

# Welcome to the Assembly



# Welcome Letter

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May 1, 2018

Dear Voting Members and Visitors for our 2018 Sierra Pacific Assembly,

Welcome to the thirty-first Assembly of our Sierra Pacific Synod! For the first three days of June, we will gather in Sacramento under the theme ***“We are Church Together: This is Our Neighborhood.”*** God has called us to be mindful of our relationships with God and with each other. Our theme verse, Luke 10:27, offers the words of Jesus as he shares what he calls the two greatest commandments, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.”* In other places of the Bible, the question is asked, “Who is our neighbor?” or “Who was neighbor to that person?” It’s a question with which we in the church continue to wrestle – how, as followers of Jesus, are we called to love and serve our neighbors locally and globally? How do we keep our eyes open to see the needs of our neighbors, and how do we keep our hearts open to respond in love and hope? We will be blessed to hear from a variety of Lutheran leaders from around our country and around our world as we ponder these questions and more.

Our Keynote Speaker will be Rozella White, who serves as the Houston City Director for Mission Year, an organization committed to helping young adults become advocates for God’s justice in their neighborhoods and in the world. She previously served as the Director for Young Adult Ministry for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Ms. Dana Dutcher, who serves as ELCA Global Missions Manager for Relationships in Asia and the Pacific, Madagascar, West and Central Africa, will be our Churchwide Representative on behalf of Presiding Bishop Eaton. Bp. Medardo Gomez of the Lutheran Church of El Salvador, one of our three Companion Synods, will be with us to bring greetings and preach at our Closing Worship Service. And we are pleased to welcome Bishop Tracie Bartholomew of the New Jersey Synod of the ELCA as our Bible Study Leader and Opening Worship Preacher. Our Parliamentarian for this Assembly will be Mr. David Swartling, former Secretary of the ELCA. And we will again be blessed this year by the return of the members of the Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus, who will be with us Friday evening to bless our time of Worship.

A Friday evening Banquet will include a celebration of significant anniversaries of the ordination of clergy and of the founding of congregations in our synod. Information about those people and congregations who are celebrating anniversaries can be found in the pages following the Synod Assembly Agenda. ***Meal events require that you be either a registered Voting Member of the Assembly or a registered Visitor. No tickets will be available for purchase at the Assembly.***

This year, we will again be using Guidebook technology and software to provide information needed for Voting Members. The Synod Assembly Handbook of information will be available to download directly to your iPad or notebook. This information can even be updated during the Assembly. Information will also be available via the website in PDF form -- <http://spselca.org/index.php/assembly>. In this handbook, you will find information to review before we gather, as well as to use while we are in Assembly. Please note the information provided is divided into seven sections:

- Cover – 2018 Synod Assembly handbook
- Welcome to the Assembly – Synod Assembly Agenda and other information
- Elections for Churchwide Voting Members and Synod Council Members
- Proposed Amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws
- Resolutions
- Reports – Synod, Churchwide and Ministry Affiliates
- The Proposed 2019-20 Budget and the most recent Synod Audit
- Governing Documents

***As voting members and visitors you are responsible for downloading, printing, reading and bringing this information with you to the Assembly. Packets of information will NOT be available at the Assembly.***

Important information for you to know about this year's Assembly:

- We will be using wireless electronic voting. You will be required to "sign out" and "sign in" your voting keypad. There is no special seating area for voting members or visitors.
- We are again "going green" by attempting to use as little paper as possible -- there will be no "packets." Information about the many ministries that serve our Synod and the ELCA can be picked up in the Display Area.
- If you are bringing materials for distribution to Assembly Voting Members, there will be an additional table in the Display Area where these will be made available. **No documents may be distributed on the Assembly floor without the approval of the Synod Secretary.**
- There are several workshops available for you to attend on Saturday afternoon -- all of which are offered in the hope of strengthening/encouraging your ministries in the place where God is calling you to serve. There will also be other opportunities for conversation throughout the time we are gathered.

I offer my profound thanks to the members of the Assembly Planning Team, our Synod Staff, and those from the Sacramento area who have helped to plan for this Assembly, as well as Ms. Mary Wiberg and Pr. Tita Valeriano, Co-Chairs of the Assembly Planning Committee.

Please keep our Assembly in prayer as we trust God's enlivening Spirit to gather us around the theme, ***"We Are Church Together: This is Our Neighborhood."*** Everyone who has been working hard to prepare for this gathering is excited to welcome you to the 2018 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly -- the thirty-first time we will have gathered in this way!

On behalf of the Staff of the Office of the Bishop and the Assembly Planning Team,



Bp. Mark W. Holmerud  
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA



# Agenda

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Updated May 22, 2018

## Friday, June 1

9:00 am - 7:00 pm	<b>Registration Tables Open</b>	
12:45 pm	<b>Gathering Music</b>	
1:00 pm	<b>Opening of Assembly</b>	<b>Hyatt Ballroom</b>
1:05 pm	<b>Business Session 1</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Conversation – Justice for Women Social Statement</li><li>- Introductions of Nominees for Vice President<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 5-minute speeches</li></ul></li><li>- Vice President Election</li></ul>	
3:15 pm	<b>Keynote #1</b>	<b>Rozella White</b>
4:15 pm	<b>Resolutions/Budget Hearings</b>	<b>Breakout Rooms</b>
5:30 pm	<b>“No-Host” Pre-Dinner Gathering</b>	
6:00 pm	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Hyatt Ballroom</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Recognition of Anniversaries</li></ul>	
7:30 pm	<b>Opening Worship/Holy Communion</b>	

## Saturday, June 2

7:00 am	<b>LOPP Breakfast (<i>Tickets Required</i>)</b>	<b>St. John’s Lutheran Church</b>
7:30 am	<b>Chapel Eucharist</b>	
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	<b>Registration Tables Open</b>	
8:30 am	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Bp. Tracie Bartholomew</b>
8:45 am	<b>Business Session 2</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Report of the Bishop/Mission Conversation</li><li>- Consideration of Proposed 2018-19 Budget</li><li>- Resolutions</li></ul>	<b>Bp. Mark W. Holmerud</b>
9:45 am	<b>Keynote #2</b>	<b>Rozella White</b>
10:45 am	<b>Worship</b>	
11:30 am	<b>Report of the Synod Vice President</b>	<b>Elaine Whitney</b>
11:45 am	<b>Ecumenical Greetings</b>	
12:00 pm	<b>Conference Gatherings</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Grab and Go Lunch</li></ul>	
12:00 pm	<b>Nominations Close for Synod Council At Large Position</b>	

1:45 pm	<b>Gathering Music/Hymn Sing</b>	
2:00 pm	<b>Business Session 3</b>	
2:15 pm	<b>ELCA Churchwide Report</b>	<i>Ms. Dana Dutcher</i>
3:00 pm	<b>Elections</b>	
	- 2019 Churchwide Assembly Voting Members	
3:30 pm	<b>Resolutions</b>	
4:10 - 5:10 pm	<b>Workshops Session 1</b>	<b>Breakout Rooms</b>
5:20 - 6:20 pm	<b>Workshops Session 2</b>	<b>Breakout Rooms</b>
	<i>4:30 p.m. – Spouses/Widows/Widowers of Rostered Ministers Gathering</i>	
6:30 pm	<b>Dinner On Your Own</b>	
7:30 - 9:00 pm	<b>Racial Ethnic Mission Strategies</b>	<b>Golden State Room</b>
	<b>Discipling Team Reception</b>	
8:00 - 9:30 pm	<b>GMAT reception for Bishop Gomez</b>	<b>Tahoe Room</b>
8:30 pm	<b>Cal Lutheran/PLTS Reception</b>	

## **Sunday, June 3**

7:30 am	<b>Chapel Service</b>	
8:30 am	<b>Bible Study</b>	<i>Bp. Tracie Bartholomew</i>
8:45 am	<b>Business Session 4</b>	
	- Conversation – Justice for Women Social Statement	
	- Elections – Synod Council	
	- Youth Member	
	- Young Adult Member	
	- Member at Large	
	- Budget Consideration, if needed	
	- Resolutions, if needed	
10:30 am	<b>Service of Holy Communion</b>	
	<b>Installations and Closing of Assembly</b>	

***Go in Peace, Serve God's People!***

**2019 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly**  
***"We are Church Together: Working in God's Vineyard"***  
**Lodi Grape Festival Grounds**  
**Lodi, California**  
**Saturday, May 11, 2019**  
**10:00 am - 4:30 pm**

