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Sierra Pacific Synod  
committed to being re-formed

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

## Thirty-Third Annual Assembly of the Sierra Pacific Synod

May 6 – 8, 2021  
Online

We Are Still Church Together: Called and Sent

"As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure you have received."

1 Peter 4:10

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# Welcome to the Assembly



# Welcome Letter

## *Online Assembly of the Sierra Pacific Synod* *“We Are Still Church Together – Called and Sent”*

*May 6-8, 2021*

### *Zoom – Lumi Meeting*

*“As generous distributors of God’s manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure you have received.”*

*1 Peter 4:10 (The Inclusive Bible)*

April 7, 2021

Dear Voting Members and Visitors for our 2021 Sierra Pacific Assembly,

Welcome to the postponed Thirty-third Assembly of our Sierra Pacific Synod! For three days in May, we will gather *online* under the theme of *“We are Still Church Together: Called and Sent.”* It’s a commission we in the church continue to ponder – how we are, as followers of Jesus, called and sent to love and serve our neighbors locally and globally? How we are called and sent to open our eyes and see the needs of our neighbors as we respond in Christ’s love and hope? How, in this time of living through the “twin pandemics” of COVID-19 and Racial Injustice, are we being called and sent as the latest generation of the followers of Jesus who proclaim a hope for God’s justice, peace, health and wholeness for all?

This is not the first time our synod has gathered online for an Assembly. But it will be the **first time** we are doing so while electing a new bishop to serve our synod’s ministry for the next six years. Thankfully, we have the wisdom and experience of leaders who have been a part of online assemblies in the past. Mr. Bill Horne, Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will be our Churchwide Representative on behalf of Presiding Bishop Eaton, and will preside over the election of a new bishop for our synod’s ministry. Our Parliamentarian for this Assembly will be Mr. David Swartling, former Secretary of the ELCA. And, we will be using LUMI, an online meeting platform that has been used by many other ELCA synods in the last year which have elected bishops and conducted other business at their assemblies.

In this handbook, you will find information to review before we gather, as well as to use while we are in Assembly. Please note the information provided is divided into seven sections:

- Cover – 2021 Synod Assembly handbook
- Welcome to the Assembly – Synod Assembly Agenda and other information
- Elections for Synod Council Members, Synod Secretary and Churchwide Voting Members
- Proposed Amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws
- Resolutions
- Reports – Synod, Churchwide and Ministry Affiliates
- The Proposed 2022-23 Budget and the most recent Synod Audit Report
- Governing Documents

Information on the potential nominees for the Bishop Election is provided separately on our website at <https://spselca.org/bp-election/> and will be removed from the website when the Assembly begins, in order to allow for the ecclesiastical (first) ballot. Information on nominees raised up on the ecclesiastical ballot and who agree to have their names go forward to the second ballot will be posted on the Bishop Election website at <https://spselca.org/bp-election/>.

*(cont’d)*



*As voting members and visitors you are responsible for downloading, printing and reading this information before the Assembly.*

**Important information for you to know about this year's Assembly:**

- + **For Voting Members**, we will be using the Lumi Meeting Platform throughout the Assembly, including during the election of the bishop. You will be required to “sign in” before each days’ meetings begin. We will be using two platforms for this year’s Synod Assembly: 1) Zoom for voting members’ participation and sharing of videos, and 2) LUMI as our voting platform. All voting members should be familiar with Zoom before the Assembly. You will be receiving detailed information on navigating both platforms. The Synod will be hosting two LUMI “Open Platform” sessions (for Voting Members Only) hosted by our Help Desk Staff. Please make sure you attend one of these sessions as you prepare for your service as a voting member. These sessions will be held  
**Saturday, May 1st at 10am**  
**Wednesday, May 5th at 7pm**  
Please look for an invitation with the links that will be needed to attend these sessions. There will also be a LUMI hosted “Test your Tech” session with Help Desk support on Thursday, May 6th at 1 pm. We have a number of people from around our synod who will be serving as “Help Desk” volunteers to assist with any questions you might have.
- + **For Visitors**, you will be able to watch all of the Business Sessions between Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> by means of links on the Synod Website and Synod Facebook page. Please download a copy of the agenda so you will be able to decide what parts of the Assembly you wish to watch.

Please join me in thanking the members of the Assembly Planning Team, our Synod Staff, and all those who have helped to plan for this Assembly. Additionally, please thank the staff and members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Walnut Creek, who have graciously shared their campus to serve as “Mission Control” for our online Assembly, the staff of Big Dog Sound, who have been of great help in coordinating with the people of LUMI to ensure a “user-friendly” online platform for our gathering, our Meeting Planner Diane Niggli, who was instrumental in negotiating with hotel venues as we moved from an in-person Assembly to our online Assembly, and Vice President Gail Kiyomura and the Core Team for working to expand our synod’s profile as a part of the election for bishop process. This Assembly has been a long time coming; I am confident that all preparations have been made to ensure the full participation of voting members in all aspects of our Assembly.

Please keep our Assembly in prayer from May 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> as we trust God’s enlivening Spirit to gather us around the theme, ***"We Are Still Church Together: Called and Sent."*** Everyone who has been working hard to prepare for this gathering is excited to welcome you to the 2021 Sierra Pacific Online Synod Assembly – the thirty-third time we will gather!

On behalf of the Staff of the Office of the Bishop and the Assembly Planning Team,



The Rev. Mark W. Holmerud, bishop  
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

*Online Assembly of the Sierra Pacific Synod  
“We Are Church Together – Called and Sent”  
May 6-8, 2021  
Zoom – Lumi Meeting*

**Thursday, May 6 -- Business Session 1**

**6:00 p.m. Zoom-Lumi Platform Opens**

*For procedural purposes and in order to be able to vote, voting members will need to be logged in to the Lumi platform for each business session. The waiting room will open one-half hour prior to the start of each session; and it is recommended that you remain logged in between business sessions.*

**6:30 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, and Opening of the Assembly**

Service of Evening Prayer

Introduction of voting procedures – Lumi

Credentials Committee Report

Adoption of Standing Rules of Order -- Adoption of Assembly Agenda

**7:15 p.m. Introduction of Bishop’s Election Process – VP Bill Horne**

**1<sup>st</sup> Ballot – Bishop (75% of legal votes cast needed for election)**

Report of the Nominating Committee and Procedures for Nominations

Proposed By-Law Changes

Closing Prayer

**8:30 p.m. Adjournment**

**Approx. 9:30 p.m. Results of 1<sup>st</sup> Ballot for Bishop to be posted**

**Friday, May 7 -- Business Session 2**

**9:30 a.m. Zoom-Lumi Platform Opens**

**10:00 a.m. Opening Prayer**

Credentials Committee Report

**Brief Introductions of Nominees for Synod Council by conference/**

**Voting for Synod Council Members by conference**

Receipt of Synod Financial Audit Report

**11:00 a.m. Deadline for removal of names from consideration for bishop’s election  
and for return of candidate for bishop information forms**

ELCA Churchwide Report – VP Bill Horne

Election of Synod Consultation Committee and Committee on Discipline Members

**Introduction of Secretary Candidate(s)/Addresses/Balloting**

Closing Prayer

**12 noon Lunch Break**

**12 noon Nominations close for Synod Council Members At-Large and Synod  
Council Member Young Adult Representative**

**Friday, May 7 -- Business Session 3**

**1:30 p.m. Opening Prayer**

Credentials Committee Report

**1:40 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot – Bishop (75% of legal votes cast needed for election)**

**1:55 p.m. Announcement of Results – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot for Bishop**

Brief Introductions of Nominees 2022 Churchwide Voting Members by  
conference/Voting for Churchwide Voting Members

**2:45 p.m. Top Seven Candidates address Assembly for 5 minutes each**

Credentials Committee Report

**3:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot – Bishop (67% needed for election)**

**3:40 p.m. Announcement of Results of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot**

3:45 p.m. Closing Prayer

**Saturday, May 8 --Business Session 4**

**9:30 a.m. Zoom-Lumi Platform Opens**

**10:00 a.m. Opening Prayer**

**10:05 a.m. Q&A with top 3 candidates -- VP Bill Horne/Elections Committee**

Credentials Committee Report

**11:00 a.m. 4<sup>th</sup> Ballot -- Bishop (60% needed for election) –**

**11:10 a.m. Announcement of Results of 4<sup>th</sup> Ballot for Bishop**

Speeches/Elections for At-large Youth/Young Adult and At-large Person of Color/Primary

Language Other than English Voting Members to the 2022 churchwide assembly

Budget Conversation – “Committee of the Whole”/Resolutions

Closing Prayer

**12 Noon**

**Lunch**

**Saturday, May 8 -- Business Session**

**1:30 p.m. Opening Prayer**

Report of the Synod Vice President

Budget Consideration/Resolutions

Credentials Committee Report

**2:15 p.m. Election – Synod Council, Members at Large**

**Election – Synod Council, Youth Representative**

**Election – Synod Council, Young Adult Representative**

**2:55 p.m. Two remaining candidates address Assembly for five minutes each**

**3:05 p.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Ballot -- Bishop (simple majority needed for election)**

**Announcement of Results of 5<sup>th</sup> Ballot for Bishop**

3:10 Bishop-elect addresses Assembly

3:20 Announcements

**3:25 – 4:00 p.m. Service of The Word, Installations and Closing of Assembly**

*Go in Peace, Serve God's People!*

**2022 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly**

**The Nugget Hotel, Sparks, Nevada**

**Thursday, June 2 -- Saturday, June 4, 2022**

# Council Officers



## **Rev. Mark W. Holmerud**

Bishop

Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Mark was born September 2, 1956 in Pomona, California. Mark is an eighth-generation native Californian, tracing his family's history to early Hispanic settlers of the eighteenth century. He grew up in Solana Beach, a town located near the Pacific Ocean twenty miles north of San Diego. After graduating from San Dieguito High School in Encinitas, he served in the US Navy and went on to graduate from San Diego State University in 1980, with a degree in History and a minor in Classics.

He attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, and upon graduation in 1984, was called to serve as Associate Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church of Stockton. A year later he was called to serve as the Lead Pastor of Zion and served that ministry until the fall of 2004. He was then called to serve as Pastor of Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis, California, in September of 2004. Mark was active in social justice and community organizing and in ecumenical and interfaith endeavors, including "Celebration of Abraham" events in both San Joaquin and Yolo counties. He was elected as the fourth bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod

in April of 2008 and re-elected to a second term in 2014.

Married to Debbi in 1987, who retired as a high school principal in 2014, they have been blessed to live as a blended family with their four (now adult) children: Alyssa (Steve), Marshall, Justin (Connie), and Meaghann (Robert) and eight grandchildren - Hannah, Sadie, Christopher, Phillip, Scarlett, Ellie, Owen and Tre. Mark's interests include being "Pops" to his grandchildren, astronomy, canning dill pickles and the ongoing restoration of his 1966 Mustang.



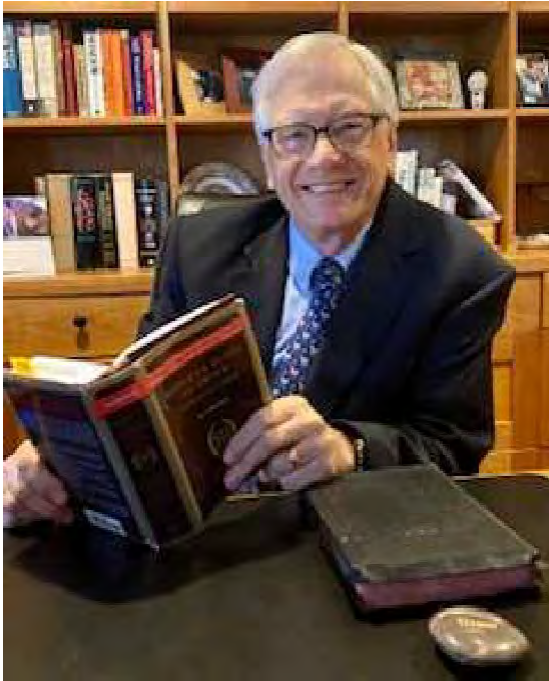
**Gail Kiyomura**  
Synod Vice President



**Jeff Pennington**  
Synod Secretary



**Rev. Sharon Amundson**  
Synod Treasurer



## Parliamentarian

### David Swartling

Assembly Parliamentarian

David Swartling is a retired attorney, who served as Secretary of the ELCA from 2007 until 2013. Before his dramatic career change, he served the church in a number of volunteer capacities, including congregational president, synod vice president, chair of the Region 1 council, and member of a number of church-related boards of directors.

