expand the kingdom of God.

### **Lutheran Church of the Desert-Joshua Tree,**

Lutheran Church of the Desert bid farewell to Rev. Ken Severa and his wife Jackie in July of 2018 after three and a half years of faithful service. Pastor Ken had come both Faith Lutheran and Immanuel Prince of Peace LC as an intentional Interim and later became instrumental in finally combining the two institutions into what is now Lutheran Church of the Desert. During the course of his tenure, he helped to develop one of the two Administrative assistants into a lay minister, who would go on to be accepted into the TEEM ministry program. With a unanimous vote of the congregation at a specially called meeting with Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Terry Allen Tuvey, B. G. Chambers was assigned to shepherd Lutheran Church of the Desert as they continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ in and about the Morongo Basin.

### **Faith Lutheran Church - Yucaipa**

Faith Lutheran Church is faithfully living out its call as God's hands and feet in Yucaipa, California. Faith serves our community with a vibrant preschool ministry, a consistent food bank ministry that serves approximately 75 families and a solid commitment to music ministry (including chancel choir and hand bell choir). Faith Lutheran is creatively addressing pastoral leadership while working with the synod to identify how that office will be filled in the future.

### **Hope-Palm Springs**

A New Lutheran Presence in the Desert

Easter, April 21st, was the official birth of a long-held dream of the Pacifica Synod. Hope Palm Springs, a brand-new faith community, took its place among its denominational counterparts joining with others on the West end of the Coachella Valley who are already doing God's work. Hope Palm Springs is partnered to Hope Lutheran in Palm Desert which provides necessary support for the success of this church start. Rev. Tom Goellrich directs this ministry as Pacifica's Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM). Rev. Tim Edmondson is Pastor/Developer.

Hope Palm Springs intends to be a diverse faith community reflective of the Palm Springs village-like area. With a nearly 50% gay population in Palm Springs (highest per capita in the country), Hope Palm Springs is open, affirming, and fully embracing of LGBTQ+ persons. GATHER, LOVE, SERVE are words that center the work of this new faith community speaking our uniquely Lutheran voice in an area where it has been noticeably absent.

Hope Palm Springs worships weekly at the Jewish Temple Isaiah, a sign of their commitment to have strong ties within the larger spiritual community of Palm Springs. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the desert." Isaiah 43:19.

Sign up for an online newsletter at [www.hopepalmsprings.org](http://www.hopepalmsprings.org)

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Scottie Lloyd, dean

## SADDLEBACK CONFERENCE REPORT

The congregations of South Orange County, known as the Saddleback Conference include Church of the Master in Corona del Mar, Our Savior's in San Clemente, Christ in San Clemente, Community Lutheran in Rancho Santa Margarita, Gloria Dei Dana Point, Mission in Laguna Niguel and Newport Harbor in Newport Beach.

Here are some of our ministry highlights for 2018:

Members of **Community Lutheran in Rancho Santa Margarita** continue to be inspired through engaging in new mission opportunities. This year CLC's Baja Missions Outreach developed new partnerships with Door of Faith Orphanage <https://dofo.org/> and Siloé Ministries <https://siloeclinic.org/> Another highlight for Community Lutheran this year came through participation in the Fuller Youth Institute cohort on ministry with Young Adults. Our team is learning to build intentional relationships with CLC's young adults through active listening, developing an understanding of their life challenges, and then working with them in creating spiritual practices that facilitate growth in their identity, sense of belonging, and purpose.

George Johnson, one of our retired pastors, now living in Irvine, is putting together a new book, called: **Silence Is Not The Answer**. It will include articles by Walter Brueggemann, Marcos Borg, Richard Rohr, Bishops Chilstrom and Erdahl, Jim Wallis, Larry Rasmussen, Ched Meyers, Sallie McFague, Brenda Bos, Thom Johnson David Nagler and George. The Foreword will be by David Beckmann. It should be out by May or June and be a good resource for group discussion or Bible Study before the 2020 elections.

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church** in Dana Point has been committed to outreach in the local community and beyond. The church supports a local nonprofit, FAM (Families Assistance Ministry), both financially and through volunteers at FAM's community events. Gloria Dei also actively supports an outreach to Los Angelitos Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. Four times a year, congregation members go to the orphanage to do activities and have a meal with the children. The orphanage is also supported through monthly donations. In the past two years, the church supported the building and equipping of a new commercial kitchen at the orphanage. And recently, enough money was collected to financially support the addition of another child to be taken care of at the orphanage for at least a year. As well as outreach, Gloria Dei has a special emphasis on education, from children through adults. In addition to monthly Lunch and Learn opportunities with guest speakers on a variety of Biblical and topical subjects, there are many other small group studies offered weekly, including the Bethel Bible Series, which is an in-depth two-year immersion into the Bible, providing a significant foundation for faith and biblical knowledge.

**Newport Harbor Lutheran** welcomed its new pastor, Paul Hegele, at the beginning of February. This congregation has a history of great musical concerts and an outstanding preschool. Paul strives to bring warmth and energy to its life of worship and service. Screens

are about to be placed in the sanctuary and new music is enjoyed as the church embarks on more contemporary styles of worship.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church and school, San Clemente** continues to be involved in the community through its school ministry and outreach programs which include support of Welcome Inn (meal distribution), Friends of San Onofre Marines (Outreach to our local military families), Family Assistance Ministries (local assistance to homeless, working poor and distressed families), and our local Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Word and Sacrament remain at the center of who we are and we have recently begun to live stream our worship gatherings.

**Christ Lutheran in San Clemente** invited preschool families to a bonfire this summer on North Beach. When no preschool families arrived, but ten local homeless friends joined us for dinner, a new ministry was born. Monthly bonfires with parishioners and local homeless provide an excellent opportunity to hear each other's stories, enjoy food and an acapella hymn sing. Memory Care Club, a monthly "brain booster" class with a local gerontologist, is a wonderful ministry in partnership with Our Savior's Lutheran and serves about fifty local seniors, about a third of whom are from our congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Brenda Bos, dean

## SON & SURF CONFERENCE REPORT

Son & Surf Conference meeting is on the third Wednesday of the month, we meet at the Pacifica Synod Office to receive and share information, hear from guests, and share in mutual collegial support. Some of the ministries of the conference are experiencing transition in leadership.

Redeemer Lutheran in Seal Beach (Leisure World): Rev. Gil Moore's last Sunday will be April 28, he has served this congregation for several years.

Mount Calvary in Cypress: currently awaiting an Interim appointment.

St. Olaf in Garden Grove: Rev. Dawn Hass is serving as Interim.