# Map

Phone: 916 321 3779  
sacramento.regency.hyatt.com



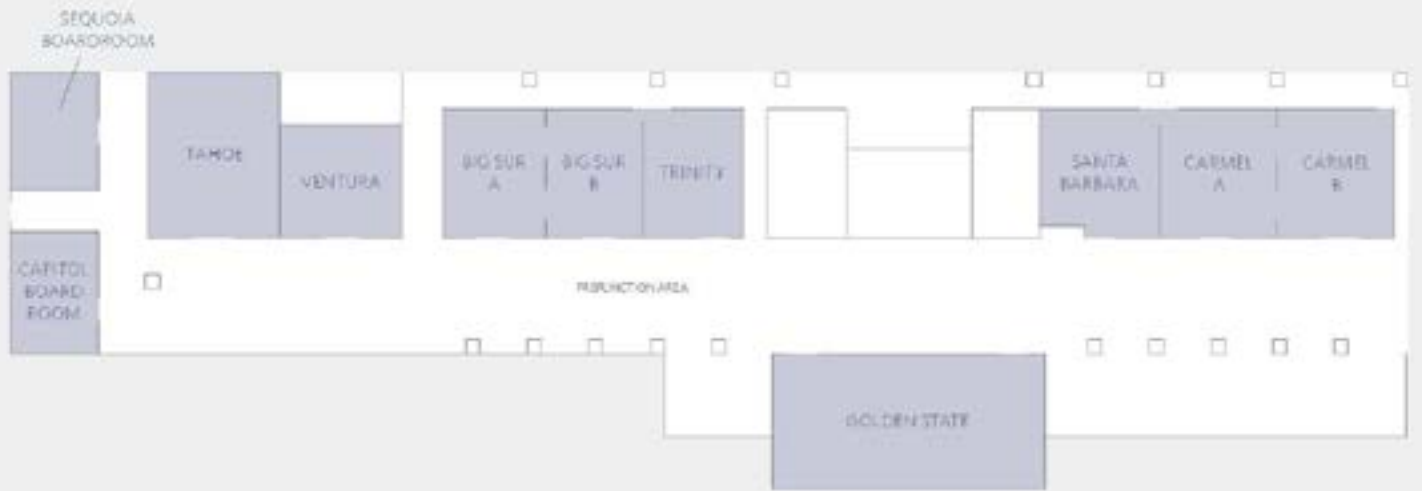
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### 5th Floor



# Speakers

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## Keynote Speaker

**Rozella White**  
**Houston City Director**  
**Mission Year**

Rozella Haydée White is a coach, creator, and consultant accompanying individuals, organizations and communities live meaningful lives by embracing the fullness of who they are.

Rozella currently serves as the Houston City Director for Mission Year, an organization committed to walking with young adults as they fall in love with Jesus and the city, come alive in their gifts and purpose, build beloved community across dividing lines and become advocates for God's justice in our neighborhoods and world. She previously served as the Director for Young Adult Ministry for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), one of the largest protestant denominations in the United States.

As a writer, teacher, preacher and public theologian, Rozella is a known presence on social media boldly engaging issues of faith, justice, mental illness and the radical and transformative love of Jesus. Rozella is desperately seeking justice, mercy, humility and love. She believes that everyone is gifted and has the power to transform themselves, their communities and the world when they tap into their most authentic self.



## Bible Study Leader

**Rev. Tracie Bartholomew**  
**Bishop**  
**New Jersey Synod, ELCA**

Bishop Bartholomew is a native New Jerseyan having been born and raised in Somers Point. She was baptized and confirmed at Grace Lutheran, Somers Point. Bishop Bartholomew was graduated from James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA) with a B.S. in political science and received her M. Div. from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (Columbia, SC).

Ordained in September 1989, she has served in three congregations - St. Mark, Roanoke and Good Shepherd, Lexington (both in Virginia) and Abiding Presence, Ewing, NJ. These congregations represent an inner city ministry, a "town and gown" congregation/campus ministry, and a suburban experience. In 1998 she was called to serve as an Assistant to the Bishop in the NJ Synod and served in that call until being elected Bishop in June 2013.

Bishop Bartholomew is married to The Rev. B. Daniel Whitener, Jr. They have two young adult children. Her hobbies include reading, and traveling.





## **ELCA Churchwide Representative**

### **Dana Dutcher**

**Manager of Companion Synod Relationships for the Asia Pacific region, Madagascar, Rwanda, West and Central Africa region  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,  
Global Mission**

Dana Dutcher is the Manager of Companion Synod Relationships for the Asia Pacific region, as well as the Madagascar, Rwanda, West and Central Africa region of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Global Mission. Dana endeavors to care for the shared connections and ministries with and among our companions, synods and church partners in these two diverse and significant regions of the world.

Dana's portfolio of work supports 30 companion synod relationships, integrates companion participation in various events and programs, and helps Synods and congregations discern how they can engage with their companions in meaningful ministries. Dana is in her fifth year of service in Global Mission and is excited to work with Synod and congregation members who are passionate about global ministry.

Dana received a Bachelors of Science from Valparaiso University in International Business, with minors in Chinese language and Urban Studies. During her college tenure Dana studied in China and developed a deep passion and sense of calling for international and cross-cultural ministry. Encouraged by her studies in China, after graduation, Dana served through ELCA Global Mission in Tokyo, Japan for three years as an ESL teacher. She is currently pursuing a Masters degree in International Public Service at DePaul University.

Dana is a member at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Chicago, IL.

# Council Officers

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**Rev. Mark W. Holmerud**  
**Bishop**  
**Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA**

Mark was born September 2, 1956 in Pomona, California. Mark is an eighth-generation native Californian, tracing his family's history to early Hispanic settlers of the eighteenth century. He grew up in Solana Beach, a town located near the Pacific Ocean twenty miles north of San Diego. After graduating from San Diego State University in Encinitas, he served in the US Navy and went on to graduate from San Diego State University in 1980, with a degree in History and a minor in Classics.

He attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and upon graduation in 1984, was called to serve as Associate Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church of Stockton. A year later he was called to serve as the Lead Pastor of Zion and served that ministry until the fall of 2004. He was then called to serve as Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis, California, in September of 2004. Mark was active in social justice and community organizing and in ecumenical and interfaith endeavors, including

“Celebration of Abraham” events in both San Joaquin and Yolo counties. He was elected as the fourth bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod in April of 2008 and re-elected to a second term in 2014.

Married to Debbi in 1987, who retired as a high school principal in 2014, they have been blessed to live as a blended family with their four (now adult) children: Alyssa (Steve), Marshall, Justin (Connie), and Meaghann (Robert) and eight grandchildren – Hannah, Sadie, Christopher, Phillip, Scarlett, Ellie, Owen and Tre. Mark's interests include being “Pops” to his grandchildren, astronomy, canning dill pickles and the ongoing restoration of his 1966 Mustang.



**Elaine Whitney**  
**Synod Vice President**



**Jeff Pennington**  
**Synod Secretary**



**Linda Lownes**  
**Synod Treasurer**

# Parliamentarian

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## **David Swartling** **Assembly Parliamentarian**

David Swartling was elected secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the 10th Churchwide Assembly in Chicago in August 2007. Mr. Swartling was the first layperson to hold this position in the church. Information regarding the responsibilities of the Office of the Secretary of the ELCA is available at this link: <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Secretary.aspx>.

Mr. Swartling attended Princeton University on a Navy Scholarship and served 4 years in the submarine force. Following his military service, he attended the University of Washington School of Law, where he was Executive Editor of the Washington Law Review. He practiced law in Seattle for more than 30 years, including 15 years as a named partner in the firm Mills Meyers Swartling. During this time, he was elected a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. For many years, he was Editor-in-Chief of the Washington State Bar Association's Civil Procedure Deskbook. He also received the President's Award from

the Washington State Bar Association and the Harrison-Tweed Award from the American Bar Association for his professional activities.

Mr. Swartling is a life-long Lutheran and has served the ELCA in many capacities. He was the congregational president at Bethany Lutheran Church on Bainbridge Island, Washington; a member of the Synod Planning Group and Vice President of the Northwest Washington Synod; Chair of the Region 1 Governing Council; and Chair of the ELCA Foundation Board of Trustees. Upon his election as secretary, David and Barbara, his wife of 40+ years, relocated from Bainbridge Island to the Chicago area. They have two adult children: Christopher, an ESL teaching program manager employed by the Defense Language Institute in San Antonio, and Ryan, a chef in Seattle.

David and Barbara Swartling returned to Bainbridge Island in late 2013, following completion of his term as ELCA secretary. He rejoined the law firm of Mills Meyers Swartling in 2014, and served as managing attorney for two years. Information regarding the firm and Mr. Swartling can be found at this link: [www.millsmeyers.com](http://www.millsmeyers.com). He retired from active practice in 2017. David currently serves on the boards of Compass Housing Alliance in Seattle and Lutheran Services in America, headquartered in Washington DC. He is also an active community volunteer on Bainbridge Island.

# Workshops

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## **BUILDING PEACE -- Our Neighborhood: A Beloved Community**

Violence prevention save lives and money, improves quality of life and creates a beloved community. A Department of Peacebuilding will make peace a national priority. Join this workshop to be part of the solution.