He currently serves on the boards of Lutheran Services in America, Compass Housing Alliance, and the Trinity Education Foundation. He also has served as parliamentarian for many Synod Assemblies and for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly before his election as Secretary.



## ELCA Churchwide Representative

### William "Bill" Horne II

ELCA Vice President

Mr. William "Bill" Horne II was elected to serve a six-year term as ELCA Vice President at the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. Bill Horne grew up as a member of the National Baptist religious tradition and became a Lutheran while serving in the United States Air Force in 1982. Bill has served as congregational president in two ELCA congregations in Florida and is currently a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Clearwater, Florida. He served as a member of the Florida-Bahamas Synod Council and later as Synod Vice President.

Bill served on the ELCA Church Council, 2009-2015 and a member of the ELCA Theological Education Advisory Council, 2013-2015. He is currently serving as a member of the ELCA Inter-Religious Task Force and of the Lutheran Services Florida Board of Directors.

His post military retirement career has been in public management. He was appointed by the Clearwater City Council to serve as the Chief Administrative Officer (City Manager) of the city with responsibility for all departments except the City Attorney's Office. He is directly responsible for 1,746 employees and accountable for the annual operating and capital budget of \$441 million dollars. Bill was selected as Interim City Manager in 2000 and later appointed to the position of City Manager in 2001.

Bill served as a Colonel in the United States Air Force. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry from the University of Tulsa, a Masters in Human Resource Management from Pepperdine University, and a Masters in Political Science from Auburn University in Montgomery.

# Anniversaries - 2020

## Congregational Anniversaries

- 125 Years: St. Matthew Lutheran Church - San Francisco, CA
- 75 Years: Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church - San Jose, CA  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Sacramento, CA
- 25 Years: Faith Lutheran Church - Elko, NV  
New Creation Lutheran Church - San Jose, CA

## 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Congregation



### St. Matthew Lutheran Church San Francisco, CA

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church – Evangelisch-Lutherische  
St. Matthäuskirche, San Francisco  
1895-2020

Even after the gold rush, California and San Francisco continued to attract many newcomers. The small city of San Francisco grew from 56,000 inhabitants in 1860 to 234,000 in 1880. The city was a magnet for immigrants, among them many Germans. Between 1880 and until the beginning of WW I, over 8 million Germans immigrated to the U.S. 85% were Protestants or Lutherans.

Obviously, the new arrivals were in need of pastoral care. Over time an estimated 4,000-5,000 pastors moved to the U.S. to serve the newly founded congregations.

One of them was 26-year-old Hermann Gehrcke, who came to California in 1891. In 1893, he was ordained a minister in the synod of the United Lutheran Church of America. He first served as assistant pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, the oldest German Lutheran congregation in San Francisco. He then was tasked to start a new congregation in the Mission District, which at that point attracted many immigrants from Northern European countries. 1895 he founded St. Matthew's together with 28 families (and served St. Matthew's an astonishing 41 years until his death in 1936). At first the new congregation worshiped in an unused little church on 11th street until the great earthquake of 1906. Even though the future was uncertain, the congregation decided to erect their own church building. It's hard to imagine how the people of St. Matthew managed to afford the \$35,000 for a church while hardly being able to sustain themselves after the Great Earthquake and Fire. The church was dedicated after a year of construction on May 29th in 1908.

During WW I, when many German speaking churches gave up worshiping in German because of anti-German sentiments, St. Matthew's added an English language service as a concession. St. Matthew's probably would have become an English-speaking congregation sooner or later, hadn't there been the next large German immigration wave to the US during the 1950s and 1960s. By then, anti-German sentiments in the US had subsided. At the same time many young Germans, who were children during the war, felt stifled in a shrunk, narrow-minded Germany where people were busy building up a future and forgetting the past. During the 1950s, 580,000 Germans immigrated to the US, followed by

another 210,000 during the 1960s. In those years, St. Matthew's once more primarily became a spiritual home to first generation German speaking immigrants.

Since then San Francisco has changed a lot. Many families of the German immigrants of the 1950s and 1960s have largely moved to the suburbs and assimilated to American culture. Many are no longer fluent in the German language, but still wish to keep connected with their heritage. Recent German speaking immigrants usually speak English as well and are either unchurched or choose to worship somewhere else. Many among these only attend services on the church's major holidays, Christmas and Easter. On these two high church holidays, to this day hundreds of people come to hear the sermon in the language of the old country and to sing the beloved German hymns.

Today St. Matthew's is the last German speaking congregation in Northern California. The 125th anniversary was celebrated on March 22nd with a festival worship service and a reception. Among the participants were Bp. Mark Holmerud, Dean Pr. Elizabeth Ekdale, German Consul General of San Francisco Hans-Ulrich Südbeck and SF district supervisor Rafael Mandelman.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Congregation



### St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sacramento, CA

Founded in 1945 in Tahoe Park in what had been an automotive service station as a satellite, missionary offshoot of First English Lutheran Church of Oak Park, St. Paul's Lutheran Church is now about to celebrate seventy-five years of ministry. In 1947 the church building we now worship in was built and, as is often said, the rest is history. We will celebrate our platinum anniversary this fall on Sunday September 27th with a special worship service at ten am then a reception and lunch to follow in our Fireside Room that will likely spill out onto our corner lawn and breezeway. All with connections to and fond memories of St. Paul's are invited to attend our celebration as we look forward to many more years of ministry and fellowship, worshipping our Lord here in beautiful Tahoe Park.





## Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church San Jose, CA

I am the church which is called by that Name above all names, Holy Redeemer. I sit by the side of The Alameda, small and somewhat dwarfed by the office buildings which have grown up around me." Thus wrote Dr. Margaret Wold in her allegory of the life and mission of Holy Redeemer in the Santa Clara Valley in 1977.

It is still true today, in 2020, as Holy Redeemer celebrates her 75th anniversary small and somewhat dwarfed by all that goes on around her, but faithful and viable and as relevant as she has ever been.

In 1945 Holy Redeemer began her journey, just 4 blocks from her present location. She was the second Lutheran congregation to be organized in San Jose. When LaVerne Kampfe arrived in San Jose in July 1945 he had the name of one family that was seeking a church. In August of that year Holy Redeemer held her first worship service (on August 12) in a 16-room mansion – recently converted into living quarters, a chapel and Sunday School rooms – with 42 in attendance. Soon Pastor Kampfe received permission to buy the current property upon which Holy Redeemer sits, in preparation for building a “beautiful church on the Beautiful Way” (translation of The Alameda). The original mansion was sold in February of 1947 and between then and September of 1948 the congregation met in the Hester Theater, until their new sanctuary was ready. Pastor Kampfe served Holy Redeemer through the construction of the sanctuary and left shortly after it was completed.

Erwin Walz, the second pastor of Holy Redeemer began serving the congregation in 1950 and served until 1961. During this time membership continued to grow, until Holy Redeemer required two services on Sunday because not all of the members could get into the sanctuary at the same time. By 1954 plans were underway for increasing the size of the facility by adding a parish hall. This was completed by 1959, and the church office and pastor’s study were also completed as a final part of this building phase.

In 1961 Pastor Walz took another call and he was succeeded by Pastor Paul Imschweiller. While Pastor Imschweiller was at Holy Redeemer the congregation fielded a successful softball team, added Electronic Bells and a Carillon to the outside of the church building, to play every day at noon, as well as on Saturday evening and prior to and after each service on Sunday. In 1963 Healing Services were held on Sunday evenings, each with a special emphasis and the laying on of hands. Holy Redeemer reached out beyond itself at this time, connecting with the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (Rock Point) and Mount Cross, as well as providing items for Lutheran World Relief and the United Mission Appeal. Members also adopted families for Christmas, aided Palestinian refugees, and served around the world in the Peace Corp.

Pastor Imschweiller resigned his call to Holy Redeemer on November 15, 1971 and on November 29 (after 27 ballots) James Fish was selected as the 4th pastor of Holy Redeemer. The resignation of Pastor Imschweiller and the beginning of Reverend Fish’s pastorate began a time of shrinking membership for Holy Redeemer. Still Holy Redeemer continued to participate in valuable ministry within the Santa Clara Valley. In May of 1975 Holy Redeemer co-sponsored the first of the refugee Vietnamese families that it would help to find a place within a new country. Friends Outside (a non-profit providing ministry to families of men and women in county, state and federal prisons) requested a large room in the downstairs of the parish hall to use as their state office. The Housing Opportunities Center helped arrange housing and secure rents for thousands of families during the 5 years that they worked from the Holy Redeemer parish hall. In 1977 Holy Redeemer began her first relationship with another congregation using the facility, when the Korean Assembly of God began meeting at Holy Redeemer. This began a practice of sharing the facility with a wide variety of cultural and/or ethnic congregations which continues to this day.



Pastor James Bangsund became the 5th pastor of Holy Redeemer in 1979, after Pastor Fish accepted a call to be pastor to The Village at Holden Village. During Pastor Bangsund's tenure the congregation sponsored two additional Vietnamese families. In 1981 Pastor Bangsund led Holy Redeemer in a congregational study of communion frequency, with the congregation eventually deciding to offer communion on a weekly basis. It was no surprise to Holy Redeemer that Pastor Bangsund decided to take a call to Tanzania in 1984, as he had always made his interest in missionary work evident.

Following Pastor Bangsund's departure Holy Redeemer called Bill and Susan Kirlin-Hackett as co-pastors. While Pastor Bill and Pastor Susan were at Holy Redeemer the congregation engaged in Hunger Advocacy and 12 step programs began the utilization of the parish hall for meetings. Holy Redeemer declared 1987 as the Year of the Child and a relationship was begun with Concern for the Poor (San Jose Family Shelter). Also, during this time plans began to be made for redesigning the worship space. Pastors Kirlin-Hackett took a call to Southern California in August of 1989.

In May of 1990, Pastor John Freeseemann was installed as the 8th pastor of Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church. During the 30 years that Pastor John has been at Holy Redeemer the remodeling of the sanctuary was completed and a Peace Labyrinth and Peace Pole has been installed on the front lawn of the church. Holy Redeemer continues her relationship with the other congregations that use her facility and with the 12 step groups that utilize the parish hall. She has been engaged in the struggle for worker's rights and has been deeply involved in ecumenical and interfaith agencies on a local, state and national level. Holy Redeemer is also an open and affirming Reconciling in Christ congregation and a founding member of the National Religious Council Against Torture. Primary ministries today center on working with and for the homeless community in San Jose (through a Food Pantry, a Closet and a Spaghetti Dinner for People who are Homeless and/or Hungry and the adoption of families at Christmas). She also acts twice a year as a warming center for the Rotating Women's Shelter (in cooperation with St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church).

And, as Holy Redeemer celebrates her 75th anniversary she still sits by the side of The Alameda, small and somewhat dwarfed by all that goes on around her, but faithful and viable and as relevant as she has ever been.

For her 75th anniversary Holy Redeemer has decided to engage in "Renovation and Revitalization – Celebrating 75 years in 7 ½ months". She is refurbishing her campus by painting inside and out, putting new carpeting in the entire facility, addressing log-standing facility needs, redesigning the Peace Labyrinth and landscaping the entire grounds. Additionally, all ministries are being analyzed and strengthened to be sure that they meet the needs of the present time. She will also be developing a new relationship with NAMI of Santa Clara County.

A rededication of the facility and the Peace Labyrinth will be held during worship on the second Sunday in August (the day of the first worship service 75 years ago). During worship there will be a reaffirmation of membership and a catered lunch will follow the celebration.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Congregation



### New Creation Lutheran Church San Jose, CA

New Creation Lutheran Church began its journey with the signing of their Charter on November 3, 1995. With God's blessing and the Holy Spirit at work, New Creation Lutheran Church set forth to work in the community and create a caring environment for the community. The excitement of this new church was hampered soon after, when on December 28, just 7 weeks after the signing of the charter and all paperwork submitted to the county of Santa Clara, the church was consumed by a fire set by an arsonist. It is said that often times it is in the midst of tragedy that people come together and this church most certainly did. For two and a half years the members of New Creation met at local elementary school cafeterias and community rooms as the church was rebuilt. The church reopened in July 1998.

After 25 years New Creation continues to be a church with ties to the greater community offering a Child-care program for infants through preschool age children, an annual Hand-Up food drive serving upwards to 100 families at a local elementary school, a Journey with Jesus Lenten shoe drive that donate 70-80 pairs of new shoes annually to low income students, and each fall, support to a local elementary with school supplies for both students and teachers. This year for their 25-year anniversary, New Creation plans to celebrate like we often do, with food! We will spend time this year talking about the ups and downs of the church, what it means to be a church in today's changing world and what God has planned for the next 25 years! We will continue our great programs and hope to build on them for the future. Let's celebrate doing God's work with our Hands.