Our Saviour's in Orange: The call committee has begun interviewing candidates. The childcare center and the congregation's music programs, social activities and outreach ministries continue to stand out as bright spots. Rev. Brad Stienstra is currently serving as Interim.

St. Peter's in Santa Ana: Rev. Misael Fajardo-Perez accepted the call to serve St. Peter's and began in January 2019. Welcome to the Pacifica Synod Misael.

King of Glory in Fountain Valley: An update on their meal and outreach ministry to the homeless and hungry--King's Kitchen—it just passed its 2 year anniversary. We have expanded our preschool by 50% to now include pre-K and infants starting at 6 weeks.

Rev. Jennifer Schultz (Bethlehem in Los Alamitos) replaces Rev. Brian Taylor (Our Redeemer in Garden Grove) as the dean of the Son & Surf Conference, as Rev. Taylor serves on the Synod's Executive Committee. Rev. Schultz began her term in September of 2018.

The other congregations of our conference continue to offer various worship opportunities and ministries to serve the congregation, ministries outside of their congregation, and their communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jennifer Schultz, dean

## REJOICE CONFERENCE REPORT

The Holy Spirit has been at work in the Rejoice Conference this year. We are excited to welcome new ministers and new ministries and will continue to see where the Lord leads us. We are excited to be participating in a Conference-Wide Work Day on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at Luther Glen Farm. Here are reports what is going on at some of the churches around our conference.

**Emanuel Lutheran Church (La Habra)** Emanuel was very excited to host a seminary intern for the 2018-2019 school year. Vicar Maria Markman joined our staff from Luther Seminary. One of the exciting things she brought to our congregation was her internship project. She has filmed interviews with fifty-two people in the congregation and compiled short three-minute videos on how they each see God at work in the Mission and Ministry of their lives and our congregation. Each week a new video is shown at the beginning of worship and it has expanded our understanding of how we all have a part in the Kingdom of God. We are also very pleased with our newest ministry offering homework help to children in our church and community, Study Buddies has added a lot of energy and excitement to afternoons at Emanuel.

**Faith Lutheran Church (Anaheim)** This year at Faith the buildings are getting a lot of attention as members work on upgrades and remodeling. The clothing closet ministry continues to be a blessing to the community offering free clothing twice a week. In addition, our monthly quilting ministry is still going strong. At Faith this year we are working on how to share our personal faith out loud

**Lutheran Church of the Master (La Habra)** At LCM we continue to be a place where God is at work. Although we face all the challenges of a small congregation, we rejoice in serving our Lord. We continue our partnership with Korean Peace Presbyterian Church and A Child's Place Christian Preschool, which both utilize our facility. Our continuing ministries include food boxes to the local resource center, and many other Lutheran and Christian organizations, some even located in the Holy Land. We are concerned about the increasing homeless population and working with local organizations to offer any aid as we are able. As LCM moves into its 60<sup>th</sup> year, we thank God for His abundant grace and guidance as we do God's work

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church (Whittier)** As interim Pastor Tim Edmondson departed from St. Andrew to begin work on a new mission start, St. Andrew was blessed with Vicar Mary Shaima, Candidate for Word and Sacrament Ministry in the ELCA, and their bridge pastor. Another big change this year at St. Andrew has been the partnership of a new preschool that will be renting space from the church. The preschool has done significant remodeling to the campus and the congregation is looking forward to the collaboration that the church and preschool will have when they open in May. At St. Andrew we are also excited about new projects at La Colima Elementary school for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Cate Luehr, dean

## HUKILAU CONFERENCE REPORT

The Hukilau Conference is made up of 10 ELCA congregations, 7 on O'ahu, and one each on Kaua'i, Maui and Hawai'i Island. We also have a couple of retired pastors, two of our pastors serving Episcopal congregations (on O'ahu and Molokai) and a number of pastors serving in specialized ministry as chaplains through Pacific Health Ministries (PHM). We meet once a month for a clergy gathering at each other's congregations for worship and connecting. We continue to gather each year for a Bishop's Retreat. In January 2018, we were together on the Big Island for a two night retreat many found renewing. Here's a summary from the pastors of 7 of our congregations as well as PHM.

After experiencing a devastating flood last April, **Calvary by the Sea, Honolulu**, is in the process of getting ready to move into renovated and restored preschool and church office space. In addition, Pastor Tim Mason resigned his call as pastor of Calvary in October in order to accept a new call to Incarnation Lutheran Church in Poway CA. Therefore, the congregation is in the process of forming a Transition Team and will be served through the Call Process by Pastor David Baber as their Interim Pastor.

**Christ Lutheran, Mililani**, had a full year - changing Word and sacrament ministry partnerships, changing worship times, lots of building renovations, increasing pastoral time to three-quarter time, ratifying our constitution, reviving Keiki Church and continuing with catechism and saying hello and farewell to our many military families as they migrate in and out of Oahu and a successful pledge drive.

**Joy of Christ Lutheran, Pearl City**, is a 59 year old congregation located in the heart of Pearl City, on the island of Oahu. Joy is Christ is known as "The Welcome Place" in the neighborhood. After nearly a decade of experiments with joining other congregations, and sharing a pastor with other congregations, the congregation decided to call Pastor JP Sabbithi as their own full time pastor. This has marked a renewed spirit and a new beginning for the Joy of Christ.

**Lihue Lutheran on Kauai** is a "Church of all Nations walking together with Christ." In 2018 we provided 22,068 sack lunches to needy children on our island, served 370 diners at the KEO homeless shelter, Dorcas group send 35 quilts to flood relief and needy, we sent 9 youth and adults to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston. We continue to welcome everyone in a spirit of Christian ALOHA in worship, study and service to our caring and forgiving Lord.

2018 was a busy year for **Lutheran Church of Honolulu**. The congregation voted to host an intern Pastor for 2018-19. Vicar Andrew Flatt-Kuntze began his internship July 2018. The congregation also replaced its aging pews with beautiful new pew chairs. Social outreach included monthly meals for 400 people at Institute for Human Services, rental subsidies for at-risk families, and many other continuing ministries.

**Prince of Peace, Honolulu**, served by Pastor Yukio Hamada, continues to serve God in ministries beyond their own needs in several ways. Some highlights are by continuing to partner with Chaplain Steve Jensen in funding the annual Thanksgiving Dinner for Wounded Warrior Marines at Kaneohe, providing Christmas gift cards for Foster Teens in Hui Ho'omalū's ministry with

Partners in Care, Ho'ola Na Pua (ministry to teenage girls rescued from sex-trafficking in Hawaii), HUGS (Helping, Understanding, and Group Support) for families with children with serious health issues, and other local youth concerns through our monthly "Noisy Offerings."