*Our team introduced Synod Assembly Resolution 2017-3 which was adopted. All have advocated for peacebuilding, racial justice and equality, and homeless services and support for many years.*

- **Pastor Dan Solberg** – pastor at Saint Paulus Lutheran Church in San Francisco; community activist in Pittsburg, PA and San Francisco, CA.
- **Nancy Merritt** – Peace Alliance Department of Peacebuilding Lead & Department of Peacebuilding CA State Coordinator
- **Pastor Doug Merritt** – former Executive Director of the Berkeley Ecumenical Chaplaincy to the Homeless; established senior center in Sierra foothills rural community; wrote and received grant to reduce suicide rate among isolated seniors.

Session 1 & 2, **Santa Barbara**, 2nd floor

## **Building the Future of Mt. Cross**

After 70 years, Mt. Cross has experienced a lot of love, joy, turmoil, and grace! With new directors, we're looking into the future, and explicitly one that integrates outdoor and congregational ministry. You'll hear about what's happening, where we're headed, and even do a classic, team-building activity that has us working together to build the future.

**Adam Erickson**  
**Mt. Cross Ministries**

*Adam Erickson (along with his wife, Rev. Sarah Erickson) is the Executive Director of Mt. Cross.*

Session 1, **Tahoe**, 2nd floor

## **Create a Local Food Hub**

Woven into the fabric of every community is a vibrant, seasonal, often organic or sustainable effort to farm, fish, bake, harvest, and gather in a way that honors the local food shed and the bounty of the land on which you live. Congregations are ideally suited to partner with those looking to share their passion for the land and its bounty. This workshop will provide the resources needed to explore hosting a Community Supported Agriculture drop site, or the sharing of unused land, or turning your underutilized kitchen into a vibrant community kitchen, all to generate the kind of local economic relationships that bind your congregation to farmer, fisherfolk, baker, and grower. Create a food hub that honors the broad spectrum of justice issues that involve the soil, creation care, workers' rights, the seasons, and the sea. It's justice work you can taste

and feel with each meal on the table.

**Rev. Daniel Senter, Steve Schwartz**  
**Our Savors of Lafayette**

*Pastor Dan has been an active advocate for the CSA model for many years and his congregation serves as host to four different CSA's and helped launch a fruit gleaning program in East Bay. Steve Schwartz is the executive director of the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative and has spent a career working in the field of food justice. They will be joined by representatives from the farming, fishing and baking world to present models and resources for your congregation to get started.*

Session 1 & 2, **Carmel "A"**, 2nd floor

## **Does Your Church Have A Plan For Planned Giving?**

What are the financial needs of your congregation? What are the wants? Come and discover how your congregation can put a plan in place to address these questions.

**Josh Kerney**  
**Regional Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation**

*As a Regional Gift Planner, I partner with congregations throughout the Sierra Pacific Synod to help them identify their financial needs and wants, and to help lay the groundwork for accepting legacy gifts. In addition, I meet with members of these faith communities to help to align their passions for ministry with the needs and wants of their congregation.*

Session 2, **Golden State**, 2nd floor

## **ELCA Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice**

Had issues buying a car or getting a job because you are female? Fed up with hearing about poor salaries for women or the numbers of women who have been victimized? The draft of the ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice is powerful. Come and learn how our church is committing to change our world for our daughters and granddaughters.

**Pastor Connie Winter-Eulberg, Mary Wiberg**

*Pastor Connie Winter-Eulberg and Mary Wiberg are the Sierra Pacific Synod's Process Builders for the ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice. These 2 women have spent decades either working on Women and Violence or Women and Economic Justice.*

Session 1, **Big Sur "A"**, 2nd floor



# Hospitality: Beyond Strategic Friendliness

Henri Nouwen describes hospitality as a two-sided approach to others that includes confrontation as well as receptivity. Does this surprise you? This workshop opens up a fascinating conversation about Christian hospitality. We'll explore Henri Nouwen's insights about the paradoxical nature of hospitality and put that into conversation with Dietrich Bonhoeffer's understanding of church. You'll leave the workshop with a better understanding of the difference between hospitality and "strategic friendliness."

**Rev. Dr. Sandra Dager**  
**University Lutheran Chapel**

*I had the opportunity to hear Henri Nouwen discuss hospitality on a number of occasions when I was a seminary student at Yale Divinity School. His insights led to my giving a workshop on hospitality at the Worship Jubilee 2007. As a pastor, I see why congregations need to develop a deeper understanding of hospitality, and understand the fears and misunderstandings that can thwart that journey.*

Session 2, **Big Sur "A"**, 2nd floor

# Light to All in the House: A workshop to equip congregations to welcome LGBTQ pastors into the call process

A conversation exploring how you can help your congregation to develop an intentional plan to be open to calling an LGBTQ pastor or another leader from a different context or community. Meet others who are working to build extraordinary congregations. You will learn more about Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries and our work in the post-2009 environment. You will also be introduced to resources and techniques you can take back to your congregation to help them begin and have conversations about a diversity of leaders. Learn about "minimization" and how to work through this and other barriers. Finally, share your good ideas and experiences to help others benefit from what you've learned.

**Pr. Mary Stein-Webber and Pr. Sharon Stalkfleet**  
**Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries**

**Pastor Sharon Stalkfleet**, currently called by Sierra Pacific Synod to Intentional Interim Ministry. Sharon identifies as bi-sexual and was the 7th Extraordinarily Ordained Clergy serving ELCA congregations in 2002 and has participated with ELM (Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries) and its predecessor bodies to work for the full inclusion of LGBTQ pastors. She has served as the first pastor of Lutheran Ministry to Nursing Homes, Oakland and Alameda, as a hospice chaplain and interim pastor to Lutheran Church of the Cross, Berkeley and Trinity Lutheran Church in Alameda.

**Mary Stein-Webber**, MDiv, LMFT is very hopeful about presenting this workshop. God has gifted the church with brilliant LGBTQI people, and now the opportunity is now for congregations to call them as pastors. I am a Lutheran pastor, ordained in 1984. I have served three congregations; Phoenix, AZ, Long Beach, and Oakland both in California. I also am a Marriage and Family therapist, with a private practice in Alameda.

Around 2000 I began to volunteer my time with the then, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries, serving on the candidacy for students who were not welcome into the ELCA. I served as chair of that ministry for many years, and in 2009 after the ELCA voted to include LGBTQI pastors into the church, the Candidacy responsibility fell to the synods of the ELCA.

*I hope that you'll bring your questions and concerns and expertise to the workshop. There is a place for you.*

Session 1 & 2, **Ventura**, 2nd floor

## My Life In a Box

Whether you are a victim of a natural disaster, or have the burden/privilege of caring for an ailing family member, My Life In A Box was created to save you time, grief and unneeded expense when recovering from these types of life altering situations. This is a video based program developed by Laurie Ecklund Long, an emergency specialist with over a decade of experience as an author and national speaker. Laurie provides a wealth of information relating to surviving natural disasters, terminal illness, family loss and elder issues. Laurie learned many of her “survival skills” through the loss of 12 family members and close friends within a period of five years. During that time, and also through experiences related to 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina she began to investigate a variety of ways for individuals and businesses to face their losses and recover quickly. She created an emergency preparedness plan that allows people to build an emergency tool box so that within minutes of a home fire or disaster, they can leave their home with everything they need to rebuild their life. Janet Lane and Myra Squeo, both from Hope Lutheran Fresno, have been trained by the author to facilitate this one hour presentation.

### **Janet Lane**

**Synod Resource Center/Hope Lutheran, Fresno**

*Janet Lane is a trained CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) member in Fresno. This training led to interest and ultimately training in the My Life in a Box Program. We have presented this program at Hope, to staff, and are looking forward to sharing it with other groups and organizations. We have other workshops scheduled in the Fresno area over the next several months. In her roles at Hope Lutheran Church, Fresno and at the Synod Resource Center, Janet has found having emergency plans in place makes work and home life ready for anything.*

Session 2, **Trinity**, 2nd floor

## Planning for the End of Life

“If I ever got really sick and couldn’t tell you about my wishes about the decisions you’d face at the end of my life, I would be afraid you wouldn’t know what I’d like. Could we talk about that now? I’d feel better if we did.” Could you imagine having a conversation like that with your family? No matter what our age, planning for the end-of-life can be difficult. It may be hard to face the idea of our own death or that of those we love. We may find it hard to initiate a conversation with our family members or with our aging parents. As difficult as these barriers may be, taking time to consider one’s own wishes and communicating those wishes to family members can be a great gift to them by easing the difficulty of decision-making when they are affected by grief and time pressure. Specifying your own wishes helps assure your values are respected, minimizes financial costs, and eases the pressure of family decision-making at a time of stress.