## Rostered Minister Anniversaries

### Minister of Word and Sacrament

75 Years:	Erwin G Walz (+)	25 Years:	Robert L Crabb Sheri L Delvin
65 Years:	Oscar Gross Ralph B Herman (+)		Virginia A DuMars Steven D Krogh
60 Years:	James R Carr Jon F Dechow Lloyd R Hanson		Doris S L Ng Lois L Pete Sanna B Reinholtzen
55 Years:	H William Busch Arthur E Otto Martin J Schaefer David W Schroeder	20 Years:	Adisa Armand-Miller Clark M Brown Dorothy A Lindstrom Dorothy A Lundgren Sylvia D Mueller Mary Lou Petitjean Daniel R Smith
50 Years:	Michael B Aune William A Graf William H Kees W Gary Pence Theodore F Peters Michael J Rogers	15 Years:	Chad R Adamik Holly Feather Judith G Morgado Gabriele Schroeder Jeffrey D Thiemann
45 Years:	Charles T Brown Alfon W Larson III Thomas R McQueen II Mary H Rowe Daniel N Solberg Paul G Theiss	10 Years:	Lori D Eickmann Sarah A Erickson Charlane Rene Lines Sharon S Stalkfleet Karen L Stetins Raymond A Waespi
40 Years:	Paul R Demant John Sullivan Jr Mark R Vance Jr	5 Years:	Cary M Bass-Deschenes Cristina L Beauchemin James E Clark-Moore Tyler W Jensen Janna L Mikkelson Anthony T Rhodes
35 Years:	Marvin Abrahamson John Allerson Karen B Deutscher Lucy A Kolin		
30 Years:	Thomas D Gable Kathryn A Gulbranson Jeff R Johnson R Kevin Murphy Mark D Price Glenda J Wilson		Minister of Word and Service
		40 Years:	Douglas H Haugen
		30 Years:	Ruth L Swanson

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination



### Rev. Gary Pence

Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology, Adjunct Professor of Biblical Greek

After graduating from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1966, I studied patristics at Oxford University for two years and then completed my residency for a doctorate in classics at Princeton University in 1970.

I then accepted a call to Our Savior Lutheran Church, a small LCMS congregation in Momence, Illinois, where I was also ordained. After three years in Momence I moved to Champaign, Illinois, to work on my doctoral dissertation. While there I was supply preacher for another LCMS congregation in nearby Philo, Illinois.

In 1974 I was called to be chaplain and director of continuing education at Grand View University (then Grand View College) in Des Moines, IA. I left the LCMS at that time and joined the LCA. While at Grand View I was also adjunct faculty responsible for the Iowa cluster of the LSTC D.Min. program.

In 1976 I arrived at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary to become Director of Continuing Education and to design, promote, and mentor a new D.Min. program. Over the more than 40 years at PLTS I finally completed my dissertation and landed my PhD. I was academic dean for nearly a decade, acting president for a year, taught a variety of courses, and in 1990 settled into teaching pastoral care and counseling after receiving an M.S. in Counseling Psychology and my California license as a Marriage and Family Therapist. I had a small private therapy practice on the side.

In 2005 I retired from both the seminary and my therapy practice, but returned to my original love of classics to teach the required Biblical Greek courses, which I continue to do till this day. I also maintain my website, <http://healingreligion.com>



### Rev. Michael John Rogers

Ordained May 24, 1970

Pastor Mike Rogers is a native Californian and a graduate of PLTS. He and his wife of 53 years, Linda served St. John's Antioch; Messiah Bakersfield; Resurrection Fresno and Bethany Kerman. After retirement they served in Slovakia teaching English and Religion under Global Missions.

Returning home, Mike served as Visitation Pastor for six years at Hope in Fresno.

Pastor Mike and Linda hope and believe that their ministry has in some way blessed the lives of others. It has certainly been a blessing to them.

Sola Deo Gloria



## Rev. Dr. Theodore F. Peters, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Theodore F. Peters, Jr. Born in Wayne, Michigan, April 3, 1941, Ted Peters' father nicknamed him "Weatherstrip" for keeping him out of the draft. That engineer dad, also named Ted, worked throughout the war at the Naval shipyard in Virginia, while younger Ted toddled in and out of Sunday School at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dearborn.

He studied at Michigan State University, Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Heidelberg in Germany, and took a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. Ordained in 1970, he served parishes in Chicago and New Orleans and taught theology at Newberry College, Loyola University, as well as Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Currently he serves as interim pastor at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church and School in Rohnert Park.

Ted's children--Paul, Kathy Kim, Elizabeth--each have families too. He receives the 50th ordination honor with his wife, Karen, with whom he lives in San Rafael along with Angie the dog and Leona the cat. Ted is the author of both fiction and non-fiction books. He has written the Leona Foxx series of espionage thrillers, wherein the principal character is a woman Lutheran pastor. See: TedsTimelyTake.com.



## Rev. William Kees

Thank you for remembering those of us in our church who celebrate 50 years of rostered ministry as deacons and clergy.

I have been a Lutheran all my life. I was baptized at Redeemer Lutheran, Chico, in March of 1944. We moved to Orland when I was one as my Dad was drafted to serve in the Navy. First Lutheran became our church. It became a lifeline for our family when my mother divorced my father. We were held in the heart of this congregation by many wonderful saints. I was confirmed (1957) and ordained there (1970).

I went to College at Pacific Lutheran in Tacoma where I met Carolyn. We have been married for 54 years. We have been blessed with two children, Amanda and Matt, 7 grand children and 4 great grandchildren.

My congregational ministries began in southern Minnesota at Jackson Lake and Faith, a joint parish, followed by Good Shepherd, Wells. We moved to California and served at Trinity, Ventura, College, San Diego, Hope, Santa Clara and 3 Interim ministries. In Illinois I served at Church-wide offices in Chicago in Youth Ministry.

For the last 13 years we have been retired and living in Chico. I have become an avid watcher of birds and continue to listen to people in the practice of spiritual companionship. We are members at Faith Lutheran.



## Rev. Michael Aune

### EDUCATION

B.A. 1966 St. Olaf College cum laude

M.Div. 1970 Luther Theological Seminary

Summer 1968 St. John's University, Collegeville MN

M.A., Ph.D. 1974-81 University of Notre Dame

### MINISTRIES

1970-74 The Lutheran Parish Bucyrus ND

1976-78 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church South Bend IN

1989-90 St. Mark's Lutheran Church Pleasant Hill CA

1978-2014 Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary Berkeley CA

### SPECIAL MINISTRIES

1977-78 Project Assistant for Parish Worship, The American Lutheran

### Church

1978-2014 Faculty, PLTS; Dean of the Chapel;

1998-2003;2005-2011 Academic Dean, PLTS

1980-2014 Core Doctoral Faculty, Graduate Theological Union

### PERSONAL

Married; 2 Offspring; 4 Grandchildren

Ordained, June 14, 1970, Trinity Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls MN



## Rev. William Graf

Bill Graf graduated from LSTC and served Grace, E.Tawas and Ascension, Kentwood in Michigan. Moved to CA in 1986 and was the pastor of Eden, Riverside and Christ the King, Orangevale. He retired in 2005 after 35 years of active ministry.

# Anniversaries – 2021

## Congregational Anniversaries

- 100 Years: St John Lutheran Church – Oakland, CA  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church – Palo Alto, CA
- 75 Years: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd – Burlingame, CA  
Calvary Lutheran Church – Millbrae, CA  
Bethel Lutheran Church – Roseville, CA
- 50 Years: Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – San Jose, CA

## 75th Anniversary as a Congregation



### **Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Burlingame, CA**

Good Shepherd was formed in November 1946. The building was built in a residential neighborhood on the corner of Burlingame Avenue and Channing Road. It's a perfect place for a community church.

During Good Shepherd's existence, the church has focused on helping organizations who assist the poor, sick and the sad. Food donations, and during the pandemic, cash donations have been our focus. Quilts adorn the pews in the sanctuary, and they are given to organizations who distribute them to those in need. Given our location, we open our doors to the trick or treaters on Halloween. Our building is used by a number of community organizations for their programs.

We love the Lord and praise him for calling us to our little church.

## Rostered Leader Anniversaries

### Minister of Word and Sacrament

70 Years: Gerald O Pedersen

65 Years: David L Hurty  
Everett R Kalin  
Donald N Wolkenhauer

60 Years: Leon L Bauer  
Robert J Brohm  
Charles H Lewis  
Richard H Mathison (+)  
David C Roher  
Eugene P Winterfeld

55 Years: Kenneth M Bancroft Jr  
Ivan E Larsen  
Bruce A Murphy  
H Rodney Platte

50 Years: Robert J Grosch  
Timothy P Kellgren  
Larry K Nelson  
David A Peters  
David E H Solevad  
Ronald R Zoesch

45 Years: Carl R Bengtson  
Stephen E Carlson  
John L Freeseemann  
John S Goldstein  
Gary T Gould  
William H Ruth  
John B Van Dyck

40 Years: David F Dahl  
Fred H Merrick  
Stanley K Niemi  
Robert J Willse  
William E Wong

35 Years: Victor S Berg-Haglund  
Peter C Garrison  
Samuel Hernandez  
John R Ridenour  
David A Schick  
Susan L Scott

30 Years: Laurel E Alexander  
Beate J Chun  
David J Ernat  
Michael E Harvey  
Bradley J Keyser-Boswell  
Lori W Keyser-Boswell  
William D Knezovich  
Sharon D Lubkeman  
Robert M O'Berg  
Ruth M Peterson  
Roy D Poland  
Dawn M Teuthorn

25 Years: Pamela Griffith Pond  
Mary Ann Johnson  
Theodore D Niemi  
Matthew A Smuts  
J David Vasquez Levy  
Peggy L White

20 Years: Steven G Blair  
John P Bost  
Gerarlyn E Cunningham  
Dee E Emmert  
Barbara K Foltin  
Jodi R Golden-Lund  
Douglas L Merritt  
Craig M Minich

15 Years: Suk Yeon Lee  
Sandra Olson Decker  
Megan M Rohrer  
Julie M Webb

10 Years: Benjamin F C Colahan  
Sara L Pearson  
Manda B Truchinski  
Nathan R Winterhoff

5 Years: Mytch P Dorvilier  
Ryan G Eikenbary  
Karen W Johnson  
Deborah J McAllister  
Rebecca J Swee

### Minster of Word and Service

20 Years: Marcelle A Schaefer



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination



## Rev. Robert J. Grosch

Robert (Bob) Grosch entered training for the ministry through the LC-MS prep. school system in 1958, when he enrolled in the high school program at Concordia College, Milwaukee. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1970.

Bob's first call in 1971 was to Immanuel Lutheran Church, an African American congregation in Cincinnati, Ohio. While serving there he received the NAACP President's Award for his work in voter registration. In 1981 Bob accepted a call to First Trinity Lutheran Church in Oakland, CA. and led the congregation to develop a model ministry for welcoming S.E. Asian refugees following the end of the Vietnam War. During that time he also obtained a M.A. degree in Marriage & Family Therapy from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA.

In 1987 Bob moved to Redding, CA to open a private practice as a family therapist and shortly thereafter St. James asked him to join their staff as a part time associate pastor, where he served for 19 years. While there Bob and his wife Barbara set into motion South East Asian Christian Ministries, which today serves refugees and immigrants from dozens of countries each year.

Bob retired in 2006 and serves as a Disaster Mental Health manager and instructor for the American Red Cross. Bob has also served the Sierra Pacific Synod on our Candidacy, and Discipline Committees.

Bob resides with his wife Barbara in Redding, CA.



## Rev. Larry Nelson

### Education:

1964 - B.A. with high distinction from Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

1968 - M.Div. Magna Cum Laude from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA

1973 - Ph.D. With Honors from Yale University, New Haven, CT. Area of study: Philosophical Theology

Ordained into the Lutheran Church in America on August 1, 1971 at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA. President Robert Segerhammar, presiding

### Calls:

1971 - Dual call through the LCA: 1/2 time Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Burlingame, CA; 1/2 time Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at PLTS, Berkeley, CA

1975 - Christ Lutheran Church, Burlingame, merged with St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA. Called to be Assistant Pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, San Mateo, CA

1977 - Called to be Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Alameda, CA

1988 - Called to be Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pleasant Hill, CA

### Teaching:

During the years of 1977 through 1995 I taught part-time at PLTS.

