“And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation” (Mark 16:15).

Dear siblings in Christ,

When I talk about our goal of engaging a million new, young, diverse people I get asked a lot, “I’m not new, young, or diverse. Am I not important to the church anymore?” My answer is always the same, “You’ve never been more important.”

When we committed to our new goal, we identified our purpose as “Activate each of us so more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love.” This goal does not happen without the people who are already part of this church. Theresa of Avila talked about the church as the hands and feet of Christ in the world, the very way God will work to engage new people.

Those aren’t easy things to do and certainly not ones that only a few of us can do alone. God has blessed us with so many resources to do this work: nearly 3.6 million people, 65 synods, and 350 CWO staff, plus colleges, universities, seminaries, social ministry organizations, and other affiliated organizations, and our separately incorporated ministries. We truly are a church of abundance.

So, what can you do right now?

- Pray. For our church. For one another. For those whom we have yet to meet.
- Find time to listen to people who are new to the ELCA, young, and/or diverse. Share the story of Jesus with them.

Along the way, don’t forget: You are important.

Grace and peace,
For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not "Yes and No"; but in him it is always "Yes." For in him every one of God's promises is a "Yes."

2 Corinthians 1:19-20a

Dear voting members of the 2022 Pacifica Synod Assembly,

In these words from 2 Corinthians, Paul reminds the congregation in Corinth that our God is a God who says “yes” to us, “yes” to making us God’s children, “yes” to giving us life and salvation, “yes” to empowering us to stand for justice and peace in the world. Six years ago, I responded to the “yes” Christ Jesus said to me in my baptism by saying “yes” to allowing my name to go forward as a candidate for Bishop. Throughout these past six years, I have found myself hearing Christ’s “yes” through the people of the Pacifica Synod, through your faithfulness, your prayers, and your support. It has been an honor to serve as your bishop. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this call.

Those of you who were in attendance when I was elected may remember that, in the speech I made before the final vote for bishop, I said “Let’s do church together.” For the past six years, Synod Council, the staff of the Office of the Bishop, the Strategic Planning Team, and I have strived to partner with you in our work of sharing the gospel. We put together a mission statement: Together in Christ, we equip, accompany, and serve boldly, so all may experience God’s boundless grace. We adopted a strategic plan with four major missional result areas: Strengthen support for congregational ministry, Support resilient and faithful leaders, Deepen diversity and inclusion, and Reshape the Pacifica Synod for sustainable ministry. Since we last met as an online Assembly in 2021, your Synod Council, the staff of the Office of the Bishop, and I have been working the plan.

In the past two years, it has been particularly challenging to do church together, mainly because the pandemic did not allow us to be together in person. I asked that each congregation follow local public health protocols, and I continue to make that request as we seek to protect our neighbors and ourselves from COVID19. But despite the pandemic, both the Office of the Bishop and Pacifica congregations found ways to do church together. I have met regularly with Deans, Congregation Presidents, Synod Council, Executive Committee, and Office of the Bishop staff by Zoom and other electronic means throughout the past two years. Our congregations have worshipped together, studied the word together, conducted annual and Church Council meetings together, joined in fellowship and support together, using technology. And now that we are beginning to emerge from the pandemic, the Office of the Bishop is continuing to do much of our business electronically. This enables us to save money on travel expenses while still providing services to our congregations, institutions, and agencies.

We have used electronic means to move forward the strategic plan. The Synod has strengthened support for congregational ministry by offering technology grants, supplying training for a curriculum written by Pastor Jennifer Garcia (First, Fullerton) to help our people learn to share their personal experiences of God’s presence and grace, and providing Growing Young workshops led by Terri Robertson and Deacon Mindy Bugaj (Incarnation, Poway) to help congregations strengthen their outreach to youth and young adults. We’ve supported resilient and faithful leaders by working with the Deans, equipping congregational presidents, providing both Theoasis (our annual conference for rostered and other professional leaders) and our annual Day of Theological Reflection, and guiding lay
leaders in understanding their congregation’s constitution. We’ve sought to deepen diversity and
inclusion by providing anti-racism training, study and discussion groups, and through the work of our
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion team. We continue to work on reshaping the Pacifica Synod for
sustainable ministry by providing stewardship resources, particularly through the Ask, Thank, Tell
workshop. We have striven to follow the plan, so that our congregations and leaders might have all that
is needed to help us proclaim the gospel in the 21st century.

We were able to add a staff member to the Office of the Bishop who does not live in California. Pastor JP
Sabbithi, who lives on Oahu, accepted a ¼ time position as Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership
Development last summer. He joins our weekly staff meetings the same way those of us in California
join them—via Zoom. He represents the Office of the Bishop, in coordination with the Dean of the
Hukilau Conference, with the congregations in Hawai’i. He also shepherds our First Call Theological
Education and Candidacy ministries. Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen’s job title changed to Assistant to the
Bishop for Mobility and Congregational Transition. She works not only with congregations looking for a
new pastor, but also with congregations undergoing other sorts of transition. I am thankful Pastor JP and
Pastor Terry said “yes” to this new staffing configuration, so that our congregations might hear God’s
“yes” through our work.

I told last year’s Assembly that I was in a discernment process to determine if I should allow my name to
go forward for a second term as Bishop. After much prayer and conversation with colleagues, family,
and friends, I felt God saying a different “yes” this time, a “yes” to the decision not to allow my name to
go forward, a “yes” to leave this office and be open to what God has in store for me next. I informed the
Synod of this in September, and since that time I have been working with staff and the Synod Council to
provide for a smooth transition to a new bishop. As part of that process, Synod Council in March of this
year adopted a new sexual misconduct policy that conforms with current ELCA standards. A
subcommittee of Synod Council worked to update our constitution and will give to my successor a
document with recommended changes. Should my successor and the Synod Council elected at this
Assembly agree with these constitutional changes, they could be adopted at next year’s Assembly. The
personnel handbook is being updated to allow the new bishop more flexibility in making staffing
decisions during their first six months in office. Former Pacifica Bishop Murray Finck and I are putting
together a document with background information about our congregations that we both believe will be
helpful to a newly elected bishop. I have been praying daily for God to guide the synod in electing the
right person to serve as bishop for the next six years. If you are reading this report prior to the Assembly,
I would ask that you join with me in this prayer.

As I look back on my tenure, I would encourage you to continue doing the following: preach the gospel,
love one another, and serve your neighbor. At the height of the pandemic, I spent a lot of time
worshipping with many of our congregations online. At Theosithis last fall, I told the rostered leaders
that if I could change one thing, it would be that Pacifica congregations would hear a more robust
preaching of the gospel as part of our worship services. For the proclamation of the gospel, God has to
be the subject of each sentence of gospel that is spoken. The gospel tells us that God loves us, Jesus died
for us, the Holy Spirit lives in and through us. The gospel reminds us that God saves us by grace through
faith apart from works of the law. The gospel frees us for service, because only when we know we are
loved and cared for can we lift our eyes to love and care for others. I share this insight with you, good lay
voting members of the Pacifica synod, because you also are called to proclaim the gospel. Your pastors
and deacons, as well as your fellow church members, need to hear regularly that God is with us and will
never let us go. Let us be diligent in proclaiming the gospel to one another so that we are reminded of God’s presence and love.

One outcome of the gospel is we find ourselves called to love one another. Nothing tears down a church more quickly than when there are warring factions within a congregation and neither side will listen to the other. In our increasingly divided world, one way we can show love for one another is by listening respectfully to people with whom we may disagree politically or philosophically. Strengthening diversity includes allowing people with different opinions to share their thoughts, engaging in reasonable discussions, and avoiding rancorous arguments. But loving one another is about more than listening to each other. It is also about being open to new people. I hear a lot of congregations these days mourning the folks who were faithful prior to the pandemic but who have not yet returned to church. I encourage you all to keep your eyes open for those who are brand new, whom you have not seen before. You may learn more about your future mission by paying attention to the new people God brings your way than by looking for those who are slow to return.

We are also called to serve our neighbor. The church does not proclaim the gospel of God’s unconditional love without also doing what it can to make the world a better place. And many neighbors need our help these days. Our assembly offering is being split between two organizations that are devoted right now to helping refugees and asylum seekers. Lutheran Disaster Response in Eastern Europe is helping refugees from Ukraine find hope and help in their present need. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services is helping to resettle refugees from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and other parts of the world, as they make a new life in the United States. We partner with these ministries as a way to serve our neighbors. I hope and trust that each congregation is looking actively for ways to make a positive difference in their own neighborhood. Pray that God will use you and then keep your eyes open, or try a ministry that may fill a need. You’ll be amazed at how God takes what seems like a little and makes it enough to serve others in this world.

Finally, thank you for the trust you put in me for the last six years. I am grateful to our staff: Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen, Pastor Tom Goellrich, Pastor JP Sabbithi, Terri Robertson, Carol Youngman, and Rachel Line serve tirelessly and eagerly, and it has been a joy working with them. Our Synod Council, led by Vice President Nicolette Rohr, has done vital and important work this year. Our Deans (Revs. Richard Vevia, David Nagler, Laura Ziehl, Linda Brown, Matt Anderson, David Mattson, Jennifer Schultz, Anne-Grethe Krogh-Nielsen, and Kathryn Zurcher) meet monthly, doing great work by gathering our conference pastors and deacons and making sure I am informed of what is happening in the conferences. I am grateful to all. And I am grateful to you, to your congregations, institutions and agencies. Thank you for saying “yes” to me when I asked for help or encouraged you in ministry. Thank you for saying “yes” to Christ Jesus over and over again as God calls you to worship and service. And thanks be to God for saying “yes” to all of us in Jesus Christ, and for filling us with the Holy Spirit that we might continue to embody God’s “yes” to the world.

In Christ,
Rev. Dr. Andrew A. Taylor
Bishop, Pacifica Synod
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Worthing, Carol 07/25/1982
Zahnow, Jennifer 02/04/2006
Zarate, J. Ramon 05/18/2013
Ziehl, Laura 08/30/1997
Zurcher, Kathryn 07/12/2006

Pacifica Synod ELCA
Ministers of Word and Service and Roster Date

Bugaj, Mindy 07/09/2017
Darrow, Betty 02/13/1966
Decker, Georgia 06/08/1986
Deming, Phillip 06/29/1996
Fisher, Taflin 02/23/2003
James, Melissa 11/07/2004
Kieschnick, Melvin 09/09/1950
Lee, Shirley 02/17/2002
Lind, Leah 11/30/2008
Martyn, Barbara 12/09/2001
Rennegarbe, Paula 05/01/1974
Schmitt Ajer, Margy 06/15/1996
Sensmeier, Randall 08/01/1971
Stohlman, Mary 09/27/1987
Sumner-Eisenbraun, Kevin 06/21/2009
Wall, Roberta 08/23/2015

FULL COMMUNION PARTNERS
INVITATION TO SERVE

Jasmine “Jazzy” Bostock, Episcopal
Maluhia, Waianae, HI

Maggie Goodwin, Presbyterian
Salem, Whittier

Gloria Imamura, UCC
Prince of Peace, Honolulu

Dave Madsen, Episcopal
The Welcome Ministry, El Cajon

Lisa Rotchford, Episcopal
Redeemer, Seal Beach

Diana Simanjuntak, Batak
ELCA Batak, Redlands

Mary Tororeiy, Episcopal
Shepherd of the Desert, Barstow
**PACIFICA SYNOD CANDIDATES**

**PACIFICA CANDIDATES ORDAINED SINCE SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Ministry</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Anderson</td>
<td>Pastor, LCOS-SOH, San Bernardino</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Knighten</td>
<td>Called to Rocky Mountain Synod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda McGlynn</td>
<td>Pastor, King of Kings, Oceanside</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Garcia</td>
<td>Associate Pastor, First, Fullerton</td>
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**APPROVED for CALL**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Waring</td>
<td>WSAC-MDivX/Luther Awaiting Graduation</td>
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**In Candidacy Process**

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<tr>
<td>Jerome Bell</td>
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<td>LC of Honolulu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emily Erisman</td>
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**ENDORSED**

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<tr>
<td>Emily Erisman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendall Jeske</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Perlick</td>
<td>WSAC/United</td>
<td>St. Peter, Santa Ana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rachel Reeder</td>
<td>WSAC-MDivX/Luther</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alicia Saenz</td>
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<td>St. Mark, Chula Vista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keegan Cheleden*</td>
<td>WSAC/PLTS</td>
<td>Incarnation, Poway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Chernekoff*</td>
<td>WSAC/PLTS</td>
<td>Gloria Dei, Dana Point</td>
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<td>Brian Keiser*</td>
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<td>Jennifer Overy-Brown*</td>
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<td>Jamie Beaudry</td>
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<td>Perla Flores</td>
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<td>Brenda Lussier</td>
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<td>Gloria Dei, Dana Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Roberts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jose Sanchez</td>
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<td>First, Ontario</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ulalei Tausaga</td>
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**ENTRANCED**

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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Barker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bea Chambers</td>
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<td>Keegan Cheleden*</td>
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<td>Brian Keiser*</td>
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<td>Jennifer Overy-Brown*</td>
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**APPLIED/DISCERNING**

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<td>Andy Lin</td>
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<td>Richard Spurlock</td>
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<td>Josiah Canto</td>
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<td>Josefa Villalpando</td>
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<td>Grace, Upland</td>
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<td>Bruce Tuomimen</td>
<td>WSVC/PLTS</td>
<td>Cross &amp; Crown, Rancho Cucamonga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Foley</td>
<td>WSVC/PLTS</td>
<td>Hope, Palm Desert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Jones</td>
<td>WSVC/PLTS</td>
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*TRP – Theological Review Panel

Rosters = Word and Sacrament (WSAC); Word and Service (WSVC)

TEEM = Theological Education for Emerging Ministries
BISHOP
THE REV. DR. ANDREW A. TAYLOR
ext. 736, email: AndyTaylor@pacificasynod.org

ASSISTANTS TO THE BISHOP
THE REV. TERRY TUVEY ALLEN,
Mobility and Congregational Transition, ext. 739,
email: TerryTuveyAllen@pacificasynod.org

THE REV. TOM GOELLRICH,
Director for Evangelical Mission, ext. 735
email: TomGoellrich@pacificasynod.org

THE REV. JP SABBITHI,
Leadership Development
email: JpSabbithi@pacificasynod.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
MS. RACHEL LINE,
Executive Assistant to the Bishop, ext. 733
email: RachelLine@pacificasynod.org

MS. TERRI ROBERTSON,
Executive Assistant for Accounting & Communications, ext. 732
email: TerriRobertson@pacificasynod.org

MS. CAROL YOUNGMAN,
Executive Assistant for Rostered Leaders and Congregation Support, ext. 731
email: CarolYoungman@pacificasynod.org
Grace and peace,

    Thank you, thank you for my Sabbatical time. I spent time with family and friends, as well as some time on my own. It was a wonderful opportunity for renewal and study. Early in my career, serving as a chaplain in major trauma centers taught me that from a physical sense we are always in “transition.” The cells in our bodies are always changing, our blood is constantly circulating. In fact, if transition stops – so do we! I believe that this is also true of institutions, especially our congregations.

    To that end, I used a portion of my sabbatical time to embrace transition from a variety of viewpoints and perspectives. This included consultants and CEOs of major corporations, secular leadership gurus, faith partners and church leaders. These resources reiterated that we are living in times of accelerated change. The secular world talks about being responsive amid the changes around us. Lifting up leadership that builds and trusts teams that are committed to their mission, aware of their assets and challenges, nimble enough to embrace new ideas, putting them into practice, able to listen to a variety of voices, and healthy enough to learn from failures.

    In church speak you often hear talk of knowing our mission and ministry … and then we get stuck, we become unsure. We know our mission is to share the “good news” but often are lost on how to do that authentically in a world of change. In 50 years, we’ve moved from the church being at the center of many communities to being a spoke on the wheel. Our congregations have experienced change in a variety of ways; people have moved, we’ve aged, younger families are inundated with activities, including Sunday mornings. People have a plethora of ways to be involved in their community. Rostered leaders, pastors, and deacons, come and go. We both miss them personally and their leadership gifts and abilities. I learned from my grandmother that she and my grandfather (a Lutheran pastor) at one time made pastoral visits to the congregants in a horse and buggy, then there was a horseless buggy, etc. She marveled that she lived to see men walk on the moon. That reaffirms for me that the world is always in transition, that change can be healthy and wonderful. We have a choice to bemoan it and/or embrace it. These challenges may wear us down and tire us out or open us up to be more nimble, willing to try new things, tell God’s story in new mediums, developing relationships that will sustain us and our congregations.

    So, there it is, I believe that relationship is one of the keys to fulfilling our mission to share the good news of Christ Jesus. That because transition is inevitable and desirable, it is time to be built up as the body of Christ strengthening us to do the work of ministry together. And I believe we can rely on the Holy Spirit while learning from some CEOs and consultants to encourage, equip, and empower one another to embrace new ideas, put them into practice, listen to a variety of voices, and be healthy enough to learn from failure. That we can build trusting relationships throughout our congregations, our conferences, our synod, and communities. That we have been infused with the Spirit and called to be nimble, agile, and confident in our call to share the good news of “God with us.”

    And I won’t leave it there, I have ideas, we have plans and are open to your thoughts about how to help one another be rooted in Christ while developing the attitude and the muscle to be strong and agile so that together we fulfill our mission and ministry I don’t think I could pray for us any better than the Apostle Paul. Ephesians chapter 3:

\[\text{For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.}\]
While we continue to face various headwinds, the resiliency and perseverance of our ministries throughout the Pacifica Synod is incredible. As I travel throughout our synod, I am struck by the strength of our rostered and lay leaders alongside the people of our congregations and organizations. Each of you are good and faithful servants of the Gospel as you share the love of Jesus!

A few highlights of items that I have had the privilege to lead and walk with others in various include:

**Ask, Thank, tell** – A conversation around stewardship that saw 25+ of our congregation participate in over 2 sessions. **A shout out** to Pastor Kurt Christenson (First, San Diego) who was along my side in the planning of the event.

**Growing Young** – A series of events and conversations that have taken place throughout the past year on how our ministries can not only engage young people in our communities and ministries, but also invite young people to participate and share in leadership. **A shout out** to Deacon Mindy Bugaj (Incarnation, Poway) and Terri Robertson in your partnership to help lead these conversations.

**Technology Grants** – Sixty-Six of our ministries applied and received matching technology grants totaling of over $520,000 (Ministry/Synod – 50/50). Many congregations spent more than their shared piece. The grant intention was to help ministries to bolster their worship and online presence. **A shout out** to the Mission Funds Team and Synod Council for your implementation and support of this first time ever type of grant.