### **Scott Trevithick**

**Interim Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran, Reno, NV**

*The presenter is an ordained Presbyterian pastor who has served in parish ministry in Presbyterian and Lutheran congregations, as a hospital chaplain, and as a director of regional non-profits serving seniors. In those settings, he is experienced at accompanying people in crisis or who are coping with loss and grief, assisting them in talking about difficult subjects and helping them prepare for end-of-life decisions.*

Session 1 & 2, **Carmel “B”**, 2nd floor

## Saving SNAP

Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are threatened in the coming re-authorization of the Farm Bill. It is crucial to the hungry and food insecure in America that we advocate that a fully funded SNAP Program that is not block granted be included in the Farm Bill. Without a robust SNAP program many would go hungry. Food banks and churches could not take up the slack. Our elected officials in Washington must be flooded with letters, emails, visits and phone calls! Come learn how to be an effective advocate to save SNAP!

**Cathy Baca, Mark Carlson, Edie Lott, Linda and Rick Knapp,  
Synod Hunger Network**

*The five members of our team were all in Washington DC in January for a National Hunger Leaders Gathering where we received training from ELCA Advocacy on effective advocating for SNAP.*

Session 1, **Big Sur "B"**, 2nd floor

## Scripture by Heart: Biblical Storytelling

Practice the art of biblical storytelling as the gospels were originally presented in the first century. Learn to present a short piece of scripture by heart, including vocal inflections and movement as a part of your interpretation of the text.

**Amy Allen**  
**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**

*The Rev. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen holds a PhD in New Testament from Vanderbilt University with an interest in Practical Theology. For the past 15 years she has practiced the art of biblical storytelling both as a means of interpretation and proclamation of the biblical message.*

Session 1, **Trinity**, 2nd floor

## Sharing Your Faith

Most Christians know they should share their faith with others but very few do. Why? Two reasons: it's too embarrassing or uncomfortable and they have never been trained how. This workshop examines why people do not believe, what the spiritual and psychological obstacles are that prevent them from coming to faith in Christ. It also trains lay people in "relational evangelism," how to build the kinds of relationships that will open doors to spiritual discussions and sharing the Christian faith in ways that are non-threatening and comfortable for both parties. This is a one hour workshop, with time for questions and discussion, that we have presented in churches from coast to coast.

**Bill Oehlschlager**  
**Lutheran Lay Renewal of America**

*I'm the Executive Director of Lutheran Lay Renewal of America and have been involved with ministries of evangelism and spiritual renewal, first in Episcopal and later in Lutheran churches, for 29 years. Formerly I was Executive Director of Faith Alive, a renewal ministry in the Episcopal Church. I also was a Lay Pastor in the Episcopal Church for many years. Although I was raised in the church, I was an atheist from age 16 to 27, so I think I have some insight into how nonbelievers think and what the major obstacles are that keep them from faith in God.*

Session 2, **Tahoe**, 2nd floor

## So, Your Pastor Is Leaving...

The synod Interim Ministry Advisory Committee will be answering questions on how congregations can effectively continue their mission and ministry during a pastoral vacancy. If your congregation is facing a pastoral vacancy in the near future, we will be sharing a wealth of information in Intentional Interim Ministry.

***Pr. Cindy Beck, Pr. Christopher Berry, Pr. Lori Eickmann, Pr. Pamela Griffith Pond, Pr. Kathryn Gulbranson***  
***Intentional Interim Ministry***

*The Synod Interim Ministry Advisory Committee is made up of experienced and well-trained intentional interim pastors who have worked in several different synods and in a multitude of settings.*

*Session 2, **Big Sur "B"**, 2nd floor*

## Stewardship of Mission with Neighbors

Wondering how to grow your ministry while connecting with neighbors around your church? Be inspired by mission congregations from our own Synod who have connected with their neighbors in new and creative ways. Featured mission congregations include Miracles of Faith in Oakland and Lutheran Church of the Cross in Berkeley.

### ***Stewardship Discipling Team***

*New in 2018, our Stewardship DT has been interviewing mission congregations and creating monthly devotions about Stewardship of Mission. This workshop shares some of those inspiring stories of how we are church together with our neighbors.*

*Session 1 & 2, **Capitol View**, 15th floor*

## Rozella White

Information Coming Soon

*Session 1, **Golden State**, 15th floor*

# Anniversaries

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## Congregational Anniversaries

- 100 Years:** Lutheran Church Of The Master - Sacramento, CA
- 75 Years:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Vallejo, CA  
Lutheran Church Of The Cross - Sacramento, CA  
Lutheran Church Of Our Savior Inc - San Francisco, CA  
Zion Lutheran Church - Stockton, CA
- 50 Years:** Faith Lutheran Church - Murphys, CA  
Hope Lutheran Church - Walnut Creek, CA  
Cross And Crown Lutheran Church - Rohnert Park, CA
- 25 Years:** New Hope Lutheran Church - Foresthill, CA

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Congregation

### **Lutheran Church Of The Master Sacramento, CA**

The history of Lutheran Church of the Master began as an immigrant story. In 1918 thirty Swedish immigrants arrived in Sacramento and formed a congregation as Zion Lutheran in a small church at 25th and N Streets. They called Pastor A.P.G. Anderson to lead them, growing as a congregation until they recognized the need for a larger church home. In 1927 Swedish Prince Vilhelm came to Sacramento. As part of his official visit planted a Cedar of Lebanon tree at Zion Lutheran to recognize the congregation's Swedish roots.

Two generations later, in 1950, the church built a new building at 21st and Larkin Way. They took the name of Luther Memorial Church under the guidance of Pastor Elmer Johnson. The postwar baby boom and Sacramento's urban expansion brought many new citizens and members to the church. Luther Memorial sponsored several new mission churches during those years, including All Saints Lutheran on 24th Street, which formed in 1958. Luther Memorial expanded into the next phase of its life under the direction of newly installed Pastor Ragnar Kastman.

Settling on an open parcel south of William Land Park, the church broke ground on an innovative new building that used tilt-up concrete wall construction, one of the first of its kind in the city. The children of Zion Lutheran's early members were now teenagers and the new Luther Memorial buildings featured a large social hall, classrooms and an expanded sanctuary to accommodate the congregation's Sunday school, music programs, choir and holiday events. New families joined, bringing with them the traditions of their countries of origin, merging with descendants of the original Scandinavian founders.

The church complex that stands today at 1900 Potrero Way was the vision of a hopeful, committed congregation. Through the 1960s and 70s members initiated new mission projects, sponsored newly arriving families from Vietnam, and established a sister parish with the Lutheran Church of Rwanda. In 1976 Pastor Glen Johnson oversaw the merger of Luther Memorial and All Saints, uniting the two congregations under the name it is known as today, Lutheran Church of the Master.

Music has been at the heart of LCM's worship program since the early years when the magnificent pipe organ was installed in the choir loft. Now restored, the pipe organ offers a profound accompaniment to



worship services. The church choir has many members who have been singing at LCM for decades and includes soloists as well as a men's chorus. Within the congregation are many talented musicians who graciously contribute to the church's musical program, including a flautist, harpist, violinist and pianists. For the past twenty years LCM has also enjoyed performances by their own hand bell choir and now has a praise band to enhance the church's flourishing musical programs. The entire congregation appreciates the dedication and commitment of its musical members and welcomes new musicians and singers who would like to share their love of music with the community.

During the 1980s and 90s Lutheran Church of the Master saw continued change, a diminished membership, and growing demands to serve Sacramento's increasingly diverse community. The first woman to serve as Pastor, Deedee Lundhal, came in 1985 with her husband, Pastor Glenn Lundhal. Five different pastors during the next four decades ushered the congregation into the 21st century. Today, the Reverend Doctor Linda Boston serves LCM's congregation. She holds the distinction of being the first African American woman ordained on the West Coast. Lutheran Church of the Master, founded by immigrants and sustained by its devoted members over a century, now looks to the next century with hope and a firm belief in serving God by serving others.

## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Congregation**



### **St. Paul's Lutheran Church Vallejo, CA**

St. Paul's humble beginnings began with a house church led by mission developer Pr. W.H, Moeller. During his one- year term from 1942-43, he grew the church until Pr. Joseph Peterson was called. Growth continued in the house church until they enough people and money to move into a building at 1300 Tuolumne St., the site where the church still meets. St. Paul's has had only 8 pastors in the last 75 years, supporting their leadership.

Like many congregations, there have been ups and downs in membership. We are now considered small, but we are mighty. The people of St. Paul's are active in the community and known as a welcoming place. We are involved in CROP walk, waterfront cleanup, bag lunches for the homeless, quilting group and support the SF Night Ministry, LWR projects, Lutheran Nursing home ministry, and a Christmas gift drive for a local nursing home.

We are moving forward in our ministry as we consider consolidating with another congregation in Vallejo, Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity. So, we may cease to be St. Paul's but our ministry will move confidently into the future.



