



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

June 22, 2020

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel;
it is the power of God for salvation
to everyone who has faith,
to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”
—Romans 1:16

Dear friends in Christ,

As we enter a new decade, I invite this church to consider what it might mean to thrive. Think about your congregation, your synod, the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). What does thriving look like? What has God provided for us to spread the gospel and deepen faith for all people? How do we renew and strengthen evangelism?

This year is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's treatise *The Freedom of a Christian*. I'm inviting members of our church to study and reflect on it. One way to think about what it means to be a thriving church is by reflecting on God's liberation of the world in Jesus Christ.

While you are together at your synod assemblies, take time to hear and share stories of who you have seen Jesus to be. I pray that this time might be an opportunity for us to listen to one another and develop a deeper understanding of who we are as a Lutheran church and of our Lutheran witness of the Christian faith as it relates to God's narrative of freedom in Christ.

In 2020, the ELCA observes the 50th anniversary of women's ordination to the ministry of word and sacrament. We also celebrate 40 years of women of color being ordained and the 10th anniversary of the church's decision to remove barriers to ordination for people in same-gender marriages.

This church has been blessed and has thrived by the gifts of ministry of those called to serve as pastors and deacons. Through all that we do, this church is committed to equipping new leaders for evangelism and empowering congregations and communities of worship for deepening faith, hope and openness to change. Together, we will create a vision for the ELCA that we are becoming, a thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people.

Thank you for your faithful partnership and witness to the gospel. May God bless your time together as you gather and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

With hope,

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

REPORT OF THE BISHOP

TOGETHER IN CHRIST, WE EQUIP, ACCOMPANY, AND SERVE BOLDLY, SO ALL MAY EXPERIENCE GOD'S BOUNDLESS GRACE.

PACIFICA SYNOD'S MISSION STATEMENT, ADOPTED MAY 30, 2020

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. -- Jeremiah 29:11

This is not what we had planned. Last fall, Bishop Guy Erwin of the Southwest California Synod and I planned for a large, combined Synod assembly, to be held at California Lutheran University. The Assembly would allow Pacifica Synod leaders to visit our university, which is sited within the boundaries of the SW CA synod. It would allow us to get better acquainted with our sisters and brothers from our near neighboring synod. It would allow for dynamic worship experiences, as we remembered the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women, the 40th anniversary of the first ordination of a woman of color, and the 10th anniversary of our church's welcoming of LGBTQIA+ persons in committed, covenanted relationships as rostered ministers.

Then the Coronavirus began to spread throughout our land, and particularly in our state, and everything changed. At first, we postponed our Assembly to early August, hoping the virus would be tamed by that time, or that it would weaken in the summer months. When that did not happen, we thought about holding an online assembly. In the end, our Council decided to postpone this year's assembly to 2021. Since we do not know if the virus will allow us to meet in person, we are planning an online assembly for May 1 of next year. We are learning with other synods how to utilize technology to pull off an Assembly, and are making new plans, plans to learn between now and May 1 how to hold an effective Assembly through technology.

We are not the first people to have our plans changed. The disciples had plans for their lives. At first, many planned to earn their living by fishing, until Jesus called them to follow and everything changed. For three years, they planned to be with Jesus when he took the throne of Israel, threw out the Romans who had conquered the land, and re-established the old reign of David. But when Jesus died, those plans also went out the window. For a couple of days, they were lost, wondering what had happened, why God had allowed Jesus to be killed, and if God would allow them to suffer a similar fate. But on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead, rose to assure them that God is greater than sin and evil, rose to pour the Holy Spirit into God's people. And they discovered that God had a new plan. God had a plan to bring all things together in Christ, and that they were called to participate in this plan. Of the 11 male disciples remaining after Jesus rose from the dead, tradition tells us that 10 were martyred—only John reached old age, imprisoned and exiled for the faith. But through them and through their witness, God has called disciples in every time and place. We are those disciples now. We are

reminded that God's plans do not always match our own. And yet, we listen to God's call and seek to be faithful even as we make plans for the future.

I'm not sure how many congregations planned, at the beginning of 2020, to put time and effort into creating online worship experiences. But when the virus shut down in-person worship in mid-March in both Hawai'i and California, our congregations went into action. The results are amazing. I have been and continue to be in awe as I participate in worship throughout our synod, hearing sermons on YouTube, seeing congregations meet for coffee hour via Zoom, singing along with musicians during Facebook live feeds. These were not the plans we may have had at the beginning of the year. But God's plan of gathering all people together through worship and fellowship was implemented by our congregations engaging in creative and technologically challenging work.

Our Synod has been engaged in a planning process since our last Assembly. The Synod Council, with the help of GSB, a consulting firm that helps synods and congregations develop strategic plans, put together a planning team and process to enable the Synod to develop a new Mission Statement, list of Core Values, and a set of plans for Ministry Result Areas. The process began by listening for God while listening to each other. Workshops were held for Synod Council and rostered ministers (Pastors and Deacons) in which Pacifica's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for ministry, and external threats to our work were discussed and recorded. A survey was sent to lay leaders and rostered ministers. 462 members of our church, from 88 of our worshipping communities (congregations, campus ministry, camp, chaplaincies, etc.) filled out the survey, and the answers were recorded.

The Synod Council formed a Strategic Planning team. The members were Rev. Moses Barrios; Rev. Brenda Bos; Synod Council members Anthony Eder, Rev. Jeff Lilley, and Dr. Nicolette Rohr; Synod Vice President Lori Herman; former Synod Vice President Sheila Wenzel; and me. Anthony Eder could only be with us for a couple of meetings, but the rest of the group worked diligently to listen for God by studying the responses to the workshop and surveys. I am grateful to the members who spent hours crafting the framework and the language of the new strategic plan. When the pandemic hit, the team realized that the plan that was developing allowed us to address new issues that COVID-19 brought to the fore. We are hopeful that the plan is nimble enough for our Synod to adjust to whatever changes may happen in the world so that we as church may go where the Holy Spirit leads us.

The plan was adopted by the Synod Council on May 30, the very day we were supposed to meet in joint Assembly with the SW CA synod. We are rolling out the Mission Statement and the Core Values now, and will present the Ministry Result Areas, with specific underlying goals, in the Fall, when we have online Bishops' Gatherings for our Conferences. You may find the Core Values in Synod Vice President Lori Herman's report.

Our new Mission Statement is: *Together in Christ, we equip, accompany, and serve boldly so all may experience God's boundless grace.* We begin with the words *Together in Christ.* Our unity is not in our politics, our like-mindedness, or in any other external quality. We are united in Christ. Our synod is one because God has called us to be one, to serve with one another and love one another, in spite of anything else in this world we may disagree on. Together in Christ, we seek to live out the great commandment: to love God and to love our neighbor.

...we equip, accompany, and serve boldly... Our work is not just to be together with each other. Our work is to help all know that they are not alone. We, the entire synod (congregations, camps, chaplaincies, campus ministry, helping organizations, as well as the Office of the Bishop) equip congregations and leaders for ministry in the 21st century. We accompany one another, particularly during this time of pandemic and constant change, so that we can learn from one another and encourage each other to continue in ministry. We serve because Christ served us, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to serve one another and our neighbors near and far. We do so boldly, remembering the boldness of Martin Luther and other saints, recognizing the difficulty of the work before us but placing our trust in the One who will never leave or forsake us.

...so all may experience God's boundless grace. We engage in mission not for our own sake, but for the sake of God's beloved world. We recognize that many live wondering if there is a God in this world, and if there is, if that God loves and cares for us. We proclaim through words and deeds that God's love and grace are for all, and that abundant life is promised and experienced as we realize that, daily, we and all humanity are recipients of God's unending grace.

I encourage you to memorize our Synod's mission statement. I urge you to remember that "Together in Christ, we are Pacifica Synod," a synod devoted to equipping, accompanying and serving with boldness, so all may know of God's boundless grace.

The specific plans for Ministry Result Areas will be shared at our Bishop's Gatherings, which will be held online in the months of September and October. Keep an eye out for when your Conference will meet.

However, I do want to share with you briefly one goal in the plan that we have already begun to work on. The plan calls for the synod to deepen our diversity and inclusion, which includes working for racial justice. Last year at our Synod Assembly, we voted to strongly encourage rostered ministers to take an anti-racism workshop. A workshop was planned for last April at Luther Glen, but had to be cancelled due to COVID19. But the death of George Floyd and the resulting cultural emphasis on standing against racism has spurred the Synod into action. I wrote a letter to the synod inviting all to join in working for racial justice. The Synod Council invited members of Pacifica to sign the ELCA's anti-racism pledge. We have an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Workgroup (Rev. Lara Martin, Rev. Darin Johnson, Mr. Jim Tyler, Rev. Nathan

Allen, Rev. Rick Fry, Rev. Cyndi Jones) that is working on anti-racism seminars. We know that such work is sometimes seen as controversial. Congregations and members do not always agree on how racism can be combatted. But I am glad we are having this conversation, as difficult as it may be. We will see where God leads us as we discuss and listen to one another. Once again, the theme of last year's Assembly is key: we listen for God while listening respectfully to one another.

2019-2020 has been a year filled with changes. Some of those changes were unplanned, and we may feel like we are unprepared for our world the way it is. But God is with us. And because God is with us, we will have all we need to share God's peace. *Together in Christ, we equip, accompany, and serve boldly, so all may experience God's boundless grace.* Let us continue in the work God puts before us, so that all may know of God's incredible love.

Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Taylor, Bishop

DEM/ATTB PACIFICA SYNOD REPORT
2019/2020
Looking Back, Moving Forward

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justice, and to love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Please find in these words some highlights of what has been and what is to come ...

Looking Back

The year was filled with activity and could be described as the year the Pacifica Synod was rediscovered as a place for church-wide work and conferences. We were hosts for ELCA Coach Training on two occasions and for Caring for Creation conversations. We hosted the joint Presbyterian/ELCA event, Stewardship Kaleidoscope, and we were the hosts for the semiannual vitality training for ELCA developers and redevelopers from across the country.

Coaching ministry in the Pacifica Synod is building critical momentum. I encourage you to check them out! But just don't check ... also consider being paired with a coach (rostered leaders, church councils, etc). I encourage you to contact our incredible coaching coordinator, Deenna Eley. (You can reach her via the office at First Lutheran, Fullerton).

The first official worship service for our newest congregation (Hope, Palm Springs) happened on Easter Sunday. A solid core group of people make up the nucleus of this ministry that also saw a growth spurt of seasonal worshippers during the winter months. They were present on a weekly basis at the weekly Palm Springs VillageFest, greeting and inviting people to join them at their various activities and worship. Check in with Pastor Tim Edmundson for information. Also, please consider some financial support as individuals and/or churches as this ministry gets its feet on the ground and rooted in the community.

The year ended with sadness as we disbanded the ministry SAWC known as Thai Shepherd. The ministry had a long run of just over ten years. They were a small and mighty ministry, but circumstances dictated that the ministry could not continue forward.

Moving Forward

As mentioned earlier, the **Pacifica Synod Coaching Ministry** is building sustainable momentum. As of this writing, the team held their first of what is to be a monthly connection for rostered and lay leaders in our synod. The first session was on July 7th and focused on William Bridges' change and transition concept. The sessions are 60 minutes in length. Future topics are in the works including one on racism.

A new team in the process of being developed is the **Pacifica Synod Vitality Team**. This team will become the core team in identifying new start ministries, redevelopment ministries and more. This team will work closely with me as we identify, train and develop sustainable ministries throughout the synod.

Our synod council recently adopted a strategic strategy/planning process that you will be hearing more about as we move through the current year. One of these actions include a **Pacifica Synod Outreach Team** who will be tasked with developing and implementing strategies. These strategies include meaningful evangelism, holistic outreach, utilizing technology and implementing strategies that grow diversity throughout all parts of synod ministries.

Working with the SWCA and the OK-AR synods we are looking to dive deep with a cohort of congregations from each synod focusing on re-development of ministries that demonstrate a willingness to work hard at changing current patterns. SWCA has applied on behalf our three synods for a substantial Lilly Grant to help fund this process. We are now waiting to hear if we have landed the grant to begin identifying leaders to build our synod teams. I will be looking for synodical leaders (lay and rostered) to form our **Living into the Resurrection Team**. This team will be trained to lead and walk with congregations over an 18-24 month time frame.

Final Thoughts

**Together in Christ,
We equip, accompany,
And serve boldly
So all may experience
God's boundless grace.**

Take a moment ... Let that sink in ... It's our new synod mission statement. How might this inform our work?

We are certainly in interesting times. 2020 (and likely at least the first part of 2021) will continue to create headwinds for us to live with. Discerning how God is calling us to do ministry in these days by walking the path God's Holy Spirit leads us is key. Some of the questions we might discern:

- ❖ How is God calling us to do church in these days and beyond?
- ❖ How will technology continue to be a conduit to each other and how will we grow in our use of it?
- ❖ What priorities will we discern in our understanding of the Gospel?
- ❖ How will we live out our lives by committing to matters of justice?
- ❖ How will we examine our hearts and minds to understand how we perpetuate racism?

We have much in front of us. Our journeys may seem overwhelming. We are not alone in this. God is in our midst. The Holy Spirit is at work. We have partners we can lean on. In our synod alone, we have more than 100 ministries (and let's not forget our partner churches) we can partner with, and learn with, and live out justice with.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST WE ARE PACIFICA SYNOD

Rev. Tom Goellrich
Director of Evangelical Mission, Assistant to the Bishop

Reverend Terry Tuvey Allen

Assistant to the Bishop



I believe I can safely affirm that the sociological prediction of a 500-year wave, that I referenced last year has broken around the world, carrying us into our future. We have seen mammoth changes and while I believe there will be a new normal, some of the things that we thought of as routine and permanent have been washed away!

The pandemic has shut down and changed our lives in innumerable ways. Too many people have been lost to a disease that has ravaged not only the human body but our lives. A myriad of businesses were closed, reopening in creative ways. Protests have called upon us to think about “who is our neighbor.” We’ve become divided both by that which is inconsequential to that which is imperative. Many have been isolated from friends and family causing depression and hopelessness. And the toilet paper shortage may be the tagline describing 2020.

My first question is, “how are you?” Really-how are you doing? How is your family? Your friends? Your work? Your congregation? My second question, where and how has GOD shown up in your life? Perhaps that is the most important question! In the midst of isolation and fear, not knowing what is next – who is at the core holding you, holding us together?

There are many stories of chaos and change in scripture. One of my favorites is Ruth. At any number of weddings, you have heard these words spoken between the bride and groom, “Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.” It always tickles me because Ruth is saying this to her mother-in-law! What an interesting thought, a couple promising to embrace one another, their extended families, their culture, their homeland, their faith. There is more ... drowning in grief, not knowing what is next, together they embark on a journey toward home, without a clue if home is still there or if everything Naomi remembers will have changed. Ruth doesn’t even know if she will be welcomed. It certainly won’t be the same, when Naomi left, she was a wife and the mother of strong sons. She is coming home widowed with a foreign, widowed daughter-in-law in tow. This is wrong in so many ways. It is hard to imagine two women, traveling alone, much less making it – an incredible journey. Their homecoming is not heralded with hugs and kisses but poverty and eking out a living, eating leftovers from the fields when they are lucky. And yet, as we read the story today, we can see from our perspective that God is with them, God was with them all along. During the pain of grief, loneliness, insecurity and fear of the unknown God was there.