**Coaching for All Seasons** – Pacifica Synod Coaching Ministry is an amazing collection of people who have provided and facilitated monthly events for our synod. In addition, they are available to work with professional and lay leaders alike in their respective ministries. **A shout out** to all the coaches and Coaching Coordinator Deenna Eley for fabulous work. Want to work with a coach? Check in with Deenna or me and we will get you set up!

**Anti-Racism Team** – A team of people committed to keeping this important topic at the forefront of our synod conversations and training. **A shout out** to Pastor Lara Martin and Pastor Darin Johnson for your leadership!

**New Ministries** – I begin with one that started in late 2018 in partnership with Hope, Palm Desert, and now was received by our Synod Council as the newest congregation in our synod at its March ’22 meeting. River of Hope in Palm Springs is in the final steps (as of this writing) in becoming the newest ELCA Congregation in our synod. **A shout out** to Hope Lutheran, Palm Desert for their partnership in this journey as well as St. John, Palm Desert for their support. **A LOUD shout out** to the people of River of Hope and Pastor Tim Edmondson!

Welcome to California Indonesian Ministry, a new Synod Authorized Worship Community, nesting at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church in Rancho Cucamonga (Pastor Stephanie Lape). **A shout out** to the ministry’s leader, Pastor Robert Waworuntu, who also leads Imanuel Indonesian SAWC nested at Bethlehem Lutheran, Los Alamitos (Pastor Jennifer Schultz).
A new SAWC has been approved at all levels (synod and churchwide) in San Diego on some space leased at the Islamic Center (who purchased the former Atonement Lutheran Church – the two properties adjoined each other). Our search continues to identify a developer at what is envisioned to be a unique ministry opportunity.

**Explorations** – Two ministry explorations are in different variations of wrapping up as we look at two new locations to develop worshipping communities. One would be in the Beaumont-Cherry Valley corridor in Riverside County. Beaumont is the fastest growing city (2020/21) in California. A **shout out** to Pastor Steve Anderson who led this exploration.

A second exploration has been studying ministry potential in Hilo, HI. There are several ELCA Lutherans located in the area interested in formalizing a ministry in the area. A **shout out** to Pastor Brianna Lloyd who has been leading the exploration in Hilo.

**Holy Closures** – We have had the closure of two ministries in the last twelve months. The first was Lutheran Church of the Master in La Habra. Closure was in August 2021. The second closure was Hope Lutheran Church in Riverside. Closure was in March 2022.

Both ministries took steps to close while there were still enough people to make decisions prior to any level of synod administration/preservation. I, along with colleagues in our office, walked the journey with the people to make sure decisions and choices matched legal requirements along with legacy planning. The Pacifica Synod Council affirmed the asset distribution choices made by both congregations.

Your DEM and the staff of the Pacifica Synod are here to assist and walk with congregations as you discern your ministry future. Call on us sooner than later while your ministry is at a level of capacity to participate in ministry decisions.

I have been engaged in many other things from several Vitality Surveys to working with congregational finances, and more. There are some things waiting for more attention from me, and that will come. I enjoy the work of the DEM (Director for Evangelical Mission). Like so many ministry positions, the hours and days are long, but the work in ministry is very fulfilling. If I am fortunate to continue this work, I welcome the privilege to do it.

I do want to say one more thing .... With the synod office transition upon us, I want to give a **shout out** to my colleagues in the office! First to our incredible admins who do so much work behind the scenes: Carol Youngman, Terri Robertson, and Rachel Line .... You are all incredible people, and you are a joy in my life and for our synod. To my rostered colleagues: Bishop Andy, Pastor Terry, and Pastor JP.... You are good and faithful servants in Christ’s holy catholic church! Like so many vocations in the world, there are moments in the valley and on the mountaintop. However, most time is spent in the ordinary. It is in that ordinary time that most things go unnoticed. The work is just as important if not even more important. Thank you for the honor and privilege to work with each of you!

One last **shout out** to my spouse, Susan (and my entire continuously growing family), you are my rock. The wacky schedules of ministry are real, and you are always there, even as you, Sue, manage your work demands. I love you and thank you!

Respectively Submitted,

Pastor Tom Goellrich, DEM/ATTB
My work as the Assistant to the Bishop, Leadership Development involves: Candidacy, First Call Theological Education, Planning team for Theaosis, Synod Assembly and liaison for Hawaii for the Synod Office.

Candidacy: The Cooperative Candidacy Committee (Pacifica Synod and Southwest California Synod) meets on the first Thursdays of every other month. Entrances, Theological Reviews, Competency Assessments, Candidacy Approvals take place during these meetings. I also follow up with the candidates in process and interview the candidates interested in becoming either a minister of Word and Sacrament or Word and Service. During the year (2021-2022) six candidates passed their entrance interview. I want to thank the committee members for their ministry with these candidates.

FCTE: The First Call Theological Education (FCTE) is organized twice a year. During the Spring, it will be held at the synod level and during the Fall it will be held at the regional level. The five ATTBs in the region meet periodically to revise the curriculum for the FCTE and find other ways to keep in touch with the First Call pastors and also keep them in touch with each other. We had 9 First Call pastors participate in this event held at the synod level. Each participant shared their joy, surprise and a challenge from their ministry setting. Bishop Andy presented on “Things I wish I had Known” which generated lively discussion among the participants. The other presentation he presented was on the role of a pastor on the church council. These sessions included case studies from the First Call pastors which provided an opportunity to learn from each other.

Hawaii: I was able to connect and reconnect with some of the pastors and function as a liaison for the Office of the Bishop. I provided needed resources for needed pastors at their request for their parish ministry. I was able to help with their call process for a congregation in Hawaii while Pastor Terry was on sabbatical leave. It was great to have Bishop Andy visiting us in February conducting an ordination and four installations and preaching and visiting the congregations and pastors on the islands. I was able to coordinate his visit.

Planning Teams: I was able to participate in planning the Theoasis in October of 2021. By the grace of God we were able to meet in-person for that event. I was able to coordinate the workshops for the Synod Assembly this year.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in the synod office.
Joy, peace and blessings,
JP Sabbithi,
ATTB for Leadership Development
Dear People of the Pacifica Synod,

Greetings! On behalf of the Synod Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you, at long last, to the Pacifica Synod Assembly. Thank you for giving of your time and serving in this way.

What a time it has been since we last gathered in person in Palm Desert in 2019. As we gather now, I know we bring different experiences of these past years and carry a range of feelings of anxiety, grief, and gratitude too. So often in this pandemic, I have prayed with *sighs too deep for words*, and given thanks that *the Spirit intercedes*. In all of it – the uncertainty, disappointment, grief, and gratitude – I give thanks that we are together in Christ, even on Zoom, especially in a pandemic, and here for this Assembly.

In 2020, the Synod Council adopted a strategic plan to guide the work and mission of Pacifica Synod and adopted a new mission statement: *Together in Christ, we equip, accompany, and serve boldly, so that all may experience God’s boundless grace. Together in Christ, we are Pacifica Synod.* We seek to live into this mission through our strategic plan and our goals and objectives to strengthen support for congregational ministry, support resilient and faithful leaders, deepen diversity and inclusion, and reshape the synod for sustainable ministry. We seek to equip congregations with support such as the technology grants many ministries received in the pandemic and learning resources like the *Ask, Thank, Tell* and *Growing Young* series. We seek to accompany one another along the way, create opportunities for community and connection, and offer time and space to learn together and pray together. We seek to foster collaborations for local and global justice and support congregations and ministries in serving our neighbors and communities. We do all of this together in Christ. We ask for your prayers as well as your ideas and involvement in this work. As we prepare to elect a new bishop, our strategic plan will continue to guide the work of the synod.

The 2021-22 Synod Council met via Zoom for three regular meetings, one special strategic planning session, and two additional business meetings. This year, Synod Council members also formed task forces to review our constitution and policies around personnel and sexual misconduct. Our work and our tasks vary but are all done together in Christ. I give thanks for all who serve and their love for God’s church.

It’s been my pleasure to connect with many of you online over the past couple years, and I look forward to being with you in person at the Synod Assembly and to visiting your congregations in the future. Thank you for being church together and for serving together in Christ.

Peace,

Nicolette Rohr
Vice President, Pacifica Synod
ROSTER MATTERS

SC21.06.02 VOTED to approve the job description and the contract with Pastor JP Sabbithi for the new position as ATTB for Leadership Development with one abstention.

SC21.06.05 VOTED to approve the Synod Call and addition to roster as written below.
  - Synod call to Deacon Margy Schmitt-Ajer Hope, Riverside 07.12.2020 Interim Deacon.
  - Add to Pacifica Roster The Rev. Katy Grindberg PLTS (transferred to Pacifica Synod) 06.17.2021 Director of Contextual Education – moved from Sierra Pacific to Pacifica roster.

SC21.08.13 VOTED to approve the roster changes as listed below.

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<th>Rev.</th>
<th>Call Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandra Bentz</td>
<td>Interim Pastor, Emanuel, La Habra</td>
<td>06.15.2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Bockelman</td>
<td>Pastor, Church of St. John the Divine. Inv to Serve from Episcopal Church Tamuning, Guam and its mission on Saipan, St. Paul’s Church. *Reinstatement</td>
<td>07.15.2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Sheets</td>
<td>Lanai Union Church (UCC)</td>
<td>None given</td>
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<td>Dr. Timothy Eichler</td>
<td>Year 1 Approval</td>
<td>09.04.2021</td>
<td>09.04.2024</td>
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<td>Carole Parmeter</td>
<td>Year 7 Approval</td>
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<td>Family leave + 2 year COB extension</td>
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<td>Samuel Kumissa</td>
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<td>Phyllis Hormann</td>
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Motion: Executive Committee recommends to Synod Council to approve the sabbatical request, and authorize the Executive Committee to work with Rev. Terry regarding the financial matters.

SC21.08.14 VOTED to approve the sabbatical time for Rev. Terry Tuvey Allen as stated above.

SC21.12.2 VOTED to approve roster changes as presented.

CONGREGATION CALL

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<tr>
<td>Rev. Jennifer Garcia</td>
<td>Associate Pastor, First, Fullerton</td>
<td>10.03.2021</td>
<td>12.18.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dn. Margy Schmitt Ajer</td>
<td>Deacon, San Marcos</td>
<td>11.01.2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Carole Parmeter Dyer</td>
<td>Pastor Mt. Calvary, Cypress</td>
<td>11.01.2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Brianna Lloyd</td>
<td>Associate Pastor, LC of Honolulu</td>
<td>12.01.2021</td>
<td>Ordination Date</td>
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CONTRACT NOT CALL

SYNOD CALLS

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Stuart Swann</td>
<td>Pastor, Spirit of Peace, Big Bear City</td>
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ON LEAVE FROM CALL

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Need approval for Year</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Pongtep Chutimapongrat</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>02.01.2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dn. Melissa James</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>01.01.2020</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rev. Samuel Kumissa</td>
<td>2nd 08.14.2017</td>
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RETIREMENT

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Richard Ajer</td>
<td>11.01.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dn. Lynne Prechel</td>
<td>11.01.2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Steven Bieghler</td>
<td>01.01.2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Yukio Hamada</td>
<td>01.01.2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Mark Winick</td>
<td>01.01.2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Brian Taylor</td>
<td>01.01.2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADD TO PACIFICA ROSTER

TRANSFER FROM PACIFICA
Rev. Timothy Mason To Southwest Minnesota Synod 09.07.2021
Rev. Dianne Elle To Oregon Synod 09.29.2021

DEATHS
Rev. Theodore Johns 09.19.2021

SC22.03.21 VOTED to approve roster changes as presented.

CONGREGATION CALL
Ordination Date
3.12.2022

CONTRACT NOT CALL
Rev Dan Cole Interim, Hope, Temecula 12.27.2021

SYNOD CALLS
Rev. Misael Fajardo-Perez Interim Pastor, Our Redeemer, GG 01.30.2022
Rev. Gloria Imamura Pastor, Prince of Peace, Honolulu 02.01.2022
Invitation to Serve
Rev. Robert Bork Teacher and Pastor, Kapaa UCC, Kauai 03.01.2022

ON LEAVE FROM CALL
The Rev. Karla Wildberger Request continuation – Year 2 03.01.2021

RETIREMENT
Rev. Doug Moffat 12.01.2021
Rev. Brian Oltman 03.15.2022

REMOVE FROM ROSTER

ADD TO PACIFICA ROSTER

TRANSFER FROM PACIFICA
Rev. Dianne Wendt  Transferred to Sierra Pacific Synod  10.01.2021
Rev. Pongtep Chutimapongrat Transferred to Metro Chicago Synod  11.28.2021

DEATHS
Rev. Yutaka Kishino  01.28.2022
Rev. John Spann  02.07.2022

CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

SC21.08.06 VOTED to approve Lutheran Church of Our Savior-Spirit of Hope constitution.

SC21.12.4 VOTED to approve the St. Paul, Fullerton Constitution at the recommendation of Constitution Committee.

SC22.01.1 VOTED to approve the list of SAWC (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community) as presented.

SC22.03.4 VOTED to list the property known as Hope Lutheran Church, Riverside for sale.

SC22.03.5 VOTED to proceed with asset distribution as requested by Hope Lutheran Church, Riverside.

SC22.03.6 VOTED to receive Hope Lutheran Church, Riverside into Synodical Administration.

SC22.03.7 VOTED to appoint Rev. Tom Goellrich, Shawn Lowell, Nicolette Rohr and Rev. Kent Tuohino as the Trustee Team to manage Synodical Administration of Hope Lutheran Church, Riverside.

SC22.03.8 VOTED to receive the ministry known as River of Hope, Palm Springs, as a congregation located in the Pacifica Synod, ELCA.

SC22.03.9 VOTED to close Spirit Harbor as a Synod Authorized Worshipping Community in Pacifica Synod.

SC22.03.14 VOTED to approve the constitution of Hope Lutheran in Temecula.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

SC21.04.04 VOTED to accept the auditors report.
Motion to forward the auditor’s letter to the Audit Committee for review and to make a recommendation for a corrective action within 90 days.

**SC21.04.05 VOTED** to approve the recommendation as stated above.

**SC21.06.06 Voted** to approve three months’ vacation pay be paid out of the proceeds of the sale of Hope, San Diego to Pastor Deogracias Oliver.

**SC21.17.07 Voted** to approve the use of Wright funds to pay for scholarships for laypersons to attend the Undoing Racism Workshop.

**SC21.08.03 VOTED** to approve the combining of inactive designated funds in order to put the money to better use.

**SC21.08.04 VOTED** to approve the distribution of Hope Lutheran, San Diego sale proceeds as directed.

**SC21.08.05 VOTED** to approve the use of Portico Wellness funds for hotel and meals for 2 staff members to attend Theoasis in October.

**SC21.08.07 VOTED** to approve the donor wishes, scholarship amounts and recipients for the Laurie Line Memorial Scholarship Fund.

**SC21.12.5 VOTED** to notify members of the synod that we would like them to consider a higher cost of living increase for their rostered ministers in light of current inflation.

**SC21.12.6 VOTED** to approve the budget and spend plan.

**SC21.12.8 VOTED** to add Carol Youngman as an additional signer for the Synod Checking Account.

**SC22.01.4 VOTED** to approve the Executive Committee recommendation of a 4% increase effective 2/1 for the Office of the Bishop rostered and lay-staff.

**SC22.01.5 VOTED** to update the (revised) spend plan with one abstention.

**SC22.03.15 VOTED** to approve the investment policy as presented.

**SC22.03.17 VOTED** to recommend the Synod Assembly raise the base salary on the Synod Compensation guidelines by 5.6%, based on the current CPI.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY MATTERS**

**SC21.04.03 VOTED** to approve the Assembly rules as written.

**SC21.12.6 VOTED** to approve the following fees for Synod Assembly: congregation $550 early bird $525, individual $180 and early bird $170.
SC22.01.2 VOTED to approve that congregations with more than 3 voting members would pay $120 for each additional voting member, the same rate as for retired clergy and deacons.

SC22.03.18 VOTED to designate half of assembly offerings for Lutheran Immigration and Refuge Services and half for Lutheran Disaster Response – Eastern Europe.

SC22.03.19 VOTED to approve Assembly Table requests as presented with the addition of Pacifica WELCA.

**APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS**

SC21.06.03 Voted to approve Jeff Cours and Pastor Jeff Lilley to the executive committee with one abstention.

SC21.06.04 Voted to approve Curt Spiller to fill a one-year term on the Mission Funds Committee.

SC21.08.01 VOTED to approve the appointment of Freya Hendrickson to replace Nicolette Rohr, and Pastor Maria Santa Cruz to replace Pastor JP Sabitthi.

SC21.08.08 VOTED to approve the appointments of John Hefner and Jennifer Zahnow to serve on the finance committee.

SC21.08.11 VOTED to approve the election of Pastor Maria Santa Cruz to fill the vacancy left by Pastor Jennifer Shaw at the conclusion of her 2 year term.

SC21.08.12 VOTED to approve the following people to the Bishop Nominating Task force:

- Deacon Melissa James
- Esmerelda Vences
- Bob Michelet
- Pr Wes Menke
- Becky Anderson
- Pr David Hendrickson
- Helga Bergthold
- Gitte Olsen
- Pr. Juli Patten

SC21.12.3 VOTED to approve Pastor Nate Allen and Pastor Darryl Kozak to the Nominating Committee.

SC22.01.3 VOTED to appoint Pastor Jennifer Zahnow to replace Pastor Brian Taylor as Calvary Trustee.
SC22.03.20 VOTED to approve that the Bishop’s Transition Team will consist of Nicolette Rohr, Tom Pankow, Kathy Hartl, Jeff Cours, Pastor Jeff Lilley, and Pastor Maria Santa Cruz, and any other people they deem appropriate to serve.

SC22.03.21 VOTED to note that Synod Council is aware of and affirms the Background Checks process as presented.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

SC21.08.09 VOTED to approve the Child Protection Policy / Abuse Prevention Policy as attached.

SC21.08.10 VOTED to approve Silver +, Level A for health care benefits, giving employees and those serving in Synod calls where health care is provided through the Office of the Bishop the option to buy-up to Gold + at the synod’s expense with one abstention.

SC21.12.7 VOTED to approve the following COVID-19 policy: For public synod events attendees are required to provide either proof of full COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative test within 72 hours of their arrival at the event. This policy is subject to updated public health guidance.

SC22.03.13 VOTED to approve the two document Sexual Misconduct Policy as presented.