Retired: June 12, 2005



## Rev. David Solevad

Bishop Mark, friends and colleagues in the Sierra Pacific Synod—thank you for honoring those of us celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination. This is an opportunity to say “Thank you!” not only to those of you reading this but also to the three congregations I served as a pastor. Following ordination in my home congregation of Christ Lutheran Church, Aptos, California, in 1971, I accepted a call to the two-point parish of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Nezperce, Idaho, and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Craigmont, Idaho, two wheat-farming communities in the northern part of the state. As we drove into Nezperce, a small town of 600 people, we wondered if maybe we should just blink our eyes and keep driving in our ’69 VW bug, so different was this from my home on the Monterey Bay and Ellen’s home on Lake Michigan in Racine, Wisconsin. The people of St. John’s and St. Paul’s, however, so graciously welcomed us into their lives that six years later, when we made the move to Pioneer, we were sad to leave those communities. Though we came from quite different lifestyles in that era of long hair, miniskirts, and the challenges of Civil Rights, earth justice, feminism, and all the other emerging movements we now know to be integral to being the people of God, we became part of that

family of faith, and of the families of those congregations, as we experienced the privilege of sharing Word and Sacrament ministry among and in partnership with them.

I began a new pastoral call to Faith Lutheran Church, Pioneer, California, in 1977, and the experience was much the same: wonderful people who made us a part of their lives and graciously allowed me to be their pastor. By the time we left thirty-six years later upon retirement, leaving that community of faith, and that area of the Sierra Nevada, was one of the most difficult things we’ve ever done. This, then, is an opportunity to say “Thank you!” to them, as well as, finally, to our good and gracious God whose grace and mercy is at the heart of our experiences of ministry, and who, as the “Prayer of Good Courage” suggests, calls us as God’s servants “to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown” giving us faith to “go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Amen



## Pr. Ronald Zoesch

Graduated PLTS 1971

Served:

St. Paul Oakland Associate Pastor 1971-73.

Pastor, Holy Trinity, Inglewood , 1971-1977

Pastor, First English, Sacramento, 1978-1991,

Pastor, Our Saviour’s Fresno 1991-1996

Synod Staff and Director for Mission Northeastern Ohio Synod, 1996-2013

Interim Synod Staff Pacifica Synod 2016

Interim Synod Staff, Sierra Pacific Synod 2017-2018

# Roster Updates – 2019 - 2021

<p>Letters of Call – <i>pastors within our synod</i></p>	<p>The Rev. Holly McHale Larsen <i>St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oakland, CA</i></p> <p>The Rev. Donna Allen <i>New Revelation Community Church, Oakland, CA</i></p> <p>The Rev. Sandra Olsen Decker <i>Grace Lutheran Church, King City, CA</i></p> <p>The Rev. Anders Peterson <i>Faith Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA</i></p> <p>The Rev. Crystal Larsen Stewart <i>Chaplaincy Ministry with Sutter Hospitals, New Revelation Community Church, Oakland, CA</i></p>
<p>Extended Letter of Service</p>	<p>The Rev. Monique Ortiz-Abrate <i>Sta. Maria y Sta. Marta Iglesia Luterana, San Francisco, CA</i></p> <p>The Rev. Ruth Hanusa <i>Parish Life, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Reno, NV</i></p> <p>The Rev. Filemon Diaz Sanchez <i>Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, King City, CA</i></p> <p>The Rev. Chris Warner-Carey <i>VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, Newark, CA</i></p> <p>The Rev. Tia Pelz <i>Christ the King Lutheran Church, Fremont, CA</i></p>
<p>Ordinations</p>	<p>The Rev. Francis LeBas</p> <p>The Rev. Jared Oluoch</p> <p>The Rev. Daniel Shantu</p> <p>The Rev. Shaun Patrick O'Reilly</p> <p>The Rev. Brandon Peck</p> <p>The Rev. Courtney Geibert</p> <p>The Rev. Sara Wilson</p> <p>The Rev. Sara Schultz</p>
<p>On Leave From Call</p>	<p>Deacon Suzanne O'Dea</p> <p>The Rev. Robert McKee</p> <p>The Rev. Diana Bowers</p> <p>The Rev. Paul Clark</p> <p>The Rev. Kirsten Laderach</p> <p>The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson</p> <p>The Rev. Sarah Erickson</p> <p>The Rev. Julie Webb</p> <p>The Rev. Raymond Waespi</p>

Transfers In	<p>The Rev. Kenneth Laber, <i>Northwest Pennsylvania Synod</i>  The Rev. Amy Kienzle, <i>Metropolitan New York Synod</i>  The Rev. Mytch Dorvilier, <i>Northwestern Minnesota Synod</i>  The Rev. Rachel Semovoski, <i>New Jersey Synod</i>  The Rev. Joshua Semovoski, <i>New Jersey Synod</i>  The Rev. Rustin Comer, <i>Southwest California Synod</i>  The Rev. Logan Vang, <i>Greater Milwaukee Synod</i>  The Rev. Kathy Morris, <i>Grand Canyon Synod</i>  The Rev. Janet E. Blair, <i>New Jersey Synod</i>  The Rev. Julie Kelly, <i>Pacifica Synod</i>  The Rev. David Miller, <i>Oregon Synod</i>  The Rev. Christian Schweter, <i>ELCIC in Canada</i>  The Rev. Jack Damien, <i>Rocky Mountain Synod</i></p>
Transfers Out	<p>Deacon Anurag Mani, <i>Florida-Bahamas Synod</i>  The Rev. Dawn Hass, <i>Southwest California Synod</i>  The Rev. Mary Adelsberger, <i>Northwest Ohio Synod</i>  The Rev. Kim Swenson, <i>Northeastern Iowa Synod</i>  The Rev. Ben Bergren, <i>Grand Canyon Synod</i>  The Rev. Tom Miller, <i>Florida Bahamas Synod</i>  The Rev. Dorothy "Dot" Lundgren, <i>Delaware Maryland Synod</i>  The Rev. Rebecca Swee, <i>Oregon Synod</i>  The Rev. David Bates, <i>Southwestern Washington Synod</i>  The Rev. Connie Winter-Eulberg, <i>Northwest Intermountain Synod</i>  The Rev. Charles Urban, <i>Florida-Bahamas Synod</i>  The Rev. Eileen Smith-LeVan, <i>Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod</i>  The Rev. Lauren "Bud" Egdahl, <i>Southeastern Minnesota Synod</i>  The Rev. Newton Kerney, <i>Oregon Synod</i>  The Rev. David Schick, <i>Rocky Mountain Synod</i></p>
Retirements	<p>The Rev. David Hamilton  The Rev. Dorothy Lindstrom  The Rev. Mark Dunbar  The Rev. Susan Scott  The Rev. Thomas Nibbe  The Rev. Dan Solberg  The Rev. Carl Hoppman  The Rev. Nancy Feniuk Nelson  The Rev. David Schick  The Rev. Dawn Teuthorn  The Rev. Paul Demant  The Rev. Jack Damien</p>
Removed/Resigned from roster	<p>John Beckman  Donald E. Schedler  Paul Michaelson  Steve Sabin</p>

# Necrology 2020 – 2021

## **The Rev. Jaclyn Koehnke**

December 13, 1941 - April 23, 2019

Pastor Jaclyn was raised in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. Prior to entering the ministry, she worked professionally as a country music entertainer and she competed for the US in international table tennis competitions. She completed philosophy degrees at the University of Colorado in 1985; attended the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley (1989). Pastor Jaclyn was ordained September 20, 1992 into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

She served St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rolly View, Alberta, Canada (1992-1993), All Saints in Calgary, Alberta, Canada (1993-1994). From 1995 to 2000 she served as Spiritual Director at The Sanctuary in Victor, Montana, an underground domestic violence safe haven which she operated. Pastor Jaclyn then served Grace Lutheran Church, Russell, MN (2001-2002). She was on disability until she retired in 2007.

Pastor Jaclyn is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Jodi and Lee Shepard, grandchildren Andrew, Ben, and Laurel.

## **The Rev. James R. Anderson**

August 26, 1938 – May 21, 2019

The Reverend James Reynold Anderson was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He graduated from St. Peter High School, Gustavus Adolphus College, and The Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois. Pastor Jim served Christ Lutheran Church in Marine on St. Croix, MN, Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN, Messiah Lutheran Church in Redwood City, CA, and Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. While serving in the Minnesota Synod he was the President of the Bloomington Clergy, Chaplain of the Minnesota State Legislature, Dean of the St. Croix District and served on the Synod's executive board. During his time in California he was a Regent at California Lutheran University and was named an honorary alumnus of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Pastor Jim is survived by his wife Diane Hammargren Anderson; daughter Rebecca Fahrenz (Lee); son Scott (Kari); grandchildren Alissa, Meredith, Monica, Linnea, Cole, and Ben; his brother Tom Anderson (Diane) and sister-in-law Kelly Hammargren.

## **The Rev. Hartley F. Lee**

May 3, 1945 – June 25, 2019

The Rev. Hartley F. Lee was born May 3, 1945 and died June 25, 2019. He graduated from Cal State Los Angeles and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Pastor Hartley was ordained in 1971 and served St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Palos Verdes, CA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan Beach, CA; St. James Lutheran Church, Redding, CA; and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Long Beach, CA until his retirement in 2011. Pastor Hartley and his wife returned to Redding after his retirement. While serving in Redding he was instrumental in the establishment of Holy Trinity, Weaverville.

Pastor Hartley is survived by wife, Mary Ann Lee, and extended family.

## **The Rev. Ronald D. Thoreson**

August 23, 1938 – July 6, 2019

The Rev. Ronald D. Thoreson was born August 23, 1938 and died July 6, 2019. He graduated from Flandreau High School, Flandreau, SD; Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA; and Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Pastor Ron was ordained in 1966 and served congregations in Spring Valley, CA; North Hollywood, CA; and Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Sacramento, CA. He retired in 2003.

Pastor Ron is survived by his children Beth (David) Geesey, Nathaniel (Barbara) Thoreson, Karsten (David) Mouras, and Matthew (Lina) Thoreson; ten grandchildren, three brothers, and two sisters.

## **The Rev. Bonnie Jean LeRud Erickson Bell**

June 26, 1929 – December 17, 2019

The Rev. Bonnie LeRud Bell was born June 26, 1929 and died December 17, 2019.

Bonnie met her husband at a youth event, they married seven months later and raised five children in Northern California. Bonnie directed choirs at Gloria Dei, Marin Lutheran, Christ the Victor and Light of Life Churches. She pursued music training at College of Marin and graduated from Dominican University, San Rafael, with degrees in Music and Sociology. She completed a Master of Arts at San Francisco Seminary and graduated with a Master of Divinity from Pacific Theological Seminary, Berkeley. Pastor Bonnie was ordained in 1984.

Pastor Bonnie was called as a Mission Developer and organized Light of Life Lutheran in Scotts Valley. After retirement in 1995, she served interim ministries in Murphys, Auburn, Modesto, Dublin, Corte Madera, and Sunnyvale, CA.

Pastor Bonnie is survived by her sister Lois (Steve) Jensen; children Becca (Rob) Moeller, Gracia (Jerome) Williams, Rolf (Lauren Cohen), Cheri (Michael) Houts, and Kurt (Angela Leslie); and many grandchildren.

## **The Rev. James Kenneth Laber**

November 11, 1936 – January 17, 2020

Pastor Laber was born in Greensburg, PA, attended Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, and was ordained June 11, 1964. He served several congregations, all in Pennsylvania, and retired in 2004. He and his wife moved to the Monterey/Salinas area to be near their daughter about 18 months prior to his death. He immediately volunteered as a greeter at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Salinas, where he was beloved and recognized as a fine pastor. He is survived by his wife Susan, son Christian and daughter Heidi.

## **The Rev. Charles C. Kuo**

February 10, 1923 – February 12, 2020

Pastor Charles Kuo died February 12, 2020, at the age of 97.

He was born in Honan, China. He attended schools in China and received his Bachelor of Theology in 1954. He was ordained May 30, 1959 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. He served Lutheran Churches in Hong Kong until 1973.

In 1978 he accepted a call to serve Chinese Lutheran Church in San Francisco where he served until his retirement December 31, 1992.

He is survived by his wife Deborah Kuo and children Faith and Jerome.

## **The Rev. Dr. George N. Thune**

December 29, 1942 – February 17, 2020

George was born in Bronxville, NY, to George and Mildred Thune. At the age of 12, he left home to attend the all-boys Concordia Bronxville High School and Junior College, transferring to Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne, IN in 1965. He obtained his Master of Divinity degree at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1969. He was ordained July 6, 1969.