So back to my second question, **where and how is GOD showing up in your life?** Here is how I see God showing up in the life of the Pacifica Synod. This year five candidates have been approved for ordination into the ministry of Word and Sacrament. This summer, three candidates for ministry of Word and Sacrament are beginning their internship year. Many are in discernment of God’s call seeking entrance as candidates for ministry seeking to serve either in Word and Service (deacons) or Word and Sacrament (pastors.) All together there are twenty-eight Pacifica members who are following their call to serve in the ELCA. Additionally, 2019- 2020 we have nine first call deacons and pastors serving in our synod. Many of our seasoned pastors and deacons are serving as mentors to candidates and those in their first calls. Four Pacifica candidates have been ordained, two serving in our synod. Of course, people (including pastors and deacons) are on the move. Congregations have called new pastors. Congregations are being served by TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) and by clergy from our full-communion partners. Many of our congregations are hosting food banks and/or feeding programs, support and pastoral care. Churches have not been closed during the pandemic – rather they are open through Zoom, YouTube, Facebook and so much more. Although the learning curve has been intense, we are all embracing new technologies to worship, to connect, and to care for one another. **God is still with us, God is still working, and God still has us.**

Additionally, I invite you to thank the women in your life who have nurtured your faith. Grandmothers, mothers, aunties, sisters, friends, and **pastors** and **deacons**.

In Matthew 28 we find Jesus sending the women who met him at the tomb, to “go and tell.” From the very beginning of the church women have been following Jesus’ command, serving in mission and ministry. This year we celebrate 50 years of recognition of women called to be ordained to lead congregations. Fifty years ago, Reverend Elizabeth Platz was ordained on November 22, 1970, in the Lutheran Church in America; followed by Reverend Barbara Andrews, in the American Lutheran Church in December 1970. And in 1979 the Reverend Lydia Kalb and the Rev. Earlean Miller were the first women of color ordained. Reverend Anita Hill was ordained on April 28, 2001, within the Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, but later censured for her ordainment as an LGBT person. On September 18, 2010, she was formally welcomed onto the ELCA Clergy Roster. Many of you have female pastors and deacons enriching your lives through worship, pastoral care, outreach, bible studies, and so much more.

Here’s to strong women ... May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them.
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This is not to exclude the many fine male pastors and deacons in our lives – thank them too. All endeavor to serve, meeting us where we are and connecting us to God’s story, helping us to see that it is our story too.

This anniversary is a great time to celebrate the opening of hearts to include all the people that God is calling to serve in the church today, from every walk of life and culture to tell the story of God’s love and mercy.

So, what’s the lead story for 2020? Will go down in history as the year of: The Covid-19 pandemic? Murder hornets? Orange County floods? Protests? Riots? Whether or not to wear a mask? Elections? Divisions? A monster sociological wave that changed our lives. I believe our lead story, the most important story we must tell is that in the midst of all these events – God is with us. God is supporting us with love and mercy and grace, so that we may be the hands of God in this time and place. I’ve created a Facebook page, a space for us to share our stories. Please join me at **Stories of Mission and Ministry in the Pacifica Synod ELCA**. Add your and your congregation’s stories, tell us how God is showing up in your life and work that we are called to. Tell us how you are reaching out among yourselves and to our neighbors. What are you planning for God’s Work Our Hands day? Highlight what your congregation is doing to “**go and tell**” others about Jesus.

Here’s a tagline: 2020 is the year that God was with us through it all!

May God bless you with a kind heart, a wise mind, a brave spirit, and a bold faith.

Pastor Terry

Reverend Terry Tuvey Allen
Guiding verses Romans 8:38-39
Assistant to the Bishop
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*Together in Christ we equip, accompany, and serve boldly
so all may experience God’s boundless grace.
Together in Christ we are Pacifica Synod*

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Pacifica Synod,

I invite you to read these words and reflect on them a moment:

Together in Christ we are:

- *Claimed – we are loved and claimed by God in Jesus and we respond to the Spirit’s call as we grow in faith and love.*
- *Connected – we bring together our congregations, the church, and our neighbors.*
- *Relational – we enter into relationships with our neighbors in new and gospel-centered ways.*
- *Inclusive – we endeavor to welcome all, mindful of the things which divide us in the world, respecting and celebrating the diversity in which all are created.*
- *Witnessing - we continuously witness to God dwelling in all creation.*
- *Worshipful – we gather in the sanctuary of grace to proclaim God’s love through Word and Sacrament.*
- *Invested– we equip lay leaders, pastors, and deacons to serve.*
- *Reforming – we strive to change systemic injustice in all contexts.*

Together in Christ we are Pacifica Synod.

These are the words of Pacifica’s Core Values that were born from the listening sessions held last year with rostered and lay leaders. These Core Values were born from the collective hearts and minds of 462 individuals from 88 worshipping communities. They were born alongside a renewed Mission Statement and new Mission Result Areas to shape and guide the work of the Synod. These Core Values were born with all the hope and faith that comes with new beginnings, knowing who we are and who we strive to be. Bishop Taylor’s report dives deeper into the Strategic Plan, which includes the Mission Statement and how it will guide the Office of the Bishop and the Synod in mission.

I am thankful to have served on the Strategic Planning Team and want to use this space to thank the other team members – Pastor Moses Barrios, Pastor Brenda Bos, Anthony Eder, Pastor Jeff Lilley, Nicolette Rohr, Bishop Andy Taylor, and Sheila Wenzel - who spent many months on this project. The Synod Staff, Executive Committee, and Synod Council also provided valuable input. I also want to thank all who were able to provide their opinion – all 462 of you – and ask each of you to consider how you might be called to work even closer with your Synod. By working together in Christ we will be *claimed, connected, relational, inclusive, witnessing, worshipful, invested and reforming, because together in Christ we are Pacifica Synod.*



This was to have been my final Vice President report to the Pacifica Synod Assembly, to be given during a joint Assembly with the Southwest California Synod at California Lutheran University. But March brought the new reality of living during the time of a global pandemic. Due to the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19 and the curtailing of large in-person gatherings, the Synod Council made the thoughtful and difficult decision to postpone the 2020 Assembly to May 1, 2021. I, along with other Synod Council members whose positions were up for election, will continue to serve the Synod until our Assembly in 2021.

Had we been able to be together in May, I would have encouraged you to read the annual report and review the actions of the Synod Council from the past year, which include adoption of the Strategic Plan. This is one thing that has not changed; you can still find the past year's actions in the Secretary Report. The Synod Council continues to meet regularly and as needed on behalf of this Assembly when it is not in session. Our last quarterly in-person meeting was in December - all meetings since then have been held online and will continue to be conducted in this way until it is safe to gather together in person. The Executive Committee and our various steering committees, including the Finance Committee and the Mission Funds Committee, continue to meet, online, to meet the needs of the Synod.

Had we been able to hold the 2020 Assembly at the end of May, we would have been gathered together just days after the protests sparked by the killing of George Floyd. I am certain that had we been in Assembly on May 30, a new Resolution would have come forward to take action to address racism. "A Statement of the Synod Council" was released on June 24, asking each person and congregation in our Synod to commit to "the difficult and necessary work of repentance and change. To learn about the history of racial discrimination and its lingering effects and to take steps to change them. To be better citizens and to better manifest our love for our neighbors and God." The members of the Synod Council and Staff are committed to doing this work in the Synod, in our congregations, and in our lives. We ask each of Pacifica's congregations to also commit to this work - to develop an anti-racism plan, and to partner with racial justice organizations. We also invite each person to join us in taking the ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge: <https://elca.org/racialjusticepledge>. The ELCA and Pacifica Synod have online resources at <https://elca.org/emanuelnine> and www.pacificasynod.org. And look for our Synod's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group to be adding more resources as well.

Had we been able to be together in May, I would have thanked you on behalf of the Synod for your donations of Mission Support to the Synod. Your Mission Support makes it possible to pay the Synod staff so they can be here for you when you need them. Your Mission Support makes grants possible for Mission Starts and support of congregational ministry. It supports the greater church so the ELCA can reach out to an even larger part of God's creation so that together we can be church for the sake of the world. These are challenging times for everyone, but these are the times we find faith through generosity. That we trust the future to God in thanksgiving for all we've been given. That we find abundance enough to share.

I look forward to welcoming you to the online 2020-2021 Pacifica Synod Assembly on May 1, 2021. Until then, please stay safe and take good care.

Peace,
Lori Herman (she/ her)
Synod Vice President

Synod Assembly Actions 2019

SA.19.05.01 VOTED to approve the rules for the 2019 Pacifica Synod Assembly. (m/s/c)

The Pacifica Synod Council recommends to the 2019 Synod Assembly for approval a 2% increase in the Baseline Salary for Rostered Leaders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament) of the Pacifica Synod for the year 2020.

SA.19.05.02 VOTED to accept the recommendation for Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Leaders. (m/s/c)

SA.19.05.03 VOTED to adopt the agenda for the 2019 Pacifica Synod Assembly. (m/s/c)

SA.19.05.04 VOTED to remove these resolutions from the table *en bloc*
Resolution 19-04 was adopted by consensus of the assembly.
Resolution 19-01 Pacifica Synod Compensation Guidelines for Word and Service

SA.19.05.05 VOTED to pass resolution 19-01. (m/s/c)
Resolution 19-02 Ongoing Support and Memorial Follow-through for ELCA Federal Chaplaincy, Military Personnel, Veterans, and Their Families
Resolution 19-03 Full Participation of All Rostered Leaders in Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Racism Training Events

SA.19.05.06 VOTED to remove these resolutions from the table *en bloc*. (m/s/c)
Addressing 19-02 Ongoing Support and Memorial Follow-through for ELCA Federal Chaplaincy, Military Personnel, Veterans, and Their Families

SA.19.05.07 VOTED to pass resolution 19-02. (m/s/c)
Addressing 19-03 Full Participation of All Rostered Leaders in Equity, Diversity, and Anti-Racism Training Events

SA.19.05.08 VOTED to pass resolution 19-03. (m/s/c)
19-05 Inclusive and Expansive Language for Humankind and God
19-06 Support of Proposed Social Statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”

SA.19.05.09 VOTED to remove these resolutions from the table *en bloc*.
Resolution 19-05 Inclusive and Expansive Language for Humankind and God

SA.19.05.10 VOTED to pass resolution 19-05. (m/s/c)
Resolution 19-06 Support of Proposed Social Statement “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”

An amendment to the Resolution was presented: to strike the first resolved, ~~RESOLVED that the Pacifica Synod in Assembly be on record in favor of the adoption of the proposed social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action”;~~ and be it further

RESOLVED that the congregations of the Pacifica Synod study the Social Statement on Faith, Sexism, and Justice whether or not it is adopted at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

SA.19.05.11 VOTED to NOT pass the amendment.

Discussion to the original Resolution resumed

Motion: To move the vote on this Resolution to tomorrow morning. (m/s/c)

SA.19.05.12 VOTED to postpone the vote on Resolution 19-06 until tomorrow morning.

SA.19.05.13 VOTED to approve the 2020-2021 budget. (m/s/c)

Discussion resumed on Resolution 19-06 Support of Proposed Social Statement "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action"

SA.19.05.14 VOTED to pass Resolution 19-06. (m/s/c)

Election Results:

Synod Council

Lay at Large: Mr. Jeff Cours

Lay at Large: Ms. Becky Draper

Orange County at Large: Ms. Greta Goellrich

Inland Empire Clergy at Large: Rev. Jennifer Shaw

Youth Representative: Ms. Freya Hendrickson

Inland Empire Lay at Large: Ms. Nicolette Rohr

Inland Empire Lay at Large: Mr. Anthoy Eder

Clergy, Hawaii area: Rev. Jeff Lilley

Treasurer, remainder of term: Mr. Tom Pankow

Mission Funds Committee:

Mr Paul Coulter, Mr. James Grutkowski, and Ms. Sheila Wenzel

Consultation Committee

Female: Ms. Joanne Manzi, and Ms Meri Jo Petrivelli

Male: Mr. Scott Anderson, and Mr. Dennis Heider

Actions of the Synod Council

May 2019 – May 2020

Roster Changes: Synod Calls, On Leave from Call, Remove from Roster and Retirements

On Leave from Call:

Rev. Kate Schlecter Year 1 01.01.2019

Rev. Daniel Cole Year 1 02.01.2019

Rev. David Keiffer Year 1 03.01.2019

SC.19.05.03 VOTED to approve the roster changes as stated above. (m/s/c)

SC.19.05.04 VOTED to approve a Synod Call for Cynthia Jones. (m/s/c)

Synod Calls to Interim Ministry

The Rev. Richard Ajer LC of Our Savior, San Bernardino 09.01.2019

Synod Calls

Diana Simanjuntak Batak ELCA, Redlands 09.01.2019

Pr. Lisa Rotchford Redeemer Lutheran Church, Seal Beach 05.01.2019

Invitation to Serve **

On Leave from Call

Pr. Samuel Kumissa Needs approval for 3rd year OLC 08.14.2017

Pr. Carole Parmeter Dyer Needs approval for 5th year 08.01.2015
(extended by COB)

Dcn. Lynne Prechel Needs approval for 1st year

Retirement

The Rev. Dennis Laherty 05.20.2019

The Rev. Scottie Lloyd 07.01.2019

The Rev. Brad Stienstra 09.01.2019

The Rev. Karen Marohn 10.01.2019

SC.19.08.03 VOTED to approve the above roster changes en bloc. (m/s/c)

Synod Calls

Pr. Tim Eichler First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood 09.03.2019

On Leave from Call

Pr. Kate Schlechter Year 2 OLC 01.01.2019

Pr. Dan Cole Year 2 OLC 02.01.2019

Pr. Samuel Kumissa Needs COB extension 08.14.2017

Pr. Carole Parmeter Dyer Needs 2nd COB extension 08.01.2015

Dcn. Lynne Prechel OLC 10.16.2019

SC.19.12.02 VOTED to approve the roster changes as listed above. (m/s/c)

Financial Matters:

Motion: That Synod Council approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

SC.19.05.02 VOTED to approve the movement of funds per the Finance Committee, six in total as noted in red in the Financial packet. (m/s/c) Rev. Paul Bieber abstained

Motion: To approve the funds of \$19,950 to contract GSB Consulting Firm to establish Mission and Goals for Pacifica Synod.

