

# Praxis

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

**March 2008**

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### **What is the Book of Faith?**

The Book of Faith is an initiative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Book of Faith initiative invites the whole church to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered, and sent.

### **The Bible is a book of faith**

The Bible is the written Word of God that creates and nurtures faith through the work of the Holy Spirit and points us to Christ, the incarnate Word and center of our faith. The Bible invites us into a relationship with God, making demands on our lives and promising us life in Christ. The Bible tells the stories of people living their faith over the centuries and, through its demands and promises, forms us as a people of faith.

### **The language of Scripture is our first language of faith**

The Bible teaches us about God, about the world, and about ourselves. We become renewed, enlivened, and empowered as the language of Scripture forms our hearts, our minds, our community conversation, and our commitments.

### **We have a calling as the people of God**

Part of our calling is to know, hear, share, and be rooted in Scripture.

### **We are renewed, enlivened, and empowered by the Word**

As we live into our calling as people who are formed by Scripture, we become renewed in our faith, enlivened through the Spirit, and empowered

**For more information, go to [Resources](#)**

# Stewardship

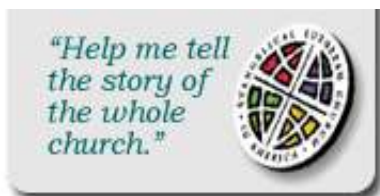
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## Pr Bud Egdahl

Read Bits from Bud in the weekly Byte of Synod. Not a subscriber? Send a note to [info@spselca.org](mailto:info@spselca.org)

Email Pr Egdahl:  
[padreegdahl@aol.com](mailto:padreegdahl@aol.com)



[Stories of the church to Share](#)

## A MANY SPLENDORED THING

We are referring to STEWARDSHIP! It is a Many Splendored Thing.!"

Many hear the word \$tewardship and think “money”, or “giving,” etc.

But that is like playing a guitar with one string. Or running my '92 six cylinder car on one cylinder. No power! No melody! Too limited! Misses so much of what is important!

When we say “STEWARDSHIP” we are talking about the whole “six string” instrument of God’s invitation to us to enjoy, use, give, replenish, conserve, care for all the creation that God has, and continues to provide.

The so-called “Green Movement” was not invented in the recent year or two by some politician or environmental group. It has been a part and parcel of what is means to be a “disciple” from day one!

Discipleship (or stewardship) means playing on all six strings of “the instrument” i.e., the gifts of God: citizenship, family, health, money, the world around us, etc.

Walking the walk! Talking the Talk!

God’s abundant provision for our whole being: body, mind and soul, is the arena in which we exercise our responding love to God (and God’s creation) by using all God’s gifts to express our love and praise and devotion to God.

It is a full chord! A wonderful melody, with a fullness that only God could inspire.

Play it out! Let is sound across your family, your congregation, your community, God’s world!

You will grow! Others will rejoice. God will be praised!

### Resurrection to Ascension!

From the Easter Gospel according to John:

[Mary Magdalene] turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know it was Jesus. John 20:14

The resurrection is at the core of our faith. More than a belief, however, it is also a matter of experience.

The testimony of Mary Magdalene, via St. John, is precisely this: the resurrection is about more than words announcing the fact, even if those words come from angels. It is a matter of recognizing the presence of Jesus, in his new and resurrection existence.

Mary's first response was to hold onto the beatific presence of her resurrected Master. She was told, "Don't hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father." The point is Jesus' resurrection was not about offering an opportunity to merely linger in the mystical garden of Easter Sunday: there is a power about to be released in the world for its salvation—the Ascension!

There are all kinds of gardens of the resurrection. One of them may be our congregations as faith communities. We wish to linger in the lovely garden, sniffing the fragrance of friendship and of lilies! God be praised for this gift!

But, "Do not hold onto me," says Jesus. By that he does not mean we abandon our faith or discount the life inherent in our *koinonia*. It's rather this: resurrection leads to ascension. And the church teaches that the Ascension of our Lord is about his ubiquity—Christ present everywhere, or it might be said, present to everyone, even in everyone.



