

# Praxis\*

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

**January 2006**

## Inside this issue

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

Telephone  
510.430.0500  
800.ASK.ELCA  
Fax 510.430.8730  
[www.spelca.org](http://www.spelca.org)

# 2005

## Views of Congregations of the Synod.



*Confirmation at Faith Lutheran in Los Gatos*



*Two pals at Lutheran Community, Watsonville*



*Vacation Day Camp at Lutheran Community Church in Watsonville*

It's easy to travel the Synod via websites! Go to [www.spelca.org](http://www.spelca.org), click on Congregations to roam the territory without having to drive anywhere.



Pr. Lauren "Bud" Egdahl

## LIVING IN THE WHOLE

Pr. Lauren "Bud" Egdahl, Synod Stewardship Specialist

**N**ote how important that "W" is in the title. One letter changes the total meaning of one word.

In this first month, there will be lot of football available to watch, including the Super Bowl. On the field it may look as if it is every person for himself.

What looks chaotic, is actually (usually) a well-orchestrated play, with every player having a specific responsibility. Some block, some decoy, one carries the ball, etc.

It is vital that every player study, learn, understand and remember the specific role for each play. But, it goes way beyond just that. Each role fits into the good of the team and is part of the whole effort. Each player needs to "live in the whole."

I was struck at staff devotions this week with how easy it is to pray and sing and listen to prayers, sermons, liturgies, etc., and internalize each one. How does this apply to me?

Well, of course I should do that. But all of that also has to do with the bigger picture – The Church – the Body of believers. Our prayers are prayers of and for the whole Church, not just for MY benefit alone. That is the stewardship of living in the whole. "Now you are the Body of Christ and individually members of it." (I Cor. 12:27)

So, in listening to God's Word, beyond simply discovering what God is uncovering or enabling in my personal walk with God, I (we as a whole) need to be discerning what God is revealing of the "whole", and what God calls us to change in ourselves, our mission, our caring.

God is inviting us to see and revel in the WHOLE.

**God is  
revealing the  
WHOLE**

## Bishop's Message

Bishop David G. Mullen, Sierra Pacific Synod



## The Task of the Church

Since the church is the body of Christ in the world, our situation, both individually and corporately can be put this way: we may be the only Christ our neighbors will ever see. This is not a matter of pride or ego, but a statement of humility and great responsibility.

If our mission is the challenge to be as Christ for the world, what does that look like?

It never looks like judgment. The task of the Church is not to judge the world, but to love it as Christ loves it.

Christ is the one who makes whole the sick and the discouraged, names evil, and brings forth good from bad. For us to be a part of that movement of God in the world gives purpose and direction to the church—outward to where Christ is also manifest in the lost and confused, the broken people, the poor, the outcast, the imprisoned, the depressed and the oppressed.

Note, however, that reaching out in an organized way as a congregation cannot be just another program purchased from some enterprising church growth organization. We cannot do this by own effort or will. Rather, contextual mission emerges as the Spirit works among God's people. There will be certain members of the congregation who feel the burden of the world and know that some response must be made, some compassion extended to the frightened and fractured world. Only the Holy Spirit gives the church the courage and the will to set aside judgment in order to reach out to those in the community, locally and globally, who do not know Jesus as the Savior and Healer, the source of Life and Truth.

Only then, after steadfast and open prayer seeking the Holy Spirit's leading, it is possible to discern God's direction to the world and put into place plans for effective outreach.

Remember, we may be the only Christ our neighbors will ever see.

*Prayer: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move our hearts that the barriers which divide us from others may crumble, suspicion disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with self-righteous judgment of others cast aside, we might serve our communities as the presence of Christ, and through whom we offer this prayer. Amen.*

*Word & Sacrament  
Discipling Team*

**Chair**

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

**District A**

**Pr Brian Classen**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Santa Rosa

**District B**

*Mr Carlton Holte*  
Davis

**District C**

**Pr Marty Schaefer**  
El Cerrito

**District D**

**Pr Susan Scott**  
Union City

**District E**

**Mr Greg Silliman**  
Ceres

**Conference Dean**

Pr Chris Warner-Carey  
Ukiah

**At Large**

**Ms Sharon Biller**  
San Jose

**At Large**

**Ms Susan Tevis**  
Chico

## Word and Sacrament Discipling Team

*Ann Watkins, Chair*

**T**he Word & Sacrament Discipling Team exists to assist congregations of the synod in equipping believers for baptismal living. This means helping laity in their role as being an integral part of the mission of the church in the world. This is an awesome responsibility that the members of the team take seriously.

