

Praxis

*(prak'sis) *n.*, 1. Practical application or exercise of a body of knowledge.

June 2007

Inside this Issue

- 2 ***Stewardship***
- 3 ***Bishop***
- 4 ***Discipling Team***
- 5 ***Around the Synod***
- 6 ***Calendar***

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Music at Resurrection Lutheran Church

The Oakland church's After School Music Program, begun in 1998, offers individual music lessons to children of the congregation and community who could not otherwise afford to pay for instruction. Under the direction of Harriet Pennekamp, 35 children participate. (with more in the wings.) The program involves the children in music ministry at Sunday worship, with homebound members, and in local nursing homes.

(Photos courtesy of Intern Ray Waespi)

Got a special ministry? Let others know the story. Email to info@spselca.org



Pr Bud Egdahl

KEEPING UP WITH IT

Pr Lauren Egdahl, Stewardship Specialist

Electronic tools and gadgets come on the market in rapid fire these days. Anything two years old is OLD. A son-in-law keeps up with it all, and uses all the most recent innovations. But, if like me, you are not too savvy on that stuff, it can be a challenge.

Three new stewardship response programs are now available, and not one of them will baffle. Each will teach. And all three deserve your consideration for the congregation's next financial response program.

“WALK WITH JESUS” is one of the new offerings written by Charles Lane of our ELCA stewardship staff. A four week program with everything needed to conduct a biblically based, effective stewardship program that is well-organized, straightforward and easy to use. Materials are both in a booklet and on a CD. Three consecutive weeks follow the themes *walk, listen, give*. The fourth week is Commitment Sunday, with commitments made as a part of the worship service. Available from Augsburg-Fortress. ISBN 6-0002-0913-4



“STORIES TO TELL, GIFTS TO SHARE” This Augsburg-Fortress offering is designed to guide people to a deeper understanding of God's story as they tell their own faith stories and respond to God's blessings by sharing God's gifts with the world. A great collection of resources, not only for adults, but for youth and children, comes on both a CD-ROM and a CD, and includes four original songs by Ken Medema, with audio-visual materials. Each of the 50 bookmarks asks a unique question, prompting stories from participants.

“GIVING” magazine sent to each congregation annually. The 2007 issue offers an annual response method titled, “I have called you friends.” (John 15:15) A series of four worship services, including sermon ideas and songs that teach the beauty of offering. Commitment is done at a worship service on Sunday. Check out these resources and more at www.elca.org/stewardship

None too soon to get started on your plans for the stewardship emphasis and response method for your congregation this year. And God has provided lots of ways to do so.

The Bishop

A Companion Relationship

David G. Mullen, Bishop



June 20, 2007 is international “World Refugee Day”. Every congregation in the ELCA should have received a packet from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service offering resources that will be helpful in the effort to remind us all of the call to genuine hospitality-- personally and corporately as congregations, states and nation.¹

The ELCA’s *The Use of the Means of Grace* makes clear that the proper “use” of the means of grace leads to Christ-like mission:

Baptism and baptismal catechesis join the baptized to the mission of Christ. Confession and absolution continually reconcile the baptized to the mission of Christ. Assembly itself, when that assembly is an open invitation to all peoples to gather around the truth and presence of Jesus Christ, is a witness in the world. The regular proclamation of both Law and Gospel, in Scripture reading and in preaching, tells the truth about life and death in all the world, calls us to faith in the life-giving God, and equips the believers for witness and service. Intercessory prayer makes mention of the needs of all the world and of all the Church in mission. When a collection is received, it is intended for the support of mission and for the concrete needs of our neighbors who are sick, hurt, and hungry. The holy Supper both feeds us with the body and blood of Christ and awakens our care for the hungry ones of the earth. The dismissal from the service sends us in thanksgiving from what we have seen in God’s holy gifts to service in God’s beloved world.²

The ELCA Message on Immigration adopted by the ELCA Church Council in 1998 says:

Immigration, refugee, and asylum policies express who we are as a nation, influence the nation's future character, and affect the lives of millions of people. We encourage our members, in light of our history and our ministry with newcomers, to join with other citizens in our democratic society to support just laws that serve the common good. Our advocacy needs to take into account the complexity of issues, the diversity of interests, and the partial or relative justice of laws at the same time that it counters appeals rooted in hostility, racism, prejudice, indifference, and simplistic solutions. We draw on the best of our nation's traditions as a refuge and haven for the persecuted and destitute when we affirm that ‘we support a generous policy of welcome for refugees and immigrants,’ and that ‘we will advocate for just immigration policies, including fairness in visa regulations and in admitting and protecting refugees. We will work for policies that cause neither undue repercussions within immigrant communities nor bias against them.’”

In a time of heated debate on immigration, let us remember refugees and immigrants in our intercessions; but also let us live our prayers as congregations by following Christ’s in mission to strangers and refugees--including how we act, speak, and vote.