SC22.03.16 VOTED to approve the continuing education policy as presented.
PACIFICA SYNOD COUNCIL, 2021 - 2022

Officers
Term of Office – 4 Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>EXPIRES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Andrew Taylor</td>
<td>Bishop, First Term</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1801 C Parkcourt Place</td>
<td></td>
<td>(6 year term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Ana CA 92701</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(714) 692-2791</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:andytaylor@pacificasynod.org">andytaylor@pacificasynod.org</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Ms Nicolette Rohr           | Vice President, First Term| 2024          |
| 4725 Brockton Avenue        |                           |               |
| Riverside CA 92506          |                           |               |
| (951) 204-9206              |                           |               |
| nicolette.rohr@gmail.com    |                           |               |
| Vice President              |                           |               |

| Ms Kathy Hartl              | Secretary, Appointed      |               |
| 35522 Camino Capistrano     |                           |               |
| San Clemente, CA 92672      |                           |               |
| (802) 393-7083              |                           |               |
| kathy@hartlwrites.com       |                           |               |
| Secretary                   |                           |               |

| Mr Tom Pankow               | Treasurer, Appointed      | 2021          |
| 837 Rodeo Road              |                           | (end of term was 2021) |
| Fullerton CA 92835          |                           |               |
| 714-447-0369 H              |                           |               |
| TomPankow@SBCGLOBAL.net     |                           |               |
| Treasurer                   |                           |               |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bishop Andrew Taylor 2-yr Terms:
Ms. Nicolette Rohr The Rev. Jeff Lilley, 2023
Ms. Kathy Hartl The Rev. Maria Santa Cruz, 2023
Mr. Tom Pankow Mr. Jeff Cours, 2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Rev. Maria Santa Cruz</td>
<td>4011 Ohio Street, San Diego, CA 92104</td>
<td>619-283-5936</td>
<td><a href="mailto:prmaria@sbcglobal.net">prmaria@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
<td>Ethnic Lay at Large, 2023 (Remainder of term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jim Lovell</td>
<td>1420 3rd Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101</td>
<td>(619) 980-5222</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jimlovellmsw@gmail.com">jimlovellmsw@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>San Diego Area Rep, First Term, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rev. Marcus Lohrmann</td>
<td>10842 Fury Lane, La Mesa, CA 91941</td>
<td>(619) 670-7656 W</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastormarcus@svlc.org">pastormarcus@svlc.org</a></td>
<td>San Diego Area Rep, First Term, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Anthony Eder</td>
<td>39136 Harris Road, Yucaipa, CA 92399</td>
<td>(262) 812-7711</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anthony@lrcchome.com">anthony@lrcchome.com</a></td>
<td>Inland Empire Area Rep, First Term, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Becky Draper</td>
<td>20845 Viento Valle, Escondido, CA 92025</td>
<td>(858) 382-8719</td>
<td><a href="mailto:beckdraper@yahoo.com">beckdraper@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>San Diego Area Rep, Second Term, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jeff Cours</td>
<td>417 Santa Dominga, Solana Beach, CA 92075</td>
<td>(858) 245-7727</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jtcours@gmail.com">jtcours@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>San Diego Area Rep, First Term, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rev. Glen Egertson</td>
<td>39136 Harris Road, Yucaipa, CA 92399</td>
<td>(509) 520-7242</td>
<td><a href="mailto:glen@lrcchome.com">glen@lrcchome.com</a></td>
<td>Inland Empire Rep, First Term, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Dana Westphalen</td>
<td>98-1099B Komo Mai Drive, Aiea, HI 96701</td>
<td>(808) 330-7178</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dwestphalen@hawaii.rr.com">dwestphalen@hawaii.rr.com</a></td>
<td>Hawaii Area Rep, First Term, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Greta Hobson</td>
<td>111 W Las Palmas Drive, Fullerton CA 92835</td>
<td>(714) 390-5762</td>
<td><a href="mailto:greta.goellrich@gmail.com">greta.goellrich@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Orange County Rep, Second Term, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Analiese Christenson</td>
<td>1420 Third Avenue, San Diego CA 92101</td>
<td>(808) 271-9926</td>
<td><a href="mailto:analiese.christenson@gmail.com">analiese.christenson@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>Youth Rep, First Term, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Rev. Jay Egenes</td>
<td>4861 Liverpool Street, Yorba Linda, CA 92886</td>
<td>(951) 850-9604</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastor.jay@messiahyl.com">pastor.jay@messiahyl.com</a></td>
<td>Orange County Area Rep, First Term, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Dr. Jeff Lilley</td>
<td>1730 Punahou Street, Honolulu, HI 96822</td>
<td>(808) 941-2566 W</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pr.jeff@lchwelcome.org">pr.jeff@lchwelcome.org</a></td>
<td>Hawaii Area Rep, First Term, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr Christian Bakken
15821 Lashburn Street
Whittier, CA 90603
(714) 853-5234
cbakken17@gmail.com
Orange County Area Rep, First Term, 2024

Ms Daneen Pysz
33172 Desoto Way
Dana Point CA 92629
(949) 290-0381 H
daneen.pysz@gmail.com
Orange County Area Rep, 2nd Term, 2023

Ms. Freya Hendrickson
428 S Center Street
Redlands, CA 92373
(909) 747-2261 C
faye.raye22@gmail.com
Inland Empire Area Rep, First Term, 2022
(remained of term)

The Rev. Karla Halvorson
580 Hilltop Drive
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(858) 442-6761 (cell)
pastor.stmarkscv@gmail.com
San Diego Area Rep, First Term, 2024

The Rev Jennifer Shaw
42695 Washington Street
Palm Desert CA 92211
(760) 345-2122 W
pastor@stjohnslutheran.church
Inland Empire Area Rep, First Term, 2023

The Rev Kinndlee Lund
10280 Slater Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
773-633-8833
pastor@kogchurch.org
Orange County Area Rep, First Term, 2024
East and West San Diego Conferences Report

The rostered leaders of the East and West San Diego Conferences continued to meet weekly via Zoom. Average attendance was 12 with the occasional synod staff member dropping by.

Dean Dave Nagler and I asked each of our 21 congregations to submit a brief report of 2-3 lines. 14 responded: some briefly answered the three basic questions we asked; others answered at length; and a submitted their reports in a more creative way. All show that the Holy Spirit is active in San Diego County.

In Christ,
Pastor Richard W. Vevia, Jr.  Dean - East San Diego Conference
Pastor David Nagler  Dean - West San Diego Conference

Agape House - Pastor Darin Johnson has submitted a separate report for the Assembly Notebook

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

- Ascension continues to be a strong presence in our community with our biweekly food distribution ministry. Our Children's Center ministry continues to grow as we've converted our conference room into an extra classroom. We've also continued our commitment to racial justice ministry through leadership development and financial support to ministries of African descent. We are also working on greater disability access in our church.
- We have struggled to feel connected through pandemic.
- We look forward to a 65 year anniversary celebration with outreach to our community in May.

Calvary Lutheran Church, El Cajon - submitted by Pastor Richard Vevia, Jr.

- Both our food pantry, The Cupboard on 54th, and our clothing ministry, The Closet on 54th were open providing food & clothing for the community. We are grateful to St. Andrew’s, La Mesa for their continued and generous support.
  And thanks to the Technology Grant from the Synod our on-line presence has been upgraded.
- Staffing The Cupboard & The Closet is still a challenge since many volunteers have not returned even though quarantine restrictions have been lifted.
- We look forward in the coming year to fellowship and service opportunities with the other two congregations that share our campus: Addis Kidan Ethiopian Evangelical Church and Remnant Church - San Diego.

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

- We are proud to host the Santee Food Bank and partner with them, as well as provide home-cooked community meals to those in need.
- Carlton Hills is still working out the kinks of our new technology, with thanks to the Synod and many volunteers and even donations on top of purchases.
- We are biking, lunching, hoping for a new post-COVID normal, and excited about starting a new community garden with new partnerships in Santee.

  COVID. Streaming. Growth.
  Tech… not always working right.
  New garden brings HOPE!
Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach - submitted by Pastor David Nagler

- In 2021 we accomplished two major projects. We completed a large infrastructure renovation that started in 2020 on our campus. This included a new drainage system to prevent flooding, new roofs on our buildings, solar power and electric car stations, new drought tolerant landscaping, and a new HVAC system.

We also took a deeper dive into our digital ministry program. We hired a part time digital ministry coordinator who renovated our website and produced our online worship opportunities. We continued our work with a social media promoter who helps us get out daily messages on Instagram and Facebook. This has greatly expanded our online community involvement.

We welcomed a new pastoral intern, Jenna Olson-Popp and a new music coordinator, Kate Moody to our congregation. Jenna is part of the MDivX program at Luther Seminary and will be with us for another year. Kate joins us from Bandon, Oregon.

- In 2022 we are working on a comprehensive campus plan that will include input from congregation members, community leaders and partner organizations. The goal is a collaboration that will serve the needs of our community in a way that is both tangible and sustainable.

We will also be launching a podcast to bolster our online ministry efforts. This is all new to us so the learning curve is pretty steep.

We are also part of a joint project with St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church and Shoreline Community Services. Together we will be launching a drop-in center for people who are unhoused to obtain basic services and connect them with mental health, job placement, housing, and addiction prevention personnel. It will be called the Compass Station and will be housed on our campus.

First Lutheran Church, San Diego - submitted by Pastor Kurt Christenson

On Palm Sunday First ventured outside for in-person worship. It took time but we figured out how to enjoy the great outdoors. Who knew birds were chirping out there? Advent brought us back into the sanctuary. Most gatherings and worship offer a virtual hybrid option. To meet needs TACO now serves food every weekday. Opportunity and challenge coexist this post COVID year as First discerns and defines our next great ministry adventure.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, San Diego - submitted by Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

Worship in person
Is precious. Worship online
Is precious too.

Council phone tree spreads
Good will and connection too.
A web of love. Life.

Prayer; our place, purpose.
Prayer; our life, hope, joy, peace, love.
God’s love in action.

Our hope is in Christ.
Living the Resurrection
We live our best life.
Lemon Grove Lutheran Church, Lemon Grove - submitted by Pastor Chuck Sundry

- The good is that we did resume in person worship. The challenge was that attendance is far less than half of the pre-COVID year.
- A challenge is that our heating/AC units have died or are too dangerous to run. The roof needs repair before the new ones can be installed. Therefore, the temperature in the church the past few weeks has often been in the 50’s.
- Forward-keep faith.

St. John’s Lutheran Church, El Cajon -

- Thanks to the Technology Grant from the Synod our on-line presence has been upgraded.
- Finances continue to be a problem. But God is good and through continued faithful giving and several grants diligently sought by lay leaders and staff, the challenge was met.
- In 2022 we will be looking for a new pastor.

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Chula Vista - submitted by Pastor Karla Halvorson

“Celebrating God’s Love and Forgiveness, We Serve Others.”

St. Mark’s made it through times of grim desperation,
Turning the corner with faith and sheer determination.
Now its time to give praise with shouts of celebration!
Living our tagline “Two languages, One Congregation”!
Seeking to invite and welcome those from every nation,
Serving this place with grace and a sense of obligation,
“Love one another as I have loved you”, regardless of their station

Building something new, goodbye stagnation.

(Hello from the four (main) languages and cultures that worship here (Spanish, English, Chinese, Korean), Lutheran Social Services Upward Bound and Talent Search, Project Hand Food pantry, re-emerging youth ministries and well-established quilting and prayer ministries, ended in the black after nearly declaring bankruptcy four years ago. God is Good! God has got this! Just keep swimming!)

St. Peter’s By the Sea, Ocean Beach - submitted by Pastor Bekki Lohrmann

- St Peter’s by the Sea has experienced a great deal of goodness this year. We completed a mini-campaign securing $40K to transition completely to solar energy which will go into effect in April or May. We installed the technology to live-stream our worship thanks to the Synod Technology Grant. We re-opened, hired a new minister of music, called a new pastor, increased enrollment to pre-pandemic numbers at our preschool, hosted Bible Studies, book studies, several memorial services and receptions, and are currently in discernment about how we can take action to support refugees. We have a very active hiking group that started during the pandemic and continues to grow. This year also marks 75 years of ministry on Sunset Cliffs!
- Our challenge is to discern where to go from here.
  The pandemic left us scattered and coming back together to renew our sense of mission for the world is no small feat!
- Our congregational goals for 2022 are
  o 1. To pursue connection after this time of separation.
  o 2. To take refuge in the Word.
  o 3. To continue to discern our purpose through experimentation and intentionally trying new things.

We’re looking forward to the fruits of these endeavors!
Shepherd of the Valley, La Mesa - submitted by Pastor Marcus C. Lohrmann

God is faithful, and it has been a great year at SVLC!

- Our preschool ministry enrollment now exceeds pre-pandemic levels, and worship attendance has seen growth with the help of matching funds from the synod to expand our live-stream worship capacities. SVLC’s Social Justice Committee continues to minister in our community through trainings, educational events, volunteer work, and service opportunities. The group also thoughtfully composed a Land Recognition Statement which was unanimously adopted by our council and implemented in the life of our weekly worship.

- We look forward to the installation of new solar panels on our sanctuary this spring following a successful reroofing project earlier this year.

Tierrasanta Lutheran, San Diego - submitted by Pastor Bohdan Vadis

- something good: Tierrasanta Lutheran Church hosted the Tierrasanta Community 50th Anniversary Celebration on our church campus.

- challenge: Several military families with young children have been moved out of San Diego by the Navy and this has changed our children’s ministry.

- looking forward: We are about to start a “Kid’s Worship” on Saturday nights for Children and their parents.

Welcome Ministry of El Cajon (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community)- submitted by Father David Madsen

1. Welcome Church Holy Eucharist Services, On the Streets of El Cajon. We began 2021 like 2020. We did not do services in person for a few months, but we continued to hand out lunches and visit WC people and new people we met on the streets in person, wearing masks and keeping our distance. We continued to hand out lunches on Sunday afternoons. When we began services again in March, and continued throughout 2021, we held them near the El Cajon Library and then moved across the street to Promenade Park in El Cajon. At WC, the service of handing out protein packs and sharing hospitality, listening ears and the love of Christ continues during what most inside churches would call coffee hour.

- One-on-one Evangelism Because of the diaspora of unhoused folks all over in the city, usually in smaller or bigger pockets of community, we also decided to visit folks in other areas. We began breaking up into teams of two and no more than three, handing out protein pack lunches, talking, praying, listening to people’s stories.

- Loads of Love This ministry of providing a place for people to do their laundry for free continued throughout, without a break in schedule. Our Loads of Love Leadership team continued to invite people during the week, especially on Monday. Numbers are beginning to pick up again, like what they were before Covid hit.

- Welcome Church Dreams and Plans

Things we have talked and dreamed about in 2021. We have talked and visioned a home for Welcome Church, a place that all of us can feel comfortable with, and our people on the streets that we work with, not minister to or work for, but with. It will be a place that the unsheltered can pick up their mail, check out computers for emails, and other personal self-care needs. It can be a place to bring in linked services for counseling and assist others with needs that our group cannot supply. It will also be a place to share refreshments, big hugs and pray together. It will be a safe place, a place to come in out of the storms of life, and a place to feel comfortable, like home.
2. Joy Force (Refugee Ministry) 2021

- **Bilingual English/Arabic Holy Eucharist Service.** Attendance has started to pick up again…not as great as before the pandemic, but anywhere from 8-15, and hopefully more will come soon. We still have communion together, we pray with each person for healing, encouragement or whatever they ask us to pray with them for. I do not think they get this anywhere else except in our Tuesday WM ecumenical services.

- **Refugee Food Pantry.** We never shut down the Refugee Food Pantry during the Covid epidemic. Our Food Pantry started the year slowly with people still afraid to come out, but it began to grow again by March. We no longer take names of people coming, and hopefully this will not change. We hand our food until we run out, and we try to adjust our ordering plans accordingly.

- **Circle Community Garden.** Our community garden stayed open as essential agricultural, and all plots stayed full. In fact, we were able to find enough room to expand our plots from 61 to 70. But I think we are really tapped out for room right now. Most of our gardeners are farmed by immigrant families from other countries. We see cool running’s on the horizon.

- **Table-Talk** This group of women that used to meet twice a week, continued to meet online all through 2020 and the first few months of 2021. They are meeting again every Wednesday in-person from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. It is a safe place to learn better conversational English, talk about community, pray, and fellowship together. Most of the women except for three American born leaders are from the Middle East, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and Palestine. Most are Christian and some are Muslim. They are a hospitable and accepting group, and they are always looking for more women to join them who desire to improve conversational English skills.
Harvest Conference Report

It has been a year of hope and healing, of ministry and grace in the Harvest Conference. We are pleased to welcome 2 first call pastors to the conference: Pastor Amanda McGlynn and Pastor Christina De La Cruz. We are pleased to welcome back Deacon Margy Schmitt Ajer. We honor and give thanks for the faithful ministry of Pastor David Jorstad. Together, we have worked closely to support and care for one another and the congregations we serve with creativity and hope in these ever changing times. We are blessed to be called for such a time as this.

House of Prayer, Escondido

The last couple years have been challenging for House of Prayer. The congregation is grateful to Pastor Karin Boye and Pastor Dan Cole for their faithful interim work, leading the church amidst the pandemic, the retirement of the office administrator, and the resignation of the previous pastor. I was called to House of Prayer as pastor on October 1st, 2021. The transition has gone well so far. Shortly after my arrival, the church hosted small celebrations for Pastor Dan’s farewell and my Installation. The Spirit has been hard at work in the congregation since then. We have strengthened our relationship with local service agencies, regularly donating food items and offerings for those in need. Our small but mighty quilting guild made over 100 quilts in 2021 to donate through local organizations and Lutheran World Relief. We hosted a Christmas Festival of Song in December, featuring our talented musicians, and we also hosted a winter concert featuring a local choir of professional bell ringers. During Advent, we led a weekly book study in a hybrid format, allowing folks to attend in person and on Zoom at the same time. We continue to worship together on Sunday mornings and offer a recorded virtual service on our website. So far, 2022 has opened with renewed enthusiasm and hope in the congregation. We have also seen the arrival of a few new members and the return of older members that have not been seen in years. We are grateful for the ways that God continues to bless and guide us in our calling as a community of faith.