Priorities have been set for 2005-2006. These include: increasing communication with individuals and churches in the Sierra Pacific Synod, networking with clergy and laity, education for laity, and continuing the focus on quality worship experiences. An example of this focus is the Living Liturgy Workshop, scheduled at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, January 26-28, 2006. Featuring Susan Briehl, Daniel Erlander, Marty Haugen, Mary Preus & Tom Witt as leaders, it should be a wonderful experience.

The team is working on visibility for the mission of the team and to make information available to individuals and congregations. A Web Page is being designed that will be linked to the Synod website. Updated frequently, it will feature information relating to the purpose of the team as well as sharing information from congregations which can be exciting and helpful to other congregations.

Team members may visit your congregation on a Sunday morning. Please use that opportunity to share your vision of baptismal living and ask any questions you may have about the work of this team.



[prayers@spselca.org](mailto:prayers@spselca.org)

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

**Comfort of the gospel:** Jae-Wook Wager (daughter-in-law of retired Pr Marty and Junia Wager) who recently underwent a bone marrow transplant is doing well in her recovery.

## ROSTER CHANGES

Paul Geye to On Leave from Call

Royan Yuen to Life Lutheran Church in Richmond

## Congregations in transition

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

Congregation	Interim Pastor
Auburn, Bethlehem (1)	
Antioch, St John's (2)	
Granite Bay, Resurrection (2)	John Ridenour
Hollister, Trinity (3)	Frank Starkey
Livermore, Holy Cross (2)	Don Haven
Los Altos, Immanuel (1)	Jan Womer
Los Banos, St John's (2)	Roger Lee
Merced, Shepherd of the Valley	Carl Bengston
Orangevale, Christ the King	
Orinda, Lamorinda Korean	Jae Guen Lee
Palo Alto, Grace (2)	John Kerr
Pleasant Hill, St Mark's (2)	Lyle Beckman
Porterville, Trinity (3)	Russ Mueller
Sacramento,	
Church of the Master (3)	Dick Smith
San Jose, St Timothy's	
(Associate) (3)	
Santa Rosa, Thanksgiving (2)	
Stockton, Zion (1)	Stan Niemi
Ukiah, Grace	
Vacaville,	
Shepherd of the Hills (2)	Bob Willse

*NOTE: Congregations engaged in a self study process, or on hold for various reasons, are not listed.*

# Synod Calendar

## January

- 2 Office closed
- 3 Executive Committee
- 4-5 Council of Dean's Retreat
- 6 Epiphany of Our Lord
- 8-10 Conference Bishops- Academy
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
(Office closed)
- 17 Assembly Planning
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- 25 Listening Post, Fresno

## February

- 6-8 Synod Staffs Region II Retreat
- 8 Leadership Discipling Team
- 20 President's Day-Office closed
- 21 Assembly Planning
- 21-23 First Call Theological Education
- 6-8 Synod Staffs Region II Retreat
- 8 Leadership Discipling Team
- 20 President's Day-Office closed
- 21 Assembly Planning
- 21-23 First Call Theological Education



*A Ministry Fair at Trinity Lutheran in Fresno.*



*The Youth Quake Group of Immanuel Lutheran in Saratoga*



*Praise Band at St Timothy's in Monterey*



*Chancel Choir at Elim Lutheran in Petaluma*

PRAXIS is produced monthly (except July) and posted at the web site [www.spselca.org](http://www.spselca.org) by the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA.

Pr. F. Noreen Meginness, Editor, Bob Stewart, layout. Items may be submitted for consideration by the 1st of the preceding month.

To receive the Synod weekly e-mail, "Byte of Synod" send a note to [info@spselca.org](mailto:info@spselca.org)