



Southwest California Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

*Always proclaiming God's saving Gospel,
living out Christ's Great Commission, and serving all in response to God's love
—through care, advocacy, reconciliation and solidarity with those in need—
the Southwest California Synod will, for the next five years,
direct its work toward the following mission goals:*

- Communicating the Gospel message powerfully and clearly
 - Shaping the faith of the baptized through education
 - Fostering congregations in becoming healthy communities
 - Creating opportunities for its rostered leaders to thrive
- Developing at least four geographical area ministry strategies
- Establishing clusters of congregations around similar ministries

January, 2015

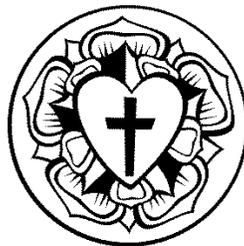


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**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHWEST
CALIFORNIA SYNOD
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
THIRTIETH ANNUAL SYNOD ASSEMBLY
California Lutheran University—Thousand Oaks, California
June 1-3, 2017**

Friday, June 2, 2017

At 9:50 am, staff from Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences led the assembly members in singing several hymns.

Synod Vice President, Randall Foster, welcomed the assembly members and introduced Desta Goehner, Director of Congregational Relations at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California. Desta welcomed the assembly, gave emergency and housekeeping instructions, included use of Wi-Fi and the password to access it, and gave parking instructions.

Randall Foster introduced Joyce Opjorden, the assembly parliamentarian, who then instructed the assembly on the voting rules; the use of the green, red, and white cards; and where to find the agenda and the rules of procedure. Robert Rules of Order will be followed. Joyce Opjorden informed the members that they would be electing people to fill vacant positions and would be voting on two resolutions. There were two microphones available for debate.

Samantha Henderson, Synod communications staff, then instructed the members on how to download the guidebook and how to post pictures of the assembly to social media using the hashtag, #swcal17.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 2, 10:17 a.m.

WELCOME

Bishop Erwin led the opening devotions and liturgy, Romans 8: 14—17. The theme of the assembly and the devotions was *Freed in Christ to Serve*. The assembly opened with the singing of Hymn #11: God is Here at 10:17 a.m.

Rules of Procedure:

Bishop Erwin introduced Secretary, Patricia Digre, instructed voting members on the rules of procedures and the amendment of three minutes of comments to two minutes. Voting cards were presented to vote on the amendment to adopt the rules of procedure.

It was **MOVED** to adopt the Rules of Procedure and its amendment.

The **MOTION** to **ADOPT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.01)**

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. (Constitution S7.01)

SEAT AND VOICE

The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60% of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows: (Constitution S7.21)

- A. All ordained ministers under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
- B. Other persons on the rosters of this synod as defined by ELCA bylaw 10.41.01.b. shall be voting members.
- C. A minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation related to the synod, one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of members in the congregation. Additional members from each congregation shall be equally divided between male and female except the odd-numbered member, if any, may be either male or female. Each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members may elect one additional voting member who is a youth (under 18) or young adult (18-30). A congregation with more than 175 baptized members may elect two additional voting members who are youth or young adults, one of whom shall be female and one of whom shall be male. (Constitution S7.21.A10.)
- D. Voting membership shall include the officers of the synod and lay persons serving on the Synod Council who are not serving as voting members from their congregation. (Constitution S7.21 and S7.28)

Retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who are serving as interim pastors in a congregation of this synod at the time of the Synod Assembly shall be voting members to the Synod Assembly. (Constitution S7.22.01)

Other retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod shall be advisory members of the Synod Assembly having voice but not vote. (Constitution S7.22.)

The Secretary of the Synod shall be responsible for the certification of all clergy and lay voting members and shall maintain a record of their attendance at this assembly.

The ELCA representative and any other such official representative(s) of the Church shall have seat and voice in the assembly Like privilege shall be accorded to non-voting members of the Synod

Staff; to the chairpersons of synod Mission Teams, Ethnic Coalitions, and Conferences; the president of the Synodical Women's Organization; the coordinator of Lutheran Men in Mission; and to the chief executive officer (or their appointee) of the officially recognized institutions and agencies of the Synod. (Constitution S7.23.)

FLOOR SEATING

Seating of voting members on the assembly floor shall be in the designated area for voting members. Voting members must be seated at tables in the Voting Member Section of the Assembly meeting room in order to be eligible to vote. All vote counting, whether oral, by hand, standing, ballot, or electronic device will be done at voting member tables only. Voting members at other tables or standing in the aisles or doorways will not be included in any count.

Tables will be provided for advisory and other nonvoting guests. Visitor seating will be in designated areas of the assembly meeting room.

BULLETIN OF REPORTS

All reports published in the Bulletin of Reports shall be received by the assembly without vote.

SPEECHES

Each person, when recognized by the chair, shall state his/her name and congregation or institution represented before beginning to speak. No person shall speak more than **three minutes** nor more than **twice** on the same subject, unless the voting members, by a majority vote, waive the provisions of this rule; provided, however, that this rule shall not apply to messages and reports by agencies and officers of the synod, or to guest speakers to whom special time has been allotted.

APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the prior approval of the Synod Council shall be referred to the Executive Committee for a report and recommendation prior to action by the Synod Assembly and shall require a two-thirds majority vote by the assembly for adoption. (Constitution S10.04)

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Any voting member may make a motion from the floor, which is germane to any pending question. Motions and resolutions of a general character that are not germane to a pending question must be processed through the Committee on Reference and Counsel in the following manner:

Resolutions from any institution, agency, synod mission team, coalition, congregation, or individual must bear the signatures of at least five people who are members of the Southwest California Synod. The resolutions shall be given in writing to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by 60 days prior to the start of the Assembly.

All other resolutions that are not received by the Committee on Reference and Counsel 60 days prior to the start of the Assembly shall be placed on the assembly agenda as new business only and would require a two-thirds vote of voting members requesting the resolution be put before the assembly before it may be considered.

Resolutions not considered by the Synod Assembly will be referred to the Synod Council for consideration.

ISSUES OF CONSCIENCE

The agenda of the Synod Assembly shall allow up to one hour for the voicing of such issues of conscience and concern as were not included in the agenda. Persons may speak one time on one subject. Each person speaking shall be allowed 5-minutes to voice his or her concern. There shall be no response to any speaker nor discussion of any issue following the presentations. Each person desiring to voice their concern must submit their name and statement of subject matter to the Assistant to the Bishop for Mission Support at least 14-days prior to the start of the assembly. When more than one person wishes to speak to the same subject, those persons shall be asked to decide among themselves who will speak for them.

DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS

Authorization for setting up displays and exhibits, and for placing posters, announcements, etc., at Assemblies of the Southwest California Synod shall be limited to those agencies or groups who are organically within the structure of the Synod or the ELCA, or are direct beneficiaries of the synodical or Churchwide budget. The selling of goods or services is allowed only by approval of the Synod Council.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

All materials for distribution to voting members at the Synod Assembly shall be delivered to the Synod Office by May 1. The synod secretary is responsible for distribution of all materials. After the assembly is in session, permission to distribute materials must be secured from the Com. on Reference and Counsel.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly. (Constitution S7.32)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Secretary Patricia Digre moved the adoption of the agenda, with the understanding that the Bishop may alter the order of items on said agenda to better us the available time.

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE AGENDA**.

The **MOTION** to **ADOPT THE AGENDA CARRIED**.

(SA17.06.02)

EXPANDED AGENDA
Thirtieth Synod Assembly • Southwest California Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*June 2 and 3, 2017, California Lutheran University
"Freed In Christ To Serve"*

FRIDAY, JUNE 2		
Pre-Assembly Gilbert Arena		
7:00 am	Staff & volunteer breakfast in Soiland Gym	
8:00 am FINAL TECH CHECK, ALL MICS LIVE, #S ON MICS?	Assembly Registration begins, Gilbert Lobby	
9:00 am	Bishop Erwin, VP Foster , and other principals meet in Gilbert to confer/prepare. Reference & Counsel Committee meets in Gilbert 254	
9:30 am BIG DOG SOFT MUSIC	Music begins; candle lighted.	
9:50 am JESSICA AT KEYBOARD	Warm-up songs <i>Could we find some besides what's in the Assembly book and Jessica or others make slides for lyrics? I realize now how boring the selection is.</i>	
Business Session 1 Gilbert Arena <i>120 minutes</i>		
10:00 am Gilbert Arena TECH: BOTH PODIUMS LIVE	VP Randall Foster, Desta Goehner, Joyce Opjorden, Samantha Henderson go to the lectern to give the Assembly Orientation. Randy: Welcome to all; introduce Desta Goehner, director of congregational relations at Cal Lutheran; Joyce Opjorden, assembly parliamentarian; and Samantha Henderson,	10

<p>NEED SLIDE WITH USERNAME, PASSWORD, AND HASHTAG</p>	<p>communications coordinator for the synod. Turn it over to them</p> <p>Destia: hospitality; restrooms, emergency procedures, (hand gestures?) coffee & water. Then wifi instructions including username (SynodAssembly) & password (f95d0221)</p> <p>Joyce: instructions regarding assembly procedures; basic information regarding parliamentary procedure.</p> <p>Samantha: Guidebook advice. Introduce Thomas. Assembly hashtag: #swca17. Permission to tweet & post.</p> <p>Destia, Samantha may leave the stage after this.</p>	
	<p>Bishop Erwin, Secretary Patricia Digre & Treasurer Michael Metzger join the others on the stage for the opening devotions & liturgy</p>	
<p>TECH: OPENING LITURGY SLIDES FROM SYNOD</p>	<p>Bishop Erwin leads the devotions & liturgy</p> <p>Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God, who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.</p> <p>A reading from Romans: For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. (Rom. 8:14-17)</p> <p>Freed in Christ to Serve: reflection by Bishop Erwin</p> <p>Opening of a Synod Assembly</p> <p>As in one body we have many members, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.</p> <p>Where two or three are gathered in my name, says the Lord,</p>	10

<p>TECH MIC #</p> <p>KEYBOARD</p>	<p>I am there among them.</p> <p>Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Let us pursue what makes for justice and peace, and for mutual upbuilding.</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Let us pray. O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p>I declare this assembly to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p> <p>Song leaders lead a hymn: #11 "God Is Here"</p>	
	<p>Bishop Erwin calls to Mic 2 and introduces Pat Digre, and asks the voting members to turn to pages in the white Agenda section of the Bulletin of Reports, and under the "Parliamentary Procedure" header on the app, to find the assembly Rules of Procedure. He notes the amendment made last year to limit debate to two minutes was not added to the printed copies of the Rules that were distributed, and adds that they are presented with that amendment now.</p> <p>Secretary Digre: Reverend Chair, I move the adoption of the Rules of Procedure.</p>	5

	<p>Bishop Erwin asks the assembly to find in their envelopes the voting cards. He then calls for the vote. (2/3 majority needed) using red/white/green cards</p> <p>Secretary Digre: I move the Adoption of the Agenda, with the understanding that the bishop may alter the order of items on it to better use the available time.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin calls for the vote. (simple majority needed) using red/white/green cards</p>	
TECH: VIDEO READY	Bishop Erwin introduces President Chris Kimball of California Lutheran University	2
	<p>President Chris Kimball speaks 10-15 minutes</p> <p>CLU Video</p>	15
	<p>Bishop Erwin explains the “Freed to Serve Moment” concept We have three such people in this Assembly: Anthony Eder, Kaela Jones, and Michael Nelson. They will share their stories at different points in the Assembly</p> <p>Freed to Serve Moment: Michael Nelson Bishop Erwin introduces Michael Nelson, a “Lutheran by choice” and freelance writer, now retired from his career as a theater arts marketer. He lives with his husband, Dale von Seggern, in Venice, and is a member of St. Paul’s Lutheran in Santa Monica, where he serves on the congregational council and sings in the choir.</p>	2
	Michael Nelson	3
KEYBOARD	Song	
TECH	Video: Sermon Spice “Go”	
TECH READY: POWERPOINT & HANDOUT QUESTIONS ON SCREEN	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces Bishop Patricia Lull</p> <p>Bishop Lull leads Bible Study One: Freedom (45 min) Mark 5:1-14a</p>	45

	<p>Bishop Erwin calls forward Jane Affonso, nominating committee member substituting for Pastor Berkedal, to give the committee's report</p> <p>Jane Affonso: Reverend Chair, the Nominating Committee solicited and received nominations for the following positions: Synod Vice President Synod Council Member at Large, Lay Female (three positions) Synod Council Member at Large, Clergy Female (one position) Synod Council Member at Large, Clergy Male (two positions) Member of the synod Endowment Committee (two positions)</p> <p>The Nominating Committee also received three nominations from Conferences for Conference Representative to the Synod council. These nominations need only be ratified by the Assembly.</p> <p>Biographies of the nominees can be found in the Reports section of the Assembly book. The order and positions presented there do not correspond precisely to the slots as they will be presented now.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin explains the procedure for further nominations: made verbally now from the floor, then with nomination forms available at the synod office, which must be submitted by the end of the final business session today, Business Session 4.</p> <p>Jane Affonso reads the positions and nominees and Bishop Erwin asks for further nominations:</p> <p>Jane Affonso: For Synod Vice President: Randall Foster</p> <p>Bishop: Are there any further nominations from the floor?</p> <p>Jane Affonso: For Synod Council Member at Large, Clergy Male: Rev. Cesar Arroyo and Rev. Thomas Baughman-Collinge</p>	10

	<p>Bishop: Are there any further nominations from the floor?</p> <p>Jane Affonso: For Synod Council Member at Large, Clergy Male: Rev. David Berkedal</p> <p>Bishop: Are there any further nominations from the floor?</p> <p>Jane Affonso: For Synod Council Member at Large, Clergy Female: Rev. Ruth Sievert</p> <p>Bishop: Are there any further nominations from the floor?</p> <p>Jane Affonso: For Synod Council Member at Large, Lay Female: Nancy Ackerman and Karen Moyer</p> <p>Bishop: Are there any further nominations from the floor?</p> <p>Jane Affonso: For Synod Council Member at Large, Lay Female Carol Bjelland and Jamie Hovland</p> <p>Bishop: Are there any further nominations from the floor?</p> <p>Jane Affonso: For Synod Council Member at Large, Lay Female: Lisa Curtis and Valerie Shaw</p> <p>Bishop: Are there any further nominations from the floor?</p> <p>For Synod Endowment Committee: Sue Ma and Manny Valdez</p> <p>Bishop: Are there any further nominations from the floor?</p> <p>Bishop Erwin declares the nominations closed.</p>	
	<p>Bishop Erwin invites VP Randall Foster to take the chair; Mr. Foster does so.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin gives Bishop's Report.</p>	20

<p>TECH: SLIDE FROM SYNOD</p>	<p>Introduction of the Synod Staff</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Executive Staff</i></p> <p>The Rev. Reginald Schultz-Akerson, Mobility & Candidacy The Rev. Marjorie Funk-Phil, Congregations & Stewardship Mr. Andreas Hirsch, Finance & Administration</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Part-time Staff</i></p> <p>Ms. Maria Paiva, Latino Ministries The Rev. Reginald Hansome, African Descent Ministries The Rev. Hitoshi Adachi, Asian Ministries Ms. Janet Renick, Youth & Family Ministry</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Support Staff</i></p> <p>Ms. Sheri Dillon, Executive Assistant Ms. Sherri Miller, Bookkeeper Ms. Robin Lujan, Admin. Assistant Ms. Samantha Henderson, Communications (P/T) Ms. Nicole Miller, Admin. Assistant (P/T)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Volunteer</i></p> <p>Mr. Nolan Green, Sacristan</p> <p>VP Randall Foster returns chair to Bishop Erwin</p>	
<p>TECH: SLIDES WITH NAMES FROM SYNOD</p> <p>EACH BATCH OF NAMES HAS ITS OWN SLIDE.</p>	<p>Bishop Erwin now recognizes anniversaries of commissioning/consecration for deacons and ordination for pastors:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Deacons</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>40 years (stand in place for applause)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Della E. Vivien Nancy Berkeland</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>30 years</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Barbara P. Hoffman Karen S. Taylor Marilyn L. Chelsvig</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>25 years</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nancy J. Ackerman</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>15 years</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jamie L. Hovland</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pastors</i></p>	10

70 years

The Rev. W. Clayton Nielsen

60 years

The Rev. Floyd L. Lawson

The Rev. Jerry H. Miller

The Rev. Paul A. Kloth

The Rev. Thomas C. Cooper

55 years

The Rev. Frederick G. Masted

The Rev. John C. Wilker

The Rev. Joseph Wong

50 years

The Rev. Donald R. Koepke

The Rev. Edmond Yee

45 years

The Rev. Andrew W. Chae

Gary L. Wheeler

The Rev. Roger H. Anderson

40 years

The Rev. Brian G. Eklund

The Rev. David A. Hall

The Rev. David J. Berkedal

The Rev. Gerald D. Schaar

The Rev. James S. Maines

The Rev. Jarmo O.I. Tarkki

35 years

The Rev. Albert Starr, Jr.

The Rev. Dana E. Hanson

The Rev. James A. Fuller

The Rev. Ralph Midtlyng

The Rev. Ruth Ellen Sievert

The Rev. Steven R. Herder

30 years

The Rev. Alexia G. Salvatierra

The Rev. Cesar A. Arroyo

The Rev. Gregory J. Kintzi

The Rev. Jack T. Ledbetter

The Rev. Tyrone Partee

25 years

The Rev. Janet A. Bregar

The Rev. William L. Hurst, Jr.

20 years

	<p>The Rev. Marjorie A. Funk-Pihl The Rev. Scott C. Peterson The Rev. Stephen M. Fiechter The Rev. J. Steven Beckham</p> <p><i>15 years</i></p> <p>The Rev. Daniel W. Gibson The Rev. Jeffrey L. Berg</p> <p><i>10 years</i></p> <p>The Rev. Elizabeth A. Radtke The Rev. Patricia R. Lowe The Rev. Sarah D. Sumner-Eisenbraun The Rev. Stephanie B. Jaeger</p> <p><i>5 years</i></p> <p>The Rev. Caleb J. Crainer The Rev. Jennifer A. Chrien The Rev. Steven W. Simpson The Rev. Valerie C. Carlson</p> <p>Bishop Erwin acknowledges those who have retired this year, thanks them for their service, and asks them to stand for applause.</p> <p>Deacon Tempie Beaman The Rev. Ronald F. Cox The Rev. Gary L. Wheeler Deacon Geraldine Wilkowski</p> <p>Bishop Erwin recognizes pastors & deacons new to the synod, welcomes them, and asks them to stand for applause.</p> <p>The Rev. Thomas Baughman-Collinge The Rev. Martin Hancer The Rev. Christopher M. Hogstad Deacon Megan Hogstad The Rev. Elizabeth Nees The Rev. Asher O'Callaghan The Rev. John Santoro (retired)</p>	
<p>TECH: VIDEO FROM SYNOD</p>	<p>Necrology Video</p> <p>Bishop Erwin leads prayer for the faithful departed.</p> <p>Let us pray.</p>	

	<p>Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those you have drawn into your eternal embrace. Keep us in joyful communion with them until we join the saints of every people and nation gathered before your throne in your ceaseless praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>	
12:00 noon	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces XX to say grace; Recess for lunch across the hall in Soiland.</p>	

<p>Business Session 2 Gilbert Arena <i>105 minutes</i></p>		
<p>12:50 pm TECH: SOFT MUSIC START; IMAGES ON SCREEN</p>		
<p>1:00 pm TECH: SWITCHER READY TO MOVE TO QUIZDOM</p>	<p>Randall Foster introduces Desta Goehner Desta Goehner welcomes back, more instructions, exits with hand signals, etc. Fun stuff.</p> <p>Randall Foster introduces Samantha Henderson.</p> <p>Samantha Henderson introduces Tanya DeMots from Quizdom. Samantha and Tanya demonstrate the use of voting machines with sample questions.</p>	15
	<p>Bishop Erwin calls Business Session 2 to order, asks Secretary for the Credentials Report.</p> <p>Secretary moves to the 2nd lectern, gives 1st Credentials Report Secretary reads the report, then says:</p> <p>Reverend Chair, I present the Credentials Report and move its adoption.</p> <p>Bishop: Is there any discussion? Seeing none, I call for a vote. Tanya, are you ready? Call for the vote. (simple majority)</p>	3
	<p>Bishop Erwin & Secretary Digre introduce the mandated constitutional changes</p> <p>Secretary: I move the adoption of the mandated constitutional changes en bloc.</p> <p>Bishop: Are there any provisions that anyone wishes to remove from en bloc consideration? Is there any discussion? Bishop calls for a prayer from a deacon.</p> <p>Vote is held, using voting machines</p>	10

TECH: NAME ON SCREEN	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces</p> <p>“Freed to Serve Moment” Kaela Jones, youth voting member from First Lutheran in Carson</p> <p>My name is Kaela Jones, i am 15 years old, and am a 10th grader at Millikan high school in Long Beach. I am now a confirmed member of First Lutheran Church in Carson, CA and have recently accepted an appointment to be youth representative to the church council. I am also very athletic and I play volleyball for my school and volleyball for club. In the future I am looking to be a gastroenterologist or have something to do with sports medicine.</p>	10
	Bishop Erwin welcomes Jean Kammerer for a important update on the synod Gun Violence task force, and to introduce a video	
	Jean Kammerer speaks briefly	
Video: Gun Violence	Gun Violence Video	
TECH: SLIDES PROVIDED BY SYNOD TWO SLIDES TOTAL	<p>Bishop Erwin invites Vice President Randall Foster to the 2nd microphone for the Synod Council report.</p> <p>VP Randall Foster gives Synod Council report.</p> <p>Introduction of Synod Council Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>2016-17 Synod Council</i> The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, bishop Mr. Randall Foster, vice president Ms. Pat Digre, secretary Mr. Michael Metzger, treasurer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Rev. Jennifer Amos Burgos* The Rev. David Berkedal* The Rev. Valerie Carlson The Rev. Pamela Challis Mr. Robert Chillison* The Rev. William L Hurst Mr. Paul Muller* Mrs. Ana Nieva Ms. Valerie Shaw*</p>	15

	<p>Ms. Jane Affonso, South Bay* Ms. Martha Avila, LA Metro The Rev. Jennifer Chrien, Channel Islands The Rev. Kurt Christenson, Foothill Mr. Nolan Green, Greater Long Beach Ms. Talitha Nelson, Central Coast* Ms. Terri Pyle, Tehachapi Ms. Janice Smith, Twin Valleys* The Rev. Frank Wang, San Gabriel Valley</p> <p>Ms. Rosalie Tarsala, Youth Rep Ms. Karen Moyer, WELCA (non-voting)</p>	
TECH: VIDEO	<p>Video: Living the Resurrection</p> <p>Bishop Erwin introduces Pastor Marj Funk-Pihl, who refers them to the Living the Reformation materials.</p>	5
	<p>Bishop Erwin then introduces the assembly planning committee, and has them stand for applause:</p> <p><i>Synod Assembly Planning Committee</i> The Rev. Scott J. Maxwell-Doherty, <i>chair</i> The Rev. Lawrence D. Becker The Rev. James L. Bessey, <i>worship</i> Deacon Marilyn L. Chelsvig, <i>worship</i> The Rev. Jennifer A. Chrien, <i>Day of Learning</i> Mr. Randall Foster, <i>Synod Vice President</i> Ms. Desta R. Goehner, <i>CLU staff</i> The Rev. Reginald Hansome, <i>staff</i> The Rev. Steven R. Herder, <i>Day of Learning</i> Ms. Samantha Henderson, <i>staff</i> The Rev. Jonathan Hemphill Mr. Andreas Hirsch, <i>staff</i> The Rev. Sarah D. Sumner-Eisenbraun The Rev. Steven W. Simpson, <i>Day of Learning</i></p>	3
	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces Ron Drews, President of LSS for a brief greeting</p>	5
TECH: VIDEO	LSS Video: PowerPoint slideshow	5

	Bishop Erwin introduces Rev. Ron Gluskamp	5
TECH: VIDEO	Churchwide Video	6
	Pr. Ron Gluskamp brings the Churchwide report Gift presentation	25
2:45 pm	Coffee Break	15

<p>Business Session 3 Gilbert Arena <i>105 minutes</i></p>		
<p>2:57 pm TECH: VIDEO</p>	<p>Video: This is most certainly true: Bos</p>	
<p>3:00 pm TECH: NAME ON SCREEN</p>	<p>Bishop Erwin calls Business Session 2 to order, asks Secretary for the Credentials Report.</p> <p>Secretary moves to the 2nd lectern, gives 1st Credentials Report Secretary reads the report, then says:</p> <p>Reverend Chair, I present the Credentials Report and move its adoption.</p> <p>Bishop: Is there any discussion? Seeing none, I call for a vote. Tanya, are you ready? Call for the vote. (simple majority)</p> <p>Bishop Erwin introduces Bishop Andy Taylor of the Pacifica Synod; Bishop Taylor brings greeting</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>TECH: POWERPOINT & HANDOUTS QUESTIONS ON SCREEN</p>	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces Bishop Lull for</p> <p>Bible Study 2 Mark 5:14b-20</p> <p>Gift presentation at the end</p>	<p>45</p>
<p>TECH: SLIDE FROM SYNOD</p>	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces Michael Metzger, synod treasurer, and the members of the Budget & Finance Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Budget & Finance Committee</i> Michael Metzger, <i>chair</i> Ms. Jane Affonso Mr. Robert Chillison Mr. Randall Foster, <i>synod VP</i> Ms. Vickie Kropenske Mr. Phoebus Lee</p>	<p>10</p>

	Michael Metzger gives Treasurer's Report , then announces budget information meeting next morning	
	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces "Freed to Serve Moment" Anthony Eder</p> <p>Anthony Eder is 29 years old and currently the director of outreach for LRCC. He was born and raised in the Midwest but now calls California home. He has passion for music, food, making people happy and most importantly camp. Anthony loves to drum, so you might find him drumming on anything that makes sound.</p>	10
TECH: SLIDE FROM SYNOD	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson, Chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee and the committee members:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Committee on Reference and Counsel</i> Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson, <i>chair</i> The Rev. Ronald F. Cox Stephen Ensberg, Esq. Deacon Barbara Hoffmann The Rev. Elizabeth Nees Rev. John W. Soyster</p> <p>Bishop Erwin: (Reminder of the rules of debate: 2 minutes per person, each person only once per resolution, alternating between pro and con. Take your green or red card to the microphone to indicate pro or con. Timing: you will be given a warning at 30 seconds remaining; when time is up, microphone will lose power.)</p> <p>Total debate will be for twelve minutes, or longer at the discretion of the chair.</p> <p>Amendments must be presented to the Secretary in writing at the time they are proposed. Debate on amendments will be determined by the chair, but may be no more than two speakers for and two against.</p>	10
TECH: BE READY FOR QUIZDOM	Dr. Travick-Jackson presents Resolution #1; reads the "resolveds."	15

	<p>Resolution 17-01: Sanctuary Synod</p> <p><i>RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be declared a Sanctuary Synod; AND</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, that the congregations of our Synod will strive to be places of radical welcome, refuge, and protection; AND</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, that rostered ministers and members of our churches should seek to embody a prophetic witness and articulate a vision of God's justice; AND</i></p> <p><i>RESOLVED, that we will work to protect the dignity, safety, and basic human needs of all immigrants and refugees among us, even by resisting policies that seek to turn away and harm the stranger.</i></p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks speakers for and against to take their card of the appropriate color and move to a microphone. Reminder of 2 minute limit. He asks for one of the sponsors to start by speaking in favor.</p> <p>After three speakers for each side; he calls for the vote. A majority is necessary for adoption.</p>	
<p>TECH: BE READY FOR QUIZDOM</p>	<p>Dr. Travick-Jackson presents Resolution #2; reads the "resolveds."</p> <p>Resolution 17-02: Jubilee USA Network</p> <p><i>RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod become a Jubilee Synod, with its congregations, schools and members being encouraged to: pray for the world's poorest countries; designate a contact person to be a liaison with Jubilee USA; study, and when possible, become Jubilee USA congregations; and take action such as letter-writing to Congress or the Administration calling for economic justice in each country and especially the world's poorest countries.</i></p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks speakers for and against to take their card of the appropriate color and move to a microphone. Reminder of 2 minute limit. He asks for one of the sponsors to start by speaking in favor.</p> <p>After three speakers for each side; he calls for the vote. A majority is necessary for adoption.</p>	15

TECH: VIDEO	Bishop Erwin welcomes John Halbert from Hope LC in Hollywood; John introduces video Video: Recovery & Spirituality	
4:30 pm	Coffee Break	15

Business Session 4 Gilbert Arena 60 minutes		
4:42 pm TECH: VIDEO	Video: Saved by Grace: Bos Screen shot of upcoming Luther movie: Martin Luther: the idea that changed the world	
4:45 pm	Bishop Erwin calls Business Session 2 to order, asks Secretary for the Credentials Report. Secretary moves to the 2nd lectern, gives 1 st Credentials Report Secretary reads the report, then says: Reverend Chair, I present the Credentials Report and move its adoption. Bishop: Is there any discussion? Seeing none, I call for a vote. Tanya, are you ready? Call for the vote. (simple majority)	
TECH: NAME ON SCREEN	Bishop Erwin introduces the Rev. Dr. Ray Pickett of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Ray Pickett makes brief remarks	15
TECH: NAME ON SCREEN	Bishop Erwin introduces Jim Graunke, CEO of Solheim Lutheran Home. Jim Graunke makes brief remarks	5
TECH: VIDEO	Video from Solheim	5
5:45 pm Song slide?	Bishop Erwin declares a recess for dinner; Let's sing "Be present at our table, Lord" Slide?	
6:00 pm Soiland Gymnasium CLU TECH IN SOILAND	Dinner: Moderator? Presentation of the Clarence E. Anderson Peace and Justice Award: Rev. Keith Banwart 10 min	

<p>TECH: VIDEO</p>	<p>Campaign for the ELCA presentation: Pr. Ron Glusenkamp ELCA Campaign video (video 4 min; presentation 15 min)</p> <p>Presentation by LRCC Nate Maxwell-Doherty and Anthony Eder (10 min)</p> <p>Announce CLU/PLTS reception after dinner in the William Rolland Stadium Rotunda and Art Gallery: for alums, family, friends of the schools</p> <p>Announce Budget meeting with the Treasurer, 8:30 am in Gilbert 254, for questions and conversation. Bring your own breakfast!</p>	
<p>TECH: SYNOD Evening LITURGY SLIDES</p>	<p>EVENING PRAYER Leader</p> <p>God is our light and our salvation, our refuge and our stronghold. From the rising of the sun to its setting, we praise your name, O God. For with you is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light.</p>	
<p>MUSIC</p>	<p>Hymn #19: Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory</p> <p>The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p> <p>We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being, and you set light in the sky to govern night and day. In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night you led your people into freedom. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ: may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,</p>	

MUSIC	<p>now and forever. Amen.</p> <p>Psalm 33:12-22</p> <p>¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!</p> <p>¹³The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.</p> <p>¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.</p> <p>¹⁵God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.</p> <p>¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.</p> <p>¹⁷The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.</p> <p>¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,</p> <p>¹⁹to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.</p> <p>²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.</p> <p>²¹Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.</p> <p>²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.</p> <p>O God, by your Word you made heaven and earth, and through your living Word, Jesus Christ, you continue to accomplish your purpose for creation. Make us witnesses to your truth and instruments of your peace, that all may know you are the God who loves justice and acts faithfully; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.</p> <p>Hymn #30: The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended</p> <p>We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
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	<p>Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:</p> <p>Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p>Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.</p> <p>The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.</p>	
<p>7:45 pm Gilbert Arena TECH: MOVIE</p>	<p>Film Screening</p> <p><i>Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World (2017)</i></p>	

SATURDAY, JUNE 3		
8:30 am GSFC 254	Budget Breakfast with the Treasurer	
9:00 am Samuelson Chapel	Choir Rehearsal Worship Leader Rehearsal	
10:00 am Samuelson Chapel	Festival Worship with Holy Communion for the Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation	
12:00 noon Soiland Gymnasium	Lunch	
Business Session 5 Gilbert Arena <i>120 minutes</i>		
12:57 pm TECH: VIDEO	Video: Saint and Sinner: Bos	
1:00 pm Gilbert Arena TECH: SLIDE FROM SYNOD	<p>Bishop Erwin says words of welcome and calls Business Session 5 to order.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin thanks Pastor Jim Bessey, and the worship team for their great work on the worship, the assisting ministers,, and all those who served as worship and communion assistants. Special thanks to Nolan Green for being sacristan. Asks them to stand for applause.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Assembly Worship Committee</i> The Rev. James L. Bessey, <i>chair</i> The Rev. Hitoshi Adachi, <i>staff</i> Deacon Marilyn Chelsvig The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, <i>bishop</i> Mr. Nolan R. Green, <i>sacristan</i> The Rev. Reginald Hansome, <i>staff</i> The Rev. Jonathan Hemphill The Rev. César Gogorza The Rev. Matthew Keadle Ms. Maria Paiva, <i>staff</i> Mr. Joseph Peeples, <i>music</i> Ms. Janet Renick</p>	10

	<p>Mr. Howard Sonstegard, <i>choir</i> The Rev. Frank Wang</p> <p>Bishop Erwin calls Business Session 5 to order, asks Secretary for the Credentials Report.</p> <p>Secretary moves to the 2nd lectern, gives Credentials Report Secretary reads the report, then says:</p> <p>Reverend Chair, I present the Credentials Report and move its adoption.</p> <p>Bishop: Is there any discussion? Seeing none, I call for a vote. Tanya, are you ready? Call for the vote. (simple majority)</p>	
	Bishop Erwin introduces any ecumenical guests necessary	10
TECH: SLIDE FROM SYNOD	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces the Vice Chair of the Nominating Committee Jane Affonso (she takes her place at the 2nd microphone) and members of the committee, who stand for applause:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nominating Committee Rev. David Berkedal, <i>chair</i> Ms. Jane Affonso Deacon Marilyn Chelsvig The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, <i>bishop</i> Mr. Randall S. Foster, <i>synod vice president</i> Mr. Tom Laquidara</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks for a prayer from XX for the elections.</p>	20
	<p>Jane Affonso describes duty of the Nominating Committee: “The Nominating Committee has been tasked to identify nominees for the following positions:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Synod Vice President Six Synod Council Members-At-Large <i>(Two Clergy/Male; One Clergy/Female; Three Lay/Female)</i> Ratification of three Conference Representatives Synod Endowment Committee</p>	
	Jane Affonso: We will proceed to the election of the Synod Vice President. One person was nominated through forms	

<p>TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT</p>	<p>filed in advance. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under “Nominations.” <i>[No additional nominations were made from the floor]</i></p> <p>A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p> <p><i>[If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the two top vote-getters will proceed immediately to the second ballot].</i></p> <p>The nominee is:</p> <p>Mr. Randall Foster of Community Lutheran Church, Los Angeles.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p><i>[If a second ballot is necessary, the procedure is repeated as quickly as Quizdom can organize it.]</i></p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the Vice President-elect.</p>	
<p>TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT</p>	<p>Jane Affonso: The next election is for Synod Council member-at-large, clergy, male. Two candidates were nominated through forms filed in advance. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under “Nominations.”</p> <p>The nominees are:</p> <p>Rev. César Arroyo, Faith Lutheran Church, Canoga Park Rev. Thomas Baughman-Collinge, Christ Lutheran Church, Downey</p> <p>A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the person elected.</p>	
<p>TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT</p>	<p>Jane Affonso: The next election is for Synod Council member-at-large, clergy, male. The incumbent is eligible for re-election and was re-nominated through forms filed in</p>	

	<p>advance. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under “Nominations.”</p> <p>The nominee/s is/are:</p> <p>Rev. David Berkedal, Faith Lutheran Church, San Dimas [NN of congregation, city]</p> <p>A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the person elected.</p>	
<p>TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT</p>	<p>Jane Affonso: The next election is for Synod Council member-at-large, clergy, female. One person was nominated through forms filed in advance. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under “Nominations.”</p> <p>The nominee/s is/are:</p> <p>Rev. Ruth Sievert, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Santa Monica [NN of congregation, city]</p> <p>A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the person elected.</p>	
<p>TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT</p>	<p>Jane Affonso: The next election is for Synod Council member-at-large, lay, female. Two persons were nominated through forms filed in advance. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under “Nominations.”</p> <p>The nominees are:</p> <p>Nancy Ackerman, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, North Hollywood Karen Moyer, St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lakewood</p> <p>A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p>	

	<p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the person elected.</p>	
<p>TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT</p>	<p>Jane Affonso: The next election is for Synod Council member-at-large, lay, female. Two persons were nominated through forms filed in advance. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under “Nominations.”</p> <p>The nominees are:</p> <p>Carol Bjelland, Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks Jamie Hovland, Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Lancaster</p> <p>A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the person elected.</p>	
<p>TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT</p>	<p>Jane Affonso: The next election is for Synod Council member-at-large, lay, female. Two persons were nominated through forms filed in advance. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under “Nominations.”</p> <p>The nominees are:</p> <p>Lisa Curtis, St Luke Lutheran Church, Woodland Hills Valerie Shaw, Community Lutheran Church, Los Angeles</p> <p>A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the person elected.</p>	
	<p>Jane Affonso: The next election is for Member of the Synod Endowment Committee. Two positions are open. Two persons were nominated through forms filed in advance. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under “Nominations.”</p>	

	<p>The nominees are:</p> <p>Sue Ma, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Temple City Emanuel Valdez, First Lutheran Church, Torrance</p> <p>A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the person elected.</p>	
<p>TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT</p>	<p>Jane Affonso: The next election is for Synod Council Conference Representatives. These persons were elected by their Conference Assemblies to be candidates for these positions. No further nominees are allowed; the Assembly's vote ratifies the Conference's decision. Biographical information is in your Assembly books and on the app under "Nominations."</p> <p>The nominees are (and I ask them to stand):</p> <p><i>For the Central Coast Conference</i> Nola Huss of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Santa Maria</p> <p><i>For the Twin Valleys Conference</i> Todd Kolberg of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, North Hollywood</p> <p><i>For the South Bay Conference</i> Jane Affonso of First Lutheran Church, Torrance</p> <p>A single vote shall be cast for the entire slate of nominees. A majority of votes is necessary for election.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin asks Tanya DeMots from Quizdom if they are ready for the vote. If so, he instructs the people to vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin congratulates the persons elected.</p>	
	<p>Jane Affonso: Reverend Chair, this concludes the elections.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin thanks Jane, Pastor Berkedal and the committee and congratulates those elected and thanks all those willing to run.</p>	

1:15 pm	<p>Bishop Erwin calls Ms. Kathleen Chillison to the stage.</p> <p>Kathleen Chillison moves to the 2nd microphone</p> <p>Bishop Erwin recognizes the members of the Endowment Committee and the Allocations Committee, asks them to stand if present.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Endowment Committee</i> Mr. Steve Schwarzkopf, chair Ms. Kathleen Elliott Chillison The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, <i>bishop</i> Ms. Sue Ma Mr. Michael Metzger, <i>synod treasurer</i> Mr. Emanuel Valdez The Rev. William R. Hazard</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Allocation Committee</i> Mr. Emanuel Valdez, <i>chair</i> Mr. Ted Conene Mr. Nelson Cullum Mr. Richard May Ms. Judith Tutt Starr</p> <p>Ms. Chillison announces the Mission & Ministry grants awarded by the Endowment Committee. She comes forward with another member of the committee.</p> <p>Kathleen Chillison: <i>As the grants are announced, would a representative of each congregation come forward and wait here in the front. We'll distribute the envelopes and take a group picture at the end.</i></p> <p>Ms. Chillison reads each name and amount and a brief description of what the grant is for. They go back and forth this way through the 28 grants. Meanwhile, assistants distribute the checks and arrange the picture.</p> <p>While the grants are announced, slides are shown for each.</p>	15
TECH: SLIDE FROM SYNOD		
TECH: SLIDE FROM SYNOD		
MUSIC	Songs from Nate & Anthony?	

Tech: Video	Video ELCA Advocacy: Set Free to Do Justice	4
TECH: SLIDE FROM SYNOD TECH: READY FOR SWITCH INPUT	<p>Bishop Erwin introduces Synod Treasurer Michael Metzger for the Presentation of the Budget</p> <p>Michael Metzger reads the budget summary</p> <p>Michael Metzger moves the adoption of the budget.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin: Asks for discussion. Moderates up to 10 minutes of discussion</p> <p>Bishop Erwin calls for a vote.</p> <p>Bishop Erwin thanks Synod Treasurer Michael Metzger and the members of the Budget & Finance Committee for their strong work.</p>	10
	Bishop Erwin: Our synod Green Team, which does great work on water and environmental issues, has a video for us to watch:	
Video: Green Team	Video: Green Team	
TECH: LITURGY SLIDES FROM SYNOD	<p>Bishop Erwin leads the closing devotions and liturgy</p> <p>Show us your mercy, O God, and grant us your salvation. Give us the joy of your saving help again, and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Give peace in all the world; for only in you can we live in safety. Keep the nations under your care, and guide us in the way of justice and truth. Let your way be known upon earth; your saving health among all nations. Let not the needy be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and sustain me with your Holy Spirit. Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you.</p> <p>A reading from Romans: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit</p>	5

<p>KEYBOARD</p>	<p>intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Rom. 8:26-27)</p> <p>Freed by Christ to Serve: brief reflection by Bishop Erwin</p> <p>Hymn #2 All Are Welcome</p> <p>Closing of a Synod Assembly</p> <p>Jesus said, You will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth. I chose you and appointed you to bear fruit that will last. Remember, I will be with you always, to the end of time. The Lord be with you. And also with you.</p> <p>Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.</p> <p>O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.</p> <p>I declare this assembly closed in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p> <p>Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God.</p>	
	<p><i>The people depart in peace.</i></p>	

Speakers and Guests



Pastor Ron Glusenkamp Churchwide Representative

Ron Glusenkamp is senior pastor of Bethany, the largest congregation in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod. In 2016 he became director of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Prior to his current call, he was vice president of customer outreach at the ELCA Board of Pensions (now Portico Benefit

Services in Minneapolis) from 1999 to 2005. He has served as pastor at three ELCA congregations – Gethsemane Lutheran Church in St. Louis; Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Mo.; and St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kan. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the former Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and a Master of Divinity in biblical studies from the former Christ Seminary-Seminex in St. Louis. He was ordained in 1981.

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, approved in August 2013 by the voting members of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, is a five-year fundraising effort and the ELCA's first comprehensive campaign, seeking to raise \$198 million in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries above and beyond those supported by regular weekly offerings. This goal represents a 64 percent increase in designated funding for the ELCA's existing and new ministry initiatives. The campaign seeks to:

- Renew and begin new congregations
- End poverty and hunger, and overcome malaria
- Identify, train and support new leaders and engage young people in the life of this church
- Expand the ELCA's disability ministries
- Grow this church's capacity to serve globally, support ELCA missionaries and women leaders among global companion churches



Bishop Patricia Lull
Bible Study Leader

The Reverend Patricia J. Lull was elected bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in May 2014. At the time of her election, she was serving as the Executive Director of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches. Previous to that, she worked in campus ministry at Augsburg College, as Dean of Students at Luther Seminary, and as Director of Lutheran Campus Ministry for the ELCA.

A native of Fremont, Ohio, Bishop Lull attended the College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio, where she majored in religion. She completed her theological education at Yale Divinity School. Following her ordination in 1979, Her first call was at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Alpena, Michigan, followed by a second call at Christ Lutheran Church in Athens, Ohio during which she also served as Lutheran Campus Pastor at Ohio University.

Bishop Lull is deeply committed to inter-religious learning and to addressing issues of justice and poverty. She learned from her parents the importance of being deeply engaged in the community in which she lives and volunteers with Project Home, a shelter for homeless families in Saint Paul. She is a published writer and a frequent speaker on topics ranging from faith formation to leadership development.

Bishop Lull has lived in Saint Paul since 2001 and is a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Saint Paul.



Bishop Andy Taylor
Special Guest

The Reverend Andrew A. (Andy) Taylor was elected Bishop of the Pacifica Synod on May 6, 2016, and began work on August 1. He was ordained on August 10, 1986, and served as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministries at Emanuel Lutheran in La Habra, CA from 1986-1992, Solo

Pastor of First Lutheran in Tulare, CA from 1992-1997, and Lead Pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran in San Diego from 1997 until the time of his election. Bishop Taylor graduated with a B.A. in History from Long Beach State in 1980, and earned his Masters of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1986.

A native of Fresno, California, Bishop Taylor's congregation, Bethel Lutheran, experienced growth and enthusiasm for ministry during his childhood when the church began intentionally serving the needs of those who lived in the surrounding low-income

neighborhood. During seminary, Bishop Taylor served a year-long internship at Northside and Zion Lutheran churches in Houston, Texas, serving Spanish-speaking immigrants from Mexico and El Salvador. His experience during that year gave him a life-long interest in immigrants and just immigration policies. His years of youth ministry have spurred an interest in life-long faith formation. He just completed a Doctor of Ministry degree in Congregational Leadership and Mission from Luther Seminary, writing his dissertation on Youth Ministry practices and their lasting effects on the faith of today's adults.