**St. John Lutheran, Kaulia**, has been working to catch up with building and grounds work that had been ignored for a number of years. At the end of 2018, the property received a new paint job. Along with regular upkeep, there are still a couple projects in the works for 2019, but we are grateful for money and volunteer time to make these projects happen not only for the worshipping community, but for our many renters as well. The most exciting ministries for the congregation this year: hosting a week of VBS and sense of renewal of children and youth at the congregation and our continued partnership with area churches and service institutions to provide a monthly homeless hub that provides showers, food and other such services.

Pacific Health Ministry (PHM) was established 30 years ago as a not-for-profit organization to develop hospital ministry, and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) programs in Hawai'i. Rev. Dr. John Moody (ELCA) was the first President and CPE Supervisor/Educator until his retirement in 2008. Currently 11 healthcare facilities on Oahu, Maui and Kaua'i work with Pacific Health Ministry Chaplains. PHM has trained over 700 CPE students. Rev. Anke Flohr (ELCA) is the current Executive Director and certified CPE Educator. Two other Lutheran pastors are Chaplains with PHM: Rev. Phyllis Hoermann and Rev. Dave Hendrickson who took the place of Rev. Ruth Peterson in July 2018. Our highlight in 2018 was the 30th anniversary of Pacific Health Ministry in October.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kathryn Zurcher

Dean of the Hukilau Conference

## Ten Things You Might Not Know about 1517 Media Spring 2019

1. This year we'll release several new **Come to the Water** resources to support Daniel Erlander's two baptism manuals: *Let the Children Come* and *Water Washed and Spirit Born*. Check out the other sacramental resources already published to support Erlander's *A Place for You*. [augsburgfortress.org/cometothewater](http://augsburgfortress.org/cometothewater)
2. Over a dozen distinguished African-descent scholars offer thoughtful viewpoints in **Luther's Small Catechism with African Descent Reflections**. While affirming the gift of Luther's work, these theologians provide a framework for broadening these explanations to address the experiences of Lutherans of African descent. [augsburgfortress.org/african-descent](http://augsburgfortress.org/african-descent)
3. Recent additions to the **Worship Matters** series include handbooks on Preaching, Funerals, and Marriage. These volumes join several existing books that help leaders and laity develop a richer understanding of worship. [augsburgfortress.org/worshipmatters](http://augsburgfortress.org/worshipmatters)
4. Fortress Press, Luther Seminary, and Word & World's board have partnered to launch a new series of books for leaders in the church. Recent releases in this series include *Liberating Youth from Adolescence* by Jeremy Paul Myers and *Elders Rising: The Promise and Peril of Aging* by Roland D. Martinson. [augsburgfortress.org/word-and-world](http://augsburgfortress.org/word-and-world)
5. *Good Grief*, the bestselling book that has helped millions of readers find comfort and rediscover hope after loss has now expanded into a family of resources to help process, understand, and grow through moments of grief. [augsburgfortress.org/good-grief](http://augsburgfortress.org/good-grief)
6. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US* by Rev. Lenny Duncan offers a bold new vision for the future of the ELCA and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. Duncan rejects the narrative of church decline and calls leaders and laity alike to renew the church through racial equality and justice. [augsburgfortress.org/dear-church](http://augsburgfortress.org/dear-church)
7. Equip high school students to discover what they believe and why they believe it with *T.B.D. Think. Believe. Do*. Four-week sessions for small groups on themes of prayer, sin, mission, and salvation are now available. [augsburgfortress.org/tbd](http://augsburgfortress.org/tbd)
8. This video-based series is designed to help leaders create engaging experiences around challenging topics for small groups. Current titles are *Dialogues On The Refugee Crisis* and *Dialogues On Sexuality*, with more releases to come. [augsburgfortress.org/dialogues-on](http://augsburgfortress.org/dialogues-on)
9. Inspired by the success of *Grit and Grace*, Beaming Books just released a picture book for kids titled *Gritty and Graceful: 15 Inspiring Women of the Bible*. This engaging book will inspire the gritty and graceful girls in your congregation to imagine their place in God's story and how they can make a difference in the world. [augsburgfortress.org/grittyandgraceful](http://augsburgfortress.org/grittyandgraceful)
10. *There's No Wrong Way to Pray* is a picture book written by ELCA pastor Rebecca Ninke and her 10-year-old daughter Kate. It offers a kid-friendly reflection on talking to God in the everyday moments of life. This book will inspire kids of all ages and faith experiences as it reassures them that there's no wrong way to talk to God. [augsburgfortress.org/no-wrong-way](http://augsburgfortress.org/no-wrong-way)

Want to learn more? Follow us on social media. Sign up for our free eNewsletters at [augsburgfortress.org](http://augsburgfortress.org) | [wearesparkhouse.org](http://wearesparkhouse.org) | [fortresspress.com](http://fortresspress.com) | [beamingbooks.com](http://beamingbooks.com)



# Agape House - Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry at San Diego State University

5863 Hardy Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115 - 619.583.3972 - [www.agapehousesdsu.org](http://www.agapehousesdsu.org)

## ***Building Shared Ministry***

Funded by Lilly Endowment and partner congregations, our Mentoring Leaders Initiative supports **fellows to serve in area ministries** while discerning their vocations and expanding congregations to reach out beyond internal needs. New sites are applying now!



*[Agape collaboration w LRCC Connections program]*

We enjoy **partnering** to host campus ministry groups together **with the LRCC Connections program**, exploring multicultural community and stories that transcend the Mexico-U.S. border and its human impacts.

## ***Building on the Creative Interface of Faith and Reason***

We partner with academic departments, cultural centers, and other organizations to foster rich dialogues that **enlighten and connect values to critical thinking and social transformation.**



*[Agape forum on climate change & food insecurity]*

## ***Building Affordable Student Housing & Sustainable Ministry***



*[First public gathering of SDSU students facing food and housing insecurity, convened by Agape House students]*

We continue to progress toward building permits to replace our 80-year old house with a **two-level ministry center below up to 50 rooms of affordable student housing**, which has become a crisis in much of California. As many as 1 in 12 California State University students are housing insecure, and we sense God calling us to respond to this need with a community setting that supports faith, vocation, and leadership formation. At the same time, providing housing and leasing commercial and non-profit space will also help us **sustain ministry for decades** to come. Here is a concept rendering of our project:



If this innovative vision for ministry excites you too, or you would like to learn how you can **leave a legacy** for future generations of leaders, contact Pastor Darin Johnson at 619.583.3972 or [pdnjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:pdnjohnson@gmail.com).