King of Kings, Oceanside

The people of King of Kings are full of hope and new life. We began this year under the leadership of Interim Pastor Karen Marohn. During the first half of the year, worship, meetings, confirmation class, music rehearsals, and other gatherings were primarily done via Zoom, or in small groups outdoors. Throughout this, the council and call committee worked diligently to discern what God had in store for them next, and with their leadership, the congregation voted to call Pastor Amanda McGlynn in August. As we have slowly and cautiously moved back towards in person or hybrid gatherings, our congregation has been filled with new life and excitement. Our worship life has been blessed by the work of our dedicated music ministry staff and volunteers, we have celebrated special occasions such as an animal blessing on the feast of St. Francis, and for the feast of St. Luke we blessed our healthcare workers and commissioned our medical lending library. We gathered for Advent midweek services featuring an original play by one of our members, and starring several of our other members and youth. We have begun in-person Coffee hour, Sunday School and Adult Education once again, and brought back our Communion Ministry for homebound members. Overall, the last few years of transition, both with Covid and with leadership changes, have led us to be more open to new opportunities, new ways of doing old things, and new paths forward into the future God is preparing for us.
Spirit of Joy, Ramona

This past year has been one of transition and change for Spirit of Joy. We moved from worship on our property to in person worship in our store front worship center. We are currently moving forward with the sale of the property and working on reimagining our mission and vision for the future in this Ramona community. Throughout the year we have lifted up our ministries for children, youth, Bible Studies, and Home Groups. The Synodical grant has aided Spirit of Joy in establishing a permanent online presence with live streaming. We are looking ahead and continue to be blessed with a dedicated and committed church family.

Bethlehem, Encinitas

This has been a year of gratitude, challenge, grace and hope at Bethlehem. The pandemic has taught us to value the most important things. As an RIC congregation, we cling to our desire to be a community of inclusive welcome and joy. Our education this year has focused on anti racism, enneagram and challenging questions of faith. We give thanks for the gathered community — online, in the sanctuary and on the grass outside. We offer all three worship opportunities each week. We have welcomed a number of new members who met us first online and that expansion and reach of our proclamation of the gospel has been a great joy. We have found that flexibility has become our norm. We are more honest with ourselves, and more open to both lament and thanksgiving. Our day of service returned this year with 100 participants and our youth are planning a trip to the Navajo nation this summer. We value every opportunity to reach beyond ourselves. At Bethlehem, we are deeply excited for the work that lies ahead, as together we bear light to the world in new ways.

San Marcos Lutheran, San Marcos

Transition has been the word for San Marcos Lutheran Church this year! Along with most other congregations, we have been deep in the ever changing practices of dealing with the pandemic, including only online to outdoor to sanctuary worship. We’ve had online gatherings, then in person gatherings, then online gatherings as covid has ebbed and flowed. In September, the congregation called Deacon Margy Schmitt Ajer, and later in the fall began a process of conversations as we look into the future, discerning where God is leading us in this new age. How are we to be the church now? We had a sudden, unplanned transition, when in December, Pr. David Jorstad, SMLC’s pastor of 16 years, suffered a stroke, which eventually led to his going on disability. But through all of this, there is faithful worship, deep community, concern and outreach to those in need, and a faithful commitment to following Jesus. As we move into a new year, we know that we aren’t done, but share an excitement about how God is at work. Thanks be to God!

Incarnation, Poway

As Incarnation emerges on the brighter side of the pandemic, there is much for which to be thankful. We recognize that God has blessed us in a myriad of ways, and we remain committed to be a congregation that serves God in the service of All of God’s people, in so many different ways. We celebrate the privilege to welcome a Muslim community to our campus as they
observe Ramadan. We look forward in this year to further investing in our online proclamation of the gospel, leveraging the technological confidence we inherited through (and because of) the pandemic. We look forward to a major mission trip in July and a youth trip to our own LRCC site. God is indeed good!

**Calvary, Solana Beach**

Calvary Lutheran Church is fully engaged in the intentional interim journey towards calling the next settled pastor. Leadership and congregation embraced a thorough process to revisit the past (how did we get here?), explore the congregation’s identity (who are we here and now and what is God calling us to do/be next?), revisiting the organizational structure and leadership requirements, exploring partnerships (with whom did/can we collaborate?), and preparing for God’s promising future. The work is rewarding and filled with renewed hope and excitement for Christ and the Gospel. Keep Calvary Lutheran in your prayers!

**Hope, Temecula**

In May, Hope began worshipping in-person again. Thanks to the Pacifica Synod Technology Grant we were able to livestream worship to those who were not comfortable or otherwise not able to worship in person. On Pentecost Sunday, Hope’s youth assembled over 100 Birthday Bags for Central City Lutheran Mission with donations from the congregation and a gift from Thrivent Action Team. LRCC in-person Day Camp came to Hope with most activities held outdoors so kids could be mask-free while outdoors. We had two Camp Days visits from LRCC – including animals. Hope had an in-person VBS with 50 children – arranging kids into pods of 10 each. Adults, Youth and Children began meeting in-person, outdoors only, although some Zoom sessions continued. Puppeteers met during Advent to prepare a Christmas Eve message for our Family Christmas Eve Worship. Bells of Hope resumed bringing handbell music back to worship. Several food drives were held, donating the food to Community Mission of Hope in Temecula and Thanksgiving baskets were prepared and donated to Project Touch. Our preschool and kindergarten continued un-interrupted by the virus. Our Annual Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat was back as well as our Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras dinner – but that was moved outside for safety. At the end of November, Pastor Doug ended his work at Hope as interim pastor. Our thanks to Pastor Shane Frieberg and Pastor Scottie Lloyd who led worship until Pastor Dan Cole began as our next interim Pastor in January 2022. In December, Hope had our first two baptism since January 2020. Hope Lutheran, Hope Children’s Center & Kindergarten collected and delivered over 100 gifts for children of the CCLM community. Hope sent 10 youth and 5 children (along with 5 adults) to Winter Camp at Luther Glen. Now that Pastor Dan has had some time of getting to know us, we are gathering our congregation together to dive into transitional work. We are excited about our renewed hope and new possibilities for the ministry to which God is calling us.
Raincross Conference Report

Eden Riverside

This year we came back to in person worship which was a great step in and of itself. Our worship attendance has steadily grown both in person as well as on zoom. Throughout Covid we continued to give away Stater Bros food cards and hygiene packs to the needy. Our sack lunch program which benefits those in need at LSS resumed. Our preschool moved forward to near capacity, in fact, there was even a time where there was a waiting list. The fabulous work of our director and staff kept our school open during the whole of the pandemic. We have added to our membership this year through transfers in as well as baptisms. Also, we’ve expanded our footprint within the community by opening our doors to some new groups in addition to expanding the time of the groups who currently use our campus. We are working on adding to our youth programs by utilizing the creative ideas of our congregation. Our outreach to LSS and Luther Glen has continued to grow. Our quilters have been distributing quilts to those in need in the community. We have completed a number of projects on the property which were necessary for the good of the order. We also have a very busy and productive ELCW women’s group who support many local organizations as well as our own congregation. Eden is a vital member of the churches who make up the downtown Riverside core of churches. There are many opportunities to partner with these churches and grow through outreach. These are just a few things that God has blessed the good people of Eden to achieve during this past year.

Spirit of Joy: Hemet

The past year has brought the welcome return of sacred traditions and friends reuniting in church. The major highlight of the year is the resilience and joy the congregation has embodied. During outdoor worship we welcomed a hawk who spent every Sunday morning watching us with wise eyes and curiosity. Another day the winds came whipping through launching the Communion supper and my laptop into the air like graceful Olympic athletes. Our mortification quickly turning to laughter as we basked at nature and the Holy Spirit spicing things up. Phase one of our outdoor prayer garden was completed, creating a space of peace for members and the community. Lastly we as a congregation discovered a greater sense of gratitude. We were flat broke so many months and still kept the doors open and served the community the best we could. We experienced another year teaching us how priceless health, fellowship and grace are! We are entering the new year with hopefulness, renewed spirit and look forward to practicing hospitality together.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Claremont

The people of Good Shepherd Lutheran church continue to embody God’s purpose for us “To Love God, Family and Neighbor through Prayer, Teaching and Action.”

Highlights of our ministry this year include:
* On June 13 Good Shepherd held a congregational meeting in which we voted to adopt a new welcome statement and officially become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. This vote came after years of prayerful conversation, deliberation and discernment about our commitment to diversity and inclusion.
* Our music ministry has experienced significant transition this year. Perhaps the most significant transition has been the fact that we have not been able to sing together fully as a congregation since before the pandemic began in March of 2020. In May, our Music director Renee Gehlbach-Martinez and our praise band leader Miguel Martinez gave notice of their resignation. In July, we welcomed Vonetta Mixon as our interim music director. Vonetta was instrumental in helping us discern what music ministry could be in this unusual time, when congregational singing still was not safe because of the pandemic. She skillfully worked with soloists and vocalists from within our congregation and brought in musicians from outside to provide inspirational music for our worship services. By the end of December we were able to hire Edward Zelliff as our new music director.
* Upgrading our A/V system to support hybrid worship. We held our first hybrid worship services Palm Sunday in the courtyard. Indoor hybrid worship services began in the sanctuary in June.
* Weekly Sunday school for pre-k thru elementary age children that met online until summer and then in person beginning in the fall. Numerous GSLC families attend summer family camp at Luther Glen.
* In September we welcomed Elliott Abel as our Nursery Attendant and Sunday school teacher.
* One day Intergenerational Vacation Bible School for families that included crafts, games, Bible study and music.
* Good Shepherd’s generosity is revealed in their support to the community throughout the year. This support included hosting monthly food drives for a local food pantry, bi-monthly meals for CCLM, hosting regular American Red Cross Blood Drives, providing backpacks and school supplies for 63 local children, participating in the local Walk for Hunger and Homelessness, adopting two families for Christmas gifts and providing 1000 Christmas gift bags to the women at California Institute for Women.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Riverside CA

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.*  
– Hebrews 10:23

This past year was another challenging one for everyone, due to the COVID pandemic, but we are happy to report that many good things happened in our congregation during the past year! Here are some of the highlights.

Worshiping Together
At the beginning of the year, we continued the pattern of worship we had begun in 2020, with pre-recorded worship services posted on our YouTube channel each week. In addition to those
online services at 9:30 am, we held a fellowship time after the service via Zoom. We offered drive-through communion on the first Sunday of the month, and a short at-home communion service on the third Sunday of the month via Zoom.

We experimented with some outdoor communion services, and finally, on Pentecost Sunday we resumed holding in-person worship services in the sanctuary while live streaming our services on YouTube. In October, we resumed our traditional service at 11:00 am in addition to the 9:30 service. We are grateful to be able to gather in person for worship again, although our in-person attendance is lower than it was before the pandemic.

**Serving Together**

During the past year, our congregation continued to support its various ministries of service in spite of the pandemic. Trinity’s Social Concerns Committee organized monthly projects to help people in need in our community. Our “Banquets at Trinity” (BAT) meal program served a free community breakfast on Saturdays and dinner on Mondays, we prepared monthly dinners for the men at the CCLM shelter, the Quilting Bee made 161 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and we added the Shower of Hope program on Thursdays in our parking lot, near the Lutheran Social Services office located on our church campus.

**Learning Together**

After canceling Sunday School and Day Camp in 2020, we were happy to be able to bring these programs back in 2021! We also continued to make use of Zoom for a weekly Bible study and a monthly book club, along with various committee meetings. Some of our members also participated in a study of racism that included members from several Inland Area ELCA congregations.

**Reaching Out**

One of the things we have learned from putting our worship services online is that it allows us to renew connections with members of our church family who have moved away. It also allows visitors to check out our worship services online before deciding to attend in person. So, streaming our worship services online has become an important tool for outreach.

This past year we were also able to reach out to families with our October Trunk-n-Treat event and summer Day Camp. We continued to help the children’s home in Tijuana that we have supported for several years, and we support the work of 3 ELCA missionaries working in Asia. At the end of 2021, our council decided to participate in the Living the Resurrection program offered through the synod with support from California Lutheran Homes. We look forward to discovering new ways to strengthen our congregation and reach out to our community through this program.

In all of these ways, Trinity Lutheran Church reached out in 2021 with a message of hope and love, founded upon the grace of God. We are grateful for the many and surprising ways God has blessed our congregation during the COVID pandemic.
Big Bear Conference Report

St. John’s, Palm Desert
St. John’s continued to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through the challenges of 2021. We’re grateful for a dedicated team who continued to adapt to provide weekly Worship Services, Christian education, service to the community, pastoral care, and fellowship opportunities – we participated in the Faith Growth Digital Ministry mentoring program and started a podcast, “Grace Abounds,” of weekly sermons; continued our FIND food distribution, and our support of the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army, and other local organizations; added a 30’ by 60’ Pavilion to our on-campus Park to facilitate congregational and community events; participated in Love Local Coachella Valley, receiving over $8,000 to spend in support of local businesses; offered Youth and Adult Bible studies in-person and via Zoom; and provided pastoral care through our various Caring Ministries.

Spirit of Peace, Big Bear
The beginning of 2021 found us doing church via Zoom. Pastor Glen Egertson was our supply pastor in January and February and Pastor Ray Wade covered March through Easter. The first Sunday after Easter we started worshipping with St. Columba’s Episcopal Church in their new sanctuary. Our intention was to come together in a partnership. We have worshiped together ever since and now have a Memo of Understanding being reviewed by the synod and diocese. The partnership committee met every other Saturday working out the details of the partnership. Being a Federated Congregation is our ultimate goal. St. Columba’s Spirit of Peace Church is our working name. We have continued to do Simple Suppers, Gift bags for the ladies at DOVES, monthly Birthday lunches and God’s Work Our Hands Sunday. God is doing wonderful things in and amongst the members of this partnership. We are especially thankful for the leadership and guidance of Father Stuart Swan our joint pastor.

Trinity, Victorville
Trinity in Victorville began worshipping in person again in June, and things started a little slow, as they often do in the summer with vacations and many escaping the heat. But as Fall came, so did the people, including quite a number of newcomers! We are looking forward to welcoming a group of new members at the Easter Vigil. This includes some who began worshipping with us online and have now become active in-person in our community. We have been blessed by a couple very dedicated volunteers who put in countless hours toward ensuring we have a high-quality livestream, both for our members worshipping from home and others who join us from around the country. Other activities included a Fall Weekend Arts Camp for children and families in place of a summer VBS, culminating in a church picnic; as well as a Christian caregiving class to kickstart our visitation & care ministries. We were also blessed to participate in the Dialogues on Race opportunity through the Synod’s Anti-Racism Working Group. For Lent this year we took a 40 Day Bible Challenge to gain perspective on the whole story of scripture. Now we are looking toward a process of evaluating our ministry and mission in our community as we enter the next chapter of our life together.
First Lutheran Church, Redlands
God provides! This past year First has embraced new ways of worship and fellowship. The words of Isaiah come to mind “Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” We have adapted how we sing, share the peace, and administer the sacraments during the ongoing pandemic. While worship is different, it is still joyous and glorifies God. The technology skills developed during the pandemic allowed us to transition from prerecorded worship services to live streaming after returning to the sanctuary. We are proclaiming the gospel far beyond the doors of our sanctuary. With heavy hearts but with a great sense of hope for the future, we received Pastor Kim Krogstad’s retirement notice effective June 2022. God still has new things in mind for First. We are grateful that God continues to work in and through our congregation.

Lutheran Church of the Desert, Joshua Tree
Like every congregation within the Synod, we have had our share of surprises during the past year. Once again our geographical isolation proved very effective in keeping us healthy and infection free. We have established a video program that allows us to provide live worship over Zoom and then post a video to our Facebook page. God is working in great and wonderful ways for us, and we have seen an increase in our weekly worship as tourists return to our desert paradise. We are excited that our pastor will be soon graduating from the TEEM program and hopefully will be ordained before the end of 2022. She has carried us through these last few years with love and grace and we praise God for her leadership and ability to teach us new ways to proclaim the Gospel during these challenging times.

Our Savior’s, Banning
For Our Savior’s Lutheran in Banning, CA, 2021 has been another unusual year! There have been gatherings and shutdowns, joys and deep sorrows. But with God’s continued blessings, the love of our Lord Jesus and the strength of the Holy Spirit, Our Savior’s has made it to 2022. Praise be to God! Here are a few of praises:

- What a blessing to have had Pastor Dave Kieffer and family with us for a year now! He guided us through difficult times, always with a joyful heart and encouragement. He nudges us to move outside our church family to meet our neighbors and friends with loving and inviting hearts.
- We have been busy maintaining the church, watching our fiscal health, planning new ways to worship and fellowship while focusing on bringing Christ’s love to those who do not know Him. We revived Endowment fund, planned Fun Fellowship activities, upgraded the sound system and visual support during service and online, repaired windows, doors, roofs and heating and air conditioning systems, a revision of the Stewardship program with a focus on “Generosity,” and increased in our outreach to such as the “houseless” in our community as well as our neighbors.

For all of the members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church, we give thanks and praise to God our Creator for the continued blessings, to our Lord, Jesus Christ, for His love and sacrifice and to the Holy Spirit for the strength provided for each and every one of us. We are honored to be a part of this loving family and look forward to what great things we can do in 2022!
God’s Mission Lutheran Parish: A two-point parish of Lutheran Church of the Cross, Rialto, CA and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Fontana, CA

These two faith communities continued to receive the gifts of God’s grace together, bidding farewell to Pastor Elwood (Woody) Hall, who had provided pastoral services under contract for the past few years, and welcoming Pastor Mark Winick after his retirement from hospital chaplaincy in San Bernardino.

Shepherd of the Desert, Barstow

Like every faith community in the country, we entered 2021 dealing with the realities of the pandemic but we had become smarter in how to be church in the midst of a pandemic. We had also gained wisdom of how to be church in the absence of the church buildings. Guided by the Spirit, we were able to invent ways of being together in the spirit even though we were away from one another in body.

Mid 2021 we resumed in-person worship albeit gradually. We resumed Laundry Love and Free Lunch for the community, and we reconnected with services at the Pregnancy Centre, and the Barstow Humane Society. Our weekly bible studies, catechism classes, and business meetings moved gradually from Zoom gatherings to in-person.

We also continued our phone call ministry to those who preferred to stay home rather than gather in-person, as well as for the homebound. For these vulnerable siblings in Christ and for those who joined our online community from out of state, we decided to make livestreaming services permanent. We invested in technology that would enable us to do so.

It has been such a thrill getting back together and we are so full of God’s spirit that helps us to imagine ministry now and in the future. We continue to seek to be the representation of Christ in the city and community of Barstow and to live out our mission of being faithful witnesses of the enduring love of God.

