

# Praxis

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

May 2007

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## ASSEMBLY VIEWS



Top, Left to right:  
Dr Anderson, PLTS; Dr Powell, keynote speaker; Middles row Dr Olson, ELCA; Pr Minke, Elections; Center: Pr Ziehl, Resolutions; Synod Youth member ; Curtis Peterson, The Lutheran Magazine; Bottom: Mike Telleen, Dwelling in the Word; Karl Smith, outgoing Synod Treasurer.

(Photos by Randy Nelson) News & pictures at [www.spselca.org](http://www.spselca.org)



*Pr Lauren "Bud" Egdahl*

### **NOT FOR SALE**

#### **Pr Lauren Egdahl, Stewardship Specialist**

It was about one year ago that I made a small donation to some charitable appeal – don't remember which one. It wasn't a big sum. Probably the real value they got was they had my address – and they began to sell it.

I can tell because every one reads like this:

**Ms. Lauren Egdahl**

I have a drawer full of address labels like that. From just about every requesting agency and group you can name. The Ms. is a dead give-away.

You can be sure that no congregation (nor, the Synod) is going to be selling your address to open a flood gate of requests for donations from you. We just do not do that.

In fact, most congregations make a point of indicating that the directory is for congregational use only, and not to be used for commercial purposes. As a parish pastor, I remember getting a number of such requests from various places– all of them turned down.

All of which is by way of saying that you can be giving fearlessly – as well as generously, proportionately, and of the first fruits, just as the Bible encourages us to do.

There are a lot of good causes to which one can be giving. But we (Christians) are the only people who will be giving to the mission of Christ which we carry out in our churches.

We don't need to fear being on THAT donor's list.

And we can rejoice that, in Christ, our names are written in heaven. Now that is a list we all long to be on!

**The only list  
that really  
matters**

## A Companion Relationship

**David G. Mullen, Bishop**

As I write these words I am aware when the PRAXIS is published, I will be on the way to or actually in, Taiwan. The purpose of this official visit, at the invitation of Bishop Chen, is to work toward establishing a covenant of understanding with the Taiwan Lutheran Church. In that way we will be fleshing out and formalizing a relationship that until now has only been a paper dream.



The Sierra Pacific Synod is a partner in three companion synod relationships: the Lutheran Church of El Salvador, the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, and Taiwan Lutheran Church.

The ELCA Companion Synod Manual (see ELCA website) states the vision: “Through the program, companion churches nurture and strengthen one another for life and mission within the body of Christ. Companions participate in one another’s life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources. Companion relationships open our eyes to the many challenges of the global context, and call us to deepen our commitment to be true disciple of Christ as individuals and together as a Lutheran communion of faith.” (Manual, page 3)

The foundation of companion relationships is “accompaniment”, the core of the missiological vision of ELCA Global Mission. Accompaniment is a “mutual relationship between companion churches who walk together in service in God’s mission. Each church has primary responsibility for mission in its own territory. The accompaniment model rose out of the changing paradigm of mission. A few generations ago, European and North American churches were the churches with resources that sent missionaries to preach the gospel in places where it had not been heard. Today churches throughout the world are now made up of people who have been Christians for generations. Instead of taking the lead on mission in their countries we interact with one another as colleagues, fellow workers in the vineyard of Christ. Mature churches, each with their own strengths and characteristics, learn from one another in mutual respect.” (Manual, page 5)

Taiwan Lutheran Church is one of the mature churches, born of the efforts of missionaries. I count it an honor and privilege to be invited to visit by Bishop Chen. I ask you, members of the Sierra Pacific Synod, to pray for success in our mutual effort to establish a lasting covenant that will be a blessing to the Taiwan Lutheran Church and our Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA.

# Word and Sacrament Discipling Team

## Word & Sacrament Discipling Team

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK

Diane McGeoch

### *Chair*

**Ms Ann Watkins**  
Our Savior' s  
Lafayette

### *District A*

**Pr Karen Woida**  
Alma Via  
San Rafael

### *District B*

**Mr Carlton Holte**

Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis

### *District C*

**Susan Peterson,**  
Resurrection, Dublin

### *District D*

**Pr Debra Slifer**  
Interim Ministry

### *District E*

**Vacant**

### *Conference Dean*

**Vacant**

### *At Large*

**Pr Clark Brown**  
St Timothy' s, Monterey

### *At Large*

**Diane McGeogh**

The ELCA Mission Statement reads: “Marked with the cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered, and sent for the sake of the world.”