## Lutheran Church Of The Cross Sacramento, CA

Set on the edge of the East Sacramento “Fabulous 40’s” neighborhood, is the small but mighty American Lutheran Church of the Cross. When this congregation met for the first time in the parsonage at 45th and H Streets, they were a “Diamond-in-the-Rough.” Now 75 years later, they have proven themselves to be as strong, resilient, and brilliant as a Diamond!

Our current Pastor, Rev. Michael Walton, stresses our need to have a personal relationship with God. We worship on Sundays alternating between a Traditional Communion Service and a Contemporary Communion Service. Our most popular service has to be The Blessing of the Animals outdoors in October when we reach out to our neighbors to bring their pets for a Blessing. We have had all kinds attend from dogs and cats, to turtles, hamsters, lizards, and, of course, our resident horses who give rides after this Service. This Service has been so successful we have now become a “Pet-Friendly” church, where you can bring your pets each Sunday. Another popular service would be the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Many of our Holiday services have included cantatas by our choir or plays written and performed by the Sunday School children.

The backbone of our congregation is our very active Women of the ELCA group which supplies much of the funding and legwork for our missions. Whether hosting Prayer Circles to holding Bake Sales, the women provide spiritual compassion, fun, and hard work to keep the ministries of Church of the Cross moving forward. Some of most innovative events include a baked potato sale, known as “The Spudtacular!”, a lucrative Yard, Craft & Bake Sale, a Mother’s Day Luncheon, a Stuff the Backpacks for the WIND Center, and Christmas gifts for students at Rock Point Navajo Mission School. Most recently, we have added a Pancake Breakfast and Classic Car Show dubbed “Hot August Morning” and an Annual Crab Feed in November to fuel the fires of funding the many outreach projects we accomplish each year.

You may ask, “Why does the focus seem to be on Fundraising?” Church of the Cross is a church with a mission - inside and outside our four walls. Every Sunday we leave to be the church in the world. Beyond our neighborhood we serve meals the 4th Friday of every month at St. John’s Shelter for Women and Children, and we are the only Sacramento congregation still doing this for over 30 years.

In partnership with the Episcopal and Presbyterian Church, we support Campus Ministry at City College and Sacramento State University. Our Social Hall is used for several AA and Al Anon groups. We provide a Christmas dinner and gifts for the clients of WIND Youth Services which offers services to homeless youth on the streets of Sacramento. Our annual trip to the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, Arizona provides an opportunity to reach out to the Navajo in that community by offering assistance with building projects, first aid and CPR classes, and a free vaccination program for their livestock.

We see our place in the community as a “jewel”, representing all that God wants us to be and do as Christians. And, like any congregation, we struggle with the ups and downs of being viable in today’s world and with the day to day needs of a church. But just as a gem that is created by time and pressure, we will persevere, and we will shine as we are determined to bring the news of Jesus Christ to all. So, as we celebrate our “Diamond Jubilee” 75th Anniversary, we look toward the next 75 years and beyond -serving each other, our community, and our world. Because Diamonds Are Forever!

Join our Diamond Jubilee Celebration – Sunday, October 7, 2018 1:00pm



## Lutheran Church Of Our Savior Inc San Francisco, CA

We, The Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Francisco, are celebrating our 75th Anniversary on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at the Holiday Inn San Francisco Int'l Airport: 275 South Airport Blvd, South San Francisco, CA 94080, dinner and program starting at 5:00 pm. We especially thank Bishop Mark Holmerud, for agreeing to be our guest speaker and for helping us to celebrate this momentous occasion. Of course we are inviting everyone who

would like to attend. **RSVP by phone to (415) 586-7890 or by email: [the-lcos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:the-lcos@sbcglobal.net).**

### **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Francisco, Brief History:**

The Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Francisco, started as a store front church located at 1935 Ocean Ave. in San Francisco. The Rev. Robert H. Rismiller and his wife Lucille rented the vacant store front for \$35.00 per month, they cleaned it up and on **Sunday, August 8, 1943** as a "mission congregation", sponsored by the **American Lutheran Church**, held its very first worship service.

On Sunday, December 5, 1943 the Rev. R.H. Rismiller after the worship service, called to order the first congregational meeting. The congregation voted to adopt the constitution and gave themselves the name **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Francisco, California** and authorized the church council to incorporate. Two days later on December 7, 1943, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Francisco, California filed Articles of Incorporation. On December 14, 1943 they received the stamp of approval from the state of California and officially became the **Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Francisco, Ca.**

The rest, as they say, is history.

We would like to put a call out to all pastor who ever served at LCOS to please plan to attend the 75th Anniversary celebration so we may honor their service. If you know how we may reach these former LCOS pastors please let us know **by phone to (415) 586-7890 or by email: [the-lcos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:the-lcos@sbcglobal.net).**

### **Pastors of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior from 1943 - 2018**

- 1943 - 1948 Rev. Robert H. Rismiller
- 1948 - 1954 Rev. Robert G. Konzelman
- 1954 - 1959 Rev. Luther M. Schliesser Jr.
- 1959 - 1965 Rev. George E. Baseler
- 1965 - 1971 Rev. Kenneth J. Caudill Interim Rev. Charles Johnson
- 1971 - 1980 Rev. Clark Cary Interim Rev. Charles Johnson
- 1981 - 1989 Rev. Paul G. Theiss
- 1989 - 2006 Rev. W. Richard Miller Interim Rev. Linda Boston; Rev. David Rohrer
- 2014 Rev. Evered C. Cohen



## Zion Lutheran Church Stockton, CA

Zion Lutheran church was formed in 1942 under the guidance of Rev. E.J. Roleder of Lodi. The name "Zion" is found throughout the Old Testament. It is most often referred to as the place where God dwells so the name serves as a reminder that God dwells among us. The original church building sat at the corner of Monroe and Willow streets, situated north of downtown Stockton and south of the Miracle Mile. In 1953 Zion purchased property in a small subdivision called Lincoln Village. At the time it consisted of a few hundred homes and a shop-

ping center but Zion members knew the area would grow. On this property Grace Lutheran Church was established under Rev. C.H.S. Hunziker.

In 1961, as more of Stockton's population moved to Lincoln Village, the downtown congregation of Zion and the young congregation of Grace decided to merge. The original Zion church building was sold in 1962 to the young Stockton Civic Theater, offering them their first permanent home and forever building a relationship between Zion and the Stockton arts community. To this day, Zion is known as a Christian community that celebrates and supports the arts. This is demonstrated through our hosting of the annual Zion Chamber Orchestra, our strong music program, and our highly sought after "For the Sake of Art" youth outreach program. As the two congregations merged their outreach and membership surged and they quickly outgrew the facilities so they started a building campaign to build a new sanctuary.

Situated at the corner of Porter Ave. and Gettysburg Pl., just a block west of Pacific Avenue, the new sanctuary was dedicated in 1966. The old sanctuary was converted to a fellowship hall and is now known as "Grace Hall" on the church campus. The church hosts many activities in Grace Hall and community organizations often request the use of the facility for their events. For over 50 years, the members and guests of Zion Lutheran Church have worshiped God in the sanctuary, and it's use continues today. In 1988, the Lutheran Church in America and the American Lutheran Church united to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The ELCA is currently one of the largest denominations in North America and has over 9,000 congregations. Being a member of one of the merged church bodies, Zion is now a proud member of the ELCA. The ELCA is a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace, tracing their roots back through the mid-17th century, when early Lutherans came to America from Europe. Even before that, Martin Luther sought reform for the church in the 16th century, laying the framework for our beliefs. Though once enveloped by fields, the neighborhood surrounding Zion has undergone tremendous change over the decades. The campus is nestled between the heavily commercial district of Lincoln Center and encircled by low-income housing serving many of north Stockton's neediest residents. Yet no matter the changes, Zion's presence in Lincoln Village has remained and the church continues to live out its mission of "Sharing the light of Jesus Christ". Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the sake of the world.

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### Celebration Plans:

We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October of 2017 in conjunction with celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation and the burning of our mortgage.



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Congregation

## Faith Lutheran Church Murphys, CA

Led by the Spirit and continuing to move forward in faith, Faith Lutheran Church, Murphys, celebrated its 50th year of our Lord's service to the people of Calaveras County on a clear and warm January 28, 2018. The day started with a beautiful, traditional Service of Holy Communion led by our present Pastor Karen Johnson. This was followed by a "Lutheran Lunch" (Swedish meatballs, German and Danish potatoes, Norwegian rye bread - you get the gist!). We fed nearly 100 souls (including 3 previous



pastors) who had traveled from various parts of California to participate. After lunch we returned to the sanctuary for a presentation by pastors and friends of Faith - speeches were made, congratulatory letters from absent pastors were read, our history was acknowledged - all-in-all an uplifting celebration!