Cross and Crown, Rancho Cucamonga

Cross and Crown continues to meet in person one year after reopening. We are a small congregation, seeing 30-40 in worship on Sundays, but we are excited to have grown our YouTube channel to almost 500 subscribers. We have added members to our praise band, which alternates with our traditional cantor every other Sunday. We offer Bible studies, book studies, and classes, including Financial Peace University. We continue our outreach to the community with our partners, Rancho Cucamonga Family Resource Center, Central City Lutheran Mission, and Etiwanda School District. We have welcomed a Korean Presbyterian congregation, an Indonesian ELCA congregation, and an AA group into the building. Our council has begun working with Pastor Marj Funk-Pihl and other congregations through Living the Resurrection missional development. We are exploring enhanced technology including search engine optimization and Google grants. We are currently welcoming two new families and three members in baptism. The Spirit continues to sustain and amaze us, and our minds are set on God’s abundance and eagerness to see the new life that is just around the corner. With all we do, we strive to love God with all we’ve got, love our neighbors, and love ourselves.
Lutheran Church of Our Savior – Spirit of Hope, San Bernardino
2021 through the first quarter of 2022 was simultaneously a challenging and exciting time for our congregation. It saw the resumption of indoor worship on Palm Sunday 2021 as the coronavirus pandemic began to ease; the two formerly separate ELCA congregations in San Bernardino, Lutheran Church of Our Savior and Spirit of Hope completed their consolidation process – forming a single, larger, better equipped for ministry congregation; interim pastor Rev. Milo Ken Anderson completed his time serving the consolidated congregation, and the call of our new pastor, Rev. Steve Anderson, was affirmed in January 2022. The congregation is using the season of Lent 2022 as a time of dying to self, returning to God, and selecting a new name/unified identity which will be revealed as a “new creation” on Easter morning.

Central City Lutheran Mission, San Bernardino
There are exciting things happening at CCLM as we continually renew our service to the city and the Inland Empire, including through renewing our facilities. CCLM is a ministry of Lutheran Social Services, so see the report from LSS elsewhere in this notebook or at Assembly to read or hear all about them!

Hope, Palm Desert
While the year 2021 has been a challenge worldwide, the Holy Spirit was hard at work through the people of Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert, California. We were finally able to open our Hope Children's Center to in person care. This has been a blessing unlike any other. The children are learning about Jesus and demanding that their families attend church on Sundays! With the transition to both in person and online worship, we are finding that we are reaching new people around the globe. Our new members consist of not only people here in the Coachella Valley, but people in Thailand, Norway, and other countries around the world. One very successful ministry has been our online daily devotionals on Facebook. It has been remarkable to see families connect across the country each and every morning. We give thanks that Jesus remains to be faithful to the people of Hope Lutheran Church.

River of Hope, Palm Springs
River of Hope, our Lutheran Faith Community in the Desert, continues to shape and reshape the vision originally laid out not only by the Pacifica Synod, but other congregations who affirmed the need for an ELCA presence on the West end of the Coachella Valley. Now only three years old, the mission/ministry of this work kicks into high gear with post-pandemic creativity, all while on its way to becoming an official congregation of the ELCA.

God’s Spirit has called us to a deeper understanding of diversity and inclusivity, constantly challenging us to be the church for those who have been marginalized, even rejected by the church in previous days. Now the grace of God’s love flows freely and welcomes back those who were disenfranchised. As a recent ad we placed in a local PS magazine says, “Have an aversion to organized religion? Maybe you were even told there was something about you God couldn’t love. What you were told was a lie. Come meet the God who thinks you’re fabulous!”

We still meet at a Jewish temple (Jesus worshipped at one, and so do we!) and value our ecumenical and interfaith partnerships. Worship continues to be traditional in nature, but hardly conventional. Rich Cook, new Director of Music, has brought an exciting new dimension to worship.
Additional equipment, thanks to synod grants, has allowed us to become technically available to do ministry to an increasing online community. Engaging with the community through outreach, serving a growing homeless population in our village, and standing up with minorities undergoing oppression are main streams of the work God has called us to be about.

Finally, we acknowledge with grateful hearts the support of the pastors and people of Hope, Palm Desert, under whose umbrella, this work has been made possible. We also thank many other congregations for their prayers and needful financial support that has also contributed to the success of this new mission start. Finally, we are most appreciative to Rev. Tom Goellrich, DEM, who has guided this work, to Terri Robertson who has assisted us greatly in finances, and to Bishop Andy Taylor who has been a constant encouragement.

The vision has become reality! Praise God!

**Faith, Yucaipa**

Faith in Yucaipa is experiencing a renewal of in person worship as the threat of COVID recedes. Over the past year we have offered worship via YouTube. We continue to offer today but our in person worship has rebounded with our younger families back. We also restarted our confirmation classes. During Covid we not only worked to offer worship in digital format but also to improve our property. We constructed four gazebos on our patio area. We completed our work on the front yard to make it drought resistant and full of biblical imagery. In September of 2021 we were able to reopen our preschool under the outstanding leadership of Heather Uribe. Most of our preschool staff members have returned and the preschool is now serving 30 infants to preschoolers. Our pantry continues to be open twice monthly serving 30 to 40 families. 70 quilts and 70 lap quilts were sewn by our quilting volunteers. At the same time we continue to offer our space to NA, OA, AA, and Al-Anon groups. We are proud to be able to be of service in making the Kingdom of God more real in Yucaipa.

Pastor John Bunge

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Matthew A. Anderson, Dean
SADDLEBACK CONFERENCE REPORT

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH (San Clemente, CA)

Life is a beach in San Clemente at Christ Lutheran. We are worshipping weekly at 8:00am at North Beach and at 10:30 in our Sanctuary on Camino Capistrano. Both of our services are streamed via Facebook Live and are uploaded to YouTube weekly. We have three bible studies we are doing one on the book Imagine Heaven, one on 1 Corinthians, and a WELCA bible study using the Gather magazine. We are currently completing new member classes and will welcome new members on Palm Sunday. We have started a confirmation class on Zoom. We are an RIC congregation deeply involved in social ministry. We work to change our community’s politics, brainstorm solutions, and support those living in poverty. Our outreach to the community includes a Laundry Love ministry and a monthly bonfire/potluck. We also support San Clemente Military Family Outreach and the Family Assistance Ministries. We have a thriving preschool on-site and have just completed a drought-resistant landscaping project. Come join us for fun in the sun and sand on your toes as we share ministry with the world.

Submitted by Reverend Juli Patten

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH (Dana Point, CA)

In response to God’s grace, Gloria Dei was active in ministry in a variety of ways this past year.

- Pastor David Mattson led a gifted staff including both full-time and part-time people and a large number of gifted volunteers.

- We made a commitment to increase our overall giving in terms of stewardship to support the ELCA, the Pacifica Synod, and many ministries. We also continue to support a missionary in China.

- Our preschool turned a tough 2020 into a strong year with a few new staff members and the school now has a long waiting list. Director Shelli Parajeckas has been nimble in facing all the changes.

- Church Family/Fellowship Life: 2021 saw not only some of our oldest members die and without funerals, and people lost loved ones to Covid. But it was also full of baptisms, weddings, Confirmations, First Communions, fellowship events, and more. We learned a lot and continue to learn how to do ministry in unusual times. When it was safe to do so, our Eucharistic Ministry team (led by Daneen Pysz and Intern Veronica Gould) had a training for new ministers and they have been busy visiting shut-ins.

- Worship: Our goal is to respond to God’s grace with an energetic, liturgical style, while also being relevant with a warm welcome, practical messages, and emphasizing the cross of Jesus.

- We welcomed Veronica Gould as our seminary intern for the year. We also had a summer college (CLU) intern helping with youth ministry and other activities.

- Hopefully, we will reconnect more with Los Angelitos Orphanage (Tijuana) and bring them a new van for school and other activities.

- This year saw the return of many 12 Step and other community groups and the addition of an important new ministry at Gloria Dei - South County Literacy Council. They teach English to very grateful people.

- On Ash Wednesday, March 2, the Concordia College Choir (MN) will be in concert. This was a sign that music and worship groups were coming back.
At Gloria Dei, we often shout responsively: “Grace changes - everything!” God’s grace shown fully and finally through the cross and resurrection has powered everything we do in this past year and we’re looking forward to all the opportunities in the future to proclaim God’s grace.

**NEWPORT HARBOR LUTHERAN CHURCH** (Newport Beach, CA)

Moses once faced utter exhaustion. Leading his people in battle he told them, "I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand." The Bible adds, "Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand [the enemy] prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary; so he took a stone and sat upon it, and Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on the side and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the going down of the sun". And the people of Israel won the battle. (Exodus 17:9-13)

For two years we have been in the Covid pandemic battle. In our exhaustion, we have been frightened and frustrated as were the Exodus people, wondering why they were wandering in the wilderness without enough resources. But at Newport Harbor Lutheran people have rallied. We have lifted up each other’s weary arms and spirits and hopes. On Sundays we only waved the passing of the peace and not hugged, only ate communion wafers and not rich bread, only saw eyes above masks and not smiles. But we were still together in our journey. By God’s help we have been Aaron and Hur for each other.

An added blessing – we embarked on a $600,000 remodeling campaign. This is the first of several remodels we will do over several years on our 52-year-old campus as we prepare to expand our preschool in 2022. Our campus looks fresh. We also became adept at zoom Bible studies and welcomed a fine new music director.

2020 was horrible. 2021 was hopeful. May 2022 be healthy.

**OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH** (San Clemente, CA)

Throughout the year, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church has offered worship online and in person, Bible studies, youth groups, events for youth and opportunities for our members to serve their neighbors. The Preschool and Infant Care Center of Our Savior’s was able to remain open and provide a much needed, much appreciated and well-respected ministry to young ones in San Clemente.

In 2021 Our Savior’s called a new pastor. Pastor Rich Ajer served faithfully as interim until November when the church voted to call Pastor Cole McGlynn. Pastor Cole started in mid-November just before the start of Advent.

With a new pastor and with new energy having (hopefully) made it through the worst of the COVID pandemic, Our Savior’s is excited to see how God will use us and lead us in our community. We are not sure what the future holds but we know who holds the future and who has continued to be with us and urge us onwards.

Other congregations in our conference:

- **Lutheran Church of the Master** in Corona Del Mar
- **Mission Lutheran** in Laguna Niguel served by Pastor Bill Synder

Respectfully submitted, and serving as Dean of the Saddleback Conference,
Pastor David R. Mattson
Son & Surf Conference Report

The Son & Surf Conference comprises of 11 congregations and ministry groups from Cypress, Fountain Valley, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Los Alamitos, Orange, Santa Ana, and Seal Beach. Pastor Jennifer Schultz serves as the dean of the conference. We have not met for in-person events or meetings officially as a conference since early 2020 due to Covid. Over this past year, there continues to be adjustments made for worship and activities at the various ministry sites. There have also been some rostered leader transitions within the conference. The following individual reports are shared in alphabetical order according to the name of the congregation/ministry group.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Los Alamitos: We were able to return to in-person worship on Palm Sunday of 2021 and have continued to do so since then. We also continue to record all of our worship services and make them available to view on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube page. We celebrated our 60th Anniversary in November of 2021 (actual anniversary date was April 4), we wanted to wait to celebrate until we felt comfortable having a fellowship event. Pastor Tom Goellrich preached at the worship service and we enjoyed a catered luncheon and beer/hymnsing after the luncheon. It was wonderful to be able to celebrate and mark this important anniversary together. We applied for and received funds from the Synod Technology Grant and used the matching funds to upgrade and add new audio/visual equipment to further enhance our capabilities for outdoor/mobile worship/events. We’ve been intentional in returning to familiar happenings at the church, following recommendations and guidelines given from health authorities.

Imanuel Indonesian Fellowship (Los Alamitos)
Highlights:  - The technology equipment for live streaming services, from Synod Technology Development Grant.
  - We, joined with Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Los Alamitos, did some ministries together.
  - We, joined with Indonesian Lutheran Ministry of Rancho Cucamonga, served the needy in San Bernardino.
  - All are well and healthy.

Special Celebration:- Received 1 member.
Challenge:  - to go through the Covid-19 influence.
King of Glory, Fountain Valley continued to praise God, grow in our faith and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the pandemic with combinations of in-person and livestreamed worship services both in and outdoors. Our King's Kitchen ministry, which offers food and fellowship to the hungry and unhoused in our community, didn't miss a beat as it maintained its pandemic options for take out meals and outdoor fellowship. Our preschool and youth ministry learned to adapt to the changing regulations and varying needs of our families, kids and youth. And most proudly, we adopted a new community health ministry in partnership with Hoag Hospital which included holding our first flu shot clinic where many church members and preschool families were vaccinated and hosting our first blood drive at the start of 2022. Along with the many worshipping communities of Pacifica Synod, we are working together to navigate how to be Christ's Body by loving all of God's people and meeting the needs we can in this ever-changing world.

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Huntington Beach has expanded our exchange program with the Lutheran church in Japan (JELC)—in addition to youth and adult exchange programs we’ve added a preschool peace exchange. The church also created a partnership with a local Catholic congregation and a Presbyterian congregation to address social needs in the city, especially around issues of at-risk youth. Our congregation remains active in Cursillo and has expanded adult faith maturity experiences, especially the Spiritual Exercises (of St. Ignatius).

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church called me as their settled pastor and I began on November 1st, 2021. We are in the process of updating our constitution, and a group of us are attending the Living The Resurrection 18 month training/workshops with the synod so that we can discover how God is leading us to serve our community in Cypress. We are worshipping in-person and on Zoom and have a rich music life together. We are having Lenten Suppers and Worship with Holden Evening Prayer and are planning a dramatic reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday and festive worship on Easter. Throughout the pandemic our Social Ministry has remained active in support of different groups, (local, national and international) working to bring peace and justice to our world.

In Christ,
Carole Parmeter Dyer, Pastor
As with the rest of the world we began looking at new ways of sharing the gospel. We worshiped online using a cell phone through Facebook for the first half of the year. We were one of the recipients of the Pacifica Synod Technology Grant, which allowed us to purchase cameras, computer, and microphones to improve our livestreaming abilities. We switched platforms for livestreaming from Facebook to YouTube. This has made a difference in our streaming capabilities as we grow into the digital world. On May 23, 2021, we began worshiping in person, with COVID-19 protocols in place. We continue to livestream our service each week. With our new technology in place, we are able to help those who can’t attend funerals in person as we are now able to livestream the service.

We have started installing cameras externally around our campus. This will help us with the security of our Children’s Center as well as the church.

We were able to apply for the first and second round of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to help both the church and the preschool financially. Both rounds of the PPP were forgiven by the end of the year. The congregation voted to increase Pastor Jennifer’s hours. The congregation is moving forward toward having a full-time pastor.

We had several food donation drives throughout the year and a toy drive at Christmas to support the Friendly Center in Orange. We were able to continue to support ELCA World Hunger and the ministries of the Pacifica Synod. We were able to host our annual Living Nativity at Christmas once again. In December, we received a gift for the painting of our buildings which will take place sometime next year. We continue to shine the light of Christ in all we do.
Rejoice Conference Report

By Pastor Anne-Grethe Krogh Nielsen, Dean of Rejoice Conference.

2021 was continually marked by Covid19, and thus with the ongoing precautions, care and creativity. As the Global Pandemic continued to mark our days and ways as local congregations, churches, and communities, the pastors of Rejoice Conference met via Zoom or in safe in-person settings. We have met for much needed time to check-in, share, update and be in prayerful conversation.

The Congregations of Rejoice have also continued to be diligent, precautious, compassionate, and creative in how we have been able to be church and do ministry; and especially committed to how we might explore new and different ways. The digital church has been embraced as a necessity but even more as a blessed ministry and unexpected tool. While we are all adapting as best as we can, we are also looking forward to become a hybrid church of worship, faith, community, engagement and mission both in person as well as maintaining and broadening our digital presence and outreach.

I, Pastor Anne-Grethe Krogh Nielsen, from the Danish Lutheran Church was elected to be the new dean of Rejoice Conference in May 2021 as former dean Pastor Cate Luehr stepped down.

We are 12 congregations in our conference,

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fullerton (Pastor Nate Allen)

St Paul Lutheran Church went completely online like many churches during the pandemic, until the week after Easter last April 2021. Many things have changed, and yet much has stayed the same as well. Numbers of in-person churchgoers declined significantly, yet our online presence has helped maintain connections even after we returned to in-person worship. We added another service on Sunday mornings so that people could attend worship with less numbers and still feel comfortable. Our choir came back briefly in the Fall but then took another break after Christmas due to the recent surge. We continue to work closely with community partners in our area, making donations of food and money, and working on local projects that need help. We hosted a number of concerts during the pandemic, mostly online but some in-person as well, including a fundraiser for the Lutheran Church of Haiti last September. We hired a new Youth and Family Coordinator part-time to help strengthen that aspect of our ministry. We were looking forward to attending the National Youth Gathering but now are planning to join Luther Glen for their retreat! Our Stewardship Team worked on a campaign to help people think about stewardship more as a holistic part of their faith journey, and our Evangelism Team has been working on a plan to reach out to new neighbors through events, as well as reconnecting with inactive members and others who we lost touch with during the online-only phase. Last year our Church Council updated our Constitution and fixed a number of large issues with our church campus that had been put on hold for a while. As we go forward, we look to continue building off of our Stewardship and Evangelism efforts, along with growing our Youth and Children ministries (bringing back our Easter children’s activities and VBS), and our Adult Education through Bible Studies and other faith-building courses.

Emanuel Lutheran Church, La Habra (Pastor Sandra Bentz)

Despite Covid challenges, in 2021 Emanuel continued to be generous in support of our Pacifica Synod as well as our LRCC camp ministry, ELCA Hunger and Disaster Ministries and countless local organizations serving community needs. 2021 also began a year of transition for Emanuel as we prepare to call a new pastor in 2022.
After a prayerful farewell to Pastor Cate Luehr after 13 years of her leadership, we are prayerfully discerning “Who are we?” and “What does God want us to do and to be?” Focused on making Emanuel more visible and accessible to our neighbors, we are getting ready for a Neighborhood Easter Outreach event and want to help our members re-engage and reconnect with God, our neighbors and each other.

First Lutheran Church, Fullerton. (Pastor Greg Ronning and Pastor Jenifer Garcia)

First Lutheran Church began 2021 with exciting plans for a grand new post covid beginning! But as we all now know, that was not to happen. So, we adapted, made some new adjustments, and were still able to move forward in a number of areas. Thanks to the matching technology grant from the synod, we were able to enhance our audio and video equipment and begin providing Live Stream worship services on our YouTube channel. In partnership with the Pacifica Synod, First Lutheran received a Transitional Leadership Grant, that allowed us to call an Associate Pastor. In October we welcomed Rev. Jenifer Garcia to our staff. Our ministry partners The Table, Epic Church, Lutheran Social Services, and St. Thomas remain committed to working together – sharing space and ministry. Our Pantry, “Caring Hands,” continued its ministry without skipping a beat despite the ever-changing demands of the pandemic, serving meals on Tuesday evenings and handing out groceries on Wednesday mornings. The faithful members of First Lutheran continued to graciously share of their gifts, talents, and resources enabling us to finish the year in good financial and spiritual shape.