***Thank you, Pacifica Synod!***



## What is Going on With California Lutheran Homes And Community Services in the Pacifica Synod

### **Affordable Housing**

#### **Seaview Lutheran Plaza**

Located in Corona del Mar, Seaview Plaza is a cooperative project between California Lutheran Homes and Community Services (CLHCS) and Church of the Master on unused property owned by the congregation. HUD sets the rent for the 81 one-bedroom apartments

where low income residents pay 30% of their income for housing. Does your congregation have unused land? Explore building affordable housing. Contact CLHCS Pastor Don Koepke at 562-330-3397 or [donaldkoepke@gmail.com](mailto:donaldkoepke@gmail.com)



### **Affordable Housing**

#### **Southbay Retirement Home**

Located in the City of Compton, this 75-apartment facility is a partnership between St. Philip Lutheran Church, the Pacific Southwest District, LCMS and CLHCS. Southbay is a low income 202(8) project HUD project. The building has its own board of directors to which CLHCS appoints three. It is managed by Caring Housing Ministries, a Front Porch affiliate, that was founded by CLHCS in the early 1980's. Interested? Contact Pastor Don Koepke at 562-330-3397 or [donaldkoepke@gmail.com](mailto:donaldkoepke@gmail.com)

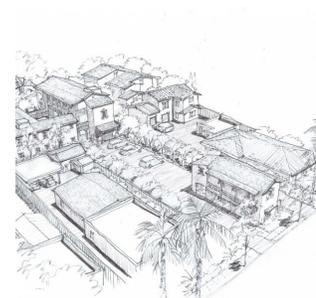
### **Affordable Housing**

#### **St. John Manor**

Located in Glendale, AZ this 41-apartment low-income community is a partnership between St. John Lutheran Church and CLHCS. Like other CLHCS projects, it is managed by Caring Housing Ministries, a Front Porch affiliate that was founded by CLHCS. CLHCS appoints three persons to its board of directors.

### **Affordable Housing for Veterans**

This project is a demonstration of the value that CLHCS places on partnering with local organizations and resources. Responding to the vital need for homeless-veteran housing, Johnson Court is an affordable housing development that will serve the homeless veteran population in Santa Barbara. The project provides 17 studio units for very low and low-income veterans, a one-bedroom manager unit, and



common area and office space to accommodate the provision of services and activities on-site. If you are aware of community organizations who have a concern for affordable housing, contact Pastor Don Koepke at 562-330-3397 or [donaldkoepke@gmail.com](mailto:donaldkoepke@gmail.com)

### **Fullerton, Thrive Plaza**

Responding to the concern for housing for those who have ‘termed out’ (reached 18 years of age), CLHCS has developed a partnership with Orange County United who provides



programming while CLHCS provides the use of an apartment. The Result is THRIVE Plaza in Fullerton, CA which now has been accomplished by funds given by St. Paul LC Monrovia as a legacy when they completed their ministry. Is there a need for affordable housing in your area? If so, contact Pastor Don Koepke at 562-330-3397 or [donaldkoepke@gmail.com](mailto:donaldkoepke@gmail.com)

### **Walnut Village, Anaheim and Carlsbad by the Sea, Carlsbad Retirement Communities**

CLHCS has two of its historical retirement homes in southern California. CLHCS continues to be closely involved with these communities through charitable care and



beyond-budget projects. Both homes have a chaplain. Know someone in your congregation who needs wants to live independently or needs assisted living or skilled care? Contact Carlsbad by the Sea at 760-720-4580 or Walnut Village at 714-507-7000.



# California Lutheran UNIVERSITY

We are grateful for the support from our regional synods that activate our faithfulness to the university's 60-year mission of educating leaders for a global society.



- Celebrated the ordination and installation of Rev. Hazel Salazar-Davidson on Día de los Muertos
- Enrolled 4,377 graduates and undergraduates, 55% from unrepresented populations
- Launched a Mariachi Ensemble
- Center for Economic Research and Forecasting partnered with UCLA to produce Latino GDP report
- Received a million dollar Thriving in Leadership Grant to extend theological education to congregational leaders in collaboration with Region 1 and 2 synods
- Provided access and support to the increasing number of students on the Autism spectrum
- Sarah W. Heath Center for Equality and Justice offered programs on pressing social issues
- Welcomed 400 international students from 45 countries
- HUB 101 offered space for community start-ups and innovation
- Graduate School of Psychology provided adaptive behavior health interventions to assist the community in disaster recovery
- 80 students presented original research at the Fall Research Symposium
- Developed Undergraduate majors in Ethnic and Race Studies as well as Film and TV
- Established Bachelor's Degree for Professionals major in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the Oxnard Center
- Center for Nonprofit Leadership started Nonprofit Resiliency Institute to build capacity for management during crises
- Received quilts and blankets from individuals and congregations to share love and prayers during times of grief and loss
- Counseling Center provided low cost community counseling for victims of wildfires



You can learn about all these things and more by visiting the Cal Lutheran and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary tables or by visiting us online at [www.callutheran.edu](http://www.callutheran.edu) and [www.plts.edu](http://www.plts.edu). Your commitment to and involvement in the university makes all the difference as we seek to educate leaders for a global society who are strong in character and judgment, confident in their identity and vocation, and committed to service and justice.

## Thank you Pacifica Synod for being a ministry partner!

Your prayers, direct synod gifts of \$30,804 last year, and encouraging our students like Juli Patten, Jennifer Matas, and Pam Reynolds who give us strength and courage in our mission of equipping faithful leaders. In addition, there are 97 alums of PLTS that live and work on the territory of your synod, many of them in congregational ministries.

## Seminary Received Accreditation for Next Decade

In October 2018, PLTS had its ten-year accreditation visit from the Association of Theological Schools. We are happy to report that the seminary received accreditation for another ten years. This is what the ATS accreditation team identified as the distinctive strengths of PLTS:

1. The ways in which the seminary has weathered significant transitions and emerged a stronger and more contextually engaged institution.
2. The careful attention that the faculty has given to developing a revised Master of Divinity curriculum designed to better serve the needs of its students and the wider church and society, now and into the future.
3. The seminary's clear sense of identity and purpose, the ways in which it fills a real need in the region and in its denomination, and the tangible sense of love and investment in the seminar that is expressed by faculty, students, alumni, advisory board members, Cal Lutheran leadership and other stakeholders.



2019 Region 2 Word and Service Summit



TEEM at PLTS in January 2019

### QUICK FACTS ABOUT PLTS

- Number of Students (including TEEM): 90
- Number of MDiv Graduates (2018): 11
- Number of TEEM Graduates (2018): 18
- Tuition (Full-time M.Div): \$22,460
- Total Average Cost of Housing: \$8,640
- Scholarships Awarded (2017-2018): \$853,129 to 100% of need-based qualifying students

## Thriving in Leadership Project

PLTS, in partnership with the Office of Congregation Relations at California Lutheran University, has been awarded a \$1 million Lilly grant. The Thriving in Leadership Project is a collaboration among all eleven synods of Regions 1 and 2 of the ELCA. Our goal is to help rostered leaders thrive in ministry by providing opportunities for further theological education, skills training in things like business administration, and tools for nurturing mind, body, and spirit. We know that ministry is both very rewarding and challenging. And we want to do all that we can to support our pastors and deacons who are serving in your synod to be as effective and healthy as they can be.