GLOSSARY OF ELCA ACRONYMS AND TERMS

GENERAL ELCA TERMS

ELCA – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Denominational name).

Region 2 – One of 9 regions of the ELCA composed of 5 synods (Southwest California, Pacifica, Sierra Pacific, Rocky Mountain and Grand Canyon).

Churchwide – A term referring to the entire ELCA.

Churchwide Offices – ELCA denominational headquarters in Chicago.

Luther Center – The name for the facility in Chicago that houses the ELCA Churchwide offices.

Presiding Bishop – The elected clergy responsible for the entire ELCA Churchwide; currently serving is Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

SYNOD

Synod – A geographical group of congregations that are a part of the ELCA. There are 65 synods in the ELCA.

SoCalSynod – Southwest California Synod (www.socalsynod.org)

Conference – A geographical group of congregations of the synod:

1. **Central Coast** – 9 congregations located between Solvang and Templeton;
2. **Channel Islands** – 14 congregations between Goleta and Agoura Hills;
3. **Foothill** – 15 congregations in the foothills area between Glendale and Monrovia;
4. **Greater Long Beach** – 13 congregations in Long Beach and surrounding communities;
5. **LA Metro** – 19 congregations including the city of Los Angeles and Santa Monica area;
6. **San Gabriel Valley** – 13 congregations in the San Gabriel Valley;
7. **South Bay** – 15 congregations within a fifteen-mile distance from the coast;
8. **Tehachapi** – 7 congregations in the Lancaster, Palmdale, Frazier Park and Bakersfield areas;
9. **Twin Valleys** – 20 congregations in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys.

Equipping Leaders for Mission (ELM) – School of Lay Ministry designed to educate and equip lay people for enhanced participation in congregational and synodical life through personal spiritual development, biblical enhancement and life-long learning. ELM is a two-year program.

SYNOD LEADERSHIP

Synod Council – 25-member elected board of directors of the synod.

Bishop – The clergy elected by the Synod Assembly to lead a synod of the ELCA; currently serving the Southwest California Synod is Bishop Dr. R Guy Erwin.

Vice-President – An elected lay volunteer.

Executive Committee – 4 officers and 4 at-large members of the Synod Council, elected by the Council.

Mission Teams – Five (5) Committees of the Synod:

1. **Mission Team for Evangelical Outreach** helps the synod and its congregations implement the Synod's Mission Goals of "intentional outreach to the diverse populations of our synod," "the

development of new congregations, the transformation of congregations,” and “the re-rooting of congregations in their neighborhoods.” This team assists in implementation of the ELCA’s Evangelism Strategy as well as assists in implementation of ethnic strategies adopted by the Synod.

2. **Mission Team for Rostered Leadership** provides opportunities to identify and support clergy and lay rostered ministers. This team promotes participation in Conference Collegiums and Continuing Education and relates to the Candidacy Committee assisting those preparing for ministry including those enrolled in the TEEM program and First Call Theological Education.
3. **Mission Team for Lay Leadership** provides opportunities to identify and support lay leaders as they witness and serve in their congregation and in daily life. This team helps the synod and its congregations to implement the Mission Goals of the synod of “intentional outreach to children, youth and young adults” and provides oversight and support for Equipping Leaders for Mission (ELM). This Team relates to the Lutheran Youth Organization, the Young Adult Task Force, the Synodical Women’s Organization, Men’s Ministry, Lutheran Retreats, Camps and Conferences (LRCC) and Campus Ministries.
4. **Mission Team for Justice** helps the synod and its congregations, institutions and agencies address issues of justice in public life from Christian perspectives while being guided in their public witness by the Social Statements of the ELCA. This team works closely with the Lutheran Office of Public Policy and the California Council of Churches in matters of advocacy.
5. **Mission Team for Global Partnerships** helps the synod and its congregations establish connections with the global Christian community by supporting growth in Companion Synod relationships, creating partnerships with congregations in other parts of the world, learning about issues of globalization, and by lifting up opportunities to accompany global churches in their mission. We have 3 Companion Synods in Hong Kong, Ethiopia and El Salvador.

Mission and Ministry (Endowment) Committee – administers the Mission and Ministry Fund and is responsible for the investment of the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund (FLLAF).

First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund (FLLAF) – created from the sale of the former First, Los Angeles property. Disbursement from two-thirds of the income is designated for four purposes: planting and support of new congregations, support of congregations in transition and/or transformation, support of candidates for rostered ministry from this Synod preparing for ministry at one of the ELCA’s seminaries or colleges and support of existing or new agencies and institutions that are deemed important for the ongoing life and mission of Christ as lived out through the Southwest California Synod.

CLERGY/ROSTERED TITLES

The Rev. – The Reverend (ordained minister of Word and Sacrament)

Pr. – Pastor (ordained minister of Word and Sacrament)

The Rev. Dr. – The Reverend Doctor (ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who has a doctoral degree)

MISS – Minister in Specialized Setting (rostered Minister person who serves in a ministry other than a congregation, such as a hospital or military chaplain.)

Assistant to the Bishop – Synod Staff who assist the bishop in carrying out responsibilities (there are 2 Assistants to the Bishop in the Southwest California Synod)

DEM – Director for Evangelical Mission who is called by churchwide to serve in the Southwest California Synod.

DEAC – Deacon (Consecrated Minister of Word and Service)

OLFC– On Leave from Call (a rostered Minister who is currently without a call to a ministry.)

INTERIM – A rostered person, usually called to serve a congregation by the Synod Council, who is serving a ministry in between two called persons.

INTERN – A seminary student who is on staff of a ministry, in training as part of his/her theological education.

RELATED AGENCIES

Lutheran Office of Public Policy (LOPP) - California – Public issues advocacy ministry in California.

Mission Investment Fund Investment (MIF) – Investment fund of the ELCA to financially assist congregations.

ELCA Foundation – sustains and grows ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Through its nationwide network of professional gift planning staff, it assists members in their call to live as faithful and generous stewards. It also supports and strengthens the ministry of congregations, agencies, and institutions through financial education, resources, support and investment management services.

RELATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Seminary – The theological educational institutions that train clergy, Diaconal Ministers, Deaconesses and AIMs. There are 9 Lutheran Seminaries in the US.

PLTS – Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (Berkeley, CA)

CLU – California Lutheran University (Thousand Oaks, CA). The one ELCA university in our region. There are 27 ELCA colleges and universities nationwide.

OTHER SYNOD MINISTRIES

Men In Mission – Men’s ministry of the ELCA.

WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (women’s ministry of the ELCA).

SWO – Synodical Women’s Organization (women’s ministry of the synod).

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Voting Member – active participant elected by a congregation to exercise prayerfully her/his judgment concerning matters to come before the assembly for a vote. Such matters include budget, elections, resolutions and memorials.

Memorial – a motion made by the synod in assembly requesting action by the Churchwide Assembly on a broad policy issue. Following passage of a memorial by the synod in assembly, the memorial is sent to the Memorials Committee of the ELCA where it is reviewed and recommendations made to the next Churchwide Assembly.

Resolution – a request from the Synod Assembly for action that is concrete, specific and within the power of the assembly to implement.

Reference and Counsel – the committee that advises the assembly on resolutions and memorials that have been brought to the Synod Assembly. This committee receives resolutions and memorials, and reviews, catalogues and prepares them for distribution to the assembly for action. Reference and Counsel may offer comments relative to constitutional, administrative or practical considerations.

Plenary – session at which all are present.

Parliamentary Motions Guide

Based on Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)

The motions below are listed in order of precedence. Any motion can be introduced if it is higher on the chart than the pending motion.

YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
§21 Close meeting	I move to adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§20 Take break	I move to recess for	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
§19 Register complaint	I rise to a question of privilege	Yes	No	No	No	None
§18 Make follow agenda	I call for the orders of the day	Yes	No	No	No	None
§17 Lay aside temporarily	I move to lay the question on the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
§16 Close debate	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
§15 Limit or extend debate	I move that debate be limited to ...	No	Yes	No	Yes	2/3
§14 Postpone to a certain time	I move to postpone the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§13 Refer to committee	I move to refer the motion to ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§12 Modify wording of motion	I move to amend the motion by ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
§11 Kill main motion	I move that the motion be postponed indefinitely	No	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
§10 Bring business before assembly (a main motion)	I move that [or "to"] ...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Jim Slaughter, Certified Professional Parliamentarian-Teacher & Professional Registered Parliamentarian
 336-378-1899(W) 336-378-1850(F) P.O. Box 41027, Greensboro 27404 web site: www.jimslaughter.com

Parliamentary Motions Guide
Based on *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (10th Edition)*

Incidental Motions - no order of precedence. Arise incidentally and decided immediately.

YOU WANT TO:	YOU SAY:	INTERRUPT?	2ND?	DEBATE?	AMEND?	VOTE?
\$23 Enforce rules	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	None
\$24 Submit matter to assembly	I appeal from the decision of the chair	Yes	Yes	Varies	No	Majority
\$25 Suspend rules	I move to suspend the rules which ...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3
\$26 Avoid main motion altogether	I object to the consideration of the question	Yes	No	No	No	2/3
\$27 Divide motion	I move to divide the question	No	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
\$29 Demand rising vote	I call for a division	Yes	No	No	No	None
\$33 Parliamentary law question	Parliamentary inquiry	Yes (if urgent)	No	No	No	None
\$33 Request for information	Point of information	Yes (if urgent)	No	No	No	None

Motions That Bring a Question Again Before the Assembly - no order of precedence. Introduce only when nothing else pending.

\$34 Take matter from table	I move to take from the table ...	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
\$35 Cancel or change previous action	I move to rescind/ amend something previously adopted...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	2/3 or maj. w/ notice
\$37 Reconsider motion	I move to reconsider the vote ...	No	Yes	Varies	No	Majority

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin introduced the President of California Lutheran University, Chris Kimball. Chris Kimball welcomed the assembly and asked the alumni from CLU (California Lutheran University) and PLTS (Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary) to stand. Applause from the assembly was given to the connections to the universities. Chris Kimball noted new improvements to the campus. The Los Angeles Rams NFL team is using CLU's field for practice for the time-being and he also noted that CLU just became national champions of their baseball league. Western States Youth Gathering will be held at CLU at the end of June. The Lutheran Identity is strong and looking for partnership to develop more relationships in the future. Chris Kimball discussed the recent merger of PLTS of executive skills for pastors classes with CLU and their learning from one another, faculty, staff and students.

Chris Kimball played a video, *Guiding Passion Into Purpose*, for the assembly that introduced the staff and students at CLU.

FREED TO SERVE MOMENT

Bishop Erwin introduced and explained the "Freed to Serve Moment" testimonials that were offered several times during the assembly. The first testimonial was given by Michael Nelson, a member at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Santa Monica. His testimony was about renewed energy and a moment in his own life when God spoke to him about the vision of doing hospice care for a close friend. Michael realized in his daily living that freedom in Christ is not to be free from something, but freed to do something.

A hymn, song #25, *Oh God Beyond All Measure*, was sung.

BIBLE STUDY

Bishop Erwin introduced Bishop Patricia Lull from the St. Paul Synod in St. Paul, Minnesota which we are partnered with. Bishop Lull led the assembly in the Bible study, the gospel of Mark 5: 1—14a. Bishop Lull was excited about the ties between the St. Paul Synod and the Southwest California Synod offices. She went on to say that in the Twin cities, people are worried about opioid use, human trafficking, school achievement; and how many people hate their jobs and are worried about income from their jobs. These are all God questions and these worries are all really about a quest for freedom. Bishop Patricia Lull brought up two points in a PowerPoint: 1. Christians are perfectly free, lord of all, subject to none; and 2. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

Bishop Lull gave several questions to members to discuss with one other person sitting next to them. The assembly members were asked to share who they thought was "trapped" and how with the other person. Other questions, for small groups, was: How would you interpret this story back home? What would you say? What about what was lost and what was gained?

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bishop Erwin made adjustments to the schedule and called on Jane Affonso, co-chair of the Nominating Committee. Pastor David Berkedal, the chair of the committee, could not attend due to being home on medical orders for a blood clot in his leg. Prayers were offered for Pastor Berkedal and others with chronic pain. Jane Affonso gave the nominating report.

The ballot reflects the representation principles of this church:

At least 60 percent of the voting members shall be laypersons-half of them female and half of them male.

About 40 percent shall be ordained ministers.

Ten percent of the voting members are to be persons of color or persons whose primary language is other than English.

Ten percent of the voting members are to be youth and young adults (ages 14 – 29)

No more than four members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the Bishop, may be from the same Conference.

Sub-groups within the larger group should adhere to the representational principles if possible.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominations: Synod Council Vice- President



Mr. Randall Foster is a retired Healthcare Administrator, having served 38 years in both the public (Los Angeles County - Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew and Harbor-UCLA Medical Centers) and private (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center) sectors.

Mr. Foster has held various responsibilities within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), presently serving as Vice President for the Southwest California Synod (123 congregations from Los Angeles to San Luis Obispo Counties). He served 12 years on the Board of Directors for Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, the last three as its Board Chairman. Concurrently, he served on the Board of Regents at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, having completed 12 years this past summer, the last two years as Board Vice Chairman. As a member of the Board of Directors for Augsburg Fortress Publishing House (now 1517Media) in Minneapolis, he recently completed his 6-year term. For the last three years, he chaired the ELCA's Sustainability Committee for the Theological Education Advisory Council (TEAC), and is presently chairing the communications team for the Future of the ELCA, both in Chicago, Illinois.

Mr. Foster is the recipient of the University of Southern California Distinguished Alumni Award (School of Public Administration) and the National Management Association's (Chapter 402) Manager of the Year. He received his Master's degree from the University of Southern California in Health Care Administration and has served as a preceptor for graduate students from 1991- 2001.

On September 30th, he and his wife Carolyn celebrated 36 years of marriage. The couple has three adult daughters, two of whom reside in Atlanta, Georgia with their respective families and the third lives in Carson, California. They have four teenage grandchildren: Camille, Cameron, Keenan and Kennedy. The Fosters are members of Community Lutheran Church in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Metro Conference

Nominations: Synod Council Member at Large

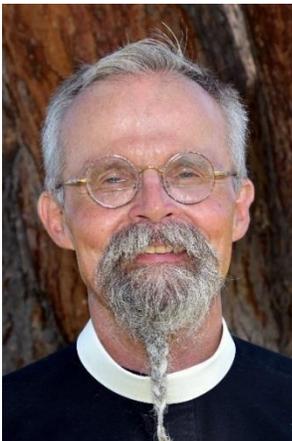
Position 1: Female/Clergy



Pastor Ruth Sievert has served at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Laguna Hills; House of Prayer, Escondido; First, Glendale; Ascension, Baldwin Park; St. Stephens, Palmdale; Trinity, Long Beach; Christ, Downey; Christ the King, Van Nuys; and St. Andrew's, Los Angeles. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University in 1976, and her M.Div at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Her passions include quilting and singing. She is a member of St. Paul's, Santa Monica

*Clergy/Female
Los Angeles Metro Conference*

Position 2: Male/Clergy



Pastor David Berkedal – Statement: Our culture is more than ever in need of the good news of Jesus Christ, and our Lutheran theology is especially relevant to the challenges we face, even as we approach the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. I have been concerned that our confessional movement has shifted from its foundations toward becoming another liberal protestant denomination. I established the Evangelical Mission Network in our synod for those who are likewise concerned. I have served as the solo pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Compton from 1977 to 1986, and as solo pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in San Dimas from 1986 to the present. In addition, I have served in our synod in a variety of capacities, including on the board of directors of Lutheran Social Services, on the synod Evangelism

Committee, on the synod assembly planning committee, and for 7 years (I think this is still a record) as Dean of the San Gabriel Valley Conference. I served as an appointed at-large member of the synod council, and as an elected at-large member for one term. I have also served as chairperson of the Nominating Committee for the past several years, and am also currently serving as Chair of the Synod Policy Handbook Committee. I am married to the Rev. Sally Welch, a clergyperson with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and we have one son, James.

*Clergy/Male
San Gabriel Valley Conference*

Position 3: Male/Clergy

Rev. Cesar Arroyo is Pastor at Faith, Canoga Park, and was Mission Developer in San Pablo, North Hollywood.

I believe that the unity of our Synod is strengthened with diversity.” The presence of diverse ethnic groups give us an excellent opportunity to impact our communities which are constantly changing. It is important that our actions, our presence and our evangelism, accompanied by our ‘historic service’ to and action within the community, develop in concordance with our doctrine as ELCA and the Southwest California Synod. I am happy to service and act within our Synod. May God guide us with clarity to continue doing our best each day.

Clergy/Male

Twin Valleys Conference

Pastor Thomas Boughman-Collinge is a Hospice Chaplain with Vitas Healthcare and served as pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Lehigh Acres, Florida. He is a member of Christ, Downey, where he is a guest preacher and represents the congregation at Lutherans Concerned Los Angeles meetings. He is a member of the Disaster Spiritual Care Team of the American Red Cross, and a Chaplain at the Anaheim Regional Medical Center.

Clergy/Male

Greater Long Beach Conference

Position 4: Female/Lay



Nancy Ackerman is currently serving in a synodical call as vice president with Netzel Grigsby Associates, Inc. She has extensive nonprofit management and fundraising experience in the education, arts, health care, and faith-based sectors. Her expertise includes capital campaigns, major gifts, prospect identification and cultivation, endowments, board and leadership development, governance, and strategic planning. She is a lecturer in the UCLA Extension fundraising program, and has been a member of Southwest California Synod Council and Executive Committee and the Candidacy and Worship and Music Committees of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. She is celebrating the 25th anniversary of her commissioning on June 2nd.

Nancy is a member of Emmanuel, North Hollywood, and has been its organist for 15 years. She volunteers on the boards of the Greater San Fernando Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and FirstServe Community Services of the South Bay (First Lutheran Church), on the Annual Fund Committee of HillSides, and with the Sierra Summer Festival (Mammoth Lakes, CA). She has been president of her church endowment committee and chaired the Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership of Southern California and Hawaii. Nancy is a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and earned a Certificate in Fundraising from UCLA Extension.

*Lay/Female
Twin Valleys Conference*



Jamie Hovland is a member of Our Savior's, Lancaster and a Retired Deacon serving in youth and family ministry and general parish ministry, serving occasionally as an assistant minister and on the congregational LIFT Team while the parish evaluates its direction as it comes to the end of a 30-year pastorate. She has served as a volunteer with a local LGBT Outreach Center and as a board member of our Antelope Valley PFLAG group.

In the last three years, her main synodical involvement has been as a part of the Synod Worship team. She was part of the planning team for Bishop Erwin's Installation and has assisted the Reformation 500th Anniversary Planning Team.

I don't know that I have any special qualifications, but I have known and loved this synod for many years. I've been a deacon for 15 years, and it has been 27 years since I was called in youth and family ministry. 3 years of retirement have been a good break from meetings. If the call comes to serve in this way, I will do so with joy!

Tehachapi Conference

Position 5: Female/Lay

Lisa Curtis is a member of St. Luke, Woodland Hills, where she has served as Vice President of the Congregational Council and Choir Director. She is also part of the Malibu Community Bible Study group.

Lay/Female

Twin Valleys Conference



Karen Moyer – Statement: I was a transplant from Pennsylvania seeking to make a change in my life. When I arrived I said I would never work in a large company, on commuters or in insurance. Well, my day job is with Pacific Life Insurance Company as a Senior System Analyst Lead with the IT Department. I have been with the company 37 years in July and I am doing everything I said I would never do.

As an active member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, I wear many leadership hats such as Vice President, Assisting Minister, Bible Study Leader, and choir member to name a few. I facilitate or coordinate a number of activities such as VBS, Sunday School and Easter Egg Hunt.

Currently, I am chair of the Synod's Lay Leadership Mission team and President of the Southwest California Synod Synodical Women of the ELCA.

A Synod Council member would be a natural progression to my service to the Church and the Synod. I bring leadership and organization skills and the desire to spread the good news of Christ.

Greater Long Beach Conference

Position 54: Female/Lay



Carol Bjelland is a member of Ascension in Thousand Oaks and a retired Associate General Counsel for Verizon. She has served as a congregational council member at large, Global Ministries Team Co-Chair, Communion Assistant, and on the ALC Foundation Board of Trustees and Finance Committee. In the community, she currently serves on both the Kingsmen Shakespeare Company Board of Directors and the Conejo Players Theater **Company**. **She also serves on the Synod Global Ministries Team and was a voting representative at Synod Assembly in 2015 and 2016.**

Channel Islands Conference



Valerie Shaw – Statement: For more than 27 years, Community Lutheran Church has been my church home, having transferred my membership from a Lutheran Church in Chicago where I grew up. My two children, Matthew and Kaylen, were both baptized and confirmed at Community. Throughout the years, I have been active in various aspects of church life including several terms on the Church Council. I have served as a Pastor's Assistant, Fellowship Team Chair, Church Council member, Budget Strategy Team member, community organization's representative, secretary of ADLA, Los Angeles Chapter. In December 2013 I had the honor of being installed as a Deacon, started teaching our children's Sunday school. My prayer is to strengthen my relationship with God and increase my knowledge of the Bible as I continue to seek spiritual maturity.

Los Angeles Metro Conference

Nominations: Conference Representatives

Central Coast



Nola Huss – Statement: I am a retired Family Nurse Practitioner who moved to Santa Maria from Maine four years ago to live closer to my daughter and son-in-law. I have Masters degrees in Nursing and Health Care Management from the University of Southern Maine. I worked primarily in Home Care with a specialty in adult and pediatric wound and ostomy care. Many years ago, when I graduated from high school I thought about entering the ministry but that wasn't a career path for girls in the early 60's. I also found out you needed to have an ability in language studies and I knew I would be terrible at that. So I made nursing my ministry and hoped Jesus would speak to others through my skill, ability and compassion. My nursing career has offered me many opportunities that a poor kid from Texas would not typically have. I

have managed the operating rooms for Operation Smile (surgical mission to repair cleft palates in many countries), trained midwives in Iceland, trained mothers in the Lamaze Childbirth technique, and served on the medical team for Pope John Paul II during his visit to the Marianna Islands.

I am enjoying retirement as it offers me a chance to have the time to serve in other areas of interest. I volunteer at our local Humane Society, I have my very first dog, and I am able to serve on the council of my church (Gloria Dei Lutheran Church). I am also able to become more involved in my Churches ministries and activities, from volunteering in the office to serving as a Stephen Minister. I am also able to spend much more time with my daughter and son-in-law now that I am closer to them.

Lay/Female

South Bay



Jane Affonso – Statement: I have a passion for justice and peace, especially in the interfaith context and have most recently focused on environmental advocacy and fair trade. I Co-chair the synod Green Faith team and serve on Synod Council.

This year I started a Justice Team at First Lutheran in Torrance; we have showed four films, begun serving fair trade tea, stopped using Styrofoam, and engaged in advocacy to implement California's Human Right to Water bill.

Since 2009 I have chaired the Justice and Peace Action Team of the South Coast Interfaith Council and previously served on its Board. I'm Treasurer of Fair Trade Los Angeles and of Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade store in Redondo Beach. I'm also active with the effort to rid the Torrance and Wilmington refineries of hydrofluoric acid. I previously served as Deputy Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice- California.

Lay/Female

Twin Valleys

Todd Kolberg is a member of St. Matthew's, North Hollywood, where he has served as President of the Congregation, Secretary, assisting minister and lector.

Lay/Male

Nominations: Mission & Ministry Committee (Endowment)

Sue Ma began attending worship at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Chinese Ministry, Temple City in 2004. She graduated from Logos Evangelical Seminary with a Lay Ministry degree in 2011, and has served as Chinese Ministry Deacon President and a member of the Congregation Council. She works at Construction Laborers Trust Fund for Southern California as an Accounts Specialist, and her responsibilities include managing receivables at various stages of contracts.

*Lay/Female/Person of Color or First Language other than English
San Gabriel Valley Conference*

Manny Valdez – Please see Guidebook

After each position's nominations, not including the Conference, Bishop Erwin opened the floor to nominations. He closed nominations for each position in sequence after inviting nominations from the floor. There were no nominations.

Synod Council – Vice-President

Randall Foster

Bishop Erwin asked for nominations from the floor; however, none were offered.

Synod Council – Member at Large (Position 1: Female/Clergy)

Rev. Ruth Sievert

Bishop Erwin asked for nominations from the floor; however, none were offered.

Synod Council – Member at Large (Position 2: Male/Clergy)

Rev. David Berkedal

Bishop Erwin asked for nominations from the floor; however, none were offered.

Synod Council – Member at Large (Position 3: Male/Clergy)

Rev. Cesar Arroyo

Rev. Thomas Baughman-Collinge

Bishop Erwin asked for nominations from the floor; however, none were offered.

Synod Council – Member at Large (Position 4: Female/Lay)

Nancy Ackerman

Karen Moyer

Bishop Erwin asked for nominations from the floor; however, none were offered.

Synod Council – Member at Large (Position 5: Female/Lay)

Jamie Hovland

Carol Bjelland

Bishop Erwin asked for nominations from the floor; however, none were offered.

Synod Council – Member at Large (Position 6: Female/Lay)

Lisa Curtis

Valerie Shaw

Bishop Erwin asked for nominations from the floor; however, none were given.

Endowment Committee

Sue Ma

Manny Valdez

Bishop Erwin asked for nominations from the floor; however, none were given.

Synod Council – Conference Representative – Central Coast

Nola Huss

Synod Council – Conference Representative – South Bay

Jane Affonso

Synod Council – Conference Representative – Twin Valleys

Todd Kolberg

Bishop declared the nominations closed – voting held for Saturday morning.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin then introduced the Executive Staff: Rev. Reg Schultz-Akerson, Rev. Marj Funk-Pihl, and Mr. Andreas Hirsch; the Part-time Staff: Maria Paiva, Rev. Reggie Hansome, Rev. Hitoshi Adachi, and Janet Renick; the Support Staff: Sheri Dillon, Sherri Miller, Robin Lujan, Samantha Henderson, and Nicole Miller; and the Sacristan: Nolan Green. All were asked to come forward for recognition.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin recognized anniversaries of commissioning and ordination, beginning with 40 years commissioned:

Deacons:

40 years

Della E. Vivien
Nancy Berkeland

30 years

Barbara P. Hoffman
Karen S. Taylor
Marilyn L. Chelsvig

25 years

Nancy J. Ackerman

15 years

Jamie L. Hovland

35 years

The Rev. Albert Starr Jr.
The Rev. Dana E. Hanson
The Rev. James A. Fuller
The Rev. Ralph Midtlyng
The Rev. Ruth Ellen Sievert
The Rev. Steven R. Herder

30 years

The Rev. Alexia G. Salvatierra
The Rev. Cesar A. Arroyo
The Rev. Gregory J. Kintzi
The Rev. Jack T. Ledbetter
The Rev. Tyrone Partee

25 years

The Rev. Janet A. Bregar
The Rev. William L. Hurst Jr.

20 years

The Rev. Marjorie A. Funk-Pihl
The Rev. Scott C. Peterson
The Rev. Stephen M. Fiechter
The Rev. J. Steven Beckham

15 years

The Rev. Daniel W. Gibson
The Rev. Jeffrey L. Berg

10 years

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Radtke
The Rev. Patricia R. Lowe
The Rev. Sarah D. Sumner-Eisenbraun
The Rev. Stephanie B. Jaeger

5 years

The Rev. Caleb J. Crainer
The Rev. Jennifer A. Chrien
The Rev. Steven W. Simpson
The Rev. Valerie C. Carlson

Ordained Ministers:

70 years

The Rev. W. Clayton Nielsen

60 years

The Rev. Floyd L. Lawson
The Rev. Jerry H. Miller
The Rev. Paul A. Kloth
The Rev. Thomas C. Cooper

55 years

The Rev. Frederick G. Masted
The Rev. John C. Wilker
The Rev. Joseph Wong

50 years

The Rev. Donald R. Koepke
The Rev. Edmond Yee

45 years

The Rev. Andrew W. Chae
The Rev. Gary L. Wheeler
The Rev. Roger H. Anderson

40 years

The Rev. Brian G. Eklund
The Rev. David A. Hall
The Rev. David J. Berkedal
The Rev. Gerald D. Schaar
The Rev. James S. Maines
The Rev. Jarmo O.I. Tarkki

Bishop Erwin acknowledged those who have retired this year, thanked them for their service, and asked them to stand for applause if they were able:

Deacon Tempie Beaman
The Rev. Ronald F. Cox
The Rev. Gary L. Wheeler
Deacon Geraldine Wilkowski

Bishop Erwin recognized pastors and deacons new to the synod, welcomed them, and asked them to stand for applause.

The Rev. Thomas Baughman-Collinge
The Rev. Martin Hancer
The Rev. Christopher M. Hogstad
Deacon Megan Hogstad
The Rev. Elizabeth Nees
The Rev. Asher O'Callaghan
The Rev. John Santoro (retired)

Bishop Erwin directed attention the screen for the necrology video of those who have passed away. He led the prayer for the faithful departed.

LUNCH RECESS

Bishop Erwin introduced Pastor Reggie Hansome to say grace prior to the Lunch Recess. Lunch commenced at 12:00 noon in Soiland Gymnasium.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 2, 1:00 p.m.

Vice-president Randall Foster introduced Desta Goehner for updates on safety and exits. Ms. Goehner welcomed everyone back and repeated the safety instructions. It was announced that shuttles for Samuelson chapel would be provided on Saturday: park in the parking lot, then shuttle to chapel.

Bishop Erwin showed a video on Midweek Eucharist services – Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. at the Synod Office – from over the years.

CERTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Secretary Patricia Digre gave the report of the Credentials Committee. She reported 292 persons were present at 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

Total Voting Members

Clergy	85	34%
Lay	166	
Deacons	4	
Synod Council	20	
<u>Lay Voting Members</u>	<u>142</u>	
Total Voting Members	251	
Total Lay Males	118	47%
Total Lay Females	133	53%
Persons of Color / ESL	56	22%
Voting Members Under 31	34	14%
<u>Visitors</u>	<u>41</u>	
Total Attendance	292	

ADOPTION OF THE CREDENTIALS REPORT

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIALS REPORT** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIAL REPORT CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.03)

BISHOP'S REPORT

Bishop Erwin gave his report (pg. 106), focusing on our congregations being part of a larger body of the church, that our synod is made up of both new and older congregations. He added that there is great hope for the growth of ministry, even though we may not do church in the same way as we have in the past.

As a recognized authority on the Reformation, Bishop Erwin has spent the past year speaking to national and international communities. A week prior to the synod assembly, the Bishop spoke in Wittenburg which was the largest, single event of the Reformation anniversary in Germany. He also noted that he greatly enjoyed being in the Office of the Bishop and being able to do these events, especially in the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Bishop Erwin noted the mural behind the podium – a gift from Pastor Samuel Nieva – and said that it reminded us that our message is the cross and that God's love is stronger than death.

INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-president Randall Foster introduced Samantha Henderson, who guided the assembly through the process of synchronizing the voting machines. Tanya Demont, from Quizdom, tested the machines with a few sample questions.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Bishop Erwin called on Secretary Patricia Digre to go over the mandated constitution changes.

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CONSTITUTION CHANGES** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **ADOPT THE CONSTITUTION CHANGES CARRIED.** (SA17.06.04)

FREED TO SERVE MOMENT

Bishop Erwin introduced the second speaker for “Freed to Serve Moment,” Kaela Jones who gave the second testimonial. She is 15 years old from First Lutheran Church in Carson, who has grown in her faith under the leadership of Pastor Dan Gibson. Now she is a church council youth rep at her congregation.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin introduced Jean Kammerer – of the Lutheran Episcopal Task Force to Prevent Gun Violence – who spoke about the goals of the Task Force. The goals are: clergy and lay members working together to host information tables on gun violence prevention; “The Talk Project” which engages children and adults in discussion about guns; and promoting the California gun violence restraining order which will have guns removed from homes if there is a risk, i.e., suicide, depression, etc. A video on gun violence from the pastor’s point of view was shown, which featured Pastor Dan Gibson and other pastors speaking about their concerns.

SYNOD COUNCIL REPORT

Vice-president Randall Foster came forward to give his report (pg. 112). He brought up how the last three themes of the assembly connected and how service is incidental, not accidental. He then asked Synod Council members to stand and be acknowledged. He thanked every member for their dedication and hard work this past year.

2016-17 Synod Council

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin, Bishop
Mr. Randall Foster, Vice-president
Ms. Pat Digre, Secretary
Mr. Michael Metzger, Treasurer

The Rev. Jennifer Amos Burgos
The Rev. David Berkedal
The Rev. Valerie Carlson
The Rev. Pamela Challis
Mr. Robert Chillison
The Rev. William L. Hurst
Mr. Paul Muller
Mrs. Ana Nieva
Ms. Valerie Shaw
Ms. Rosalie Tarsala, Youth Rep

Ms. Jane Affonso, South Bay
Ms. Martha Avila, LA Metro
The Rev. Jennifer Chrien, Channel Islands
The Rev. Kurt Christenson, Foothill
Mr. Nolan Green, Greater Long Beach
Ms. Talitha Nelson, Central Coast
Ms. Terri Pyle, Tehachapi
Ms. Janice Smith, Twin Valleys
The Rev. Frank Wang, San Gabriel Valley
Ms. Karen Moyer, WELCA (non-voting)

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin introduced Pastor Marj Funk-Pihl to talk about “Living the Resurrection.” The video played which showed the congregational vitality process – an opportunity for churches to find common goals in congregation, community, and other churches. Pastor Funk-Pihl noted that there was more information in the assembly packet and encouraged everyone to read the materials and consider applying to become a Living the Resurrection congregation. The next round will start in the fall of 2017, for congregations who are interested, and the entire program process takes about a year.

ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Bishop Erwin then introduced the Synod Assembly Planning Committee and asked that they stand and be acknowledged by the assembly for their hard work.

Synod Assembly Planning Committee:

The Rev. Scott J. Maxwell-Doherty, *chair*

The Rev. Lawrence D. Becker

The Rev. James L. Bessey, *worship*

Deacon Marilyn L. Chelsvig, *worship*

The Rev. Jennifer A. Chrien, *Day of Learning*

Mr. Randall Foster, *Synod Vice President*

Ms. Desta R. Goehner, *CLU Staff*

The Rev. Reginald Hansome, *staff*

The Rev. Steven R. Herder, *Day of Learning*

Ms. Samantha Henderson, *staff*

The Rev. Jonathan Hemphill

Mr. Andreas Hirsch, *staff*

The Rev. Sarah D. Sumner-Eisenbraun

The Rev. Steven W. Simpson, *Day of Learning*

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin introduced Ron Drews, President of LSS, for a brief greeting. Ron Drews spoke about Central City Lutheran Mission and a new effort there to create affordable housing. He encouraged congregations to participate and support the development of this effort with a \$500 donation. He also discussed LSS’ Voices of Hope, a publication which gives voices to people who share their stories. Ron spoke about a new LSS program that is developing with five churches in Bakersfield, who are getting together to develop grief counseling and, eventually, other counseling services. The San Fernando Valley area is deploying staff into closer relationships with churches, even while closing their office. He thanked the congregations for their warm support of LSS. While he spoke, an LSS PowerPoint played in the background.

CHURCHWIDE REPORT

Bishop Erwin introduced Rev. Ron Glusenkamp, director for the ELCA in Chicago, to give the churchwide report. Rev. Glusenkamp thanked Bishop Erwin for his service on several Churchwide committees. He played a video from Churchwide—featuring Bishop Eaton—which noted that the Lutheran movement is growing rapidly worldwide. World Hunger, AMPARRO and other efforts are being addressed by the ELCA. Rev. Glusenkamp held up the need for leadership in the church: well-trained and well-educated leaders representing diversity are needed. Rev. Glusenkamp thanked the Southwest California Synod for their sustained support of the ELCA and their missions.

RECESS

At 2:45 p.m., Bishop Erwin declared the assembly in recess until 3:00 p.m.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 2, 3:00 p.m.

Bishop Erwin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Secretary Patricia Digre gave the report of the Credentials Committee. She reported 304 persons were present at 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

Total Voting Members

Clergy	89	34%
Lay	170	
Deacons	4	
Synod Council	22	
<u>Lay Voting Members</u>	<u>144</u>	
Total Voting Members	259	
Total Lay Males	123	47%
Total Lay Females	136	53%
Persons of Color / ESL	57	22%
Voting Members Under 31	34	13%
<u>Visitors</u>	<u>45</u>	
Total Attendance	304	

ADOPTION OF THE CREDENTIALS REPORT

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIALS REPORT** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIAL REPORT CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.05)

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin introduced Bishop Andy Taylor of the Pacifica Synod, who then encouraged the assembly to attend the Lutheran Day Dodger game on August 12 when the Dodgers would be playing the San Diego Padres. Bishop Taylor presented Bishop Erwin with a baseball cap, and reported on activities that both southern California synods are sponsoring together.

BIBLE STUDY

Bishop Erwin introduced Bishop Lull to do part two of the bible study, Mark 5: 14b—20, which an assembly member read. Bishop Lull spoke on what life looks like when you are free in Christ: freedom to get over fear, anxiety, doubt, reluctance, and distraction. The first small group discussion focused on the question: “What could your church do that would cause the neighbors to ask you to leave?” The second small group discussion focused on the question, “What do you sense that God is calling you to do?” Some responses to the question were: reaching out to the homeless, reaching out to Muslim population, food tables for the hungry, ministry to the aging, chalk wall, discussion of LBGTQ to come worship with a congregation, school/food sources for kids or mini LSS. Bishop Erwin presented a thank you gift to Bishop Lull.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Bishop Erwin introduced Michael Metzger, synod treasurer and member of the Budget & Finance Committee:

Budget & Finance Committee

Michael Metzger, *chair*

Ms. Jane Affonso

Mr. Robert Chillison

Mr. Randall Foster, *synod VP*

Ms. Vickie Kropenske

Mr. Phoebus Lee

Michael Metzger gave a special thank you to the Budget & Finance Committee for their hard work and dedication, and noted that the budget and finance reports are also available in written form for review. He mentioned the generosity of the congregations for mission support--\$1.64 million—and for institutions and agencies--\$600,000—that was sent this year. This year, separate accounts were created for each property that the Synod is responsible for, and Mr. Metzger acknowledged that he has come up with a more condensed report to make it easier for people to understand the budget. He brought up that he expects the synod’s revenues to remain flat in 2018. The biggest increase in the budget, going forward, is in staffing to help manage the synod office. Mr. Metzger explained that the synod office does bookkeeping and financial reporting for twenty congregations and manages twelve properties.

Michael also made a point that more congregations need to update the constitutions and that the synod is happy to help with this process. He suggested, as well, to be in contact with vice-president Randall Foster regarding changes to the constitution. He also offered a constitution workshop to help congregations. If anyone had any questions or comments, it was offered to go see Michael or go to the Budget Breakfast.

FREED TO SERVE MOMENT

Bishop Erwin introduced the third speaker for “Freed to Serve Moment,” Anthony Eder, who gave the third testimonial. Anthony, 29 years old and the Director of Outreach for LRCC, explained how he loves camp life at LRCC, and how it creates a powerful experience to youth going to camp.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Bishop Erwin introduced Dr. Cecilia Travick-Jackson, chair of the Reference and Counsel Committee, and the committee members:

Committee on Reference and Counsel

Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson, *chair*
 The Rev. Ronald F. Cox
 Stephen Ensberg, Esq.
 Deacon Barbara Hoffmann
 The Rev. Elizabeth Nees
 The Rev. John W. Soyster

Bishop Erwin reminded the assembly of the rules of procedures for resolutions: speakers can only speak for two minutes only, a warning will be given at 30 seconds, and the microphone will lose power after 2 minutes. Each speaker was also instructed to indicate whether they were for or if they opposed each resolution by using their green and red cards. The white card indicated a different issue related to the resolution, not a position for or opposed. Three speakers only will be allowed to speak in favor of and three opposed to each amendment, at the discretion of the chair, and amendments must be presented to the Secretary in writing at the time they are proposed.

Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson presented the first resolution, Resolution 17-01: Sanctuary Synod. She read the four resolved points in the resolution. Bishop Erwin asked for speakers in favor of and opposed to the amendment. Pastor Jim Boline used a white card to request that Vicar Kristian Kohler be permitted to speak by the assembly, since he prepared the resolution, even though he is a visitor. The assembly granted permission for this.

It was **MOVED** to **ALLOW VICAR KOHLER TO SPEAK** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **ALLOW VICAR KOHLER TO SPEAK CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.06)

Dominick—Faith Lutheran Church, Canoga Park—and Pastor Chris Brown—Bethania Lutheran Church, Solvang—both spoke in favor for the Sanctuary Synod resolution. Les Peter—St Andrew’s Lutheran Church, Los Angeles—asked for a motion to change the second resolve. The amendment stated that the Synod would further resolve “that the congregations of our synod will commit to pray for immigrants and refugees among us and will strive to be places of radical welcome, refuge, and protection.”

RECESS

Bishop Erwin declared a recess at 4:30 p.m. until 4:45 p.m., for a coffee break and to allow the amendment to be written and projected on the screen for the assembly to see, prior to a vote on it.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 2, 4:45 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Secretary Patricia Digre gave the report of the Credentials Committee. She reported 304 persons were present at 4:45 p.m. on Friday.

Total Voting Members

Clergy	92	34%
Lay	176	
Deacons	5	
Synod Council	22	
<u>Lay Voting Members</u>	<u>149</u>	
Total Voting Members	268	
Total Lay Males	127	47%
Total Lay Females	141	53%
Persons of Color / ESL	58	22%
Voting Members Under 31	36	13%
<u>Visitors</u>	<u>45</u>	
Total Attendance	313	

ADOPTION OF THE CREDENTIALS REPORT

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIALS REPORT** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIAL REPORT CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.07)**

Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson noted that the change is only to the second resolve of the resolution, then opened the discussion to the amendment. Rosalie Tarsala—Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Altadena—spoke in favor of this amendment to the resolution.

It was **MOVED** to **CHANGE THE SECOND RESOLVE** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **CHANGE THE SECOND RESOLVE CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.08)**

Vicar Kristian Kohler, visitor from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Santa Monica, author of the resolution, and authorized to speak by motion of the assembly; explained his reasons to the assembly for drafting the resolution. Gayle Beard—Mt Cross Lutheran Church, Camarillo—asked for clarification of “existing policy.” Pastor Stephanie Jaegar—St Matthew's Lutheran Church, North Hollywood—spoke to the “existing policy” and explained what that meant: part of sanctuary work is doing public witness and immigration reform; advocacy for immigrations reforms; and how individuals or congregations take steps of resistance is up to you.

Resolution: SANCTUARY SYNOD

- WHEREAS, Holy Scripture repeatedly calls us to welcome the stranger (cf. Leviticus 19:33—34; Matthew 25:31—46), and that this welcome is one of the core values of our faith; AND
- WHEREAS, the Southwest California Synod is home to many immigrants and refugees; AND
- WHEREAS, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) “has welcomed more than 379,000 refugees to the United States through the initiative of Lutheran congregations... and Lutheran churches remain our vital partners as we continue to welcome newcomers,” AND
- WHEREAS, “sanctuary means providing moral, spiritual, psychological, financial, legal and sometimes physical accompaniment and support for undocumented immigrants facing possible detention or deportation,” AND
- WHEREAS, our sisters and brothers in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, with whom we are called to be in common mission, became a “Sanctuary Diocese” by the action of their Diocesan Convention in December 2016, and with whom we are ecumenical partners in Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Services (IRIS); AND
- WHEREAS, the City and County of Los Angeles are places of sanctuary; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be declared a Sanctuary Synod; AND
- RESOLVED, that the congregations of our Synod will commit to pray for immigrants and refugees among us and will strive to be places of radical welcome, refuge, and protection; AND
- RESOLVED, that rostered ministers and members of our churches should seek to embody a prophetic witness and articulate a vision of God’s justice; AND
- RESOLVED, that we will work to protect the dignity, safety, and basic human needs of all immigrants and refugees among us, even by resisting policies that seek to turn away and harm the stranger.

The **MOTION** to **APPROVE** Resolution 17-01 **CARRIED**.

(SA17.06.09)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY cont.

Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson presented the second resolution, Resolution 17-02: Jubilee USA Network. She read the one resolve out loud to the assembly before Bishop Erwin opened the floor to discussion.

Pastor Steve Herder, Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks; Pastor Peg Schultz-Akerson, Lutheran Church of the Master, Los Angeles; and Eloise Cohen, Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, all spoke in favor of the second resolution. A motion was made to extend the debate for two more speakers, adding four minutes.

It was **MOVED** to **EXTEND DEBATE FOR FOUR MINUTES** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **EXTEND DEBATE FOR FOUR MINUTES CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.10)**

Carol Beyonde, Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks; and Carl McGlenn, Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks both spoke in favor of the resolution.

