

Praxis*

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

September 2006

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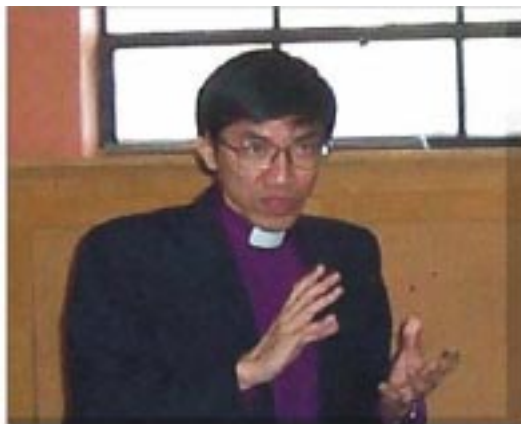
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TAIWAN CONNECTION

The first-ever visit of our companion synod from Taiwan took place in August. Bishop David Mullen welcomed the visitors at the airport (took pictures, of course) and got them settled into their hotel. The next day included a meeting at the Synod office with staff members and then a trip to the south Bay to visit Bethel Lutheran and Redeemer Lutheran, both located in Cupertino. The four travelers had Saturday off to enjoy some tourist activities. Sunday saw them at worship and a reception at Resurrection Lutheran in Oakland, followed by heading up "Holy Hill" to visit the seminary campus and meet with more eager partners.

The delegation had been to the ELCA headquarters in Chicago prior to coming to the Bay area. Bp Chen remarked to Bp Mullen that he would be most welcome to visit Taiwan. Bp Mullen is now planning on accepting the invitation and traveling to the Taiwan synod in 2007. "We will continue to develop this relationship with the Taiwan Lutheran Church," said Bp Mullen.



Bp Chen addresses members of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Oakland, following the worship service.

Rev Dr Jean Kuan Chen, Bishop of the Taiwan Lutheran Church

Standing at right is translator, Rev Peter K. Shen, regional representative for ELCA Global Mission. Seated in the foreground is Rev Dr David Redhelm Weng, who accompanied Bp Chen from Taiwan.



The fourth member of the visiting delegation was Christoph Schneider-Yattara who serves the ELCA's Global Mission as the Associate Director for Companionship, education and Advocacy for Asian/Pacific and Europe/Middle East. He expressed appreciation for the hospitality shown to this first ever delegation from the Taiwan Lutheran Church.



LIKE A MIGHTY RIVER

Pastor "Bud" Egdahl, Synod Stewardship Specialist

I walked across the Mississippi river this summer. Again. Lake Itasca State Park in Minnesota contains the headwaters of the mighty Mississippi. With but a few short strides, one can walk across the rocks with water less than ankle deep. There, 1475 feet above sea level, the mighty river begins its 2,552 mile journey to the Gulf of Mexico. And as I stood there, looking at that trickle of water, I thought of the might and size that the river becomes on its journey to the Gulf. Ocean-going vessels ply its mouth, and barge tows and pleasure boats move up and down the river between Minneapolis and the Gulf. It is obvious that many another river system had to empty into the Mississippi to give it the breadth and length and power down stream.

What a picture of our partnership in the mighty mission of Making Christ Known. Your life and mine each have gathered size and strength of faith because of the flow of love and encouragement and example of others.

Each of our congregations could be overwhelmed by the enormity of the opportunities across our land and around the world if we were to face them alone. But like that mighty river, starting as a trickle and growing larger and stronger with each tributary that joins it, so our congregation and yours are joined by the other 205 of the Sierra Pacific Synod, and all the thousands of ELCA congregations across the country swelling the flow of caring and sharing of the love of Christ.

Like a mighty river, flows the Church of God !

**From a
trickle to a
mighty
river**

Bishop's Message

Bishop David G. Mullen, Sierra Pacific Synod

After returning from Rwanda, I had the privilege of welcoming a delegation from another one of our three companion synods: the Taiwan Lutheran Church. Visiting the Sierra Pacific Synod after several days at ELCA Churchwide offices in Chicago, Rev. Dr. Jean Kuan Chen, "Tedd"—Bishop—and David Redhelm Weng, M.D., brought affirmation of wanting to meet folks here in the Sierra Pacific Synod and a desire to connect as sister churches.