His first call was to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) in Claremont, NH, where he served until 1974. He served St Paul's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod/AELC) in Auburn, CA (1974-1980), St. Luke Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Sunnyvale (1980-1990), CA, earning his Doctor of Ministry Degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA in 1987. While at St. Luke, he was one of the first pastors to learn and teach the Stephen's Ministry model. He served Christ Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Reedley, CA (1990-2006). He last served Bethlehem Lutheran in Sanger until he and Joan retired and moved to Henderson, NV.

He is survived by Joan, his wife of 54 years; children Steven, Stephanie and Synthia; grandchildren, Jonah and Jacqueline; his beloved Aunt Charlotte; and a plethora of sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

## **The Rev. Steven A. Haggmark**

May 9, 1948 – April 28, 2020

Pastor Haggmark died April 28, 2020, at the age of 71, in Fresno, CA

Steven A. Haggmark was born in Selma, CA. He attended San Francisco State University, Graduate Theological Union, and Lutheran Theological Seminary. He was ordained June 11, 1981, in the American Lutheran Church.

He served St. John Lutheran Church in Rosemount, MN, served as a Missionary in Indonesia, and in 2001 began serving on the faculty at Lutheran Seminary, Gustavus Adolphus, and St. Olaf, in St. Paul, MN. Later he was an Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian Mission at Luther Seminary. He served as interim pastor at Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, in Surprise, AZ, in 2012 and 2013, and retired in 2013.

Pastor Haggmark is survived by his wife of 46 years, Nancy J. Haggmark.

## **The Reverend Ralph Herman**

February 11, 1929 – June 6, 2020

Ralph Herman was born and raised, baptized, confirmed and ordained (June 26, 1955) in Sacramento, CA. His confirmation and ordination services were held at St. Luke's Lutheran. He attended Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. He graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio on June 5, 1955.

Pastor Ralph served First Lutheran Church in Torrance, CA. (Internship) (1953-54); Hope Lutheran of Fallon & Jehovah Lutheran of Marsh, MT (1955-57); Redeemer Lutheran in Bakersfield, CA (1957-62); Calvary Lutheran in Modesto, CA (1962-92); Mountain Lutheran of Groveland, CA (1992- 2013). Moving to Bethel Retirement Home in Modesto in 2013 he continued leading Bible studies and inspiring many people in their faith journeys.

Pastor Ralph was preceded in death by his loving wife, Pat, and his parents, and is survived by his sons, Mark, and Brooks (Trish) Herman and adult grandson, Matthew Herman.

## **The Rev. Thomas John Unmacht**

February 12, 1937 – October 30, 2020

Pastor Tom Unmacht was born in Dubuque, Iowa and died October 30, 2020 at the age of 83.

Pastor Unmacht was a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. He was ordained July 28, 1963. He served parishes in Columbia Heights (Minneapolis), MN; Daly City, CA; Pacifica, CA; Fairfield, CA; and Las Vegas, NV. He was active in college campus, camping, and social service ministries of the Lutheran church. Pastor Unmacht's last assignment was developing a new congregation in Las Vegas (The Lakes Lutheran Church) and serving there for 17 years. In retirement he was a supply preacher in many Lutheran congregations in northern California. He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Sharon Elizabeth Unmacht (Thorvilson). He is survived by his daughter Joan Marie Slabaugh; his son, Kevin Thomas Unmacht, and five grandchildren: Melissa Slabaugh, Shannon Slabaugh, Shelby Unmacht, Haley Unmacht, and Jared Unmacht.

## **The Rev. Roland E. "Roly" Grumm**

November 24, 1930 – November 29, 2020

Roland Grumm was born November 24, 1930, in Fargo, North Dakota, to Reverend Arnold and Esther Grumm, the youngest of four children. His brothers Walter and Lory became pastors and his sister Verla married one.

He earned his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and a Master's Degree from Sacred Theology. He was ordained August 12, 1956. Pastor Roland served at Trinity Lutheran Church, Evansville (1956 – 1960).

From 1960 to 1967 Pastor Roland served at Grace Lutheran Church in Santa Maria, CA (1960-1967); St. Paulus, San Francisco (1967-1986); and Holy Cross, Reno, NV (1986-1996).

While Roland was pastor of St. Paulus, he became President of the San Francisco Council of Churches where he headed a committee to bring back the bodies of members from Peoples Temple who were lured to commit suicide by Jim Jones in Guyana. He also served as chaplain of the San Francisco Fire Department. While serving at Holy Cross, Pastor Roland was an officer of LAMN and RAIN, advocacy ministries in the Nevada legislature.

Pastor Roly is survived by his daughters Laura and Nancy, and their families.

## **The Reverend Jack Ericson**

March 10, 1942 – December 6, 2020

Pastor Jack Ericson died December 6, 2020, at the age of 78. He was born in Webster City, IA, attended California Lutheran University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary where he graduated in 1968. He was ordained July 8, 1968. Pastor Jack served Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church in Barstow, CA (1968-1974); Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Reno, NV (1974-1984), and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Los Altos, CA (1984-2005). He retired in 2005.

Pastor Jack is survived by his daughter Christine and son David and their extended families.



## **The Rev. Erwin G. “Erv” Walz**

May 21, 1920 – December 3, 2020

Pastor Erwin Walz died December 3, 2020, at the age of 100 years in Sunny View Retirement Facility. He was born on a farm near Ashley, North Dakota. He attended Wartburg College, Waverly, IA and Wartburg Theological Seminary, graduating in 1945. He was ordained February 4, 1945. In 1976 Pastor Erv received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Glendale Graduate School.

Pastor Erv was the founding pastor of St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in La Mesa, CA (1945-1949); he then served Holy Redeemer in San Jose, CA (1950-1961); Redeemer Lutheran Church, Placentia, CA (1961-1979), and Los Altos Lutheran Church, Los Altos, CA (1979-1986). He retired in 1986. During his retirement he served several churches on interim calls: Bethlehem Lutheran, Santa Rosa; Grace Lutheran, Palo Alto; First Lutheran, Palo Alto; and Coastside, Half Moon Bay. He served as Visitation Pastor at Bethel Lutheran Church, Cupertino, for 14 years until he retired in 2007.

Pastor Erv is survived by his wife Vivian; his children Gayle Walz, Janice Walz Barnes, and Gary Walz, and a grandchild Christopher Walz.

## **The Rev. Dr. John H. “Jack” Elliott**

October 23, 1935 – December 13, 2020

Pastor Jack Elliott died December 13, 2020, at the age of 85. He was born October 23, 1935 to Charles E. and Nietta H. Elliott in The Bronx, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor and Master of Divinity degrees from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, and his degree of Doktor der Theologie (Magna cum Laude) from Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, Germany in 1963. He was ordained April 13, 1964.

He held teaching positions at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (1963-67), Webster College, St. Louis (1964-67), the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome (1978), the University of Notre Dame, South Bend (1979), Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (1976 and 1983), the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley (1977-retirement), the University of Pretoria, South Africa (1991), the University of Bologna, Italy (2001), and the University of San Francisco (1967-2001). He retired from full-time teaching in 2001.

The Rev. Dr. Elliott was an early member and influential theologian within the movement leading to the formation of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries (ELM). He served for more than a decade as part of the Extraordinary Candidacy Project (ECP) and provided credentialing and certification to LGBTQ+ persons at a time when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America refused to do so.

He is survived by his wife Linde, and their two sons, Greg and Michael.

## **The Rev. Richard H. “Dick” Mathison**

September 27, 1934 – January 7, 2021

Pastor Dick Mathison died January 7, 2021, at the age of 86. Richard “Dick” Mathison was born in Richey, Montana. He attended Concordia College (1957) and Luther Seminary (1961); he was ordained June 11, 1961. Pastor Dick served American Lutheran Church, Harlem, MT (1961-1966); Zion Lutheran Church, Redmond, OR (1966-1973); Zion Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA (1973-1985); Red Hill Lutheran Church, Tustin, CA (1985-1989); and Trinity Lutheran Church, Fresno, CA (1989-1996).

He retired in 1996, moving to Indio, CA. His wife, Kathryn (Kay) Mathison, died in 2014; he later married his current wife, Judy.

Pastor Dick is survived by his wife, Judy, his sons Steven and Jon, and his grandchildren.

# Elections



# Synod Secretary Nominee



**Jeff Pennington**  
*Conference 2 - Bridges*  
*Member of St. Paul*  
*Oakland, CA*

First elected as Synod Secretary by the 2016 Synod Assembly, I have had the privilege and honor to serve as your secretary for the past four years. (If you've been to subsequent Synod Assemblies, perhaps you've seen me up there on the dais.) There was a certain learning curve at the beginning, but with the support and understanding of the bishop, the synod council, and synod staff, I was able to reach a point where I have a proficient understanding of our synod constitution and synod polity. In addition, the position has afforded me the opportunity to interact with representatives at the churchwide level, including the former and current ELCA churchwide secretaries and the ELCA general counsel.

I would like to continue to offer my time and administrative talents in support of the mission of the synod and the church, and to offer my knowledge and experience to a new bishop and many new synod council members at the start of their term.

# Synod Council Nominees

## Redwood Mountain (1)



**Sandra Hamilton Slane**

*Conference 1 - Redwood Mountain*

*Member of St. James*

*Redding, CA*

Having been a member at St. James for over 20 years, and active in ministry through education, worship, and music, I am eager to contribute to the larger conversation of what it means to be the people of Christ in our community. I have 30 years of experience as an administrator, and have participated on the board of numerous organizations. I currently represent our region on the board of Lutheran Social Services. I believe the faith community has unlimited potential for contributing to our state and regional efforts for justice and opportunity and look forward to participating in laying the framework and structure for such initiatives. I also believe that local church bodies provide solace and healing for members of our communities and seek to strengthen their roles of being Christ to others.

## Bridges (2)



**Carl Brodt**

*Conference 2 - Bridges*

*Member of Lutheran Church of the Cross  
Berkeley, CA*

During my first term on Synod Council, I spent much of time learning the “business side” of the Synod. The learning involved gaining and understanding of both the financial and administrative issues as well as the ministry challenges in the synod, particularly outreach to people outside of traditional Lutheran ethnicities and to people on the margins of our society. Near the end of my current term, I was graced with assignments to be a council liaison to the California Lutheran Office of Public Policy and to the Elder Care Alliance – two assignment which I hope to flesh out during the following term.

If I am privileged with serving for a second term, I shall work to support the on-going Synod activities mentioned above, to fulfill the liaison assignments, to support the transition of the new bishop in his office, and to attempt to provide greater philosophic diversity on the council.

## Capitol Valley (3)



**Casey Dunsworth**

*Conference 3 - Capitol Valley*

*Member of Incarnation*

*Davis, CA*

As a young adult and the pastor of a specialized ministry to young adults (The Belfry's Campus Ministry to UC Davis and LEVN, the Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network) I am particularly invested in the present and future of this synod. As a member of the Synod Council, I would aim to prioritize the voices of marginalized groups within our communities, amplifying their wisdom, questions, and concerns. I am excited about the good work God is doing in this synod, am certain that there is more good work to be doing, and look forward to serving alongside a new bishop in the coming years.



**Linda Boston**

*Conference 3 – Capitol Valley*

*Member of Lutheran Church of the Master*

*Sacramento, CA*

I have served in various capacities within the ELCA and this church that I love on the congregational, conference, synodical, and churchwide level. It is my desire to continue working within the church to make the ongoing aim of Making Christ Known as now laid out for our upward movement in Christ Service and Ministry via the “Future Church Initiative.”

## Sierra Nevada Foothills (4)



Linda Babcock

*Conference 4 - Sierra Nevada Foothills*

*Member of Resurrection*

*Granite Bay, CA*

For the past three years I have served on Synod Council and the Leadership Discipling Team, as their liason to the Council. I have visited several congregations in our Conference and hope to visit many more in the coming years. I have attended Conference monthly meetings. With these activities I'm striving to bring the resources and ministries of the Synod to our congregations. These are challenging times for all of us. I want to nurture collaboration and cooperation that will bring us together to do God's work in Christ's name.

## San Francisco Peninsula (5)



**Benjamin Emmert-Aronson**

*Conference 5 - San Francisco Peninsula*

*Member of St. Francis*

*San Francisco, CA*

I have devoted my life to public service. Three years ago I co-founded a health and wellness non-profit, Open Source Wellness. Our basic goal is to make sure that everyone has a fair shake when it comes to health. In the past three years we have helped thousands of low-income participants reduce depression, lower blood pressure, and live full, purposeful lives.

I view the opportunity of serving on Synod Council similarly, I believe strongly in our Church's role in the world, and our ability to serve as Christ's hands, particularly when it comes to standing up for the vulnerable among us.