As Jesus told us in Matthew 25:31ff, he is apt to show up in all kinds of ways: "in as much as you have done it to the least of these...." In other words, not all the gardens of faith are pretty or familiar to us in our experience. Flowing from his words is the long tradition in the church about seeing Jesus in others, especially those whom most of us would rather ignore.

For example, consider Mother Teresa confessing that she saw Jesus in the faces of the dying beggars in Calcutta.

Seeing the Resurrected Christ in such is an awesome, stunning experience. There is the continuing urgency of the divine presence, the burning desire to honor and serve the *Kyrios* in his present suffering and yearning for wholeness.

In this is born passion for the mission of God. This is the experience of hope for the world, grounded in even the bitterest realities of life. In the gardens of both joy and suffering, Christ is met, and recognized! He is risen! Alleluia!

Now, Mary, go and tell.

+ David G Mullen

## Witness & Service 2008 Ministry Funding

### Witness & Service

**Richard Stahlke**  
Chair

**District A**  
Pr Jm Goldsmith

**District B**  
Ms Marilyn Minke

**District C**  
Ms Kathryn Szemore

**District D**  
Pr Michael O' Berg

**District E**  
Pr Ron Kreiensieck

**At Large**  
Pr Jhn Goldstien

**At Large**  
Pr Dan Solberg

**Dean**  
Pr David Beard

Funding for a variety of ministries is done each year through partnerships of the Synod, the Division for Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission and local congregation and conferences. The funding is used for a variety of purposes, including: Traditional new starts, Development of ethnic ministries, Innovative ministries and Capacity Building Grants.

Since the Synod established new starts as a priority several years ago, the Synod's ability to fund ministries has grown! In addition to funding from the Synod budget and the Outreach Fund, the Division of Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission of the ELCA (EOCM) has dramatically increased grants to ministries within our Synod's territory. Conferences and congregations have also supported new work in a variety of situations.

In 2008, the funding now being granted to ministries exceeds **\$600,000**. However, for each of the last two years, the Synod Assembly has reduced the requested amount in the budget for new starts. And, this year, EOCM found it necessary to reduce the amount of grants originally approved because of the ELCA budget realities as well. The great majority of funding sent by our Synod to the ELCA for church-wide purposes comes back to us, with a large amount of it being committed to local ministries throughout our Synod territory.

This year, partnership support grants from EOCM are going to Trinity Lutheran in Hollister, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Reno, Elim Lutheran in Petaluma, Lutheran Church of the Cross in Berkeley, Christ Lutheran in Aptos, and Advent Lutheran in Morgan Hill.

In addition, grants for ethnic ministries are going to:

Miracles of Faith, Oakland  
Good Shepherd South Asian Ministry, Fremont  
Pueblo de Dios, San Jose  
Hispanic Ministry, Sacramento  
Grace, Richmond  
Grace Lao, Richmond  
Lutheran Community Church, Watsonville  
South Bay Asian Ministry  
Oromo Ministry, San Lorenzo  
Swahili Ministry at Resurrection, Oakland.

**Richard Stahlke,**  
**Chair**

# Congregations

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Travel the synod via web sites!

## Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Citrus Heights

### Mission Statement

*WELCOMING* all people to faith in Jesus Christ, *TEACHING* them to observe all Christ has commanded, and *EQUIPPING* them for loving service.

<http://www.luthchurch.org/>



## Trinity Lutheran Church, Fresno

**Our Mission: To Lead People into the Life-Changing Love of Jesus Christ**

Knowing, Growing, Building, Serving, Sharing

<http://www.tlcfresno.com/index.htm>

At right: Building with Habitat



## Advent Lutheran Church, Morgan Hill

The mission :“CHANGED LIVES CHANGING LIVES THROUGH CHRIST'S LOVE”

<http://www.advent-lutheran.org>



## Disaster Response



Remember the Gulf Coast

Since Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, the generosity of Lutherans, through volunteer hours and donations, has been amazing. Now we ask you to join us in a renewed commitment to those who remain in great need. ([More](#))



Winter Tornadoes in the US South

The ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, is beginning to assess the damage from a series of severe winter storms and tornadoes that affected communities in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, and Kentucky. ([More](#))

[Click for the home page for Disaster Response](#)



[WorshipNews](#) is a monthly e-newsletter from the Worship and Liturgical Resources staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. *WorshipNews* is a way for us to share important and timely information with you on what's happening in worship around the ELCA, including new resources, conferences, helpful topics, and more.