While here, the delegation--along with translator and American guide Pr. Peter Shen and ELCA staff person in Global Missions, Christoph Schneider Yattara--met with synod staff and myself at the synod office to build a relationship and gain knowledge of our churches; visited two congregations in the synod; enjoyed a sight-seeing trip around the Bay Area; attended a wedding; met with Dr Ed Yee at PLTS where they heard the history and vision of PLTS and toured the campus; and enjoyed two "official dinners". Whew! A lot was packed into just four days!

As a result of this visit a basic understanding of what it means for us to be in a companion synod relationship was achieved. One of the things it means is an invitation for me to visit Taiwan in May of 2007.

This warm and friendly encounter caused me to reflect again on the global nature of Christianity and of the Lutheran movement within it. In the global context (so different in many ways from our "thin presence" here on the West Coast) the Lutheran church is a highly regarded and helpful presence (just think about the work of the Lutheran World Federation and Lutheran World Relief!)

The visit also caused me to ponder again the mysteries of the ways of God. The Taiwan delegation's presence brought to fuller consciousness the reality that within our synodical territory are people who have moved here from all around the globe, The Witness and Service Discipling team, my staff, and our Mission Director, Harvey Blomberg are well aware of this and diligently seeking ways to reach out in welcome. Many pastors and lay leaders of our congregations are also aware of this and are seeking pathways into the communities around our churches.

In this way God is both reminding us of our own heritage as an immigrant church and is calling us to honor the immigrants who have more recently arrived here. All are God's children, all need to feel at home among us, and all need to know of the kind and merciful welcome of Jesus Christ.

As we enter into the fall and winter ministries of our congregations, let us do so with awareness of the multi-ethnic reality of our communities. Let us reach out in creative ways, becoming truly healthy, multiplying congregations of the Sierra Pacific Synod, convinced that everyone is a child of God and Jesus is and wants to be, their friend.

+David G. Mullen

SYNOD EVENTS INTRODUCE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP

Musicians, worship leaders and clergy—and all who love worship and music—are invited to introductory events for the new worship book and related materials to be released this fall.

Congregations will be able to use the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship resources in a wide variety of ways: it will be a book, an online subscription service, and a set of CD-ROMs. There will be worship planning tools and special accompaniment editions. The ten liturgical settings (!) and the hymnody in ELW reflect our church's cultural and musical diversity.



ELW was developed over a five-year period of field-testing through the “Renewing Worship” family of resources. (The provisional materials in all eight RAW volumes still can be reprinted for congregational use through Dec. 31.) Every congregation has received a preview kit for ELW with a DVD and CD-ROM to sample the new worship materials. A preview can also be seen at www.renewingworship.org.

In our synod, a team of five people attended a training event in Chicago in June with coordinator Pastor Marty Schaefer, El Cerrito. They are: Georga Allen, Winters; Pastor Sandra Dager, Palo Alto; Margi Dubois, Sacramento; Pastor Lucy Kolin, Oakland; and Len Scaramuzzo, San Leandro.

The team will lead five events in our synod, all on Saturdays, starting in November. Each event will begin with registration at 8:30; program at 9:15 and concludes at 4. Cost: \$25 per person (includes lunch and a copy of ELW); register five and up for just \$20 each.

Introductory events will be at Grace, Palo Alto (Nov. 11); Trinity, Fresno Synod Events Introduce Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Dec. 2); Faith, Santa Rosa (Jan. 6, '07); Good Shepherd, Sacramento (Feb. 3); and Chapel of the Cross, PLTS, Berkeley (Feb. 10). Registration and further information will be available through the synod website later in September.

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Faith Lutheran Church of Castro Valley, CA is seeking a person to serve in Youth Ministry in a part-time (30 hours a week) paid staff position. We are a congregation with an active youth program including events such as live concerts, dinner drama theatre, summer river trips and much more. Please send resume including salary requirements via email to Pastor Jim Brun at pastorbrun@sbcglobal.net. A successful background check will be required before employment.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Faith Lutheran Church of Castro Valley, CA is seeking a person to serve as our Coordinator of Christian Education in a part-time (15 hours a week) paid staff position. This position will coordinate Christian Education programs such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Wednesday Night Activities for children. Please send your resume including your salary requirements via email to Pastor Jim Brun at pastorbrun@sbcglobal.net. A successful background check will be required before employment.