If elected I would be proud to serve our Synod and our Church, to prayerfully work to elevate our impact on the world, and, particularly in this time of national division, to build bridges and work towards unity and collaboration.



## El Camino Real (6)



**Clark Brown**

*Conference 6 - El Camino Real*

*Member of St. Timothy*

*Monterey, CA*

Our work together as the Sierra Pacific Synod enables us to serve well beyond the range of our individual congregations while also equipping our congregations for ministry in our context. It has been an honor to offer my time and gifts for that work and it would be my privilege to continue to serve. Beyond offering insight and leadership in council meetings, I have served on the Nomination Committee, the Bishop's Profile Task Force, and the Synod Assembly Planning Committee. I was also recently appointed chair of the Bishop's Election Committee. I have previously served on the Worship for Baptismal Living Disciplining Team and the Professional Leaders' Conference Planning Team.

As we elect a new bishop and move into the next chapter of our synod, I want to focus on helping struggling churches. We need to innovate, improve pastoral transitions, and be renewed in our identity as the diverse yet united, mystical yet embodied, Body of Christ.

Synod Council



**Manda Truchinski**

*Conference 6 – El Camino Real*

*Member of Christ the Good Shepherd*

*San Jose, CA*

Doing ministry in collaboration with others is essential. Just as one person is cannot be the body of Christ on their own, no one congregation or ministry can be the body of Christ by their lonesome. Sure, being in this church community isn't always easy, but it is worth it. Same with our Synod community. I know it's not easy to collaborate across big distances and between communities that are so very different from one another. But spending time with one another, sharing resources and ideas, and giving one another mutual encouragement and support gives all of us a greater capacity to proclaim the good news of Christ in our world. It's worth it! I hope everyone will take a turn serving in this expression of church and I am glad to take my turn.

## Mt Diablo (7)



**Donna Nunes**

*Conference 7 - Mt. Diablo*

*Member of St. James*

*San Leandro, CA*

I wish to serve on Synod Council so I can help our synod, and all our churches that make up our synod to grow, and share God's grace and love. I have served on church council. I also have been a church office manager for over 12 years, and I have done book-keeping. I feel called to use my knowledge and talents by serving on our Synod Council.

Synod Council

## Sierra Central Valley (8)



### Luke Price

*Conference 8 – Sierra Central Valley  
Member of St Paul's Lutheran  
Lodi, CA*

I have been raised in the church my entire life, and I have served on the council for the past year. More so now than ever I believe I can contribute to ensuring the church community that has given me nothing but love and acceptance survives this virus and that with my experience in youth ministry we can work together to heal the damage this virus has caused. I want nothing more than to serve in this time of trial however I can.

## Central San Joaquin Valley (9)



**Paul Clark**

*Conference 9 – Central San Joaquin Valley  
Member of Hope Lutheran  
Fresno, CA*

I have served one term on the synod council, and have appreciated the opportunity I've had to be part of the ongoing work of the synod, which empowers us to do more together than we can alone. I would be honored to continue in this work and serve a second term.



**Rob O'Berg**

*Conference 9 – Central San Joaquin Valley  
Member of Trinity Lutheran  
Fresno, CA*

With the election of a new bishop comes new ideas, directions and possibilities. It will be an exciting time to be on Synod Council. I believe that my perspective as a long-tenured pastor in the synod (over 20 years) would be helpful to our new bishop and I would be proud to support the bishop's work as a councilmember.

# Young Adult



## Autumn Scherf

*Young Adult*

*Member of Trinity Lutheran*

*Fresno, CA*

As a devout Lutheran, I've served on the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee, the National Youth Core Leadership Team, completed the Counselor in Training Program at Mt. Cross Ministries and served as a counselor and leadership staff, served as the High School Ministry Coordinator at Trinity Lutheran Church and the Ministry Associate at Lutheran Campus Ministry of Fresno. Through my service over the years, I've grown to be an advocate for Women and Gender rights, the LGBTQIA+ community, definitely abled individuals, victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and those struggling with mental health. In my personal and professional life, I strive to empower those around me to let their voice(s) be heard and if needed, be the voice of the voiceless, seek to listen to understand not to respond and be an advocate for children, youth, young adult and family ministries. I prayerfully ask to be considered to continue serving as the Young Adult on the Synod Council and contribute and intersectionality approach.

## Youth



### Makayla Smith-Stabler

*Youth*

*Member of St Johns Lutheran Church  
Sacramento, CA*

I wish to serve as the synod council's youth representative because it is important that the youth of the synod's voices are heard. After all, the synod youth are part of the church of today. Our voices must be heard so that the problems that the youth experience can be heard and dealt with so it does not happen for the younger generations of youth that will come. I have a passion for social justice, finding ways to help minorities share their stories, help lift their voices up is important to me. I have a passion for helping raise awareness for social justice issues by making yard signs.

# Churchwide Assembly

## Redwood Mountain (1)



### Kathryn Swartz

*Conference 1 – Redwood Mountain  
Member of St James Lutheran Church  
Redding, CA*

In the aftermath of the Carr Fire, which burned more than 1,000 homes in Redding and the surrounding area, I began working within and outside of my congregation to connect with all three expressions of the ELCA - supporting other SPS congregations affected by fire, representing the Sierra Pacific Synod at Lutheran Disaster Response conferences, and telling our stories and the stories of other ELCA ministries through the Mission Interpretation Ministry. As a representative of our Synod at Churchwide Assembly, I hope to share these experiences with Lutherans from across the country and create even more connections that will result in increased mutual support and awareness of the unique needs and strengths of the Sierra Pacific Synod and our often-underrepresented Redwood Mountain Conference. In our ever-changing world, I commit to developing a diverse "cloud of witnesses" so that all voices are heard, included, and celebrated.

## Bridges (2)



### Dorothy Arata

*Conference 2 – Bridges*

*Member of Napa Valley Lutheran Church  
Napa, CA*

I have served in many positions in the Sierra Pacific Synod -- congregational president, secretary, financial secretary, SS, V BS, women's retreat chair at Mt. Cross, SPS Wofthe ELCA treasurer, board member, CLU caucus chair, PLTS foundation board member, SPS Witness & Service Discipling team, Hunger Network BUT I have never attended a churchwide assembly. I've attended synod assemblies, WELCA conventions, hunger gatherings and look forward to serving as a voting member of the Sierra Pacific Synod this year. I realize there is much advanced preparation (reading) and am up for the task. Thank you for your consideration.



### Amanda Briggs

*Conference 2 – Bridges*

*Member of St Paul Lutheran Church  
Oakland, CA*

The ELCA is at a pivotal point in its life. I believe our churchwide body is being called to stand up and speak out on the injustices magnified during this pandemic. The pandemic has revealed many overlooked cracks in our societies, and simultaneously displayed the resilience of our communities and ministries. This past year has shown us how we are called to be church together for the sake of the world.

As the ELCA comes together to elect new leaders and vote on policies that allow us to live out our vocational calls, it is important that a broad and diverse set of voices are heard. Serving as a voting member at CWA, I hope to make space and amplify such voices that are too often overlooked.



## Capitol Valley (3)



### Linda Boston

*Conference 3 – Capitol Valley*

*Member of Lutheran Church of the Master  
Sacramento, CA*

To assist in addressing issue crucial to advancement of the gospel through voices of the delegates to the assembly from synods and congregations of the broader church. To form needed partnerships and connections to network with after returning home from the assembly as I work with others to further the work began at the Assembly and our local levels.



### Casey Dunsworth

*Conference 3 – Capitol Valley*

*Member of Lutheran Church of the Incarnation  
Davis, CA*

As the ELCA continues to reform, it is imperative that a diversity of voices be present at the table. If elected to serve in this capacity, I would endeavor to carry the marginalized voices of this synod and Church with me to the assembly, and to be continually challenged by them. As a millennial clergy woman, my hope for the future of my denomination is in increasingly liberative action for racial justice, gender justice, economic justice, environmental justice, and all other forms of justice for the world God loves.

## Sierra Nevada Foothills (4)



### Edward Babcock

*Conference 4 – Sierra Nevada Foothills  
Member of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
Granite Bay, CA*

Representing the Sierra Pacific Synod at the Churchwide Assembly as a voting member is an honor and a responsibility. I have really enjoyed serving my church and church family and I see this role is a logical next step. I would like to be a part of and help the ELCA thrive as we go forward in these important times. I pray that my life experiences and faith contribute to making wise decisions.

When I retired from the banking industry, I was able to bring together my business acumen and my desire to help others. At my church I have served the Council six years as a member and President. I assisted in calling a pastor as a committee member. Serving as a trained Steven Minister I was able to live out my faith. Working together with others we have installed solar panels, created a labyrinth and built a prayer walk with Eagle Scout candidates.



### Jeffrey Morris

*Conference 4 – Sierra Nevada Foothills  
Member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Reno, NV*

As a pastor's spouse, there are very limited roles to play in the life of our church. I have great interest and gifts/abilities in the structural "governance" of the church; but cannot serve at the congregational level for conflict-of-interest reasons. I have served in a prior church (in MD) at the Churchwide Assembly before. Please consider my willingness and strong desire to serve in this capacity.

## San Francisco Peninsula (5)



### Evered Cohen

*Conference 5 – San Francisco Peninsula  
Member of Lutheran Church of Our Savior  
San Francisco, CA*

To bring Glory to God, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, working through me.



### Megan Rohrer

*Conference 5 – San Francisco Peninsula  
Member of Grace Lutheran Church  
San Francisco, CA*

I wish to serve as the rostered minister representative at Synod Assembly, not only to help voice the needs of our Synod, but also to show others in the transgender community that not only be welcome in the Lutheran church, but that you can serve at the highest levels of our denomination.

I am committed to helping our denomination fully live up to call to diversity, gender justice and faithful discipleship. If elected, I would also work to creatively share insights from the assembly with others in our Synod.

## El Camino Real (6)



### Robert (Bob) Blough

*Conference 6 – El Camino Real  
Member of Lutheran Church of the Good  
Shepherd  
San Jose, CA*

I have traveled most of my life with a para-ministry drama group called The Covenant Players. In the 30 years I was with them I performed in almost every kind of congregation from Assembly of God to Catholic to Seventh Day Adventists and even Jewish synagogues. I was raised Presbyterian - not Lutheran - but in all that time spent in many churches, I came to love the Lutheran church. It held for me my deep belief in grace, my view that all people are kin and God's love is the true motivating force in our universe.

Having been baptized into the Lutheran church about 15 years ago I have served on council many years - including being President of a congregation in Oxnard, CA. I am currently on my first year in council right now. As a professional actor I lend my talents when requested for readings, narration and plays.

I strongly believe in the Lutheran mission in the world.



### James Carlson

*Conference 6 – El Camino Real  
Member of New Creation Lutheran  
San Jose, CA*

My passion is raising up leaders for the church. I believe that some of our best leaders can come from communities where they worship and serve their congregations. When I was on the PLTS board where my focus was on “how to we enable students to become Pastors without incurring massive debt”. I am a strong supporter of the TEEM program as this is one way to raise up future leaders of the church from people of color, languages other than English and other underrepresented groups. How do we find future leaders for the church is the voice and vote I will take to the National Assembly.

# Mt Diablo (7)

Guta Yadeta

*Conference 7 – Mt Diablo*

*Member of Oromo Christ Evangelical Lutheran  
San Lorenzo, CA*

I came from different tradition and cultural background which I want to point for the future as a pastor of immigrant community to build a ground for multi-cultural church for the century we are in. Therefore, I bring diversity as a body with different parts working for the same body for the good of it not by divided but as united body. We are different, but at the same time we are serving the same body which is the church, because we are church together.

## Sierra Central Valley (8)



### Arta Curtis

*Conference 8 – Sierra Central Valley  
Member of St Paul Lutheran  
Lodi, CA*

As a proud member of the ELCA since its inception, I have been involved in many church activities including: Christian Education Board, Sunday School Teacher, VBS Director, 2003 Atlanta Youth Gathering Chaperone and Choir Member. My current involvement at St. Paul is serving as Council President, Friendship Minister and Stephen Minister.

At the Synod level, my involvement includes: Church reconciliation, participation in conferences and meetings and voting at same. I have participated in workshops and discussions and volunteered for various Synod activities. Although I have been active for many years in church life, I have never participated in the workings of the broader ELCA. If elected, I will diligently study and prepare to be a well-informed voting member at Churchwide Assembly. Thank you.

