

## A Message from Your Assembly Co-Chairs

As co-chairs of the 2019 Sierra Pacific Assembly Planning Team we are so excited about the Thirty-Second SPS assembly to be held May 11, 2019 at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds in Lodi, CA. The Assembly Theme is: "We are Church Together: Working in God's Vineyard." (Matthew 9:37-38) It is certainly fitting that our assembly will be in the heart of the vineyards of the central valley.

As you probably know by now this is a one-day assembly convening at 10 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m. The opportunity for a one-day assembly is occasioned by a "light" business agenda. Our setting and the limited time will give us an opportunity to create some new ways of doing things and different opportunities for learning and growing. We invite you to come, open to God's work and leading among God's people.

The Planning Team is putting together an assembly that will be fast paced with sufficient opportunities for connections, fellowship and necessary business. We will be hearing from those who work in the "vineyards" both locally and beyond. St. Paul's, Lodi, will be hosting a pre-assembly gathering on Friday evening.

By now all Rostered Ministers/Congregations will have received a memo from Synod Council Secretary, Jeffrey Pennington. His memo details key dates and important registration information. Please read his memo carefully as there are important new processes for 2019.

In a change from previous years, there will be no "in-kind" offering of goods. Therefore, we invite congregations to extend an extra measure of generosity through financial gifts that the synod will divide equally between three ministries.

- **California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation** - this program provides legal counsel for immigrants and migrant workers. There is a very active office in Lodi, our host community.
- **Lutheran Social Services of Northern California** - support for those affected by wildfires
- **Sierra Pacific Synod Candidacy** - an on-going recipient of assembly offerings, the candidacy program works with people who are discerning a call to ministry.

Please take time in your March and April council meetings to pray and discuss what your monetary gift at Synod Assembly will be this year. Thank you in advance for your Spirit-led generosity.

Please watch the Synod e-news for future announcements, weekly prayer petitions and other detailed information as we move closer to the Assembly.

Tom O. Miller  
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2019 Assembly Co-chairs