SC.19.05.15 VOTED to approve the above motion. (m/s/c)

SC.19.08.04 VOTED to accept the financial reports. (m/s/c)

SC.19.08.05 VOTED to approve the new members of the Finance Committee: Myrt Niesley, Stephen Schwarz, and Sam Fullerton. (m/s/c)

SC.19.08.06 VOTED that Silver +A is recommended for Synod Staff and those who are paid through the Synod, with an option to upgrade to 2020 Gold+, which the Synod will pay for the buy-up. (m/s/c)

SC.19.08.07 VOTED that Synod Council recommends that congregations, at the minimum, look at Portico Gold+, and Portico Silver+ A, and provide the plan that works best for rostered ministers, and the congregation. (m/s/c)

Approval of Audit for the year ended January 31, 2019

SC.19.12.04 VOTED to accept the audit report. (m/s/c)

2020/2021 Spend Plan

SC.19.12.05 VOTED to approve the 2020/2021 Spend Plan. (m/s/c)

2021/2022 Budget

SC.19.12.06 VOTED to approve the 2021/2022 Budget and recommend to the 2020 Assembly. (m/s/c)

SC.19.12.07 VOTED to approve the housing allowances as recommended by Executive Committee. (m/s/c) *Bishop Andy Taylor abstained.*

SC.19.12.10 VOTED to spend \$3500 from the Portico Wellness Fund to cover ½ of the deficit, with the remainder to be covered by the Southwest Synod. (m/s/c)

Diversity Training/Anti-Racism workshop

SC.19.12.11 VOTED to use \$5000 from the Synodical Training Fund to cover the speaker for the upcoming event. (m/s/c)

Recommendation from Executive Committee to issue \$150,000 to Agape House.

SC.19.12.12 VOTED to approve the grant of \$150,000 to Agape House toward their building project. (m/s/c)

Congregation Matters:

SC.19.05.14 VOTED to approve the constitution of Lihu'e Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii. (m/s/c)

SC.19.08.11 VOTED to approve the constitution for Emanuel Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern California, Yorba Linda (m/s/c)

SC.19.08.12 VOTED to approve the following motion: Motion: Synod Council to accept with gratitude Lord of Life, Moreno Valley's letter and to release them from S13.25, Synodical Administration. (m/s/c)

SC.19.12.13 VOTED to approve the constitution for Incarnation, Poway. (m/s/c)
Becky Draper abstained

Miscellaneous Matters:

Motion: That Agape House (Lutheran Campus Council) be allowed to solicit monetary support from congregations for their capital campaign.

SC.19.05.05 VOTED to approve the motion. (m/s/c) Dámaris Allen abstained.

Motion: That the aforementioned rule regarding Substitute Motions be added to next year's assembly rules.

SC.19.05.11 VOTED to approve the Substitute Motions rule be added to the 2020 Assembly rules.

SC.19.05.12 VOTED in favor of the Amendment to bring a resolution to the Assembly with the Resolved: that the Synod Assembly Offerings from 2010, 2011, and 2012 be designated to the Murray & Rhoda Finck Global Engagement Mission Fund (GEM).
(m/s/c)

SC.19.12.14 VOTED to accept the Ethnic-SAWC Additional Voting Members for the 2020 Synod Assembly as presented (m/s/c)

EAST & WEST SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE REPORT

The congregations and ministries of the East and West San Diego Conferences are alive and well.

- Our rostered leaders from both conferences continue to meet weekly online. Attendance varies from 10-20.
- We mourn the loss of the Rev. Laurie Line who served both as a pastor and the Dean of our conference.

Agape House, San Diego - submitted by Pastor Darin Johnson, SDSU campus pastor

- Agape House continues to serve a growing number of students right through the summer even as San Diego State University went online throughout most of 2020.
- With most students unemployed due to the pandemic, food and housing insecurity are intensified, as well as the other stressors of quarantine, so community support is as critical as ever.
- We continue to move forward with more city reviews of our innovative design for expanded community spaces and communal living for 50 students, with hopes to break ground by summer 2021.

Ascension Lutheran Church, San Diego - submitted by Pastor Rick Fry

- Ascension received a grant from the San Diego Food Bank and is hosting a 'Super-Pantry' on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8am to 11am.
- We continue to engage in anti-racism work, with our youth each committed to each taking one of the eight actions listed in the ELCA anti-racism challenge. We will also be studying James Cone's book 'The Cross And The Lynching Tree' this fall, as well as providing racial justice resources to all of our congregation.
- Our preschool ministry remains open, following all safety precautions and state regulations.
- Our youth ministry is meeting Sunday evenings weekly on zoom in intergenerational conversations with our adult members.

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, San Diego - submitted by Pastors Richard Vevia & Berhanu Refera

- Our food pantry, The Cupboard, is open 2 days/week, serving 450-500 households/month. Our clothing ministry, The Closet, continues to be closed until we can reopen with good sanitation practices.

- Our ministry with African immigrants has suffered under quarantine, but plans are being made to renew it.
- We have completed a number of improvements and repairs on our campus.
- We have invited St. John's, El Cajon to join us in discussing racial justice.
- We have worshipped on-line (recorded service) with St. John's, El Cajon, since March. We are planning a patio service in late summer to celebrate a baptism.

Carlton Hills Lutheran Church, Santee - submitted by Pastor Andreas Walker-Thode

- Andreas Walker-Thode began Word & Sacrament ministry on Jan 1, installed in February (just in time for COVID to kick in!)
- Online worship and weekly online newsletter initiated.
- Completed Joyful Noise Summer Music Camp as a free, virtual 2x per week experience this summer with great reviews from participants.
- Started 3rd Saturday Community Breakfast in December 2019, meals continue for all who need them however as "to go" packages once per month
- Spin-off to EVERY Friday Community Dinner serving about 15 individuals/family units in conjunction with Guardian Angels RC Church in Santee; includes hot meal and individualized "take away grocery bags"; both meals are free to anyone attending.
- Continue to host Santee Food Bank, which has considerably expanded its operations since COVID began and the needs have grown; now open to all residents of San Diego County (previously Santee only)
- Beginning discussion on "anti-racism pledge" with council, congregation.

Christ Lutheran Church, San Diego

- We welcomed a pastoral intern, Courtney Geibert from PLTS for this year. She just completed her internship and was approved for ordination.
- We hired a new Digital Ministry Coordinator to help with our online presence. This has become especially important during the pandemic.
- We launched a campus renovation project that will include a new drainage system, roofing, solar energy, drought tolerant landscaping, and a renovated small kitchen.
- We continued our third year of a matching gift program that offers funds to member supported non-profit organizations. As of this year we will have matched \$95,000 for a total of \$190,000 donated from our congregation.

- Pastor Nagler's sabbatical was postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic.

Glory Lutheran Church, Chula Vista - no report

Hope Lutheran Church - closed & property for sale

International Evangelical Lutheran Church of San Diego, San Diego - submitted by Pastor Jogy Olivar

- We have not met for worship since March 5, but the congregation is keeping in close touch through Facebook and FaceTime; phone calls and video texting.
- We held 2 car blessings in the Hope Lutheran parking lot.

Lemon Grove Lutheran Church - some notes from their website

- Lemon Grove Lutheran and the Samoa Independent Full Gospel Church have teamed up to become the largest free community food distributor in San Diego County. With high rates of unemployment and poverty, we see people from all walks of life seeking help. We have partnered with the Jacob & Cushman San Diego Food Bank and Feeding America to purchase food at discount prices for all our ministry events which serve over 100,000 people yearly.
- We support the Trozzo's – Eric, Wendolyn, Dante, and Caedmon, ELCA missionaries in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia. They have served the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and BCCM (Basel Christian Church of Malaysia) as missionaries for almost 5 years.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, San Diego - Kristin Timmons

- Our preschool is exploring reopening.
- We have a Wednesday evening social gathering with a musical theme: "Name that Tune," "Sing-a-Long," etc.
- We have live streaming services on Saturday nights, followed by a Zoom social gathering, and on Sunday mornings, followed by a Zoom Bible study.
- We offer a weekly Zoom yoga class.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - submitted by Pastor Richard Vevia

- Our preschool has not closed, although enrollment has dropped significantly. PPP funds allowed us to keep our staff employed and offer free or reduced tuition childcare in June/July. We have added school age childcare and we are exploring infant care.

- We continue to participate in and support the Welcome Ministry of El Cajon.
- We have been invited by Calvary, San Diego to discuss racial justice.
- We have worshipped on-line (recorded service) with St. John's, El Cajon, since March. We are exploring beginning a patio service in late summer and will be celebrating a baptism and reception of new members.
- We recently launched a website using Tith.ly.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Chula Vista, - submitted by Ms. Alicia Saenz

- After three years, the congregation is close to calling a new pastor. Pastor Dan Cole is currently serving as bridge pastor, following Pastor Karen who served as interim pastor.
- Ms. Alicia Saenz (TEEM) reports that the Hispanic Ministry is worshipping with Facebook Livestream and a small in-person presence.
- They are broadcasting their Sunday services on Facebook Livestream at 9:00 a.m. (English) and 10:45 a.m. (Spanish) and recording are available on their website.

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, La Mesa - submitted by Pastor Marcus Lohrmann

- Our Anti-Racism team is up and running with about 15 team members. We're just finishing Pr. Lenny Duncan's "Dear Church" as we turn towards some long-term visioning for the next 1,2, and 5 years of our work together and for the congregation.
- We've got a new website (as of March 2020), a few new digital tools for the preschool, and some much needed communication tools updates.
- Zoom Worship attendance has pretty much stayed the same, after a slight drop-off after Easter Sunday. This weekend we held our first communion services, a practice of "Extending the Table" from a small group of in-person worshippers who delivered bread to the rest of the congregation for Zoom worship. It was beautiful, and a real embodiment of how these folks lives out the call of Christ's table in their everyday lives.
- The ABC Barn Preschool is at about half capacity, following our nearly two-month closure.
- PPP Funds that have helped us weather the loss of preschool income are starting to dry up, and the council is now looking towards longer-term solutions for balancing the budget.

Tierrasanta Lutheran Church, San Diego - some notes from their website

- "Bible Study from the Garage" meets weekly.
- The Climb Aboard Capital Campaign has received pledges of \$429,039, 92% of \$460,000 goal. Several projects have already been completed.

- There are several services being offered every Sunday: Drive-in in the parking lot @ 8:30 a.m.; Facebook/Zoom @ 10:00 a.m., followed by Godly Play for children and a Zoom Coffee Hour; and 11:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship.

Welcome Ministry of El Cajon - submitted by Father David L. Madsen

- Much of our ministry on the ground came to a standstill the middle of February because of the threat of Covid-19. We had just had our first Community Men's Breakfast, a ministry we received funding from the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego to help defray cost. We had a retired chef and his team of volunteers that planned to cook breakfast for men in our community. The community includes refugees from various parts of the Middle East, along with a Latino speaking congregation and other churches and men from the El Cajon area. Since then we have attempted to maintain contact with many of the refugees from the Middle East, mostly from Iraq, and we have invited them to join us in a bilingual English/Arabic Morning Prayer service that we will launch in September with the funding transferred from the Community Men's Breakfast and an addition Covid-19 grant from Pacifica.
- Our bilingual English/Arabic mass that was held on the first and second Tuesday of the month also came to a halt the end of February. We are hoping to see many of that group join us in our meetings that start online in September. It has been difficult because many of the folks we work with are not available to go online, including some of our bilingual speaking leaders. We are slowly finding people that will be joining us, and we do have a bilingual translator that is now ready to join us online.
- Our food pantry is still distributing to mostly refugees on the first and third Tuesday morning of every month. We are blessed to have a slightly new used truck for food handling, thanks to a grant from ELCA Domestic Hunger. It has been difficult to find younger volunteers to assist us, but we are going full steam ahead.
- Our Table Talk Leaders are amazing. When the Pandemic hit in February they thought at first that this ministry of teaching conversational English was over. But, the leadership team was encouraged to find out that all the women have smartphones, and they spent time organizing them in groups with Google Duo and Face-time for multiple conversations. They are now doing Zoom meetings, and most of these women had not done Zoom before. There is a group of 15 that should be available to be invited to worship online with us in September. This has been a lot of work, because it's hard enough to start a new program online, but even more complicated if it is bilingual, in the middle of a pandemic.
- Our Loads of Love Laundry ministry is still operating at a local Laundromat every Tuesday morning. People suffering from critical homelessness still have to find a place to clean their clothes, and our laundry ministry supervisor is busy every Monday

morning signing up people, handing out dog food and cat food and then showing up to provide free laundry service and conversation on Tuesday morning.

- Welcome Church is not allowed to have services in the park right now, but our leadership team does meet on the first and 3rd Sunday of each Sunday afternoon and make sack-lunches that we distribute to some of the people that are now housed and many that are still on the street. We listen to them, pray with them, and of course wear our masks and maintain/safe distances. We stay in contact via phone, our Welcome Church face book page and contacts throughout the week. We are still working on finding housing, and that work is fruitful from time to time.
- What we are seeing developing is multiple small groups, where there is community and in many cases *koinonia* presence of God within the community. Our leadership in Table Talk has experienced this. Our WC team is experiencing this throughout the areas of ministry, including the laundry have seen a closer knit relationship and openness to the presence and peace of Christ.

Submitted by the Rev. Richard Vevia (Dean of the East San Diego Conference)
and the Rev. David Nagler (Dean of the West San Diego Conference)

HARVEST CONFERENCE REPORT 2020

The Harvest Conference includes north San Diego County and Temecula (in Riverside County). We previously met monthly, but since shelter-at-home restrictions, rostered leaders have been meeting weekly via Zoom on Thursday mornings. While always a blessing, our weekly conference meetings have become an even deeper time of sharing faith, ministry and prayerfully supporting one another while we help our congregations navigate these tremendously challenging days. I have never been more thankful for our partnerships in ministry in our conference, our Pacifica Synod and the whole of the ELCA.

Below are some highlights from 2020 of how God is powerfully working in and through our Harvest Conference congregational ministries . . .

Bethlehem Lutheran, Encinitas, has lived a unique year, together with everyone in the Synod. We are proud of our virtual worship including Choir and Apostle's Creed zooms and even a short LEGO movie featuring the pastors as Legos. We have stayed connected through virtual Bethlehem Cafe, Theology on Tap, and virtual VBS. Our full day preschool has recently reopened and is welcoming children again. We have become creative in ways we never thought possible and remained connected in ways we never imagined. We have sewn and given away 1000's of masks, supported immigrant children and families in food insufficiency, and given money to the Navajo Nation to assist in their health crisis. Together, we have always professed that the church is not a building, but a people. COVID has allowed us to prove that such a thing is true.

Calvary, Solana Beach, has successfully transitioned to live stream, recorded and Zoom delivery of digital content for Sunday worship, Modern Mid-week worship and ministry programming ie. VBS, Faith Connection, Small Groups, all faith formation opportunities, Starting Point Small Group Experiences to name a few. Repurposing campus space for a digital recording studio for worship and ministry programming content and adding a Tech Arts/Support Person to our staff.