Resolution: JUBILEE USA NETWORK

- WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus in his first sermon in Luke's gospel (Luke 4:14-21), in reading Isaiah 61, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor....", proclaimed "the year of the Lord's favor," the year of Jubilee, described in Leviticus 25 and Deuteronomy 18, a year of freedom and debts being cancelled; AND
- WHEREAS, the year 2017 is the 500th anniversary commemorating the Reformation with one of its key themes being Martin Luther's teaching on freedom in Christ and service to neighbor, significantly to the needy (see his 1524 sermon "On Trading and Usury" LW 45:245-310); AND
- WHEREAS, the 1999 ELCA social statement "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All" includes a call for "scrutiny of how specific policies and practices affect people and nations that are the poorest, and changes to make policies of economic growth, trade, and investment more beneficial to those who are poor" (this includes a call for "reduction of overwhelming international debt burdens in ways that do not impose further deprivations on the poor, and cancellation of some or all debt where severe indebtedness immobilizes a country's economy"); AND
- WHEREAS, the Jubilee USA Network (www.jubileeusa.org) is an alliance of more than 75 US organizations and 550 faith communities working with 50 Jubilee global partners to build an economy that serves, protects and promotes the participation of the most vulnerable; AND
- WHEREAS, since the late 1990s the Jubilee USA Network with its global partners has seen the cancellation of over \$130 billion of odious debts for the world's poorest countries; AND
- WHEREAS, our ELCA Advocacy office in Washington DC annually supports the Jubilee USA Network with a gift of approximately \$10,000 and is present each year at the Jubilee USA Network Council meetings at the Jubilee offices, housed at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation in DC; AND
- WHEREAS, the Jubilee USA Network has active Jubilee chapters in San Diego, San Francisco, and in Ventura County; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod become a Jubilee Synod, with its congregations, schools and members being encouraged to: pray for the world's poorest countries; designate a contact person to be a liaison with Jubilee USA; study, and when possible, become Jubilee USA congregations; and take action such as letter-writing to Congress or the Administration calling for economic justice in each country and especially the world's poorest countries.

The **MOTION** to **APPROVE** Resolution 17-02 **CARRIED**.

(SA17.06.11)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Following the approval of Resolution 17-02, Jubilee USA Network, Pastor Steve Herder requested and was given a moment to speak to the assembly. He presented a Jubilee banner to the Synod office, and every congregation will receive a banner now that they are a Jubilee congregation and synod.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin welcomed John Halbert—Hope Lutheran Church, Hollywood—who introduced the video, *Recovery and Spirituality*. Before the video was played, he asked that anyone who has a recovery group of some kind in their congregation to stand. Most of the assembly rose.

Bishop Erwin introduced Pastor Dr. Ray Pickett, of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) in Chicago and professor of New Testament. Dr. Pickett spoke about the recent merger with California Lutheran University, as partners who are now building Christ's kingdom together. He noted that we are called to more partnerships with others, not just Lutheran. He also spoke about the move into Berkeley from the former site of PLTS, and that the faculty is ready to roll out a new curriculum.

Bishop Erwin introduced Jim Graunke, CEO of Solheim Lutheran Home, who made some remarks about Solheim Lutheran Home and noted that its name is now Solheim Senior Community. Solheim, meaning "Home of the Sun," was established in 1923, is a social ministry of the Lutheran Church and ELCA; and are unique in the field of aging in California, though many have not survived as a faith based agency. After Jim's remarks, the *Life at Solheim Lutheran Homes* video was played.

The video, *Saved by Grace*, which showcased the life at the Southwest California synod office, was played. A screenshot of the upcoming Luther movie—*Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*—is shown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bishop Erwin encouraged the assembly to visit the exhibitors and to purchase Dodger tickets for Lutheran Night at Dodgers Stadium on August 12. It was noted that the photographs of all the statues of Martin Luther, that were displayed around the assembly hall with descriptions underneath, were taken by Pastor Samuel Nieva.

The worship service on Saturday, June 3rd, will be the first event of the day for the assembly, and will start at 10:00 a.m. He also noted that there would be a choir rehearsal in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m., for those who were interested in singing during the service. He requested that clergy should come at 9:30 a.m. to get ready for the processional. There will be an opportunity to meet with synod staff and the Synod Treasurer, Mike Metzger, to discuss any questions about the synod budget.

He announced that there would be more presentations at dinner, no formal business until the morning, an alumni dinner, and then a screening of the new Luther film, funded by Thrivent financial.

RECESS

Bishop Erwin ended the fourth business session at 5:40 p.m. Karen Moyer offered the grace for dinner.

DINNER PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

The Clarence E. Anderson Peace and Justice Award was presented by Pastor Keith Banwart. Pastor Ron Glusenkamp spoke about the Campaign for the ELCA and showed a video. Nate Maxwell-Doherty and Anthony Eder were the presents of the LRCC entertainment and information segment. An announcement was made about a CLU/PLTS reception after dinner in the William Rolland Stadium Rotunda and Art Gallery for alumni, family and friends of the two schools. The Synod budget meeting with Mike Metzger, Synod Treasurer, at 8:30 a.m. in Gilbert 254, for questions and conversation was announced again.

The liturgy for evening prayer was led by Pastor James Boline.

Following the dinner, the film, Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World, was shown and all were invited.

SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2017**WELCOME**

Bishop Erwin welcomed the Assembly back and called Business Session 5 to order. A video, Saint and Sinner: Bos, was played.

Bishop Erwin thanked Pastor Jim Bessey and the worship team for their great work on the worship. He included thanks to all those who served as worship and communion assistants. Special thanks was given to Nolan Green for being the sacristan for the service.

Assembly Worship Committee

The Rev. James L. Bessey, *chair*

The Rev. Hitoshi Adachi, *staff*

Deacon Marilyn Chelsvig

The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, *bishop*

Mr. Nolan R. Green, *sacristan*

The Rev. Reginald Hansome, *staff*

The Rev. Jonathan Hemphill

The Rev. Cesar Gogorza

The Rev. Matthew Keadle

Ms. Maria Paiva, *staff*

Mr. Joseph Peeples, *music*

Ms. Janet Renick

Mr. Howard Sonstegard, *choir*

The Rev. Frank Wang

MISSION MINUTE

Bishop Erwin introduced Carlee Wood, a recent graduate of California Lutheran University, who will be working as a Global Companion this year (2017). Carlee Wood asked for support from the assembly for her work and that of the program, and assembly members can follow her blog at support.elca.org/yagmp. Ninety-six young adults will be sent out this year and they cannot do it without support.

FIFTH BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 3, 1:00 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Secretary Patricia Digre gave the report of the Credentials Committee. She reported 328 persons were present at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Total Voting Members

Clergy	95	34%
Lay	184	
Deacons	5	
Synod Council	23	
<u>Lay Voting Members</u>	<u>156</u>	
Total Voting Members	279	
Total Lay Males	132	47%
Total Lay Females	147	53%
Persons of Color / ESL	64	23%
Voting Members Under 31	36	13%
<u>Visitors</u>	49	
Total Attendance	328	

ADOPTION OF THE CREDENTIALS REPORT

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIALS REPORT** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIAL REPORT CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.12)

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin recognized the ecumenical guests, due to them having to leave.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Bishop Erwin introduced the Vice Chair of the Nominating Committee, Jan Affonso, who read the nominations in lieu of Pastor David Berkedal, the Committee Chair who was unable to attend. Bishop Erwin then introduced the Nominating Committee members, who were acknowledged by the assembly.

Nominating Committee

The Rev. David Berkedal, *chair*

Ms. Jane Affonso

Deacon Marilyn Chelsvig

The Rev. R. Guy Erwin, *bishop*

Mr. Randall S. Foster, *synod vice president*

Mr. Tom Laquidara

Pastor Greg Kintzi lead the assembly in prayer to offer wisdom in the voting process.

Synod Council Vice President

Mr. Randall S. Foster ELECTED

Synod Council – Member at Large – Clergy/Male

Rev. Cesar Arroyo ELECTED

Rev. Thomas Baughman-Collinge

Synod Council – Member at Large – Clergy/Male

Rev. David Berkedal ELECTED

Synod Council – Member at Large – Clergy/Female

Rev. Ruth Sievert ELECTED

Synod Council – Member at Large – Lay/Female

Ms. Nancy Ackerman

Ms. Karen Moyer ELECTED

Synod Council – Member at Large – Lay/Female

Ms. Carol Bjelland

Ms. Jamie Hovland ELECTED

Synod Council – Member at Large – Lay/Female

Ms. Lisa Curtis

Ms. Valerie Shaw ELECTED

Synod Endowment Committee

Ms. Sue Ma ELECTED

Mr. Emanuel Valdez ELECTED

Synod Council – Conference Representatives

Central Coast Ms. Nola Huss ELECTED

Twin Valleys Mr. Todd Kolberg ELECTED

South Bay Ms. Jane Affonso ELECTED

The MOTION to ELECT BY ACCLAMATION was APPROVED.

(SA17.06.13)

The Bishop declared those persons elected.

GRANTS

Bishop Erwin called Ms. Kathleen Chillison, member of the Endowment Committee, to the podium. He recognized the members of the Endowment Committee and the Allocations Committee and asked the assembly to acknowledge their work:

Endowment Committee	Allocation Committee
Mr. Steve Schwarzkopf, <i>chair</i>	Mr. Emanuel Valdez, <i>chair</i>
Ms. Kathleen Elliot Chillison	Mr. Ted Conene
The Rev. R. Guy Ewin, <i>bishop</i>	Mr. Nelson Cullum
Ms. Sue Ma	Mr. Richard May
Mr. Michael Metzger, <i>synod treasurer</i>	Ms. Judith Tutt Starr
Mr. Emanuel Valdez	
The Rev. William R. Hazard	

Ms. Kathleen Chillison announced the Mission and Ministry grants, awarded by the Endowment Committee. She asked that as the grants were announced, a representative of each congregation would come forward. At the end of the presentations, the grant envelopes were distributed and a group picture taken.

REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee of the Synod administers the Mission and Ministry Fund, which was established to receive gifts and bequests to be used for the mission outreach purposes of the Southwest California Synod and the ELCA. The Fund is held in two accounts: the Mission & Ministry Account and the Mission & Ministry Discretionary Account.

In 2017 the Mission & Ministry Account had \$65,484.00 available for distributions, and the Committee approved the following grants:

Resurrection, Redondo Beach	Family Promise	\$ 2500
St. Mark's, Los Angeles	Summer Day Camp for Neighborhood Families	\$ 2500
Central, Van Nuys	Cooking for the Kingdom	\$ 5000
Christ, Long Beach	If We Build It, They Will Have a Place	\$ 4000
Messiah, Los Angeles	Camp Messiah	\$ 5000
Church in the Foothills, La Canada	Smart Board Technology for Youth Conference Room	\$ 3905
Finnish, Solvang	Redevelopment Support	\$ 2500
Pueblo De Dios, Compton	Music Lessons Preparing Worshippers	\$ 1850
Glory, Torrance	Outreach to 4,000 Students at USC	\$ 6000
First Lutheran School, Glendale	Foreign Student Visitor Summer Program	\$ 3960
Christ, West Covina	Vacation Bible School Collaboration	\$ 2000
Hill Ave Grace, Pasadena	Grace Food Shelf	\$ 3000
First, Torrance	Hope & Security for Children of San Salvador	\$ 5000
Holy Redeemer, Bellflower	Food Bank	\$ 2451
St. Matthew's, North Hollywood	Nursing Care & Jobs Program for Weekly Homeless Drop	\$ 5345
Peace, Lompoc	Homeless Warning Shelter Storage	\$ 1290
St. Stephen's, Granada Hills	Twin Valley Joint Confirmation	\$ 3000
Hope, Hollywood	Guardian Angels	\$ 1000
Hope, Atascadero	Sunday School Rejuvenation	\$ 1763
Angelica, Los Angeles	Angelica Center for Arts and Music	\$ 4000

2017 WARNER TRUST GRANTS

Mr. Nelson Cullum, Allocation Committee member, then announced the Warner Trust Grants.

1. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, North Hollywood	\$ 935
2. First Lutheran Church, Inglewood	\$2637

TOTAL: \$3572

MISSION MINUTE

Bishop Erwin introduced video for ELCA Advocacy: Set Free to Do Justice. Bishop Erwin also acknowledged Mark Carlson, Lutheran Office of Public Policy, and thanked him for all his hard work for justice issues.

SYNOD BUDGET

Bishop Erwin introduced Synod Treasurer, Michael Metzger, who said that eight people came to the Treasurer's breakfast. The main question asked was regarding funds to cover the deficit. Michael Metzger moved the adoption of the budget, which included an income of \$2,002,200 and expenses of \$2,163,941 with a net loss of \$161,741 for the 2017/2018 fiscal year. The Bishop asked for discussion from the assembly and then called for the vote when there were no speakers.

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE BUDGET** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **ADOPT THE BUDGET CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.14)

Bishop Erwin thanked Treasurer Michael Metzger and the members of the Budget and Finance committee for their strong work.

Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 February 2017 through January 2018
Proposed Budget 2018

	Feb '16 - Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget 2017	Budget 2018
6113 · Luth. Maritime Ministry	3,396.00	3,350.00	46.00	3,421.00	3,421.00
6118 · Lutheran Planned Giving	5,000.00	10,000.00	(5,000.00)	10,000.00	0.00
6100 · Grants - Other	0.00				
Total 6100 · Grants	107,981.00	115,156.90	(7,175.90)	113,513.00	102,869.00
6200 · Payroll Expenses					
6201 · Bishop	120,454.08	118,208.00	2,246.08	118,208.00	118,208.00
6202 · Staff	242,564.37	205,810.00	36,754.37	168,114.00	209,755.00
Total 6203 · Fiscal Agent Staff	505,913.72	426,921.00	78,992.72	426,921.00	500,000.00
6204 · Support Staff	137,561.77	128,611.00	8,950.77	125,000.00	194,061.00
6206 · Managed Payroll	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6210 · FICA Allowance	9,792.00	12,267.00	(2,475.00)	12,267.00	12,267.00
6211.1 · Payroll Taxes	23,892.80	20,284.00	3,608.80	20,284.00	20,931.00
6212.1 · Pension/Benefits	154,345.70	128,847.00	25,498.70	128,847.00	178,700.00
6213 · Continuing Ed	0.00	1,036.00	(1,036.00)	2,600.00	2,600.00
6214.1 · Workers' Comp	7,215.17	7,505.00	(289.83)	7,505.00	7,500.00
6200 · Payroll Expenses - Other	21.48				
Total 6200 · Payroll Expenses	1,201,761.09	1,049,489.00	152,272.09	1,009,746.00	1,244,022.00
6220 · Staff Expense					
6220-1 · Vehicle Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
6221 · Bishop	27,384.11				20,000.00
6222 · Dir Fin&Admin	1,443.41				2,000.00
6224 · Assist Rosterd Leadership	9,563.94				10,000.00
6225 · Dir Latino Ministry	15,395.01				5,000.00
6226 · Cong Mission	997.82				1,000.00
6227 · AfricanAm Ministries	394.31				1,000.00
6229 · All Staff Expense	4,391.12	55,000.00	(50,608.88)	45,000.00	5,000.00
Total 6220 · Staff Expense	64,569.72	60,000.00	4,569.72	50,000.00	44,000.00
6230 · Administration					
6231 · Office Supplies	16,874.42	13,000.00	3,874.42	13,000.00	15,000.00
6232 · Insurance - Liability	3,688.95	6,000.00	(2,311.05)	6,000.00	5,000.00
Total 6233 · Auditing & Legal	33,068.00	39,000.00	(5,932.00)	42,000.00	33,000.00
6234 · Hospitality	9,169.83	7,000.00	2,169.83	7,000.00	7,000.00
6235 · Postage & Delivery	11,503.67	6,500.00	5,003.67	6,500.00	6,500.00

**Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
February 2017 through January 2018
Proposed Budget 2018**

	Feb '16 - Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget 2017	Budget 2018
6236 · Copier Lease	11,022.67	11,000.00	22.67	12,000.00	11,000.00
6237 · Maintenance & Repair	3,518.72	5,000.00	(1,481.28)	5,000.00	3,500.00
6238 · Rent	0.00	67,000.00	(67,000.00)	0.00	67,000.00
6239 · Telephone	7,321.88	6,000.00	1,321.88	7,000.00	6,000.00
6240 · Printing	2,532.76	4,000.00	(1,467.24)	4,000.00	3,000.00
6242 · Archives	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)	3,000.00	3,000.00
6244 · Information Technology	19,394.72	15,000.00	4,394.72	16,000.00	25,000.00
6245 · Web Page	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	2,000.00	0.00
6246 · Shared Risk	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	1,200.00	0.00
6247 · Interest & Finance Charges	1,355.22				700.00
6248 · Uncollected Funds	1,091.37				0.00
6249 · Office Equipment	1,763.09	5,000.00	(3,236.91)	5,000.00	1,000.00
Total 6230 · Administration	122,305.30	190,700.00	(68,394.70)	122,700.00	186,700.00
6310 · Synodical Ministries					
6311 · Meeting	167.20	200.00	(32.80)		0.00
6312 · Worship	2,803.17	1,000.00	1,803.17	1,000.00	1,000.00
6313 · MLK Service	6,011.83	4,500.00	1,511.83	4,500.00	6,000.00
6314 · Region 2	4,421.29	9,000.00	(4,578.71)	3,000.00	3,000.00
6315 · Reflection Day	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	500.00	0.00
6318 · Chrism Mass	201.98	1,000.00	(798.02)	500.00	0.00
6319 · Communications	1,012.22	7,000.00	(5,987.78)	7,000.00	1,500.00
6322 · Ecumenical	446.96	1,500.00	(1,053.04)	1,000.00	0.00
6323 · Bishop's Colloquy	1,624.14				3,500.00
Total 6310 · Synodical Ministries	16,688.79	25,200.00	(8,511.21)	17,500.00	15,000.00
6330 · Mission Team for Justice					
6331 · Meeting	200.00	200.00	0.00		
6332 · Gun Violence	100.00	100.00	0.00	200.00	
6333 · Hunger	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	200.00	
6334 · Prison & Parole	300.00	300.00	0.00	200.00	
6335 · Middle East Peace	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	
6336 · Immigration & Welcom. Cong	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	
6349 · Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	
Total 6330 · Mission Team for Justice	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00

Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 February 2017 through January 2018
Proposed Budget 2018

	Feb '16 - Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget 2017	Budget 2018
6350 . Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh					
6351 . Meetings	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	100.00	
6359 . Candidacy	3,308.01	5,000.00	(1,691.99)	5,000.00	
6369 . Program	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Total 6350 . Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh	3,308.01	5,100.00	(1,791.99)	5,100.00	5,100.00
6360 . Mission Team for Lay Ministries					
6361 . Lutheran Education	74.33	5,000.00	(4,925.67)	5,000.00	
6362 . Faith Formation	150.00	2,000.00	(1,850.00)	1,000.00	
6363 . Youth	5,588.00	7,200.00	(1,612.00)	3,000.00	
6364 . Misc. Lay Min	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)		
6365 . Scholarships	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)		
Total 6360 . Mission Team for Lay Ministries	5,812.33	20,200.00	(14,387.67)	9,000.00	8,000.00
6370 . Mission Team for EvangOutreach					
6371 . Program	200.00			5,000.00	
6373 . Ethnic	55.00				
6373.1 . Ethnic - African Descent	3,763.32	5,000.00	(1,236.68)	3,000.00	
6373.2 . Ethnic - Asian	2,804.16	5,000.00	(2,195.84)	3,000.00	
6373.3 . Ethnic - Latino	1,707.57	5,000.00	(3,292.43)	3,000.00	
6375 . New Starts & Redevelopment	96.00	1,000.00	(904.00)		
6376 . Stewardship	739.25	2,000.00	(1,260.75)	1,000.00	
Total 6370 . Mission Team for EvangOutreach	9,385.30	18,000.00	(8,634.70)	15,000.00	12,000.00
6380 . Mission Team/Global Partnership					
6381 . Companion Synod	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
6382 . Global Missions	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
6389 . Program	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Total 6380 . Mission Team/Global Partnership	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
6400 . Council					
6401 . Synod Council	2,267.10	8,500.00	(6,232.90)	5,000.00	5,000.00
6402 . Executive Committee	398.01	500.00	(101.99)	500.00	500.00
6403 . Deans' Meeting	230.15	500.00	(269.85)	500.00	500.00
6405 . Budget Meeting	138.00	500.00	(362.00)	500.00	250.00
Total 6400 . Council	3,033.26	10,000.00	(6,966.74)	6,500.00	6,250.00
6430 . Properties under Administration					

**Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
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	Feb '16 - Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget 2017	Budget 2018
6431 . Bakerfield Land	22.46	50.00	(27.54)	50.00	
6432 . South Gate Property	8,551.85	10,000.00	(1,448.15)	10,000.00	
6433 . Christ the King Van Nuys	23,923.85	15,000.00	8,923.85		
6434 . Storage	4,866.00				0.00
6435 . First Lutheran - Glendale	91,341.39				
Total 6430 . Properties under Administration	128,705.55	25,050.00	103,655.55	10,050.00	0.00
6450 . Assembly					
6451 . Registration	721.27				
6451 .1 . credit card fees	(60,903.20)				
6451 . Registration - Other	(60,181.93)			0.00	0.00
Total 6451 . Registration	(60,181.93)			0.00	0.00
6452 . General Expense	15,029.39			20,000.00	11,000.00
6453 . Catering	33,008.49				
6454 . Program	1,387.69				
6455 . Worship	815.28				
6456 . Printing	7,636.56				
6457 . Media	12,731.25				
Total 6450 . Assembly	10,426.73			20,000.00	11,000.00
7000 . Lutheran Center					
7010 . LC Utilities	14,538.64			44,500.00	
7020 . LC Maintenance	3,928.15			5,500.00	
7021 . LC-Cleaning Service	4,409.30			12,000.00	
7030 . LC Food Pantry	1,671.45			2,000.00	
7050 . LC Mortgage Interest	2,434.80			11,000.00	
7060 . LC Repairs	5,619.33			30,000.00	
7070 . LC Insurance	1,105.41			15,000.00	
7090 . LC-Payroll				50,000.00	
Total 7000 . Lutheran Center	41,697.09			170,000.00	0.00
Total Expense	2,173,897.60	2,097,895.90	76,001.70	2,078,109.00	2,163,941.00
Net Income	(55,831.78)	(214,895.90)	159,064.12	(80,109.00)	(161,741.00)

1) shortfall can be covered by endowment draws or allocations from property liquidations.

**Property SoCalSynod
Property Budget
February 2017 through January 2018**

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	<u>Feb '16 - Jan 17</u>	<u>2018</u>
Income		
400000 · Rental Income		
40000 · Luthearn Center	39,110.50	194,460.00
41000 · Reformation	250.00	0.00
42000 · San Pablo NoHo	50,608.23	53,000.00
43000 · Pueblo de Dios Compton	80,506.27	56,600.00
44000 · Lake Los Angeles	4,868.00	0.00
45000 · Chatsworth	15,080.26	37,200.00
47000 · CtK Van Nuys	66,000.00	0.00
Total 400000 · Rental Income	256,423.26	341,260.00
Total Income	256,423.26	341,260.00
Expense		
60000 · Lutheran Center		
60005 · Supplies	4,278.36	0.00
60010 · LC Utilites	43,656.08	43,500.00
60020 · LC Maintenance	17,534.96	17,000.00
60021 · LC Janitorial & Gardener	15,743.18	24,000.00
60030 · LC Repairs & Maintenance	8,930.48	10,000.00
60040 · LC Food Pantry	2,504.65	0.00
60050 · LC Mortgage Interest	2,434.80	2,500.00
60080 · LC Insurance	19,121.44	8,000.00
60081 · Legal Expenses	3,865.70	1,000.00
60085 · LC Property Taxes	12,785.41	12,800.00
60090 · LC Payroll	80,387.34	60,000.00
66006 · First Lutheran Loans	5,048.04	0.00
Total 60000 · Lutheran Center	216,290.44	178,800.00
62000 · San Pablo NoHo		
62010 · SP Utilities	14,220.63	15,000.00
62020 · SP Maintenance	3,652.52	4,000.00
62030 · SP Repairs & Maintenance	31,472.53	10,000.00
62080 · SP Insurance	12,763.83	13,000.00
62085 · SP Property Taxes	33,400.40	5,000.00
Total 62000 · San Pablo NoHo	95,509.91	47,000.00
63000 · Pueblo de Dios		
63010 · PD Utilities	9,468.49	10,000.00
63020 · PD Maintenance	1,957.00	2,500.00
63030 · PD Repairs & Maintenance	36,259.00	15,000.00
63080 · PD Insurance	8,762.22	9,000.00
63085 · PD Property Taxes	24,615.68	5,000.00
Total 63000 · Pueblo de Dios	81,062.39	41,500.00
65000 · Chatsworth		
65010 · CH Utilities	2,272.72	2,300.00
65020 · CH Maintenance	525.79	600.00
65021 · CH Janitorial & Gardener	3,017.50	3,000.00
65030 · CH Repairs & Maintenance	1,309.28	1,500.00

**Property SoCalSynod
Property Budget
February 2017 through January 2018**

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	<u>Feb '16 - Jan 17</u>	<u>2018</u>
65080 · CH Insurance	743.00	1,000.00
65081 · CH Legal	1,842.50	1,000.00
65085 · CH Property Taxes	5,299.28	5,300.00
65090 · CH Payroll	<u>30.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total 65000 · Chatsworth	15,040.67	14,700.00
66000 · Bakerfield Land		
66085 · BL Property Taxes	<u>22.46</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total 66000 · Bakerfield Land	22.46	50.00
67000 · CtK Van Nuys		
67005 · CtK Supplies	50.00	
67010 · CtK Utilities	549.00	
67020 · CtK Maintenance	2,658.00	
67021 · CtK Janitorial & Gardener	1,375.00	
67080 · CtK Insurance	7,180.00	
67081 · CtK Legal	7,514.10	
67085 · CtK Property Taxes	<u>11,890.75</u>	
Total 67000 · CtK Van Nuys	<u>31,216.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>439,142.72</u>	<u>282,050.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-182,719.46</u></u>	<u><u>59,210.00</u></u>

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Erwin introduced Pastor Peg Schultz-Akerson, chair of the Synod's Green Faith Team, who introduced the video: Caretakers of God's Creation. Pastor Peg Schultz-Akerson also noted that, last year, the Southwest California Synod became a restoring creation synod and congregations can also become restoring congregations.

WORSHIP AND RECESS

Bishop Erwin led the closing devotions and liturgy, reading Romans 8: 26—27. He reflected on the assembly theme: Freed in Christ to Serve; noting that we have heard about freedom from fear during this assembly, and how we know we are set free to serve. The assembly had heard many witnesses of service for people, and each is a sign of the Holy Spirit among us. He expressed the hope that we leave this assembly and return to our congregations, ready to hear the Spirit's message on Pentecost and ready to share the Spirit's gifts to share with others.

After the hymn, All Are Welcome, Bishop Erwin closed the 2017 Southwest California Synod Assembly at 2:08 p.m.

ROSTER CHANGES SINCE LAST ASSEMBLY 2016-2017

ORDINATIONS

Steven Phillip Otte	10/29/2016	Ordained	King of Glory, Fountain Valley	Pastor
Hongsun Kim	04/08/2017	Ordained	Christ the King, Torrance	Pastor
Dawn Wilder	04/30/2017	Ordained	Emmanuel, Bakersfield	Pastor

LETTERS OF CALL

Rev Scott Peterson	05/22/2016	Lutheran Church in the Foothills, La Cañada	Pastor
Rev Martin Hancer	06/26/2016	Emmanuel, North Hollywood	Senior Pastor
Rev Steven Phillip Otte	08/07/2016	Grace, Covina	Pastor
Rev Christopher M. Hogstad	09/18/2016	St. Stephen's of the Valley, Palmdale	Pastor
Rev Ioan Ittu	10/02/2016	St. Stephen's, Granada Hills	Pastor
Rev Jennifer Chrien	11/20/2016	Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley	Pastor
Rev Timothy Delkeskamp	02/26/2017	Ascension, Thousand Oaks	Senior Pastor

SYNODICAL LETTERS OF CALL

AIM Nancy Ackerman with non-profits	09/10/2016	Netzel Grigsby Associates	VP engaged in Ministry
Rev Thomas Baughman-Collinge	12/06/2016	Vitas Healthcare	Chaplain
Rev Asher O'Callaghan	12/06/2016	Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries	Program Director
Rev Dawn Wilder	02/18/2017	Emmanuel, Bakersfield	Pastor Re-Developer
Rev Lynn Enloe	02/18/2017	Our Saviour's, Oxnard	Interim Pastor
Rev Kenny Bowen	02/18/2017	Southwest California Synod, Glendale	Interim Pastor
Rev Hongsun Kim	02/18/2017	Japanese Community, Torrance	Pastor Developer
Deacon Lynn Bulock	02/18/2017	New Hope, Agoura Hills	Senior Ministry
Rev. Stephen Fiechter	04/29/2017	Community, Los Angeles	Interim Pastor
Rev. Scott Fielder	04/29/2017	Bethel Lutheran Church	Interim Pastor

TRANSFERS INTO SYNOD

Rev Ronald Gothberg	05/19/2016	Retired	Metropolitan New York Synod
Rev Tom Baughman-Collinge	06/24/2016	Leave from call	Florida-Bahamas Synod
Rev Martin Hancer	09/18/2016	Called	Northeastern Minnesota Synod
Rev Christopher M. Hogstad	09/18/2016	Called	Northwest Washington Synod
Rev Elizabeth Nees	10/21/2016	Leave from Call	New Jersey Synod
Rev Asher O'Callaghan	12/06/2016	Called	Rocky Mountain Synod

TRANSFERS OUT OF SYNOD

Rev Gretchen Bingea	03/13/2016	Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
Rev Stacy Payne	08/23/2016	Rocky Mountain Synod

LEAVE FROM CALL

Rev Chu-wen (Karen) Chen	07/01/2016
Rev Nikki Fielder	10/15/2016
Rev Ruth Ellen Sievert	11/13/2016
Rev Kenny Bowen	11/15/2016
Rev Scott Fielder	12/31/2016

EXTENDED LEAVE FROM CALL

Rev Christine Buma	05/21/2016 (Study Leave)
Rev Stephen Fiechter	12/06/2016
Deacon Lynn Bulock	09/05/2016

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

Mr Le Zhou	10/01/2016 (removed by COB)
Mr Greg Uthus	11/17/2016 (resigned)

RETIRED

Rev Ronald F. Cox	07/01/2016
Rev Gary L. Wheeler	02/21/2017
Rev Tempie Beaman	04/30/2017

DEATHS

Rev Carlos Paiva	11/22/2016
Rev Russ Mueller	01/10/2017
Rev Nimrod Flores	02/17/2017

DISABILITY LEAVE

Rev. Edwin McGee	12/03/2016
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2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	Voting Member <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
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Central Coast

Atascadero, Hope	Rev. Ryan Radtke Rev. Liz Radtke	Linda Doust Joan Helgren
Lompoc, Peace	Rev. Jeffrey Nelson	Sharon Kendrick Talitha Nelson (SC)
Morro Bay, Calvary	Rev. James Berg	Antonia Tway Gerogina Tway (Youth)
San Luis Obispo, Mt. Carmel	Rev. Valerie Carlson (SC) Rev. Daniel Carlson	Ruth Rollefson John Rollefson
Santa Maria, Gloria Dei	Rev. Greg Kintzi	Janet Donaher Ken Woerman Mary Bankert
Santa Maria, Santa Cruz	Rev. Esteban Salazar	Angelica Salazar Lolita Salazar Angeles Salazar
Solvang, Bethania	Rev. Chris Brown	Barbara Kargard Robert Laufer
Solvang, Finnish Lutheran	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Templeton, Bethel	*Rev. Amy Beveridge	Ron Wansa *Paula Wansa

2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	Voting Member <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
<u>Channel Islands</u>		
Agoura Hills, New Hope	Rev. Craig Beeker Deacon Lynn Bulock	Joe Bulock Karen Ingram
Camarillo, Mount Cross	Rev. John Soyster	Gail Baird Robert Brickley Emma Griffis
Goleta, Christ	Rev. Elizabeth Nees	Gerda Knudson *Dwain Vanderhoof
Newbury Park, King of Glory	Rev. Steve Simpson	Walt Chandler *Heather Wetherhold
Oxnard, Our Redeemer	Rev. Nancy Switzler	Allison Johnson Scott Switzler
Oxnard, Our Saviour's	Rev. Lynn Enloe	Mark Hanlon *Sue Hanlon
Santa Barbara, Trinity	Rev. Truls Person Deacon Martha Santrizos	Joan Cartwright Roger Cartwright
Santa Paula, Emmanuel	Rev. Cynthia Jew	Tammy Bender Barry Bender
Simi Valley, Shepherd of the Valley	Rev. Jennifer Chrien (SC)	Julia Honda Marc Mohr Linda Watters
Thousand Oaks, Ascension	Rev. Tim Delkeskamp Rev. Steve Herder	Carol Bjelland Elois Cohen Cole McGlynn (Youth) *Natalie Herder (Youth) *Kaylee Searway *Addie Behm
Thousand Oaks, Holy Trinity	Rev. Eric Goehner	Dale Adrion Fred Lindberg June Slattum
Thousand Oaks, Lord of Life	Rev. Scott Maxwell-Doherty	Natalie Mendez Carlee Wood
Ventura, Trinity	Rev. David Hall	Paul Muller (SC) Bill Flothmeier Sharon Paulson

2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	Voting Member <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
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Foothill

Altadena, Christ the Shepherd	Rev. Mark Witte	Colleen Boye Cheryl Tarsala
Glendale, Salem	Rev. Kurt Christenson (SC) Rev. Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun Deacon Kevin Sumner-Eisenbraun	Ashley Grisham (Youth) Karen Smallfoot
Glendale, St. Matthew's	Rev. Keith Banwart	Dalton Siirila Janet Whitehead *Jordann Hopkins (Youth)
La Canada, Church of the Foothills	Rev. Scott Peterson	Yvonne Baldwin Sophie Peterson (Youth) Janice Schettini
Los Angeles, Eagle Rock	Rev. Violeta Sanders	Rebecca Mulligan Allan Mulligan
Los Angeles, Good Shepherd	*Rev. Ernest King	Claudia Cuevas James Pelling (Not registered)
Los Angeles, Solheim Pasadena, Hill Avenue Grace	Rev. Kathleen Richter Rev. Gene Leiter	Maggie Dickerson Patricia Fortmeier David Fortmeier Rosalie Tarsala (SC) (Not registered)
Pasadena, Reformation	Rev. Jennifer Burgos (SC)	(Not registered)
Pasadena, Trinity	*Rev. Tom Ford	Maureen McConnell Ross McConnell
San Gabriel, Trinity	(Not registered)	(Not registered)

2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	Voting Member <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
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Greater Long Beach

Bell, Grace	TEEM Pastor Maria Elena Montalvo	Maria Luisa Villalta Oscar Villalta
Bellflower, Holy Redeemer	TEEM Pastor Tracy Williams	Eileen Oien Wendell Oien
Cerritos, St. John	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Downey, Christ	Rev. Nancy Hamm	(Not registered)
Lakewood, St. Timothy	Rev. Will Hazard Deacon Karen Taylor	Joan MacKnight Allen MacKnight
Long Beach, Christ	Rev. Dr. Pamela Challis	Ingrid Fuellerman-Ramos Aaron Tidwell
Long Beach, Gloria Dei	Rev. Stephen Beckham	Everett Parker Margie Brown
Long Beach, Our Saviour	Rev. James Proper	Saundra Botts Ken Botts Nolan Green
Long Beach, Resurrection	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Long Beach, St. Luke's	*Rev. Garry Mohr	(Not registered)
Long Beach, Trinity	Rev. Scott Fritz	Cheyenne Williams (Youth) Kathy Glendening
South Gate, Fe Y Esperanza	Rev. Marta Moscoso Salazar	(Not registered)

2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader	Voting Member
	<i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	<i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
<u>Los Angeles Metropolitan</u>		
Culver City, Grace	Rev. James Maines	Jennifer Carter Katie Parks
Hollywood, Hollywood Hollywood, Thai House Fellowship Hollywood, Hope	TEEM Pastor Joseph Castaneda Carrera Rev. Golf Chutimagongrat *Rev. Mark Rasbach	Andrew Johnston (Not registered) Loren Cross Kate Schwartz *John Halbert
Inglewood, Chapel of Peace	Rev. Charlene Limenih	Debra Bowie Paul McDonald
Inglewood, First	Rev. George Villa	Adan Gutzman Elvia Matias Martha Avila (SC)
Inglewood, Holy Trinity	*Rev. James Lobdell	Jordan Foote Patricia Foote
Los Angeles, Angelica Los Angeles, Ascension	(Not registered) (Not registered)	Carol Burton Damani Spearman (Youth) Robert Chillison (SC)
Los Angeles, Bethel	Rev. Scott Bartlett	*Keith Youngblood Ramona Whitney *Gloria Hamm
Los Angeles, Community	Rev. Katherine Tuttle	*Drake Price Mia McNulty Valerie Shaw (SC)
Los Angeles, L/Church of the Master	Rev. Margaret Schultz-Akerson	Randall Foster (VP) *Phoebus Lee Fred Ascher (Youth) Barbara Browning Joshua Nickel
Los Angeles, Messiah Los Angeles, St. Andrew's Los Angeles, St. Mark's	*Rev. Roderick Hines Rev. Caleb Crainer Rev. Matthew Keadle	(Not registered) Les Peters Shawntelle Augustine (Youth) Cheyenne Boykin (Youth)
Los Angeles, Village Santa Monica, Finnish Lutheran Santa Monica, Mt. Olive	(Not registered) Rev. Dr. Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen Rev. Eric Shafer	Magally Burgess *James Burgess (Not registered) (Not registered) Audrey O'Donnell
Santa Monica, St. Paul	Rev. Jim Boline Deacon Barbara Hoffman	*John-David Webster Michael Nelson
Westchester, Westchester	(Not registered)	Mary Tabata Mark Tennyson

2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	Voting Member <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
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San Gabriel Valley

Covina, Grace	Rev. Steve Otte	Bonnie Larini Patricia Linden
Covina, Prince of Peace	Rev. Dr. Thomas Johnson	*Don Martens *Wally Burman
Glendora, Grace of Calvary	(Not Registered)	(Not registered)
Hacienda Heights, St. Mark's	Rev. Jim Bessey	Philip Barnhart Janna Barnhart
La Verne, Rock of the Foothills	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Monterey Park, Christ	Rev. Philip Demers	Daniel Zhang Gladys Chow
Monterey Park, Faith	(Not Registered)	(Not Registered)
Monterey Park, St. Paul's	Rev. Donald Koepke	Jean Sais Edward Sais
San Dimas, Faith	*Rev. David Berkedal	*Diane Biermann *Tom Biermann *Justin Neu (Youth)
Temple City, Bethlehem	Rev. John Yu Rev. Frank Wang (SC)	Sue Ma Linda Koung
West Covina, Christ	Rev. Robert Hamel	Janet Renick

2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	Voting Member <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
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South Bay

Carson, First	Rev. Dan Gibson	Willie Dawson Patricia Jernigan Kaela Jones
Compton, Christ	(Not registered)	(Not Registered)
Compton, Pueblo de Dios	Rev. Samuel Nieva	Ellen Williams Ana Nieva (SC)
Gardena, St. John	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Hawthorne, Olivet	Rev. John Miller	Dorothy Cole Tyrone Smith
Hawthorne, Trinity	Rev. Lawrence Becker	(Not registered)
Manhattan Beach, Trinity	Rev. Luther Martell	Jane Affonso (SC)
Rancho Palos Verdes, St. Paul's	Rev. Jon Gathje	Julie Smalling Fred Smalling
Redondo Beach, Resurrection	Rev. Dr. Ken Johnson Deacon Judy Getzin	Ken Getzin
San Pedro, Good Shepherd	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Torrance, Christ the King	Rev. Dale Krumland Rev. Hongsun Kim	(Not registered)
Torrance, First	Rev. Barbara Valdez Rev. William Hurst (SC)	Nelson Cullum Kate Pulte Pat Digre (Secretary)
Torrance, Glory	Rev. Newman Chiu	(Not Registered)
Torrance, Oriental Church	Rev. Paul Nakamura	*Richard Laux *David Nakamura

2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	Voting Member <i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
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Tehachapi

Bakersfield, Emmanuel	Rev. Dawn Wilder	Barbara Long Christine Montez
Bakersfield, Redeemer	Rev. Jon Christenson	Laura Haywood
Lancaster, Church of the Master	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Lancaster, Our Savior	Rev. James Fuller	Tom Laquidara Lynda Solberg Nancy Fuller Terri Pyle (SC)
Palmdale, St. Stephens of the Valley	Rev. Chris Hogstad	Eileen Collins Sabrina Doyle (Youth)

2017 ASSEMBLY PASTORS / DEACONS / VOTING MEMBERS
(IN CONFERENCE ORDER)

Congregation	Rostered Leader	Voting Member
	<i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>	<i>(* registered, but did not attend)</i>
<u>Twin Valleys</u>		
Burbank, American	(Not registered)	Lynda Pettitt Denis Pettitt
Canoga Park, Faith	Rev. Cesar Arroyo	Dominic Savino Mike Metzger (Treasurer) *Ofelia Barraza *April Guzman (Youth)
Canyon Country, Church of Hope	Rev. George McLeary	Janice Smith (SC) Jessica Mears
Encino, Bethel Lutheran	Rev. Scott Fielder	Linda Dean Eric Renn
Granada Hills, Bethlehem	Rev. Megan Fryling	Jan Maseda Scott Fisher
Granada Hills, St. Stephen's	Rev. Ioan Ittu	Greg Imlay *Debbie Imlay
North Hollywood, Emmanuel	Rev. Marty Hancer Rev. Tricia Lowe Deacon Nancy Ackerman	Carol Bratcher Mark Felicetti
North Hollywood, San Pablo	Rev. Cesar Gogorza	Estela Castellonos Marcos Martinez
North Hollywood, St. Matthew's	Rev. Stephanie Jaeger	Elizabeth Loken James Loken
Northridge, LIFEhouse	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Northridge, Prince of Peace	(Not registered)	Jean Thompson Lee Thompson
Santa Clarita, Bloom	Rev. Ryan Chaddick	Melissa Chaddick
Sun Valley, All Saints	Rev. Ralph Midtlyng	Betsi Freeman Rosemary Lawson
Sylmar, Church of the Foothills	(Not registered)	(Not registered)
Van Nuys, Central	Rev. Larry Eckholm	Roger Smith Wayne Campbell *Elizabeth Solórzano
Van Nuys, St. Andrew's	Rev. Charles Bunnell	Herb Frese Thida Frese
West Hills, Shepherd of the Valley	Rev. Bryan Woken	Marie Brauer Chip Lee
Woodland Hills, St. Luke's	Rev. Janet Hansted	Erin Studer Lisa Curtiss

Synod Council

Jane Affonso	Martha Avila
Rev. Jennifer Burgos	Rev. Valerie Carlson
Rev. Dr. Pamela Challis	Robert Chillison
Rev. Jennifer Chrien	Rev. Kurt Christenson
Nolan Green	Rev. William Hurst
Paul Muller	Talitha Nelson
Ana Nieva	Terri Pyle
Valerie Shaw	Janice Smith
Rosalie Tarsala	Rev. Frank Wang

OFFICERS

Mr. Randall Foster; **Vice President**
 Mrs. Patricia Digre; **Secretary**
 Mr. Michael Metzger; **Treasurer**
 Rev. Dr. R Guy Erwin; **Bishop**

Pastors Under Special Call

Rev. Tom Baughman-Collinge	Vitas Hospice Care
Rev. Marjorie Funk-Pihl	Southwest California Synod
Rev. Reggie Hansome	Coordinator for African Descent Ministries
Rev. Michelle Magee	Santa Paula First UMC
Rev. Melissa Maxwell-Doherty	California Lutheran University
TEEM Pastor Maria Paiva	Coordinator for Lation Ministries
Rev. Reg Schultz-Akerson	Southwest California Synod

MOTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Bishop Erwin introduced Secretary, Patricia Digre, instructed voting members on the rules of procedures and the amendment of three minutes of comments to two minutes. Voting cards were presented to vote on the amendment to adopt the rules of procedure.

It was **MOVED** to adopt the Rules of Procedure and its amendment.

The **MOTION to ADOPT THE RULES OF PROCEDURE CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.01)**
(See Page 5)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE AGENDA.**

The **MOTION to ADOPT THE AGENDA CARRIED.** **(SA16.06.02)**
(See Page 7)

ADOPTION OF THE CREDENTIALS REPORT

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIALS REPORT** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION to ADOPT THE CREDENTIAL REPORT CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.03)**
(See Page 61)

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIALS REPORT** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION to ADOPT THE CREDENTIAL REPORT CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.05)**
(See Page 64)

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIALS REPORT** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION to ADOPT THE CREDENTIAL REPORT CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.07)**
(See Page 67)

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CREDENTIALS REPORT** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION to ADOPT THE CREDENTIAL REPORT CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.12)**
(See Page 73)

ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Bishop Erwin called on Secretary Patricia Digre to go over the mandated constitution changes.