## Faith Science & Technology

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is committed to encourage - from a perspective of faith - conversation about issues facing our society and church related to science and technology. The ELCA Alliance for Faith, Science & Technology assists this church in carrying out its mission at the intersection of faith and science and technology. | [Mission and Vision](#)

Have a question about the intersection of faith and science that you would like answered? Browse the questions others have asked and [ask our scientist](#) a question!



## We Pray

in thanksgiving for Barbara and Pr Marty Schaefer continuing recovery-they are both now at home.

for the family, friends and colleagues of retired Pr Lester Johnson, who died March 2 at age 92 –also for the community of faith which nourished and supported Pr Johnson for many years, Saron Lutheran Church in Escalon & Pr Victor Berg-Haglund.

Prayer requests may be sent to [info@spselca.org](mailto:info@spselca.org)  
(Please be sure to secure permission first)

## Roster Changes

Katy Grindberg to Advent, Citrus Heights

## ELCA Directories

Looking for a rostered leader in another synod? Try the Directory at the ELCA web site. <http://www.elca.org/directories.html>

This also has directories for colleges, campus ministries, camps, Lutheran Social Ministries, and more!

## Congregations in Transition

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

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Interim Pastor</b>
Auberry, Sierra (2)	Carl Bengston
Concord, Good Shepherd (2)	
El Dorado Hills, St Stephen's (1)	
Elko, Faith (4)	Beverly Jensen
Fairfax, Christ (2)	Terry Hamilton-Poore
Fresno, Hope (1)	Jan Womer
Fresno, Immanuel(Associate) (3)	
Grass Valley, Peace (Associate) (3)	
Kerman, Bethany (4)	
Lodi, Emanuel (2)	Stan Niemi
Marysville, Faith (2)	Kirk Shipley
Merced, Shepherd of the Valley (2)	Nick Droge
Mi-Wuk Village, Mt Calvary (1)	
Palo Alto, First (4)	David Rohrer
Quincy, Our Savior (3)	Ruth Hanusa
Redding, St James (1)	
Reedley, Christ (2)	
Reno, Holy Cross (2)	Larry Quanbeck
Rio Linda, Calvary(3)	Bruce Johnson
Sacramento, Good Shepherd (2)	
Sacramento, Our Redeemer (2)	Scott Minke
San Leandro, Epiphany (1)	
San Leandro, St James (2)	Ruth Leshner
Saratoga, Immanuel (2)	William Norman

# Synod Calendar

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## March

3-4 Clergy/Spouse Retreat

6-11 Conference of Bishops

17 Chrism Mass

21 Good Friday—office closed

23 Resurrection of Our Lord

**Save This Date—July 12, 2008**

The Installation of the Fourth Bishop of this Synod

Bishop Mark Hanson, presiding

## April

1-3 First Call Theological Education

11-13 Candidacy Committee

24 Synod Council

25-27 Synod Assembly

28 Office Closed

## May

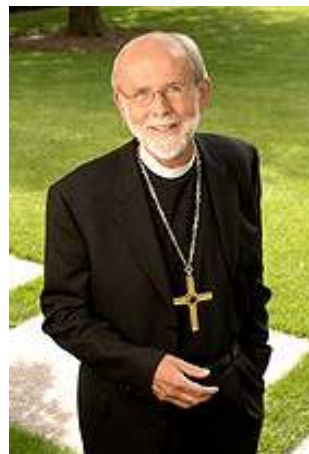
1 Ascension of Our Lord

17 Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Commencement

11 The Day of Pentecost

18 The Holy Trinity

26 Memorial Day (office closed)



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

[www.spselca.org](http://www.spselca.org)

by the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA

Rev F Noreen Meginness, Editor

Rev David G Mullen, Bishop

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