-Anti-racism discussions and education opportunities: 5 new Dialog Groups offered at various times and days via Zoom for 6-8 week gatherings for the discussions on Racism. Spirituality and Racial Justice Series: Adult Forum four-week program using the ChurchNext material from presiding Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry facilitated by our pastor.

-Generosity 2020 Matching Funds Campaign: A generous family offered a \$100,000 challenge grant to our congregation which was matched by 150% enabling us to expand our children, youth, family, and small group ministry staff position from half to full time. Year Long emphasis Grateful Generosity Year Long Emphasis: Twice each month during our live stream worship we share recorded stories from one of our members old and young about a time they experienced and were grateful for generosity in their life.

First, Vista (Primera Iglesia). During COVID-19 it's been a challenge to be able to spread the gospel on Sunday mornings, but with a great team of people we've been able to stream every worship session (in both English and Spanish) for people to worship at home and to share with others. Additionally, devotional videos are produced weekly in both languages. Also, in response to COVID-19, our Preschool (Noah's Ark) has been kept open to serve first responders and essential workers families needing a safe place for their kids to be cared for during this difficult time. First Lutheran of Vista has also continued as many "usual" efforts to minister to our families and

community, following all required protocols, whether it is in person (observing social distancing, wearing masks and hand washing), phone contact and, where possible, using ZOOM. ZOOM has allowed us to meet with groups, like Hearts and Hands, or bringing people together “virtually” whether that is our Council meetings or Bible Study. We are also looking forward to the opportunity to provide on-line Vacation Bible School this year! Our Stone Soup Kitchen has continued working with the nonprofit organization “Meals with Love” that is serving 400 to 500 meals a month to about 60 homebound seniors. We are also committed to serve the hungry by bringing meals to approximately 20 families to our local shelter.

House of Prayer, Escondido, has gone fully online this year with worship services being pre-recorded and put onto YouTube, and a weekly Bible Study done through Zoom. A program called “Caring and Connected” has also been implemented where all the members of the congregation are called once-a-week through a network of fourteen leaders and four coordinators. Pastor Daren has received a call to serve a Campus Ministry (University of Northern Colorado) and a separate congregation (Immanuel Lutheran) in Greeley, Colorado beginning in August.

Hope, Temecula, has not closed during the pandemic; we have been deployed!! We’ve gathered food donations via “drive by” opportunities to feed our neighbors and made masks for LRCC, CCLM and continue to support Foster Youth “ageing” out of the system. While we’re missing seeing one another in person, we have quickly become skilled in “Zooming” weekly youth group meetings, monthly and weekly Bible studies, ministry team meetings and a new book study/discussion of Dear Church. With challenge has come great opportunity for sharing God’s saving grace even more widely. Both our 8 and 10:15 worship services “premiere” Sunday mornings on Hope’s YouTube channel and we’ve welcomed new worshippers from as far away as Germany. With the Synod’s grant, we’re working to be able to livestream worship, especially critical when we are finally able to offer in-person worship. Our first on-line/at-home VBS is involving Zoom, YouTube and Facebook and includes kids locally and as far away as Russia! God willing, Hope’s preschool and kindergarten will open in mid August. Like others, we are learning from our mistakes and working hard to help everyone, especially those not linked with us electronically, to remain connected with Christ’s ministry among and through us.

Incarnation, Poway, ministries have continued to flourish despite the strictures we’re under because of Covid 19. Our worship and devotions have been exclusively online since mid-March and we’ve continued to support our mission ministries locally and globally. We miss each other terribly and some of us are tired, but we know that we are immeasurably blessed by God’s Grace, and are working virtual (and eventually in-person) on a ministry initiative we’re calling “Love Intentionally!”

King of Kings, Oceanside. Pastor Tim Eichler resigned his call and left in September, 2019. Synod staff provided pastoral care in Sept. Pastor Dan Cole was stated supply during Oct. Pastor Karen Marohn was named transitional pastor and began on the first of November. The Transition Team is finishing the Mission Site Profile and a call committee will be elected soon. We went “on-line” in mid-March when the pandemic forced us to close the church building. Mission continues with all worship services, congregational life events and pastoral care being done with Zoom, phone and mail.

San Marcos, San Marcos. Before Covid, we launched "A Circle of Gentle Grace", an effort to be inclusive of people with visible and invisible disabilities. Our Confirmation class, along with First

Lutheran (Vista) completed "Honoring Our Neighbors Faith" , learning about, visiting places of worship, and forming friendships with people from other religions. During Covid, Sunday school, Confirmation and Senior High programs as well as VBS are held on-line. We celebrated our seniors with a drive by graduation celebration (along with the Synod's baccalaureate). Our social action committee and newly formed Comfort Callers and Covid Action Team have been active with food distribution, making masks, sending cards, providing electronics, and meeting other needs for members and members of the community. A six-week study for action against racism was held which provided an opportunity for in-depth sharing and time for reflecting on changes we will make to help fight racism. In July and August we are holding Vacation Bible School on line with over sixty participants.

Spirit of Joy, Ramona, has continued to do ministry during these most difficult times. The pandemic has challenged us to find new ways to reach God's people. We are currently providing daily devotionals, music on Tuesday and music worship on Thursday. We have had Zoom Bible Studies (CafeSOJ) and weekly Home Group meetings via Zoom. We are currently providing worship on our church property each Sunday at 9am (following all the necessary safety guidelines). The service includes the opportunity to bring chairs, pop-ups, umbrellas for worship...or if preferred, remain in cars for worship. The service is also live streamed. We are learning a great deal about our sense of community, of belonging to the people of God, and new ways of reaching out to one another.

Taiwanese Lutheran Church of San Diego, Rancho Penasquitos. Taiwanese Lutheran continues to be obedient to the Great Commission by collaborating with multiple churches in San Diego and Taiwan to launch Taiwan missions for students and elderly in rural areas, fundraising for a Kenya orphanage/school, and joint student ministries in UCSD. Phase 1 of the church building project has raised sufficient funds for a level 3 parking lot, basketball court, and tennis court. During the Covid-19 pandemic, more than 15 weekly online meetings are held for fellowship groups and small groups to continue caring and edification. The elderly who do not participate in online meetings are cared by phone calls.

As a conference, we continue to give thanks for all our many partnerships in ministry that are helping Harvest congregations actively and faithfully serve Christ and our neighbors in exciting, creative and powerful ways. We especially thank our friends at Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC), Pacifica Synod Coaching, AAMPARO working group, Pacifica Anti-racism Task Force, our ELCA Churchwide staff and our own Pacifica Office of the Bishop for the educational and ministry resources that help us faithfully engage in God's mission for the Pacifica Synod:

*"Together in Christ we equip, accompany, and serve boldly
so all may experience God's boundless grace."*

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

RAINCROSS CONFERENCE REPORT

Hope, Riverside said farewell to Pastor Julie Kelly in June and is eager to welcome their interim pastor. In January a food pantry opened on the premises and now feeds no fewer than 45 families a week. Worship continues online each week and employees are now telecommuting. 3 New members were welcomed in this past fall and we are glad to say giving has remained stable during the pandemic. We are looking at new and creative ways to remain church and look forward to hearing and connecting with other nearby congregations for unique ways to continue ministry in the world. Bountiful Blessings, Pastor Julie Kelly

Grace Lutheran Church, Upland is doing well, thanks be to God! Pastor Wesley was installed Memorial Day weekend 2019, so the past year has been a year of firsts for pastor and congregation sharing ministry together. Highlights have included becoming a "Medallion Congregation" supporting ELCA Federal Chaplaincy for two years in a row. We have strengthened our connection to Central City Lutheran Mission, and because of Covid19 innovated new community outreach through the collection and distribution of Grocery Store Gift Cards! New members have been taught the faith through use of the Small Catechism, and found peace with God through discovering that they are saved by grace, and not by works. We have grown leaps and bounds with the use of technology sharing the word of God online. Thanks be to God! -Pastor Wesley

Grace, Riverside keeps chugging along, with its streamed worship service, posted videos, and Zoom studies. I met yesterday with Tom Goellrich and one of the folks from CLH about a potential purchase of our property. The end result of that discussion is that selling our property may not be the magic wand we had, at first, thought it could be. Repairs to the building may be more extensive and far more expensive than anticipated. This is a time of reflection for Grace. Blessings, Pastor Ken Puccio

Trinity, Hemet: In January we held an all members workshop, 2020 Vision, to brainstorm and adopt 3-4 goals for our upcoming year. There was much excitement, lots of creative ideas and loads of discussion. We began actual work on our goals just before the Covid-19 pandemic began. We've been laying some of the groundwork for our goals during our building closure and will pick up where we left off once we are able to work together.

Our goals are as follows:

1. Adopt a local school to encourage and support both staff and students and make connections with local families.
2. Form community partnerships with selected nonprofits (501C3 organizations) to provide assistance in the Hemet area.
3. Create new operations infrastructure to support worship and music, and also hire a new music director.

Submitted by Linda Vogelgesang, Interim Pastor

Eden, Riverside had a good year. In 2019 the congregation completed the Congregational Vitality Survey which was of great help in gaining some insight into how we will position

ourselves for the future. The congregation blessed me with a 3 month sabbatical during the summer of 2019. That was a time in which the leadership of the church moved Eden ahead as it pertains to this congregational vitality piece.

We also received a number of grants during the course of the year to assist us with our outreach ministries such as Helping Hands, our quilters, our food card program, and preschool which has been a vital part of our congregation for more than 40 years.

Our attendance was down a bit although we did have 7 first communions, 10 baptisms, and 7 funerals during the year.

We continue to be greatly blessed by God here at Eden as we move into our 132nd year.

Pastor Linda Brown

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Norco

Two funerals services: 1 member, 1 spouse of member

Sunday attendance is approx. 40

Membership is 34

- Our mission program includes: Heart Closet for a Corona-Norco Schools and includes clothes for all ages and hygiene supplies, Settlement House for Corona and Norco and is a collection of food and clothing for low-income and homeless individuals or families, LSS, LWR, and Norco Animal Shelter. We have one homeless man living on our property out behind the Christian Ed. Building.
 - Our worship is service is at 9:30 and we have a full sit-down luncheon every Sunday for the congregation and about half the congregation stays to eat.
 - Groups: Women's Bible study and fellowship, Men's Bible study and fellowship,
 - Choir, Youth group, Worker Bee's group for building and grounds, Sewing Circle for mission projects, Safety Committee
 - Our finances held steady and we continue to send 10% of our income to our Synod
 - The Council: 8 members, ALL within the 3 year limit of service
 - We put in a new parking lot for \$98,000 and the couple who loaned us the money forgave \$40,000 of the note in December. They also made each of the 3% Interest payments due quarterly. They hope to continue this until the loan is paid in full.
- Submitted by Pastor Jonathan Vincent

Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside CA

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

The theme of light occurs many times in the Bible as a symbol of God's wisdom and guidance. Jesus tells us as his followers to let God's light shine through us. Here are some of the ways that our congregation let that light shine in 2019:

- We gathered together each week to hear God's Word and by renewed by the Sacraments. Our worship life was enriched by our talented group of musicians. Our adult choir presented inspiring cantatas on Good Friday and in December. The handbell choir delighted us with their ringing several times during the year. We also hosted concerts by the Gary Bonner Singers in March and the Blue Earth Band in June.

- In addition to our two Sunday morning worship services, our monthly Saturday night communion service provided an informal option for worship.
- We welcomed 13 new members to our congregation in 2019.
- We published a new pictorial directory containing photos of our church members.
- We continued to support our ELCA missionaries, the Trozzo family, as they completed their service in Malaysia and began to transition back to the United States. Eric Trozzo finished his assignment in November. The ELCA continues to support missionaries during a 6-month transition period, so we will continue to help support the Trozzos for the first part of 2020, then choose a new missionary to support.
- Our day camp program July 22-26 brought 21 kids to Trinity for a week of faith-building activities, led by staff from Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences.
- Christian Unity, led by Ann Herring, prepared delicious meals for several church events. They also served dinner to the homeless community at Central City Lutheran Mission 10 times. In 2020 they will serve dinner at CCLM every month on the 3rd Sunday.
- Our “Banquets at Trinity” (BAT) meal program continued to serve a breakfast every Saturday and a dinner every Monday for homeless and low-income people in our community. Starting this year, we have had several social work students assist as well as part of their field education. Clothing and personal care items are also available for BAT guests.
- We supported the CarePortal program and “Faith in Motion,” a local partnership between churches, social service providers, and the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). Through these programs, we have helped help serve the needs of youth and young adults in foster care, and families in crisis.
- The Riverside office of Lutheran Social Services relocated to our church campus in July of 2019, making our church a more helpful resource for families and individuals in need of assistance with food, housing and jobs.
- Members of Thrivent Financial received 45 Action Team grants of \$250 each to supplement donations for various outreach and Social Concerns projects. That’s a total of \$11,250 in additional funding in 2019 to help serve our neighbors in need!
- Thanks to donations to our 125th Anniversary Capital campaign, work was completed to update our aging air conditioning system for the sanctuary with new cooling units.
- Thanks to other special donations, in October we installed new speakers in our sanctuary that have greatly improved the sound quality for our worship services.
- We continued to provide support for the Casa Hogar Sonrisa de Angeles (Angels’ Smile Children’s Home) in Tijuana, in partnership with Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bakersfield. A special “Trinity’s Got Talent” night in May helped us raise about \$2,500 for Casa Hogar.
- In addition to these activities, we continued to allow AA meetings and several other groups use our church facilities. Opening our doors for these programs is another way for us to serve the needs of our neighbors.

Submitted by Pastor Kent Tuohino

Submitted by the Rev. Linda Brown, Dean of the Raincross Conference

BIG BEAR CONFERENCE REPORT

As you read these reports you may notice that some were submitted prior to the interruptions of our ministries related to Covid-19; others were submitted in the midst of those interruptions. In spite of our inability to meet together in person, an appropriate theme for the work of ministry in our conference over the past year+ might be “We are Church Together!” With one recent consolidation, another in process, a two-point parish, a joint Lutheran-Episcopal congregation, and a mission congregation in partnership with an established congregation, it seems everywhere you look around congregations are working together to be the church more effectively and faithfully.

St. John’s, 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 welcomed a new Visitation Pastor, Choir Director, and Contemporary Music Coordinator; opened a ‘Grace Space’ children’s area in our sanctuary; updated our church hardware and software and launched new consistent staff email addresses; welcomed twenty-three new members, celebrated three baptisms, and confirmed two members of our youth group; and continued to serve the community in partnership with organizations like FIND, the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, and the Narrow Door.

God’s Mission Lutheran Parish: A two-point parish of
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Rialto, CA
and **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Fontana, CA**

As this communique to our sister parishes is being written, we are in the midst of uncertainties, challenges and short-term closures facing all of us, centered around health issues which may affect our ministries and our communities, states and nation. And yet, when we review our faith’s history locally and widespread it has always been so. Within such rocky journeys our faith and relationships can grow. This is most certainly true in both congregations as they experience what it means to be a two-point parish: to work, pray and benefit from each other’s gifts for the sake of our Lord’s Mission. Such previously noted challenges/uncertainties are also played out in the communities we serve. “Who are our neighbors?”, “How do they see us?”, and “How do we respond?”, in our own uniquely gifted manner and to respond meaningfully, are just a few of the questions we have to address. In our way we have been excited through our donations and person hours to make a difference at Central City Lutheran Mission, Homeless Bag Lunches, Olive Branch Ministries, ELCA World Hunger, Pacifica Synod Benevolence, and Pacific Theological Lutheran Seminary. For all of this we give thanks!