The theme of ELCA Christian Education for 2007 is “Imitate My Heart.” We get to the heart of the matter through ministries of discipleship and faith formation, equipping others to grow in faith. We support heart healthy activities that help congregations live out this mission. We connect with other partners in Christian education to strengthen our call to discipleship.

The Sierra Pacific Synod Christian Education Network focuses on the needs of the congregation in the areas of Christian education and discipleship. Our network is in the initial stages of exploring new possibilities for equipping, supporting, and connecting. The network is a springboard for new approaches, a clearinghouse for information, and a way to explore discipleship together. As we listen and learn from each other, new ideas will surface and help us all stay heart healthy.

Diane McGeoch and Karen Woida represented our synod at the ELCA Christian Education Network Gathering in 2006. They led a workshop at this year's synod assembly and will help facilitate the July 28<sup>th</sup> Leadership Forum at Our Savior's in Lafayette. They are also available to individual congregations for consultations and workshops and welcome input into this new ministry.

## NETWORK REPRESENTATIVES

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Rev. Karen Woida [kwoida@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kwoida@sbcglobal.net) 925-335-9378

Visit the Team web site at [www.wordandsacrament.org](http://www.wordandsacrament.org)



*Prayer Ventures depends on you—not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please e-mail your requests to [info@spselca.org](mailto:info@spselca.org) or call us. Remember to practice forgiveness when we err and let us know about errors and omissions.*

**P**rayers for healing;  
for **Pr Gregg Brown**, Mission Developer at Miracles of Faith, Oakland, resting following treatment for newly diagnosed diabetes.

**C**omfort of the gospel to:

**Pr Alicia Vargas** (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) and family, at the death of her mother

**R**oster changes:

**James and Judith Banksund**, to shared call, Associate Pastors, St Timothy's, San Jose

**Jean Lebbert**, to Thanksgiving, Santa Rosa

### Congregations in Transition

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

#### Congregation

#### Interim Pastor

Arcata, Arcata (3)	
Auburn, Bethlehem (4)	Dan Hodgson
Citrus Heights, Advent (Associate)(2)	
Citrus Heights, Ascension(Associate)(3)	
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(2)	John Ridenour
Los Altos, Immanuel(3)	Jan Womer
Mariposa, Mariposa(2)	Kirk Shipley
Merced, Shepherd of the Valley (2)	Carl Bengston
Modesto, Emanuel(2)	Roger Lee
Oakland, Bethlehem (2)	Larry Quanbeck
Quincy, Our Savior (1)	
Petaluma, Elim (Outreach& Discipleship)(3)	
Richmond, Grace (3)	
Rio Linda, Calvary(2)	Bruce Johnson
Sacramento, Good Shepherd (Sr)Russ Creydt	
San Leandro, St James (2)	Ruth Leshner
Santa Clara, Our Savior (2)	Andreas Piehlhoop
Santa Rosa, Bethlehem(Assoc-Youth & Family)(3)	
Stockton, Zion (3)	Stan Niemi
Walnut Creek, St Matthew (4)(Associate)	

# Synod Calendar

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## May

- 3-10 Bishop's visit to Taiwan, a Companion Synod
- 12 Commencement, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Word & Sacrament Discipling Team
- 17 Ascension Day
- 27 Pentecost

## June

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

**Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Church Divinity School of the Pacific are co-sponsoring**  
**[2007 Summer Session](#)**

Check out the variety of classes available each week—July 5-27

The Word and Sacrament Discipling Team presents:

**Lay Leadership Forum, July 28, 2007**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1035 Carol Lane

Lafayette, CA 94549

(watch for more information via the Byte of Synod email or, the church mailbox )

visit [www.wordandsacrament.org](http://www.wordandsacrament.org)

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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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