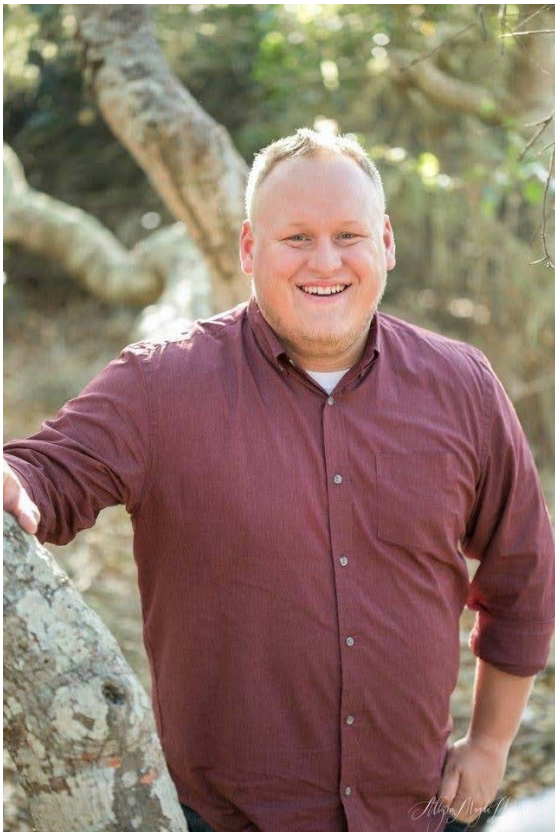
## Central San Joaquin Valley (9)



### Jeremiah Knudson

*Conference 9 – Central San Joaquin Valley  
Member of Hope Lutheran  
Fresno, CA*

I am interested in attending the churchwide assembly because I am passionate about church politics and I want to see how our national church is working and acting in the world. I experience how my own home congregation does ministry in the community, and I want to see how this mission is fulfilled on a broader scale. I am wondering if God is calling me to a career in ministry, and I believe that attending the churchwide assembly would be a valuable part of my vocational discernment process.



### Noel Thompson

*Conference 9 – Central San Joaquin Valley  
Member of Christ Lutheran  
Visalia, CA*

Born in the Twin Cities in Minnesota, it was a Lutheran youth group that I discovered in High School that made me realize that accepting how God made me everyday is how I can show others that they too can experience God's love. As a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, experiencing life on the reservation in the summer and growing up in the suburbs of Minneapolis showed me how life can be tragically different for certain groups of people in society. I've made it my life goal to serve and bring joy to all people, no matter place in society they are in. The ELCA has taught me and transformed my faith to grow in the creator and to show all families that we celebrate the image of God in every child. I wish to serve in this capacity because I believe my experience can be vital as we make important decisions for the future of the church and generations.

# Person of Color – Primary Language Other than English

**Rev. Dr. Donna Allen**

*Conference 2 - Bridges*

*Member of New Revelation Community Church  
Oakland/Vallejo, CA*

I am new to the ELCA. I served as a pastor in the AME Church for 25 years. I have come to the ELCA in response to God calling me to do so. As I have moved through the various processes of credentialing and education I have had opportunities to share my gifts as an educator, preacher, and social justice activist. As an educator I am an adjunct faculty member at PLTS and I bring 25 years of experience as a graduate school educator to my classroom as I teach preaching and Ministry Across Cultures. As a preacher I have the privilege to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in various churches within the ELCA and beyond, on seminary campuses, in parks, prisons and hospitals. As a social justice advocate I believe that God requires us to be a radically inclusive loving people. I wish to serve to learn more about the ELCA and to share what I learn in the classroom, congregations and beyond.



**Deborah Griffin**

*Conference 8 – Sierra Central Valley*

*Member of Zion Lutheran  
Stockton, CA*

As a life-long Lutheran, I've always had an interest in how the assembly operates and the work which is done across the US and around the world. Before moving to California, I was actively involved in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod as a volunteer educational ministry youth trainer and attended a number of assemblies. As a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Stockton, I am a church council member and a worship leader. I've not attended a California synod assembly and look forward to attending.

As a person of color, I see the lack of participation by non-white members in the community and seek to understand more of what can be done to increase participation, trust and church size.





## Leela Kennedy

*Conference 5 - San Francisco Peninsula*

*Member of St Paulus Lutheran Church  
San Francisco, CA*

Because i am a covid vaccinator and im tryen to help serve God in all my ways in life i think serving at chuch wide is another service that will be good service for me to partake.



## Nora Landi

*Conference 6 – El Camino Real*

*Member of Christ Multicultural Ministry  
San Jose, CA*

I have been invested in the church leadership decision making, and having the passion of serving and representing the church in any capacity that I'm called.



## Rev. Doctor Frances Le Bas

*Synod Council At-large (3 year)*

*Member of St Paul Lutheran*

*Lodi, CA*

We face challenging times requiring our church to use all our gifts and talents to continue ministry—not just amongst ourselves but in the greater community and the church at large. Prior to attending seminary, I practiced medicine for 22 years and served in multiple leadership positions including board member and medical director. I am skilled in areas of corporate governance, program administration, peer review, and regulatory compliance. I feel called to use these talents as a Churchwide Assembly Voting Member. As a second-career Puerto Rican pastor, I can bring a different perspective to help achieve what it truly means to unify all people and be church together. As a Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, I would bring my experience, knowledge, and passion to help create a vision that the church is all of God's people.

## Simon Wong

*Synod Council At-large (3 year)*

*Member of Hope Lutheran*

*El Sobrante, CA*

I have been with ELCA as member since 2003. Through these times I have been actively serving, and working together with brothers and sisters, being a council chair, a president of the preschool, through difficult time support my previous congregation. I feel the edge of representing the people of color to ELCA, especially through our current difficult time as an Asian American, an Asian Lutheran representing this synod. I hope that I can bring my perspective to others by being the churchwide assembly voting member.

## Youth – Young Adult



### Alicia Beauchemin

*Conference 6 – El Camino Real  
Member of New Creation Lutheran  
San Jose, CA*

I served as a volunteer for the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2018 and attended the two previous gatherings. After the first gathering I found my love for serving within the church so I continued to do so. I would like to continue my service and involvement with the church by giving a voice to the younger generations of the church during the voting and decision making at the assembly!



### Zoey Bost

*Conference 7 – Mt Diablo  
Member of Holy Cross Lutheran  
Livermore, CA*

When people first learn that I am a Christian and a pastors kid, they often think I am going to be judgmental. I'm an outspoken advocate for social justice and passionate about human rights. My faith revolves around loving others. It doesn't always occur to me that some people have had encounters with the church that are absent of love and that faith has been grossly used as a weapon against others. I wish to serve and challenge preconceived assumptions held within and without the church. Ultimately, I want to help the ELCA be more inclusive. I've served as a leader in my own congregation for several years now in a multitude of roles. Currently, I'm serving my second year as Youth Representative on my congregation's Church Council. I would love to continue my service at the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and do whatever I can to support the ELCA. Thank you for your time and consideration!



## Grace Ekdale Hoch

*Conference 5 – San Francisco Peninsula  
Member of St Mark’s Lutheran  
San Francisco, CA*

I wish to serve as a young adult voting member because of the positive experiences I have had with youth ministry activities. I am currently serving my second term as a member of the Sierra Pacific Synod Youth Committee (SPSYC), which is in charge of planning youth retreats, working with the Synod on the young adult agenda, and inspiring an overall love for God. While serving on SPSYC, I have also been part of core group of leaders working on Cali Strong – a group created and led by youth to collaborate and talk about pressing issues such as racial justice. This fall I look forward to attending California Lutheran University. While greatly enjoying my time on SPSYC and Cali Strong, serving as the young adult voting member is an opportunity for me to grow in my faith and become more deeply involved with the ELCA.



## Lucy Lindgren

*Conference 3 – Capitol Valley  
Member of St John’s Lutheran  
Sacramento, CA*

Church is a huge part of my life. I love serving my church as an Acolyte and Assisting Minister, and being an active member of Synod and the ELCA as an elected member to SPSYC and attending Youth Gatherings. My favorite thing about SPSYC and gathering events is that they bring together different types of Lutherans, who come from different areas, and who bring different perspectives and ideas. I love the conversations and exchange of ideas that occur as people with similar core beliefs but otherwise different experiences meet, talk, and grow in their faith. These gatherings are incredible, and I come home inspired and impressed by youth who are like me – youth who are passionate about God and the church, who believe that youth are not just the future of the church, but also an important part of the current church. I would like to give my peers a voice in the discussions and decisions of the ELCA, as our larger church comes together to exchange ideas and think about the future. Serving in this way would be an incredible honor and a privilege, and if elected I would do my best to represent the opinions of my youth and young adult peers.



## Christiana Slater

*Conference 9 – Central San Joaquin Valley  
Member of Hope Lutheran  
Fresno, CA*

I wish to represent the young adults of this conference as a voting member because I am passionate about young adult involvement in the church at local and national levels. I believe I have an important perspective as I grew up as a youth in Fresno, CA and have worked with youth and young adults in the west for five years. In college, I was a student leader of PLU Campus Ministry and The University Congregation. I have also experienced the power of youth and young adult ministry and as a counselor and coordinator at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Hillside, CO and led youth groups at Trinity Lutheran in Parkland, WA. I now am the Director of Children's Ministries at Hope Lutheran, Fresno and am one of many young adult members at my church. I want to see the ELCA prioritize youth and young adults and their interests at the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. My past professional experiences and current passion for ministry give me the enthusiasm to serve as the At-Large Young Adult voting member at this assembly.



## Kiki Valenzuela

*Conference 5 – San Francisco Peninsula  
Member of St Paul Lutheran  
Oakland, CA*

I wish to serve because I want to contribute to a community that has aided me throughout my childhood/adolescence. I hope to contribute a perspective that is representative of my demographics to increase the inclusivity and awareness present in the ELCA.

## **2021 Bishop’s Nominations for the Synod Consultation Committee:**

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sierra Pacific Synod, SB11.02.01 (below), Bishop Mark W. Holmerud nominates the following persons for election to six-year terms on the Synod Consultation Committee.

†**S11.02.** The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least 6 persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ordained ministers and half shall be lay persons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection. The functions of the Consultation Committee are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and in Chapter 17 of this constitution. The size of the Consultation Committee, in accord with this provision, shall be defined in this synod’s bylaws.

**SB11.02.01.** There shall be a Consultation Committee consisting of 8 persons-who shall be nominated by the bishop and elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a member of the committee ex officio except in instances where the bishop brings charges against an ordained minister. The Consultation Committee's responsibilities and procedures shall be those listed in ELCA Bylaw 20.21.05.

### **Synod Consultation Committee Nominees – terms expire 2027:**

Current makeup of the Consultation Committee, with new nominees **highlighted** and expiration of terms and Congregational Membership (brief biographies on the following page):

<b>Ms. Sue Michaelson</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Cross and Crown, Rohnert Park</b>
<b>Ms. Leticia Galvan</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>St. Paul, Lodi</b>
Rev. Chad Adamik	2023	St. Paul Lutheran Family, Carson City, NV
Rev. Trudy Franzen	2025	St. Stephen’s, El Dorado Hills
Mr. Dave Anderson	2023	Nuestro Redentor, Livingston
Rev. Sandi Olson-Decker	2025	Grace, King City
Rev. Bill Wong	2025	Peace, Grass Valley
Mr. Burke Wallace	2025	Zion, Stockton

**Ms. Sue Michaelson:**

I am currently finishing my 6<sup>th</sup> year as a Synod Council member for District 1 of the Sierra Pacific Synod. I have served on the Executive Committee of the Synod for approximately five and a half years and for the same time as the property chairperson.

At the congregational level, I have served on the council and as President for 4 years. I have also served on a call committee for a prior congregation and am now on the transition team at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church.

Professionally, I am an attorney with experience in land use, real estate, business and some wills and trust practice. I also own a real estate brokerage which focuses on residential, vineyards and wineries and other rural properties.

**Ms. Leticia Galvan:**

My name is Leticia Galvan, I am 58 yrs. old. I Was born in General Teran, Nuevo Leon Mexico. I'm a retired Peace Officer from the State of California. I have been a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church for the past 3 years and serve on the council as a board member for the last two years.

I am the President/Founder of the "Luis G. Alvarez Jr. Rewards for Justice, Inc." I serve on the board of Victims of Violent Crimes of San Joaquin County, Inc.

I hold a support group for victims of violent crimes in Lodi and I accompany and support them in court during the trial process.

## **2021 Bishop’s Nominations for the Synod Committee on Discipline:**

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Sierra Pacific Synod, SB11.03.01 (below), Bishop Mark W. Holmerud nominates the following persons for election to six year terms on the Synod Committee on Discipline.