Spirit of Peace, Big Bear

Spirit of Peace continues a small but stable presence in Big Bear Valley. We worship every Sunday, unless the roads are closed, with communion. We continue our feeding and fellowship ministry with Simple Suppers twice a month, feeding both church members and people from the community at large. This year we took on a new ministry called Purses With Purpose. The WELCA Bible Study group gathers new and gently used purses, as well as personal hygiene items and other useful things for a women’s purse like notepads, pens, flashlights, and more. The purses are filled and donated to a local organization that assists women leaving abusive living situations. At the annual Halloween in the Village, we handed out candy and bottled water with our own labels. We look forward to sharing God’s love and care to the community in more ways in 2020.

Trinity, Victorville

Trinity in Victorville is working to embrace the challenges presented by Covid-19 as opportunities for new forms of ministry. We have seen great participation in our online worship services as we continually work to improve these experiences. We have sought ways to continue to connect with one another through social media, phone calls, and more. We also continue to serve our community through partnerships with local agencies that serve the homeless, and most recently through a backpack and school supply drive for God's Work Our Hands Sunday. We also wrote cards of appreciation for hospital workers and first responders. We are currently exploring leveraging social media to stay connected and provide spiritual encouragement to our members on a more frequent (nearly daily) basis, as well as adding a weekly outdoor in-person worship opportunity to supplement our online worship. We may not be able to meet in person at present, but we can still be the church together!

First Lutheran Church, Redlands

First Lutheran continues to do God's Work with Our hands as we worship, learn, play and as we serve the community of Redlands.

Lutheran Church of the Desert, Joshua Tree

What a year it has been. We started out with such great expectations, but then we were forced to close our doors. As did many congregations we made some serious changes so that we could open our doors when finally allowed. For us that meant installing electronic air purification devices on each of our air conditioners. It was costly, but these air scrubbers will be efficient for years to come. We also purchased washable chair covers that can be laundered after every use. I have stayed in touch with everyone via phone and chat and Zoom for those who have the technology, but not everyone does. We all look forward to the day that we can once again come together and participate in corporate worship. But until then, we remain one in water and the word.

B.G. Chambers

TEEM Pastor

Shepherd of the Desert, Barstow

Shepherd of the Desert continues to do faithful ministry in vital partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal Church as "two churches, one mission, one family," a wonderful local example of the Full Communion partnership between the ELCA and the Episcopal Church. In Early 2019 the churches called Pastor Mary Tororeiy, and she continues to lead this faith community during this time.

In partnership with St. Paul's, we at Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran church seek to be the representation of Christ in the city and community of Barstow. Through worship, fellowship and service to community, we seek to live out our mission of being faithful witnesses of the enduring love of God. We do this by being involved in both outreach and in-reach ministries.

Our outreach programs are Free Lunch, Laundry Love, supporting the local Pregnancy Center and the Barstow Humane Society. We also work with Barstow Community College in their Homeless and Housing Insecure Program (HHIP), and New Hope Village to provide Homeless Services to the community of Barstow.

We also open our doors to various Alcoholic/Narcotics Anonymous organizations as well as the local Boy Scouts who conduct their programs in our facilities.

Our in-reach programs include those that run on a weekly as well as monthly basis. The monthly programs include the Tuesday Knights, a men's fellowship, Women of Faith, and Youth service. Our weekly schedules are Tuesday gospel study where we read and discuss the gospel reading of the week, and Wednesday study group that reads and discusses a variety of chosen topics or books. As God's representatives in Barstow, we live out our mission statement—God's Work, Our Hands. This is our utmost joy and resolve.

Cross and Crown, Rancho Cucamonga

Like all congregations, Cross and Crown Lutheran Church has experienced an extreme overhaul in ministry life since going into Covid-19 lockdown. But thanks to modern technology, we have been able to continue our online worship, Bible study, and weekly encouraging talks through our Youtube channel. In addition, we have implemented Zoom Bible study, book study, young adult group, and monthly congregational TGIF check-ins. Each member receives a phone call or text every week or two from the pastor and a council member. We are actively working on financial health, anti-racism work, and collecting food and supplies for children in need in our community. Cross and Crown was fortunate to receive a grant from Pacifica Synod which will aid us in building a Blessing Box for our community, as well as purchase an improved microphone and stand for videography use. We are certain that God guides our congregation through this time and into God's future. We keep in prayer for our brothers and sisters who suffer from Covid-19 during this time, as well as racism and violence.

The ELCA Congregations in San Bernardino – Presently Two Congregations with One Shared Mission:

Spirit of Hope, San Bernardino

Spirit of Hope (SOH) in 2019 completed a year on the campus of Lutheran Church of Our Savior (LCOS). The two congregations are working toward consolidation of mission and ministry efforts with the goal of being one congregation in the near future.

For its part, Spirit of Hope bid a loving farewell at the end of 2019 to Pastor Jay Egenes, its pastoral leader for many years. In his farewell report to the congregation Pastor Jay shared: "Thanks be to God for the time we had in ministry together...our congregations (in 2019) worshipped together... The leadership of the two congregations meet together regularly...and are becoming one. I praise the Lord for that."

As a congregation Spirit of Hope remained active in WELCA and local Circles in the congregation. Children's education remained a priority and in addition to the combined churches doing a Holy Moly Sunday School program, and a Vacation Bible School was held last June using the program VeggieTown values. A Christmas musical called "Shepherd, Sheep and a Savior" was the highlight of December. It was a 30 minute musical production done by the children of SOH and LCOS.

In addition to worship and education, SOH and LCOS also share a common youth ministry program and members who are active in Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California.

Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Bernardino

Lutheran Church of Our Savior (LCOS) also said farewell in June of 2019 to Pastor Scottie Lloyd. He and Karen entered retirement after many faithful years serving our nation in the Army as a

Chaplain (Colonel in rank) and in then as the pastor (and Dean) of LCOS and the Big Bear Conference. A wonderful celebration was held in their honor.

Ongoing ministries with CCLM and through the congregation have continued, albeit with dwindling numbers. The Church in Society team had food drives, served hot meals, created hygiene kits and supported other needs during the year. June movie nights continued, funded by a large St. Patrick's Day dinner and auction. VBS and Sunday school were done jointly with SOH, as was worship throughout the year in two styles – Praise and traditional. A new organist was hired in the fall, and the youth group of the two congregations did many activities for fun, education and service during the year.

In September of 2019 Intentional Interim Pastor Rich Ajer was called by the Synod Council to serve the two congregations (LCOS on September 1, 2019 and SOH on January 1, 2020). The goal of the interim is twofold: to consolidate the two congregations and to call a new pastor to the newly consolidated congregation. The mission LCOS and SOH share is "To follow Jesus be led by the Holy Spirit so that we may love and serve God and our neighbor." In that mission we move forward with you, our partners and friends in the Pacifica Synod.

Central City Lutheran Mission, San Bernardino

Central City Lutheran Mission continues to do faithful ministry to the community by supporting the needs of the county's most vulnerable residents, even in the midst of the challenges presented by Covid-19. The mission has had to reduce the number of men's shelter residents from 70 to 50 because of social distancing, and has cancelled almost all community classes. Staff still offer life-skills training, job readiness, money management, homeless prevention, communication, and coping skills. Our after-school program is conducted by telephone, and homework packages, supplies, resources and food can be picked up once weekly at the mission gate. Please keep the mission in prayer as we continue to provide these vital services!

Hope, Palm Desert

It has been another wonderful year at Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert. We have continued to grow and expand our reach of the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Coachella Valley. One new endeavor is the creation of our Hope Children's Center. This is a before and after school program meant to serve the families of our neighboring Washington Charter School, a TK through 5th grade elementary school in our community. We know that this may not provide our Sunday services with a huge influx of new families (although we hope it will), but it will allow us to provide a ministry opportunity to those families Monday through Friday. We can teach the students about Jesus and provide support to their parents. It's just another way of illustrating that ministry is not a one day of the week, inside the walls of our church event. It's a 24/7 calling to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world.

Hope, Palm Springs

Hope Palm Springs continues to be an exciting place for God's Spirit to move. One year from our first gathering, average worship had climbed to about 50 people with about 85 persons engaged in ministry. Worship space at the local Jewish Temple provides a wonderful atmosphere for a blend of solid Lutheran liturgy with a contemplative side. While we may appear to be fairly traditional, we are hardly conventional. Our new faith community is made up of a diverse group of folks who recognize ministry's nature -- to serve one another and our greater community too. We are active

at Well in the Desert, the homeless agency in Palm Springs; and are joined in partnership with the Transgender Health and Wellness Center. We marched in the Pride parade of last November in which we led the first Coachella Valley Lutherans contingency with our partner community at Hope in Palm Desert and also St. John's in Palm Desert. We also marched in the Black History month parade with other faith communities of our village. Weekly, we engaged the community of Palm Springs with a booth at the Villagefest street fair. We are part of the larger interfaith community of Palm Springs.

This age of Coronavirus has, no doubt, interrupted the energy of our work; however, in a short time, God's Spirit has placed a strength within us that will allow us to emerge on the other side. In what condition, we are uncertain; but we trust that the God who began this good work in us will give to us what we need to re-gather at the time when that is possible. Until then we, like every other faith community, will do our best to be creative so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ might be known.

We continue to be most grateful for the folks of Hope in Palm Desert who are supporting us and making much of this work possible; for Rev. Tom Goellrich, Director for Evangelical Mission, who guides our work, and all the people of Pacifica that have become mission partners and who hold us in prayer.

Re-Gather, Love, Serve!

Rev. Tim Edmondson, Pastor/Developer

Faith, Yucaipa

Faith Lutheran Church continues to live out its call to be the Body of Christ in Yucaipa, California. July of 2019 Faith welcomed Pastor John Bunge as a three year term pastor. Due to the pandemic, outreach was hampered, but prior to that it was good to have young families back and a confirmation class of eight students. With the building closed to most all activities. We have focused on enhancing our facility inside and out. The pantry, office area, kitchen, bathrooms, fellowship hall and fireside room have been updated. The yard area is a work in process with the side yards already improved.

Over the years, Faith has had a consistent food bank ministry that serves approximately 50 to 75 families the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. This summer we were blessed with the help of Luther Glen camp staff. The camp also delivers food from their garden, as does St. Alban's Episcopal church. With the camp's help, Faith received a \$2,000 grant which has assisted us in purchasing food from Feeding America. Due to the pandemic, we have been worshipping outside. Our music ministry has been under the leadership of Irmengard Jennings for over 20 years. We host a Christmas concert each year and have youth play during offerings and with the hand bell choir. Faith has a vibrant preschool ministry, which is currently closed awaiting a time when it can safely open. Faith hosts five NA groups which are meeting outside and an AA, OA and Alanon group when the facility can be safely opened to them.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Matthew A. Anderson, Dean

SADDLEBACK CONFERENCE REPORT

Community Lutheran in Rancho Santa Margarita

Times change, yet our mission remains the same: *Gathered as a community centered in Christ, Reaching out with God's Love*. In 2019 we continued our "Growing Young" initiative with these Six Core Commitments:

- Christ is at the center of our life together
- We offer warm community that touches the soul
- We prioritize young people and families in the life of our congregation
- We empathize with young people, listening not judging
- We serve as neighbors to our community and beyond
- We share leadership keys so that all can serve with their God-given gifts

Ministry highlights in 2019 included dedicating a new organ, increasing our stewardship to the Pacifica Synod and partner ministries in Baja, Mexico and the RSM Food Pantry, sending 85 Quilts to Lutheran World Relief, packing 125 welcome home bags for Marines returning from overseas deployment, adding new Stephen Ministry caregiving relationships, welcoming 24 new members, and redesigning our website to appeal to first time visitors.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Dana Point

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church had a busy 2019-2020 in terms of ministry, up until March 2020, when everything went online or closed, including our preschool. The big news at our church is that our Associate Pastor Sabrina LaBelle has just accepted a new call to become the Protestant Chaplain at Swarthmore College and will be leaving us in July 2020. In terms of other ministries - we continue to focus on Gen2Gen activities (Psalm 146:4 - "One generation will praise Thy name to another...") including, but not limited to: Mexican orphanage work, growing our stewardship support of other ministries, paying down our debt, using our sanctuary and other facilities (for community groups, concerts, and more), adding music groups and choirs, L&L (Lunch and Learn) Opportunities with outside speakers/Bible study leaders. Summer 2020 we have emphasized in worship and learning the Psalms of Ascent and connected them with the nine national parks in California. Children (and adults) have enjoyed their Park/Psalms Passports and weekly stickers. Finally, our architect did not design our sanctuary with Covid-19 in mind, but we are grateful for the pivoting glass wall at the back which allows us to open it entirely up to the outside.

Newport Harbor Lutheran in Newport Harbor

Christianity is said to be the most adaptable of all the major religions and at Newport Harbor Lutheran we adapt to our Covid-19 times with care, confidence, and creativity. Worship is offered remotely via livestreaming or prerecorded sermons and children's sermons.

Remarkably, we have had positive feedback from people in many states who join on Facebook or the webpage. Nine new members have recently become members through a zoom membership service. The weekly zoom Pastor's Class has a loyal following and is a way for people to visit with church friends. Meanwhile, our preschool remains open with strict safety precautions. Social distancing means fewer children are allowed to participate as the waiting list to join grows longer. Most remarkable of all, spirits are high and the Spirit is strong.

Our Savior's Lutheran in San Clemente

Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School in San Clemente continues to live out our vision of being: Inspired to Love, Encouraged to Think, and Sent to Serve. While this has certainly been subject to the new realities of our Covid-19 world, it has also allowed us to enhance our online presence with new content and updated technology. We we're glad to keep all our Preschool and other Early Childhood Education staff fully employed through the end of the school year and thanks to their creativity and passion we are looking at a full enrollment in our Preschool, Mommy and Me classes and increased interest in our newly licensed Infant Center. We have also developed a new summer outdoor worship experience that allows for in person worship while maintaining important precautions such as masks and distancing.

Other congregations in conference:

Christ Lutheran in San Clemente

Lutheran Church of the Master in Corona Del Mar

Mission Lutheran in Laguna Niguel

Serving as dean of the Saddleback Conference

Pastor Marty Jacobson

SON & SURF CONFERENCE REPORT

The Son & Surf Conference is made up of 12 congregations/ministries located in Cypress, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, Orange, Santa Ana, and Seal Beach. Here are the submitted highlights from the Conference.

King of Glory in Fountain Valley called and installed a new deacon, Leah Lind, as their Deacon of Administration and Congregation Care.