To learn more about PLTS, or to make a gift, visit [PLTS.edu](http://PLTS.edu).

## **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 – Pastor Misael Fajardo-Perez

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 Pastor Karin Boye

Our Savior’s, San Diego – Pastor Maria Santa Cruz

This year we were able to distribute funds from the Latino Ministry Trust. In 2018 the following grants were made:

Our Savior’s San Diego: \$ 6,000 – send youth to national youth gathering

First, Vista: \$4,000 - send youth to national youth gathering

Clairemont, San Diego: \$ 6,000 – for a bilingual retreat

St. Mark’s, Chula Vista: \$ \$10,000 – Bilingual Bibles and sound system enhancements for translations

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.

Latino ministry seems to be a struggle for us Lutherans. In San Diego we have begun to work with the Episcopal dioses to see how we can work together. We hosted the annual renewal of ordination vows during Holy Week at Our Savior’s in a bilingual service for the local clergy.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Doolittle



# Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

## Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service 2018 Annual Report

For almost 80 years, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has been a champion for migrants and refugees from around the world. As we look at our immigrant roots, we are reminded daily to renew our passionate commitment to welcoming newcomers, especially those who are most in need. Through partnership with community based legal and social services, LIRS has supported over 500,000 migrants and refugees as they rebuild their lives in America.

2018 brought its own challenges as migrant and refugee admission numbers were decreased, and the administration introduced the “zero-tolerance” policy at the Southwest border that resulted in the family separation crisis. LIRS responded to the family separation crisis by designing and implementing a new service model in Phoenix and Las Cruces that assisted the US government with family reunification. The model included:

- a safe place to sleep for the night
- food (a hot meal)
- clothing and other immediate needs (first aid, etc.)
- basic case management and needs assessment
- coordination of travel to a final destination.

LIRS provides opportunities for individuals, groups, and congregations to engage with refugees and migrants through several initiatives and programs:

- **Circle of Welcome:** Support newcomers with the integration process once they are resettled in the United States and stand with newcomers as advocates, friends and community members.
- **Refugee Sunday:** Every congregation in the ELCA is invited to lift up the gifts that migrants and refugees bring to our communities. A variety of resources for preaching, Bible study, prayers, devotions, advocacy and community gatherings is available <https://www.lirs.org/refugee-sunday/>
- **Hope for the Holidays:** Congregations, groups, and individuals are encouraged to write/make cards to those held in detention centers during the holiday season.
- **Detention Visitation:** Join a visitation ministry through LIRS or our partners on the ground around the country.

### Congregational Engagement & Outreach:

In 2018, the Outreach Unit at LIRS engaged with eighteen ELCA Synod Assemblies, eleven LC-MS District Conventions, one LWML District Convention, and the tri-annual LCMS National Hispanic Convention. Through these engagements, the LIRS Outreach unit strengthened our relationship with Lutheran allies while developing new relationships with partners, advocates, and volunteers. The LIRS Outreach Team offered an interactive learning station on the experience of Rohingya refugees being resettled in the U.S. in collaboration with AMMPARO and Lutheran Disaster Relief at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas.

### Migrant and Refugee Leadership Academy

LIRS has been intentional in supporting migrant and refugee leaders through the Migrant and Refugee Leadership Academy (MRLA). In 2018, LIRS focused on 5 key states for 2018 MRLA instead of a nationwide MRLA. The state-level academies collectively trained 123 new migrant and refugee leaders with active participation from 30 Academy alumni leaders. The academies focused on enhancing migrant and refugee leadership skills, know your rights workshops, civic engagement strategies, and storytelling. MRLA participants advocated for increased refugee resettlement and an end to family separation by several in-district congressional visits. The current Migrant and Refugee Leadership Academy is comprised of 305 migrant and refugee leaders in 39 states across the US, representing 46 countries of origin.

To learn more about LIRS and how to get involved, visit: <https://www.lirs.org/>

Lutheran Social Services Southern California  
Pacifica Synod Report  
May 10-11



Lutheran Social Services of Southern California is committed to serving women, men and children who struggle on the margins of society. We are called to serve 10 Southern California counties with over 70 different programs for our 50,000 clients, who are as varied as the physical locations of our service centers.

We provide social workers, case managers, program directors and highly-trained mental health professionals, whose talents are combined to assist people with many diverse problems. For more than 70 years, we have created conditions within which volunteers and community partners collaborate with staff to accomplish more together, than any of us could ever have achieved on our own.



Maria Cruz Fernandez is an awesome example of how we work. She came to our Long Beach center when her husband was unemployed, and they could not provide for their four young children. She received groceries repeatedly and benefited from an English as Second Language class, so she could communicate with her friends in the neighborhood.

The rest of the story is that once her husband found employment, Maria wanted to give back to LSS as a way of thanking us for our support. For the last 28 years, she has been responsible for operating our food pantry, five days weekly, as an unpaid volunteer. Even when she underwent treatment for cancer, she never missed a day on the job.

Maria has cared for so many people at our Long Beach center, and her commitment serves as a reminder of what can happen when the community comes together, and we Embrace, Equip and Empower every person who walks through our front door.

We are grateful for our work together, and for the difference your donations have made for many people. We couldn't provide these services without your faithful and dedicated contributions. For more information, about our services, visit our website at [lssc.org](http://lssc.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Drews".

In Christ's Service,  
Ron Drews, President/CEO

*\*Names and images may be changed to protect the privacy of our subject*

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**AFTER JULY 1ST, GO TO [LSSSC.ORG](http://LSSSC.ORG) FOR 2018 DONOR AND FISCAL YEAR FINANCIALS**

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## Dedicated to Long-Term Recovery

At the Thousand Oaks office, LSS is seeking to hire a case manager for individuals and families whose lives were affected by the Woolsey fire. We have assisted many already, but the long-term recovery will demand a more focused offer of support. As a uniquely qualified HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency, LSS can also provide input and networking for any housing emergency or situation. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for this purpose.



**Construction will begin soon,  
with an opening in early 2020.**

Pictured is a rendering of the new Lynda and Jerry Englehart Renewal Center on the campus of Central City Lutheran Mission in San Bernardino. 70 men will have a bed, access to bathroom sand a laundry room.