Faith Lutheran Church began in the old Murphys Odd Fellows Hall with Pr. Verner Bildt called to serve from 1967-1970. We incorporated in May of 1968, and in 1969 purchased property in Murphys which would serve as the future site of our church plant. Meanwhile, in 1972 a very young and enthusiastic Pr. John Schaumburg was called to serve. We moved into a small house (Mitchler House) on our property; John helped to reconfigure a sanctuary, Sunday School was set up and we were officially a "church!" In 1976 Pr. Charlie Clark arrived, and thus began our outreach ministry in the community. We have always been blessed with wonderful interim ministers, such as Bishop Howard Weeg from 78-79 (and again in 1981-82). Bishop Weeg and his wife suffused Faith with dignity and graciousness! 1981 brought Pr. Harold Banks. A gifted musician, he encouraged us

with the singing of the liturgy! During his tenure, Holy Communion was established as an "every Sunday" event, we began our outreach to Mountain Ranch Lutheran community, and Synod decided to drop all financial support - and against all odds, we survived and thrived!! All subsequent pastors continued to serve at both Mtn. Ranch and Murphys congregations. Pastor Tim Feaser (from 1982-1988) was known as the "building" Pastor - we had our first Capital Fund Appeal, doubled our attendance, built a parsonage, and built our present church. A lively time, with two Feaser baby boys being born in Murphys! From 1990-1994 Pr. Michael Mortvedt established contemporary services, began our Evangelism programs, and realized our dream of creating the Faith Lutheran Child Care Center. He and wife Joan organized our 25th Anniversary fete and were instrumental in our community action during the Old Gulch Fire (feeding many people!!). Pr. Milo "Ken" Anderson from 1995-1999 pushed our ecumenical and community-action boundaries to include Habitat for Humanity, Satellite Food Pantries, and both Boy/Girl Scouts. Through Ken's enthusiasm and energy we began to share our church facility with other groups. In 2000 we welcomed Pr. Eric Yochheim - a Visioning Committee was formed, Mutual Ministries established, our first Men's Group began, and the initial planning started for a Fellowship Hall. From 2005-2014, Pr. Doug Merritt worked diligently to bring the Fellowship Hall to fruition and to established the Murphys Senior Center. And thanks to the Merritt Family Trust, the Senior Center was able to open a very successful Thrift Store in our old Mitchler House church! Once again we were blessed with a wonderful, caring interim - Pr. Ron Zielski - who kept us functioning for two years until the arrival of our present pastor - Pastor Karen Johnson, who brings with her an enthusiasm for small town and rural ministries. Once again we are blessed with a pastor with vision and a willingness to work with others for the betterment of our church and to proclaim the Gospel in Calaveras County. We are looking forward to the next 50 years!





## **Hope Lutheran Church Walnut Creek, CA**

Hope Lutheran Church officially became a congregation on May 19, 1968. We own no property and have utilized the facilities at Rossmoor in Walnut Creek for worship and other activities.

Hope was served by Pastors Edward Hamme, Milton Johnson, George Norman and David Romeis from its beginning until 1999. The congregation then was not able to afford to have a pastor and was served by seminarians from

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary for 10 years. Jack Niemi was called to be the Pastor of Hope on September 1, 2009, as a final attempt to discern whether Hope had a viable future. Pastor Karen Woida joined the staff in 2013.

Today Hope is a vibrant congregation with a membership of 125 and an average worship attendance of 96. In 2017 Hope remitted benevolences of \$26,305.

In thanksgiving for its role in keeping Hope alive during a difficult decade, Hope has committed to funding a \$50,000 Scholarship at PLTS as a part of our 50th Anniversary year. We are pleased Bishop Mark Holmerud led our 50th Anniversary Worship on May 13, 2018.

## **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Congregation**

### **New Hope Lutheran Church Foresthill, CA**

New Hope Lutheran Church, 22200 Foresthill Road, Foresthill, California, celebrates its 25th anniversary as a congregation in 2018. Started as a satellite ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Auburn in 1982, New Hope was strong enough to be chartered as a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on October 31, 1993.

New Hope's first building was constructed largely with volunteer labor in over a year's time and was dedicated on October 31, 1994. Sunday School classrooms were added in 2002. Many community activities and congregational ministries have called New Hope their "home."

A community celebration of New Hope's 25th anniversary will be held on Sunday, June 10. Interim Pastor Mark Vance will preside and preach at the 9:30 a.m. worship service, and a community brunch will be held immediately afterwards. Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop Mark W. Holmerud will be with the congregation on Sunday, October 14.

# Rostered Minister Anniversaries

## **Minister of Word and Sacrament**

- 65 Years:** George R Demant  
Harry C Carlson  
Roy C Hoch<sup>+</sup>
- 60 Years:** David J Adamcik  
Walter M Stuhr  
William E Leshner<sup>+</sup>
- 55 Years:** James W Munson  
Thomas J Unmacht
- 50 Years:** Hoy San Loke  
Jack L Ericson  
Jan L Womer  
Jorn O E Muller  
Kenneth L Mikulasek  
Paul G Carlson  
Paul W Thomton
- 45 Years:** Harvey E Blomberg  
Raymond A Olsen  
Robert L Phillippi
- 40 Years:** Dale A Sollom-Brotherton  
David K Bonde  
Endel Kallas  
F Noreen Meginness  
Lyle J Beckman  
Ross D Merkel  
Thomas A Beck  
William H Feeser Jr
- 35 Years:** David J Hamilton  
Edmundo Hassenteufel  
Mark E Dunbar  
Maurice M Ngakane
- 30 Years:** Bernhard Fricke  
Charles B Carlson  
Connie R Winter-Eulberg  
Cora E Scheel  
Elizabeth E Ekdale  
Jeffrey K Irwin  
John B Valentine  
Paul S Chung  
Timothy M Huff

- 25 Years:** Daniel E Senter  
Edward D O'Donnell Jr  
Robert M McKee
- 20 Years:** Alicia Vargas  
Benjamin B Bergren  
Eileen M. Smith LeVan  
Karen L Woida  
Sandra D Dager
- 15 Years:** Christopher B Warner-Carey  
Heidi A Hester  
Kristin J Gallimore  
Lynette M Crase
- 10 Years:** Kathryn A Grindberg  
Michael J Zurek  
Nicholas M Droge  
Ralph Supper III  
Bruce R Hannem
- 5 Years:** John M Kuehner  
Pamela S. Schaefer Dawson  
Rebekah E Davis  
Ronald N Valadez  
Tuhina V Rasche

## **Minister of Word and Service**

- 30 Years:** Kaye I Kuhlmann

<sup>+</sup>Died in the past year

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination



## **Rev. Dr. Hoy-San Loke**

I was born in Malaysia in a small beautiful town of Manglembu which was known for its world's famous ground-nuts. My parents were migrated from Canton, China in 1930. Both were teachers of the Chinese Confucianism School. Four cute and handsome boys were born to the family.

I married to Anne Lee in 1964, but then missed her to eternity in October 3, 2006. We have four children, son, Wai Kong with wife Jamie and daughter, Wai Ling with husband Tom.

While I was a senior in high school, a missionary from the German Basal Lutheran mission which was sponsored by the Lutheran Church in America begun to share the Christian faith to our community. With three high school classmates we began to be impressed by the teaching of Christianity. Finally with faith and love to Jesus Christ the four of us were baptized into the Christian faith at Grace Lutheran Church in Manglembu, Malaysia.

Graduated from high school I began to look for my goal in the future. I had a deep conviction to become a missionary Pastor. After my father's death, my mother had no means to support four of us for further education.

God always opens a way for his children. With my Pastor's recommendation I was granted a scholarship to study in the Chinese University in Hong Kong where I earned a B.A. degree in 1963, followed by studying at the Lutheran theological Seminary in Hong Kong. Because of shortage of Pastors in Singapore and Malaysia, before completing the theological training, I was called to return to Singapore to develop a new church. As students, my wife Anne and I work to develop a congregation and at the same time to complete our theological studies at the Trinity Theological College in Singapore. I earned a B.Th./M.div. Degrees in 1966 and became Co-Pastors of the Queenstown Lutheran Church in Singapore. In 1975 I earned a doctoral degree from the Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Massachusetts USA. I was then a Pastor and a part-time lecturer in New Testament studies and a supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education to Trinity Theological college in Singapore.

I was ordained in 1968 by the Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore. During my ministering to the three Lutheran churches in Malaysia and in Singapore I was elected as the secretary of the Administrative church council and was then an Acting Bishop.

I always like to take more active roles beyond congregational ministries. Following my retirement in 2009, each year of a month, I returned to Malaysia and Singapore to conduct training to Pastors and lay leaders from Clinical Pastoral Education to Pastoral Counseling.

During my ministry in California to the Chinese Lutheran Renewal church in Richmond and to the Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland, I was sharing an active role in volunteering Pastoral Counseling to the community in need. I was the Chairmen of the Synod's multicultural committee and the Church-wide ELCA Asian committee member.