It was **MOVED** to **ADOPT THE CONSTITUTION CHANGES** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION to ADOPT THE CONSTITUTION CHANGES CARRIED.** **(SA17.06.04)**
(See Page 62)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE 2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

It was **MOVED** to **ALLOW VICAR KOHLER TO SPEAK** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **ALLOW VICAR KOHLER TO SPEAK CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.06)

(See Page 66)

RESOLVE TO RESOLUTION 17-01

Dr. Cecelia Travick-Jackson noted that the change is only to the second resolve of the resolution, then opened the discussion to the amendment. Rosalie Tarsala—Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church, Altadena—spoke in favor of this amendment to the resolution.

It was **MOVED** to **CHANGE THE SECOND RESOLVE** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **CHANGE THE SECOND RESOLVE CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.08)

(See Page 67)

EXTEND DEBATE FOR FOUR MINUTES

It was **MOVED** to **EXTEND DEBATE FOR FOUR MINUTES** as presented during the Assembly.

The **MOTION** to **EXTEND DEBATE FOR FOUR MINUTES CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.10)

(See Page 69)

ELECT BY ACCLAMATION

The **MOTION** to **ELECT BY ACCLAMATION** was **APPROVED.**

(SA17.06.13)

(See Page 74)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bishop Erwin called on Treasurer Michael Metzger to present the budget for 2017. At budget breakfast, one thing was brought up, line 6214.1 which is workers compensation being doubled because now we are accounting for all pastors under call to the synod and not just synod staff.

Treasurer Metzger **MOVED** to **ADOPT** the 2017 budget.

The motion to **ADOPT** the 2017 budget **CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.14)

(See Pages 76-83)

Resolution 17-01: Sanctuary Synod

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America be declared a Sanctuary Synod; AND

RESOLVED, that the congregations of our Synod will commit to pray for immigrants and refugees among us and will strive to be places of radical welcome, refuge, and protection; AND

RESOLVED, that rostered ministers and members of our churches should seek to embody a prophetic witness and articulate a vision of God's justice; AND

RESOLVED, that we will work to protect the dignity, safety, and basic human needs of all immigrants and refugees among us, even by resisting policies that seek to turn away and harm the stranger.

The **MOTION** to **APPROVE** Resolution 17-01 **CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.09)

(See Page 68)

Resolution 17-02: Jubilee USA Network

RESOLVED, that the Southwest California Synod become a Jubilee Synod, with its congregations, schools and members being encouraged to: pray for the world's poorest countries; designate a contact person to be a liaison with Jubilee USA; study, and when possible, become Jubilee USA congregations; and take action such as letter-writing to Congress or the Administration calling for economic justice in each country and especially the world's poorest countries.

The **MOTION** to **APPROVE** Resolution 17-02 **CARRIED.**

(SA17.06.11)

(See Page 70)

ELECTION RESULTS FROM THE 2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**Synod Council – Vice President** **Term Ends**Mr. Randall S. Foster ELECTED 2020**Synod Council – Member at Large – Clergy/Male** **Term Ends**Rev. Cesar Arroyo ELECTED 2020Rev. David Berkedal ELECTED 2020**Synod Council – Member at Large – Clergy/Female** **Term Ends**Rev. Ruth Sievert ELECTED 2020**Synod Council – Member at Large – Lay/Female** **Term Ends**Ms. Karen Moyer ELECTED 2019Ms. Jamie Hovland ELECTED 2019Ms. Valerie Shaw ELECTED 2019**Synod Council – Conference Representatives** **Term Ends****Central Coast Conference:** Ms. Nola Huss ELECTED 2019**South Bay Conference:** Ms. Jane Affonso ELECTED 2019**Twin Valleys Conference:** Mr. Todd Kolberg ELECTED 2019**Synod Endowment Committee** **Term Ends**Ms. Sue Ma ELECTED 2019Mr. Emanuel Valdez ELECTED 2019The **MOTION** to **ELECT BY ACCLAMATION** was **APPROVED**.**(SA17.06.13)**

(See Pages 74)

ELECTION RESULTS FINAL:

Synod Council – Vice President – Mr. Randall S. Foster,	ELECTED
Synod Council – Member at Large – Rev. Cesar Arroyo,	ELECTED
Synod Council – Member at Large – Rev. David Berkedal,	ELECTED
Synod Council – Member at Large – Rev. Ruth Sievert,	ELECTED
Synod Council – Member at Large – Ms. Karen Moyer,	ELECTED
Synod Council – Member at Large – Ms. Jamie Hovland,	ELECTED
Synod Council – Member at Large – Ms. Valerie Shaw,	ELECTED
Central Coast Conference Rep – Ms. Nola Huss,	ELECTED
South Bay Conference Rep – Ms. Jane Affonso,	ELECTED
Twin Valleys Conference Rep – Mr. Todd Kolberg,	ELECTED
Synod Endowment Committee – Ms. Kathleen Elliott Chillison,	ELECTED
Synod Endowment Committee – Ms. Kathleen Elliott Chillison,	ELECTED

NOT-ELECTED *Synod Council – Member at Large*

Rev. Thomas Baughman-Collinge

NOT-ELECTED *Synod Council – Member at Large*

Ms. Nancy Ackerman

NOT-ELECTED *Synod Council – Member at Large*

Ms. Carol Bjelland

NOT-ELECTED *Synod Council – Member at Large*

Ms. Lisa Curtis

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel;
it is the power of God for salvation
to everyone who has faith ...

– Romans 1:16

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On Oct. 31, 1517, 500 years ago, Martin Luther posted his “Ninety-five Theses” in Wittenberg. This resulted in a debate about Christian teaching and practice that led to significant reforms that shaped the course of Western Christianity. As we gather to meet in synod assemblies during the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it is a good time to reflect on what it means to be Lutheran.

Neither culture nor behavior define what is distinctive about the Lutheran movement. It’s our understanding of the gospel. We proclaim Jesus Christ crucified and raised from the dead for the life of the world. It is this gospel word that creates faith and sets us free to serve the neighbor.

We are freed and renewed in Christ.

The church’s proper work is to proclaim the gospel word. “We are to fear and love God, so, that we do not despise preaching or God’s word, but instead keep that word holy and gladly hear it and learn it” (Small Catechism).

I have invited and encouraged all of you to engage in reading Luther’s Small Catechism together. This is to be done in a way that is most promising for your community of faith and most fitting for the relationships in your community. Resources are available at ELCA500.org/withnewvoices.

As a church deeply rooted in Scripture and in Christ, this church continues to be shaped by the changing face of our communities, by new migration patterns and national and global trends affecting religion and society. We are a community of faith that is always forming and being renewed, and as a church we engaged in a process, Called Forward Together in Christ, to help us tell the story of the church we are becoming. Through that process, we developed ELCA Strategic Directions 2025. This strategic framework identifies goals and priority areas for the ELCA as a whole church.

What is the church we are becoming?

- A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people.
- A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church.
- An inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity in our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.
- A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in our communities and around the world.
- A well-governed, connected and sustainable church.

As we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, I pray that ELCA Strategic Directions 2025 will guide and foster ELCA church unity in the years ahead. To learn more about these strategic directions, visit ELCA.org/future.

One of the ways we are achieving our goals together as a church is through *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Throughout 2017, the campaign will emphasize ministries supporting Global Church. The ELCA is known as a faithful partner in the work to build up Christ's church throughout the world and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, risen for the life of the world.

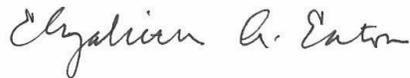
If you don't have the date on your calendar already, be sure to note that Sept. 10 is our suggested date for the 2017 dedicated day of service. If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day. "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

As we gather in our synod assemblies, let us remember that together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully. I pray that God blesses your time together.

I give thanks to God for each of you, for our more than 9,300 congregations, for our 65 synods and our churchwide ministries. As a church freed and renewed in Christ, may we bear witness to a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

With gratitude,

Elizabeth A. Eaton



Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

A la verdad, no me avergüenzo del evangelio, pues es poder de Dios para la salvación de todos los que creen ...

– Romans 1:16

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

El 31 de octubre de 1517, hace 500 años, Martín Lutero hizo públicas sus “95 Tesis” en Wittenberg. De ahí siguió un debate sobre las enseñanzas y la práctica cristiana que condujo a importantes reformas que moldearon el curso del cristianismo occidental. Ahora que nos vamos a reunir en asambleas sinodales durante el 500 aniversario de la Reforma, es un buen momento para reflexionar sobre el significado de ser luteranos.

Ni la cultura ni el comportamiento definen aquello que distingue al movimiento luterano. Lo que lo define es nuestro entendimiento del evangelio. Proclamamos al Cristo crucificado y elevado de entre los muertos para la vida del mundo. Es esta palabra del evangelio lo que crea la fe y nos libera para servir a nuestro prójimo.

Somos liberados y renovados en Cristo.

La verdadera obra de la iglesia es proclamar la palabra del evangelio. “Debemos temer y amar a Dios, de tal manera que no despreciemos la predicación ni la palabra de Dios, sino que honremos la santidad de dicha palabra y la escuchemos y aprendamos con alegría” (Catecismo Menor). Les he invitado y animado a todos ustedes a unirse en la lectura del Catecismo Menor de Lutero. Debemos hacerlo de la manera que sea más promisorio para su comunidad de fe y más apropiada para las relaciones en su comunidad. Los recursos están a su disposición en **ELCA500.org/withnewvoices**.

Como iglesia con raíces muy profundas en las Escrituras y en Cristo, esta iglesia continua siendo moldeada por el rostro cambiante de nuestras comunidades, por nuevos patrones de migración y por las tendencias nacionales y globales que afectan a la religión y la sociedad. Somos una comunidad de fe que siempre está siendo formada y renovada y, como iglesia, emprendemos un proceso, Called Forward Together in Christ (Llamados a Avanzar Unidos en Cristo), para poder contar la historia de esa iglesia en la que nos estamos convirtiendo. Por medio de ese proceso, desarrollamos las Directrices Estratégicas de la ELCA para el 2025. Este marco estratégico identifica metas y áreas prioritarias para la ELCA como una iglesia completa.

¿Cuál es la iglesia en la que nos estamos convirtiendo?

- Una iglesia que prospera difundiendo el evangelio y profundizando en la fe para todas las personas.
- Una iglesia que está equipando a las personas para sus vocaciones bautismales en el mundo y en esta iglesia.
- Una iglesia acogedora y de bienvenida que refleja y recibe con agrado la diversidad en nuestras comunidades, así como los dones y oportunidades que aporta esa diversidad.

- Una iglesia visible, profundamente comprometida con la obra ecuménica y con las demás personas de fe en pos de la justicia, la paz y la reconciliación en nuestras comunidades y en todo el mundo.
- Una iglesia bien gobernada, conectada y sostenible.

En este momento de celebración por el 500 aniversario de la Reforma, oro para que las Directrices Estratégicas de la ELCA para el 2025 guíen y promuevan la unidad eclesial de la ELCA en los años venideros. Para conocer mejor estas directrices estratégicas, les invito a que visiten **ELCA.org/future**.

Uno de los medios por los que estamos alcanzando nuestras metas unidos como iglesia es *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA (Siempre siendo renovados: la campaña para la ELCA)*. A lo largo del 2017, la campaña enfatizará los ministerios que apoyen la Iglesia Global. La ELCA es reconocida como asociado fiel en la obra de levantar la iglesia de Cristo en todo el mundo y de proclamar la buena nueva de Jesucristo, resucitado para la vida del mundo.

Si todavía no han marcado la fecha en su calendario, asegúrense de apuntar que el 10 de septiembre es nuestra fecha sugerida para el día dedicado al servicio en el 2017. Si su congregación no puede participar en esta fecha, por favor consideren otro día. El domingo de “La obra de Dios. Nuestras manos” es una oportunidad para que exploremos una de nuestras convicciones más básicas como luteranos: que toda la vida en Jesucristo –cada acto de servicio, en cada llamado cotidiano, en cada esquina de la vida– fluye libremente de una confianza viva y valiente en la gracia de Dios.

Al reunirnos en nuestras asambleas sinodales, recordemos que unidos en Jesucristo somos liberados por la gracia para vivir en la fe, dar testimonio valiente y servir con alegría. Oro para que Dios bendiga el tiempo que estén reunidos.

Doy gracias a Dios por cada uno de ustedes, por nuestras más de 9,300 congregaciones, por nuestros 65 sínodos y los ministerios de nuestra organización nacional. Como iglesia liberada y renovada en Cristo, pido que seamos testigos de un mundo que experimenta la transformación por obra de la gracia y amor de Dios en Cristo para todas las personas y para la creación.

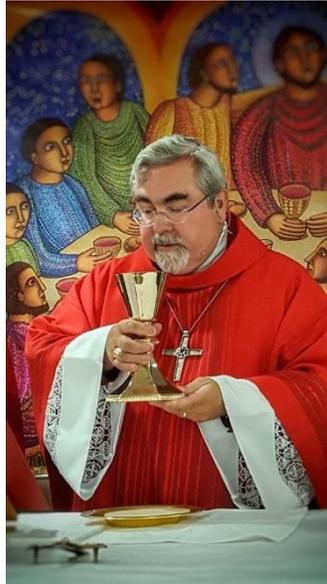
Con gratitud,

Elizabeth A. Eaton



Obispa presidente
Iglesia Evangélica Luterana en América

Bishop R. Guy Erwin



Called Forward Together in Christ: Strategic Directions for the ELCA

Introduction

Since the beginning of last year, our ELCA been engaged at the Churchwide, synodical, and conference levels in a systematic review of our church's life: strengths, challenges, anxieties and hopes. In last year's conference meetings, I have led you through some reflection on how your churches are doing and what they are hoping for in the years ahead. VP Randall Foster and I have collected that and shared it with the Synod Council and the national church.

Some of you participated in the process directly through the online survey the ELCA made available, and about which your congregations were informed through letters, e-mail, at these meetings, and at the Synod Assembly last year. Then the ELCA went through all the information and came up with a draft report. This was then shared with the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and we discussed it and made recommendations last October. Then the ELCA Church Council took a turn at it at its December meeting in Chicago. And now we have a report: *Called Forward Together in Christ: Strategic Directions for the ELCA*.

Copies of the report are available here in your packets and in Guidebook. It is also available on the ELCA website. You're welcome to take it with you and read it at your leisure. But I want to use this report to let you know what I think it means for us in this synod. I will do this by going through the five main goals the strategic directions document puts forward.

The church we are becoming

1. A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people

What does it mean to thrive? I'm glad our church has connected "thriving" to how we live out our purpose and not just to our numbers or size or wealth. We want to spread the gospel and deepen people's faith, no matter what. We want to tell the story of God's love and mercy to all who need to hear it, whatever the cost. We want to feed hungry hearts with food that never gives out; to quench our world's thirst for the water that gives life. This is what Christ's church has always been about—communicating God's love and healing, and strengthening the faithful for service to their neighbor. And I believe this is what our synod is called to do here in Los Angeles and beyond.

But doing this, in our society and in the kind of church we are, has not gotten easier. Once upon a time, it was taken for granted that religious affiliation and being part of a religious community was simply part of what it meant to be a good person, a good citizen, and a good neighbor. But no longer. Our aspirations for ourselves and our children today are happiness, prosperity, health and fulfillment. Few people feel driven by fear of judgment or even by social pressure to belong to churches. More and more seem to think that the kind of sacrifice of time and money active church membership requires more commitment than they are willing to make, though they may enjoy the fellowship and respect the tradition. As individuals and as families we are pulled in so many directions today; so many things bid for our attention; life seems to require us to juggle so much. And the church often comes short in the balance.

Our congregations are caught in this dilemma: though they are wonderful communities, even our strongest congregations have to work harder to keep people's loyalty. Neighborhoods change fast: some have turned over twice or three times in the 60 years or so most of our congregations have existed. So we live farther from the churches we grew up with or for which we have long associations. Our members find themselves fewer and fewer as others leave. This is not failure; this is simply change. We have done our best to present something to our communities that they no longer want as badly, or for which they have found substitutes.

So what does "thriving" mean for our congregations today? I think we need to reassess that, and the strategic directions document gives us some suggestions in the goals that follow.

2. A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church

What does it mean for us to be Lutheran people in service to the world? We preach a liberating gospel, a message that is brutally honest about our human weaknesses, and critical of the lazy assumptions that organize our world of consumption and pleasure—but our gospel is also a word of hope that anchors us to a loving, merciful God. This is something that we need, especially in a world in which meaning is hard to find. May we not let go of either of these realities: our (and our world's) need for God, and God's infinite patience and love shown in Jesus Christ.

We preach a message that warns us that spiritual growth doesn't mean getting comfortable with our assumptions, but questioning ourselves and pushing ourselves to greater faithfulness. Not because God will reward us—the reward came first—but because it is the right thing to do. I think our greatest challenge as a church is that we have told people that if they are just decent

and don't do anything too bad, everything will be OK. Everything WILL be OK—but not because we have been lazy about helping others, and have overlooked injustice in our midst. It will be OK because God promises it will be. God offers grace for free—but God doesn't promise that a life lived in faith will be effortless!

I believe a church is not Lutheran unless it proclaims freedom from the law, but at the same time rejoices in works of mercy, done not for our sake or God's sake, but just because they help someone else.

I believe a church is not Lutheran unless it teaches that our baptism is not just a birthright but a call to live together in peace and trust, and to work for change in the world around us. We are different because God has marked us for difference, and calls us to service.

I believe a church is not Lutheran unless it calls people to God's actual presence in their midst: in preaching a hard but welcome truth about our weakness and God's love for us anyway; in feeding God's people with Christ's body and blood in worship that is elevating and empowering; in maintaining a holy ministry of the ordained to nourish and sustain the whole servant priesthood of the baptized to which we all belong.

I believe a church is not Lutheran if it is not suffering from the consequences of the love it is compelled to show the world. To care truly for those who suffer injustice will always, inevitably, anger those with power and privilege, and bring criticism from others who do not understand our motives.

This is why we need leaders who know what we stand for and are not afraid to say it; leaders—both lay and ordained—who reach out and speak out and make us visible. In today's world, visibility and viability are closely connected. I don't want any Lutheran congregation to die a well-kept secret, cherished by the few who tended its tiny flame. I would rather we take risks and let ourselves be known.

I think this means a teaching church: teaching discipleship; teaching scripture; teaching our Lutheran theological distinctives. This year we are doing this intensely: the Reformation Roadtrip; synod worship gatherings; continuing education opportunities; the upcoming catechism initiative—all of these are for our strength and for the community's needs. I want us to be a church that understands what it does and why it does it. And as your bishop and your sibling in Christ, I pledge myself to this effort for the rest of my life.

I think this It means, as hard as it is, to try to get young people together and keep them together in activities they can enjoy, and which work against the forces in society that try to turn them into consumers first and people second. It means getting ourselves and our youth out of their comfort zone and into an engagement with a world that may seem scary, but which needs us. We are blessed to have strong youth leaders and wonderful ELCA opportunities like the Western States Youth Gathering this year and the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2018.

Every way we can work together inter-generationally is a good thing: “God’s work, Our Hands” Sunday projects; feeding programs and food pantries; clean-up days; mission trips. Service has its own meaningfulness; working together is satisfying and takes us out of our bubbles and connects us to people in need.

3. An inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity in our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings

How do we embrace our diversity? I think this is something we do well in general, but not always in every congregation. The bright line between growing and declining congregations may well be right here: how well do we invite people in who are not like us? How well do we help people different from us feel comfortable in our midst and part of our congregations? What holds us back from that? If this is difficult, why? What do you fear to lose? Is it just too much work?

We live in one of the most diverse parts of the United States; our synod reflects diversity to a greater degree than almost any other ELCA synod—and yet our congregations are largely mono-ethnic. How can we be more intentionally multicultural? How can we keep working to resist racism? How can we build bridges between communities? I am greatly blessed to be able to worship often with our ethnic-specific congregations; I see what holiness is in their worship and I appreciate the gifts of the Spirit they bring. I wish all our congregations could share that experience, for it is truly enriching and a sign of God’s reign!

4. A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in our communities and around the world.

How are we doing this? How can we do it better? Again, I believe we do this well in general, but how well is it understood and supported in our congregations? Are we really interested in making a difference in the communities around us? Or have they become foreign territory for us? How can we bridge that gap? Whenever I visit a congregation that is thinking about its future viability and wondering if it can afford to sustain its ministry, I always ask “Who would miss you if you were gone?” If the answer is “nobody beyond those already in the congregation,” I suggest a new, outward orientation—or considering how else the congregation’s resources could be used generously to help others.

Many of our congregations have poverty and hunger outreach. Others are good at raising awareness and funds for emergencies and disasters. Some of our congregations strongly support LSS and LIRS, ELCA World Hunger or LWR. We are a generous and caring church. But we need to connect not just our wallets, but our hands and bodies to the care we support financially. It is my dream to have synod-supported social service outlets in various places in the synod, partnering with LSS or other skilled agencies to provide direct care to people who live precarious lives or have no homes.

I also believe our congregations should be places where we advocate and act for social justice. The gospel does not invite us to congratulate the prosperous and secure for their virtue—it points

out to us how far we have to go to bring true justice to others, and critiques us for our complacency in the face of others' need. Economic status, race, gender, sexual orientation, language, education—all these things divide us. Jesus unites us in his one body—it is up to our congregations to show that by the quality of the welcome they offer.

Synod taskforces and interest groups help create connection in a larger way: justice, care of the earth, support of those in recovery, prison reform, reduction of gun violence, global development and mission—all these things bring together people across the congregations at the synod and national levels. I am proud of the active and even activist church we have become, and I pray for and support our synod-wide justice and care initiatives.

5. A well-governed, connected and sustainable church

What does this mean? We should be clear in our priorities and governance. We should strengthen relationships, be transparent and have accountability to each other. We have never lacked for congregations and pastors who are willing to hold the synod and the wider church accountable for what they don't like—I think it's time for congregations to hold each other accountable, too—to the goals and standards we embrace as a synod and as a church. It's time we got rid of antiquated prejudices against each other as though ministry is a zero-sum game in which someone always loses. When we work together generously and charitably, everybody wins. The scarcity mentality that comes with the reality of our gradual membership loss cannot stop us from being brave and bold in our desire to carry out our church's mission.

For in fact, we are rich in assets and resources. It's just that too much of them goes to maintaining structures that have lost focus or energy for mission. I think we need to think about new ways of being church: congregations without property perhaps, or without a single, full-time pastor all their own; merged and multi-point congregations; maybe even community gathering points where service and teaching happens first and worship second. Strong, well-organized churches have a lot of life ahead of them; we need to be sustaining them, AND trying new things at the same time—new things that small, tired congregations have trouble doing on their own.

We're doing that already in this synod: we have a number of ministries—some in the southern part of Los Angeles—that will likely never be middle-class, self-sustaining congregations, because the people they serve are poor—and there is an endless supply of the poor. We are better at this together as a synod, or as area ministry groups, than just as free-standing congregations, and I hope congregations and the synod can keep on working together for good.

I am committed to structural reform; financial responsibility; long-term sustainability of synod ministries; keeping our commitments to the wider church; using the resources and memory of legacy congregations for the long-term future; and promoting generosity among congregations and individuals.

Conclusion

Though there is much to be anxious about in our world, in our nation, even in our church, I believe there is even more to rejoice in. We are richly endowed with property and assets through

the faithfulness of the generations before us. We are heirs of a powerful theological and intellectual tradition—500 years old!—that helps us steer a steady course, cherishing scripture while not falling into literalism; taking what we can learn from secular knowledge without forgetting that we are children of God, and that the whole of science and nature reveal God’s wonders, even if we can’t understand how.

And most—and best—of all, we have the Easter hope that we celebrate in this season. If Jesus rose, we too shall rise—and if that is true, nothing else matters. Nothing can silence God’s word shown to us in Christ and active in our world—through the Gospel proclaimed, the water of baptism splashed around, and the eating and drinking of Our Lord’s body and blood forming us into Christ’s own people, parts of his very body, and strengthening us for the work that lies ahead.

I am proud to be a proclaimer of the gospel truth of God’s love and grace shown in Christ. I rejoice in your call to me to be a leader and teacher in Christ’s church for the sake of the world. I give thanks to God for you, your prayers, your strength and your generosity of spirit, as together we take up Jesus’ yoke and proclaim him to the peoples! Amen.

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Report of the Synod Council by the Vice President
Synod Assembly, June 2-3, 2017

In 2015, the Synod Assembly took time to image and consider the many ways in which we engage in ***“Sacred Intersections”***. We viewed the possibilities, the potential, and the purposeful realities that allow us to be a blessing to one another, to do God’s Work with our hands. In many ways, we were led to fully appreciate how our interrelationships with each other are not only a commandment – “Love God, love neighbor” but are intrinsically and innately a blessing of the greatest order, for the greatest purpose.

In 2016, we drew together in assembly, intentionally acknowledging those intersections in life that propels us to action as we ***“Welcome the Stranger”***, into our communities, our neighborhoods, our congregations and yes, our homes. We are all strangers to someone or somebody, hoping to be welcomed in places that may be unfamiliar or for which we are unaccustomed. This year, we shall contemplate furthering our interactions and intercession with and for others by advancing last year’s theme from “welcoming” to offering and extending our ability to “serve”. We are ***“Freed in Christ to Serve”*** wherever our faith shall lead. We will be discussing our values in the context of this freedom to serve, to respond to the world’s needs, to react to the circumstances and situations of our recent times, and to intercede in the plight of others. In so doing, you will be provided an opportunity to consider the impact and implications of designating the synod – and correspondingly – our congregations as “sanctuary shelters”.

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reminds us that our work on behalf of others is indicative of *“responding for the sake of the world.”* We elicit your prayers as you discuss these intentional levels of engagement.

Your Synod Council continues to forge ahead on matters of mutual interests and importance. Faithfully, its membership has thoughtfully met, deliberating on matters of programming, finance, services and outreach ministry. They have pursued and familiarized themselves with volumes of information and reporting, resolutely concluding their reviews with insightful recommendations and resolutions for which I, as the vice president, am most appreciative.

We thank those on our council whose terms have concluded, several having completed up to six years of diligence and resourcefulness. Many thanks to Rev. Jennifer Amos-Burgos, Robert Chillison, Rev. Rustin Comer, Paul Muller, and Jan Smith for their prayerful insight and prominent presence.

Their departures obviously warrant the process for replacement and thus the need for synod assembly nominations and elections. You will be offered the opportunity to seek among our active ELCA membership, representatives who shall serve with the needed resolve and commitment of time and talent in the performance of their

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constituted roles. We ask God's blessings on all who have allowed themselves to be considered and who ultimately shall extend their Christian service as members of the synod council, beginning with the fall season.

With much anticipation, we have watched the council's goal for establishing a more widespread and purposeful role for the **Lutheran Center for Education and Mission** flourish, following its receipt as a *Legacy Gift*. Over the last year and a half, increasingly, the center has offered educational programs and sessions for all Southwest California congregants. At times, it has become rather customary to witness several groups on campus enjoying the setting, enhancing their appreciation for service and ministry while appreciating what the Lutheran Center has to offer. Gathering together during a communal lunch, these groups share the elements of their respective exchange with excitement and confidence that God is doing a new thing! Even the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary has plans for an immersion program for its students on campus, extending an invitation to Pacifica Synod to involve those in their respective conferences who have aspirations for formal ministry instruction. Perhaps the most visible of the Lutheran Center's planned education came in the form of Bishop Erwin's Reformation Roadtrip, a didactic series of instruction covering the life and times of Martin Luther while acknowledging the *500th Year of the Reformation*. The overarching inquiry for each of the sessions as they began thus far has been: Is your passport stamped? And, with a hearty smile, many raise their documents with an affirming "yes!" Two remaining sessions are scheduled between now and October. The Southwest California Synod is truly blessed to have as its Bishop, arguably the most informed professor on the subject of the Reformation in the ELCA. Great job, Bishop!

These and other opportunities for advanced education are becoming the norm at the Lutheran Center with prospects of even more extensive sessions in the future. The Lutheran Center and other outreach ministries no doubt require thoughtful attention and financing. The synod council has approved the creation of a dedicated philanthropic approach to help ensure that these services are never compromised or marginalized. Dedicated resources will be sought that, once received, will augment the existing synod ministries in complement to ***the ELCA's Campaign "Always Being Made New"*** with emphases on congregational vitality, church leadership, and hunger & poverty. These dedicated resources will help to aid in ways in which the existing synod budget is and has been limited. Certainly, there is much more to come on this issue, although its importance cannot be overstated as we seek various ways of enhancing and furthering our effectiveness in ministry "for the sake of the world."

Your council has also addressed itself rather soundly to the complexities of synod-life over the last year, discussing, debating and deriving decisions that marshaled in the following approved actions:

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Synod Council Meeting – June 21, 2016

- Approved constitution updates for Holy Cross - Ojai, St. Luke's – Woodland Hills, Gloria Dei – Long Beach, St. John's – Gardena, Emmanuel – North Hollywood.
- Approved new ministries at Lord of Life CLU Campus Ministry, Abundant Life – Channel Islands (Episcopal/Lutheran Ministry).
- Established a steering committee to negotiate with organizational partners that can help advance the precepts of the Lutheran Center for Education and Mission.
- Approved Synod Convocators to California Lutheran University.
- Approved updates to the Rostered Leaders Fair Compensation & Benefits Workbook
- Approved changes to Rostered Leaders Register
- Reviewed quarterly financial results

Synod Council Meeting – September 10, 2016

- Held the biennial synod council retreat
- Approved Fall Conference Assembly schedule and agenda topics
- Approved resolutions addressing property transfers, unrestricted endowment income, required synod officer fiduciary responsibilities, and rostered changes
- Approved endowment stock sale in keeping with 2014 Audit recommendations
- Approved new *synodically authorized worshipping communities* and identified *congregations under development*
- Received status reports on grants extended through the Warner Trust and the Mission & Ministry 2015 Grant cycle
- Reviewed quarterly financial results

Synod Council Meeting – December 3, 2016

- Activated the Nominating Committee for 2017
- Activated the Reference and Counsel Committee for 2017
- Activated the Synod Assembly Planning Committee for 2017
- Reviewed and approved the Evangelism and Outreach Ministry Team recommendations for funding new starts and development congregations. Fifteen ministries were approved, totaling \$104,000
- Approved the Spring Conference Assembly dates
- Assessed mid-year financial results

Synod Council Meeting – February 18, 2017

- Conducted Synod Governance Review of structure, form and function
- Approved Synod Philanthropy Initiative
- Received 2016 Audit Plan
- Approved Rostered changes
- Outlined plans for 2018 Budget preparation and presentation

Synod Council Meeting – April 29, 2017

- Approved the 2018 Synod Program Budget with creative narrative for presentation to the Synod Assembly in June
- Created a taskforce to assess and make recommendations to the current Synod Constitution (Governance Report, Part-2)
- Declined the request from Grace of Calvary to disaffiliate retaining its property based on constitution provision *C6.05
- Approved presenting the LAC Assessor's property reports as market valuation estimates for properties under synod jurisdiction
- Approved allocating \$9,000 to conduct formal property market valuations for 3 of 9 synod properties, including the Lutheran Center

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- Approved En Bloc, including constitutions as present during the last quarter and all rostered changes through March, 2017

For each synod council meeting, you must equally know that there was also a corresponding executive committee meeting the week before and a budget and finance meeting held also two weeks prior. These important working sessions help to ensure that the aforementioned decisions by the council emanate from sound and informed judgment.

It is always gratifying as plans begin to come to fruition, as initiatives are launched with fervor and eagerness, and as progress is measured by significance and influence to witness God's unchanging hand in the process. With great effort, the Synod has strived to be responsive and resourceful to congregational and conference needs while guiding its actions with prudent stewardship in mind. The council has been responsive to audit recommendations, presented proposals, market trends and bequests criteria, all while addressing the daily affairs of ongoing and active ministry from Central Coast to Greater Long Beach.

On a personal note, I have also been honored to serve as your lay representative at the Churchwide level, serving equally on the Boards of *Augsburg Fortress Press* (now 1517Media), *California Lutheran University*, the ELCA's *Theological Education Advisory Committee* and the ELCA's *Called Forward Together in Christ Initiative* – Future Directions Table. I have been extremely blessed in doing so on your behalf!

Pastor Reg Schultz-Akerson
Assistant to the Bishop for Rostered Leadership



“Freed in Christ to Serve” is my heart-felt prayer and hoped-for outcome as I carry out my ministry in this synod. I seek to approach each conversation, meeting, and encounter as an opportunity through which the Spirit is at work to liberate and empower the Church to be about God’s gracious purposes in the world. Though the days are often long and always call upon me to offer my best self, I am thankful for the daily gift of seeing God’s work being done through our collective hands.

CANDIDACY

Providing oversight for the candidacy process of our synod is a key responsibility for me. It is my privilege to serve alongside the following individuals in our synod: *Bishop R. Guy Erwin, Pastor Pam Challis, Pastor Reggie Hansome, Deacon Shannon Savage-Howie, Susan Tolle, and Manny Valdez.* Our synodical candidacy committee works in collaboration with Pacifica Synod’s committee. Together we are called the Cooperative Candidacy Committee of the Pacifica and Southwest California Synods. The mission of this committee is to raise up, prepare, certify and place public leaders in the ELCA.

Over the past year, the following **five** individuals were approved for **Entrance** into the candidacy process: *Paul Benz, Rev. Wally Burman (ordained in another Christian tradition), Elizabeth Denton, Rev. David Lin (ordained in another Christian tradition), and Rev. Violeta Sanders (ordained in another Christian tradition).* **Five** candidates were **Endorsed** to continue in the process: *Roderick Hines, Maria Montalvo, Maria Pavia, Tracy Williams, and John Yu.* Each of these five candidates are in the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) Program and are serving one of our congregations as TEEM Pastors. **Three** individuals completed their education, as well as all necessary candidacy steps, and were **Approved** to be

ordained: *Henry Martinez, Rev. Hongsun Kim (ordained in another Christian tradition), and Karleen Jung.*

CONGREGATIONS AND ROSTERED LEADERS IN TRANSITION

Guiding, coaching and assisting congregations who are in search for a pastor or a deacon, as well as rostered ministers who are open to call, is a primary focus in my portfolio. Below is a brief summary of what has transpired over the past year.

Ordinations: As a synod, we were blessed to celebrate **three** ordinations since the last assembly as follows: *Steven Otte, 10/29/2016; Hongsun Kim, 04/08/2017, and Dawn Wilder, 04/30/2017.*

Congregational Calls Extended: It has been a joy to watch the Holy Spirit on the move through the call process and to assist these **eight** congregations in calling the following rostered ministers to serve them: *Rev Scott Peterson, as pastor of Lutheran Church in the Foothills, La Cañada (05/22/2016); Rev Martin Hancer as Senior Pastor of Emmanuel, North Hollywood (06/26/2016); Rev Steven Otte as pastor of Grace, Covina (08/07/2016); Rev Christopher Hogstad as pastor of St. Stephen's of the Valley, Palmdale (09/18/2016); Rev Ioan Ittu as pastor of St. Stephen's, Granada Hills (10/02/2016); Rev Jennifer Chrien as pastor of Shepherd of the Valley, Simi Valley (11/20/2016); Rev Dawn Wilder as Pastor Re-developer at Emmanuel, Bakersfield; Rev Hongsun Kim as Pastor Developer of the Japanese Community, Torrance (02/18/2017); Deacon Lynn Bulock as Deacon for Senior Ministry at New Hope, Agoura Hills (02/18/2017).*

Other Calls for interim pastors and specialized ministry have been issued through the Synod Council and a listing of these can be found in the report of roster changes

Currently in Transition: At the writing of this report, there are 23 congregations in one phase or another of transition. Here is a review of their various situations:

- One (1) congregation is about to **extend a call**.
- Four (4) are currently **interviewing**.
- Seven (7) are preparing **to interview**.
- Eleven (11) congregations are in an intentional **discernment process**. With synod staff guiding them, these congregations are exploring various possibilities in respect to the shape and direction of their next chapter of ministry. In some cases, the outcome may not include the calling or appointing of a pastor.

Region 2 Mobility Conferences: There is a commitment among the five synods of Region 2 to regard each rostered minister who is open to call in one synod as open to call in all the synods. I am thankful for the collaborative efforts each synod staff makes to share the names of prospective pastors and deacons. We also problem solve together in identifying candidates for complex or unique calls. A hallmark of our working together is the two Mobility Conferences that we offer each year. The Rocky Mountain Synod hosted one in Denver on June 20 & 21. Our synod was the host for the second conference held at the Lutheran Center on December 6 & 7. At each event, 15-20 rostered ministers from across the nation are interviewed by panels of Region 2 bishops and staff. The fruit of this endeavor is that we become acquainted with

several promising leaders, and their names are frequently passed on to various Call Committees in the synod.

Attention rostered ministers currently open to call: I highly recommend your participation in the upcoming Region 2 Mobility Conference, which is being held in Sacramento on June 13 & 14, 2017. If interested, I welcome you to contact me for details about what takes place, and you can find more information at:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zoeaptcab&oeidk=a07edytyuqh678c0cc1>

CONGREGATIONAL CONFLICT

Most often I am the first responder to conflicts which arise in congregations where the lay leaders or the pastor request synodical assistance. I am thankful to report that in this pastor year I have only been called upon in **three** situations. Each one of these situations has underscored two key principles: 1) the earlier the conflict is addressed the better; and 2) when the parties in conflict willingly agree to work together toward a resolution, the more likely a positive outcome.

My experience in this area also leads me to echo the adage that the best medicine is preventive. So I have two encouragements and invitations in this regard:

- Strongly consider participating in the **Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's "Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church,"** held at **St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Woodlawn Hills, November 13-17, 2017.** It is a process with a faith and healing component that seeks to lead those who are in conflict toward reconciliation. The training is exceptional. The skills and the knowledge from this training will be helpful for dealing with conflict in your personal life and when it arises in your congregation. You can find detailed information and steps for registration at: <http://www.lmpeacecenter.org>. Or ask me at the assembly for a brochure.
- **On September 27, 2017, St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Woodland Hills will also host *Leadership and Anxiety in the Church, a one-day workshop.*** Most often it is anxiety and fear which is at the root of conflict in a congregation. This seminar looks at the challenge presented by the rising levels of anxiety being experienced in churches today, as well as the role that self-differentiated leadership can play in calming such anxiety. I suggest bringing your entire council to this top notch training. For detailed information and registration go to: <http://www.lmpeacecenter.org>. Or ask me at the assembly for a brochure.

FIRST CALL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

It is an expectation of the ELCA that all newly called rostered ministers will attend two gatherings a year during their first three years of ministry. These gatherings are provided jointly by the five synods of Region 2, and they focus on mutual support and continued faith and leadership formation. The two events this past year took place on November 7-9, 2016 in Denver

under the theme “Public Church: Vote with Your Faith” and then on February 14-16 in Phoenix focused on “Creativity in Ministry and Leadership.” Ten rostered ministers from our synod are participating and 57 from across Region 2. What a pleasure it is for me to accompany them and learn so much from them. Along with Pr. Jon Gathje and Pr. Scott Fielder, I serve on the coordinating team for FCTE in Region 2.

Rev Marjorie Funk-Pihl, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Mission/Director of Evangelical Mission ELCA.

“Always Being Made New” has been a slogan of the ELCA for a few years now. It has solid Scriptural backing and deep Lutheran roots. As we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation we recognize, yet again, the need for the church to be in a state of continuous renewal. God is always working for the sake of the world. The mission of the church is to keep up with the ever-moving Holy Spirit. As God would have it, many of our pastors and congregations are doing just that. My call in this synod is to be in the middle of this movement and to help people join in.

As DEM, I facilitate two processes which aid this movement: 1) *The Mission Exploration Team*



(MET) and 2) *Living the Resurrection* (LtR). *MET* is the first step of the call process and includes four sessions of discerning the pull of God on the mission of the congregation. Together we explore the passions and struggles of both the congregation and the neighborhood, and listen for where God is working to build connections. *Living the Resurrection* is a deeper look at these same concerns. *MET* spends four sessions over about eight weeks, while *LtR* meets in nine workshops over 18 months. This past year eight congregations have gone through the *MET* process and eight are in the middle of *Living the Resurrection*. A new Learning Community for *Living the Resurrection* will be formed this summer. If your church is ready to be made new again, look for the booklet in your assembly packet and watch for the video during our time together. Let's get moving!

Pastor Steve Beckham and the Living the Resurrection team from Gloria Dei in Long Beach participate in a workshop.

Another way I get to participate in the work God is doing through our synod is in working with our **New Start** ministries (hoping to become recognized congregations) and our congregations in “official” **Redevelopment** (receiving grants from the ELCA and the synod through EMOT). Aside from annual reviews (of both the ministry and the pastor) we also meet quarterly for gatherings.



This photo is from our Epiphany Party. Standing from left to right are pastors John Yu, Cesar Gogorza, Marcos Panahon, Jonathan Hemphill, George Villa, Dawn Wilding, Jennifer Burgos, and Golf Chutimapongrat. Seated are Maria Paiva, Hongsun Kim, Maria Elena Montalvo and myself. Not shown are pastors Ryan Chaddick, Joseph Castañeda-Carrera, Pr Stephanie Jaeger Pr Newman Chiu, Pr Esteban Salazar. The diversity of our new starts and redevelopments aligns well with the diversity of metro LA. God is clearly up to something! We have 16 pastor developers and redevelopers representing ministries with people from almost as many different cultures and languages!

If you are interested in knowing more about any of these ministries go to the Evangelical Outreach Mission Team table in the vendor room, and you can pick up a booklet with a profile of each of our new starts, or download it at [socialsynod.org/resources/SOFIA/stories of faith in action/synod stories](http://socialsynod.org/resources/SOFIA/stories%20of%20faith%20in%20action/synod%20stories).

Stewardship: In 2015 and 2016 your stewardship team developed a resource called *The Generous Life*. It contained stories of generosity in our synod told through six 2 - 4 minute videos. The supporting booklet contains Bible study and sermon preparation materials as well as other ideas on how to develop a narrative budget and pledge forms, etc. If your congregation hasn't utilized any of these tools, it's not too late! Download them at socialsynod.org/resources/generouslife. The videos are on our synod YouTube channel. If you want a DVD version go to the EOMT table in the vendor room at assembly. The ELCA also has new resources that you can access on the ELCA website at elca.org/resources/stewardship - samples on our EOMT table.

Vanco (the team behind Simply Giving) has branched out and now provides support for congregations who want to try other forms of electronic giving in their congregations. If you are interested go to the EOMT table in the vendor room for more information.

Holy Closure: Some form of death always precedes resurrection. We closed one congregation and one new start this year. Of course, God works through this process, and sometimes the new life is very exciting! Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Preschool in Ojai has become Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool and Chapel. The congregation closed and resurrected as a worshipping community that supports the ongoing work of the preschool! Mission St Francis was a new start in Chatsworth. We closed the ministry but retain the property with the expectation that God will show us what is meant to grow there.



Grace Lutheran Church in Santa Barbara closed last year and is resurrecting as Grace Village, a home for low-income seniors. The photo left is the groundbreaking for the new village. Pictured are two members of Grace who were active in this process: Pat Wheatley and Rep. Lois Capps.

Thank you for your continued support of God continuing renewal of the Church. I appreciate the honor of working with you in God's work. If you would like to join us and work with one of the teams of the EMOT, stop by our table in the vendor room and sign up! We'd love to work with you!!!

Yours in the Mission of God with the congregations of the Southwest California Synod.

Rev. Marj Funk Pihl

Director of Administration and Finance, Andreas Hirsch

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function.
Romans 12:4

As the body has many members so does our church, and so does the Office of the Bishop. As Director of Administration and Finance, the “body part” my position represents is the back office for the congregations and leaders in our synod.

Our back office is staffed with efficient and faithful servants to this church. Although we often work under time restrictions and limited resources, we are able to manage the many demands put in front of us.

Properties:

- We remodeled the parsonage at Iglesia Luterana San Pablo in North Hollywood for the arrival of Pastor Cesar from Argentina. Major repairs and improvements were necessary to make the parsonage habitable. Necessary improvements included new flooring, plumbing, dry wall, and a replacement water heater.
- Mission San Francis Chatsworth had disbanded, and the property is not currently in use by any Lutheran group or organization. One of the tenants a Church of Christ congregations signed a two-year lease for the property. This will give synod council time to develop a plan for a Lutheran presents at this location.
- The members of St. John’s in Cerritos voted to sell the property, which is currently being appraised. The existing tenant, Paul Church, is interested in purchasing the property. We also have two realtors interested in representing us. My first effort will be to sell the property without realtors as we have done in the past. If we can’t find a satisfactory offer, we will engage a realtor.
- We are also in the process moving the title of the property of Faith Long Beach into the synod’s name. The property is vacant, and it appears that after Pastor Ujjiies’ death the congregation disbanded. The Greater Long Beach Conference is looking into possible uses for the property
- The Christ the King, Van Nuys property was to be sold beginning on June 2017. The buyer experiences problems with the City of Van Nuys and is now expecting to close in December. We obtained legal counsel insuring the synod’s interest are best served.

The Lutheran Center:

The Lutheran Center hosted several meetings each month ranging from workshops to theological training events, accommodating at times up to 100 participants per day and hundreds of guests during the year on the property. Our support staff and property staff worked very diligent making these events a success for our synod.