## A San Diego County Story

Project Hand in Chula Vista, a city in south San Diego County, on the campus of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, is Lutheran Social Services Southern California's original food pantry.

In addition to our regular schedule, once a month we offer a mass food distribution to anyone in the area

who is hungry, or whose cupboard is bare. We distribute food to over 1,700 people every month. Some clients are homeless, or one check away from being in the street. Others live in the local neighborhood, but their finances run out before the month ends. These people come for food too.

## The Rest of the Story

On a recent Friday, an older woman walked to the front of the line and began taking items out of the bag she carried. She often comes to the pantry at month's end.

But, on this occasion, instead of asking for groceries, she delivered food to the staff and volunteers who were distributing to the assembled group. She is a senior, almost totally deaf, and can see out of only one eye.

She set placemats on the table in front of our workers, then plates, glasses, plastic forks and spoons, and even a bottle of hot sauce. We tried to tell her she was getting in the way of registering other clients, but she couldn't hear, nor did she seem to care. She was a woman on a mission!

Finally, with her culinary creations professionally presented, she said to us, "I came here to bless you today, just like you bless so many in this neighborhood every week." Over and over again, she expressed her thanks for the blessings LSS provides to anyone, and everyone, who shows up hungry.

That particular day was the 13th of the month: Friday the 13th. Many people fear bad luck on that date. But because of this loving and grateful woman, Friday the 13th was a moment of blessing: for us, for her and for everyone else in line.



## EMBRACE

WE EMBRACE  
THOSE IN CRISIS WITH  
SHORT-TERM  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICES.

### VISION

*Sharing the love of Christ, we  
are a community to care and be  
cared for...Where the weary  
will be given hope.*

### An Orange County Story

Cynthia is a mother of three boys and one girl, all under the age of eleven. She ran away from an abusive husband in Georgia, and came to the West Coast looking for a new life. The five of them managed to rent a single room in a personal residence, where they hoped to be safe. But, the landlord was verbally abusive and disrespectful to the family, and they were desperate for help.

Initially they came to LSS asking for basic items: food, clothes, shoes and hygiene articles. But there was another essential need.

Cynthia had secured employment for the first time in seven years, but she had no money to provide childcare during the summer months, when her children were out of school. LSS managed to pay for this critical need. We also provided case management and individual counseling to assist her in the transition she and her children faced.



WE EQUIP INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, WITH PROGRAM RESOURCES TO HELP THEM ON THEIR JOURNEY

#### VISION

*Sharing the love of Christ, we are a community to care and be cared for...Where the vulnerable are safer and become stronger  
Where the isolated dwell in community*

### The Rest of the Story

Cynthia continues to receive periodic case management services. She still receives food, clothing, personal hygiene items and sometimes gas cards that have been donated.

She remains employed at the position LSS helped her find, and her children are in affordable daycare. The family lives in a domestic violence shelter that requires residents look for alternate housing.

Cynthia is currently on multiple affordable housing waiting lists in Orange County, and is actively learning how to manage her money.

### A CENTRAL CITY LUTHERAN MISSION, San Bernardino Story

Mike grew up in East Liverpool, OH. After graduating from high school and being honorably discharged from the United States Army, he worked in construction and the steel industry. He was licensed to drive heavy equipment and was OSHA-certified to work on water.

He and his fiancé, Heather, planned to share a wonderful life together. But she suffered a brain aneurysm resulting from a car accident, and died. Shortly afterward, Mike was laid off at the steel mill...everything in his world had fallen apart. After a period of depression and heavy drinking, Mike realized he was drowning in a tsunami of bad decisions and painful memories, and it felt as though he was going under. Something had to change. He went online to pursue a construction job in California, and was hired over the phone.

Boarding a Greyhound bus, Mike started his journey to the West Coast, confident he was moving into a new and productive phase of his life. But by the time he reached Denver, his prospective employer ceased returning his calls.

Mike had \$10 in his pocket when he arrived in San Bernardino, but no one to call and nowhere to go. He was a broken man, without a viable plan. A security guard suggested he try the Central City Lutheran Mission. He did, and his life has not been the same since. Mike was the first participant in our new Workforce Development Program. He worked on remodeling two houses on campus, but over time, fell back into his destructive lifestyle. He transitioned out of our program and spent time in a detox facility.

### The Rest of the Story

After detox, Mike returned to Central City Lutheran Mission and was given another chance. He has plans for starting a shelter for veterans, and is now interning in our Workforce Development Program as a Case Manager Technician.



EMPOWER

WE EMPOWER PEOPLE TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY, LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT

#### VISION

*Sharing the love of Christ, we are a community to care and be cared for...  
Where the dependent are self-sustaining*





**ELCA Foundation**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



**Your church and its ministries mean a lot to you and the communities they serve.**

The ELCA Foundation is here to help you ensure the continuation of God's work in the world for years to come.

### **Gift planning services for individuals:**

We can help you navigate your options to create a gift plan that benefits the ministries that mean the most to you, while maximizing your financial and estate-planning goals. Options include:

- Facilitation of gifts made through wills, trusts or estates
- Resources specific to your legacy needs
- Tools that create multiple avenues of approach like donor advised funds, named endowment funds, and charitable trusts and annuities
- Gifts of cash, securities and real estate
- Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) from your qualified retirement accounts
- Personalized illustrations, and more

### **Gift planning services for congregations:**

We offer expertise and guidance for congregations exploring their options for endowment investing and planning for the future. We offer:

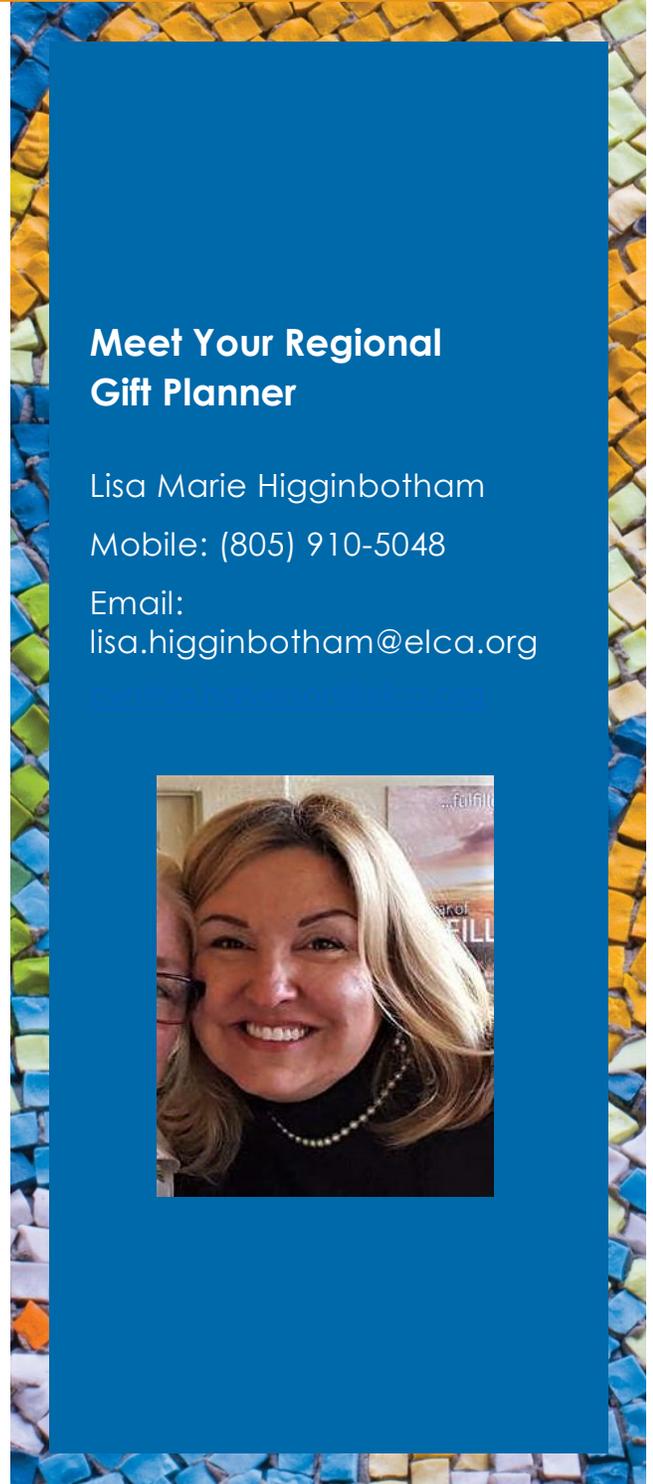
- Endowment fund planning and guidance
- Ministry funding through gift planning education, process creation, and charitable gift planning seminars
- Investment options for endowments, including the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust
- Legacy preservation during merger or holy closure

### **Meet Your Regional Gift Planner**

Lisa Marie Higginbotham

Mobile: (805) 910-5048

Email:  
[lisa.higginbotham@elca.org](mailto:lisa.higginbotham@elca.org)





**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 2018, MIF had 917 loans outstanding, totaling \$556.6 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 2018, MIF investments totaled \$499.1 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$705.4 million and net assets of \$200.8 million at year-end 2018, 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, 2018):**

- 21 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$15,378,122
- \$10,417,654 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)

# Benefits in Action

## Walking Our Promise to Support Those Who Serve

**Yes, things have changed in the church, especially in the last decade.** But like Martin Luther’s description of faith — “a living, busy, active, mighty thing” — Portico Benefit Services is constantly evolving, finding more efficient ways to help clergy and employees steward their gifts for the sake of the world.

As the ELCA’s benefit ministry, we’re called to live out a 200+ year legacy of service to clergy and employees. Our talented staff leverage Portico’s long-term experience, industry partnerships, and innovation-embracing culture to deliver benefits that can help people live well throughout their service and into retirement.



**The Rev. Jeff Thiemann**  
President & CEO

Blessings on your ministry. It’s a privilege to serve you.

### By the Numbers — Helping People Live With More Confidence

<p><b>640</b> <b>Members Retired</b> in 2018, and we celebrated with every one!</p>	<p><b>8,943</b> <b>Pounds Lost</b> so far by ELCA-Primary members enrolled in our new Omada health improvement program.</p>	<p><b>621</b> <b>Employees Joined</b> when four new Lutheran social ministry organizations decided to offer Portico benefits to their staff last year.</p>
<p><b>23</b> <b>Companies Screened</b> from ELCA social purpose funds for holding reserves of oil shale and tar sands.</p>	<p><b>\$1M</b> <b>Debt Paid Off</b> by plan members working with LSS Financial Counseling, as of year-end 2018.</p>	<p><b>4.5%</b> <b>Baseline Rate Increase</b> for employer health contributions in 2019 — on average, the lowest increase in 5 years.</p>
<p><b>\$94</b> <b>Less Per Month</b> paid in premiums by most ELCA Medicare-Primary retired members in 2019 thanks to our switch to Humana.</p>	<p><b>2,500</b> <b>Worries Released</b> by ELCA Youth Gathering attendees at Portico’s unbinding prayer station.</p>	<p><b>6,080</b> <b>Learning Hours</b> invested by members in Portico’s financial education seminars, webinars, and videos last year.</p>



## 2018 Annual Report to the Synods

*Wartburg College is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning.*

### Enrollment

Fall 2018 enrollment was 1,498 students from 34 U.S. states and 53 countries. This number included 115 international students and 199 U.S. students of color. The top five majors are business administration, biology, elementary education, music education, and journalism and communication.

### Focus on the Future

In 2017, Wartburg engaged more than 150 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the College in an examination of strategic opportunities in today's challenging environment for higher education. Task forces focused on academic innovation, student success, and expanding our reach. Wartburg continues to study and implement ideas that grew out of the initiative:

- In spring 2018, the Wartburg Board of Regents approved a new academic major in exercise science. Work is underway to raise funds to create new laboratory space, which also will strengthen other academic offerings in the Department of Health and Human Performance.
- Engineering Science faculty are working to refine the major and develop specializations in the new Bachelor of Science track. The department also dedicated an Innovation Studio, funded in part with a \$123,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, to expand hands-on design and creation opportunities for students.
- In partnership with Wartburg Theological Seminary, we are building and populating a new B.A.-M.Div. cooperative program, which streamlines preparation for pastoral ministry. Halcyon Bjornstad, director of integrated B.A.-M.Div. degrees, spends time on each campus generating interest among students. The College also continues to implement the new Master of Arts in Music Therapy.
- A new Center for Integrative and Interdisciplinary Studies seeks to advance several projects that bind our curricula together in the service of our common mission. Dr. David McCullough, the Burk Will Chair in Interdisciplinary and Environmental Studies, was named its director. He is charged with overseeing the interdisciplinary tier of general education, searching for a new study away administrator, identifying physical space for the center, reinvigorating the endowed chair that was created to infuse ethics across the curriculum, and exploring possibilities for a center for faculty development.
- The College continues to examine its capacity and effectiveness in the areas of online, distance, and digital education and is grateful to the faculty and staff at Wartburg Theological Seminary who have shared successes achieved in the online teaching and learning environment. Wartburg is seeking approval from the Higher Learning Commission to offer its first complete online programs – an English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement for educators and a post-baccalaureate certificate program in leadership.
- Wartburg continues to improve diversity and inclusion on campus, especially by discerning how best to support our multicultural students' academic progress through graduation. The American Multicultural Student Success Working Group, in concert with Multicultural Student Services, is assessing students' progress in their second year. The president's Diversity and Inclusion Council is implementing initiatives to address findings of a campus climate survey that evaluated students' perceptions of living and learning at Wartburg. A new Community Response Team is prepared to handle incidents of bias that threaten our campus culture.
- Wartburg became a founding investor in Mill Race, a community workspace in nearby Cedar Falls that supports area entrepreneurs. Building on that relationship, we have developed the Wartburg Incubator, a social entrepreneurship program that supports student efforts to address societal problems. In its first year, the incubator's Wicked Problems Challenge generated 75 poster ideas from students.
- Because St. John's Cathedral no longer works with the College, Wartburg has entered into a partnership with Johnson & Wales University in Denver, Colo., to house students in our Wartburg West program. We welcomed Dr. Greg Lorenz, who assumed program director responsibilities following the retirement of the Rev. Bonita Bock after 27 years of service.

## Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry

- The Rev. Dr. Brian Beckstrom was inducted as the Herbert and Cora Moehlmann Chaplaincy Chair, following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Ramona Bouzard. As dean of spiritual life, he leads the College's ministry program and promotes faith exploration and development in and out of the classroom.
- The Rev. Munib Younan, bishop emeritus of the ELCA in Jordan and the Holy Land, presented "Loving God and Neighbor: Living Out the Biblical Call in the Holy Land" to faculty, staff, students, and the general public.
- The Spiritual Life and Campus Ministry Guiding Team, comprising faculty, staff, and students, continues to implement findings of the SLCM program review, made possible through the generous support of the Siebert Foundation and other donors. Efforts include more clearly articulating our identity as a college of the church, more closely integrating it with practices and decision making, and seeking creative ways to expand the ministry beyond the walls of the Chapel.
- The first annual "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday was held with Redeemer and St. Paul's Lutheran churches in Waverly, featuring joint service projects, worship in the Wartburg Chapel, and lunch. More than 300 people participated, including 50 students.
- The College is planning several events to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Wartburg Chapel in 2019. A fundraising effort will focus on Chapel sound improvement, organ maintenance, and projection capabilities.

## Recognition

- Dr. Caryn Riswold joined the Wartburg faculty as a professor of religion, serving as the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission. In addition to her years of teaching experience, Riswold is an accomplished scholar in Lutheran and feminist theologies and the author of three books. Established in 2013, the chair celebrates Wartburg's distinctive mission and commitment to vocation. Riswold succeeds the Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans, who now serves as dean of Trinity Lutheran Seminary.
- Dr. Simon Estes, world-renowned opera singer and former Wartburg distinguished professor and artist-in-residence, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters during spring Commencement.
- Dr. Gloria Kirkland-Holmes, associate professor of early childhood education at the University of Northern Iowa, was the 2018 Graven Award recipient. The annual award for Christian vocation continues to highlight the powerful and positive effect of a strong sense of Christian vocation as it interfaces with service to community, the church, and the world.
- Dr. Robert E. Lee, professor emeritus of music, received the Wartburg Medal at December Commencement in recognition of his sustained service to the College.
- Campus Compact named Madison Bloker '19 of Clarksville, Iowa, a Newman Civic Fellow for her contributions to community and civic engagement. As part of her participation in Wartburg's Baldwin Leadership Fellows Program, Bloker penned "Bound Blessings," a devotional that raised funds for the Wartburg Dance Marathon.
- Tom Trenney, minister of music at First Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Neb., and renowned composer and organist, served as visiting conductor and artistic director for Christmas with Wartburg while Dr. Lee Nelson was on sabbatical for one semester.
- The Wartburg Choir joined choirs from Luther College and Iowa State University in "A Celebration of Song" at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, marking the first time the three choirs have performed together.
- The Wartburg Castle Singers and Kammerstreicher chamber orchestra performed in the Great Hall of the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, Germany, during May Term and participated in worship services at the Georgenkirche.
- Sophomores Collins Kalyebi and Saffa Bockarie Jr. each received \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grants to construct classrooms and provide health education for girls in Uganda and water wells in Sierra Leone, respectively.
- The 2018 wrestling team won a record-setting 14<sup>th</sup> national championship; the women's basketball team advanced to the Final Four for the second time in three years; football player Matt Sacia was a semifinalist for the Gagliardi Trophy DIII National Player of the Year; and two student-athletes won NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships, bringing the total to 41.
- President Darrel Colson served on the executive committee of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities (NECU) and on the Council of Independent College's NetVUE Advisory Council.

Wartburg College continues to find focus in a mission that is vibrantly alive and transformative for the entire college community as we learn, work, and serve together. Thank you for your prayers and support as we share in the work of strengthening the Lutheran traditions of higher education and Christian vocation.

**Darrel D. Colson, President**



At our Conference of Presidents in February, this logo for our 2020 Triennial Gathering was unveiled. Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs and editor of Café, designed this logo and she writes: “The inspiration for Women of the ELCA Gathering logo came as I walked around downtown Phoenix, the site of the 2020 gathering. I noticed a mural outside of the convention hotel. Its collection of broken mirrors, tiles, shards of plates and painted rocks ebbed and flowed in a kinetic frenzy of color and textures.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX

### WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

The mural reminded me of the body of Christ and how we are all misshapen pieces in one glorious and beautiful work of art. The palette of deep purple and bright green in the new gathering logo is reflective of the scenery of the valley in the Phoenix area. Along the streets of this city, dusty earth tones are punctuated with bright purple flowers and vibrant green cacti. The turquoise color connects to the history of native cultures in Arizona and the southwest region. Red signifies love. The shade of red in our gathering logo is not one of fire or caution, but rather one of joy.”

Phoenix is so close to us – we hope we will have a great turnout from our synod in attendance! Are you planning to go? We are looking into bus transportation. Let us know if you are interested.



Our March event was held at King of Kings in Oceanside and our speakers, Matt and Carrie Foster, provided us with a lot of insight into the North County Veterans Stand Down for homeless veterans. It is held annually and this was their fourth year. It is a four day retreat where homeless veterans can relax, get cleaned up, be fed, and go through a

“mall” of needed services – dental, medical, legal (court), legal aid, employment and housing.



Pastor Gloria Espeseth led us in Bible Study. Love gifts of school supplies for veterans using their GI bill and going back to school, and personal hygiene items were brought. We received an Action Team Grant from Thrivent which was used to buy towels as Love gifts. Lunch was catered from KFC. Approximately fifty women attended this event.