I am so thankful to God for his love and blessings of 50 years of joyful ministries to various churches and communities.

### **Churches and Services I had served.**

1. Queenstown Lutheran Church in Singapore 1964-1970
2. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Malaysia 1970-1973
3. Christ Lutheran Church in Malaysia 1975-1978
4. Chinese Renish Lutheran Church in Richmond, California 1978-1981
5. Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland, California 1981-1988.
6. Chinese United Methodist Church in Sacramento 1988-2001
7. Riverside United Methodist Church in Sacramento 2001-2009

### **Education in various theological schools and institutions.**

1. Chinese University in Hong Kong B.A. 1964
2. Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong. Dip. 1965
3. Trinity Theological College in Singapore B.Th./M.div. 1966
4. Andover Newton Theological School, Boston USA D.Min. 1975  
Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor.
5. Psycho Neurology Foundation in Los Angeles USA 1984  
A Certified Hypnotherapist.
6. Member of the Asia Pacific Council of Clinical Supervision & Psychotherapy.  
A Diplomat in Clinical Pastoral Education and a Pastoral Counselor.



## **Rev. Paul W. Thomton**

### **EDUCATION**

Marshall High School, Marshall, Minnesota, Diploma  
Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, Bachelor of Arts  
Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota, Master of Divinity  
School of Theology, Claremont, California, Doctor of Ministry

### **PARISHES SERVED AS LEAD PASTOR**

Froid & Ebenezer Lutheran Parish, Froid, Montana  
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, La Puente, California  
Christ Lutheran Church, Visalia, California  
Grace Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara, California

### **SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

Director of Development, Good News Center, Visalia, California  
Mission Developer, Mission Coalition, Fresno California  
Chaplain and Director of Development, Bethel Lutheran Home,  
Selma, California

Stewardship Key Leader, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Assisted in raising \$2,995,000 for six churches in three states for building programs

Fundraising programs with eight churches in California for yearly stewardship programs totaling \$4,610,000.

### **INTERIM MINISTRIES**

First Lutheran Church, Tulare, California  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno, California  
Hope Lutheran Church, Fresno, California  
Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach, California

### **PERSONAL**

Married to Linda Thomton; four children, eight grandchildren (slightly above average), and one great-grand-child.



## Rev. Kenneth Mikulasek

It has been an incredible privilege to serve as Pastor for fifty years, proclaiming in word and actions the unconditional love and forgiveness of God. I was blessed to serve in partnership with four California congregations: All Saints, Sun Valley; Holy Shepherd, Orinda; St. Mark's, Pleasant Hill; and Holy Cross, Livermore.

Since retirement, I continue to meet with colleagues in the Mt. Diablo Conference and provide some pastoral supply. I value time with Earna, my wife and partner of fifty years. Together we enjoy every moment we can with our two daughters and five grandchildren. Most Sundays we are sitting together at Trinity Lutheran, Pleasanton for worship led by our pastor, Heidi Hester.

I am grateful to my high school pastor, family members, mentors, teachers, bishops, colleagues, parishioners, mutual ministry groups and church councils for sharing this journey of ministry and offering their wisdom, guidance and encouragement

even in challenging times. Through them, I often experienced the grace of God, a grace that continues to sustain me. Thanks be to God!



## Rev. Jan Womer

I was ordained on Epiphany 1968 in Uppsala, Sweden and was called by the LWF to serve as part-time Lutheran Chaplain in London while I did graduate work at Oxford.

I was Professor of Theology at Nommensen University, Sumatra for four years and was a Fellow and Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford University for eight years.

I served congregations in Concord, Cypress, Fullerton, and ST Mark's, San Francisco in CA.

Along the way, I was Assistant to LCA Bishop Stan Olson and ELCA Director for Worship in Chicago.

Since retiring I have done a series of Interim calls in CA. I am presently Chaplain of the Scottish Highland MacBain/MacBean Clan.

My wife of 46 years died of cancer in 2012; two sons who are LSW's and 3 grandchildren who are a great delight!



# Roster Updates

<p><b>Letter of Call</b></p>	<p>The Rev. David Bates, Synod Call Chaplain, Kindred Hospice Gentiva House – Pleasant Hill, CA The Rev. Linda Boston Lutheran Church of the Master- Sacramento, CA The Rev. Sarah Erickson Mt. Cross Ministries – Ben Lomond, CA The Rev. Barbara Foltin Faith Lutheran Church- Castro Valley, CA The Rev. Christian Jennert St. Paul Lutheran – Oakland, CA The Rev. Stephanie K. Johnson Trinity Lutheran – Alameda, CA The Rev. Sarah Johnson Lord of Mercy Lutheran Church – Sparks, NV The Rev. Ned O'Donnell, Jr. Trinity Lutheran Church – Oakland, CA The Rev. Tim Philips Synod Call- Interim Ministry The Rev. Andreas Pielhoop United Lutheran Church, Oakland, CA The Rev. Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez St. Paul Lutheran Church - Lodi, CA The Rev. Gabrielle Schroeder Advent Lutheran Church – Citrus Heights, CA The Rev. Robert Swartz St. James-Redding, CA</p>
<p><b>First Call</b></p>	<p>Deacon Suzanne O'Dea, Calvary Lutheran Church - Eureka, CA The Rev. Sharon Amundson Mariposa Lutheran Church – Mariposa, CA The Rev. Stephen Jahn First Lutheran Church – Orland, CA The Rev. Eduardo Trejo-Soto, Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor – Salinas, CA The Rev. Samee Singkeovilay Christ Lutheran Church – Visalia, CA</p>
<p><b>Extended Letter of Service</b></p>	<p>The Rev. Ed Hilton Christ the King - Tahoe City Lutheran Church, NV The Rev. Jerilyn Dahlke St. Stephens Lutheran Church, El Dorado Hills, CA</p>
<p><b>Ordinations</b></p>	<p>Suzanne O'Dea – Consecration Sharon Amundson Stephen Jahn Samme Singkeovilay Eduardo Trejo-Soto</p>

<b>Transfer In</b>	<p>Deacon Linda Rube – Pacifica Synod  The Rev. David Bates – Southwest Washington Synod  The Rev. James Carr - Metropolitan Chicago Synod  The Rev. Sherri Delvin – Metropolitan Chicago Synod  The Rev. Sarah Erickson – Central States Synod  The Rev. Stephanie Johnson- Grand Canyon Synod  The Rev. Don Larson – Southeastern Minnesota Synod  The Rev. Tim Philips – Pacifica Synod  The Rev. Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez – New Jersey Synod  The Rev. Robert W. Swartz- Lower Susquehanna Synod  The Rev. Teresita “Tita” Valeriano - Southwest California Synod  The Rev. Bill Wessner – Northeast Ohio Synod</p>
<b>Transfer Out</b>	<p>The Rev. Deborah Butler – Northwest Washington Synod  The Rev. Ronald Kreiensieck – West Virginia – Western Maryland Synod  The Rev. Joann Neal – Rocky Mountain Synod  The Rev. Gwendolyn Schaefer – Southwestern Minnesota Synod  The Rev. Patricia Vargas – Southern Ohio Synod  The Rev. Linda Vogelgesang – Pacifica Synod  The Rev. Leslie Welton – Rocky Mountain Synod</p>
<b>On Leave from Call</b>	<p>The Rev. Diane Bowers  The Rev. Dwane Michael  The Rev. Keith Miller  The Rev. Tuhina Rasche  The Rev. Robin Ressler  The Rev. Pamela Dawson Schaefer</p>
<b>Removed from Roster</b>	<p>The Rev. Daniel Severson</p>
<b>Deceased</b>	<p>The Rev. Richard D. Bergman  The Rev. Russell A. Bolm  The Rev. Sharon Brostrom  The Rev. Gordon E. Christiansen  The Rev. Dr. John H. Frykman  The Rev. Roy C. Hoch  The Rev. Eugene W. Jewell  The Rev. Merton R. Johnson  The Rev. William E. Leshner  The Rev. Warren A. Nelson  The Rev. Royce Scherf  The Rev. Paul Valentiner</p>
<b>Retired</b>	<p>The Rev. Adisa Armand  The Rev. Victor Berg-Haglund  The Rev. Steven Blair  The Rev. Sandra Dager  The Rev. David Dykes  The Rev. Karen Deutscher  The Rev. Jean Lebbert  The Rev. Judith Morgado  The Rev. Rodney (Rod) Platte  The Rev. Susan Strouse  The Rev. Martha Stum  The Rev. Carl Tuisku</p>
<b>Closed Congregations</b>	<p>Bethlehem Lutheran Church  2156 Jensen Avenue  Sanger, CA 93657  Date of Last Service: December 9, 2017</p>

# Necrology

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## **The Rev. Sharon R. Brostrom**

***July 29, 1940 – July 8, 2017***

Pastor Sharon R. Brostrom died at age 77.