A few of the larger events were:

- 500th Reformation Road Trip
- HR Workshop
- Treasurers' Workshop
- Constitutional Workshop
- Boundaries Workshop
- Living the Resurrections Workshops
- Sanctuary Movement Workshop
- Ecumenical Worship Service
- World Water Day Worship Service

Our Staff:

I would like to thank our support staff for their never-ceasing efforts. Samantha Henderson has been juggling all correspondence, from writing letters to keeping our social media current. She also serves as web master and has started updating the new website with content from our mission teams. Sherri Miller has been doing the bookkeeping for many of our organizations and processing our pass-through gifts and mission support. Robin Lujan is always eagerly supporting the executive staff as secretary to their needs. We added two new staff members helping with the increasing workload in supporting our ailing congregations. Sheri Dillon will take on a leadership role within the synod office supporting the Bishop and the two Assistants to the Bishop. Nicole Miller works hand in hand with Robin Lujan assisting with the many daily tasks the Office of the Bishop requires. Our faithful support staff are the members keeping this body of Christ working, and are building the foundation the synod sits on.

Synod Finances:

The synod finances are at times challenging. We are transitioning from the traditional purpose of the synod of managing the ELCA rostered leaders and congregational rosters to being the back office of the wider synod. More and more congregations are relying on our support with sometimes small issues to be resolved within one phone call to more complex issues requiring hours of staff time. Reinventing our relevance in each congregation's life is an investment that will pay off in future years. This means that for the time being we should consider alternative ways of funding the Office of the Bishop. The traditional source of Mission Support will probably not increase in the next few years and we face the same issues our congregations face - how to make ministry happen and explore other ways of funding.

At last: I'm grateful serving here at the office and can help so many people with their issues of running our churches. We all live in two worlds: the liturgical world of love and gospel and the legalistic world of being a corporation.

Faithfully yours,
Andreas Hirsch

Maria Paiva
Latino Ministry Coordinator
Assembly Report 2017

“But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God’s grace.”

-Acts 20:24 (NRSV)

Let me begin this report by giving thanks to God for the great opportunity we have as a Synod to proclaim the good news of God’s grace specifically to the Latino population of our Synod. Two of our Latino pastors passed away since we met last year. Pastor Carlos Paiva died November 22, 2016 and Pastor Nimrod Flores died on February 17, 2017. We give thanks to God for their faithful ministry in our Synod. We welcome to our Synod Pastor Cesar Gogorza, who is serving as interim pastor at Angelica Lutheran Church and is also developing the North Hollywood Latino mission. We also have three Latino TEEM students serving as follows: Joseph Castaneda’s sites are Hollywood Lutheran and ADORE in the Hollywood/North Hollywood area; Maria Elena Montalvo’s site are Reformation, Pasadena and Grace, Bell; and Maria Paiva is at St. John, Gardena and the Latino Ministries Coordinator at Southwest California Synod. We also give thanks to God for the ministry of Pastor Patricia Muran who retired in February, 2016 after serving Santa Cruz, Santa Maria for over 14 years. Pastor Esteban Salazar, from the Anglican Church, is serving as interim pastor at Santa Cruz now.

We have 15 ministries that welcome the stranger by providing worship in Spanish: Grace, Bell; Faith, Canoga Park; Pueblo de Dios, Compton; Saint John, Gardena; First, Inglewood; Trinity, Long Beach; Angelica, Los Angeles; St. Mark’s, Los Angeles; North Hollywood Mission; Our Redeemer, Oxnard; Reformation, Pasadena; Adore, San Fernando Valley/Hollywood; Santa Cruz, Santa Maria; Fe y Esperanza, South Gate; Christ, West Covina. Most of our ministries are committed to welcoming the strangers by providing worship opportunities, faith formation programs, hot meals, food bags, immigration assistance, after school programs, youth programs, support groups, parish nurses, music and art classes, camping, and other ministries.

Our Escuela de Lideres para la Mision (ELM in Spanish) began classes in January 2016 and completed the first year of classes in November 2016. Plans are being made to resume classes this Fall. We also sponsored a Latino Theological Symposium, March 31 and April 1 to commemorate the 500 years of the Reformation. Presenters were Bishop Guy Erwin, Dr. Julia Fogg, Dr. Cesar Gogorza and Dr. Tomas Gutierrez.



We have also started a Latina Women's Network which meets once a month at our different congregations. Plans are on their way to start a Latino Men's Network this coming year as well as a Latino Young Adult network.

To serve God's people in 2017-2018 we will continue to focus in lay leadership training, recruiting Latino candidates for rostered ministries, strengthening our existing ministries, emerging generations (Latino Young Adults Network) and multiracial youth and children in our congregations, explore the possibility of starting one new ministry and men's ministry.

Thank you for your partnership in making Christ known in the territory of our Synod. Please continue to pray and support our outreach to the Latino population in our Synod.

The Rev. Hitoshi Adachi
Asian Ministry Coordinator for Southwest California and Pacifica Synods



Since early 2013, I have been assigned as Asian Ministry Coordinator for both the Southwest California and Pacifica Synods. In this 2017 Assembly notebook, I would like to start with the same statements I wrote in the 2016 notebook so that each participant is a little more familiar with Asian Ministry in Southern California.

The Asian Lutheran Ministries (please see the updated list below) are serving Asian immigrants. The people served are both English and native language speakers and are also first (some are not American citizens yet) or second (or more) generation Americans. Asia has over 3 billion people and 40 percent of the world's population lives in Asia. In the last few decades we've seen tremendous growth in the economies of China and South Eastern Asian countries. We are witnessing increased Asian immigration in Southern California. If we consider the 5 major religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, all of them started in Asia. So, all Asian-born people were raised in a pluralistic religious environment.

Some 2016 (until April 2017) Highlights:

- 1) On July 7th, 2016, under the guidance of Bishop Guy Erwin, Bishop's office had the second racism discussion panel with Asian Leaders in the Synod. A total of 8 Asian leaders attended the panel. Since it was held a few weeks before Churchwide Assembly, we shared some racism-related memorial resolutions that would be voted on during the assembly.
- 2) "Thai Hollywood" ministry started, in 2015, by Rev. Pongtep (Golf) Chutimapongrat and hosted by Hollywood Lutheran Church is growing.
- 3) Ministries of Glory Lutheran Church led by Rev. Newman and Mrs. Grace Chiu and hosted by First Lutheran Church and School in Torrance is also doing well for reaching out to younger Chinese

people at nearby Universities. Especially, Thursday evening fellowship ministry called “Zion” at University of Southern California campus (FYI, 4,000 USC students are Chinese) is extremely doing well. Glory marks its 10-year anniversary next year; therefore it is expected to be an organized congregation in 2018.

- 4) From January 31st through February 7th in 2017, there was the Asian Lutheran International Conference in Medan, Indonesia. Bishop Erwin and myself attended the conference. For me, since many exciting events are happening in Pacific Indonesian congregations where people came from Huria Kristen Batak Protestant, which is the largest Lutheran Church body in Asia and the number of HKBP members in Indonesia is over 4 million; it was very meaningful to meet with the executive leaders of HKBP.
- 5) Rev. Hongsun Kim was ordained on April 8th, 2017 at Christ The King (CTK) Lutheran Church in Torrance. He was born in Korea but raised in Japan and has lived in the United States for almost 20 years. He is starting a new ministry called “Fruits of the Spirit Lutheran Community” in CTK where the largest Japanese speaking preschool in Southern California (called “Suika”) is located.

Moving Forward to Serve God’s People in 2017 and early 2018:

- 1) Continue and enhance current ministries already placed by the Holy Spirit. Especially, those recently started in the last two years, e.g. Thai Hollywood and Japanese Lutheran.
- 2) On July 13th, there will be an Asian Church Planting meeting for the Southern California region at the Lutheran Center in Glendale. Rev. Dr. Pongsak Limthongviratn, Program Director for Asian and Pacific Ministries of ELCA, is coming. I am hoping that Bishop Erwin and both Directors of Evangelical Mission may attend the meeting.
- 3) In April 2018, there will be the Association of Asian Pacific Islanders ministries of ELCA at Lao Evangelical Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Thank you very much for your continued understanding regarding and support for the Asian Ministries.

In Christ’s Service,
Hitoshi Adachi

Pacifica Synod Asian/Pacific Islanders Ministry

MINISTRY	PASTOR/LAY LEADER	CITY	LANGUAGE
Glory	Betty Chen	Chula Vista	Mandarin
Filipino	Jogy Deogracias	San Diego	Tagalong/English
Taiwanese	Shiau-ting (Paul) Liu & Albert Lin	San Diego	Taiwanese/Mandarin
ELCA Batak	Esra Pangaribuan	Norco	Batak/Indonesian
Grace Taiwanese	Thomas Chen (Interim)	Anaheim	Mandarin/Taiwanese
Church of Dream Builders	Hyunho Hong	Anaheim	Korean/English
Thai Shepherd of the Hills	Pongtep (Golf) Chutimapongrat	Whittier	Thai
Immanuel Indonesian Fellowship	Robert Waworuntu	Los Alamitos	Indonesian
Japanese Ministry (as a part of Resurrection)	Hitoshi Adachi	Huntington Beach	Japanese/English

Southwest California Synod Asian/Pacific Islanders Ministry

MINISTRY	PASTOR/LEADER	CITY	LANGUAGE
Lutheran Oriental	Paul Nakamura	Torrance	English/Japanese
LC of the Cross	Charlie Wang	Arcadia	Mandarin/English
Christ	Philip Demers	Monterey Park	Mandarin/English
Faith	David Lin	Monterey Park	Mandarin
Bethlehem	Frank Wang /John Yu	Temple City	English/Mandarin
Glory LC	Newman and Grace Chiu	Torrance	Mandarin
St. Matthew	Marcos Panahon	Glendale	Tagalog/English
Thai Hollywood	Pongtep (Golf) Chutimapongrat	Los Angeles	Thai
Eagle Rock	Violeta Sanders	Los Angeles	English/Tagalog
Fruits of the Spirit Lutheran Community	Hongsun Kim	Torrance	Japanese/English/Korean

Youth Ministries and Synod Youth Team



2016 - 2017 has been a very eventful year for the Southwest California Synod Youth Team. We are a team whose mission is to help youth to find their place in the ELCA and the Synod, and to use their God-given gifts as God directs. Our team members are elected or appointed to serve the youth and congregations within the Southwest California Synod through servant events, consulting teams, youth gatherings for High School, Middle School, and Elementary-aged youth, as well as being present and serving at Synod Assembly. Our theme verse for our team is 1 Timothy 4:12, which says, "Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young."

Our "year" typically begins at the annual Fall Retreat for High School Youth, at which time elections to the team occur.

We have a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Multicultural Rep, Definitely-Abled Rep, Hospitality Rep, Media Manager, as well as Conference Reps and Adult Leaders.

- Our High School Leadership Event in October 2016 took place at Camp Luther Glen. Our theme was "Shine", with our speaker being Michael Bridges of the band "Lost & Found".
- In November, Cheyenne Boykin (our President) and Shawntelle Augustine (our Multicultural Rep), both from St. Mark's, Los Angeles, traveled to the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in North Carolina, where they discussed many of the issues facing youth in the ELCA. They met people from all over the country and were deeply moved by the things that they did!
- Last November, some of us were able to help with the Middle School Youth Gathering in Anaheim. There were about 300 youth present, and this was done in conjunction with the Pacifica Synod.

- We began the new year with a planning retreat at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Los Angeles. We helped to lead an Epiphany Event for the congregation, and planned several events for the year. A film crew joined us one evening to interview us for the making of a film to be used at the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston 2018.
- We helped with the Elementary Youth Gathering at Luther Glen in March.
- We also planned a one-day Elementary Youth Gathering for children from both the Pacifica Synod and the Southwest California Synod. Our theme was "Be Our Guest", teaching children about being welcoming and offering hospitality!
- Synod Assembly is always a highlight for our team, because it gives us opportunities to mingle with youth and young adult voting members from congregations as well as the many pastors and congregational leaders from our Synod. We host a reception, have a youth booth with information and giveaways, and we serve the assembly as pages, worship leaders and more! Rosalie Tarsala from our team was elected last June as the Youth Rep to Synod Council.

FUTURE EVENTS

- The Western States Youth Gathering will happen in late June/early July. Gathering Synod Coordinators from Pacifica and Southwest California Synods will be leading workshops about the upcoming Houston Youth Gathering.
- November 10 - 12, 2017, we will host the Annual High School Youth Retreat. Pastors, youth leaders and youth are invited to join us. Our theme is "Remix," based on Revelations 21:5, and our speaker will be Pastor Matt Keadle.
- Middle School Youth Gathering will be November 17-19, and will include a trip to Universal Studios.
- Janet Renick will be serving as the Gathering Synod Coordinator for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, 2018. Workshops will be presented throughout the year as we prepare!

The Synod Youth Team consists of youth and adult leaders from our Synod who see youth as being the PRESENT of the Church today. Those serving 2017 are:

President – Cheyenne Boykin (St Mark's, Los Angeles)
 President-Elect – D.J. Ware (Christ, West Covina)
 Vice President & Hospitality – Kaytlynn Haywood (Prince of Peace, Covina)
 Secretary & L.A. Metro Conference Rep – Shawntelle Augustine (St. Mark's, L.A)
 Definitely-Abled Rep – vacant
 Multicultural Rep – Jaylen Ware (Christ, West Covina)
 Synod Council Rep – Rosalie Tarsala (Christ the Shepherd, Altadena)
 Media Manager – Emma Griffis (Mt Cross, Camarillo)
 Other Conference Reps:
 Twin Valleys – vacant
 Channel Islands –vacant

Central Coast Conference – Anneke Moersdorf (Mt. Carmel, SLO)
San Gabriel – Brittney Rodriguez (Christ, West Covina)
Tehachapi – Alayda Young (At Large – St. Mark’s, L.A.)
Foothill – Sarah Hoffmann (At Large – Christ, West Covina)

Adult Leaders:

Janet Renick – Adult Chair (Christ, West Covina)
Bryan Honda (Shepherd of the Valley, Simi
Ingrid Frokjer (Mt. Carmel, San Luis Obispo)
Pastor Matt Keadle (St. Mark’s, Los AngelesO
Meredith Gardner (Mt Cross, Camarillo)
Aaron Tidwell (Christ, Long Beach)

There are still several openings on the team that we hope to fill as soon as possible. Talk to us!

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Renick, Adult Chair, Southwest California Synod Youth Team

SWCA Synod Events 2016

DATE	EVENT	WHERE
1/17/2016	MLK Service	Trinity, Hawthorne
1/24/2016	Reformation 500	California Lutheran University
2/04-2/08-2016	Youth Ministry Extravaganza	Anaheim
2/22/2016	Bishop's Colloquy	Cathedral Center, Echo Park
3/22/2016	World Water Day	Lutheran Center
3/26/2016	Easter Vigil Service	St. Mark's, Los Angeles
4/20-4/21-2016	Boundaries Workshop	Lutheran Center
4/21/2016	LCLA SoCal Lutherans	Long Beach
6/02-6/04-2016	Synod Assembly	Crowne Plaza, L.A.
6/15/2016	Legislative & Advocacy Training	Lutheran Center
7/09/2016	FPSGV Consortium Homeless Retreat	Lutheran Center
7/09/2016	Book Study with the Bishops	Lutheran Center
7/17/2016	Dialogue on Ethnic-specific & Multi-cultural Ministry	Lutheran Center/ First, Inglewood
8/04-8/05-2016	Joint Candidacy Committee	Lutheran Center
9/17-9/18-2016	Living the Resurrection Workshop	Lutheran Center
9/18/2016	Lutherans Concerned Annual Meeting	Lutheran Center
10/12-10/13-2016	Coach Training	Lutheran Center
10/14-10/16-2016	Men's Advance	Lutheran Center
10/14-10/16-2016	WELCA SWO Convention Grand Vista Hotel	Simi Valley
10/29/2016	Living the Resurrection Workshop	Lutheran Center
10/30/2016	Interpretation Workshop	Lutheran Center
11/02/2016	Portico Luncheon	Lutheran Center
11/05/2016	Living the Resurrection Workshop	Lutheran Center
11/05/2016	HR Workshop	Lutheran Center
11/05/2016	Church Women United	Lutheran Center
11/19/2016	Reformation Road Trip	First, Carson
11/29/2016	Candidacy Committee	Lutheran Center
12/01/2016	Living the Resurrection Workshop	Lutheran Center
12/06-12/07-2016	Mobility Conference	Lutheran Center
12/08/2016	Advent Pastors Retreat	Lutheran Center
12/16/2016	FLS/Synod Joint Christmas Party	Lutheran Center
9	Spring Conference Assemblies	
9	Fall Conference Assemblies	



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2017 SYNOD ASSEMBLIES

Churchwide report in detail

CALLED FORWARD

**Together
in Christ**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Synod Assembly Detailed Packet

Table of Contents

Editor's Note: Contained within this document is detailed report for ELCA ministries and programs, from which the Synod Assembly talking points were drawn.

This document is organized in alphabetical order for ease of use, with the exception of *Called Forward Together in Christ Strategic Directions 2025*. It is listed first as it serves as the basis for our future direction together as a church.

Called Forward Together in Christ
500th anniversary of the Reformation
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Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA
AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities)
Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative
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Office of the Treasurer
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Rostered Ministers Gathering
South Sudan outreach
Women and Justice

Called Forward Together in Christ

Propelled by a commitment to Lutheran traditions and to being a community of faith that is always forming and being renewed, the ELCA's presiding bishop, Church Council and Conference of Bishops initiated Called Forward Together in Christ Strategic Directions 2025 for this church. The process sought to engage all ELCA members and partners in conversation about future directions so that this church can journey faithfully and effectively together in the years ahead. Many of you participated – THANK YOU!

CALLED FORWARD
**Together
in Christ**

Five goals came out of the of Called Forward Together in Christ process. These are the priorities that were shaped by the voices across this church:

1. A thriving church spreading the gospel and deepening faith for all people Priority areas for action.
2. A church equipping people for their baptismal vocations in the world and this church.
3. An inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity of our communities and the gifts and opportunities that diversity brings.
4. A visible church deeply committed to working ecumenically and with other people of faith for justice, peace and reconciliation in communities and around the world.
5. A well-governed, connected and sustainable church.

The Conference of Bishops, Church Council and Churchwide Organization have all affirmed two main focus areas for the next few years:

- Congregational Vitality
- Leadership

You can learn more about all of this at [ELCA.org/future](https://www.elca.org/future).

We invite you to continue to engage with Called Forward Together in Christ as we live into God's call for the future of this church.

500th anniversary of the Reformation

2017 is well underway, which means we're quickly approaching the Reformation anniversary date of Oct. 31. Here are a few things to keep in mind as your congregation and community plan for the year.



Reformation anniversary resources

There are three ways to stay up-to-date on Reformation anniversary activities. These are: **ELCA500.org**, ELCA500 Facebook page and ELCA500 Twitter. Please take a moment to check them out, “Like” or “Follow” and use the resources to engage your congregation or participate in an event.

Now on the **ELCA500.org** site are two new resources to help congregations (and synods) plan and promote Reformation anniversary activities. Located under “Resources,” the how-to-guide for Reformation anniversary planning and promotion provides tips and tools for planning and promoting your activities. The Reformation Ideas list provides four categories of activities to consider or use as a brainstorming launch pad for events from now through October.

This January, travel expert Rick Steves provided a copy of his new Reformation documentary to every ELCA congregation.

Reformation storytelling projects

Several storytelling projects are underway to help tell our collective Lutheran experience. Each is unique in its purpose, but all provide opportunities to share and learn from each other. You can read, watch or listen to the stories at **livinglutheran.org/Reformation** and find submission information at **ELCA500.org/more**. Consider submitting your story today.

Advocacy

The ELCA advocates for fair and just public policies that overcome poverty, promote peace and dignity, and defend God’s creation.

During the past year, this church encouraged faithful and nonpartisan voter participation by providing faith-based resources around voting.

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA

We are now in the fourth year of the ELCA’s first comprehensive five-year campaign, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. As of **Jan. 31**, we have **collectively raised more than \$113.4 million** in cash and multi-year commitments for churchwide ministries and are so grateful for the continued support and partnership of ELCA synods and congregations.

Since the campaign’s launch in 2014, we have accomplished amazing things with the help of ELCA members, congregations and synods.

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA (cont'd)

More than 300 domestic hunger grants support sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty across the U.S. In addition, nearly 60 countries around the world have ELCA World Hunger supported programs.

The ELCA Fund for Leaders provided 250 students with more than \$2 million in seminary scholarships during the 2016-2017 academic year.

With \$759,000 in support from the campaign, Renewing Congregations grants are being implemented across the ELCA, including 13 Synodical Renewing Congregations Strategies, four Area Ministry Strategies and four Fast Growth Congregations initiatives.

Funding from the campaign for the ELCA has expanded the work of ELCA congregational new starts by funding ten additional new ministries in a variety of contexts and with creative strategies.

The International Women Leaders initiative has reached 100 international Lutheran women with access to academic scholarships, training and networking opportunities.

Thirteen new global ministry evangelism projects were initiated by companion churches in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America.

Twenty-one new or enhanced youth and young adult ministries have received a grant to grow existing programs or start new ones.

Young Adults in Global Mission launched four new country programs – Rwanda, Cambodia, Australia and Senegal, with 84 young adults sent into service during the 2016/2017 year. This represents a 45% growth in the first 3 years.

The 2017 campaign theme, Global Church, includes a focus on Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission, International Women Leaders and Global Ministries. Through a variety of learning and giving opportunities around three days – International Women's Day, Pentecost Sunday and Global Church Sunday – we are lifting up this important work. Congregations and synods received a kickoff packet in early January with materials and ideas to get involved in the 2017 theme. A Pentecost Sunday packet will arrive in mid-April.

For additional resources, including the campaign case statement, videos and more, visit the campaign resources website at ELCA.org/Campaign-for-the-ELCA/Resources. For more information as you plan your involvement in the campaign, please contact us at 800-638-3522 or email us at campaignforELCA@elca.org.

AMMPARO

The AMMPARO Strategy was overwhelmingly adopted by the Churchwide Assembly last August. This strategy is unique among U.S. churches and provides a holistic, whole church response to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO). This initiative encompasses accompaniment, awareness-building and advocacy at

AMMPARO (cont'd)

every moment of the migrant journey, from working with companions to providing protection and opportunities to potential migrants in their countries of origin, to migrants along their journey from Central America through Mexico, and to arriving migrants as they transition to a new phase of life in the U.S. It also includes accompaniment of companions who work with those migrants who have been deported to their countries of origin. As a whole church response, all ELCA expressions, strategic allies and ecumenical partners are included.

AMMPARO is a movement of people that is supported and facilitated by communication, funding and systems to organize the work.

The ELCA is accompanying international companions in Central America and Mexico who address the root causes of this migration -- principally violence, poverty and climate change.

In the spirit of AMMPARO's guiding principles, synods and congregations are invited to accompany migrant children and families through synod AMMPARO or immigration task forces, as Welcoming Congregations, through the creation of Guardian Angel programs and through prayer. All ELCA members are encouraged to continue awareness-building and advocacy for the protection of these vulnerable children and families.

Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative

Created in November 2016, the Leadership Initiative encourages all of us to seek out and inspire gifted people in our congregations, communities and networks to consider a call to the ministry of the gospel, supported by growing levels of scholarships for seminary tuition.

At the same time, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton announced a generous \$3 million gift to the ELCA Fund for Leaders, which provides seminary scholarships for 60 additional students over the next three years.



If you know someone who shows a gift for ministry, help mentor and foster them. Together - pastors, deacons, lay people - we can bring the word of God to the world.

For more information, visit [ELCA.org/leaders](https://www.elca.org/leaders) to find resources to guide discussions and offer inspiration for conversations and individual reflection on becoming a leader within the ELCA.

Book of Faith

Getting the *word* out

We give thanks to God for all of the individuals, congregations, synods, and churchwide ministries and institutions for their deep and abiding commitment to God's transforming word in Christ, in proclamation and in Scripture!

The Book of Faith Initiative is a continuing priority of the ELCA, dedicated to encouraging all ministries and people of the church to continually renew and enrich our broad and deep engagement with Scripture for our own sakes and for the sake of the world.

The Book of Faith Initiative has operated using a decentralized, grass-roots approach centered on our common vision in which all are invited to *open Scripture* and *join the conversation*. We invite leaders to continue and boldly further this effort in their places of involvement.

From the beginning, the goal of the initiative has been two-fold:

1. to meet the continuing challenge of widespread biblical illiteracy; and
2. to renew the teaching of our rich theological heritage of scriptural understanding, interpretation and engagement.

To help realize the above goals and address the challenges listed below, we want to further encourage engagement of Scripture, especially using the "multiple lenses" approach. We seek your help and support as partners in this effort, in addressing the challenges that are currently serving to shape our calling. Some of the larger challenges are:

- the growing number of people in society claiming to be "spiritual but not religious;"
- the need to address and learn from the great variety of cultures that make up this church and world;
- the role of the Bible in mission outreach;
- the importance of family and home as centers of faith development;
- the need for creative use of social media;
- continued biblical illiteracy.

Despite the challenges, Christ is present as we engage Scripture, and this promise calls us forward together. Please join us in getting the word out and in encouraging all to *open Scripture* and *join the conversation*!

Learn more at bookoffaith.org. Find us on Facebook @bookoffaith and Twitter #bookoffaith.

Four lenses for engaging Scripture.

Open Scripture. Join the conversation.

The initiative has emphasized that biblical engagement is greatly enriched by the use of multiple lenses in conversation with Scripture and other people. This suggested method is centered on four ways of reading the Bible and asking questions: devotional, historical, literary and theological reading.

Book of Faith (cont'd)

DEVOTIONAL



AT CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY AT THE OFFICE AT HOME WITH FAMILY

Where are you today? Our Devotional book of faith

We begin. We read, ask questions, reflect on the meaning of the Bible from wherever we are – in place, time or state of mind. No matter where we are, our Book of Faith meets us there.

LITERARY



EPIC JOURNEYS LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TALES OF TRAGEDY BOOKS OF POETRY

The library that's always open Our Literary book of faith

We pay close attention to how the passage is written. We notice what kind of literature it is. We notice all the details, themes, characters, storyline, poetry and logic. We compare and contrast these with our understanding and experience of life. In this process we discover meaning.

HISTORICAL



THE TEMPLE THE ROMANS THE EGYPTIANS KING DAVID

Meet yesterday's story today Our Historical book of faith

We seek to understand the world of the Bible. We explore the world of the writers and the original readers, the rulers, slaves, women, men and children. All the people in our Book of Faith. How do we understand their social and cultural contexts? How were their lives different from or the same as ours today?

THEOLOGICAL



HOW DO I FIND HOPE? WHO IS GOD? WHY IS THERE SUFFERING? WHAT IS LOVE?

What are the God questions? Our Theological book of faith

As we open Scripture and join the conversation, we ask our deepest questions and listen for God's voice. We hear God's demands as well as God's words of comfort and promise. We see Christ alive yesterday and today. We feel the movement of the Spirit and are moved to respond. God is present in the word.

Congregational vitality

The church is working with more than 35 synods on intentional strategies for improving congregational vitality. In addition, the unit has partnered with synods to start 124 new congregations and communities of Jesus over the past two years. The Directors for Evangelical Mission continue to engage synodical leaders, structures and strategies and coordinate and staff the education of all evangelical mission, mission support, and stewardship ministries in each synod.

Point out the Director for Evangelical Mission – a colleague who works with the synod to enhance collaboration and work together to grow the church.

Ecumenical & inter-religious relations

Lutheran-Catholic relations/500th anniversary of the Reformation

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation was launched by a joint ecumenical commemoration in Sweden on October 31, 2016, that was led by the president and general secretary of Lutheran World Federation and The Pope. It included a service of Common Prayer at the Cathedral in Lund and a public stadium event lifting up areas of common service and public witness. (See lutheranworld.org/lund2016)

The service of Common Prayer was adapted for a service that took place on March 2 at the Lutheran Center between the ELCA Conference of Bishops and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs Committee.



The co-chairs and members of the *Declaration on the Way* Task Force have been active in providing leadership for many synodical events to discover, explore and deepen understanding about Lutheran-Catholic relations and to consider the ecumenical dimensions of the 500th anniversary – with focus on the “*Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, From Conflict to Communion*,” and “*Declaration on the Way*”. We welcome these invitations as opportunities for partnership.

We are grateful to 1517 Media for creating an online study guide for “*Declaration on the Way*”. This is a resource for deepening our reception of the agreements, and strengthening local Lutheran-Catholic relations. Available from the 1517 Media website and ELCA.org/ecumenical.

Other resources:

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s webcast, “Ecumenical Witness and the Reformation:” ELCA.org/webcast
- Joint Ecumenical Commemoration of the Reformation in Sweden: lutheranworld.org/lund2016
- Press conference: <https://vimeo.com/189685569>

Ecumenical & inter-religious relations (cont'd)

Lutheran-Orthodox relations

On Nov.15, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago ceremoniously returned a rare 9th century Greek manuscript of the complete New Testament to the Greek Orthodox Church. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (GOA), Bishop Demetrios of the Chicago Diocese, and members of the staff of the GOA were also present.



Conversations have led to the possibility of renewed dialogue between the ELCA and the GOA, possibly on the topic of care of creation.

Lutheran-Muslim relations

Our Lutheran-Muslim relations have taken two forms in recent months: rapid response to anti-Muslim bigotry and continued engagement in long-term relationship-building, education, dialogue, and cooperation for the common good.



We are working in partnership with the Islamic Society of North America on church-mosque pilot projects in three synods: Southeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Washington, and Southeast Michigan. Thanks to Bishop Donald Kreiss, Bishop Rick Jaech, and Bishop Clarie Burkat for leading. The hope is that by taking these steps and expanding out to include other existing and new initiatives across this church, we will build out stronger local relations across the country.

We are also partnering with the Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign to respond to increased incidents of anti-Muslim bigotry over the past year and to concerns about anti-Muslim policies, including the recent and anticipated executive orders. We have participated in statements, press conference, events and strategic planning sessions. Bishop William Gafkjen, representing the ELCA as chair of the Conference of Bishops, gave a statement at the Nov. 18 press conference in Washington, D.C.: youtu.be/ijonNgnI8Er8. Learn more at shouldertoshouldercampaign.org.

Inter-Religious Task Force

Chaired by Bishop Patricia Lull, the Inter-Religious Task Force is developing an inter-religious policy statement that will complement the 1991 *ecumenism* vision statement. A first draft is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2017, at which time a consultative process for input and feedback will unfold across this church. Under proper governance, a proposed statement is intended for presentation at 2019 Churchwide Assembly.



Please consider how you might take up Presiding Bishop Eaton's invitation for conversation about our inter-religious calling and commitments in your synods. Apart from their own value, these events can be used to provide input into the work of the task force. EIR staff and Lutheran Ecumenical & Inter-Religious Representatives Network reps are available to offer leadership and support: Kathryn.Lohre@elca.org. Information about

Ecumenical & inter-religious relations (cont'd)

“*Engaging Others, Knowing Ourselves: A Lutheran Calling in a Multi-Religious World*,” including downloadable workshop templates is available: ELCA.org/Faith/Ecumenical-and-Inter-Religious-Relations/Inter-Religious-Relations/Case-Studies. The book is also now available for Kindle on Amazon.

Historic Black Church relations

As we work on racial justice and reconciliation within the ELCA, we are also working in partnership with Historic Black Churches in coalitions and bi-laterally.



For a second year, the ELCA was a co-sponsor of the cross-racial dialogue convened by the Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC) in Charleston, S.C. Dec. 13-15, 2016. The CNBC is the annual conference of the Historic Black Churches in the United States. This continues to be an area of growing partnership between Racial Justice Ministries, the African and European Descent Lutheran Associations, and Ecumenical & Inter-Religious Relations.



A significant dimension of the Bishops' Academy was the presence of Bishop John White, president of the African Methodist Episcopal Council of Bishops. We are exploring possibilities for re-engaging our churches' dialogue, which took place in the 1990s. It will be important to consider fresh models that combine theological dialogue and common action for the sake of the gospel. The initiatives in your synods will continue to be critical for shaping this future together.

Formula of Agreement 20th anniversary

On March 26 at 3 p.m., the United Church of Christ Center in Cleveland hosted a worship service in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Formula of Agreement, the full communion agreement between the ELCA and three Reformed bodies the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, and the United Church of Christ. Heads of communion, local judicatory leaders, ecumenical officers, and local clergy and lay leaders participated. This service was held in conjunction with a heads of communion meeting to explore the next chapter of our life together as full communion partners.

Churches Uniting in Christ - UPCOMING

On the evening of June 4 in Dallas, heads of communion, local judicatory leaders, ecumenical officers, and local clergy and lay leaders will participate in a national worship service of recognition of ministries among the Churches Uniting in Christ. A public forum on race relations will be held on June 3, along with a pulpit exchange between local clergy and national Church Uniting in Christ leadership on the morning of June 4.

ELCA Federal Credit Union

- Our credit union is approaching its one-year anniversary in June and is off to a great start
- Currently serves members in 43 states and in the Caribbean
- Offers a variety of consumer loan, credit card and deposit accounts
- To date, those who have refinanced or consolidated debt have saved an average of more than \$1,400 in finance charges

To learn more, visit elcafcu.org

ELCA Foundation – partnerships and gift planners

ELCA Foundation: Your life. Your faith. Your gift to the future.

The ELCA Foundation works in partnerships to strengthen the financial capacities of our broader ELCA-related ministries through:

- lifelong stewardship including annual, major and deferred giving;
- financial education, resources and a variety of planned giving tools;
- investment management services for congregations, synods and related ministries.

The ELCA Foundation supports 20 regional gift Planners throughout the U.S. These gift planners provide a number of services:

- They help congregations, synods and other Lutheran ministries identify their financial needs and wants and develop a Ministry Funding Plan.
- They help members of the congregations align their passions with the ministry funding needs through planned giving.
 - Gift planners help donors make decisions about whom they want to help.
 - Gift planners make sure everything is in place to fulfill the donor's wishes.

In 2016, our regional gift planners secured \$56 million in planned gifts (this is up from \$39 million in 2015). Of these gifts, \$10.5 million will directly benefit ELCA congregations and \$2.8 million will benefit ELCA synods. Anyone who wants to help ministry in any way after they pass, should meet with a regional gift planner.

ELCA Fund for Leaders

2016-2017 statistics

As of July 1, a new staff team is growing the ELCA Fund for Leaders. The endowment has reached \$48.7 million, allowing Fund for Leaders to provide more than \$2 million in scholarship assistance to 250 seminary students, approximately 25 percent of all seminary-enrolled candidates for rostered ministry in the ELCA in 2016-2017. Synodical scholarships represent nearly \$540,000 of the \$2 million distribution, disbursed in 147 different awards by 38 participating synods.

ELCA Fund for Leaders (cont'd)

Supporting diverse ministries

Among the funds awarded in 2016 are scholarships specifically geared toward students of color and/or first language other than English, scholarships for new mission developer candidates, and scholarships for seminarians pursuing chaplaincy ministry in military, prison, or VA hospital settings.

- One of these students is Elle Dowd, an M.Div. student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, who says, “It is for freedom that Christ set us free. We use that freedom, not for our own benefit, but to help free others. None of us are free until all of us are free.” From current students and alumni, who serve as pastors, chaplains and rostered leaders in all areas of the church, we hear again and again that the freedom from crushing student debt has allowed them to serve in ministry more freely and proclaim the gospel.

Fundraising and strategy

For the fiscal year 2016, Fund for Leaders reached a fundraising total of \$2.66 million as of Dec. 31, 2016. A \$3 million gift commitment in 2016 catalyzed the introduction of an expanded scholarships program, which will provide an additional 60 full-tuition scholarships over the next three years (in collaboration with Presiding Bishop Eaton’s Leadership Initiative). Fund for Leaders staff are working with students, seminaries, synods and our new grant-making software to restructure the application and the selection process to best support future ministers as they go and serve where the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

For 2017, Fund for Leaders will be concentrating on three primary goals: 1) continued development work with new and existing donors, toward the goal of raising \$4 million in the next two years (and \$15 million overall during *The Campaign for the ELCA*); 2) the implementation of new interim award process and planning for the transition to a direct application and award process for subsequent years; and 3) planning related to recognizing and highlighting the 20th anniversary of the Fund for Leaders with its multiple constituencies, beginning in fall 2017.

ELCA World Hunger

2016 was the Campaign focus year for ELCA World Hunger, and we are grateful to report that over \$21.9 million was given in support of our church’s ministry for projects in 60 countries including the U.S. - working for a world in which all are fed. Thank you!

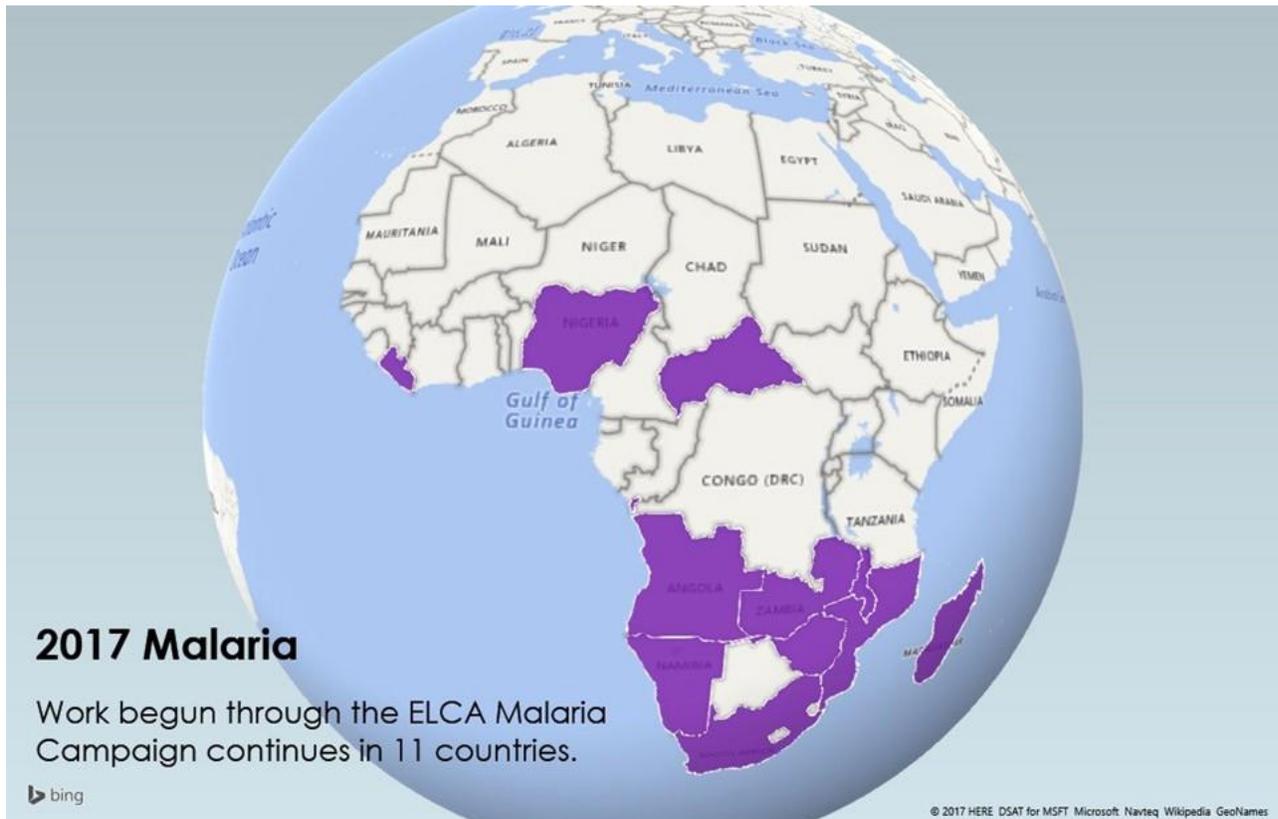
From participation “ELCA World Hunger’s 40 Days of Giving” during Lent to special efforts in over 45 synod assemblies and gifts of goats, pigs and latrines during the Advent and Christmas season, thank you for being part of the growth in giving – especially the growth in giving from congregations and synods.

This church currently funds almost 350 domestic hunger and poverty programs across the church.

ELCA World Hunger (cont'd)



ELCA Fund for Leaders (cont'd)



Entrance rite discernment

The Entrance Rite Discernment Group continues the work of moving toward a recommendation for a final entrance rite for the new roster of Word and Service.

Word and Service resources on the ELCA website include:

- a new FAQ describing the work of the Entrance Rite Discernment Group; and
- a Bible study “Mission, Ministry, and Leadership” to encourage discussions across the church.

Worship resources on the website include:

- a liturgy of welcoming and;
- an adapted consecration rite to be used until the next churchwide assembly.

Global church

Evangelism and outreach: Some of the youngest and fastest growing Lutheran churches are found in Asia in the countries of Indonesia, India, Nepal, Cambodia and Myanmar. It is long-time ELCA companion churches that are driving much of this growth, with strong support from ELCA Global Mission that builds on long-term relationships.

- The ELCA has joined with the Lutheran Church in Singapore to accompany the birth of the Lutheran Church in Cambodia. Because of the ELCA's work with and through others, evangelism in Cambodia is vibrant and is centered around young adults whose enthusiasm for proclaiming and living the gospel is catching.
- In Malaysia, with generous support from *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, we are helping the Lutheran church in this country reach the Orang Asli indigenous peoples who are now becoming faithful and gifted leaders in their own cultural context.
- In China, we are accompanying the Lisu ethnic minority in Yunnan Province with a particular focus on developing evangelists, Bible teachers and music leaders.
- In The Gambia in West Africa, ELCA Global Mission is coming alongside Lutherans in neighboring Senegal to help a new Lutheran church grow in a 90 percent Muslim context.

ELCA missionaries: "ELCA missionaries are ambassadors," Malpica Padilla (ELCA Global Mission Executive Director; the Rev. Dr. Rafael Malpica Padilla) said. "Paul writes to one of the communities, 'Receive one another.' We send missionaries today because 'sentness' is a sign of being the church, of being part of the body of Christ." 225 ELCA pastors, doctors, nurses, teachers, theological educators, communicators and community organizers are serving as missionaries in 44 countries on every continent of the world. For brief personal stories about the ways ELCA missionaries accompany companion churches around the globe, see the February Living Lutheran: livinglutheran.org/2017/02/called-gathered-sent/.

Sustainable development: Global Mission supports projects and programs across a variety of sectors including water, agriculture, livelihoods, food security, and peace and reconciliation. In 2015, approximately \$5 million was provided to 78 projects with a water-work component (e.g. wells, boreholes, spring boxes, water for irrigation, sanitation and hygiene, etc.). Food security and its link to health and nutrition underscore many projects.

- For example, in Burure, Zimbabwe Global Mission supports not only a health clinic, but education, HIV and AIDS education, life-skills training, agriculture and food preservation and livelihoods. Together these foster a broad impact in the lives of people in the Burure.
- In Cambodia, people who had been landless have been able to acquire new land and grow new crops, leading to improved nutrition, increased incomes and the ability to send their children to school.
- Also in Zimbabwe, a peace and reconciliation program has helped participants heal from the trauma of conflict and is enabling the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the promotion of development.

Health care: ELCA engagement strengthens the life-saving and healing ministries of hospitals and clinics in countries such as Liberia, Madagascar and Zimbabwe. With support through the *The Campaign for the ELCA*, ground was broken in 2016 in Juba, South Sudan, for a new clinic focused on maternal-child health. A large and growing area of our work across the globe is

Global church (cont'd)

disease prevention and health promotion through community-based, primary health projects. For example, in Chile, *Educacion Popular en Salud - EPES (Popular Education in Health)* receives World Hunger support for this grass-roots work and is accompanied by an ELCA long-term missionary. Moreover, the ELCA seeks to make the HIV and AIDS and malaria pandemics history by addressing underlying injustices with a focus on poverty.

The Global Mission unit receives the gifts of companions and channels them for the re-formation of global mission engagement narratives and practices in our own U.S. context. This work is done through approximately two dozen “glocal” events offered to synods and congregations each year. The events are a venue for trainings and experiential learning that increase participants’ understanding and build new capacities in the use of accompaniment as a narrative, lens and method for global and local mission engagement.

Women represent 70 percent of the world’s population living in poverty. Yes, in church and society, women often lack access to opportunities to realize their full potential because they lack access to educational opportunities. The ELCA’s International Women Leaders initiative is our church’s strong effort to create opportunities that support women leaders in church and society. With support from *The Campaign for the ELCA*, from winter 2014 to fall 2016, the International Women Leaders benefitted 91 women with study and leadership opportunities. Awards were granted to participants of five leadership seminars in Wittenberg, Germany, and to students studying at ELCA colleges, universities, seminaries and academic institutions closer to their homes.