The Table. (Pastor Greg Ronning).

In 2020, despite the Pandemic, The Table did very well, meeting on Zoom. In 2021, we experienced a bit with Zoom fatigue, and we struggled trying to figure out how to gather in person safely and effectively. The Table’s unique format, doing church around tables sharing a meal, was particularly problematic. But through it all, a core group finished the year, dedicated to continuing the work of the mission start. Highlights of the year included supporting the “Queerfully and Wonderfully Made” – week of Camp at Luther Glen and working with a local agency that helps transition immigrant children into life in the United States. Our Intern, Jasmine Waring, will be taking a greater role in the leadership of The Table in 2022, as we continue to seek new ways to be church in our community, and discern the future of The Table.

Dream Builders. (Pastor Hyunho Hong)

Church of Dream Builders are a Korean speaking Lutheran Worship community. We worship on Sunday Morning 11:45 am in person at Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Anaheim, CA. We have Saturday ministry programs such as Free Spanish classes for kids, Basketball class by a professional coach, Fine Arts class, and Kids Book clubs. There were 40-50 kids on Saturday from 2 – 5:30 pm until the pandemic stopped everything. Now we get ready to reopen expecting that Summer of 2022 will be the right time. We also have partnership with Lamb of God and St. Luke Lutheran Church in ministries of each other.

St. Luke Lutheran Church. (Pastor Hyunho Hong)

We are a Multi-cultural worship community with plenty of love and hug reaching out to our neighbors in many different ways. We have partnership with Lamb of God and Church of Dream Builders. Three churches get together at least twice a year for worship and fellowship. We are also mission partners with each other. St. Luke
helps Lamp of God’s homeless ministry and food pantry ministry. We also love being partner with Dream Builders for Free Spanish classes for Kids Ministry and many other ministries. We support Kids4Hope International adopting three children. We nest one of Orange County Head start campuses for 20 years so far.

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Whittier, (Pastor Jeffrey Nelson)**

Though the pandemic has restricted or limited some areas of ministry for St. Andrew Lutheran, it has also created greater awareness of those who previously might have fallen through the cracks. We now live-stream our services, reaching people who previously could not physically come to worship in person, even in other states and countries. The blending of our worship services for a time has created greater appreciation for the diversity of God's gifts offered in worship. We have transformed our communication with the congregation from monthly to weekly and have found ways to share this information with those who do not have access to electronic communication. We continue to house the Little Learners Exploration Academy and have supported them to allow them to expand to include infants in their program. Monthly we host the senior food distribution provided by the Orange County food bank, ministered to those who have been limited in meeting their own needs because of the pandemic, assembled health kits for Lutheran World Relief, and supported several other social ministry programs locally, nationally, and internationally. Following the example of our LORD, we strive to be GOD'S voice and hands in the world in whatever ways we are able.

**Faith Lutheran Church, Anaheim, (Pastor James Proper)**

Faith Lutheran in Anaheim continues to be in transition between pastors. As we deliberate about our future, we are grateful for the way a variety of folks among our members have stepped up to fulfill the needs of the congregation. Throughout the last year of pandemic, we have continued to worship in person, mostly outdoors. More recently, and with proper protocols in place, we have ventured indoors. Our music ministry is strong, and lay leadership plan worship each Sunday, with a variety of people taking part. Throughout the previous year, we have relied on supply pastors as we prepare for a more intentional interim and look forward to the call process of a new pastor. With this transition in mind, we are carefully considering what ministry may look like for us in the future, realizing we may never 'get back to normal' or even what some have fondly called 'the good old days'. Rather, a new normal will help shape our ministry and future together.

**Messiah Lutheran Church, Yorba Linda, (Pastor Bob Mooney and Pastor Jay Egenes)**

The highlights for Messiah over the last year have been the continued partnerships with Caring Hands Food Pantry at First Lutheran Church in Fullerton, with PATH Navigation Center for the Homeless in Placentia, and HIS House OC a transitional living ministry in Placentia. We have also continued our partnerships with Hope 4 Kids International and funded our 152nd fresh water well in Uganda. Our VBS last summer brought 300 kids onto our campus, and we look forward to another joy packed week this summer too. The pandemic created the opportunity for us to increase our online presence. Our online worship continues to be an open door for people to join the Messiah community. Like many other congregations we also experienced painful losses and grief with close to 40 funerals over the past year. These losses included many long-time partners in our ministry. Messiah continues to emphasize that God has a really big table. We want to make sure that people know that they are not only invited to the party, but that each person is welcomed and asked to dance.
**Danish Lutheran Church, Yorba Linda.** *(Pastor Anne-Grethe Krogh Nielsen)*

The Danish Lutheran Church continues to worship in English and Danish and promote Danish Culture, Traditions and Language through many events throughout the year. We are a strong community of congregants and commuters, who try to be a friendly, welcoming, and happy faith community. With committed volunteers, generous donations and a digital grant from the Synod we have been able to start, maintain and expand our digital ministry. We have experienced a digital presence and outreach, that truly has been a blessing and a hopeful vision for the future. These past years have shown us new ways to be a living Danish Lutheran Church, with vital global and cultural presence and yet locally rooted. Besides our Weekly Worship Services and Events, we offer Danish Language classes, confirmation classes, Danish Summer Camp, Hygge fest, and Scandinavian Christmas Fair. The Danish Church actively supports HIS House OC (transitional living ministry in Placentia), regularly hosts Lifeline Screenings for the Community, and hosts Voting Centers. Furthermore, a small Spanish New Life Ministry Congregation worships every Saturday in the church. - The Danish Church continues to invite everyone to come worship with us, dine with us, laugh with us, and together be nourished, fed, strengthened, comforted, educated and enlightened.

**Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Anaheim.**

The Congregation is in transition after the retirement of pastor Steve Bieghler in December 2021. Sunday Supply Preaching.

**Shepherd of Life Lutheran Church, Whittier.**

Sunday supply preaching by Pastor Bill Norman. No other meetings, ministries or activities.

**Other congregations in Rejoice Conference are:**

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Buena Park. Pastor Michael Schneider*

*Salem Lutheran Church, Whittier. Pastor Maggie Goodwin.*
Hukilau Conference Report

The Hukilau Conference of the Pacifica Synod consists of 10 congregations on the islands of Hawai‘i, Maui, O‘ahu and Kaua‘i, as well as several congregations lead by ELCA Pastors (one each on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i and Lana‘i and Guam), the work of Pacific Health Ministry as well as the work that Retired Chaplain Steve Jensen does with Wounded Warriors through the Kaneohe Marine Corps Base on the Windward side of O‘ahu.

Throughout the last two years, we have been able to continue to gather each month over Zoom, which has been a great way to check in with one another without the need for travel.

Pastor Kathryn Zurcher has served as Dean of the Hukilau Conference for the last 6 years, so we will be electing a new Dean during the 2022 Pacifica Synod.

Below are a few reports from some of our pastors/ministries in the Hukilau Conference:

Lihue Lutheran, led by Pastor JP Paxton, has supported several ministries throughout this past year. The Martha’s Circle began its last and final year of service, providing cleaning of the fellowship halls, church, worship, and administrative spaces. The Dorcas Society, our quilters group, has continued to meet and has recently received an increase in membership and participation due to the impending lift on mask mandates. Mobile Munchies, a food distribution-outreach group, serves numerous groups and non-profits around the island to provide bagged lunches to groups and individuals facing food scarcity. Lihue Lutheran has continued to develop a gardening ministry called “Garden of Grace” in which we have planted over 5 box planters on church property to support congregational wellness and collaborative activities. Over the past year, Lihue Lutheran has offered one worship service each Sunday morning and provides a livestream of all of our services via Facebook Live. Lihue Lutheran continues to support affiliate ministry groups such as Al-Anon, CODA, AA, a weaving group, a halau group, and an additional quilting group on campus.

Youth ministry continues with a modest group and meets every other week for a time of food, fellowship, and a short lesson. The College Young Adults Group, named the Ghetto Sweet Tarts, has grown from 2-3 to about 13 in the past year. They meet each week for a time of devotion-discussion, faith formation, food, and fellowship activities. Our Bible Study – BOBS – meets once a week and we have studied through the book, The Forgotten Luther, 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, and the Book of the Twelve (minor prophets) this past year. We have recently launched two new groups that include: RAW (really am worship), a group that meets once a week for early morning prayer and worship and a men’s group, which meets once a week for a men’s bible study and campus clean-up.

Lihue Lutheran has been the recipient of the Matthew 25 grant and a technology grant from the Pacifica Synod. This has supported our Mobile Munchies ministry as well as collaborative efforts with other churches to host food distributions during the pandemic. The technology grant blessed our weekly worship activities by helping us develop technologies to support virtual and online ministries. Lihue Lutheran also received generous donations to replace 25-year old ovens in our kitchen and will receive two brand new gas stove-top ovens to launch intergenerational ministries centered on baking, cooking, and community.
Maluhia Lutheran Church on O’ahu led by Rev Jasmine Bostock (who also serves an Episcopal Congregation on the Waianae Coast) took a break these past years, because of COVID, from their two main outreach ministries - One Pot One Hope and Kids Klub. Both those ministries have started up again in 2022.

Pastor Keith Wolter serves Christ Lutheran in Mililani on O’ahu and shares this report: As we moved into January 2021, Christ Lutheran Church continued to hold hybrid worship services with Holy Communion. In-person worship at 8am featured a Facebook Livestream via a small MEVO camera. Worship at 11am used a more sophisticated audio-visual setup for Zoom and later upload to our YouTube channel.

We also continued to upgrade our AV system, with new cords, microphones, and AV processors. The mobile MEVO allowed us to change scenarios quickly, too, so that we could be in the sanctuary, in an office, up close, far off, and even outside. We are thinking these upgrades are going to be a continuous part of our congregation’s life and worship. Because of the mobility of the MEVO in particular, we were able to add – sometimes at the last minute – various litanies of prayer, song, and word on weekdays throughout the year. Litanies included Prayer in a Times of War and/or National Distress, MLK Day, Epiphany, New Year’s Eve, Blue Christmas, World AIDS Day, the Commemoration of the Emmanuel 9, the 41st Anniversary of CLC, daily Holy Week reflections, and a nicely pre-recorded and edited Thanksgiving service. We also posted various public health updates as they pertained to our worship life.

Pastor and several local chaplains in the congregation began to record and upload a daily Morning Prayer to YouTube, with which people could start their day. Each recording consists of scripture, a prayer, and a blessing. The entire recording last two to five minutes and is scheduled for release on the appointed morning via FB, IG, YT, and Twitter. It has been well received.

In-person worship increased as vaccination numbers went up, then, evaporated as delta surged. Again, in-person worship grew around Advent and Christmas, and then, again, faded as omicron surged. Christmas Eve 2021 service with carols and electric candles was the largest service of the year, with fifty-five worshipers in-person.

Holy Communion and preaching the Word have remained at the center of our worship along with prayer, music and singing behind masks becoming more and more part of that center. Keiki Bible stories are told every Sunday except when the Liturgy of Healing is observed on the second Sunday of every month. Laying on of hands for healing remained at a distance throughout the year.

Interestingly, overall numbers of worshipers stayed steady throughout the year. During the surges when in-person worship declined dramatically, people didn’t wander off – they just went back online. Our combined numbers for both 2020 and 2021 were better than exclusively in-person worship in the Before Times.

Also of interest, we have had many non-tourist visitors coming through, seekers of all ages. A good number of them were looking for an affirming LGBTQ+ church. Some came and went, others lingered. Singing in church (behind masks) resumed in August, then, ceased as the delta variant arrived. Now, it is back but still behind masks.
We re-financed our MIF mortgage in order to upgrade the property. New fencing, new plumbing, new lighting and wiring, and a repaved parking lot arrived. Next up, are refurbished offices, sidewalks, painting, and tree-trimming.

One of our proudest accomplishments in 2021 was the creation of The Aloha-Agape Community Garden (AACG). An Eagle Scout project built the AACG with Federal CARES Act monies coming from the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce’s Business Pivot Grant. We told them we were pivoting from a grass lawn to a garden and they loved it. Now gardeners from Central Oahu grow lush produce. Besides a modest water fee, we ask all of the gardeners to give a portion of their produce to Aloha Harvest, which takes the vegetables to area food pantries feeding the hungry. We have been sending ten to thirty pounds of fresh produce weekly to the pantries.

For a turbulent year it has been a busy year for the communion of saints known as Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mililani Town. Mahalo nui loa for taking the time to hear what we have been up to.

During the year, Joy of Christ Lutheran Church in Pearl City on the island of Oahu, led by Pastor JP Sabbithi, continued in-person and online worship services following the county and state guidelines. The online worship was made possible with the grants received from the Synod Office and some memorial gifts from the members of the congregation, for which we are grateful. During the week, we had mid-week fellowship and prayer on zoom every Wednesday evenings. The congregation is sustaining.

As COVID related restrictions eased, the community groups who used to use our facility for their gatherings started coming back during the year.

We continued our ministry to the homeless. Instead of serving meals at the shelters, we prepared food at the church and taken to the shelters. We are grateful for the grants from the synod office and the generosity of the community to continue this ministry.

Joy of Christ continues to discern and discover her mission of “Joyfully Sharing God’s Love in Christ” to the neighborhood especially during this time of pandemic.

Pacific Health Ministry (PHM), led by Director Rev Anke Flohr, continued to provide 24/7 pastoral care in 11 health care facilities with a team of 30 chaplains on 3 islands. In 2021 COVID restrictions continued in the medical centers where we serve. Often the chaplains were the only visitors. Support of exhausted medical staff was also critical.

Ordained and installed in February 2022, Pastor Brianna Lloyd serves Lutheran Church of Honolulu on O’ahu with Pastor Jeff Lilley. Pastor Bree shares this: With the support of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, I completed the pastoral internship at LCH. During this internship, the LCH community supported an intern project of a small community garden. We had a lovely Children’s Day in the Garden for Earth Day. In the fall, a call committee was formed to consider an associate minister of Word and Sacrament. The LCH community called me as an associate pastor to a part-time, short-term call with the possibility of renewal.
Rev Kathryn Zurcher is pastor of **St John Lutheran in Kailua**, on the Windward side of O‘ahu. The congregation continues to remain active in the ecumenical Homeless Hub on the Windward side. They also continue to support various ministries around the island, especially collecting money and food for their local food bank. We resumed in person worship once the congregation was fully vaccinated in June of 2021 and are so grateful to be back in the space even as the COVID ups and downs of the last two years continued to mess with some of our best plans. Christmas Eve worship involved a lot of changes, but in the end did happen in person and was an especially poignant worship both for those in the sanctuary and those who joined us around the world over Zoom.

Rev. John Lunn serves at **Grace Episcopal Church on the Island of Molokai**. It is one of few mainline churches there, so we have Lutherans, Methodists and others joining "cradle" Episcopalians. Grace is active in a Thrift Shop ministry, as well as Food Pantry and garden growing fresh vegetables. Through weekly Thank Offerings, Grace supports local programs like the Women's Shelter, Homestead Farmers' Association and local Cancer Support Fund. At Christmas we support two farms through the ELCA Good Gifts program.

**Calvary by the Sea Lutheran Church in Honolulu** is experiencing a fresh transformation from the inside out and our benevolent Trinitarian God is the center of it all. CBTS has created and established weekly mid-week youth and children's ministries along with the arrival of youth directors. Alongside of these terrific developments, is the noticeable new face of attenders, visitors, and members. Our food bank Angel Network Charities has grown exponentially, feeding thousands across the island each week. Our Montessori School is making rapid progress towards integration with our Sunday worship as teachers and students find belonging in the congregation. The LGBTQIA+ community has discovered community at CBTS, and young families are making their way back into the church after a global shift. A beautiful ecumenical spirit is forming and soon our choir will be returning after a long covid-break. Certainly, the image of the Triune God mirrors the ministry happening at CBTS. Our prayer is to be in inclusive, intentional, and involved with our community in the name of Who was and Is and Is to come. To respond to our changing world with God's unchanging love and grace.

**WOUNDED WARRIOR MINISTRY 2021**

2021 began with a tragedy in our ohana. A 26-year-old medically retired Marine was killed by a careless driver in Florida. Our Wounded Warriors came together to support the extended family and I flew to assist them with their grief and conduct the wake and funeral services. We continue to be in touch with them and they have shown their appreciation by requesting donations to our fund in lieu of flowers. I visited them again in early February with a couple of his fellow Marines.

A survivor of the Osprey crash now lives and works in Hilo. He had 2 deaths his family in a matter of months. We provided some assistance and reached out to our friends at Pa‘ani Ranch who provided wreaths made of ohia from their property.
A number of our families lost loved ones to the pandemic or suffered severe illnesses throughout their families because of it. The severe stresses of illnesses, loss, job loss, family issues, PTSD, and more caused suicidal ideation and concomitant calls for assistance at all hours to dramatically rise.

Local medically retired Wounded Warriors continue to find the transition to civilian life challenging, especially trying to find employment while teaching their children at home, dealing with illnesses in the family and their own medical issues. Here, too, having a resource network available and churches willing to help where possible made a huge difference.

St. John was particularly helpful this past year in assisting a homeless veteran with 3 children with food, fuel, and other necessities while other resource agencies like ours worked together to finally get them HUD/VASH housing and VA benefits. Lutheran Church of Honolulu has contributed funds to other families in need and programs we managed to maintain during the pandemic.

Happily, seven families welcomed children into their families around the country and we sent some new baby items to help celebrate.

Cancer and accidents continue to be the primary health challenges that draw family members to come from the mainland to tend to patients in the hospital. While many are given financial support by the military for this purpose, not all do, and we assist with food and fuel gift cards and sometimes coordinate with hotels for lodging.

While Friends of Windward Wounded Warriors has had to keep group activities and meals to smaller numbers or order take-out, we have been able to resume some familiar activities. The isolation has had a noticeable, yet predictable adverse effect, so every event was greatly appreciated.

Occasional bbqs in my backyard allowed them to get away from the barracks, play yard games, and fish in the canal. Thanksgiving was also held at my home with the meal catered from Honolulu Country Club and underwritten in part by Prince of Peace.