Our Redeemer Church in Garden Grove had solar panels installed to better steward our financial and environmental resources. We have had a pastoral intern, Jennifer Garcia, this year and will have another, Jill Disbro, next year. COVID has, of course, affected our ministry. Our prerecorded services and Zoom coffee hours and Bible studies have been well-received, even as a team is hard at work planning for reopening the building when safe enough to do so. Our preschool has been striving to provide childcare for essential workers while keeping everyone involved as safe as possible. We expanded the hours of our food pantry, and it has been busier than ever.

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Huntington Beach:

We took a trip to Japan to visit our sister church in Kumamoto. Member of LCR delivered their surfboard of friendship and toured ministries in different parts of the country. They are looking forward to hosting Pastor Tateno from Hiroshima in Fall 2020, and establishing a Peace Partnership with his church in 2021.

Pastor Hongsun Kim was called as pastor to the Japanese Ministry

The Church hosted several interfaith events, including the community Thanksgiving service. Pastor Pike spoke at Blessing of the Waves.

The church led OneHBConnects, a partnership with Lutheran Disaster Response to feed vulnerable seniors during Covid 19. Over 10,000 meals have been delivered thus far.

Bethlehem Lutheran in Los Alamitos continued some of their annual events by participating in God's Work, Our Hands day, hosting their Apple Festival last fall, providing and serving meals for Judy's Kitchen, supporting an ELCA missionary in South Sudan, participating and hosting the Paper Rollers ministry, and supporting several local ministry organizations. Since the middle of March 2020, we have been recording worship and making these services available online, as well as providing additional opportunities for online fellowship and connection.

In March 2020, **Christ Lutheran in Orange** celebrated the 4 year anniversary of their pastor. This might seem less relevant but consider prior to 2016, the church had 8 pastors in the last 13 years.

Also, we celebrate the ongoing ministries of 3 other churches who share space throughout the week (Puerto de Paz- 16yrs; Truevine- 2yrs; & Village of Grace- 3 yrs). This is significant as all ministries provide different styles of worship (and denominations) on Sunday mornings. Finally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worshiped consistently online using Zoom providing

an alternative to in-person worship. This has been most satisfactory as many have asked if this form of worship might be continued after going back to in-person worship.

On August 4, 2019, **Our Saviour's in Orange** called Rev. Jennifer Zahnow as their pastor. She started on September 1, 2019.

Redeemer Leisure World in Seal Beach called a new pastor (Rev. Lisa Rotchford) in June 2019 & installed her in Lutheran/Episcopal ceremony in 2/2020.

In addition, after major flooding in winter of 2019/20, was able to reconstruct & make altar area of sanctuary ADA accessible (!). Congregation continues to stay connected through phone contact, prayer & "pick-up communion services" as the pandemic continues and necessary safety measures are followed.

Submitted by the Rev. Jennifer Schultz, Dean

REJOICE CONFERENCE REPORT

This was an eventful year in the Rejoice Conference. Before the coronavirus quarantine in Mid-March a number of our churches had changes in their leadership. Our report for this year will focus on those churches.

Emanuel Lutheran Church in La Habra began June 2019 by welcoming their new pastoral intern, Vicar Matt Polsdofer. He is part of a two-year accelerated program from Luther Seminary and will be with Emanuel until June 2021

St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Whittier installed their new pastor Jeffrey Nelson in August, 2019. Pr. Nelson joins St. Andrew after serving in Southwest California Synod in Lompoc, CA.

St Paul Lutheran Church in Fullerton welcomed their new pastor after a long time of interim discernment when the installed Rev. Nathaniel Allen in December 2019. Rev. Allen previously served within the Pacifica Synod at Clairemont Lutheran Church in San Diego, CA.

Pastor Jay Egenes joined the pastoral Staff of **Messiah Lutheran Church in Yorba Linda** and was formally installed in February 2020. Pr. Egenes joins Messiah having previously served at Spirit of Hope in San Bernadino, CA.

Just before the Covid-19 quarantine started Rev. Maggie Goodwin started her first pastoral call at **Salem Lutheran Church** and Whittier Presbyterian Church both in Whittier, CA in March 2020. This is Rev. Goodwin's first call having been in ordained in the Presbyterian Church-USA in March.

Even quarantine could not stop Pastoral Intern Jasmine Waring from beginning her formal seminary training and in June 2020, she began her two-year accelerated program from Luther Seminary and was installed as the pastoral intern at **First Lutheran Church and The Table both in Fullerton, CA.**

Additionally, Thai Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church had a transition in this past year. Please refer to the report by Director of Evangelical Mission Rev. Tom Goellrich for more information.

This has been a time of transition not only for the churches listed above but for all of our congregations these past few months and we lift them all up to God as they continue to do the Ministry set before them.

Respectfully Submitted by Pr. Cate Luehr, Emanuel Lutheran Church, La Habra

HUKILAU CONFERENCE REPORT

Interim Pastor David Barber: **Calvary by the Sea** is still in a time of transition as they wait with anticipation for the next called pastor. During this past year, Calvary has finished its Ministry Site Profile, and the Call Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates. We have also written and approved a new Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions for the congregation, and in addition, we are in the process of a staff restructuring. Calvary continues to welcome almost seventy children to our Montessori Preschool every day, and we serve through Angel Network, our food ministry to those in need, approximately 164 family units and 340 people per week.

Calvary has been gifted with an abundant piece of property which allows us to experience the majesty of God through the boundless beauty of the ocean Sunday after Sunday, but it's also a concern that needs to be addressed as we face the challenge of global warming and a rising ocean. As the congregation looks forward to their next pastor and a new chapter in the life of Calvary by the Sea, they hope to explore new ways to be a vital and dynamic witness and servant in this community and beyond.

Pastor Keith Wolter: **Christ Lutheran Church**: In worship and education, our central activity we tried a new worship setting; Keiki Church continued; a nursery revived; a choir arose; Lenten worship on Wednesdays repeated; catechism led to six catechists affirming their baptismal faith; and attendance crept upward. And with a whole bunch of enthusiastic members recovered are sanctuary chairs. The staining of the new fence brought people, new and old, out on several Saturdays. More members cleaned and painted the kitchen, which looks fresh and bright.

At our annual meeting we voted unanimously to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, to intentionally welcome LGBTQIA+ communities, families, and persons has been encouraging. This arose out of our previous conversations about women and justice in 2018. And we continue our involvement with HIS, feeding the homeless and hungry. It was a good, busy year.

Pastor Joel Martyn: **Kihei Lutheran Church** is doing well. Over the past year we have grown, welcoming over twenty new members into our community. Our youth program was launched this year with 25 teenagers attending both service and "fun" events. Our main ministry outreach program, the Keiki Clothing Exchange is continuing to grow leaps and bounds. What started as a small clothing exchange for children that served around 50 people is now an exchange that encompasses babies, children, teenagers, and adults and serves on average over 400 families across the Island of Maui. We are now preparing for the possible entry of Covid-19 by creating protocols for worship and daily life. We pray that this pandemic ceases in its tracks.

We have also welcomed a small Montessori Preschool into our facilities this year as an outreach effort and have been blessed by the presence of eighteen little ones this past year.

Pastor JP Sabbithi: **Joy of Christ Lutheran Church** is located in the heart of Pearl City. The sixty-year-old congregation went through lots of challenges over the past several years. In their congregational revisioning meeting in early 2018, they all agreed that they needed a full-time pastor. Hence, JP Sabbithi was called to be their full-time pastor and joined on the first of January 2019.

Early 2019, one of the founding mothers of the church died. That was a great loss to the congregation.

The congregation continue to do their outreach ministries to the Homeless in and around the neighborhood and engage in “Burrito Ministry” once a month. The congregation also has active prayer shawl ministry. A group of women knit the shawls and bless them and then given to anyone recovering from any kind of sickness.

During the year the congregation organized two Rummage Sales. These sales not only help raise money for the air conditioning of the sanctuary, but also drew so many people from the neighborhood to the church.

During the year, the congregation also gained new members.

While the congregation continue to explore options for the property development, it was helpful to have Anne Gerriets, from the Mission Investment Fund visited us.

Congregation President Theresa Wiederoder: **Lihue Lutheran Church** remains active in outreach to our community through Godz Grinds, Mobile Munchies, and our Dorcas quilters, as well as allowing many non-profit groups to use our facilities for a meeting place. We were able to replace the roof of the church and add playground equipment in order to update our facilities. Our biggest news is that Pastor Cindy Arndt retired and left us for Wisconsin and we were able to call a new pastor, Joseph Paxton, who will be starting with us 3/22/20. We have been blessed to have many individuals to fill the holes left by Pastor Cindy in this interim, including a wonderful pulpit supply pastor in Sarah Jones. We look forward to new and exciting times in this next year.

Pastor Jeff Lilley: **Lutheran Church of Honolulu** continues to engage in lively ministry in the Makiki and surrounding area of Honolulu. Several long-time programs of the congregation continue to provide ministry to those in need including monthly meals for the Institute for Human services, support for Angel Network, and working with the Hukilau Conference on One Pot One Hope, a homeless support program on the West coast of Oahu. We continue to seek new ways to engage our neighbor in Christ in meaningful ways.

Financial support for the Shallow Subsidy Program continues. This program by Family Promise of Hawai'i provided funds to assist families in securing or keeping housing. This year, the congregation has broadened the scope of the donations to allow Family Promise greater latitude is distributing the funds.

The congregation voted to embark on a strategic planning effort for 2020 that will concentrate on congregational vitality and sustainability. This effort is underway and should be complete by Fall of 2020.

LCH began a new concert series in 2019 called First Monday Concert Series. Building on the Abendmusiken Series begun decades ago, these concerts are free to the community and

feature some of Honolulu's finest musicians and includes classical, modern, and even experimental music genres. The community is invited to gather before the concert for pupus and fellowship. Artists have included the Bach Chamber Orchestra, Stephanie Anne Johnson (blues), as well as other visiting artists. The Abendmusiken Concert Series continues as well. The LCH choir also held their second community concert at the Main Branch of the Honolulu Public Library in 2019.

LCH bid farewell to intern Andrew Flatt-Kuntze who completed his internship at the end of June. We will host another intern beginning September of 2020 and look forward to another great year of learning and teaching.

2019 saw the completion of LCH's pew chair project with fundraising for the chairs completed several months earlier than expected. LCH also bought out the Photovoltaic system installed on our roof from the investor with whom we had a power purchase agreement. This will ensure controlled energy costs for decades to come and is part of our green initiative.

Congregation member Char Kaawaloa: **Maluhia Lutheran** is located on the West Side of Oahu in Waianae. Maluhia will celebrate its 64th Anniversary in May. Maluhia's community involvement continues to grow - sponsoring Kidz Klub twice a month encompassing our neighbors of Kauhale Kamaile and our own congregational children. Maluhia also is the central point for the Hukilau's One Pot One Hope which serves over 150 meals to our homeless/houseless neighbors the last Saturday of the month. Other ELCA congregations (Prince of Peace and Lutheran Church of Honolulu) have joined to make this monthly event successful and includes other Waianae Congregations, ie UCC Ka Hana O Ke Akua and St. John the Baptist Episcopal.

Pastor Anke Flohr: **Pacific Health Ministry (PHM)** is the only ACPE accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) center in Hawai'i. For over 30 years PHM has trained almost 800 CPE students from 36 countries and helped many seminarians to complete their CPE requirements for ordination. In addition to education, PHM provides pastoral care in 11 major medical centers and healthcare facilities on three islands with 18 Chaplains, most of them board certified by the Association of Professional Chaplains. Three of them are ELCA pastors. The founder of PHM and the current Executive Director are both ELCA pastors. PHM serves the people of Hawai'i from all walks of life, traditions and cultures providing care for the ill, dying, grieving, isolated and underserved. PHM inspires hope.

Pastor Yukio Hamada: To accommodate the "Snowbirds" in our ministry, **Prince of Peace** celebrated its 60th Anniversary in February, although the official 60 years should have been November 2019. POP combined its anniversary with the 50th Anniversary of the Waikiki Beach Chaplaincy which was birthed out of Prince of Peace. The event was publicized as "110 Years of Ministry in Waikiki."

Along with POP's annual support of the Wounded Warriors' Thanksgiving Dinner, the Army (West Point) football team joined POP to honor the Marines at Kaneohe Marine Base. Former Prince of Peace member, Jeff Monken, is the current head coach at the Academy.

Chaplain Steve Jensen made the arrangements to provide this opportunity for the Marines and the Cadets from West Point.

Lay people continue to lead Bible and book studies. The Tuesday night study is working on N.T. Wright's study "Jesus;" the Women's Study has expanded into two groups - an English study and a study for Japanese mothers who have come to POP because of our "Keiki Time;" and the Men's Group is beginning a study on Philip Yancey's "Prayer."

The Pacifica Synod's Murray and Rhoda Finck Global Engagement Mission Fund awarded \$1000 to Prince of Peace for our missionary, Pastor Wal Reat, who serves South Sudanese refugees in the ELCA camp in Ethiopia. POP promptly doubled the amount and forwarded over \$2000 to ELCA Global Mission for Pr. Reat's ministry.

Pastor Kathryn Zurcher: **St John Lutheran Church** in Kailua (on the Windward side of O'ahu) continues to be blessed with slight growth each year, partially because of military families who worship with us during their time stationed in the Hawaiian Islands. We are also blessed with beautiful worship music thanks to our pianist Stephen Salazar and choir director Tim Carney; we have even had a couple snowbird couples join our choir the last few winters. St John continues to be active in the Houseless Hub, a monthly gathering of organizations with resources for our homeless along church row in Kailua. This Hub provides hot meals, to go food, toiletries, clothes, showers, hair cuts and fellowship. The homeless community continues to grow in our area, so we are both grateful to provide resources for them, but also continue to struggle with how to maintain the safety of our staffs, children and property...especially for congregations like St John that have a preschool housed on our property. St John continues to work with Chaplain Steve Jensen to help with projects for Wounded Warriors, as needed...including cleaning and decorating the Osprey Memorial on Bellows Air Force Station. Our ladies continue to gather a couple of times a year for Parties with a Purpose...this last year a very successful Christmas gift wrapping project resulted in several hundreds of dollars being raised to assist in our hosting of Family Promise, which we continue to do 3-4 times per year.

Pastor Steve Jensen: 2019 saw a continued realignment of staff, recovering service members and program at the **Wounded Warrior Battalion – West, Detachment Hawai'i**. The senior leadership realized there needs to be greater support for short-term patients and Okinawa/mainland Japan Marines hosted at Kaneohe Bay, but budgetary constraints meant they needed to rely on local non-profits, especially the proven resource Friends of Windward Wounded Warriors. Our partnership with Hukilau churches allows us to continue to support recovering service members and their families, maintain the Osprey memorial at Bellows, assist medically retired local families, and respond to crises on short notice.

Given the reduced staff and resources at the unit, "Chaps" has developed a working relationship with the Third Marine Regiments to assist their transitioning and limited duty personnel as well.