Global church sponsorship

- Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission
- Global Ministries
- International Women Leaders

In 2017, *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA* is lifting up the Global Church as its theme. We invite every member and every congregation to join us in celebrating the ways in which our church lives into God’s mission of building bridges and living as one body of Christ in the world! We began 2017 with a celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8 and there are two additional celebrations coming up:

Key 2017 dates for Global Church Sponsorship

June 4 – Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday is the opportunity to reflect on the global community of which we are a part—a community of people living out our faith, serving our neighbors and sharing God’s love with the world. This Pentecost Sunday we will lift up life-changing ministries with our global companions working to grow the global Lutheran church. *The Pentecost Sunday packet arrived at your congregation in mid-April.*

Global church sponsorship (cont'd)

Global Church Sunday – pick a Sunday in October!

Global Church Sunday is about celebrating our church's connections and common mission within Christ's global church. It is a day to rejoice in our relationships with companions around the world, to learn more about how the ELCA is connected globally and to support our church's missionaries who work in partnership with our companions in Christ. *The Global Church Sunday packet will arrive at your congregation in July.*

Other resources (available at ELCA.org/resources)

- Global Church Minutes: prayers to be incorporated in weekly worship in 2017
- Global Church Passport: educational activities for youth and young
- Global Church Story Series: 12 stories from our global companions

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Since 2013, thousands of ELCA congregations have participated in this opportunity and dedicated one day to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all people.

The date for 2017 is Sunday, Sept. 10. Mark your congregation's calendar today! If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 10, please consider another time that works best.

This year we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The ELCA's anniversary theme, “Freed and Renewed in Christ,” reminds us of the gospel's promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. This is work that you do every day – serving your community in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people. Visit ELCA.org/dayofservice for more information.

Human rights social message

The ELCA Church Council has initiated the development of a social message on human rights. This message will meet the long-recognized need for the ELCA to robustly address human rights in light of global complexities. For more information, go to ELCA.org/socialmessages.

Leadership development

The churchwide organization partners with synods, seminaries, outdoor and campus ministries, and others to identify and prepare new Ministers of Word & Sacrament (pastors) and Ministers of Word & Service (deacons). During the past year, a new Candidacy Manual for Synod Candidacy Committees and a revised Candidacy Process was developed and is now being implemented. In addition, the unit helps to encourage and support lay leadership efforts in many synods.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Key areas of work

Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster – following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by disasters and for leaders who respond to disasters;
- coordinating volunteers through local affiliates;
- assisting refugees in a holistic way that meets the varied needs of each community;
- promoting disaster preparedness and disaster-risk reduction;
- addressing unmet needs that could exist months, even years after a disaster and would help assist a family in their recovery. Unmet needs can include things such as furniture and appliances;
- supporting disaster case managers who work one-on-one with individuals or families as they navigate their recovery efforts, such as applying for FEMA assistance or filing insurance claims.

International work

- Provided support for 47 disaster relief and recovery projects in 31 countries in FY2016.
 - These were initiated in response to a wide variety of disasters including the drought in Africa.
- Importantly, support for refugees and migrants has become even more critical in the current sociopolitical context; efforts are focused on AMMPARO as well as responding to the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe.
- Last fall, Hurricane Matthew hit in the Caribbean, and LDR's collective response spanned across international and domestic work.
 - Internationally, we responded by supporting emergency relief in Haiti and Cuba (the first time LDR responded to a disaster in Cuba).
- Support for recovery efforts after the earthquake in Nepal is ongoing, with completion of this phase of work planned for dedication in summer 2017.
- We have also worked with companion churches to build capacity for disaster preparedness through workshops in Malaysia (July) and Madagascar (October).

Domestic work

- Provided support for 12 disaster relief and recovery projects in 10 states in FY2016.
- AMMPARO was affirmed at the Churchwide Assembly, and we continue to support programming such as Pro-Bono Lawyers and the Guardian Angel's program to support unaccompanied minors from Central America.

Lutheran Disaster Response (cont'd)

- Continuing to coordinate with the four states affected by Hurricane Matthew.
 - Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia
 - We are coordinating with social ministry organizations and synods to work toward long-term recovery efforts.
- The West Virginia flooding
 - Coordinating with our affiliate for long-term recovery efforts. Several congregations, pastors and individuals supported the recovery efforts.
- South Dakota reservation flooding
 - We continue to work with Native American communities to accompany them through the recovery process from disasters that received little to no media attention.
- Louisiana flooding
 - Coordinating with affiliate Uprising, which is implementing a major disaster case management program for survivors. The disaster team is operating out of First Lutheran Church in Lafayette, La.
 - This flood started during the 2016 Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans and was declared one of the worst U.S. disasters since Hurricane Sandy.

Mission Investment Fund

- **The Mission Investment Fund (MIF)** is the lending ministry of the ELCA. MIF makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building and renovation projects. With MIF loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, build expansions and make renovations.
- MIF loans expand the capacity for ministry. MIF loans help create expanded worship spaces, updated space for education and youth ministry, new kitchens for community meals and soup kitchens, affordable housing units for the community and much more.
- At year-end 2016, MIF had 860 loans outstanding, totaling \$524 million.
- To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2016, MIF investments totaled \$474 million.

The MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$678 million and net assets of \$198 million at year-end 2016, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 29 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

New congregations

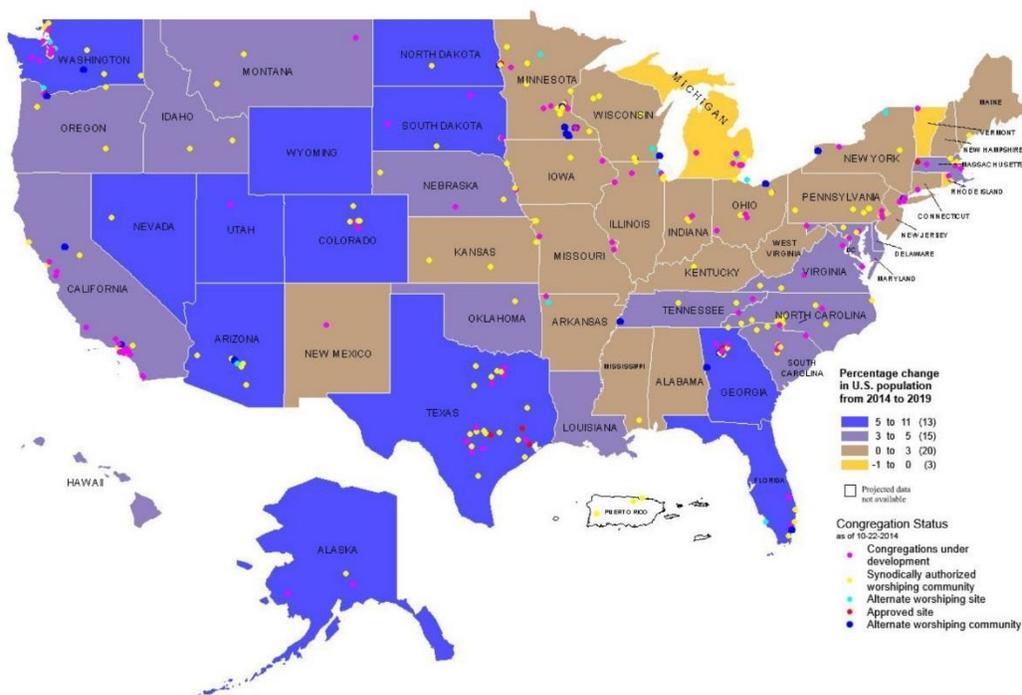
We share Christ's love by extending our welcome through new congregations and by supporting them as growing centers for evangelical mission.

As we seek to grow God's church and extend our welcome to all God's people, we are worshiping in pews, city parks, cafes and libraries; we are breaking bread in homes and in shelters, and we are equipping our neighbors with both spiritual and physical sustenance. With our hands, we are doing God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in God's name.

There are 372 ELCA new ministries currently under development in the United States and the Caribbean through the work of 65 synod mission tables made up of local leaders, directors for evangelical mission and bishops.

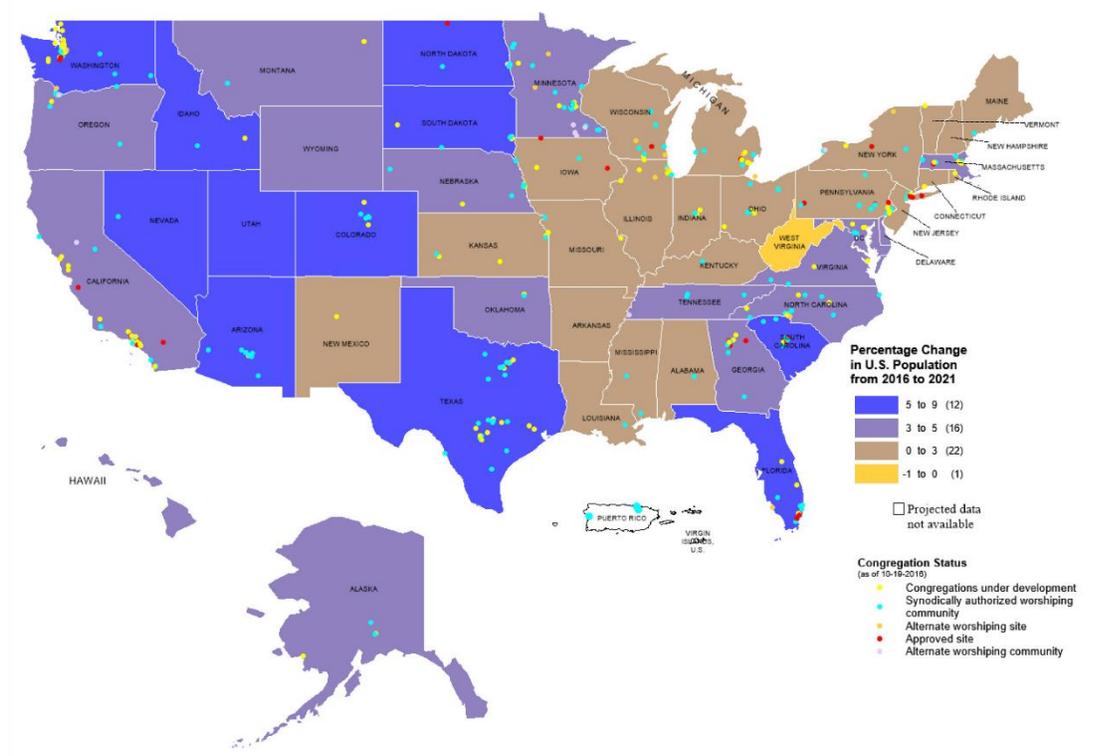
But there is more work to be done and communities to reach. In order to reflect the diversity in our country, we are actively engaged in God's mission with the goal of becoming an evangelizing, multicultural and multigenerational church.

Map of ELCA congregational development

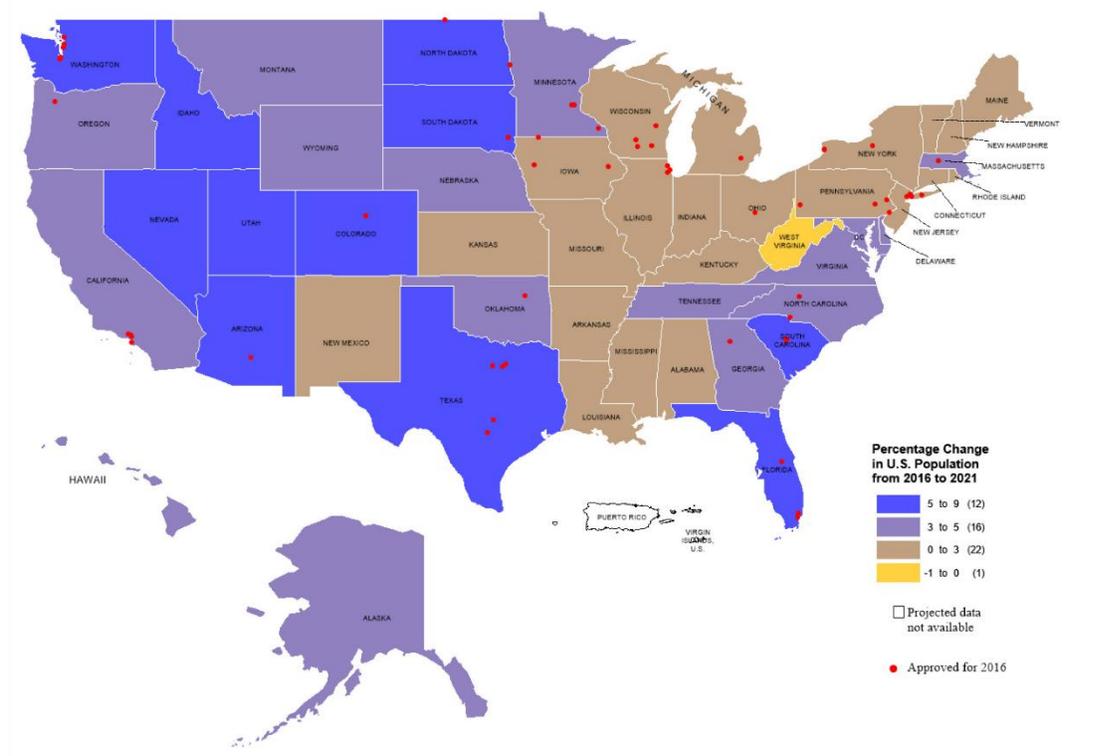


New congregations (cont'd)

Map of ELCA congregational development



Map of ELCA congregational development - Approved for 2016



New congregations (cont'd)

ELCA new congregations key statistics:

- **384** new ministries are currently under development
- **62** new starts were approved in 2016
- **12** new starts were approved in 2017 as of March 2, 2017
- **136** total new starts total approved in last 26 months
- **514** new ministries have been organized as congregations since the birth of the ELCA in 1988
- **56 percent** of all new starts are among ethnic-multicultural communities
- **18 percent** of 2016 new starts are with ecumenical partners
- **21 percent** of 2016 new starts are young adult-millennial leaders and communities

What YOU can do ...

SHARE AN IDEA: If you have an idea for a new church—contact your synod office. Ask for the director for evangelical mission or your bishop.

PRAY: Be a prayer partner for the new start and its mission developer.

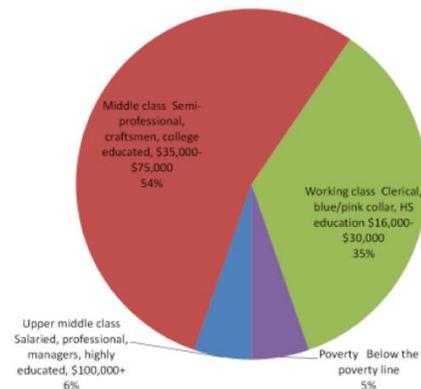
GIVE: Share your resources to propel a new congregation in its development. You can support ELCA new congregations today by making a gift online at: ELCA.org/newcongregations/donate

Office of the Secretary

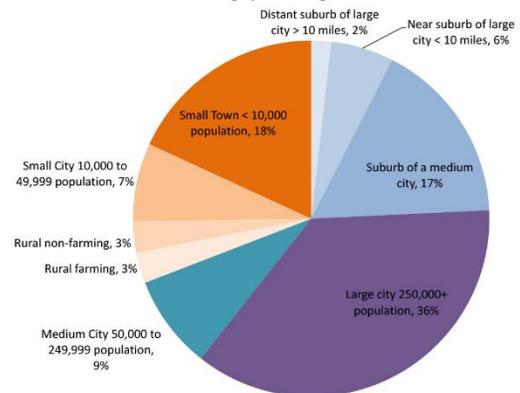
Congregations should amend their constitutions to incorporate the changes made to the Model Constitution for Congregations that were adopted by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. Amendments made in conformity to the model require action at one congregational meeting and require a majority vote for adoption.

Deacons are still counted as laypeople when looking at the representational principles of this church. This status is being addressed by the Entrance Rite Discernment Working Group and any change would come before the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.

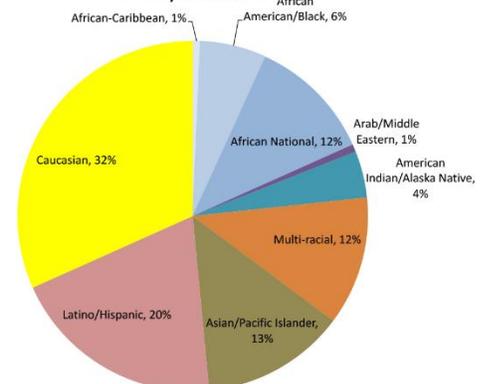
New Starts by Economic Group Type



Geographic Setting of New Starts



Ethnicity of New Starts



Office of the Treasurer

- ELCA total operating revenue and support for 2016: **\$69,001,013**
- ELCA total expense and allocations for 2016: **\$67,370,338**
- ELCA World Hunger total income: **\$21,922,250**

Campaign-to-date

- Congregations: \$2,276,568
- Leadership: \$12,259,243
- Global Church: \$14,049,115
- Hunger and Poverty: \$79,789,649
- “Where needed most”: \$4,989,452

Total revenue and commitments:

\$113,364,026, 57.3 percent of goal – on target

Refugees and migrants

ELCA Global Mission is responding to several critical refugee or migration crises in the global context. Through relationships with global companions and partners, we provide humanitarian assistance, extend a welcome to the stranger and encourage those in power to work for peace with justice. Here are some examples:

- Support has been provided to companions and partners in Hungary, Serbia, northern Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Jordan to assist people in transit and those living in refugee camps and host communities.
- With ELCA support, Asylum Protection Center in Serbia provides critical information, humanitarian supplies and psychosocial support to refugees from countries such as Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan.
- Also in Serbia, Lutheran Disaster Response provided \$100,000 in 2016 to build a temporary shelter and supply acute humanitarian needs of refugees during the winter months. The shelter is insulated and heated and can be used by approximately 200 single mothers with children, and/or families on a daily basis.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, an ELCA missionary is accompanying Sudanese refugees in Gambella, while additional support is provided for refugee camps in Kakuma and Daabab.

Global migration story: Safety net for refugee children in Cairo, Egypt

Yohannes was 16 when he arrived in Cairo, Egypt, alone. He made his way to Egypt from Eritrea, in East Africa. He crossed the Sudan and with food hard to come by he found himself going without food for two days. Upon arriving in Cairo, Yohannes came to St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS) seeking help. StARS, a program supported by gifts to ELCA World Hunger, offers unaccompanied refugee children food, education and psychosocial support. First order of business for Yohannes: a warm, home-cooked meal.

Refugees and migrants (cont'd)

Through your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, StARS feeds 350 refugee children two meals a day, four days a week. And, with the help of the program, Yohannes has learned about nutrition, budgeting, services available to him in Cairo, and how to get around this city of 7.7 million.

The program also offers him a safe space for playing sports and building friendships. "If StARS did not exist, I would go without food for the entire day," Yohannes said. "Nobody can study with an empty stomach."

"And here I get the chance to learn and to be with my friends."

Today Yohannes is attending school. He has a brighter future thanks to your support of ELCA World Hunger.

Rostered Ministers Gathering

The ELCA will host its first Rostered Ministers Gathering in Atlanta (Aug. 7-10, 2017). This is an opportunity for Word and Service and Word and Sacrament ministers to gather for continuing education, fellowship, fun, service and worship.

Keynote speakers include: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the Rev. Dr. James Forbes and Rachel Held Evans.



Our theme, "On the Way – Together," uses the Emmaus road story (Luke 24:13-35) to guide our time together. It's an opportunity to gather rostered ministers from around this church to remind one another that we are far better together than we are apart. We are on our way together as a church with our ecumenical partnerships, with our continued conversations around racism and reconciliation, and toward continued reformation.

We will gather in Atlanta in the name of Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ. We will center ourselves each day around Word and Sacrament in worship. We will have opportunities to be in fellowship and to dwell in God's Word. We will hear from keynote speakers. Then we will be sent forth into this world to love and serve the world in Christ's name.

There will be two event pre-gatherings: federal chaplains and young rostered ministers (20s and 30s).

For more information, please visit ELCA.org/RMG. Email questions to 2017MinistersGathering@elca.org or you can call 773-280-2552 or toll free at 800-635-3522. Registration closes on July 23.

South Sudan outreach

In South Sudan, we find the youngest nation and the newest Lutheran Church – in the midst of extremely difficult circumstances.

The ELCA is committed to its ongoing work in South Sudan to help cultivate peace and a sustainable future for millions affected by civil war and famine. There are 3 focus areas for our work:

- We are working together with others to deliver immediate famine relief: Right now, more than seven million people need humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. The ELCA is poised to respond to this need. Through our long-standing relationships in the region, we are prepared to accompany communities through food distribution, water and sanitation, and psychosocial support. Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response are critical to implementing this work. Together, we can provide life-saving aid to our brothers and sisters in South Sudan when they need it most.
- Sustainable food security: In efforts to build resilience of communities, we are working through the Lutheran World Federation to enhance food security and improve livelihoods of poor and vulnerable households. With support from ELCA World Hunger, community members are increasing food production through development of new agricultural practices and skills, and women and youth are increasing their economic capacity by initiating businesses through savings clubs and small loans.
- Sustained ministry: In November of 2016, we broke ground on a Lutheran center and clinic in Juba, in an area that lacks basic health and education services. The center will be a place for the community to find hope by providing classes, including computer training, and a health clinic – which will be the country's first and only place for fistula surgery for women and girls. For many South Sudanese adults, this will be their first educational experience.

There is a congregational toolkit online with resources to lift up this work in your communities. Go to ELCA.org/SouthSudanNow.

Women and Justice

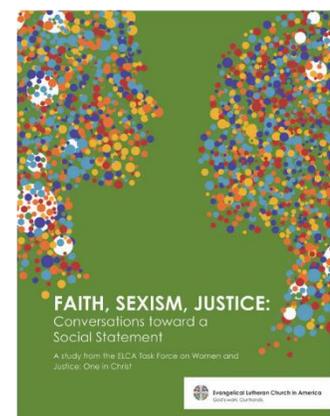
Join the conversation!

The ELCA Women and Justice Task Force is developing a social statement and wants to hear from you!

Participate with the *Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement* study with a group or on your own.

Divided into seven modules, topics include:

- Justice
- Sexism
- Economics
- Gender-based violence
- Words and images for God
- Scripture usage



Feedback on the study is accepted through Aug. 31, 2017. For more information, go to ELCA.org/womenandjustice.

2017 EVANGELICAL OUTREACH MISSION TEAM REPORT

The Evangelical Outreach Mission Team (EOMT) is a Synod outreach team consisting of members from each of the nine conferences, representatives from the Synod council including the Vice-President, Randall Foster and Synod council representatives; as well as members from the following ministry areas, New Starts, Renewal/Transformational Ministry, Stewardship, Latino Ministry, Asian Ministry, African Descent, Mission Partner/Founders and Mission Interpreters.

The Team is tasked with implementing the ELCA's evangelism strategy and implementing the Synod's mission goals of intentional outreach to our area's diverse populations, to ethnic-specific populations, developing new congregations and providing resources for existing congregations who are interested in transformational/renewing ministries.

The EOMT has three tables/committees: New Start Ministry, Redevelopment Ministry and Stewardship. We continue our work in implementing the Generous Life project providing an opportunity to work with congregations on what it means to be generous and the stewardship implications for each congregation's church members. This presents an exciting opportunity to have firsthand involvement in the creation of a way of doing stewardship ministry which is tailored to our area.

One of our key functions is recommending allocations of money for new starts and transformational ministries out of the First Los Angeles Fund which was created when First Lutheran of Los Angeles was sold several years ago.

Over the past year the Team has continued in its oversight of the development of several new start and redevelopment ministries in our Synod. Over \$70,000 was allocated from the First Los Angeles fund this past year. We strongly believe that our mission is best served when we work together to support the ministries of our existing congregations to provide not only financial support but guidance where appropriate.

LIVING THE RESURRECTION

A specific emphasis for the EOMT has been in the strengthening of Renewal Ministry within our existing congregations. We received a grant for an exciting new-self-created- program entitled Living the Resurrection. Several congregations are currently involved in helping to create a new vision of renewal in our Synod.

We also continue our work in the following areas:

- **WORKING TO STRENGTHEN OUR TABLES.** The EOMT has three different tables; New Starts, Renewal and Stewardship. We will be discussing ways to broaden the representation at each table to include both pastoral and lay involvement.
- **STRENGTHENING ETHNIC STRATEGIES.** There are three major ethnic strategy components, African-American, Asian and Latino. Given the diversity of the population of the Southwest Synod it is essential that we work together with our local congregations and congregation coalitions to enhance our mission in reaching local communities.
- **REVIEWING EOMT'S STRUCTURE.** One of the issues raised was the unwieldiness of our current structure. Part of our oncoming discussion will focus on potential changes to EOMT's structure.
- **AREA MINISTRY STRATEGY.** We hope to bring recommendations to the Council concerning the development of various ministry strategies which would involve more than a single church. Given the number of small congregations within our Synod we believe that encouraging churches, in close proximity, to walk together will enhance each church's ability to evangelize and reach out into the local community.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve with our brothers and sisters in the Southwest California Synod as we spread the Good News of the Gospel.

We will have a booth available at this year's Synod Assembly and will have written information available. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about EOMT and the various projects ongoing in southern California.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Allen
Chairperson

Synod Mission Team for Justice

Sharon Heck, Chair



Our Justice Team has been very active this past year. Team members meet once a month to hear reports from our committees and task forces. We meet on the second Tuesday at the Synod Office, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM and anyone is welcome to join us. Below you will find reports from four of our groups. We also have some activity on Prison Ministry and Racial Diversity. Under Prison Ministry we support the Recovery Bibles for Prisoners project at Hope Lutheran, Hollywood. Racial Diversity will be planning educational events for congregations.

I would like to thank all of the faithful members of our Team. A special thank you is extended to our Executive Committee: Jane Affonso, Alexia Salvatierra, and John Halbert who serves as our secretary. This committee helps me plan our meetings, and they are very active in many of our projects.

The Chair of the **Immigration Committee** is Pastor Alexia Salvatierra and here is her report. Accomplishments:

1) Guardian Angels Project:

- Over 40 regular volunteers visiting immigration court three days a week to accompany and support unaccompanied children and youth fleeing violence in Central America, connecting them with legal resources as the front line responders.
- Quarterly trainings with updates on broader threats and advocacy opportunities
- Participation in ELCA steering committee for AMPARRO project (and technical assistance provided as needed to new Guardian Angel programs in other synods.)

2) Second Annual Refugee and Migrant Sunday

- Current educational materials developed (including mission moment, sermon helps etc.) and outreach to congregations carried out for second Sunday of Lent

3) Initial Training for Sanctuary Network (representatives of over 20 congregations attended) and facilitation of process for potential sanctuary family at Fe y Esperanza.

4) Preparation of workshops for regional ELCA Youth gathering and for Synod Learning event

The Chair of the **Middle East** group is Bishop Emeritus Dean Nelson and here is his report.

The Middle East Peace Task Force follows the ELCA's Peace Not Walls strategy for engaging our Synod in the work of peacemaking in Israel and Palestine. Awareness, Accompaniment and Advocacy are the three emphases of the strategy. We help make the congregations of our Synod aware of the situation on the ground in the Holy Land, we accompany our brothers and sisters in the ELCJHL with our prayers, visits and financial support, and we advocate with our legislators for a two state solution for ending the occupation and the hostilities. Interested persons are welcome to join the Task Force.

The Co-Chairs of the **Green Faith** group are Jane Affonso and Pastor Peg Schultz-Akerson, and here is their report.

- Team attended ELCA-sponsored Retreat at Luther Glen which drew together the 3 CA Synods on Green Faith efforts: CA Cares for Creation: Collaboration, Cooperation, Communion. Included gathering apples; collecting eggs which we brought to San Bernardino Lutheran City Center Mission
- Theoasis – Professional Leader’s Retreat “How to Be Green in Congregations” gifted participants with Green Faith Resources on USB – Oct. 2016 – led by Prs. Peg Schultz-Akerson and Glen Egertson,
- Created Lutheran’s Restoring Creation CA Facebook Page AND Group.
- Represented at California Adaptation Forum (Marsha Harris) – Sept2016
- Provided consultation to many for Monarch butterfly habitat (milkweed).
- Provided consultation on succulent gardening at 2016 Assembly - Gave out poppy seeds (CA State Flower) approx.100 packets
- First Lutheran, Torrance co-sponsored viewing the film – "Bag It" – Nov. 2016
- Trinity Wall Street - Water Justice Conference – Live-streaming at Ascension, Thousand Oaks
- Encouraged use of Fair Trade Coffee/Tea by SoCalSynod. Raised funds to support it.
- Celebrated the farm at Luther Glen – And the commitment to plant TREES! ☺
- Facilitated Synod observance of UN WORLD WATER DAY 2017 on March 22nd at Lutheran Center, Glendale. Dr. Lisa Dahill offered a beautiful sermon which can be found on Synod website. Bishop Erwin presided.
- READ many more details on our flyer, at Green Faith booth, and on our video!

The **Joint Episcopal-Lutheran Gun Violence Prevention Task Force** is Co-Chaired by Virginia Classick, Patricia Terry (Episcopalian) and Rev. Dan Gibson (Lutheran). Our mission is to educate, equip and engage congregations in the work of gun violence prevention. Over this past year we have increased our use of e-news and developed a Facebook page to promote events and express our concerns. We led workshops and provided resource tables at synod-wide assemblies, pastor’s retreats, women’s conventions, and other conference events. At this year’s first nationwide “Concert Across America” event, Bishop Erwin gave the invocation. For Gun Violence Sabbaths and other national commemorations, we offered litanies and songs for Sunday services. Our network is growing, and this coming year we plan to expand our work in all areas of education, outreach, and advocacy.

As you can see, our Justice Team has been very busy this year. It is a wonderful group of people who try to follow the biblical teaching of Micah 6:8. "... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." NRSV

Come join us!

Southwest California Lay Leadership Mission Team 2017 Synod Assembly Report

The LLMT in conjunction with the Synod Staff have worked this past year to present the Reformation Road trip to Celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. At the writing of this report, there are two Reformation Road trips opportunities left to hear Bishop Erwin's lectures on Martin Luther.

The attendance with each event increased. Here is where we went this year:

- The Lutheran Center, Glendale, September 17, 2016:
 - Lecture One & Two: Luther as A reformer of the Church.
 - In-Depth Text: To The Nobility of the German Nation, 1520
- First Lutheran Church, Torrance, November 19, 2016:
 - Lectures Three & Four: Luther as a Reformer of Christian Life.
 - In-Depth Text: The Large Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther, 1529
- Hill Avenue Grace – Pasadena, January 21, 2017:
 - Lectures Five and Six: Luther as a Reformer of the Sacraments.
 - In-Depth Text: The Babylonian Captivity of the Church, 1520
- Emmanuel Lutheran – North Hollywood. March 25, 2017:
 - Lectures Seven & Eight: Luther as a Reformer of Pastoral Practice
 - In-Depth Text: A Simple Way to Pray, 1535
- Ascension Lutheran – Thousand Oaks, May 13, 2017:
 - Lectures Nine & Ten: Luther as a Reformer of Marriage and Civil Society
 - In-Depth Text: Temporal Authority: To What Extent I Should Be Obeyed, 1523
- Mt Carmel – San Luis Obispo, July 15, 2017
 - Lectures Eleven & Twelve: Luther as a Reformer of Biblical Interpretation
 - In-Depth Text: On Translating, 1530

We continue stamping the passports distributed at the first trip with a Luther and now an official 500th Anniversary stamp. A small token gift: a reminder of Luther's Christmas Hymn "From Heaven Above" coin, a Sola coin, a Luther Rose pin, and a Martin Luther pin.

Thanks again to the:

- Bishop Erwin for his willingness to share his knowledge on Martin Luther. It is a joy to hear him speak.
- Samantha Henderson, Robin Lujan, and Nicole Miller Synod Staff for their registration coordination and preparation.
- LLMT members: Nancy Neyer, Valerie Shaw, Kristal Shipp, Karen and Penny Moyer for set and registration. Penny Moyer for video tapping the sessions.
- Each church for their support committees.

Books are sold at each location: Luther Small Catechism \$1.00, and the October 31, 1517 by Martin Marty.

Pictures of the Reformation Road Trip 2016 – 2017.

First Lutheran, Torrance



Hill Avenue Grace,
Pasadena

Emmanuel, North Hollywood



SWCS Recovery and Spirituality Team Report

This year's Synod Assembly theme is: *Freed in Christ to Serve*. In Galatians 5:1, St. Paul says: *Stand firm then, and do not let yourself be burdened again by a yoke of slavery*. This declaration of freedom is both a statement of independence and encouragement to defend that freedom. It is based on the liberating, redemptive act of Jesus Christ that sets us free from the various dark forces that would enslave us.

We define addiction as, not only the unhealthy attachment to various substances, but any object that enslaves us and restrains our freedom. This ranges from cultural ideologies to church traditions to various personal fixations. We are exposed to it in all areas of life, and to some degree, it is something we all encounter personally. As people of faith, it can erode our trust-relationship with God and damage and destroy our relationships with others.

Without a doubt, this is a difficult and complicated issue that is further clouded by stigma and fallacy. What we might tend to label as a "moral shortcoming" could in reality be a misunderstood disease. Once the condition turns chronic, it can lead to a debilitating physical and mental deterioration that can result in death. Sadly, many who have sought the church for refuge and care were instead met with judgment and condemnation.

The Recovery and Spirituality Team recognizes that the use of our grace-oriented theology can offer release and life-giving transformation for those who are caught in the deadly grip of addiction. We are new, and some of our initial goals include: distinguishing between myths and foundations concerning the plight of addiction; providing education, resources and support; offering useful spiritual practices; equipping those who desire to work with others who suffer; and engaging in public awareness and advocacy.

Our members include: Deacon Shannon Savage-Howie, CSD (Co-Chair), John Halbert, Vicar Julie Kelly, Rev. Mark Rasbach and Mary Tabata, PhD.

As we embark on this much-needed venture, we ask for your prayers and invite you to consider your part in this special calling that brings new freedom and hope to others.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Dan Gibson, RADT-II, Co-Chair
SWCA Synod Recovery and Spirituality Team

Mission Team for Rostered Leadership



The Mission Team for Rostered Leadership is responsible for supporting the Bishop and the synod staff in matters involving rostered leaders at all stages of their careers through candidacy, call process, interim ministry and including retirement. The team helps organize and plan synod events such as the Bishop's Colloquy and assists in review and oversight of clergy and deacons who are in calls authorized through the Synod Council.

Members of the team include: Pastor Ruth Sievert (Chair), Pastor James Bessey, Deacon Lynn Bullock, Deacon Kevin Eisenbraun, Pastor Megan Hunt Fryling, Pastor Ralph Midtlyng, Pastor Reg Schultz-Akerson (Synod staff liaison), and Mr. Jon Uhler

The team has met three times since the last synod assembly, holding meetings in June and December of 2016 and April of 2017. During the time since last year's synod assembly the team accomplished the following:

- Helped edit and oversee a plan for congregations in transition
- Formed groups to support trained interim ministers, young clergy and deacons, and retirees and their spouses, including widowed spouses of retirees.
- Helped edit and oversee and new synod directory of congregations and rostered leaders in digital format

Events that the team organized or helped organize included:

- The Bishop's Colloquy and Chrism Mass held March 13.
- A Boundaries workshop held March 14. It is hoped that such workshops will be held in the spring and fall of each year in different places throughout the synod.
- The first gathering of trained Interim Ministers in order that they might support each other, learn from one another and interact. A gathering of Interim Pastors to encourage and support one another, encourage them in pursuing intentional interim training, and for more experienced interims to provide mentoring and some training. The group decided to meet twice a year, once at CLU and once at The Lutheran Center, and Pastor Ron White has agreed to convene the group.
- The planned retirees and spouses luncheon at (this) Synod Assembly.

- Ongoing workshops and programs on mediation and conflict resolution with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

Things that we are researching include finding a way to provide continuing education funds for our rostered leaders, and ways to provide more support for rostered leaders in specialized calls or challenging ministry settings.

Youth Ministries and Synod Youth Team – 2017

2016-2017 has been a very eventful year for the Southwest California Synod Youth Team. We are a team whose mission is to help youth to find their place in the ELCA and the Synod, and to use their God-given gifts as God directs. Our team members are elected or appointed to serve the youth and congregations within the Southwest California Synod. Through servant events, consulting teams, youth gatherings for High School, Middle School, and Elementary-aged youth, as well as being present and serving at Synod Assembly. Our theme verse for our team is I Timothy 4:12, which says, “Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young.”

Our “year” typically begins at the annual Fall Retreat for High School Youth, at which time elections to the team occur.

We have a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Multicultural Rep, Definitely-Abled Rep, Hospitality Rep, Media Manager, as well as Conference Reps and Adult Leaders.

Our High School Leadership Event in October 2016 took place at Camp Luther Glen. Our theme was “Shine”, with our speaker being Michael Bridges of the band “Lost & Found”.

In November, Cheyenne Boykin (our President) and Shawntelle Augustine (our Multicultural Rep), both from St. Mark’s, Los Angeles, traveled to the ELCA Youth Leadership Summit in North Carolina, where they discussed many of the issues facing youth in the ELCA. They met people from all over the country and were deeply moved by the things that they did!

Last November, some of us were able to help with the Middle School Youth Gathering in Anaheim. There were about 300 youth present, and this was done in conjunction with the Pacifica Synod.

We began the new year with a planning retreat at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Los Angeles. We helped to lead an Epiphany Event for the congregation, and planned several events for the year. A film crew joined us one evening to interview us for the making of a film to be used at the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston 2018.

We helped with the Elementary Youth Gathering at Luther Glen in March.

We also planned a one-day Elementary Youth Gathering for children from both the Pacifica Synod and the Southwest California Synod. Our theme was “Be Our Guest”, teaching children about being welcoming and offering hospitality!

Synod Assembly is always a highlight for our team, because it gives us opportunities to mingle with youth and young adult voting members from congregations as well as the many pastors & congregational leaders from our Synod. We host a reception, have a youth booth with information and giveaways, and we serve the assembly as pages, worship leaders and more! Rosalie Tarsala from our team was elected last June as the Youth Rep to Synod Council.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Western States Youth Gathering will happen in late June/early July. Gathering Synod Coordinators from Pacifica and Southwest California Synods will be leading workshops about the upcoming Houston Youth Gathering.

November 10-12, 2017, we will host the Annual High School Youth Retreat. Pastors, youth leaders and youth are invited to join us. Our theme is "Remix", based on Revelations 21:5, and our speaker will be Pastor Matt Keadle.

Middle School Youth Gathering will be November 17-19, and will include a trip to Universal Studios.

Janet Renick will be serving as the Gathering Synod Coordinator for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, 2018. Workshops will be presented throughout the year as we prepare!

The Synod Youth Team consists of youth and adult leaders from our Synod who see youth as being the PRESENT of the Church today. Those serving 2017 are:

President – Cheyenne Boykin (St Mark's, Los Angeles)
President-Elect – D.J. Ware (Christ, West Covina)
Vice President & Hospitality – Kaytlynn Haywood (Prince of Peace, Covina)
Secretary & L.A. Metro Conference Rep – Shawntelle Augustine (St. Mark's, L.A.)
Definitely-Abled Rep – vacant
Multicultural Rep – Jaylen Ware (Christ, West Covina)
Synod Council Rep – Rosalie Tarsala (Christ the Shepherd, Altadena)
Media Manager – Emma Griffis (Mt Cross, Camarillo)
Other Conference Reps:
Twin Valleys – vacant
Channel Islands –vacant
Central Coast Conference – Anneke Moersdorf (Mt. Carmel, SLO) San Gabriel – Brittney Rodriguez (Christ, West Covina)
Tehachapi – Alayda Young (At Large – St. Mark's, L.A.)
Foothill – Sarah Hoffmann (At Large – Christ, West Covina)

Adult Leaders:

Janet Renick – Adult Chair (Christ, West Covina)
Bryan Honda (Shepherd of the Valley, Simi)
Ingrid Frokjer (Mt. Carmel, San Luis Obispo)
Pastor Matt Keadle (St. Mark's, Los Angeles)
Meredith Gardner (Mt Cross, Camarillo) Aaron Tidwell (Christ, Long Beach)

There are still several openings on the team that we hope to fill as soon as possible. Talk to us!

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Renick, Adult Chair, Southwest California Synod Youth Team

May 5, 2017

CENTRAL COAST CONFERENCE

Church Together:

The Central Coast Conference encompasses San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County placing us at the northern end of our synods geographic boundaries. The conference includes eight congregations:

- **Bethel Lutheran**, Templeton –Pastor Amy Beverage
- **Hope Lutheran**, Atascadero – Pastor’s Ryan & Liz Radtke
- **Calvary Lutheran**, Morro Bay – Pastor Jim Berg
- **Mt. Carmel Lutheran**, San Luis Obispo – Pastors Valarie & Dan Carlson
- **Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz**, Santa Maria – Father Estaban Salazar
- **Gloria Dei Lutheran**, Santa Maria – Pastor Greg Kintzi, Conference Dean
- **Peace Lutheran**, Lompoc – Pastor Jeffrey Nelson
- **Bethania Lutheran**, Solvang – Pastor Chris Brown

Specialized ministries include **elder ministry** (Solvang Lutheran Home, Solvang), **young child ministry** (Bethania Preschool & Afterschool, Solvang), **prison ministry** (U.S. Federal Penitentiary, Lompoc and San Luis Obispo Men’s Colony, SLO), and **campus ministry** (Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo).

Conference Highlights from 2016:

- Father Estaban Salazar and his wife Angie began serving at Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz under a temporary call until Father Estaban is approved for transfer to the roster of the ELCA. The two of them have jumped right into our conference life by inviting all churches to a few of their big festivals at Santa Cruz and hosting our recent Spring Conference Assembly. It’s exciting to see so many new families participating in the life of this mission congregation.
- On February 24th – 26th of this year, Bethania Lutheran in Solvang hosted the 32nd Farstrup-Mortensen Lecture Series. The theme of the lecture series this year was “The Reformation and its Consequences.” The speakers included Bishop, Dr. Guy Erwin and Professor Kirsi Stjerna from P.L.T.S. If you are looking for an excellent continuing education experience, please consider joining us in the future.
- This coming June a number of people from our conference will participate in a tour to Luthers Saxony to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The Bishop and a number of our local pastors will be participating in this tour as well.

- At our Fall Conference Assembly this year, Pastor Amy Beverage gave a presentation on “Ugly Food” which centered around practices every congregation can engage in which support conservation of our environment.
- On Saturday, March 4th, a memorial service was held in Atascadero for retire Pastor Russ Mueller who was an active participant in our monthly conference gatherings and will be deeply missed.
- Outreach efforts to impact local neighborhoods continue to be implemented throughout our conference. “Serve Santa Maria” is now in its seventh year with nearly 400 people gathering from over 20 congregations to do various beautification projects. “Love Lompoc” is also going strong and starting to build new partnerships.

Forward to Serve God’s People in 2017:

- We look forward in the coming year to finding new ways for commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, including some special music programs around the central coast.

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Greg Kintzi,
Conference Dean*

Channel Islands Conference
Synod Assembly 2017

Congregations in our conference:

- Ascension Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks - Pastors Tim Delkeskamp, Steven Herder
- Christ Lutheran Church, Goleta - Pastor Elizabeth Nees
- Holy Cross, Ojai
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks - Pastors Erik Goehner, Tom Ford
- King of Glory Lutheran Church, Newbury Park - Pastor Steven Simpson
- Mount Cross Lutheran Church, Camarillo - Pastor John Soyster
- New Hope Lutheran Church, Agoura - Pastor Craig Beeker, Deacon Lynn Bulock
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oxnard - Pastor Nancy Switzler
- Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oxnard - Pastor Lynn Enloe
- Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Simi Valley - Pastor Jennifer Chrien
- St. Paul's Episcopal and Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Santa Paula - Rev. Dr. Cynthia Jew
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara - Pastor Truls Person
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Ventura - Pastors David Hall, Erin Martinson

Highlights from the past year:

- The pastors in the conference have continued to meet monthly. We have discussed subjects including: Lutheran Social Services, the Rainbow Umbrella Network, and preaching resources.
- There were a number of pastoral transitions over the past year. Rev. Tim Delkeskamp now serves as senior pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks, and Rev. Jennifer Chrien was called as the pastor to Shepherd of Valley Lutheran Church in Simi Valley. Rev. Elizabeth Nees has been an interim pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Goleta, and Rev. Lynn Enloe continues as the interim pastor for Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Oxnard. Deacon Lynn Bulock was called to New Hope Lutheran Church in Agoura.
- The conference continues to participate in interfaith conversations. This appears to be an area of growing interest for many in our congregations. A large number of Lutherans attended the "Family of Abraham" picnic, hosted by the Islamic Center of Conejo Valley. Many Lutheran clergy also attended a meeting of faith leaders at the Islamic Center of Conejo Valley after the Trump administration travel ban was put into place.
- The 2016 Fall Conference Assembly was hosted by California Lutheran University on September 6th. The 2017 Spring Conference Assembly was hosted by Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church on May 2nd. We are truly grateful to both of these hosts and for the opportunity to meet together.

Looking to the future:

The congregations in the conference hope to create a joint worship service this year in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the reformation. We are looking for additional opportunities to do ministry together as well.