St. John’s Sherree McKellar hosted a pumpkin painting class and meal at her home and later encouraged artist friends to join her in donating works to an auction to benefit our fund.

Once again a small Christmas party was held in the lounge with food a couple of us provided, but with stockings made and filled by St. John members under the leadership of Keala Simoes. Our annual multi-service 12th day of Christmas was a drive-through event for some 200 people from all branches of service and the VA; hosted by Honolulu Country Club, Wounded Warrior Ohana, Iolani’s Raiders for Wounded Warriors, Honolulu Navy League and Toys for Tots.

The Wounded Warrior detachment has been able to better care for the Osprey memorial at Bellows on a regular basis, but members of St. John cleaned and decorated it at their own expense when the Marines could not. Not only do the survivors and families of the 2 who were lost appreciate their efforts, so do some 1,000+ on Facebook and all who pass by and stop to pay their respects.
Believing it was more dangerous to again cancel our fourth reunion at a Scout reservation in Michigan for some 50 warriors, we were able to work with various organizations to provide a week-long all-expenses-paid retreat last summer. These reunions and the following closed chat pages make a huge difference and have once again been recognized as the most effective such retreat by one of our sponsors. I have already begun planning and fund-raising for the 5th reunion this August.

We have only recently begun to join Karen Radius Telios in her homeless veterans monthly support event, but applaud her and her team for doing such an amazing job. Our Wounded Warriors just participated in the March program, making and distributing 50 bag lunches.

St. John was able to obtain Synod funding and matching donations from the congregation to assist us in our ministry in 2022. Our Lutheran community in Hawai’i has been an incredible source of strength, support, and assistance for me and our wounded, ill and injured and their families since we began in 2011. When many wonder if God has forgotten them or has become deaf to their prayers, they hear me talk of you or benefit from one of your many kindnesses. Thank you for your faithfulness. You make a huge difference in many lives!

Mahalo nui loa,

Steven L Jensen

Commander, Chaplain Corps, US Navy (Retired)

Program manager
**Campus Reopened!**

This year Agape celebrates 72 years of ecumenical campus ministry at San Diego State University, and 60 years in the cozy house that we have called home. It was wonderful to be back on campus for in-person Ash Wednesday with help from Episcopal Diocese of San Diego Bishop Susan Brown Snook at the Transit Center.

**Campus meets Outdoor Ministry**

As campus finally reopened this February, our ‘curbside ministry’ has sustained an engaging presence on our parking lot, right by the transit center, student union, and south campus plaza. Stretching beyond our cozy house into public space is engaging new students, staff, faculty and others as we prepare for demolition and construction. It is also moving us beyond our comfort zone to engage more people every day, rather than waiting for them to show up inside. Many new folks have expressed appreciation that we offer space to “Rest Here” in the shade, with refreshing drink and/or conversation.

**Growing Ecumenical Partnership**

Thank you, Pacifica Synod, for decades of sustaining campus ministry!

This year we realize a major leap forward in support and leadership from the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, who have committed a half-time campus minister with prior campus ministry experience to join the Agape staff, along with $5000 in new program funding!

Heather Lawrence is finishing her seminary education to rejoin our staff this June as Campus Missioner as she moves toward ordination as an Episcopal priest. We are excited for Heather’s diverse gifts and experience to expand our capacity for ministry.

**Neighborhood Development Permit!**

Three years of city reviews finally resulted in a green light for us to complete our design. The complexity of our multi-use, transit-based ministry center and communal housing concept meant securing several code deviations to maximize our use and minimize cost to student residents at the hub of the San Diego State University campus. Now we need the rest of 2022 to complete the design, get a building permit, and contract the builder.

And, we still need about $250,000 in pledges to reach our pre-raised goal of $2.8 million. We’re almost there! Please contact Pastor Darin Johnson at darin@agapesandiego.org to explore how you can help us build for new generations of college students rooted in faith to serve.
SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT – 2022
Pacifica Synod

Founded in 1948, California Lutheran Homes and Community Services (CLH), provides funding and other assistance for those in need of housing and human services through partnerships with churches, community-based organizations, and local agencies. CLH demonstrates God’s grace and love through:

- **Financial and Program Support** of Lutheran Church bodies
- **Seed Capital** for developing affordable housing projects
- **Sponsorship** of subsidized housing projects
- **Direct Ownership** of properties providing housing and services for current and former foster youth and their families
- **Charitable Care** funds to support seniors who experience financial hardship

**LUTHERAN CHURCH SUPPORT.** CLH is a direct financial supporter of the Pacifica and Southwest California synods, and of Lutheran Services in America. Additionally, CLH has financially sponsored Living the Resurrection so that Pacifica and Southwest California Synod congregations can participate at little to no cost. The Rev. Marjorie Funk-Pihl has engaged eleven congregations in the eighteen-month Living the Resurrection congregational vitality process.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING.** Affordable housing remains a primary emphasis for CLH. This year, we partnered with a Los Angeles based nonprofit to develop an affordable housing project in the heart of the city. We also purchased a property in Santa Barbara to eventually increase the number of affordable housing units at Grace Village. CLH has developed expertise in helping Lutheran congregations and Synods/Districts in numerous geographies to utilize land resources for the provision of affordable housing as “Legacy Ministries.”

**FORMER FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES** Our partnerships with the Biddy Mason Charitable Foundation and OC United provide low-cost housing to young women and their families who have the foster care system in their history. The Biddy Mason Charitable Foundation, a ministry of First African Methodist Episcopal (FAME) Church, Los Angeles, provides resources for current and former foster youth as well as housing for emancipated young women enrolled in local colleges and universities. OC United manages low-cost housing and wrap around services to young women and their families who have “aged-out” of the foster system. These sites were purchased by CLH and are rented to our partners for $10/month.

**RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES** CLH provides direct funding to support the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of seniors at Front Porch communities.

Because of the generous support of our donors and collaborations with non-profit partners and long-time partner Front Porch, CLH continues to serve those who are most vulnerable. THANKS be to God!

Robert J. Chillison, *Board Chair*  
Deacon Nancy J. Ackerman, *CEO and President*
LEARNING IN ACTION

Our programs are designed to help students discover and build their own sense of purpose, while building a support system of faculty, mentors and peers that lasts far beyond graduation. We offer hands-on, high impact learning experiences that include:

• Coursework focused on real-world scenarios
• Undergraduate research opportunities
• Study abroad and travel seminars
• Internships
• Creative projects, performances and exhibitions

With challenging academic programs, outstanding faculty, small classes, and an emphasis on hands-on learning, each program at Cal Lutheran positions our students to succeed.

GRADUATE IN 4 YEARS GUARANTEED

500+ STUDENTS LANDED INTERNSHIPS LAST YEAR

17 AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

36 U.S. STATES REPRESENTED

100+ CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN

2,804 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

97% OF STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

22 NCAA DIVISION III TEAMS

CONGREGATIONAL PARTNER IN EDUCATION AND ROSTERED LEADER AWARDS

Take a virtual campus tour at CalLutheran.edu/tour
Synod Assembly Report

Thank you for your faithful and very generous support! Because of your prayers, encouragement, and financial gifts, PLTS is growing and helping meet the ELCA’s leadership needs.

Growth in Enrollment
PLTS enrollment continues to grow. In 2021, the seminary had the largest enrollment in several years. Approximately fifty percent of the incoming students have been choosing the Distance Learning (DL) option, in which they view and participate in classes on their own schedule and gather together in Berkeley three or four times during the course of the program.

The Center for Climate Justice & Faith has a new website!
https://centerforclimatejusticeandfaith.org/

Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith
This year, PLTS launched a one-year, online Certificate in Climate Justice and Faith. The inaugural certificate class includes 30 people from 12 countries ranging in age from 21 to 70. In addition to pastors and other church staff, there are teachers, a farmer, a therapist, a journalist and a range of other professionals. At the end of the program, each of them will develop a “sacred action project” to serve their communities.

MA in Spirituality and Social Change
PLTS will launch a new master’s degree program in Spirituality and Social Change in September. The MA was developed to address the need for theological education and spiritual formation for those called to serve as Deacons in the ELCA, and for anyone interested in spiritually grounded and theologically informed social change. Students can choose a residential program in Berkeley or one that is a mixture of online learning and occasional gatherings in Berkeley for orientation and intensive courses.

Certificate in Racial Justice and Faith
PLTS received a planning grant to develop a certificate program in Racial Justice and Faith. A faculty from around the country representing the African American, Latinx, Native American and Asian-Pacific Islander communities gathered in Berkeley in February to begin working on the curriculum. This will be an online program with modules that will be taught exclusively by instructors of color who can authentically represent their lived reality in ways that promote understanding, authenticity, and solidarity.
“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NRSV)

### 3 Lessons from a Bishop

**Whatever your role in the church is, your call has changed.**

“For example, you are now a televangelist. The things you say are now recorded, and in some cases, streamed in real time. You now have to really think before you speak as a Pastor or leader. Someone is always listening.”

That’s how Bishop Erik Gronberg began his presentation for our Coaching for all Seasons gathering in February. As coaches, we support church leaders in various ways. Since 2020, one of those ways is Coaching for all Seasons, a monthly Zoom forum designed to address current issues. A key issue for Pacifi ca Synod in 2022 is electing a Bishop. We invited Bishop Erik Gronberg of the Northern Texas-Louisiana Synod to share his thoughts about the role of Bishop. He outlined three qualities he thinks are required. We share them here as we prepare to call our next Bishop.

**A Bishop is first called to be a Pastor** - Not to speak for the Synod, but to speak to the Synod as their Pastor. Speaking to the law and the gospel. Speaking hard truths in love.

**A Bishop needs to be collegial** - A Bishop cannot be a lone ranger but must want to be connected to people and must want to develop leaders, both lay and ordained. A Bishop must keep in mind the vocation of the baptized.

**A Bishop needs to love the gospel** - A Bishop must love to proclaim the good news of the gospel enough to put up with the church, because the church is a human institution. Human institutions are broken, and often get it wrong. A Bishop must be willing to work with “not perfect”.

With these thoughts in mind, we in Pacifi ca Synod need to ask questions of bishop candidates that demonstrate how they’ve grown and what they have learned that has led them to this calling.
**MEET OUR PACIFICA COACHES**

We have a team of coaches available for members of Pacifica Synod. Whether you are a Pastor discerning a call, a Synod Staff member, a congregational council or ministry team, a Deacon or a lay leader; Pacifica Coaching is available to you as a professionally trained resource. How might we help you?

Our coaches have invested in a variety of specialties.

**Deenna Eley (Coach Coordinator)** is an ACC, Level 2 Coach, pantry coordinator, church administrator at First Lutheran Church in Fullerton, and most importantly, a wife and mother. Deenna loves connecting and collaborating outcomes and exploring possibilities. She is motivated by achievement and is excited to walk alongside individual and church communities through coaching. You can reach her at mikedeenna@gmail.com.

**Pastor Darryl Kozak** serves as the Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Corona. Since 2012, he has also had a private practice as a coach. He is Associate Certified Coach (ACC). He is also a Level 2 Coach and a Care for Creation LabCoach/trainer with the ELCA and an End of Life and Grief Coach through the ELCA’s newest speciality coach training. Pastor Darryl can be reached at darryl@darrylkozak.com and please visit www.DarrylKozak.com.

**Carol J. Schultz, J.D., Leadership Coach**, is an International Coaching Federation credentialed coach, an ELCA Level 2 coach, and a Narrative Coaching Enhanced Practitioner. Carol applies her experience as an attorney, dispute mediator, and nonprofit executive to coaching nonprofit and church leaders and teams. If you are interested, please email her at cjschultz257@gmail.com to request a complimentary session.

**Sarah Tees** is a Level 2 Synod Coach, a Stephen Leader and Lay Leader at her home congregation at St Paul Lutheran Church in Fullerton, CA. She has trained as a Level 1 Synod Coach, a Level 2 Stewardship Coach, a Team Coach, and she is currently training to become a Level 2 Grief and Loss, End of Life Coach. If interested in coaching please email her at sarahtees@hotmail.com.

**Joanne Larson** is ACC certified. A lifelong Lutheran, Joanne came to coaching through the ELCA’s coaching program with an emphasis on stewardship. She currently serves the ELCA as a Level 2 Coach, a trainer, and evaluator of coaches completing their training. Joanne holds an M.S. in Organization Development from Pepperdine University. If interested please email her at jlarson714@outlook.com.

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**Coaching Hours / Year**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Individual</th>
<th>Team</th>
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<tr>
<td>171</td>
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<tr>
<td>229</td>
<td>109</td>
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- **2019**: 171 Individual, 0 Team
- **2020**: 229 Individual, 9 Team
- **2021**: 431 Individual

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**Curious about Coaching?**

Contact: Deenna Eley  
Synod Coaching Coordinator  
pacificacoachinggroup@gmail.com  

Level 1 Coach Training applications are now being accepted. Email for more information.
Our synodical work in Children, Youth and Family Ministries continues to be led by volunteers who serve to support and provide resources for those leading these ministries in our congregations as well as to provide opportunities to develop leadership skills within our young people. We are constantly inspired by and grateful for the dedication, creativity, care, and tireless service of those serving in our congregations. We continue to host monthly Zoom gatherings to allow youth ministry leaders from across the synod to support one another and share ideas, questions, resources, joys, and concerns.

**ELCA Youth Leadership Summit**
The highlight of the past year was the return of an in-person ELCA Youth Leadership Summit. In November 2021, two high school youth and one adult representative from Pacifica joined other youth and adults from many of the 65 synods for three days of leadership development and faith formation. The event was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the anticipated location of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. The youth that represented Pacifica Synod were Analiese Christenson (First Lutheran, San Diego) and Maddie Dobbins (St. Andrew’s, San Diego). Pastor Manuel Retamoza from St. Andrew’s Lutheran, San Diego, accompanied them to the Summit. Analiese and Maddie share their experience below:

After a long year and a half of COVID it was really moving to be surrounded by so much faith and community. The theme of the Summit was “Relentless”, relentless in faith, hope, trust, action and love. We learned about how God is relentless in all of those things, what it means to be relentless, to stick with, encourage and love. Over the weekend at the Summit we learned how we can play a part in all the awesome relentlessness God shows us in our lives. Reminding me of what it means to be Lutheran and to see the outreach that the ELCA does for communities around the globe and in cities like ours. Being able to meet so many people from different states and places around the US connected me with new friends and exposed me to new perspectives, and to say the least was inspiring. The whole experience was inspiring and shaping. When I got home late Sunday night that weekend, I remember feeling very tired but so full of hope, faith, inspiration, and trust in God.  
- Analiese Christenson (First Lutheran Church, San Diego)

During a long weekend in November, you may have noticed some youth and pastors not in worship that was me, as well as Lutheran youth, pastors, and adult leaders from across the country. We were in Minneapolis Minnesota for what’s called the Youth Leadership Summit. Basically, we got to serve as guinea pigs for what was to come this summer at the ELCA Youth Gathering. These gatherings contain Lutheran youth (and pastors, speakers, adult leaders and more) all gathered together to share a week of fun and God’s love. The theme for that weekend Summit was “Relentless”, and the Gathering this summer was supposed to be themed “Boundless”. That weekend in Minnesota, I got to learn what it means to be relentless in faith, love, hope, creation, trust and more. It was a great experience! I got to see the beauty of Minnesota, as well as learning more about myself and the people around me.
- Maddie Dobbins (St. Andrews Lutheran Church, San Diego)

**Growing Young**
Our synod’s work that began in 2020 about the book “Growing Young” continued in 2021 and 2022. This book, published in 2016, shares the results of research by Fuller Youth Institute into congregations that are involving and retaining young people, breathing life into the WHOLE congregation, and deepening the faith of their young people.
Our monthly online workshops focusing on each of the six Core Commitments exemplified by these congregations concluded in June 2021. Recordings of and resources from all the workshops may be found on the synod website. The 33 participants who participated in these conversations were invited to follow-up conversations in both September 2021 and January 2022, to discuss what progress they have made or challenges they are facing. The next follow-up conversations are scheduled for mid-May 2022. Our Growing Young Team includes Synod Director for Evangelical Mission, Pastor Tom Goellrich; Deacon Mindy Bugaj (Incarnation, Poway); and Terri Robertson (First Lutheran, Fullerton).

Future Hopes
As we look ahead, we focus on our Synod’s commitment to the faith formation of the young people in our congregations through the adoption of Pacifica’s Strategic Plan by our Synod Council in 2020. We see this commitment identified in Mission Result Area #1 – “Strengthen Support for Congregational Ministry” and specifically, Goal #1 – “Pacifica Synod members will share their ancient faith in a modern world and strengthen our meaning and purpose as disciples of Christ” and look forward to how our future work will be shaped by investment in this commitment and emphasis on children, youth, and families in our synod.

In Christ’s service,
Terri Robertson
Providing a full array of financial services  
to ELCA members, congregations and ministries

The ELCA Federal Credit Union, founded in 2016, provides a full suite of financial products and services to members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA. We are the first of the ELCA’s financial ministries to offer loans to individuals. The Credit Union offers a rich variety of products—from savings and checking accounts and CDs ... to loans, lines of credit and credit cards. We serve ministries with deposit accounts, a flexible credit card program, auto loans and unsecured ministry loans up to $100,000 for small projects such as building repair and purchases. Our strong online presence allows members to access their funds anytime, anywhere—as consumers expect today.

Why choose the ELCA Federal Credit Union?

“To use and share what God has given for the sake of all.”

The ELCA Federal Credit Union supports the ELCA’s mission of good stewardship. We provide full services to all ELCA members, congregations and related ministries.

Our mission is to offer the most competitively priced products and services. Because we exist solely to serve our members, we can offer better rates and lower fees than many traditional banks. We have demonstrated success in providing significant savings to our borrowers.

With the church as our sponsor, we operate in ways that are consistent with the church’s values. We offer a socially responsible way to do your banking.
Throughout the past year, we continued to serve the church and its members.

The Paycheck Protection Program drew to a close in 2021. With assistance from the Mission Investment Fund, we provided loans in 2020 and 2021 to ELCA congregations and ministries that required financial assistance during the pandemic. Covering payroll and operating expenses, these PPP loans proved to be a lifeline to a number of congregations and ministries in need. The loans were particularly meaningful to smaller congregations that didn’t qualify for loans from local or national banks. Over the course of the full PPP program, the ELCA FCU provided a total of 360 loans totaling $13.9 million. These loans helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.