- †**S11.03.** The Committee on Discipline in this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ordained ministers and six shall be lay persons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive reelection.
- a. The functions of the Committee on Discipline of this synod are set forth in Chapter 20 of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - b. The terms of committee members shall be staggered so that the terms of four committee members (two clergy and two lay) expire every two years.
  - c. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

**SB11.03.01.** Members of the Committee on Discipline shall be nominated by the bishop and elected by the Synod Assembly. Each biennium the Synod Council shall appoint the chair of the committee.

### **Synod Committee on Discipline Nominees – terms expire 2027:**

Current makeup of the Discipline Committee, with new nominees **highlighted** and expiration of terms and Congregational Membership (brief biographies on the following page):

Rev. Brian Stein-Webber	2025	PLTS, Berkeley
Rev. Stephanie Johnson	2025	Trinity, Alameda
<b>Rev. Evered Cohen</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Francisco</b>
Ms. Gisela Daetz	2023	Immanuel, Los Altos
Ms. Larrell Finneran	2023	Elim, Petaluma
Rev. Mary Lou Petitjean	2023	Lord of Mercy, Sparks, NV
Deacon Susan Wessner*	2025	Cross and Crown, Rohnert Park
Mr. Nulek Singkeovilay	2025	Lahu Ministry – Christ Lutheran, Visalia
<b>Ms. Rebekah Turnbaugh</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>St. John’s, Sacramento</b>
<b>Mr. Duane Rigge</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Immanuel, Eureka</b>
Rev. Ron Valadez	2023	Bethlehem, Auburn
<b>Rev. Mytch Pierre-Noel Dorvilier</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Bethel, Fresno</b>

\* Appointed to two-year term as Chair – 2021-2023



### **The Rev. Evered Cohen:**

My name is Evered Cohen, I've just completed a three-year commitment serving as a member of the **Sierra Pacific Synod Candidacy Committee** and Currently serving as a board member of the **Professional Advisory Group to the SF Night Ministry CPE program.**

At the congregational level, I am serving as pastor of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, San Francisco and before that I was in the choir and on the property committee. I am a retired "Bell Head," 34 years at the Telephone Company.

### **Ms. Rebekah Turnbaugh:**

Rebekah Turnbaugh is the Assistant Director of Outreach at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento. In this position, Rebekah works with the congregation's social ministries, and has a focus on how St. John's shows up in the community outside the walls of the church building. She also feels a particular call to working on issues of racial justice and helping to bring a deep commitment to anti-racism to St. John's.

While she did not grow up Lutheran, Rebekah has found a home in the Lutheran church over the last 10 years, finding liberation in abundant grace and the theological teaching that we are all both sinners and saints. Before coming on as staff at St. John's, Rebekah served as a lay leader for the church's catechumenate class called Luminaria. Presently, Rebekah is also a new member of the Sierra Pacific Synod Racial and Ethnic Mission Strategy Discipling Team.

Rebekah grew up in Modesto, California and has always called the Central Valley her home. She had the opportunity to live in Mexico for a year and a half while completing her BA in Sociology, and then completed an MA in Social Justice at the Institute for Pastoral Studies at Loyola University Chicago.

### **The Rev. Mytch Pierre-Noel Dorvilier:**

Pastor Mytch is a product of slavery, an ordained minister at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, currently serving Bethel Lutheran Church in Fresno. She is an ELCA coach, a truth-teller, and an enthusiast advocate of human dignity. She sees everyone for whom God has died for. She grew up in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, the empires' site, the starting point of New World slavery, and the first black revolution. She grew up in a religious universe ostensibly Catholic, where spirits hide inside of saints. She also grew up with an entire spectrum of knowledge and the existence of people around her. Some of her family members are Christians, and others practice different kinds of religions. She has always been curious about religions and other beliefs; by the time she turned twenty-year-old, she had studied the Bible with seven different denominations. She also studied the Qur'an, visited synagogues, Buddhist, and Baha'i Temples. She grew up speaking Creole and French and later added fluent Spanish, English, and Wolof to her language list.

Pr. Mytch worked with the Lutheran World Federation in HAITI and later served with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Global Mission in West Africa. She received her Master's of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2016. Before coming to Fresno, she worked with community development and multi-ethnic ministries in the Eastern North Dakota Synod and as priest-in-charge in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota. She served churches in North Dakota and Minnesota as an interim pastor. She likes spending time with her three children and friends, as well as cooking, doing yoga, running, dancing, and contemplative writings. She's also a certified Zumba instructor.

**Mr. Duane Rigge:**

I currently reside in Fortuna, CA and serve as the President of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eureka CA. Over the past 54 years my wife Susan and I have geographically relocated numerous times due to 23 years of military service with the US Navy and various employment relocations.

- I was baptized and grew up in the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church in Stockton, CA where I met and married my wife Susan.
- I joined the Navy and Susan & I spent 7 years always on the move and outside the US.
- Next stop was San Luis Obispo to finish my BS at Cal Poly. Susan & I (and our two youngsters) became members and Sunday School Superintendents at Mount Carmel Lutheran Church
- We moved to Livermore, CA and were members of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Dublin, CA
- Moved again and were members of Richland Lutheran Church in Richland, WA
- We became members of the Lord of Life Lutheran Mission Congregation in Kennewick, WA and served on the Land and Building Acquisition Committee.
- Relocated to Benicia, CA and became members of Good Shepard Lutheran Church in Concord, CA. and served as the Sunday School Superintendent.
- We transferred to a new starting Lutheran Mission Congregation in Benicia, CA served on the Building and Construction Committee and Preschool Construction Committee. Served on the Church Council and as a Youth Leader.
- We moved again and became members of Christ Lutheran Church in Fortuna, CA. Served on the Church Council.
- We transferred to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eureka, CA and I currently serve as the President.

# Amendments



## **“Non-required Amendments” to the *Constitution for Synods* as approved by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly**

Amendments that are not required, i.e., those not marked by a “dagger” †, may be adopted by the Synod Assembly on a majority vote at one assembly under †S18.12.

In order to bring the Sierra Pacific Synod Constitution in line with the new model *Constitution for Synods* approved by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, the Sierra Pacific Synod Council moves adoption *en bloc* of the following “non-required” amendments.

Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.

### **CHAPTER 7: SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

**S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those ~~designated as disabled~~ granted disability status, or on leave from call, on the roster of the synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ministers specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

**S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of ~~mission settings formed with the intent of becoming recognized congregations under development and~~ authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under ELCA bylaw ~~10.02.03, 10.01.04~~, to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21. Such authorized worshipping communities, acknowledged under criteria and procedures of the ELCA Division for Outreach and the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall accept and adhere to the Confession of Faith and Statement of Purpose of this church, shall be served by leadership under the criteria of this church, and shall be subject to the discipline of this church.

### **CHAPTER 8: OFFICERS**

**S8.11.01.** When authorized by the Synod Council in order to address special circumstances, the synod bishop may be compensated as an employee or contractor for specified services to another expression of this church. Such an arrangement may be terminated by the Synod Assembly or Synod Council if determined to be detrimental to the function of the office or if the special circumstances no longer apply.

**S8.14.** The synod bishop may have such assistants as this synod shall from time to time authorize.

### **CHAPTER 10: SYNOD COUNCIL**

**S10.08.** Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of the Synod Council.

**S10.078.01.** To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be held electronically or by telephone conference, and notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

### ***CHAPTER 13: CONGREGATIONS***

**S13.25.** This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence. Such synod administration shall continue only so long as necessary to complete the purposes for which it was requested by the congregation or until the congregation withdraws consent to continued administration. ~~This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon the request of or with the concurrence of the Congregation Council, or upon the written petition of two thirds of the voting members of the congregation.~~

**S13.40.** ~~Synodically Authorized~~ **Synod-authorized Worshiping Communities**

### ***CHAPTER 14: ROSTERED MINISTERS***

**S14.14.** Whenever members of a congregation move to such a distance that regular attendance at its services becomes impractical, it shall be the duty of the pastor to commend them, upon their consent, to the pastoral care of a **Lutheran** congregation nearer to their place of residence.

**S14.17.** No minister of Word and Sacrament shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Sacrament shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the **chair-president** of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

**S14.42.** No minister of Word and Service shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. A minister of Word and Service shall respond with an answer of acceptance or declination to a letter of call within 30 days of receipt of such call. In exceptional circumstances with the approval of the bishop of this synod and the **chair-president** of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call

### ***CHAPTER 15: FINANCIAL MATTERS***

**S15.14.** Except when such procedure would jeopardize current operations, a reserve amounting to no more than 16 percent of the sum of the amounts scheduled in the next year's budget for regular distribution to **synodical** causes shall be carried forward annually for disbursement in the following year in the interest of making possible a more even flow of income to such causes. The exact number of dollars to be held in reserve shall be determined by the Synod Council.

# Resolutions



2021-1

Resolution regarding Paid Leave: Parental and Care of Family Due to Illness

WHEREAS, the 2019 Salary & Compensation Guidelines for Sierra Pacific Synod specify "Parental (maternity/paternity) leave of up to six weeks"<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, congregations in their ministry are called to be sensitive to family needs such as serious illness of the rostered minister's immediate family member; therefore, a family leave plan should reflect opportunity to meet those needs; and

WHEREAS, "...parenthood is a vocation that women and men share, this church supports public and private initiatives to provide adequate maternity and paternity leaves, greater flexibility in the workplace, and effort to correct the disparity between the incomes of men and women..."<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA calls us to, "Advocate for and support resources for families of various configurations and the communities in which they live. Empower parents and all who raise or care for children or other family members to nurture, protect, and provide for their household in ways that do not reinforce gender-based stereotypes. In particular, advocate for institutional changes that support and encourage men and boys to participate in all family roles associated with the home, caregiving, parenting, and nurturing."<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the International Labour Organization recommends 14 weeks of maternity leave, including 6 weeks of compulsory postnatal leave<sup>4</sup> and concludes, "maternity, paternity, and care responsibilities should become a normal fact of business life"<sup>5</sup>; *therefore be it*

RESOLVED, that Sierra Pacific Synod act to change the Salary & Compensation Guidelines for the Sierra Pacific Synod to "Paid leave of twelve weeks is recommended when a child is born or adopted"; and be it further

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of Compensation and Benefits for Rostered Ministers Sierra Pacific Synod•Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> 1991 ELCA Social Statement on Abortion, p. 8.

<sup>3</sup> 2019 ELCA Social Statement on Faith, Sexism, and Justice; A call to Action, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup> ILO: Maternity Protection Resource Package, Module 5, available at: <http://mprp.ilo.org/allegati/en/m5.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> ILO: Maternity and paternity at work: Law and practice across the world (Geneva, 2014), available at: [www.ilo.org/maternityprotection](http://www.ilo.org/maternityprotection)

RESOLVED, that Sierra Pacific Synod act to insert the following paragraph under Family Leave of Definition of Compensation and Benefits for Rostered Ministers Sierra Pacific Synod•Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, "A paid leave of twelve weeks is recommended to care for an immediate family member with a serious health condition, and upon the death within the rostered ministers family a paid leave of up to 3 weeks is recommended. When the specified leave period is exhausted, an unpaid leave of absence may be granted"; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the congregations of our synod follow these guidelines whenever possible not only for rostered ministers, but also for lay professionals and support staff in our congregations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the synod will provide a resource packet of helpful practices in order to make providing such leave affordable and manageable for congregations.

Submitted by the Leadership Discipling Team



2021-2

Resolution Regarding Sierra Pacific Synod Compensation Guidelines

WHEREAS in 2011 the Sierra Pacific Synod in assembly adopted a process for determination of appropriate compensation for its Rostered Ministers, and

WHEREAS the process presumes that – annually – the Sierra Pacific Synod in assembly will modify the "baseline compensation" as appropriate to reflect current economic realities, and

WHEREAS for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 the appropriate "baseline compensation" figure for full-time Rostered Ministers in the Sierra Pacific Synod was set at a level of \$58,248, and

WHEREAS the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, California Consumer Price Index for the period of December, 2019 to December, 2020 acknowledged a cost-of-living increase of 1.83%, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Sierra Pacific Synod's 2021-2022 Compensation Guidelines reflect as appropriate baseline compensation for full-time Rostered Ministers the amount of \$59,314 for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, and be it further

RESOLVED that Sierra Pacific Synod's Pulpit Supply Guidelines for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 remain at:

One Service \$275  
One Service and Adult Class \$350  
Two Services \$350  
Two Services and Adult Class \$400

and be it further

RESOLVED that Sierra Pacific Synod's Pulpit Supply Guidelines stipulate that the travel mileage reimbursement rate for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 be set at \$0.56 (56 cents) per mile, or as established per current IRS determination.

Sponsored by the Leadership Discipling Team