The biggest need is to be a liaison for Wounded Warriors with the local and national support organizations and to be their voice at such meetings as the Institutional Review Board for the VA.

Yet the Marines and their families let us know regularly that it's the personal touch that means the most, especially when they feel cast aside and forgotten.

Volunteers assist Pastor Steve with monthly barbecues at his home and special meals at Super Bowl, Easter, and Thanksgiving for up to 89 people. Holiday events, including the 12th Day of Christmas party for 265, are the only such opportunities many service members and their families have to understand and appreciate the true meaning these holidays embody and celebrate them in a safe and nurturing environment. This year's Thanksgiving included 25 West Point Black Knights football players, yet there was still sufficient food – thanks to a donation by St. John, Prince of Peace, and LCH.

Members of St. John provide additional support throughout the year. Sherree McKellar continues to open her home to caregivers and families, Phyllis Pender still uses her connection to Kaneohe Yacht Club to arrange Day on the Bay with gourmet picnic, and George Lingle is the go-to person for barge motor repairs on the SS Wounded Warrior, to name a few.

It is not unusual for our Facebook postings of St. John's updating of the Osprey memorial to reach some 7500 people. The families and survivors certainly appreciate the effort, but so do the many visitors to the site. 2020 marks the 5th anniversary of the tragedy and a memorial service will be held there for over 30 effected by the crash and a myriad of first responders, hospital staff and military members who assisted. St. John will be invited to assist as we prepare for the event on 17 May.

Throughout the year, tragedy impacted our local military members and our Wounded Warrior alumni – especially children accidentally dying or still-born and accidents with long-term consequences for service members. One family lost their 7- & 8-year old sons to drowning. We assist as we are able with funeral expenses, care packages, and visits by Chaps.

As has been the case for decades, when Wounded Warriors transition from the military to civilian life, their monthly pensions and/or medical treatment often take too long to begin. Again, occasional small grants or gift cards make a huge difference. We helped prevent two from becoming homeless, arranged for temporary jobs and wrote recommendations for others, contacted local support agencies and churches, and visited several in in-patient treatment here and on the mainland.

Many who had planned to make a career of the military out of a strong sense of service, find the loss of such purpose most difficult once separated. A recent review of new vocations for our 'alumni' note that over 30 are now serving as sworn officers, EMTs, firemen and the like.

Pastor Steve's fund also underwrites caregiver programs and family special events like the annual Daddy/Daughter dance. For several years, we have donated to and assisted with the St. Baldrick's childrens' cancer fundraiser.

Not all transitions go smoothly and quite a number of the 'alumni' and their families find themselves challenged by PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury to be successful in new jobs, school, building friendships or keeping the family intact. Pastor Steve organized a third reunion at Owasippe Scout Reservation for some 45 warriors last year that resulted in shared resource information, reduced loneliness and isolation, physical fitness goals, increased counseling, and overall happiness. Reunion #4 is focused on those Marines and Sailors who were once assigned to Kaneohe Bay's 3rd Marine Regiment and now are finding challenges in their transition. One Corpsman has since lost 65 pounds and 3 have completed PTSD treatment.

No doubt you are aware of the “22-a-day” suicides among active duty military and veterans. In the 9 years of Friends of Windward Wounded Warriors, there have been NO suicides by current or former Wounded Warriors attached to the Kaneohe Bay unit.

Lutherans in Hawai'i are some of the warmest, most loving, generous people of faith on the planet. Spiritual wounds are among the most devastating with which our Warriors struggle. By your example, they are comforted and encouraged to know that God loves, heals, restores, renews, forgives and remains faithful – often through His people. Thank you for your faithfulness. You continue to make a huge difference in many lives.

(Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity on the Kona side of the Big Island did not submit a report.)

Report Respectively Submitted by Rev Kathryn Zurcher, Dean of the Hukilau Conference



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

5863 Hardy Avenue, San Diego, CA 92115 - 619.583.3972 - www.agapehousesdsu.org



Standing Up in a Global Crisis

Agape House has been deeply engaged in justice work for many years. Since SDSU went online like most schools, many more students are hungry, unemployed, and homeless. Our food justice ministry more than tripled the number

of students we serve when other campus services shut down for the pandemic, and we have expanded our work to help vulnerable students make ends meet while also working for systemic change to open up sustainable means to live.

Showing Up for Equity and Inclusion



The pandemic has made more obvious many systemic inequities of our society, including biased law enforcement, immigration, education, housing, employment, and other forms of discrimination and intergenerational trauma. Many of our students experience this first hand, so we are organizing for structural changes as an anti-oppression



Reconciling in Christ organization.

community, including anti-racist organizing and being more public with our affirmation of LGBTQIA+ people as a

Growing Up into Leadership

We just completed the fifth year of our Mentoring Leaders Initiative, funded by the Pacifica Synod Mission Fund, an extension of a grant from the Lilly Endowment Fund, and partner congregations and other organizations, to support emerging leaders with spiritual and vocational formation opportunities. **Fellows serve area ministries** part-time while discerning God's call and expanding mission with community organizing, migrant support, food justice, and other creative work beyond internal needs. New ministry sites are applying now!

Building Up Affordable Student Housing & Sustainable Ministry

Our innovative multi-use design doesn't fit the building ordinance boxes, so city reviews have taken much longer than expected for our transit-based intentional community project. We continue to respond to God's call to house 50 students in caring community where they are supported to explore their vocational and spiritual paths. Here is our latest rendering:



If this innovative vision for ministry excites you too, or you would like to learn how you can join Bishop Andy and many others to complete this project for future generations of leaders, contact Pastor Darin Johnson at 619.583.3972 or pdnjohnson@gmail.com.

Thank you, Pacifica Synod!

Pacifica Synod Children, Youth & Family Ministries 2020 Report

Our Synod's ministry with those serving our congregations in the areas of Children, Youth and Family Ministries continued in 2019 and 2020, as it has since 2015, through the work of volunteers. Pastor Manuel Retamoza (St. Andrew's, San Diego) and Terri Robertson (Synod Staff) both serve to keep those in our synod who work with children, youth and families connected and supported in a variety of ways. These happen through in-person lunches (at least through February of this year), Zoom gatherings, training opportunities and social media platforms.

Even before the pandemic, ministry with those in the first third of life looked very different than it has in the past. Leaders in our synod 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.

Since March 2020, these leaders, along with our rostered ministers and others, have had to pivot quickly and find ways to connect their congregation virtually, rather than in-person. In many cases, utilizing new technology and methods with limited time and funding. They have done amazing work to rethink and restructure their ministries and for that we are so grateful!

Some highlights of the year relating to ministry with children, youth and families in our synod:

In August 2019, our synod led a “Plan-It” workshop, created by Peer Ministry Leadership under the direction of Lyle Griner. This one-day workshop was a guided planning and sharing experience where participants designed a well-balanced, one-year ministry framework, with an emphasis on self-care and building a leadership-producing culture. Five of our synod congregations took part in this workshop.

In November 2019, the ELCA held a “Train the Trainer” event in New Jersey, led by Jake Mulder (Fuller Youth Institute) one of the authors of the book “Growing Young”. Two people from our synod attended – Deacon Mindy Bugaj (Incarnation, Poway) and Terri Robertson. Working with Josiah Canto (Community, Rancho Santa Margarita), this team will be walking with congregations interested in exploring this book and its six essential strategies in engaging younger generations in the life of the whole church. Initial work in this area had begun in early 2020 and we are now working to reevaluate our plans to better align with current restrictions.



In spring 2020, we worked to find a way to celebrate and recognize our high school and college seniors and graduates who were missing out on traditional events due to the pandemic. We enlisted the help of a team of seven students from across the four geographic areas of our synod, who shared their gifts and talents to plan and lead a virtual service that was aired on Facebook

Live on June 7. Along with a message from Bishop Andy and the musical talent of Tyra Dennis, these young people shared personal reflections and messages of hope. If you missed viewing this service, you may do so on the Pacifica Synod YouTube channel.

Our Pacifica Synod Youth Team was once again active in 2019-2020, made up of high school students from around our synod. The mission of this team is to walk with youth as they develop leadership skills, grow in faith, build relationships and be active participants in the synod. Youth team members attended the 2019 Synod Assembly as voting members or visitors. All are active in their home congregations as well.

Our 2019-2020 Synod Youth Team members are:

President – **Ashley Nadolny** – St. Olaf, Garden Grove
Multi-Cultural Rep – **A.J. Tarts** - Spirit of Hope, San Bernardino
Hospitality Rep – **Amelie Barrios** – Crave Life, Whittier
President-Elect/East San Diego Conference Rep – **Emily Roa** -
Shepherd of the Valley, La Mesa
Raincross Conference Rep – **Gabriel Allert** – Bethany, Norco
Big Bear Conference Rep – **Mark Farrin** – St. John's, Palm Desert
Secretary/Rejoice Conference Rep – **Penelope Barrios** – Crave Life, Whittier



In November 2019, two of our Synod Youth Team members, Amelie Barrios (Crave Life) and Ashley Nadolny (St. Olaf, Garden Grove), along with an adult advisor, attended the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit at Lutheridge in Asheville, North Carolina. They joined youth and adult representatives from many of the 65 synods for three days of leadership development, peer ministry training and faith formation, planned and led by high school students from across the country who serve on the ELCA Youth Core Leadership Team.

Team members met in person in both October 2019 and January 2020 to do some visioning and planning for the year ahead. Plans were in the works to lead an Elementary Youth Event on May 2, centered on the Lord's Prayer at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in La Mesa. Unfortunately, that event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Team members were able to assist LRCC with their Elementary Youth Retreat at Luther Glen in February, while learning valuable leadership skills. While our typical fall events for 2020 won't take place in their usual manner, our team has continued to meet over the summer to develop leadership skills and plan for the future as best as we can.



Three of our team members – Ashley, Gabriel and Penelope - graduated in May/June and will begin college this fall. In August, we will begin accepting applications for new Youth Team members. **We ask for your help in lifting up these young leaders.** Youth must be a high school student as of Fall 2020. Terms are 2 years, with the exception of seniors, whose term is just one year. We are seeking high school youth to serve in the following open positions: Definitely-Abled Rep, Social Media Rep and Conference Reps for ALL Conferences, except Big Bear Conference. Watch for information about serving on the Synod Youth Team to be shared in our Synod e-newsletter and on our website or contact Terri Robertson in the synod office for an application.

Ministry with children, youth and families is often difficult and is constantly changing. 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.

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*

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.

In 2019 there were six active Latino Ministry sites for the Pacifica Synod:

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

In 2019 the following grants were made from the funds in the Latino Ministry Trust:

First Ontario requested grant to help and support for tuition/book/housing for a member of the congregation in the TEEM program. Grant: \$5,000

Our Savior Lutheran Church requested grant for bilingual Bibles, outreach door hangers, and a bilingual retreat for women, youth and families. Grant: \$6,250

Pastor Nathan Allen requested funds to use for a trip to the Holy Land and pay for part of the cost for an ELCA Latino Ministry study trip to Israel. Grant: \$6,250 to be used as scholarships for members of the Pacifica Synod.

Church of Dream Builders - Anaheim requested a grant for an afterschool language study program. Grant: \$6,250

First Lutheran Church of Vista request for different programs ESL Classes, confirmation grant and VBS for the Latino community. Grant: \$6,250

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Doolittle



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
AUGUST 5-8, 2021 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG



Our Triennial Gathering has been postponed from July 2021 to August 5-8, 2021 in Phoenix. If you were registered your registration will carry over. If you will be unable to attend the new dates, your registration can be transferred to someone else – or gifted to someone else. So continue to plan and save to attend this event that is always full of inspiration, fellowship, worship, and music.



We were able to hold our March Event on the 7th just prior to when all events were postponed or cancelled due to Covid-19. Hope Lutheran in Palm Desert hosted our event under the theme “Love Bears All Things”. Shelter from the Storm and Mama’s House were the recipients of our Love Gifts and we heard a presentation from each organization.



Pastor Karen Stephenson gave a very interesting and engaging Bible study on Mary of Magdala. The event was well attended.



We selected the theme “Weave” for our November Convention and Gathering. At this writing we have not officially postponed or cancelled this event. A final decision will be made August 15th at a combined Zoom board and planning team meeting. Hope Lutheran in Temecula was selected as the host for our event and we planned to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women. One idea is to postpone until our March 2021 Event rather than simply cancel until next November.

See www.pacificawomen.org and www.womenoftheelca.org for updated information and more pictures of our events.

Ten Things to Know about 1517 Media Spring 2020

1. This year we'll release the third set of materials based on Daniel Erlander's timeless work. An updated version of his classic *Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life* will be accompanied by a new, comprehensive *Baptized, We Live Leader Sourcebook*. The new resources complement two sacramental resource series released recently, *A Place for You* (Holy Communion) and *Come to the Water* (Holy Baptism). augsburgfortress.org/bwl
2. Also inspired by the work of Daniel Erlander is the Lutheran Welcome series of highly visual and engaging booklets about the Lutheran expression of faith. Place them in a narthex or welcome area display rack, or keep them handy for whenever someone may have questions about the Lutheran basics. augsburgfortress.org/lutheran-welcome
3. Recent additions to the *Worship Matters* series include *Embodying Confidence and Grace: A Handbook for Presiding Ministers* and *Sing with All the People of God: A Handbook for Church Musicians*. These volumes join several existing books that help leaders and laity develop a richer understanding and practice of worship. augsburgfortress.org/worshipmatters
4. Fall 2020 will see the release of a new liturgy and song supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, titled *All Creation Sings*. Three new liturgies, a complement of selected new prayers, and approximately 200 hymns and songs will supply a rich new collection prepared to enliven your congregation's worship in these rapidly changing times. augsburgfortress.org/all-creation-sings
5. Fortress Press and Luther Seminary have partnered to launch a new series of books to bring new life to the preaching task. 2020 releases in this series include *Leading with the Sermon* by William H. Willimon and *A Lay Preacher's Guide* by Karoline Lewis. augsburgfortress.org/working-preacher
6. **Broadleaf Books** is the newest imprint in our book publishing program. Titles published by Broadleaf Books will explore the expanse of human experience—seeking to deepen faith and understanding and bring wholeness to readers and society. Look for nonfiction books in the areas of religion and culture, personal growth, spirituality, social justice, and Christian living. broadleafbooks.com
7. Sparkhouse Digital is in its second year of providing access to a wide range of resources for a low annual subscription fee. One example in Sparkhouse Digital Youth is *Wholeness and Holiness*, guiding students to embrace the wide-ranging wholeness and holiness of people and communities. augsburgfortress.org/sparkhouse-digital
8. Newly available are two guidebooks for congregations' summer ministry, *Journey Together: Twelve Intergenerational Summer Events* and *Creative Arts Camp: Four Summer VBS Programs*. Also available on Sparkhouse Digital Children. augsburgfortress.org/sparkhouse-summer
9. The latest release in the video-based series *Dialogues On* addresses one of the most critical topics in church and society today: *Dialogues On: Race*. Other titles in this series are *Dialogues On: The Refugee Crisis* and *Dialogues On: Sexuality*. augsburgfortress.org/dialogues-on
10. Beaming Books continues its mission to publish high-quality children's books that help kids thrive in every part of who they are—emotionally, socially, and spiritually. New releases for 2020 include *The Memory Book: A Grief Journal for Children and Families* and *Let's Eat!: Mealtime around the World*. beamingbooks.com

California Lutheran

UNIVERSITY

With joy I share with you about the work of California Lutheran University who as member of the Network of Colleges and Universities of the ELCA equips graduates who are called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all may flourish.