¹Suggested Sundays are June 17 and 24. Should the packet have been misplaced, information can be accessed via these links: <http://www.lirs.org/DonateServe/advocate/wrd2007/index.htm> and <http://www.lirs.org/>

² *The Use of the Means of Grace*, background 51A. Emphasis added

Witness & Service Discipling Team

Witness and Service

Chair
Richard Stahlke

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Pr Jim Goldsmith
Fortuna

District B
Ms Marilyn Minke
Reno

District C
Ms Kathryn Sizemore
Manteca

District D
Pr Michael O' Berg
Redwood City

District E
Pr Ron Kreinsieck
Clovis

At Large
Pr John Goldstein
Alameda

At Large
Pr Dan Solberg
San Francisco



"Small Group Ministry Takeoff"
training day

(More pictures on the last page)

Fernley Mission is God's New Thing in Nevada

Fernley, Nevada, 40 miles east of Reno, is the second fastest growing city in the second fastest growing state. The population of Fernley doubles every five to seven years. The largest industrial park in North America is under construction nearby, and workers are flooding in from all points of the compass.

Fernley Mission is a partnership of the Sierra Pacific Synod, the Sierra Nevada Conference, the Fernley Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community, and the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the ELCA. Pastor Developer Paul Theiss arrived in August 2006. The Mission Director is Pr Harvey Blomberg. Pastor Theiss says, "The Fernley mission is a seamless cooperation among various parts of our church. Everyone contributes their part. There are no turf battles, just smooth hand offs."

Synod financial support is from the Witness & Service Team's New Congregations Ministries line of the Synod budget. Second Mile Giving from congregations for partner institutions and agencies is supporting those partners as the budget line for new congregations has been increased.

Pastor Theiss is on a three year term call. The congregation is so far on track to organize within that time frame. The Fernley congregation dedicates 21% of its members offerings to missions through the ELCA. They know how important mission offerings can be!

A special feature of the Fernley mission is its emphasis on holistic small groups. These groups are the basic building blocks of the mission. Each group worships, learns, has fun and reaches out beyond itself, welcoming the unchurched. Each group is committed to the mission goals of the congregation.

Another strength of the Fernley mission is prayer support. More than 65 individuals in Fernley and around the country have committed themselves to pray at least weekly for the mission. They receive a prayer update letter at least once a month. Pastor Theiss says, "You can feel the prayer support. God is directing this thing."

Around the Synod

We Pray

Prayers for healing:

for retired **Pr Merton Johnson**, recovering from two back surgeries in mid-May

Comfort of the gospel to:

the family of retired **Pr Hardis Bakken**, who died May 5 and to the family of retired **Pr David Romeis**, who died May 16. May light perpetual shine upon them.

Roster Changes

Sara Wolbrecht to St Matthew, Walnut Creek



Sara Wolbrecht, a May graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, has accepted the call to serve as Pastor of Congregational Care at St Matthew.

Congregations in Transition

Key: (1) Forming Call Committee, (2) Developing Profile, (3) Interviewing, (4) Calling

Congregation Interim Pastor

Arcata, Arcata (4)	
Auburn, Bethlehem (4)	Dan Hodgson
Citrus Heights, Advent (Associate)(2)	
Citrus Heights, Ascension(Associate)(4)	
Elko, Faith (2)	Beverly Jensen
Fairfax, Christ (1)	Terry Hamilton-Poore
Fort Bragg, Trinity (2)	Chris Warner-Carey
Fresno, Immanuel(Associate) (3)	
Granite Bay, Resurrection(1)	John Ridenour
Lodi, Emanuel (1)	
Los Altos, Immanuel(4)	Jan Womer
Mariposa, Mariposa(3)	Kirk Shipley
Merced, Shepherd of the Valley (2)	Carl Bengston
Modesto, Emanuel(2)	Roger Lee
Oakland, Bethlehem (2)	Larry Quanbeck
Palo Alto, First (2)	David Rohrer
Petaluma, Elim (Outreach& Discipleship)(3)	
Quincy, Our Savior (2)	
Richmond, Grace (4)	
Rio Linda, Calvary(3)	Bruce Johnson
Sacramento, Good Shepherd (Sr)	Russ Creydt
San Leandro, St James (2)	Ruth Leshner
Santa Clara, Our Savior (3)	Andreas Piehlhoop
Santa Rosa, Bethlehem(Assoc-Youth & Family)(4)	
Stockton, Zion (3)	Stan Niemi

Synod Calendar

June

- 6 Leadership Discipling Team
- 12 Discipling Team Chairs & Bishop' s Staff
- 25 Presentation of the Augsburg Confession
- 29-30 Synod Council

July

- 4 Independence Day
- 7 Churchwide Voting Members orientation
- 16-19 Professional Leaders Retreat
- 28 Lay Leadership Forum

The Word and Sacrament Discipling Team
presents:

Lay Leadership Forum, July 28, 2007

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1035 Carol Lane

Lafayette, CA 94549

visit www.wordandsacrament.org

**Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the
Church Divinity School of the Pacific are co-
sponsoring**

[2007 Summer Session](#)

[July 5-27](#)

Fernley Mission



Members built a cabin for an elderly woman living alone in the Fortymile Desert .



Each Sunday the Fernley Community Center becomes a sanctuary.

Praxis is published monthly (except July) and posted at the web site

www.spselca.org

by the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA.

Rev F Noreen Meginness, Editor

Rev David G Mullen, Bishop