CHURCH SECRETARY

Our Redeemer's' Lutheran Church in South San Francisco has an immediate opening for a church secretary for up to 16 hours per week. The secretary will carry out basic office functions, produce the weekly worship bulletin, publish the monthly newsletter, work with volunteers, and possibly participate in the management of the congregation's web site. The hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9am-1p m. For a full job description and an application form, please contact the church office at office@ourredeemerslutheran.org.



Bishop Mullen joined the delegation for the farewell dinner following their visit to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley. PLTS Professor Dr Edmund Yee hosted the dinner and also served as the photographer for the evening.



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 or call us. Remember to practice forgiveness when we err and let us know about errors and omissions.

Prayers for Healing: Retired Pr James Lokken, under treatment for multiple myeloma; Aileen, mother of Pr Al Cassel, now in hospice care; Don Claasen, father of Pr Brian Claasen, undergoing cancer treatment.

ROSTER CHANGES

Scott Guemmer, to Christ the King, Orangevale

Congregations in transition

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

Congregation	Interim Pastor
Arcata, Arcata (3)	
Auburn, Bethlehem (2)	Dan Hodgson
Citrus Heights, Ascension(Associate) (2)	
Elko, Faith (2)	Beverly Jensen
Fresno, Immanuel(Associate) (3)	
Granite Bay, Resurrection (3)	John Ridenour
Hollister, Trinity (2)	Frank Starkey
Livermore, Holy Cross (3)	
Los Altos, Immanue (2)	Jan Womer
Mariposa, Mariposa	
Modesto, Emanuel (2)	Roger Lee
Orinda, Lamorinda Korean (2)	Jae Guen Lee
Reno, Good Shepherd(Associate) (3)	
Sacramento, Church of the Master (4)	Dick Smith
Sacramento, St John's (Assoc) (3)	Todd Eckblad
San Francisco, Our Savior	Ron Moore
San Jose, Immanuel (4)	Todd Charles
San Jose, St Timothy's (Associate) (3)	
San Mateo, Hope	David Ernat
Santa Rosa, Thanksgiving (2)	Lorents Flak
Stockton, Zion (2)	Stan Niemi
Ukiah, Grace(3)	Allen Dunn

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

September

- 4 Labor Day, office closed
- 7 Region II Council
- 12 Chairs of Discipling Teams/Bishop's Staff
- 16 Discipling Teams Joint Meeting
- 20 Founder's Day, Pacific Lutheran
Theological Seminary
- 22-23 Synod Council

October

- 5-10 Conference of Bishops
- 23-24 Council of Deans
- 23-24 Women Clergy Retreat
- 24-26 Professional Leaders Retreat

Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Eight new volunteers are now here for a year in the Bay Area. A commissioning service will be September 18 at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Berkeley at 7pm.

Seven agencies will be served:

- Stephanie Schwartz, from Greenfield, Iowa and a graduate of Wartburg College in Iowa, will be at Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA) in San Francisco.
- Andrea Dye, from Chesterfield, Missouri and a graduate of the University of Kansas, will be at Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF) in Berkeley.
- Allison Baring, from Houston and a graduate of the University of Texas, will be at the Youth Emergency Assistance Hostel (YEAH!) in Berkeley.
- Evangeline Wolfe, from Ithaca, New York and a graduate of Cornell University, will be at Thunder Road Adolescent Treatment Centers in Oakland.
- Kim Jackson, from Austin, Texas and a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, will also be at Thunder Road in Oakland.
- Leah Dorrr from Casper, Wyoming and a graduate of Luther College in Iowa, will be at the Women's Funding Network in San Francisco.



From left to right: top: Allison Baring, Andrea Dye, Sarah Vecci, Evangeline Wolfe
bottom: Leah Doerr, Claire Haas, Kim Jackson, Stephanie Schwartz



PRAXIS is produced monthly (except July) and posted at the web site 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