Foothill Conference

Southwest California Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 1920 W. Glenoaks Blvd.
 Glendale, California 91201
 818-842-3138
 The Rev. Pr. Keith G. Banwart, Jr. – Dean

2016 proved to be a time of great change in the Foothill Conference of our beloved Synod. Here is a brief rundown of some of the leadership and other changes:

- Agape, El Monte seems to have possibly ended his ministry
- First, Glendale ended its life as a “congregation” in the traditional sense some months after the retirement of Pr. Ken Simon. A time of transition was guided by Pr. Ioan Ittu. First Lutheran School remains open under the auspices of the Synod.
- Lutheran Church in the Foothills, La Canada celebrated the Installation of Pr. Scott Peterson as its new pastor.
- Mt. Olive, La Crescenta began a new call process after Pr. Gary Heltsley announced that he would be leaving later this summer.
- Solheim, Los Angeles went through a review of its ministry leading to a number of changes including receiving pastoral leadership from Pr. Kathy Richter after the retirement some time ago of Pr. Charlie Carlson.
- Hill Ave. Grace, Pasadena began a time of transition with Pr. Gene Leiter serving as Interim Pastor.
- Trinity, San Gabriel also entered into a time of transition after the retirement of Pr. Ed McGee with pastoral leadership first provided by Pr. Deborah Andersen and then Pr. Kenny Bowen.

And those are only some of the major changes!

Once again this year, Audrey Bahr continued to serve the Conference as Chair and Pr. Deborah Andersen continued her service as Secretary/Treasurer, attempting to encourage congregations to remember their commitment of minimal dues payments to further the work of the Conference.

As Dean, I continue to be thankful for all of the Rostered Leaders who serve the congregations of the Conference and ask the Holy Spirit to be with each one of them. Moreover, I know that I, and all of our Rostered Leaders, give God thanks for the lay leaders within each one of our congregations who faithfully continue to do God’s Work with (Their) Hands - even in the midst of rapidly changing times when resources feel strained and needs feel greater - as together we seek to Make Christ Known in the Foothills and beyond.

INJ,

The Rev. Keith G. Banwart, Jr. – Dean

Greater Long Beach Conference

I officially began my position as Dean of the Long Beach Conference in June of 2016. It is a privilege to serve this very active and collegial Conference. Our Collegium is held the second Thursday of every month. At the beginning of the year, the pastors are given a schedule and choose a convenient date to host. For each Collegium, we first have a service of word and sacrament followed by lunch and a meeting. Our Conference pastors and deacons are very faithful in their attendance and participation. During the time that we convene, we each share regarding events, activities, services, and concerns in the congregation we serve.

For many years, five to seven Conference churches have participated in sharing Confirmation, meeting every Wednesday evening from September through May at Christ Lutheran, Long Beach. The pastors and deacons rotate presenting the lesson and topic for each week. We gather at 5:30 for dinner, have games for half an hour, followed by the presentation and discussion, often held in small groups. We end the evening with a brief closing of review and prayers. The Confirmation classes also share in service projects such as wrapping Christmas gifts for LSS. The youth love doing this each year and within two hours wrap 600 or more presents.

For our February Collegium, we visited LSS in Long Beach and were very impressed by the wonderful service they render to the people of Long Beach. Many of us support LSS by donating supplies including food, clothing, school supplies, and even furniture.

It is a tradition in our Conference to hold an Easter Vigil. This year Our Saviour's, Long Beach hosted and it was wonderful! We roasted hot dogs and made s'mores from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., then processed into the sanctuary for an inspiring and joyful service celebrating the resurrection of our Savior. We were especially blessed to have Bishop Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin preside.

A few of our churches are currently in transition. We were very sad to lose Pastor Nimrod Flores from Grace, Bell. He was ill for some time before he died. We are thankful that he served as long as he was able. St. John's in Cerritos closed and is currently for sale. The congregation has dispersed at this time. Stacy Williams of TEEM ministry was installed at Holy Redeemer, Bellflower. The future of Faith Lutheran, Long Beach is still under consideration.

We have had two Conference Assemblies. One in October was hosted by Christ Lutheran, Downey. Our Spring Assembly was hosted by Christ Lutheran, Long Beach. The Bishop gave an excellent presentation on ELCA Strategic Directions. He discussed the five goals for "Called Together in Christ." The ELCA is in transition and we are anticipating, preparing, and planning for new beginnings and new meanings for gathering and worship. It is both challenging and inspiring.

With excitement we anticipate and prepare for Gay Pride week-end in Long Beach. We are so blessed to be in a Synod and Conference that is supportive of all human rights including

LGBTQ. Our Conference is also very active in interfaith participation as we respect all faith traditions.

Some of our churches are very involved in food distribution programs for the poor and homeless. Fe Y Esperanza in South Gate with Pastor Marta Moscoso has a wonderful program that serves many individuals and families in their area. Holy Redeemer, Bellflower has a long tradition of providing meals and food from their Food Bank. Christ Lutheran Downey will begin a Food Distribution program beginning in August. This will be coordinated with the Moravian Church of Downey which is closing June 4. Moravian members want to help continue this weekly program and Christ Lutheran has offered its facility and support in continuing to serve the Community.

The “Spirit of the Lord is upon us,” and we whole heartedly embrace our Lord’s compelling words, “Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me.”

Faithfully submitted in Christ,

Nancy Hamm, Dean

LA Metro Conference

The LA Metro Conference spans across some of the most diverse communities in the Southwest California Synod, from the ocean pier of Santa Monica to the border of Compton, encompassing Pico Union and goes as far south as Inglewood. This Conference also hosts a variety of parachurch organizations like the New City Parish, SoCal Lutherans, and Ground Zero to name a few. Along with those, we have a few Congregational-Based Campus Ministries at the University of Southern California, El Camino College and Los Angeles Southwest College.

The primary focus of the LA Metro Conference this year has been around unity, diversity and inclusivity. With such a large territory it makes collective work a challenge at times. However, we welcome this challenge because we believe we are better together. LA Metro voted as a conference to remain as one and not dissolve into two smaller. Splitting up would not help us in our goal to be a diverse church. Furthermore, the wealth in which we are is intrinsically tied to our diversity. We are diverse in many ways—culturally, socioeconomically, in our ethnicity, spirituality and sexuality, worship styles, leadership and community. This diversity leads us to what we have decided to actively pursue this year; what it means to be a Sanctuary Church and to promote Anti-racism in the church.

Our goal is to provide and/or partner for safety and community to those on the margins of life. We see it as our collective responsibility to help families stay together, connect with those who have the means, find help and secure resources to make an impact in people's lives. We have no more clear evidence than the Bruin Shelter at Mt. Olive in Santa Monica or the Guardian Angels program at Angelica.

It has been a new experience to be a dean and one I'm proud to be part of. I do not take this role for granted, but prayerfully hope that our conference will continue to be missional in their work of ministry to others. Here reflected in these pictures below is the work of churches in our community. I can show you, better than I can tell you...

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Jonathan Hemphill, Dean
LA Metro Conference
Ascension/Another Level Church



Another Level Ministries

Ascension Lutheran Church



Lutheran Church of the Master



Messiah Lutheran Church

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church



Bruins Shelter at Mt. Olive Lutheran



St. Paul's Lutheran Church



San Gabriel Valley Conference Rev. Robert Hamel, Interim Dean

CHURCH Together:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Temple City, Rev. Frank Wang
 Christ Lutheran Church and School, West Covina, Rev. Bob Hamel
 Christ Lutheran Church, Monterey Park, Vacant (John Yu, TEEM; Rev. Phil Demers – oversight)
 Faith Lutheran Church and Pre-School, San Dimas, Rev. David Berkedal
 Faith Lutheran Church, Monterey Park – vacant
 Grace Lutheran Church, Covina, Vacant Rev. Steve Otte
 Grace of Calvary Lutheran Church, Glendora, (Mr. David Hill, non-rostered interim)
 Lutheran Church of the Cross, Arcadia, Rev. Charlie Wang (Medical Leave)
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Covina, Rev. Dr. Thom Johnson
 Rock of the Foothills Lutheran Church, La Verne, Rev. Eric Strom
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church and School, Hacienda Heights, Rev. Mark Marius, Dean
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Monterey Park, Vacant

FAITH EMBODIED in Our Work:

In 2016-17, the SGV Conference met 8 times to share about our congregations and mission ministries and support one another in prayer and encouragement. Joining us as they are able are retired pastors, the Rev. Mel Langeland, and the Rev. Rich Schieber.

This past spring we gathered together at Prince of Peace Lutheran, Covina, to inspire one another in ministry and stewardship. Bishop Erwin, joined us for devotion and presentations.

CONFERENCE Highlights:

We celebrated with Chris Andrade, Principle of Christ Lutheran School in West Covina as he was awarded the National Lutheran School Principle of the Year Award. He also received the Christian School Principle of the Year Award as well.

Oktoberfest Scholarship evening, hosted by Prince of Peace, Covina. Several conference churches as well as other congregations that participate in the ACTION Food pantry raised funds to offer scholarship for those attending college. 10 scholarships were awarded after we feasted on Brats and beer.

CULTIVATE Together:

ACTION Food Pantry at Grace Lutheran, Covina – supported by 4 conference churches,(an additional 5 other congregations, the WCUSD and the USPS food drive). Serving 120 families weekly and over 2,000 families in total.

Area Wide Youth Ministry, directed by Janet Renick for 4 of our conference churches. Weekly meetings at 3 of the 4 churches, youth retreats, and AWE (Area Wide Events)

Many of our conference Pastors gathered at Claremont School of Theology for the Bonhoeffer Festival, hosted by Rev. Dr. Thom Johnson, Director of the Center for Lutheran Studies.

South Bay Conference



CHURCH Together:

- Christ the King Lutheran Church, Torrance – Pastor Dale Krumland, along with Rev. Hongsun Kim, ordained April 8, 2017, to a joint Japanese/Korean ministry with Christ the King
- First Lutheran Church, Carson – Pastor Dan Gibson, *Interim*
- First Lutheran Church, Torrance – Pastor William Hurst, *Intern* Crystal Larsen
- Glory Lutheran Church, Torrance (Cong. Under Development) – Pastor Newman Qiu, *Pastor/Developer*
- Good Shepherd Lutheran, San Pedro – Pastor Chris Lindstrom
- Olivet Lutheran Church, Hawthorne – Pastor John Miller, *Interim*
- Iglesia Luterana Pueblo de Dios (Cong. Under Development) – Pastor Samuel Nieva, *Pastor/Developer*
- Lutheran Oriental Church, Torrance – Pastor Paul Nakamura
- Resurrection Lutheran Church, Redondo Beach – Pastor Ken Johnson
- St. John Lutheran Church, Gardena – *Maria Paiva, TEEM candidate*
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Rancho Palos Verdes, Pastor Jon Gathje
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Hawthorne – Pastor Lawrence Becker, *Conference Dean*
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Manhattan Beach – Pastor Luther Martel

We Gather together:

The South Bay conference pastors and leaders meet every other month, from September through May, for Collegium gatherings hosted by one of the pastors of the conference at their church. These important meetings help us stay connected with one another, as well as with the synod. There are currently two *Congregations Under Development (CUDs)* in our conference.

Conference Highlights:

- First Lutheran in Torrance hosted one of Bishop Erwin's Reformation Roadtrip sessions in November, 2016
- Several churches in our conference, especially First, Torrance, and Trinity, Manhattan Beach, continue to support the Monday Night Meals and feeding program at St. John's, Gardena
- First Lutheran, Torrance, continues to host the Chinese outreach ministry, Glory Lutheran Church
- Christ the King, Torrance, is moving forward in the development of a Korean/Japanese ministry, with the Ordination of Rev. Hongsun Kim this past April
- Several churches in our conference supported Pueblo de Dios in their wonderful Posada event in December 2016, and plan to continue their support
- Several conference pastors meet on Tuesdays for a text study at First, Torrance

Rev. Lawrence Becker

South Bay Conference Dean

Twin Valleys Conference ASSEMBLY Report 2016

CHURCH Together:

American, Burbank- Pastor Reginald Hansome, Interim
 Faith, Canoga Park- Pastor Cesar Arroyo
 Church of Hope, Canyon Country- Pastor George McLeary
 Mission St. Francis, Chatsworth- Ramiel G. Shamwel and Pastor Sam Platts
 Bethel, Encino- Pastor Rustin Comer
 Bethlehem, Granada Hills- Pastor Megan Hunt Fryling
 St. Stephen's, Granada Hills- Pastor Ruth Sievert, Interim
 Emmanuel, North Hollywood- Pastor Patricia Lowe
 Iglesia Luterana San Pablo- Pastor Cesar Arroyo, Supply
 St. Matthews, North Hollywood- Pastor-Redeveloper Stephanie Jaeger
 LIFEhouse/First- Pastor Dana Hanson
 Prince of Peace, Northridge- Pastor Charles Bunnell
 Bloom, Santa Clarita- Pastor-Developer Ryan Chaddick
 All Saints, Sun Valley- Pastor Ralph Midtlyng
 Church of the Foothills, Sylmar-pulpit supply
 Central, Van Nuys- Pastor Larry Eckholm, Interim
 St. Andrew's, Van Nuys- Pastor Charles Bunnell
 Shepherd of the Valley, West Hills- Pastor Bryan Woken
 St. Luke, Woodland Hills- Pastor Janet Hansted



[A few of our conference pastors gathered in November.]

FAITH EMBODIED in Our Work:

In 2015, the pastors of the Twin Valleys Conference met monthly as a collegium. Each month we visited a different church and time was spent sharing ministry ideas and talking about ways that our congregations can work together and support each other. Our fall Conference Assembly was held in September at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Woodland Hills with an emphasis on effective stewardship. Our Spring Conference Assembly was held at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church & School in West Hills; we explored the ELCA's new visioning process "Called to Forward Together in Christ." Lay leaders serving our collegium include: Vice President: Jim Ohrt, Emmanuel Lutheran—North Hollywood (to Spring 2018); Secretary/Treasurer: Mike Metzger, Faith Lutheran—Canoga Park (to Spring 2018); Representative to Synod Council: Jan Smith, Church of Hope—Canyon Country (to Spring 2017); Representative to Evangelical Outreach Mission Team: Leslie Petit, St. Stephen—Granada Hills.

CONFERENCE Highlights:

In March 2015, Ryan Chaddick was ordained and installed as Pastor-Developer of the new-start Bloom in Santa Clarita. The new start "Mission St. Francis" opened on the former site of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Chatsworth. In November 2015, the pastors met to share different ideas and practices for the season of Advent. On November 22, 2015, Rev. Janet Hansted was installed as pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Woodland Hills. Bethlehem Lutheran, Granada Hills, began sponsoring an ELCA missionary in Cambodia. Representatives of many Twin Valleys congregations attended the Lutheran Social Services Lutherans Looking Forward Breakfast this spring. Spanish language ministries in the Twin Valleys conference (Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, North Hollywood, and Faith, Canoga Park) continue to thrive under the leadership of Pastor Cesar Arroyo.

*In March 2016, pastors of the conference elected Pastor Stephanie Jaeger and Pastor Megan Hunt Fryling as co-deans
On April 24, 2016, Rev. Ralph Midtlyng celebrated 25 years as pastor of All Saints, Sun Valley.*

Church of Hope, Canyon Country, recognized 25 years of ministry this spring 2016.

“Adore,” a new Synodically Authorized Worship Community Exploration reaching out to LGBTQ persons and allies in the Latino communities in the San Fernando Valley, began in March 2016 under the leadership of new TEEM candidate Joseph Castenada Carerra.

*In March 2016, St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in North Hollywood in partnership with LSS launched a new ministry: a half-day drop-in program for homeless persons on Wednesdays and encourages other conference churches to participate..
St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Van Nuys continues to host the Mother’s Day prison visitation program “Get On the Bus” which unites children with incarcerated mothers.*

CULTIVATE Together:

Twin Valleys congregations, pastors and lay leaders collaborate in several ministries and partnerships with community organizations. Some examples include:

Nearly all congregations in the conference support and celebrate the work of Lutheran Social Services, now in Canoga Park.

Women of Twin Valley congregations are active in the local WELCA chapter. At a recent gathering at St. Andrew’s Van Nuys, the group explored global issues in conversation with guest presenters from a Tongan congregation that worships at St. Andrew’s.

Bethel Lutheran, Encino, Bethlehem Lutheran, Granada Hills, and St. Matthew’s Lutheran in North Hollywood continued a 14-year tradition of traveling for 3 days to Tijuana to build houses and improve living conditions through Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry.

Bloom in Chatsworth and Bethel in Encino collaborate regularly through pulpit exchanges and shared fundraising for initiatives such as Charity Water.

Bethlehem, Granada Hills, Bethel, Encino, and Faith, Canoga Park, offer a shared confirmation ministry.

Church of Hope collaborates with various interfaith partners and congregations in the Santa Clarita/Canyon Country area in support of its food pantry and thrift store ministries.

All Saints in Sun Valley partners with a local non-denominational congregation to offer a thriving Summer Day Camp on its campus.

FORWARD to Serve God’s People in 2016:

The congregations of the Twin Valleys conference join together in witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the grace of God through common commitments including:

Feeding people and developing hands-on ministries;

Offering mutual support through prayer, gatherings, and friendship;

Finding more avenues for partnership in mission;

Inspiring one another to creative forms of Christian ministry; and

Encouraging one another to reach out to our individual and shared communities and contexts.

-We hope to spend more time finding ways that we can help each other in our ministries

-We hope to increase participation in the clergy meetings and in the conference assemblies

ABUNDANT Opportunity

God's abundance is manifest in the Twin Valleys conference in:

The extraordinary generosity of our members as they support Lutheran Social Services, Get on the Bus, homeless outreach and other initiatives that care and protect the most vulnerable in our midst.

The boundless energy of our clergy and laity to live the Resurrection in our congregations and communities.

The capacity in our congregations for creativity and to try new ways of witnessing to God's love and grace.

Twin Valleys conference is home to two new starts (Bloom, Mission St. Francis), a new SAWC exploration (Adore) and a congregation in transformational ministry (St. Matthew's). We invite you to become mission partners of these new things the Spirit is calling forth—by offering your prayers, presence and gifts.

We continue to look for more ways that our congregations can work together.

The Twin Valleys Conference pastors are always looking for ways to be more engaged in our communities and in the world. We will continue to share ideas with each other.

African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA)
“Our Faith, Our Community, Our Purpose”
 Report to the Southwest California Synod Assembly



ASSEMBLY Report 2017

The *African Descent Lutheran Association* (ADLA) is one of six ethnic-specific associations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We greet the Assembly on behalf of your brothers and sisters who invests their time, talents and treasures in the work of improving our communities, helping prospective seminarians as they take advantage of higher education opportunities while aiding the ELCA with special appeals in service to our communities.

ADLA – Los Angeles is comprised of nine congregations, one university (California Lutheran University) and has a membership of 104; many of its members are serving the Southwest California Synod through its committees and task forces. ADLA is in the service of God’s people providing commodities for social services throughout the community (see activities below).

ADLA also serves as the Synod’s facilitator for the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration and Commemoration Worship service, arguably becoming the 2nd largest Synod gathering next to the annual Assembly. This year’s worship service was jointly coordinated with the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles bringing to L.A., Episcopal Presiding Bishop and Primate, Rev. Michael B. Curry and ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton at Westchester Lutheran Church. Over 920 people were in attendance, gathering under the theme “Living the Dream of God, Now!”



MISSION to serve:

ADLA – Los Angeles exists to provide a prophetic voice to the issues, challenges and triumphs of the people of God residing primarily in the urban basin of Los Angeles, to coordinate our work together for the betterment of others, to be part of the answer to the perplexing problems of our day. ADLA is blessed to be a blessing to others in the Southwest California Synod as we live out our faith in meaningful and measurable ways.

FAITH EMBODIED in Our Work:

Each year *ADLA – Los Angeles* sets its calendar based on its outreach projects, seeking the approval of its membership on what is important and how our time, talents and treasures will be used to ensure each project’s success. We look first to what God has instructed

through scripture recognizing that we are God's hands, eyes and feet in doing the work of our community. It is *God's Work, Our Hands!* Each year, we direct our business sessions – for which there are four – to the accomplishment of these preset goals, raising funds while dedicating ourselves to God's work in our communities. We are most thankful that so many have joined us in this quest, brothers and sisters who desire to be their “brother's keeper”. We are pleased that this chapter is the only one nationally to have the presence of a University, in particular California Lutheran University, as a member. ADLA serves as an example of what congregations can do when they work together. Every other year, ADLA hosts its biennial gala and awards banquet to acknowledge the thoroughness of our interdependency in Christ Jesus and to dedicate resources for scholarships.



ADLA members prepare personal hygiene kits for LA-Skid Row residents (left), while collecting shoes for Lutheran Social Services at Christmas time in support of “Soles for Souls” program (rights).



Highlights: ADLA's 2016 Year in Review:

Supported Hope Lutheran Church, Hollywood with the purchase of Recovery Bibles for its prison ministry.

Coordinated and facilitated the 2016 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Commemoration and Celebration Worship service. Guest speaker, Ulysses Burley III, M.D.

Hosted Biennial Gala and Awards Banquet with proceeds going to prospective seminarians through the Robinson-Conway Scholarship Fund.

Donated and distributed 270 personal hygiene kits to Los Angeles Skid Row residents with Bishop Erwin.

Coordinated and facilitated the 2017 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and Episcopal Presiding Michael B. Curry in attendance.

Participated in Earth Day by disposing of hazardous waste and recycling electronic devices at The Hyperion Center, El Segundo.

Organizational Highlights:

Tripled membership over four years based on the scriptural mandate: Love God, Love Neighbor.

Became the largest ADLA Chapter of the 8 ADLA Chapters nationwide under the auspicious that “**United by Faith... We are Better Together**”.

Increased hygiene kit distribution to include the Easter Season and “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, enhancing the visibility of the ELCA on Skid Row, moving from a “visitor” in their presence to a “partner” in the gospel.

STORIES of Faith:

While our project contributions are designed to help many, we are often reminded by individuals of the impact these contributions have had on them personally; as was the case while on Los Angeles’ Skid Row when ADLA and Bishop R. Guy Erwin presented the local residents with personal hygiene kits (some needing to use selected items immediately). We had completely run out of the 200 packets (each worth \$12) within the first hour and a half. We began offering kind words and individual prayers as a substitute. They thanked us for both the products and the prayers - the words of intercession. Perhaps as important, they truly blessed us by their kindness in reminding us that all of God’s people matter. The next two opportunities to provide service to this community were accompanied by students in catechism and participants from Lutheran Retreats Camps and Conferences (LRCC). All experienced the graciousness of God in this outreach endeavor.

FORWARD to Serve God’s People in 2017-18:

ADLA is committed to its mission to serve others. We do so through our presence and actions for which we’ve identified the following recurring annual initiatives for 2017-18:

- Secure funds and purchase recovery bibles in support of prison ministry.
- Obtain and deliver personal hygiene kits to Skid Row on “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday and during Easter Holy Week in solidarity with the residents of the streets.
- Join Lutheran Social Services – Community Care with “Soles for Souls” shoe collection in December.
- Support Earth Day with hazardous waste and electronic device collection and disposal, demonstrating our resolve as good stewards of God’s creation.
- Raise and fund scholarships for prospective seminary candidates.
- Host ADLA Biennial Gala and Awards Ceremony
- Coordinate and Facilitate the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Worship Service

ABUNDANT Opportunity

ADLA membership is open each year from October – March, which includes both national and local affiliations. Membership fees annually range from \$30 for individuals to \$60 for senior couples.

We welcome you to stop-by the Lutheran Dodgers Night booth during the Assembly and pick-up information on the August 12th game. Tickets can be procured at the booth, ranging from \$28-32/person. Bus transportation is available through coordinated sites throughout the city: metro.net/dodgers.

ADLA appreciates your support, your prayers and your involvement. Come and be part of this exciting ministry

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ADLA Officers & Representatives
Carolyn C. Foster, President
Kathleen Elliott Chillison, Vice President
Thomas McKee, Treasurer
Valerie Shaw, Secretary
Dale Washington, Region II Representative

SYNODICAL ASSEMBLIES REPORT - 2017
Southwest California Synod; Pacifica Synod



Since its founding in 1948, California Lutheran Homes *and Community Services (CLH)*, continues to preserve, strengthen and expand not-for-profit missions in the areas of serving the elderly and other disadvantaged persons, primarily through:

- Providing Charitable Care funds to retirement communities for direct assistance to residents who experience financial hardship,
- Purchasing furnishings and equipment to improve the residents' quality of life,
- Renovating and replacing existing capital assets at retirement communities,
- Funding employee scholarships,
- Providing resources for chaplaincy and the Center for Spirituality in Aging,
- Investing seed capital for developing affordable housing projects, and
- Serving as a sponsor of several subsidized housing projects.

In 1999, CLH and two other non-profit retirement community organizations transitioned the daily operations of their owned retirement communities and managed affordable housing communities to the non-profit Front Porch in exchange for relief of their debt obligations. Since then, CLH has been able to focus its strength, resources and energy in serving its constituents.

This is a year of leadership transition for CLH as The Rev. Gary Wheeler will step down as CEO after almost 3 decades at the helm. His retirement had been anticipated, and the Board has selected William Jennings to succeed him starting in July. Mr. Jennings has previously served as CLH's CFO for the past 20 years.

Because of the financial strength of Front Porch, many of the resources of California Lutheran Homes that used to be required to sustain community operations are now available to pursue affordable housing expansion in cooperation with congregations [*see Affordable Housing Section below*] as well as qualitative programming in behalf of the CLH communities operated through Front Porch, including:

CHAPLAINCY Chaplaincy is available at all retirement communities formerly owned by California Lutheran Homes, and to other communities that have partnered with Front Porch.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AND AGING For decades, The CLH's Center for Spirituality and Aging has brought immeasurable value to the lives of those we serve, and has had significant impact upon the entire long-term-care delivery system in California and beyond. The Center has been responsible for research, education and advocacy in the areas of spirituality in long-term care/retirement living and community-based services, and its resources are available to congregations, synods/district and others. In fact, Front Porch will be incorporating some of the Center's mission vis-à-vis the retirement homes into its resident services. Previously, the Center hosted the International Conference on Aging and Spirituality. The Center's previous director, The Rev. Nancy Gordon, has retired effective March 31, 2017. Going forward, CLH feels it is a good time to revisit the many successes of the Center and look for opportunities for the future.

THE CLH AUXILIARY For decades, the CLH Auxiliary has been a leader in improving resident life at CLH communities through volunteerism. Now, the Auxiliary reaches out to affordable housing communities, as well, including those sponsored by CLH and those managed through Front Porch. The Auxiliary continues to be a major provider of volunteers.

California Lutheran UNIVERSITY

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7

God does not need our good works, Martin Luther says, but our neighbor does. (Wingren, Luther on Vocation, 10)

To be a neighbor and contribute to the community and world into which you are called. This resonates with the mission of Cal Lutheran, your Lutheran university in the west. Our dedicated and accomplished faculty work with small classes of undergraduate and graduate students who are open-minded-about ideas, about people, and about faith--and are seeking to grow as individuals while they pursue their passions and discover their purpose. Neighbor love has prompted us to live out our mission in these ways:

Adina Nack (Sociology) presented **"Women's Health: A Matter of Justice"** to the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice as they work to create a social teaching and policy document. Nack's two-part seminar used the lens of medical sociology to highlight and explain major health issues faced by girls and women in the U.S.

Molly George (Criminal Justice) and her students, Emily LeGrand and Amanda Juan, have been conducting research focusing on law enforcement and community interaction. Their work, **"Project Safe Passage"** is investigating the effectiveness of community policing and educational interventions with at-risk children in Thousand Oaks. Their preliminary analysis of crime statistics has revealed that community policing and after school programs are correlated with a decrease in crime as well as increased trust in local law enforcement.

Kapp Johnson (School of Management) and the Office of Congregational Relations is offering **Executive Skills for Pastors: Level One and Two** in July. Through lectures, group work, and one-on-one learning from faculty from the School of Management, leaders will gain valuable and needed skills for the complex environment of congregational management.

Colleen Windham-Hughes (Religion) will be the keynote speaker for the **Youth Ministry Training Event** being held in August at Cal Lutheran, a professional development program training children, youth, and family leaders for their work in the church and the world. Her leadership in the Theology and Christian Leadership program prepares students and professionals for this intentional ministry with congregations.

The accomplished faculty of Pacific Lutheran Theology Seminary are **On The Road** giving presentations, leading discussions, teaching and preaching, and guiding discernment as they serve as teaching theologians for the church. Follow them at www.plts.edu/admission/on-the-road.

California Lutheran

UNIVERSITY

The **Western States Youth Gathering** and **Multicultural Youth Leadership** events will be gathering youth and their adult leaders in June from across the western United States to Dream Big! Through worship, immersion experiences, small groups, and workshops, these young adults will be empowered to engage their community and connect more deeply to their faith.

The **Center for Nonprofit Leadership** is providing a comprehensive approach to sustaining nonprofit-specific organizational and leadership development in Ventura County. Through programming that is accessible, relevant, timely, and adaptive to the current needs of leaders and organizations, the Center provides hands-on management tools that help nonprofit leaders strengthen skills and make valuable contacts for future collaboration.

The **Autism and Communication Center** is offering educational, communication, and community inclusion resources—through workshops, conferences, research and resource information development—to P-20 students with autism and the teachers, providers, caregivers, administrators, and families who support them so that they can choose and use alternative forms of communication and realize their educational and civic potential and become meaningfully included in school and community settings.

The U.S. Department of Education named Cal Lutheran a **Hispanic-Serving Institution**, a milestone in the university's commitment to living out its mission to educate leaders for a global society within the changing context of student demographics. Cal Lutheran's goals as an HSI include evolving from being a Hispanic-enrolling institution to a Hispanic-serving institution by transforming institutional culture and daily practices to embrace inclusive excellence as a guiding concept for strategic planning. Changing the fundamental way the university carries out its curriculum and services from the ground up will help boost services, retention and graduation among Latino/a students.

These are just a few examples of the ways in which your Lutheran university lives out its mission to educate global leaders to live a life of purpose and service to others and make a difference within the community in which we live. Thank for holding us in prayer and encouraging students to investigate the learning environment at Cal Lutheran. Learn more at www.callutheran.edu.



FirstServe *Community Services of the South Bay, Inc.* *“Inspiring People, Transforming Lives”*

1725 Flower Avenue ! Torrance, California 90503 ! Tax ID # 32-0187458
 310-320-3818 ! www.first-serve.org ! firstserve.office@aol.com
 Dr. William L. Hurst, Jr., Executive Director ! firstserve.hurst@aol.com

Report to the 2017 Southwest California Synod Assembly

In the past year FirstServe has continued our mission of inspiring people and transforming lives. In cooperation with First Lutheran Church and School, Torrance, and other community partners, we have responded to a range of human community needs to inspire people and change lives.

One of these programs is the **Hope Circle support group**. The monthly meetings include therapeutic presentations, reflection, and time for group sharing. New participants are welcome at all sessions. We appreciate a 2009 Synod Mission and Ministry Endowment to help begin this program.

Another FirstServe program is **basic dental care**, offered in partnership with an area dental practice. A skilled Dentist and staff, serving as volunteers, offer free basic dental services one Friday a month. FirstServe is the first point of contact for those inquiring about this program.

FirstKids, a creative arts program offered on the campus of First Lutheran, offers dance, theatre and other creative arts training for elementary and middle school age children. Through these classes, children develop self-esteem and confidence, and get in touch with their creative energies.

First Friends is a growing group of adults with special needs. They gather monthly to visit with friends, share in craft projects, play games, go on field trips, share dinner, and participate in worship. Harbor Regional Center, which operates a housing program within walking distance of our site, has helped us identify needs and offerings for this important and growing program.

New and expanding efforts being undertaken or explored include: an ongoing nutrition and social service partnership with St. John’s Lutheran in Gardena; support for families of children with special needs; a partnership offering monthly free classical music concerts in Torrance; and expansion of staff with the addition of a development and advancement professional to join our team.

Ministry with elders is an expanding emphasis for FirstServe. We cooperate with local services for the elderly, helping to guide individuals and families to agencies and sources of important information. Monthly “Prime Timers” luncheons offer nutritious lunches, community speakers and good companionship. Our newest initiative is the **Community Wellness Center**, offering health care advocacy and advisement to South Bay area seniors, and training for caring companions to accompany seniors to medical appointments and emergency care.

Grants and donations from foundations, endowments and individuals assist FirstServe in providing these important programs without charge to participants. We would be happy to share our experience if you are interested in developing similar programs in your community, or would like to join us in our work. For more information contact us at at www.first-serve.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. William L. Hurst, Jr.
 Executive Director

I-LERT ASSEMBLY REPORT 2017

I-LERT is a collaborative ministry of the Southwest California and Pacifica Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. I-LERT demonstrates Christ's compassion for people by promoting hope, healing, and wholeness for disaster survivors.



I-LERT is connected to Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) through Lutheran Social Services of the Southern California (LSS-SC) headquartered in Santa Ana. We also work with World Relief and Human Care through the Pacific Southwest District office. I-LERT focuses on ministry in the Southern California area, from Hawaii to western Arizona.



I-LERT's Goals:

- Raise awareness in Lutheran congregations about the importance of disaster preparedness and response.
- Enlist and engage congregations to provide spiritual support to those recovery from a disaster.
- Identify the needs and capabilities of the diverse populations within the region to respond to disaster.
- To provide training for congregations through the Prepare to C.A.R.E. program

HIGHLIGHTS

We are updating the PREPARE TO C.A.R.E. program:

Check out the web-site <http://www.i-lert.org/>

The Team continues to meet, with our Judicatory Leaders - Bishops Taylor and Erwin, and President Stoterau, providing leadership with the Team.

We are working with Ron Drews of LSS-SC, to become part of the ELCA's 501.c3.

The LDR Program Director is Pastor Michael Stadie, <http://www.ldr.org/>

LOOKING AHEAD 2016

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH - I-LERT will be working to help congregations be aware and involved in September, 2017.

See <https://www.ready.gov/september>

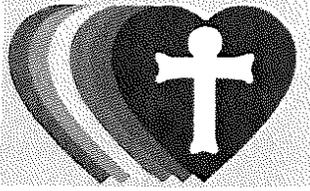
GREAT CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT - On Thursday, October 19th at 10:19 a.m., millions of people throughout the state will participate in the 2017 Great California ShakeOut earthquake drill!

Will you, your family and your Church be involved?

See <http://www.shakeout.org/california/>



Rev. Milo Ken Anderson, I-LERT Co-Chair



ANNUAL REPORT OF SOCALLUTHERANS.COM
(Lutherans Concerned/Los Angeles)
The Los Angeles Chapter of ReconcilingWorks

Grace, mercy and peace be yours from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The past year has been a somewhat more difficult year for SoCallutherans.com. Nonetheless, over the past twelve months, your Board, Clergy, and Lay Volunteers have continued to be involved in a variety of projects and activities.

For the fourth year in a row, LC/LA partnered with St. Paul's, Santa Monica to sponsor an LGBT Pastoral Internship. Vicar Chelsea Achterberg served $\frac{3}{4}$ time at St. Paul's and $\frac{1}{4}$ time for LC/LA assisting with both Long Beach and Los Angeles Pride festivals under the leadership of Pastor Caleb Crainer who worked more than doubly hard this year for a variety of reasons including Pastor Keith Banwart's serious injury. Vicar Achterberg was replaced in Fall 2016 by our new shared intern, Vicar Kristian Kohler.

From afar, the Board monitored the progress of our former interns. Pr. Brenda Bos continues to serve a part-time pastorate in San Juan Capistrano. Pr. Becca Seeley is now serving in campus ministry in New York City. Seminarian Joel Bergeland continues to await call while living in the Twin Cities. And Seminarian Chelsea Achterberg has returned to our Southern Seminary for further graduate studies along with her wife, Mandy.

May and June were once again very busy this year with LC/LA's major presence at Long Beach Pride and at Los Angeles Pride in West Hollywood. Bishop Emeritus Dean Nelson rode in the Long Beach Parade while Bishop Buy Erwin and Mrs. Shirley Egertson did so at Los Angeles – a parade that fell a mere matter of hours after the horrific massacre at Orlando's Pulse LGBT Nightclub. While our numbers remained relatively stable (although we DESPERATELY need more marchers in the future), overall attendance at the parade was down due, in part, to the fear of terrorism. In 2017, our congregations all need to be far more proactive in encouraging congregants to attend and march. The booths inside the festivals were well received; however, the number of volunteers was disappointing, especially at Long Beach Pride.

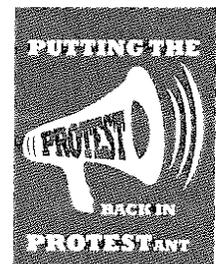
Looking forward to the remainder of 2017, our new Vicar Kristian Kohler will lead our efforts at both the Long Beach and Los Angeles Pride festivals before completing his internship this summer. Kristian's duties also involve assisting with various outreach efforts and working to increase our public visibility both inside and outside of the church.

Many thanks to all of the members of the Board, all of our members, supporters, and friends, as well as to Aubrey and the national staff of ReconcilingWorks. And also many thanks to Pr. Jaeger and the people of St. Matthew's for hosting our Annual Meeting 2016 along with the assistance of Seminarian Joseph Castañeda-Carrera and the people of Adore, Los Angeles.

May we all go forward into summer 2017 exuding the grace of the One who came to embrace us all.

INJ,

The Rev. Pr. K. G. Banwart, Jr.



LUTHERAN MARITIME MINISTRY

This ministry could not exist without the support of our Synod, congregations and their members. In the process, we are not only an awesome Christian witness and support for international seafarers, but also for our local communities and congregations. We thank you, AND invite your personal prayers and involvement. This is truly an awesome expression of our faith in Jesus Christ and our love for people around the world of various backgrounds and beliefs!

2016 was an exciting year of growth for this ministry as Chaplain Samson Chauhan began working full time with the Seafarers' Center (120 Pico Av, Port of Long Beach)!

He is working 5 days a week and more. Over the years, this ministry has developed relationships WITHIN the ports' community that has great respect! Ships officers are contacting "Sam" while still out to sea, approaching the breakwaters, to request his welcome and helping hands. We have great trust from the ports' authorities allowing access within the various terminals.

In visiting these huge ships (mostly carrying thousands of container), Chaplain Samson meets with officers and seafarers at their dining tables, prays with them, shares the Word through providing scriptures, helping with spiritual needs and transportation around local communities.

Also, Chaplain Samson preaches and provides mission moments for our churches. This year, he presided at a wedding for one of our families! Give us a call and let us know when we can worship at your church!

In 2016, our Board of Directors welcomed Rev. Parimal Roy, pastor of a congregation with mostly people from India. Pastor Roy brings wisdom and faithful spiritual presence for us! In addition, we welcomed Catherine Erickson from Trinity Lutheran Church in Hawthorne. We appreciate the support of many local churches and invite your participation. Do you have any recommendations for future board leaders?

Chim Mandalia continues to work with the Board of Directors of the Seafarers Center. During recent difficulties with the center's fiscal director, Chim proved to be a huge asset for the whole service! We continue to support its annual fundraiser on the Queen Mary! Let us know if would like to join us on the Queen Mary this year!

PRAISE GOD FOR THE FAITHFUL SUPPORT OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CHURCH FAMILY!

THANKS AGAIN for your support!

Look for our table at the Synod Assembly!

God bless your ministry sharing Jesus Christ in the world! AMEN!

RON NELSON

TERRY WALL, CHIM and FAY MANDALIA, Rev. Parimal Roy, Catherine Erickson

PASTOR SAMSON CHAUHAN

(562/209-1577 SHEKHARD01@GMAIL.COM)



Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Freed in Christ to Serve – The Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California (www.loppca.org), established in 1984 under the Synod's theme of *Set Free to Serve*, is moving into its 33rd year of education and advocacy, listening and sharing stories connecting faith and life, ethics and public policy, congregations and the Capitol, bringing ELCA social statements and other expressions of institutional policy to bear on issues affecting hunger, poverty, discrimination, equal opportunity, and the well-being of God's creation. LOPP's mission in the public sphere, joining with other expressions of the ELCA (the three synods that cover California; the ELCA Washington Office), and its ecumenical, interfaith, and secular partners, is pursued in the State Legislature and Administration, in a context that includes federal and local government actions. There are many new legislators in 2017, but with changes in term limits, legislators may serve 12 years in one house, enabling development of more experienced leadership in policy subjects. Relationships are important! Please inform your elected officials – and LOPP – about how your congregation and members are assets to your community, and share your experiences in helping to relieve suffering, meet human needs, care for creation, stand for welcome, empower and engage residents – food relief, violence prevention, early childhood care, access to safe, affordable water, immigration and refugee assistance, community organizing, etc. With changes in the federal administration and policies, the importance of California in creating public policies and practices that effectively reduce poverty and hunger and protect the earth has intensified. We are set free to transcend partisanship and division to help reduce harm and promote harmony, seeking and speaking the truth in love – love for God and neighbors, and gratitude for God's gifts of grace and abundance.

The 17 ballot propositions on the 2016 ballot had mixed results from LOPP's perspective: we applaud criminal justice reform and the plastic bag ban, and death penalty repeal will have to wait for another day. In 2016, LOPP advocacy to address poverty focused on successful repeal of the punitive Maximum Family Grant CalWORKS/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families rule that contributed to California's high child poverty rate (approaching one in four kids). 2017 priorities include protecting the gains made by Covered California and MediCal through the Affordable Care Act, reauthorizing and updating California's landmark climate change law, protecting migrants and refugees (including through the ELCA's AMMPARO program and Welcoming Congregations), and funding for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing. Back is the DISCLOSE Act: a "good government/healthy democracy" bill to clearly identify and inform voters about the top three original-source funders of ballot measures (2/3 vote required; died by one vote 2016).

LOPP priorities are pursued through direct advocacy, by supporting congregations and members engaged in advocacy, and by providing hospitality to groups visiting the Capitol at facilities at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento, which donates office space for LOPP. In 2017, the projected LOPP budget is \$128,230, including \$111,694.66 provided by the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit, through an ELCA World Hunger grant to address systemic causes of domestic hunger and poverty. Other income includes support from the Southwest California (\$4,169), Pacifica, and Sierra Pacific Synods, and congregational and individual gifts. A Policy Council provides oversight for LOPP. Members representing the Southwest California Synod include Sharon Heck (Chair), Jane Affonso (Vice Chair, Synod Council rep), Rev. Dan Hooper, and Sheri Groenveld, Lillian Simons represents Women of the ELCA.

– Respectfully submitted, Mark E. Carlson, Director



2101 E. Fourth St. | Unit #240A | Santa Ana, California 92705

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California - Ministry Update

Spring 2017

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California continued its' core ministries, annually serving 45,000 people across Southern California. With help from hundreds of volunteers, our emergency services offer food, clothing and essentials for daily living. Our case-management, counseling, mental-health, education and housing staff equip people on the road to self-empowerment - with the goal of no longer being dependent on our services.

It is a pleasure to share with you our new mission, vision and values, recently completed by our 20-member Board of Directors:

Mission: Ignited by faith, we live out God's love by embracing, equipping and empowering vulnerable people in Southern California.

Vision: Sharing the love of Christ, we are a community to care and be cared for where the...

- vulnerable are safer and stronger;
- dependent are self-sustaining;
- isolated dwell in community;
- weary will be given hope

Values: Compassion | Advocacy | Collaboration | Respect | Innovation | Stewardship

There are new programs and initiatives, several in different contexts within which our mission now exist. Our Community Care Areas:

- **Canoga Park** is deploying its staff and programs out into churches throughout the San Fernando Valley. This allows us to reach more clients, support the ministries of congregations and follow good stewardship. Everybody wins.
- **Ventura County** is sponsoring monthly gatherings of sharing the story prospective donors. Called Voices of Hope, these sessions emphasize our current programs, with a year-end event planned to solicit significant funding.
- **Long Beach** is the anchor of a five-year project throughout the South Bay that will assisting the homeless and others to sign-up for benefits. Many eligible recipients have not been registered for these payments.
- **Pasadena** is well on the way to integrating its participants in community volunteer and work settings. The Aventi site continues to provide training and experience but now focused on community placement. We are partnering with the Southwest California Synod to manage The Lutheran Center's food pantry, with Aventi participants volunteering and working at that location.
- **Orange County** is growing with service expansion anticipated at St Peter, Santa Ana and First Lutheran, Fullerton to growing the Lutheran Counseling Center's clinical work and case-management service work at St Olaf in Garden Grove.
- **Bakersfield** has a formally installed group of committed people that will be trained to lead grief and loss groups based in 2-3 congregations. A curriculum has been written for people facing terminal illnesses. The support groups are designed for both the person with the illness and their care givers. Our Lutheran Counseling Center will respond to people's need for more clinical support.
- **Riverside** continues to support people in the community with low-income and supportive housing.
- **San Diego** We now hold a 20-year contract to operate the Clairemont Friendship Center in Clairemont Mesa. The Center was started many years ago by First Lutheran Clairemont and thank you to Pastor Doolittle who was instrumental in our securing the contract. Recent meetings at the Center with city officials reflected that the Friendship Center is a blank slate with not much happening for the past couple of years. To give the opportunity to gather input, we are planning 'Town-Hall' meetings to garner church and community ideas as to the services most needed and desired for the adult community. Our Senior Companion program will move to this location.
- **San Bernardino** Our children and family clinical programs continue to fill the gap in the poorest county in America. We are investing in Electronic Health Records that will shrink our geography by securely sharing records from Big Bear to Barstow to Apple Valley.