She attended Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, and the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. She was ordained in 1992.

She served Resurrection Lutheran Church, Roxbury, MA; as an interim pastor at several churches in Northern California; Salem Lutheran Home, Oakland, CA; and Grace Lutheran Church, Richmond, CA.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David. Pastor Sharon is survived by her mother, Caroline, her brother David, her four children, Peter (MaryClaire Robinson), Nathan (Caitlin), Molly Schaefer (Todd), Natalie Burney (Larz); and eleven beloved grandchildren.

## **The Rev. Warren A. Nelson**

***July 29, 1940 – July 8, 2017***

Pastor Warren A. Nelson died at the age of 90.

He attended Augustana College, Rock Island, IL, and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He was ordained August 25, 1963.

He served Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Santa Maria, CA; Shepherd of Grace Lutheran Church, Sylmar, CA; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in San Pedro, CA; and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fresno. He attended the Air Force Chaplain School and served as a Navy Chaplain and Veteran's Hospital in Sylmar. He retired in 1989. He retired as Lt. Colonel from the Air Force Reserve. During retirement, he served as Interim Pastor to congregations in Merced and Chowchilla and as homebound and shut-in pastor at Hope Lutheran Church, Fresno, for five years.

Pr. Nelson is survived by his wife Sharon, and their two sons Lonnie and Joseph, a granddaughter, Ariana Graves, a number of nieces and a nephew.

## **The Rev. Gordon E. Christiansen**

***September 16, 1963 – August 2, 2017***

Pastor Gordon Christiansen died at the age of 83.

He graduated from Dana College, Blair, NE, and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA. He was ordained June 11, 1961.

He served Calvary Lutheran Church, Rio Linda, CA; Bethany Lutheran Church, Pasadena, CA; Bethany Lutheran Church, Kerman, CA; and Trinity Lutheran Church, Clovis, NM. He retired in 1998.

Pr. Christiansen is survived by his wife Kathy, and two daughters, Karie Harjo (Lee) and Wendy Zaborowski (Jeff); four grandsons, Ryan (Ashley) Block, Tevin Block, Ryland and Landon Zaborowski; one brother and sister-in-law, Ken and Grace Christiansen.

## **The Rev. Russell A. Bolm**

***December 20, 1931 – September 17, 2017***

Pastor Russell Bolm died at the age of 85.

He attended Augustana College and Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, IL. He was ordained June 22, 1958.

He was a Mission Builder and developed two mission congregations concurrently in Livermore (Holy Cross Lutheran Church) and Tracy, CA. He also served St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Mount Jewett, PA; St. James Lutheran Church, Hanford, CA; St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ; St. John Lutheran Church, Kailua, HI; and Concordia Lutheran Church, Kingsburg, CA. He retired in 1996.

Pastor Bolm is survived by his wife Alyce, and their four children Daniel (Peggy), Steven (Deirdre), Paul (Sheri), and Ingrid (Dr. Greg Lott); ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

## **The Rev. Dr. John H. Frykman**

***April 19, 1932 – October 21, 2017***

Pastor John Frykman died in Los Angeles at the age of 85.

He attended Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, and Philadelphia Lutheran Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1960.

He served First English Lutheran Church, Sacramento, CA; St. John's Lutheran Church, Oakland, CA; First United Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA; and Bukit Doa International Church, Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia. He taught pastoral care and family therapy at Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Madras, India.

Pastor Frykman was preceded in death by his wife Cheryl. He is survived by his daughter Kristin, and sons Lars and Erik; granddaughter Charlotte, and grandson Kyle; partner Barbara Larsen Clevenger; nieces, nephews, and cousins.

## **The Rev. Royce J. Scherf**

***October 19, 1929 – October 27, 2017***

Pastor Royce Scherf died at home in Aptos, CA, at the age of 88.

He graduated from University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, and Chicago Theological Seminary, Maywood, IA. He was ordained June 6, 1954.

He served St. Peter Lutheran Church, Pilger, NE; St. Johns United Lutheran Church, Alliance, NE; St. John's Lutheran Church, Maywood, IL; and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston, IL.

Pr. Scherf was preceded in death by his wife, Frieda, and his sons, Brian and Jordan. He is survived by his brother, James Scherf, four nephews, his sister-in-law and brother-in-law.

## **The Rev. Paul T. Valentiner**

***October 16, 1933 – November 11, 2017***

Pastor Valentiner died at the age of 84.

He attended Wagner College, Staten Island, NY; Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary; and New York Theological Seminary, New York, NY. He was ordained May 24, 1959.

He served as a mission developer in Port Hueneme, CA; Advent Lutheran Church, Elmont, NY; Zion Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, NY; and Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bronx, NY; St. Peter Lutheran Church, Bronx, NY. He worked as an Urban Planner and Director of Planning. In 1989 he accepted a call to serve Grace Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA, where he served until he retired in 1998.

Pastor Valentiner was preceded in death by his wife Virgal in 2008. He is survived by three children, Michael, David, and Michele.

## **The Rev. Roy C. Hoch**

***August 2, 1927 – January 18, 2018***

Pastor Roy Hoch died at home at the age of 90.

He attended Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, and Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary. He was ordained June 28, 1953. In 1979 he received a Master's Degree in pastoral counseling from Santa Clara University.

He served at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Ada, Ohio and as Lutheran contact pastor for Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH; Glenwood Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH; Zion Lutheran Church, Indiana, PA; Campus Ministry at San Jose State University, San Jose, CA; and Reformation Lutheran Church, Milpitas, CA. He retired in 1988.

Pr. Hoch was preceded in death by his wife Mary Jane and is survived by their three children: Dana, Beth, and Hans.

## **The Rev. William E. Leshner**

***May 24, 1932 – January 23, 2018***

Pastor Bill Leshner died at the age of 85.

He was born in Pittsburgh, PA. He attended Wittenberg University and Chicago Lutheran Seminary. He received Honorary Doctorate degrees from California Lutheran University, Pacific Lutheran University, and Wittenberg University.

He was ordained May 1, 1958 and served Reen Memorial Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO; and St. Luke Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL. In 1970 he joined the faculty at Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago. In 1973 he was appointed President of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. In 1978 he was appointed President of Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago where he served until he retired in 1997.

Pr. Leshner is survived by his wife Jean, sons David and Gregory, and three grandchildren, Christopher, Timothy, and Samera.

## **The Rev. Eugene W. Jewell**

***December 12, 1934 – March 12, 2018***

Pastor Gene Jewell died at the age of 83 in El Dorado Hills, CA.

He was born in Littleport, Iowa; attended Midland College, Fremont NE; and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA.

He was ordained in 1962. He served in Clovis, CA; St. Luke's Lutheran, Woodland Hills, CA; and Prince of Peace Lutheran, Saratoga, CA. During his career, Gene mentored 16 interns during their final year of seminary. He retired in 1995.



Pr. Jewell is survived by his wife, Judy; children Beckie (Mitch) Steller, Cindy (John) Valentin, Eugene W. Jewell, Jr., Stephanie (Pat) Jewell; stepchildren Debbie Allwine, Jeffrey (Debbie) Allwine, and James (Sherri) Allwine; 13 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; sister and an aunt; two sisters-in-law; many cousins, and various nieces and nephews.

## **The Rev. Merton R. Johnson**

***February 14, 1938 – March 19, 2018***

Pastor Johnson died at age 80.

He was born in Havre, MT; attended the University of Montana, Missoula, MT and Luther Seminary. He was ordained in 1964. He was married for a short time to Donna Maria Stenseth and they had two children.

He served in Harmony, MN; Gig Harbor, WA; and Zion Lutheran Church in Kent, WA.

He married Mary Rowe in 1978. They served together at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Whittier, CA. When Mary was called to serve as the campus pastor at Purdue University, Mert took a job as a therapist working with children and adult victims of sexual abuse. He served as the interim at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Livermore, CA; and as the called pastor to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, South San Francisco. He retired in 2001.

Pastor Johnson is survived by his spouse, Mary; his four siblings, Chester, Lois, Owen, and Neal; children, Bradley and Kari; and grandchildren, Charlie and Isabella.

## **The Rev. Richard D. Bergman**

***May 14, 1926 – April 11, 2018***

Pastor Richard Bergman died at age 91.

He was born in Hershey, PA; attended Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. He was ordained June 11, 1949.

He served three congregations in the Poconos of Pennsylvania; Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA; Trinity Lutheran Church, South Philadelphia; and Ascension Lutheran Church, Haddon Heights, NJ. He retired in 1988 and he and his wife moved to Chico, CA

Pastor Bergman is survived by his wife, Margaret; two daughters, Debbie Brooker (Alan) and Dodie Laconelli (Mike); four grandchildren, Julie (Jeff), Amy, Daniel (Debra), and Kristen; and one great granddaughter, Luisa Amy.