In 2021, we ushered in the third cohort of participants in the ELCA’s Resourceful Servants program, designed to improve financial wellness and assist rostered leaders in building emergency savings funds. In this matching program, ELCA rostered leaders make ongoing deposits to their Credit Union emergency savings accounts, and our partner MIF matches those funds up to an established amount. Together, we already have served more than 645 rostered ministers who, collectively, have made emergency savings deposits of more than $1 million.

Membership is open to every ELCA member, synod, congregation and ministry—and their employees.

For more information about the products and services of the ELCA Federal Credit Union, please visit our website, elcafcu.org or call us at toll free at 877-715-1111.
The vision of the ELCA Foundation is to be a thriving ministry that develops a culture of intentional generosity and financial stewardship to expand the work of the ELCA. Our mission is to support and sustain ELCA ministries by enhancing gifting capacity and stewarding resources.

As a ministry of the ELCA, we serve individuals, congregations and worship communities; synods; the Churchwide Organization; and institutions, agencies and other related ELCA organizations.

The ELCA Foundation exists to:

- provide gift planning, administration and processing;
- manage endowment funds and offer investment management services as an acknowledged fiduciary; and
- engage individuals and organizations in thoughtful planning to pass on philanthropic values and support ministry passions.

In 2021, the ELCA Foundation and our network of regional gift planners walked alongside 169 donors/families in developing their gift plans, resulting in $65.4 million in future planned gift commitments. Over $12 million in these commitments will go to provide direct support to individual ELCA congregations. The network generated $107.9 million in total gifts and investment assets. This includes new planned gift commitments, $14.9 million in current gifts, including funded trusts, gift annuities and individual endowments, and $57.2 million new assets invested in the Ministry Growth Fund (previously known as Fund A). Thank you for the opportunity to work in your synod, trusting your endowment dollars to the ELCA Foundation, and allowing us to work alongside your ministries.

The ELCA Foundation, and your regional gift planner, are here to support your ministry through shared expertise with endowments, gift acceptance policies and practices, and planned giving. We also work with individual donors to ease the complexity of estate plans, planned gifts, charitable trusts, and non-cash gifts. Our services are free of charge to your congregation and its members. A local representative from our network of regional gift planners is available to work with you. Learn more about the ELCA Foundation by watching “ELCA Foundation: Make a plan. Change the world” and contact your regional gift planner to help your congregation grow its culture of giving today.

**Contact your regional gift planner:**
Lisa Higginbotham, CFRE
lisa.higginbotham@elca.org
805-901-5048
ELCA.org/Foundation
These resources are easily implemented with the help of your Regional Gift Planner (RGP) and designed to drive increased engagement and gifts written to your congregation. Each activity builds on the next creating awareness and trust.

Create Process and Policy
Endowments help sustain the stability of ministry funding by creating stable distributions used to support important ministries to your congregation.
- Endowment Bylaw/Continuing Resolution Review or Creation
- Endowment Campaign
- Ministry Growth Fund Presentation or Annual Review for existing investors

Gift Policies build trust and knowledge with members that their gift will be considered and implemented equitably, and create a pathway for committee members to follow, thereby decreasing conflict.
- Gift Policy Review or Creation

Educate and Engage
- Facilitated Book Study to stimulate conversations about stewardship/giving/money.
- Articles provided by RGP in newsletter/bulletin inserts/email blast
- Schedule two Temple talks from Congregation Leaders prior to Legacy Presentation
- Pastor shares a sermon connected to Legacy and/or Stewardship
- Legacy Presentation by RGP (Donors may self-identify for continued conversation)

Connect Donors to Resources
- Confidential meeting with donor to facilitate their charitable plan
- Stewardship of gifts by Regional Gift Planner
- Legacy Society and Insights Newsletter Engagement

Steward Resources
- Holy Closure/Preserving Legacy facilitation
- All are invited to these complimentary webinars offered by ELCA Foundation in 2022

**Ministry Growth Fund Investor Webinar**  |  **Legacy Webinars**
---|---
Q2 April 29th | May 27th “Giving More Than You Have”
Q3 July 29th | August 26th “Pay Yourself then Pay It Forward”
Q4 October 28th | December 2nd “Giving Forever”

Regional Gift Planner Lisa Higginbotham, CFRE  lisa.higginbotham@elca.org  cell (805)910-5048
Siblings in Christ of the Pacifica Synod,

2021 was many things — frustrating, surprising, heartbreaking, and heartening — to name a few. At Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, however, the word we find ourselves using the most is transformative.

Like all of you, we found ourselves facing parallel crises: the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, an influx of vulnerable immigrant children at our border, and the devastating refugee crisis in Afghanistan. While it was an incredibly difficult year in many ways, it was also one of the most inspiring in our 83-year history.

People of faith and communities like yours stepped up in ways that we never could have expected to meet this moment and fulfill our Biblical call to welcome the stranger. In the last year alone:

- 100,000 volunteers signed up to support our refugee and immigrant neighbors
- Supporters provided more than $30,000 worth of essential items like cell phones and gift cards to our Afghan brothers and sisters
- 14,000+ generous donors opened their hearts to the ministry of welcome
- LIRS welcomed more than 10,500 Afghans through our nationwide resettlement network
- Our team assisted in reunifying or placing nearly 33,000 children in loving homes
- We sent nearly 20,000 holiday cards and 1,750+ gifts to families affected by immigration detention
- LIRS launched several exciting new programs and offices, such as field offices in Northern Virginia and Fargo, ND; the New American Cities economic empowerment program; Mental Health services for refugee children and families, and more.

Our resettlement and immigration services were complemented by our ever-growing slate of annual programs, which offer the public opportunities to ADAPT: Act, Donate, Advocate, Pray, and Teach. We invite you to engage with LIRS, as an individual or community, through one of our five key programs:

- Stand Up Speak Up — Our interfaith advocacy program organized each spring
- Gather - A cultural education program hosted in the fall
- Hope for the Holidays™ - LIRS’ flagship winter program for supporting families impacted by immigration detention
- EMMAUS Congregational Network - Our network of congregations who receive resources and support from LIRS
- LIRS Ambassador Network - A community of change-makers from around the US

In 2022, we are deepening our commitment to the work of welcome and believe that together, we can realize Matthew 25:35 in communities across the United States. We are so grateful for your astounding support and look forward to welcoming our newest neighbors alongside you.

In peace,

Dr. Kristin Witte, Director for Outreach
How it began...

Last fall, everyone in Pacifica and SWCA synods was invited to consider participating in an 18-month vitality process called Living the Resurrection. Some folks doubted that anyone would have the energy to even think about such a venture! But you proved them wrong! 32 people attended informational Zoom conversations and 58 attended a three-hour workshop to explore the possibility further. In February of 2022, teams from 11 congregations began the process!

God is up to something in our synods – you feel it and you are responding!

www.livingtheresurrection.com

Founded in 1948, California Lutheran Homes and Community Services provides funding and other assistance for those in need of housing and human services through partnerships with churches, community-based organizations, and local agencies. CLH partners with Living the Resurrection to provide the 18-month vitality process to the congregations of the SWCA and Pacifica Synods of the ELCA. Because of CLH, the cost to each congregation is only $350.
How it’s going...

Ten congregations are participating in the 18-month long Living the Resurrection vitality process.

From Pacifica:
- Carlton Hills, Santee
- Cross and Crown, Rancho Cucamonga
- Gethsemane, San Diego
- Mt Calvary, Cypress
- Trinity, Riverside
- Woven in Faith (Salem/Whittier)

From Southwest California:
- Resurrection, Long Beach
- Shepherd of the Valley, West Hills
- St. Andrew’s, Van Nuys
- St. Stephen’s of the Valley, Palmdale

Photos are from the second workshop of the process. Everyone is working together to learn and practice the Congregational Timeline Activity. Each team will guide their congregation through this activity in the fall.

The goal of Living the Resurrection is to strengthen our relationships with God, one another, and our neighbors!

If you want to know more about what your friends are up to in this process follow Living the Resurrection on Facebook or go to://www.livingtheresurrection.com/
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California Ministry Report

I bring you greetings again from Lutheran Social Services of Southern California. Unfortunately, we remain in the midst of the world’s largest pandemic. On one hand we are inhibited by the characteristics of COVID-19 and on the other hand, the disease and its consequences have heightened the demand for our services even further. Despite this, we continue to do extraordinary things in less than an ordinary environment.

Below is an annual update on last year’s LSSSC experience. While we have had to change some of our hours, some of operation delivery systems and develop myriad infection precautions, we remain steadfastly available to the marginalized and struggling women, men and children throughout our service areas in Southern California.

We cannot do this without your prayers, collaboration and support. We don’t yet know what 2023 will bring us, but we plan to continue to have a positive impact on the communities we serve and continue to fulfill our vision of sharing the love of Christ, and forming a community where the vulnerable are safer and stronger, the dependent are self-sustaining, the isolated dwell in the community and the weary are given hope.

San Bernardino County

Much is happening and progressing at our CCLM site in San Bernardino. We recently announced our intentions to expand and build a Community Wellness Campus on our existing site. Meanwhile our existing men’s shelter, which was and is significantly impacted by the pandemic, is existing at a reduced capacity. While the goal is to provide temporary shelter for homeless men seven days a week, the need is exceeding our temporarily reduced capacity. We have recorded at least fifty new clients.

We have also provided sixteen new clients with permanent supportive housing and provided 250 new clients with transportation on 2118 trips to and from necessary medical and other appointments.

Our Integrated Training Program, tasked with acclimating those with intellectual and developmentally disabilities into their communities helped twenty-three new clients in the program despite onerous COVID restriction.

Education and counseling services to residents in San Bernardino saw 64 new clients and 339 counseling sessions while logging more than 1800 minutes of counseling.

Throughout Rural San Bernardino, we provided mental health services through telehealth therapeutic services. In 2020, our adult and children’s mental health and child abuse survivor therapy along with a new youth sexual perpetrator prevention and treatment program, assisted more than 17000 individuals and families.
Orange County

Orange County continues to re-level to pre-COVID service volumes. The number of clients presenting for the food and emergency services like rent/mortgage/security deposits have grown. More than 50 clients were aided and six placed in permanent housing. Expanding services and client convenience have necessitated a move from Garden Grove to Fullerton.

Long Beach

The LSSSC team in Long Beach continues with a myriad of services designed for those in crisis and need. Programs include those for Benefits Entitlement; Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program; Intensive Case Management Services; Permanent Supportive Housing Program. In the Emergency Assistance Program alone, more than 1600 clients were served with 1187 new client encounters.

Riverside County

Riverside County continues to offer homeless prevention and rapid rehousing assistance to clients in the community. Also, continuing case management continues to be offered. Showers of Hope, introduced last year, allows women and men the chance to bathe. This place on the campus of Trinity Lutheran Church in Riverside.

San Diego County

San Diego County has continued the Talent Search/Upward Bound programs that mentors and supports over a hundred secondary and post-secondary students per month. The program has a remarkable high school graduation and college acceptance rate. In fact, one of the outstanding students has just been accepted to Yale, demonstrating the value of this program to the young and motivated. Her story as an example of the excellent circumstances the program can produce.

Meantime, our Senior Companion program in Clairemont Mesa continues to make home visits and phone calls regularly, checking up on our frail older adult clients to provide companionship and help them remain independent in their home.

Housing Counseling

Our new Housing Counseling Program assists individuals across all our sites in all aspects of home ownership. So far this year, the Housing Counseling program has assisted over 100 Homeowners save their homes from Default/Foreclosure.
With faith and finance at our core

The Mission Investment Fund, a financial services ministry of the ELCA, provides a strong, stable, faith-based way for individuals, congregations and ministries to achieve their financial goals.

MIF provides a range of investments for individuals, congregations and ministries. We put those investments to work to fund building and renovation loans for congregations and partner ministries, including social service agencies and outdoor camps.

The result? Impact investments, with a transformative impact on our communities: Expanded worship spaces ... new space for education and youth ministry ... much-needed day care centers for working families ... industrial-grade kitchens and fellowship halls for community meals.

We were present for our investors and borrowers that needed assistance during the pandemic. We collaborated with our ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, to offer expedited loans for congregations, ministries and individuals, as well as 360 Paycheck Protection Program loans totaling $13.9 million. The PPP loans helped continue payroll for some 2,100 congregation and ministry employees and continued in-person and virtual worship and ministry services for more than 95,000 church members throughout 2020 and 2021.

MIF has a longstanding tradition of strength and stability. At year-end 2021, MIF had 820 loans outstanding, totaling $575.4 million. Investment obligations totaled $575.4 million. With total assets of $822.0 million and net assets of $226.4 million at year-end 2021, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 27.5 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

Our steadfast support continues for the members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA and the many ways you minister to a world in need. We are honored to walk alongside you as a trusted partner.

MIF at work in the Pacifica Synod (as of December 31, 2021):

- 18 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of $10,488,274
- $10,941,412 in Mission Investment Fund investment obligations
The Mission Investment Fund can be your financial resource and partner of choice.

**Why MIF?**

MIF has demonstrated expertise in church and ministry financing. As a ministry of the ELCA with longstanding experience in congregation and ministry building projects, we’re unique among lending institutions. We’re prepared to listen to what you need, we understand your requirements, and we’ll serve as your strategic partner.

We offer competitive rates and terms. MIF consistently offers competitive rates. And now, interest rates on loans remain at historic lows.

We offer a full suite of financial services. In addition to loans, MIF offers congregations, ministries and individuals a host of investment options. Our financial ministry partner, the ELCA Federal Credit Union, offers an additional array of financial services.

The faithful stewardship of Lutheran congregations and their members funds our loans. We use the money invested in MIF to finance hundreds of capital projects across the church.

For more information about MIF capabilities, please visit our website, mif.elca.org or contact your Regional Manager Joel S. Wudel: 773-682-1765 joel.wudel@elca.org
Benefit Stability in Uncertain Times

As the pandemic ebbed and flowed in 2021, Portico’s benefits remained a reliable constant for ELCA congregations and organizations, affirming the importance of church together.

- ELCA-Primary health benefits helped to lower stress levels and provided virtual access to health care.
- The ELCA Retirement Plan continued to deliver strong investment returns while offering no- or low-cost access to financial planning and coaching services.

In recent years, we’ve brought added stability to our program by extending quality, cost-effective benefits to more of those who serve. As we include more ELCA-affiliated social ministry organizations, colleges, and universities, as well as full communion partner denominations, we grow the size of our pool, which, in turn, allows us to secure lower administrative fees and innovative benefits not typically available to smaller groups. In this way, we continue our mission to serve those who serve.

Meeting the Need in 2021

- **869** Plays of New Portico Podcast
  Hosted by an ELCA pastor on current issues impacting our faith community.

- **34%** Chose New Voluntary Benefit
  Through our cost-saving vision care services provider.

- **643** Retired
  In Portico’s bundled benefits program — Well done, good and faithful servants!

- **7.3%** Annuity Payment Increase
  Approved for ELCA annuitants in 2022.

- **2,564** Medical Visits via Text
  Through 98point6®, our virtual primary health care service.

- **8** Large Organizations Joined
  In 2021 — 1 ELCA college, 6 ELCA-affiliated social ministries, and 1 full communion partner social ministry.

- **2,880** Classes Completed in 2021
  On Burnalong, Portico’s new online fitness and wellness benefit.

- **76%** More Accessed Financial Coaching
  Through LSS of Minnesota in 2021 than during the same period in 2020.

- **87.8%** Very Satisfied
  With our Customer Care Center service.

Data as of Dec. 31, 2021; sources available upon request. Availability of and eligibility for benefits will vary.
**Ten Things to Know about 1517 Media**

**Spring 2022**

1. Over the past year we have added several new *All Creation Sings*, resources including an expanded Indexes volume that includes both ACS and ELW listings, the *Guitar Accompaniment Edition*, the *Ensemble Setting of Setting 12*, and an eBook version of the Pew Edition. We continue to add learning resources that can help you use this hymnal supplement to enliven your congregation’s worship in these rapidly changing times. [augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings](http://augsburgfortress.org/allcreationsings)

2. Daniel Erlander’s timeless work continues to inspire faith formation at all levels in the church. *Manna and Mercy: A Brief History of God’s Unfolding Promise to Mend the Entire Universe* is a family of books and curriculum to support conversations about the Bible with your whole congregation. This collection of resources complements three other series: *A Place for You* (Holy Communion), *Come to the Water* (Holy Baptism), and *Baptized, We Live* (introduction to Lutheranism). [augsburgfortress.org/manna](http://augsburgfortress.org/manna)

3. Augsburg Fortress continues to support musical proclamation of the gospel with new seasonal choral music, vocal solo offerings, and piano and organ collections, including a new, second series of church year volumes in the acclaimed Augsburg Organ Library. [augsburgfortress.org/new-releases](http://augsburgfortress.org/new-releases)

4. We have expanded our seasonal devotion options, with a new devotional for Advent and Christmas each year joining the Lent offering. Quantity discounts make these pocket-sized booklets ideal for congregational distribution and for household use. The accessible, colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into these central times of the year. [augsburgfortress.org/seasonal-devotions](http://augsburgfortress.org/seasonal-devotions)


7. Sparkhouse provides digital access for a low annual fee through *Sparkhouse Digital* to a wide range of regularly refreshed resources for early childhood, children, and youth. Subscribers can access new digital activity kits that help congregations provide resources for use in the home or as a supplement to in-person faith formation activities. [augsburgfortress.org/sparkhouse-digital](http://augsburgfortress.org/sparkhouse-digital)

8. This spring Sparkhouse released a collection of poems by Joe Davis written with high school graduates in mind. *We Rise Higher: Poems and Prayers for Graduates* helps youth celebrate, commemorate, and reflect on this transition as they move on to the next phase of life. [augsburgfortress.org/we-rise-higher](http://augsburgfortress.org/we-rise-higher)

9. Frolic Preschool, Frolic Nursery, and Frolic Family introduce little ones to faith concepts in age-appropriate ways. This year we have released the award-winning Frolic Storybooks in affordable paperback bundles. [wearesparkhouse.org/frolic](http://wearesparkhouse.org/frolic)


Want to learn more? Follow us on social media. Sign up for our free eNewsletters at augsburgfortress.org | wearesparkhouse.org | fortresspress.com | beamingbooks.com | broadleafbooks.com
The Pacifica Women of the ELCA has had meeting challenges and has adapted to technology to continue meeting. We celebrated our first in person meetings this year. The first was a Spring Gathering planning committee and the next was the actual Spring Gathering with both in person and others visiting via Zoom. We met at King of Glory in Fountain Valley. Our gathering was small, but we had many positive comments. We are now in the process of planning for our WELCA convention which is planned for Hope in Temecula. We will again offer the opportunity of meeting in person or attending via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Severa, President