4,303 Cal Lutheran students learn at 5 different centers in California. We offer 20 undergraduate majors and 29 graduate programs of study. 53% of our undergraduate students are from underrepresented populations and one third are the first in their family to attend college. Our students come from 42 states, 49 countries, and represent a diversity of faiths and cultures. With a network of 30,000 alumni, students from our founding in 1959 until now have discovered their purpose and are transforming their community and the world.

Exciting ventures are on this way this summer.

A dedicated space in the Student Union for a **Black Student Union/Sister's Circle headquarters** is being built for students to raise awareness of and share the richness of black history, African culture, and current issues affecting the black community.

On July 25-29, Cal Lutheran will welcome high school students and adults from Regions One, Two, Three and Four at the [Western States Youth Gathering](#). As the journey of faith comes with the challenge of the unknown, students will FOCUS on grace, fear, love and Jesus. "SHIFT", a one-day leadership event for youth from racially diverse congregations will be held on July 24 in advance of the gathering.

Two sessions of "[Executive Skills for Church Leaders: Learning from the world of the MBA](#)" are offered yearly so that church leaders from outdoor and social ministry settings, congregations, and clergy can apply concepts from management to the complex arena of ministry today. The next sessions are July 13-17 at Cal Lutheran (scholarships available) and January 11-15, 2021, at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, Arizona.

Opening this summer, the new [Swenson Science Center](#), a three-story, 47,000-square-foot facility will more than double the amount of space dedicated to science featuring 12 labs for teaching biomechanics, organic synthesis, physiology and neuroscience, marine biology, cell and developmental genetics, exercise physiology, ergometry, and nuclear magnetic resonance and 8 labs designated for faculty and student research.

The [Thriving Leadership Formation](#) program brings ELCA leaders together to cultivate skills and networks of trust, support, spiritual practice and accountability. Fueled with \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., this project helps pastors and church leaders throughout 14 Western States avoid burnout and thrive in their ministries.

The university has opened the new [School for Professional and Continuing Studies](#) which include the Bachelor's Degree for Professionals program, the Center for Nonprofit Leadership, and a new Center for Lifelong Learning. A Fifty and Better program for older adults has been launched to serve older adults who want to take non-credit classes for the joy of learning and social engagement.

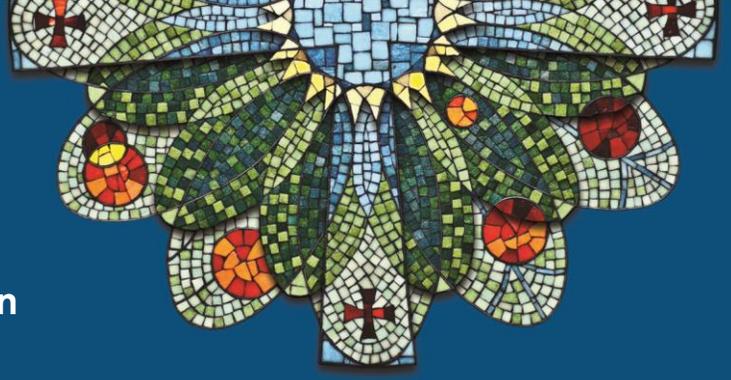
Cal Lutheran is one of eight universities partnering with the state of California on a first-in-the-nation program to help students pay for college through public service, targeting pressing challenges in our region. The students selected as **AmeriCorps Fellows** will dedicate 25 hours a week for 22 weeks to serve as mentors and advisors for low-income and immigrant youth throughout Ventura County.

Launching in fall 2020, an **ethnic and race studies major** will help students build cultural competence and gain deeper understanding of communities of color in the U.S. Student's confidence in their own identities will be strengthened by validating the historical, artistic, and economic contributions of the groups with which they identify.

You can learn about all these things and more by visiting us online at www.callutheran.edu. We are your Lutheran university in the west serving the church and world.



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



Updates from the ELCA Foundation

Synod Assemblies 2020

About the ELCA Foundation

As our faith matures and deepens, so does the way we support God's work in the world. The ELCA Foundation exists to sustain and grow our ministries by stewarding assets for all the related organizations of the ELCA.

Through our national network of 23 gift planners, the ELCA Foundation supports members of the ELCA in their call to live as faithful and generous people. Our gift planners work with congregational members to create life giving plans that ensure successful and lasting legacies are passed on to loved ones and treasured ministries. The Foundation also supports and strengthens ELCA congregations, synods and related entities with gift planning resources and investment management services.

Regional Gift Planners are available to help:

- Work with congregational leaders to identify important considerations, and execute an appropriate plan, to cultivate current and planned gifts
- Develop congregational gift acceptance policies to receive gifts well
- Meet with individual members to develop charitable gift giving plans
- Establish an investment account for endowments and other investable assets utilizing the Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (Fund A)

In 2019, the ELCA Foundation network generated over \$124.1 million in total gifts and investment assets. Of that, \$91.3 million are future planned gift commitments with over \$12m in future planned gifts directly benefitting individual ELCA Congregations. There were \$6.9 million in current gifts, including funded trusts, gift annuities and individual endowments, and \$25.9 million new assets invested in Fund A. Thank you for the opportunity to work in your synod and trusting your endowment dollars to the ELCA Foundation.

In the Southwest California and Pacifica Synods:

- \$22.4m invested in the Pooled Endowment Trust, Fund A.
- \$12.4m in new planned gifts since 2018.

Contact your regional gift planner:

Lisa Higginbotham
805-910-5048
lisa.higginbotham@elca.org

"Lisa meets one-on-one with parishioners to help them make the best choices with their estate. No church is too small to benefit greatly from this service! We are forever strengthened by Lisa's knowledge and expertise."

Christ Lutheran Church
San Clemente, CA



Joy and Peace to you from God our Father and Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I have the privilege of bringing greetings on behalf of the 150+ employees, volunteers and clients of Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. I want to begin by telling you how thrilled I am to be a part of such a wonderful organization. I am so excited about the chance to work alongside each of you in ministry and look forward to meeting you in person, once guidelines allow.

As I travel throughout our network of over 75 programs in six different counties, I've had the honor to meet the most passionate men and women of God who serve on our front lines. Their love and care for the clients we support and services we provide, inspire our mission to live out God's love by embracing, equipping and empowering vulnerable people in Southern California.

We are committed to ensuring that LSS Southern California is both a transparent and transformative organization, dedicated to living our mission, vision and values. To that end, we have brought on new team members who are equally passionate about our work and the people we serve. They are results driven leaders that, like me, will hold our organization accountable and always act in love.

My life's scripture has always been Jeremiah 29:11, which says: *I know the plans I have for you, says God. Plans to prosper you and not harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.*

As we enter the new fiscal year, I invite you to join our team in finding a scripture that resonates with you. One in which you hear and feel the very presence of God. When everything is well, thank God through that scripture. When life's challenges arise, cling to that scripture and never, ever forget that God is a person of His Word. He will always deliver on His promises.

We are blessed by your prayers, collaboration and financial support, and pledge to do everything possible to bring the Hope of Jesus Christ to those women, men and children facing a crisis in this season and the next. We are thankful that you see yourselves as servant leaders in Christ and purveyors of His Gospel through our work.

Below you will find our most recent COVID related updates from our offices within the Pacifica Synod. I hope to join you in person at the next Synod gathering but, look forward to virtually meeting as many of you as possible until that time. *Now may the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, rest, rule, and abide now, henceforth and forevermore. Amen.*

LaSharnda Beckwith

LaSharnda Beckwith, PhD.
President and Chief Executive Officer



✓ Ministry Highlights:

- **CCLM** Construction of a new roof at the shelter is ready to begin, as is the replacement of a sprinkler system. We are waiting for permits from the city of San Bernardino. In addition, the residential house that burned has been totally renovated and clients have moved back into the structure. The external painting of the residential houses is the only significant work that is outstanding. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of shelter clients was reduced for social distancing, but case management continues. Many of our community programs have been suspended but others, like our after-school sessions, are being offered digitally.
- **Orange County** has reduced the number of days our Garden Grove office is open, along with fewer numbers of hours per day. However, clients are still being case managed and assisted in other ways. This location deals with two groups of people. First, women who have been victims of crime and/or domestic abuse. Our **Victims Intervention Program (VIP)** offers both tangible and intangible supportive services, ranging from therapy to emergency housing to remove the client from an abusive partner. Second, we deal with those who are homeless and require immediate intervention. Funds from the Matthew 25 Grant program have been a godsend both to the Garden Grove office and the women, men and children who come there for hope.
- **Riverside County** Our Riverside County office is experiencing a significant surge from those in need of emergency services and rental assistance. The most vulnerable population consists of first-time clients that were secure in their homes prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Calls are up by more than 120%, with many of our referrals coming from the resource line 2-1-1, churches, county and city agencies. Our emergency rental assistance program has assisted 28 families with housing and another 14 are waiting for paperwork to be processed. Most have either no source or significantly reduced income. Because most of these individuals are uncertain about their future employment, the challenge has been goal planning with them. Our goal is to continue to walk alongside them while they rebuild their resources and determine next steps.
- **Rural San Bernardino County** Our Behavioral Health providers have transitioned 98% of their therapeutic clients to remote and telehealth services. In Trona, a growing need for client confidentiality and safe expression has prompted the reopening of our physical office to allow much needed counseling sessions without the distraction or interruption of household residents.
- **San Diego County** has seen a significant surge in clients at our Project Hand food pantry in Chula Vista, nearly tripling previous monthly averages. In-kind donations of non-perishable food and gift cards are always welcome. The LSS Upward Bound/TRIO team has pivoted to remote services, in order to keep those students, already impacted by racial disparities, from falling further behind because of technological disproportions. The Kathy Hopper Senior Friendship Center in Clairemont Mesa is closed because of the pandemic, and the Senior Companion is making wellness contacts by telephone.

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



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, affordable housing units and much more.

At year-end 2019, MIF had 898 loans outstanding, totaling \$575.1 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2019, MIF investment obligations totaled \$493.4 million.

MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$712.3 million and net assets of \$211.9 million at year-end 2019, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 29.75 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds. For more information, visit mif.elca.org.

MIF loans and investments in the Pacifica Synod (as of December 31, 2019):

- 19 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$13,929,041
- \$10,505,205 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations

MIF representative:

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



PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Thank you for being a ministry partner!

We really appreciate all of the ways that you support us. Your prayers, gifts, and encouraging your leaders to consider a vocation in the church are three of the most important things your synod and congregation can do to support us and participate in our common mission to be church together for the sake of the world. PLTS is working hard to grow. We have a vision to provide theological education for more people, in more places, and in more ways. These are three of the exciting things happening at PLTS:

Complete the Master of Divinity in Distributed Learning or Residential Format

Choose Your Pathway:

3 Years: The Fast-Track Pathway

The fast-track pathway is a compact, full-time, three year program of research-oriented, practical, and contextual learning. This includes 2 years of coursework and 1 year of full-time internship. Distributed learning students on this pathway will be on campus two to three times a year for Life and Learning Together Weeks.

4 Years: The Extended Pathway

The extended pathway is a full-time program of four years of research-oriented, practical, and contextual learning. This includes 3 years of coursework and 1 year of full-time nternship. Distributed learning students on this pathway will be on campus two to three times a year for Life and Learning Together Weeks.

5 Years: The Flex Pathway

The flex pathway is a half-time program of five years of research-oriented, practical, and contextual learning. This includes 4 years of half-time coursework and 1 year of full-time internship. Distributed learning students on this pathway will be on campus two to three times a year for Life and Learning Together Weeks.

Climate Justice & Faith Concentration

Empowering leaders to cultivate moral, spiritual, and practical power for the work of climate justice in communities of faith. This concentration is designed for students interested in earth-honoring theology, ethics, spirituality, and practices that connect ecological well-being with racial, economic, and gender justice.

This concentration prepares students to:

- Lead congregations in developing climate justice work
- Practice climate justice as a spiritual practice
- Address intersections of climate change with racial, economic, and gender-based inequity
- Articulate biblical, ethical, theological, and spiritual grounding for climate justice
- Employ scientific resources related to climate change
- Collaborate with interfaith and community partners

QUICK FACTS ABOUT PLTS

- Number of PLTS Alumni: 1,633
- Number of MDiv Students: 37
- Number of TEEM Students: 50
- Number of MDiv Interns: 8
- Number of MA Students: 2
- Number of MDiv Graduates (2019): 10
- Number of TEEM Graduates (2019): 18
- Scholarships Awarded (2018-2019): \$383,951 to 100% of need-based qualifying students

Master of Arts in Spirituality and Social Change

Stay tuned for this brand new degree program coming in 2021!

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

So You Can Embrace Every Day

We are a church that takes care of each other. Portico Benefit Services is proud to continue a 200+ year Lutheran legacy of caring for those who serve, from pastors and their families to staff at social ministry organizations. As the ELCA's benefit ministry, seeing the diverse needs of our national church community drives us to innovate: to control health care costs and increase total well-being, to help plan members retire with confidence, to advocate on behalf of church organizations, and to serve more people well.

At Portico, we're inspired daily by those who commit to a life of service, and we're grateful to walk alongside our plan members — providing benefits designed to help you embrace every day.



The Rev. Jeff Thiemann
President & CEO

Church Benefits Making a Difference

65%

Members Preparing for the Future*

by making their own pretax retirement contributions during 2019 in addition to the contributions from their sponsoring organization.

10,648

Pounds Lost*

by ELCA-Primary health plan members since 2018, when we added a chronic condition management program by Omada® to help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

1,728

New Members Welcomed

to Portico's benefit plans in 2019 when we added three ELCA social ministry organizations.

3

Pro-Church Bills

enacted into federal law in 2019 thanks to Portico working alongside other denominations to advocate for legislation favorable to church benefit plans.

605

Members Made the Leap

into retirement in 2019. Over 80% of ELCA retirees report feeling financially prepared for this next chapter of their lives. Well done!

65%

Members Being Proactive

with their health by using ELCA-Primary preventive services in 2019.

70%

Members With Diabetes See Improvement

in their ability to manage their condition due to participation in our Livongo® Diabetes Management program.

1,297

Additional Students

attending schools in low-income Midwestern communities thanks in part to a social purpose fund investment.

96%

Users Satisfied*

or very satisfied with their experience on Portico's member and employer websites.

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