Central City Lutheran Mission is planning a capital campaign that will underwrite serious rehabilitation efforts, bringing the campus into compliance with the ADA governmental standards, and offer a renewed focus on transitioning as many people as possible into a more permanent housing arrangement. It remains committed as a worship community with programs that support community needs.

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California is moving its Central Office from Santa Ana to Fullerton where we will occupy part of the education building of First Lutheran Church. Our partnership goal with First Lutheran is to bring other nonprofit groups into that location, as a way of focusing more service to more clients in the community. Being in Orange County, this effort will coordinate with St. Olaf's, Garden Grove and St. Peter's, Santa Ana.

Lutheran Social Services of Southern California is grateful to the Synod and all the congregations for your prayers and your many levels of support. At this time when many services for the poor and disenfranchised are being reduced, your faithful commitment to our agency allows us to continue reaching to those in greatest need. God bless you.

Respectfully Submitted, Ron Drews, President/CEO



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



The Mission Investment Fund (MIF), the lending ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building and renovation projects.

At year-end 2016, MIF had 860 loans outstanding, totaling \$524 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2016, MIF investments by congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries totaled \$474 million.

The Mission Investment Fund is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$678 million and net assets of \$198 million at year-end 2016, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 29 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds.

MIF Loans and Investments in the Pacifica Synod (as of December 31, 2016)

- 21 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$12,846,238
- \$9,533,410 in Mission Investment Fund investments by 111 individuals, 53 congregations, 5 ministries and the synod

MIF representative

Joel S. Wudel, Regional Manager, Tel: (773) 682-1765; email: joel.wudel@elca.org

Mission Investment Fund | 8765 West Higgins Road | Chicago, Illinois 60631
 Tel: 877-886-3522 | Web: mif.elca.org



April 2017

Greetings in the name of our Lord!

My Friends House, Inc. (MFH) continues to thrive as an organization that works to end hunger and promote healthy living. We are known primarily as a food pantry, but we are much more than that. Our Hunger Prevention programs include the food pantry and the Urban Garden while the Wellness programs include Creative Chefs, Cook N Connect and the Parish Nurse.

The Lorna & Frank Harrison Community Distribution Center (food pantry) serves on average 145 households each week representing over 350 persons. Weekly, we receive approximately 2500-3000 pounds of food through the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank programs in which we participate and the Food to Donate (Harvest) program, the majority of which is distributed the same week. In 2016, we received from the food bank 121,182 pounds of food valued at \$136,240.65 for which we paid \$4,300. On average volunteers donated 227 hours per month preparing and distributing food to the community.

The MFH Urban Garden is an organic garden and had its first harvest in 2016. During the spring and summer we planted tomatoes, eggplant, beans, peppers, radishes, carrots and squash. Unfortunately, the beans, carrots and squash did not do well. However, we had an abundance of the other produce which we distributed through the food pantry. We are in a learning mode and receive wonderful advice from a local organic nursery in the urban core of Los Angeles. We envision the MFH Urban Garden as a site for educating the community on the economic and health benefits of fresh food.

MFH provides information that contributes to the community's understanding of the warning signs and symptoms of lifestyle diseases and opportunities to learn ways to improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle through the Parish Nurse program. This program is a partnership with Dignity Health California Hospital Medical Center in which a nurse provides health screenings about every six weeks to those who come to the Lorna and Frank Harrison Community Distribution Center.

Creative Chefs and Cook N Connect are programs that use local chefs to promote healthy eating and cooking with the goal of improving the community's health. Chefs introduce participants to recipes that use a variety of fruits, vegetables, legumes, lean meats, and healthy alternatives to processed and fast foods. Participants assist in the preparation of the recipes and then get to enjoy the final product. Cook N Connect targets seniors in a 3-hour session on Saturdays where they prepare a full meal while Creative Chefs is open to all ages and meets on Thursday evenings making one or two items. Cook N Connect was a pilot program in 2016 funded by an ELCA Foundation grant. Both programs are easily replicated in any community.



As I am retiring at the end of April 2017, My Friends House will have a new Executive Director beginning May 1. Mr. Temesghen Starr currently serves on the Board of Directors and will step down to assume his new duties. His primary responsibility will be to raise the funds needed to position MFH to fill key staff positions to enable the organization to grow to its full potential.

Mr. Starr was a member of the development team at the Montana State University Alumni Foundation, serving as the Director of Development for Athletics. Along with being liaison to athletics he also served as the regional lead for the university's development to Southern California, Nevada, and the state of Montana. Prior to his move to Montana he coached basketball at Marshalltown Community College where he also worked in the ASSIST office and taught English Courses. Starr is a principal with Sands Mutual Group, a fund raising consulting firm specializing in nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. He also serves on the board of California Lutheran Homes.

My goal during my time with My Friends House, Inc. was to help lay a solid foundation on which to build. I believe we have accomplished that goal and are now ready for the next phase. The board and staff of My Friends House, Inc. are excited about the future of the organization. Mr. Starr has the gifts and skills to take us to the next level.

MFH has always held a special place in my heart from its earliest days as Neighborhood House. It is vital to the community it serves. I have been richly blessed during my tenure at My Friends House, Inc. both as a board member and as Executive Director. I know it will continue to flourish under new leadership and become an even greater blessing to the community it serves.

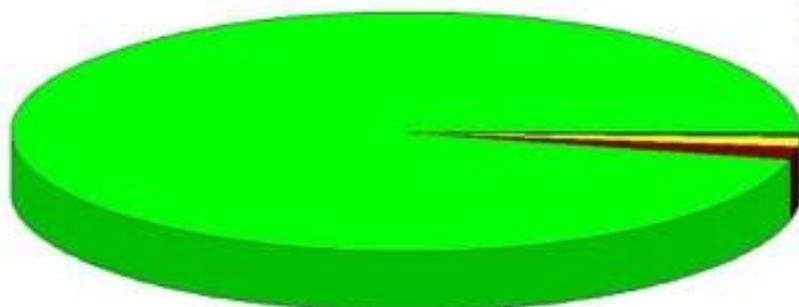
God's Work, Our Hands.

Deacon Tempie D. Beaman
Executive Direct



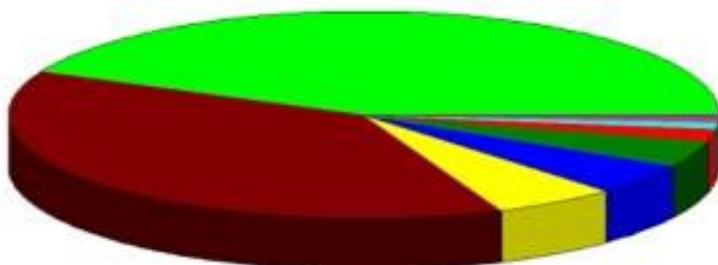


Income Summary
January Through December 2018



41100 · Direct Public Support	96.32%
46400 · Other Types of Income/Revenue	1.94
47200 · Program Income	1.26
42200 · Gifts In Kind	0.30
45000 · Investments	0.19
Total	\$33,762.21

Expense Summary
January Through December 2018



65000 · Operations	43.17%
60300 · Awards and Grants	38.28
62800 · Facilities and Equipment	5.60
60200 · Donated Facilities	4.94
62100 · Contract Services	4.29
68300 · Travel and Meetings	1.92
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	1.11
60900 · Business Expenses	0.55
65115 · Interest Expense	0.08
65105 · Late Fee	0.07
Total	\$43,566.99



PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Thank you Pacifica Synod for being a ministry partner!

Your prayers, direct synod gifts of \$39,230 last year, and encouraging our students like Dianne Finnecey, Pam Reynolds, and Julie Patten who give us strength and courage in our mission of equipping faithful leaders. In addition, there are 96 alums of PLTS that live and work on the territory of your synod, many of them in congregational ministries.

PLTS is moving toward sustainability.

With the support of California Lutheran University, we are:

- offering more scholarship assistance to students every year.
- moving our campus into Downtown Berkeley this summer to increase accessibility for students and reduce the financial strains of deferred maintenance costs. Proceeds from the sale of the Marin Avenue property will be invested in an endowment for PLTS.
- working on a new curriculum which is creative and collaborative, with the goal of implementation in 2018.



Students: Paul Benz, Ben Hogue, Rachel Swenson

Students have diverse learning experiences.

In January, seven PLTS students had the opportunity to visit the Holy Land along with a group of PLTS alums, friends, and donors. Their pilgrimage took them from Nazareth to Galilee into Jerusalem and ending in Bethlehem. In addition to walking in the footsteps of Jesus, the group was invited into the life of Pastor Gabi Aelabouni, Director of the ELCA Fund for Leaders, who grew up in Eilaboun, a small village outside Nazareth, and who served as one of the pilgrimage leaders.



Students on the Sea of Galilee

Giving makes a difference.

Many individuals and congregations on the territory of your synod are already making regular gifts toward the work of PLTS. Your support of our Annual Fund helps fuel our academic programs and operations. We are also grateful for the 246 supporters who have promised to remember us in their estate plans. Such gifts often go toward establishing endowed funds for scholarships, programs and faculty chairs. If you want to discuss being part of our legacy society, contact Rev. Brian Stein-Webber at bsteinwebber@plts.edu or 510-559-2711.

Congregation Spotlight: Bethlehem Lutheran,

Encinitas, California has been supporting PLTS since 1988 by sending students like PLTS alum Rev. Casey Kloehn, providing scholarships, and making annual gifts to the Seminary Fund which supports student programs, faculty, and operations.

Bethlehem's increased gift last year was eligible for PLTS' congregation matching program. 66 congregations in the ELCA made a new or increased gift to the PLTS Seminary Fund. With the help of a match incentive, every eligible congregation gift, up to \$1,000 was matched, thanks to a pool of gifts totaling \$25,498 from a group of faithful friends of the seminary.

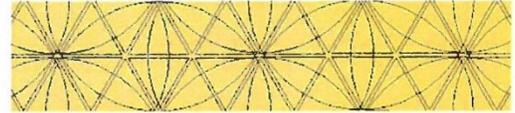
FAST FACTS for 2016-2017

- PLTS has 84 students in its Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and TEEM Programs.
- PLTS has 9 faculty members including Dr. Luis Menéndez-Antuña who started in 2016, teaching New Testament.
- Cost of attendance for one year averages \$36,575 including full-time tuition of \$16,000.
- The average ELCA seminary student's debt is \$46,386.

To learn more about PLTS, or to make a gift, visit www.Plts.edu.



Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA



Spring 2017

Dear Partners in Ministry,

As the ELCA commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded that *the church should always be reforming* — adapting to a changing landscape even as it stands firm in its mission. In 2016, Portico's ministry epitomized this combination of innovation rooted in mission, as we expanded our service and stewardship in new ways while continuing to provide cost-effective, high-quality health and retirement benefits for more than 46,000 active and retired ELCA rostered ministers, lay employees, and their families in partnership with the almost 6,600 ELCA churches and employers we serve.

We championed a wellness reformation in the ELCA, inviting a recommitment to healthier lifestyles and a healthier church. For the first time, we formally extended our annual wellness challenge to congregations. Also a first: We surveyed those already living a healthy lifestyle, and more than 1,800 members and spouses shared inspiring testimonies of the life-changing power of prioritizing one's physical and emotional health.

We offered a new approach to providing health care. In response to the growing prevalence of chronic disease and rising claim costs, we introduced Portico Care Coordinators by Quantum Health to help members navigate today's complex health care system and get the best possible care at the right price. The anticipated savings from this industry-leading approach was one of several cost-containment measures that helped us hold 2017 health contribution rates to the lowest increase in four years.

We answered the church's call for socially-informed investing. We strive to live out the church's mission and make an impact in God's kingdom as we manage the assets in the ELCA Retirement Plan. Memorials at Churchwide Assembly in August affirmed the three powerful ways we impact corporate behavior through shareholder advocacy, screening, and positive investing. The Assembly also called for even broader work on the environment and human rights; in the coming months, we look forward to partnering with the ELCA to develop screens that will guide future investment opportunities.

We developed new support for financial decision-making. For two decades, Portico has been a leading voice in the ELCA connecting the importance of physical, emotional, and financial health to ministry. In response to members' desire for an easier way to manage their retirement savings, we developed new benefits that will help our members better assess their readiness for retirement, and will provide personal assistance to help them reach their financial goals.

These efforts — and many more — come thanks to a dedicated, creative staff constantly seeking to improve our internal operating processes, maximize efficiency, and be good stewards of the resources entrusted to our care. Their efforts helped ensure that for the third straight year, Portico's capital and operating expenses were under budget, and we maintained ELCA Health Plan and Retirement Plan expense ratios lower than our benchmarks. As the church adapts to today's changing landscape, Portico is well positioned to continue to provide the best possible care for our members, so they can serve the world with confidence, resilience, and faithfulness.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey Thiemann".

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann
President and CEO

Southwest California Women of the ELCA ASSEMBLY Report 2017

The SWCA WELCA is a Women's Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Southwest California Synod. The synodical women's organizations (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization. SWOs exist to support women in congregations with a board elected at an annual or biennial convention by delegates from units. Each SWO establishes clusters or conferences of units within its geographic area.

FAITH EMBODIED in Our Work:

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is quite a mouthful and includes Lutheran women who gather in over 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean. They gather for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! The Women of the ELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA.

There are three expressions of Women of the ELCA, each with its own constitution:

- * Congregational, inter-congregational and special units (about 7,000)
- * Synodical Women's Organization (in 64 of the ELCA's 65 synods)
- * Churchwide Women's Organization

MISSION to serve: Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Highlights:

2016 19th Convention Southwest California SWO Convention, October 14 – 16 at the Grand Vista Hotel, Simi Valley, CA. Bible Study Leader: Rev. Erin Martinson CHTP Pastor of Trinity Church Ventura a certified healing touch practitioner and spiritual development coach. Chaplin and Worship Leader: Rev. Nancy Switzler, Pastor of Our Redeemer, Oxnard. The theme: "Blessed to Be a Blessing". Based on Genesis 12:2: I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. This truly was a weekend of blessing.

Election of Officers, Board and Triennial occurred: Officers elected: Karen Moyer, President, Rosemary Lawson, Vice President, Dianne Tillman, Secretary, and Karil Drake, Treasurer. Board Members: Sharon Heck, Terri Kelly, Dona Kintzi, Keia Morris, Krystal Shipp, Mary Ridneour-French, and Pastor Donella Silverira.





Triennial Voting Members: Mary Shipp, Women of Color, Diana Craig and Keia Morris (missing from the picture, Member at Large with Anna Sarvers, Churchwide Representative.

Winter Gathering January 28, 2017, Bethania Lutheran Church, Solvang, CA was very successful with 84 in attendance. The Caregiver panel lead by Rev. Russ Gordon, Family Therapist (right to left) included, Nola Huss MSN, RN FNP, Suzanne Hollrah, former Director of Resident Services at Atterdag Village of Solvang, Atterdag Village of Solvang DBA Solvang Lutheran Home, Inc and Rev. Chris Brown, Pastor of Bethania Lutheran Church. Theme: Romans 12: 10. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love: give preference to one another. NASB. The offering: was split equally: Atterdag Village of Solvang (crafts for the people at the facility and Churchwide Women of the ELCA.

STORIES of Faith:

Our What's News, newsletter for the year of 2016 / 2017 contained many faith stories:

El Centrito Oxnard, A project affiliated with the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer article written by SWO President, Claudia Cuevas. The Synodical Women Organization supported El Centrito by directing half of our 2016 SWO Convention offering. El Centrito works to prepare youth and families of Ventura County to meet the future and become productive member of the community by providing bilingual, bicultural education programs in partnership with parents, schools and neighborhoods.

Greater Long Beach Cluster Spring Gathering article written by Linda Medina was held June 11, 2016 at St John's Cerritos. The theme: "Blessed to be a Blessing". Kristal Shipp, Lutheran Social Services lead the devotions. Maria Paiva Southwest California Synod was the Key Note speaker giving an inspiring and motivating presentation on how we can all be a blessing to others.

Peace with Justice articles written by Sharon Heck keep the women informed on various ELCA activities such as: Gun Violence Prevention and the Fall-Winter 2016 ELCA World Hunger packet with an Activity Guide booklet for many ideas and the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog. Quoting from a brochure...did you know..."Nearly 800 million people – one in nine people in the world today – are hungry. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) we are called to respond.

Autumn Renewal – "Dream Anew" October 20 – 22, 2017

Mark your calendar for Autumn Renewal scheduled October 20 – 22, 2017 at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA. Those attending the Autumn Renewal will be

staying at the Best Western Posada Royale Hotel & Suites, Simi Valley, CA but travel to CLU Ullman Commons for Friday and Lundring Events Center for Saturday and Sunday for the daily activities.

The theme “Dream Anew” builds on the Triennial and Western States Youth gathering themes as a way to inspire the conversation with High School students who attended the summer gathering as well as leverage the resources and conversations of the Triennial “All Anew.”

Faith is choosing and believing God’s dream for your life. Nothing starts happening in your life until you start dreaming. God gave you the ability to dream, to create, to imagine. Dreaming is an act of faith. Everything you see on this planet started as a dream. So, how do you get God’s dream for your life? How do you Dream Anew?

Bible Scripture verse: Ephesians 3: 20 - "Now glory be to God, by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of — infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes." NTL

Two Bible Study Leaders selected are: Rahel Williams, Manager, Donor Relations, Young Adult Global Missions, Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA and Valora K Starr director for discipleship for Women of the ELCA. Keia Morris, Deacon will serve as Chaplain. Music will be led by Angelica Lutheran Church Praise Band.

Event goals: Listen, Discover, Accept, Act

Watch for the What’s News for more information.

Karen L Moyer, President of the Southwest California Synodical Women’s Organization
Women of the ELCA.

2017 Treasurer's Report Southwest California Synod

“God’s work. Our hands.” This wonderful tagline of our national church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a simple and effective way of making the point that as a church, we have a responsibility to act in concrete ways to live out God’s mission in our communities. The same thing holds for our use of the church’s financial resources. Every year, we ask ourselves: Are we doing what we should? Do we have the resources to do what God is calling us to do? How do we cultivate generosity in our members and our congregations? How does our use of money show our love for God and our neighbor?

This report is an important way the synod’s leadership describes what it does during the year past and what it hopes to do in the years ahead. Everyone in the synod governance structure has a role to play in developing the financial plan: the staff and the bishop; the Budget & Finance Committee; the Executive Committee and the Synod Council, and finally, the Synod Assembly. Externally, we are accountable also to our auditors for maintaining transparent and accurate accounting systems. Every part of the synod’s finances is reported in full each year to the Synod Assembly. You will find those in the detailed reports provided in the Assembly materials.

Synod Income Streams: Mission Support; ELCA Grants; Endowment & Property Income

Let’s start with the very basics: how the synod receives its income and where that income goes. Last year a little more than half (52%) of the synod’s annual income came from congregational giving, what we call “mission support,” but which congregations often call “benevolences.” Either way, this income is budgeted and given by congregations as a sign of their commitment to the shared ministries of the wider church. The congregations pledge support to the wider church just as the individual members of each congregation pledge to and support their congregation by their gifts and tithes. Even in these challenging times, the generosity of our Lutherans is strong. Thanks be to God!

But the congregations’ contributions don’t just stay at the synod; the synod itself pledges to support the national church at the level of 50% of congregational mission support. For every dollar the synod receives from a congregation as part of its regular mission support, 50 cents is passed on to the wider work of the national church. This is in keeping with the pattern of most synods in the ELCA, some of which give as much as 55% of their mission support. We have materials (attached) showing how the ELCA uses that funding to support its ministries. Some of that money is then distributed by the ELCA back to congregations and synods to carry out specific ministry programs.

The second largest external part (27%) of the synod’s annual income comes from these ELCA subsidies, which are applied to salaries for some members of the synod staff and some deployed pastors in new start congregations. You might well ask: why do we pass money to the ELCA just to have it returned? Why not keep it? Well, it’s because the ELCA decides how to distribute

these funds on the basis of its national outreach strategies, and our synod is a very attractive place for the ELCA to invest such funds. Los Angeles (according to a recent Pew study) is very likely the most diverse urban area in human history. We are church here, in this remarkable, changing, growing, multicultural metropolis. What we do here in Southwest California has meaning for the ELCA as a whole. And as a result, in our synod we receive proportionately more funding from the ELCA for new ministries than other synods do—most of them in more traditionally Lutheran rural areas where the population is decreasing.

Mission support from congregations accounted for 52% of our 2016 income; another 27% came from ELCA grants and salary subsidies. The remaining 21% comes from a variety of sources, including endowment income. We also receive income from interest on short-term investments, and a number of smaller sources. As with our congregations, it will be necessary for the Synod to discover other sources of revenue to be able to sustain our mission and ministry with and for our congregations.

What do we need to do? Encourage congregations to greater mission support. Take advantage of every opportunity to use ELCA grants to expand our ministries. Enhance our income from investments and property. Invest our endowment successfully and adopt a spending rule to use the income wisely. And finally, enhance our ability to secure gifts not just from congregations, but from individuals.

Beginning this summer, the synod will conduct a fundraising campaign to connect to the ELCA's national campaign "Always Being Made New." This will be a multi-year effort, will be led by synod laypeople and rostered leaders, and will solicit individuals for gifts, pledges, bequests and planned gifts, for the purpose of sustaining synod ministries through increases in endowment funds. More details will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Synod Expense Trends: Synod Staff, Support of New Start Pastors; Administrative Costs

On the expense side—at 32%—our largest single expense is the synod staff. We all know from our homes and workplaces that the cost of running any enterprise is always rising, and the church is no exception. Our synod exists to meet its constitutional duty of oversight and management of the ministries on our territory. It is obligated to provide for a bishop, such assistants as are necessary to the bishop's work, and to maintain a synod office. The role of the synod office in the life of our congregations has expanded as many of our congregations have desired increased staff support for their local ministries.

The synod staff carries out the bishop's leadership in a variety of ways: managing mobility (matching rostered leaders to call opportunities in congregations) and candidacy (cultivating new leadership for the church), working with congregations and developing systems for congregational renewal, and linking our people and congregations together for mission. In other reports you will hear of the synod mission goals; the staff works toward those goals in everything it does. Like many of our congregations, our budget is heavy with the cost of people. Another

26% of our expenses goes to payroll for ELCA deployed staff, new start pastors and staff we manage payroll for. Our mission support to churchwide accounts for an additional 24% of our expenses. Those three areas account for 82% of our expenses.

Of the remaining 18% of our annual costs, the largest part (13%) is maintaining a synod office, all the associated administrative costs, support for our synod mission teams, staff travel expenses, and synod assembly expenses. If you've been in our offices, you will know that they are not palatial or grand, but simple and functional. In general, in looking at our budget vs. actual for the year, the synod staff does a great job at staying within or under budget on expenses. After that, the final 5% is for grants given to organizations and agencies that are tied closely to the ministry and mission of our synod.

The trend is toward a more hands-on connection between the synod staff and congregations, but this is time-consuming for the staff. We also offer administrative help, including financial management and payroll services, to most of our new start congregations and a few others. It is our hope that we can expand this service in a way that can begin to pay for itself, by assessing fees for the service from congregations who want and are able to afford the help.

With so many small congregations needing support and help from the synod office, we are often swamped with work. If you have tried to reach us and found the lines busy, we apologize! But our staff is much reduced from previous years, and the demands on it have only increased. In looking towards the future, the trend will be more congregations needing larger blocks of synod staff time to help them navigate their challenges of taking care of day to day needs. In analyzing the current needs of our congregations and anticipating a future increase in need, we have made a conscious decision to increase the number of staff to help support these needs and offer services that best benefit our congregations.

The challenge will be to find the financial resources to support this effort. Over time, endowment income will help. Some of our closing congregations have shown great faithfulness in giving their properties for future ministry through the synod. It is our goal to repurpose most of these properties to new forms of ministry. But some—in areas of the synod where we already have more congregations than can support themselves—may be sold. These infusions of capital from property sales—though rare, some of them may be large—will support future programming through endowment, immediate investment in local ministry, and use for the support of the synod structures. The synod council has approved a 60/20/20 standard for these funds from liquidated properties: 60% retained for long-term endowment, 20% for direct reinvestment in local ministries, 20% for general synod use. Through the generosity of these congregations, the legacy of their faithfulness, ministry and hard work will continue to touch lives and benefit the church forever.

The 2018 Budget: Maximizing Income; Containing Costs; Tending to the Future

You will see from the accompanying detailed financial reports every part of the synod's finances. The balance sheet reflects our assets and their accompanying liabilities. The budget is the guideline we set each year to direct the synod's use of its resources. The budget before you at this Assembly is for the fiscal year 2018—that is, from February 2018 through January 2019. It reflects our best predictions for what we will have and what we will need. But it is just a guideline. The Synod Council monitors the synod's income and spending throughout the year, and makes adjustments where necessary.

In a nutshell, the 2018 budget emphasizes new sources of income and attempts to contain costs at current levels, continuing the effort to reach a stable balance. It does not reflect a very significant shift in past funding patterns.

We will bring the 2018 budget forward on the second day of the assembly for discussion and a vote. If you have questions about the budget, please submit them in writing by the end of the last business session on Friday, and we will address those before the budget discussion begins Saturday, or join me Saturday morning for a "Budget Breakfast" at a time and in a room to be announced. Bring your coffee, and let's talk!

It is a blessing to be able to serve God and our neighbor through the work of our church. These are challenging but exciting times for us as a church, and much will depend on our wise use of our resources. Thank you for your generosity to the church's ministries both personally and through your congregations. You do God's work with your generosity as well as with your hands!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Metzger

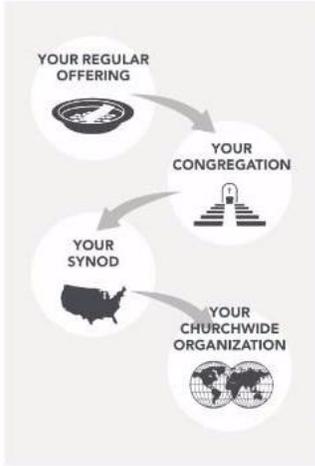
Treasurer

Southwest California Synod, ELCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WHERE DOES MY OFFERING GO?



In 2015, members of 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean gave **\$1.75 billion** in regular offerings to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide.

When members give through their **congregations**, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local **synod** and the national **churchwide organization**.

Of the \$1.75 billion total, the churchwide organization received **\$47.1 million**, or **2.7 percent** of the total regular offerings to ELCA congregations in 2015. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's current operating budget of \$69 million, which includes additional income from investments, bequests and trusts, grants, and certain designated offerings.* This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world.

*Designated offerings included in the operating budget are your gifts to ELCA Vision for Mission and ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. ELCA World Hunger, the ELCA Malaria Campaign and Lutheran Disaster Response operate their own annual budgets exclusively from ELCA members' designated offerings each year.

In 2015, your churchwide offering made it possible to:

Grow the ELCA in the United States

27%



372
Plant and support
372 new congregations.



Enable congregations to renew their ministries and reach out to their surrounding communities.



Work together with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.



Develop and share resources for faith, discipleship, prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world

19%



As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, we're in communion with 144 member churches and directly connected to 85 companion churches in other countries.



Accompany new Lutheran churches, expand ministries, and train leaders and evangelists.



228

Send 228 missionaries to more than 40 countries, including more than 73 Young Adults in Global Mission in nine country programs.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries

16%

1.1 million

Maintain constituent database, including 1.1 million records of rostered and lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.



Provide office space, equipment and human resources for staff and operations.



Preserve and maintain archives and historic records of the ELCA and its predecessor bodies.

Equip congregations and synods with resources to assist in risk management and legal matters.



Process 150,000 gifts to ELCA ministries.

Support and develop current and future **leaders** in the ELCA 14%

8  **26**  Support the work of eight ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.

 **9,500** Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,500 rostered leaders.

 Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.

 Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.

Invest in **technology** and **communications** 8%

Design and maintain communications tools to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.



Connect members with one another through new technology and systems.

Provide **governance and leadership** 5%

Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

65  **Coordinate meetings and support** for 65 synodical bishops.

Address social issues and **work for justice** 4%



Engage in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.

Equip members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.



1 in 50

Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of **1 in 50** Americans.

Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and the ELCA Malaria Campaign provide an additional \$30 million annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering in more than 65 countries around the world.

Grow and sustain financial resources 3%



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

Engage in **research** and **strategic planning** 2%

Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.



Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith relationships** 2%

Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.



Seek unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.

**SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
2018 PROPOSED BUDGET**

February 1, 2018 To January 31, 2019

INCOME

TOTAL ANTICIPATED INCOME **2,002,200.**

Mission support from congregations, notes and receivables, interest, property income, service fees, First Lutheran Los Angeles fund distribution, reimbursements from churchwide for fiscal agent payroll, other additional income.

EXPENSES

MISSION SUPPORT **525,000.**

50% of mission support received from congregations is given as our mission support for the ministry and mission of the Churchwide organization.

GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES **102,869.**

Approximately 10% of mission support from congregations is sent to institutions and agencies which have a relationship with this synod, e.g. Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, California Lutheran University, Lutheran Maritime Ministries, campus ministries.

STAFFING **1,288,022.**

This amount covers staff salaries, pensions and benefits, payroll taxes, worker's compensation insurance, staff expenses, as well as staff salaries where the synod serves as fiscal agent. Synod staff covered by this budget includes the bishop, two assistants to the bishop, two ministry directors, two senior administrative staff and four support staff.

SYNOD STAFF **788,022.**

FISCAL AGENT STAFF **500,000.**

ADMINISTRATION **186,700.**

Provides for the general administration of the synod office covering such items as office equipment, office supplies, postage, and utilities.

SYNOD MINISTRIES AND MISSION TEAMS **50,350.**

This expense category covers synod ministries such as the MLK service, Region 2 activities, Bishop's Colloquy, the synod mission teams (Justice, Rostered Leadership, Lay Ministries, Evangelical Outreach, Global Partnership) and expenses associated with synod council, executive committee, budget and finance, and Dean's meetings.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY **11,000.**

This expense is the cost to the synod for the synod assembly not covered by registration fees.

TOTAL OF INCOME **2,002,200.**

TOTAL OF EXPENSES **2,163,941.**

NET INCOME **-161,741.**

**Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**
February 2017 through January 2018
Proposed Budget 2018

	Feb '16 - Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget 2017	Budget 2018
6113 · Luth. Maritime Ministry	3,396.00	3,350.00	46.00	3,421.00	3,421.00
6118 · Lutheran Planned Giving	5,000.00	10,000.00	(5,000.00)	10,000.00	0.00
6100 · Grants - Other	0.00				
Total 6100 · Grants	107,981.00	115,156.90	(7,175.90)	113,513.00	102,869.00
6200 · Payroll Expenses					
6201 · Bishop	120,454.08	118,208.00	2,246.08	118,208.00	118,208.00
6202 · Staff	242,564.37	205,810.00	36,754.37	168,114.00	209,755.00
Total 6203 · Fiscal Agent Staff	505,913.72	426,921.00	78,992.72	426,921.00	500,000.00
6204 · Support Staff	137,561.77	128,611.00	8,950.77	125,000.00	194,061.00
6206 · Managed Payroll	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6210 · FICA Allowance	9,792.00	12,267.00	(2,475.00)	12,267.00	12,267.00
6211.1 · Payroll Taxes	23,892.80	20,284.00	3,608.80	20,284.00	20,931.00
6212.1 · Pension/Benefits	154,345.70	128,847.00	25,498.70	128,847.00	178,700.00
6213 · Continuing Ed	0.00	1,036.00	(1,036.00)	2,600.00	2,600.00
6214.1 · Workers' Comp	7,215.17	7,505.00	(289.83)	7,505.00	7,500.00
6200 · Payroll Expenses - Other	21.48				
Total 6200 · Payroll Expenses	1,201,761.09	1,049,489.00	152,272.09	1,009,746.00	1,244,022.00
6220 · Staff Expense					
6220-1 · Vehicle Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
6221 · Bishop	27,384.11				20,000.00
6222 · Dir.Fin&Admin	1,443.41				2,000.00
6224 · Assist Rosterd Leadership	9,563.94				10,000.00
6225 · Dir Latino Ministry	15,395.01				5,000.00
6226 · Cong Mission	997.82				1,000.00
6227 · AfricanAm Ministries	394.31				1,000.00
6229 · All Staff Expense	4,391.12	55,000.00	(50,608.88)	45,000.00	5,000.00
Total 6220 · Staff Expense	64,569.72	60,000.00	4,569.72	50,000.00	44,000.00
6230 · Administration					
6231 · Office Supplies	16,874.42	13,000.00	3,874.42	13,000.00	15,000.00
6232 · Insurance - Liability	3,688.95	6,000.00	(2,311.05)	6,000.00	5,000.00
Total 6233 · Auditing & Legal	33,068.00	39,000.00	(5,932.00)	42,000.00	33,000.00
6234 · Hospitality	9,169.83	7,000.00	2,169.83	7,000.00	7,000.00
6235 · Postage & Delivery	11,503.67	6,500.00	5,003.67	6,500.00	6,500.00

**Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
February 2017 through January 2018
Proposed Budget 2018**

	Feb '16 - Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget 2017	Budget 2018
6236 · Copier Lease	11,022.67	11,000.00	22.67	12,000.00	11,000.00
6237 · Maintenance & Repair	3,518.72	5,000.00	(1,481.28)	5,000.00	3,500.00
6238 · Rent	0.00	67,000.00	(67,000.00)	0.00	67,000.00
6239 · Telephone	7,321.88	6,000.00	1,321.88	7,000.00	6,000.00
6240 · Printing	2,532.76	4,000.00	(1,467.24)	4,000.00	3,000.00
6242 · Archives	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)	3,000.00	3,000.00
6244 · Information Technology	19,394.72	15,000.00	4,394.72	16,000.00	25,000.00
6245 · Web Page	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	2,000.00	0.00
6246 · Shared Risk	0.00	1,200.00	(1,200.00)	1,200.00	0.00
6247 · Interest & Finance Charges	1,355.22				700.00
6248 · Uncollected Funds	1,091.37				0.00
6249 · Office Equipment	1,763.09	5,000.00	(3,236.91)		1,000.00
Total 6230 · Administration	122,305.30	190,700.00	(68,394.70)	122,700.00	186,700.00
6310 · Synodical Ministries					
6311 · Meeting	167.20	200.00	(32.80)		0.00
6312 · Worship	2,803.17	1,000.00	1,803.17	1,000.00	1,000.00
6313 · MLK Service	6,011.83	4,500.00	1,511.83	4,500.00	6,000.00
6314 · Region 2	4,421.29	9,000.00	(4,578.71)	3,000.00	3,000.00
6315 · Reflection Day	0.00	1,000.00	(1,000.00)	500.00	0.00
6318 · Chrism Mass	201.98	1,000.00	(798.02)	500.00	0.00
6319 · Communications	1,012.22	7,000.00	(5,987.78)	7,000.00	1,500.00
6322 · Ecumenical	446.96	1,500.00	(1,053.04)	1,000.00	0.00
6323 · Bishop's Colloquy	1,624.14				3,500.00
Total 6310 · Synodical Ministries	16,688.79	25,200.00	(8,511.21)	17,500.00	15,000.00
6330 · Mission Team for Justice					
6331 · Meeting	200.00	200.00	0.00		
6332 · Gun Violence	100.00	100.00	0.00	200.00	
6333 · Hunger	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	200.00	
6334 · Prison & Parole	300.00	300.00	0.00	200.00	
6335 · Middle East Peace	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	
6336 · Immigration & Welcom. Cong	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	
6349 · Program	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	
Total 6330 · Mission Team for Justice	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00

**Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
February 2017 through January 2018
Proposed Budget 2018**

	Feb '16 - Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget 2017	Budget 2018
6350 . Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh					
6351 . Meetings	0.00	100.00	(100.00)	100.00	
6359 . Candidacy	3,308.01	5,000.00	(1,691.99)	5,000.00	
6369 . Program	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Total 6350 . Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh	3,308.01	5,100.00	(1,791.99)	5,100.00	5,100.00
6360 . Mission Team for Lay Ministries					
6361 . Lutheran Education	74.33	5,000.00	(4,925.67)	5,000.00	
6362 . Faith Formation	150.00	2,000.00	(1,850.00)	1,000.00	
6363 . Youth	5,588.00	7,200.00	(1,612.00)	3,000.00	
6364 . Misc. Lay Min	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)		
6365 . Scholarships	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)		
Total 6360 . Mission Team for Lay Ministries	5,812.33	20,200.00	(14,387.67)	9,000.00	8,000.00
6370 . Mission Team for EvangOutreach					
6371 . Program	200.00			5,000.00	
6373 . Ethnic	55.00				
6373.1 . Ethnic - African Descent	3,763.32	5,000.00	(1,236.68)	3,000.00	
6373.2 . Ethnic - Asian	2,804.16	5,000.00	(2,195.84)	3,000.00	
6373.3 . Ethnic - Latino	1,707.57	5,000.00	(3,292.43)	3,000.00	
6375 . New Starts & Redevelopment	96.00	1,000.00	(904.00)		
6376 . Stewardship	739.25	2,000.00	(1,260.75)	1,000.00	
Total 6370 . Mission Team for EvangOutreach	9,365.30	18,000.00	(8,634.70)	15,000.00	12,000.00
6380 . Mission Team/Global Partnership					
6381 . Companion Synod	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
6382 . Global Missions	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	
6389 . Program	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Total 6380 . Mission Team/Global Partnership	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
6400 . Council					
6401 . Synod Council	2,267.10	8,500.00	(6,232.90)	5,000.00	5,000.00
6402 . Executive Committee	398.01	500.00	(101.99)	500.00	500.00
6403 . Deans' Meeting	230.15	500.00	(269.85)	500.00	500.00
6405 . Budget Meeting	138.00	500.00	(362.00)	500.00	250.00
Total 6400 . Council	3,033.26	10,000.00	(6,966.74)	6,500.00	6,250.00
6430 . Properties under Administration					

**Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
February 2017 through January 2018
Proposed Budget 2018**

	Feb '16 - Jan 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	Budget 2017	Budget 2018
6431 · Bakerfield Land	22.46	50.00	(27.54)	50.00	
6432 · South Gate Property	8,551.85	10,000.00	(1,448.15)	10,000.00	
6433 · Christ the King Van Nuys	23,923.85	15,000.00	8,923.85		
6434 · Storage	4,866.00				0.00
6435 · First Lutheran - Glendale	91,341.39				
Total 6430 · Properties under Administration	128,705.55	25,050.00	103,655.55	10,050.00	0.00
6450 · Assembly					
6451 · Registration	721.27				
6451.1 · credit card fees					
6451 · Registration - Other	(60,903.20)				
Total 6451 · Registration	(60,181.93)			0.00	0.00
6452 · General Expense	15,029.39			20,000.00	11,000.00
6453 · Catering	33,008.49				
6454 · Program	1,387.69				
6455 · Worship	815.28				
6456 · Printing	7,636.56				
6457 · Media	12,731.25				
Total 6450 · Assembly	10,426.73			20,000.00	11,000.00
7000 · Lutheran Center					
7010 · LC Utilities	14,538.64			44,500.00	
7020 · LC Maintenance	3,928.15			5,500.00	
7021 · LC-Cleaning Service	4,409.30			12,000.00	
7030 · LC Food Pantry	1,671.45			2,000.00	
7050 · LC Mortgage Interest	2,434.80			11,000.00	
7060 · LC Repairs	5,619.33			30,000.00	
7070 · LC Insurance	1,105.41			15,000.00	
7090 · LC-Payroll				50,000.00	
Total 7000 · Lutheran Center	41,697.09			170,000.00	0.00
Total Expense	2,173,897.60	2,097,895.90	76,001.70	2,078,109.00	2,163,941.00
Net Income	(55,831.78)	(214,895.90)	159,064.12	(80,109.00)	(161,741.00)

1) shortfall can be covered by endowment draws or allocations from property liquidations.

**Property SoCalSynod
Property Budget
February 2017 through January 2018**

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	<u>Feb '16 - Jan 17</u>	<u>2018</u>
Income		
400000 · Rental Income		
40000 · Luthearn Center	39,110.50	194,460.00
41000 · Reformation	250.00	0.00
42000 · San Pablo NoHo	50,608.23	53,000.00
43000 · Pueblo de Dios Compton	80,506.27	56,600.00
44000 · Lake Los Angeles	4,868.00	0.00
45000 · Chatsworth	15,080.26	37,200.00
47000 · CtK Van Nuys	66,000.00	0.00
Total 400000 · Rental Income	256,423.26	341,260.00
Total Income	256,423.26	341,260.00
Expense		
60000 · Lutheran Center		
60005 · Supplies	4,278.36	0.00
60010 · LC Utilites	43,656.08	43,500.00
60020 · LC Maintenance	17,534.96	17,000.00
60021 · LC Janitorial & Gardener	15,743.18	24,000.00
60030 · LC Repairs & Maintenance	8,930.48	10,000.00
60040 · LC Food Pantry	2,504.65	0.00
60050 · LC Mortgage Interest	2,434.80	2,500.00
60080 · LC Insurance	19,121.44	8,000.00
60081 · Legal Expenses	3,865.70	1,000.00
60085 · LC Property Taxes	12,785.41	12,800.00
60090 · LC Payroll	80,387.34	60,000.00
66006 · First Lutheran Loans	5,048.04	0.00
Total 60000 · Lutheran Center	216,290.44	178,800.00
62000 · San Pablo NoHo		
62010 · SP Utilities	14,220.63	15,000.00
62020 · SP Maintenance	3,652.52	4,000.00
62030 · SP Repairs & Maintenance	31,472.53	10,000.00
62080 · SP Insurance	12,763.83	13,000.00
62085 · SP Property Taxes	33,400.40	5,000.00
Total 62000 · San Pablo NoHo	95,509.91	47,000.00
63000 · Pueblo de Dios		
63010 · PD Utilities	9,468.49	10,000.00
63020 · PD Maintenance	1,957.00	2,500.00
63030 · PD Repairs & Maintenance	36,259.00	15,000.00
63080 · PD Insurance	8,762.22	9,000.00
63085 · PD Property Taxes	24,615.68	5,000.00
Total 63000 · Pueblo de Dios	81,062.39	41,500.00
65000 · Chatsworth		
65010 · CH Utilities	2,272.72	2,300.00
65020 · CH Maintenance	525.79	600.00
65021 · CH Janitorial & Gardener	3,017.50	3,000.00
65030 · CH Repairs & Maintenance	1,309.28	1,500.00

**Property SoCalSynod
Property Budget**

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February 2017 through January 2018

	<u>Feb '16 - Jan 17</u>	<u>2018</u>
65080 - CH Insurance	743.00	1,000.00
65081 - CH Legal	1,842.50	1,000.00
65085 - CH Property Taxes	5,299.28	5,300.00
65090 - CH Payroll	30.60	0.00
Total 65000 - Chatsworth	15,040.67	14,700.00
66000 - Bakerfield Land		
66085 - BL Property Taxes	22.46	50.00
Total 66000 - Bakerfield Land	22.46	50.00
67000 - CtK Van Nuys		
67005 - CtK Supplies	50.00	
67010 - CtK Utilities	549.00	
67020 - CtK Maintenance	2,658.00	
67021 - CtK Janitorial & Gardener	1,375.00	
67080 - CtK Insurance	7,180.00	
67081 - CtK Legal	7,514.10	
67085 - CtK Property Taxes	11,890.75	
Total 67000 - CtK Van Nuys	31,216.85	0.00
Total Expense	439,142.72	282,050.00
Net Income	-182,719.46	59,210.00

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Accrual Basis

Southwest California Synod
Balance Sheet
 As of January 31, 2017

Jan 31, 17

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1001 · Checking Accounts	
1001.1 · ACCU - inactive	4,948.36
1001.2 · ACCU - checking	127,124.25
Total 1001 · Checking Accounts	132,072.61
1003 · Mission & Ministry - Checking	70,381.94
1004 · Bishop's Discretionary - Checki	18,693.28
1005 · ELCA Endowment Account	
1005.5 · ELCA Endow M&M	1,678,137.91
1005.6 · ELCA Endow Disc	402,074.83
1005.7 · ELCA Endow Warner	146,467.67
1005.8 · FLLAF-Endowment	5,889,320.08
Total 1005 · ELCA Endowment Account	8,116,000.49
1006 · BLP Enhancement - Mission Plus	83,503.56
1007 · Pfundstein - Mission Plus	17,235.33
1008 · Warner Trust - Checking	19,748.47
1009.1 · Petty Cash	1,885.38
1009.2 · PayPal	1,670.23
1014 · FLLAF ACCU Accounts	
1014.0 · FLLAF Checking	170,749.45
Total 1014 · FLLAF ACCU Accounts	170,749.45
Total Checking/Savings	8,631,940.74
Other Current Assets	
1011 · Accounts Receivable	
1011.10 · General Fund Rec. from Designat	86,761.10
1011.11 · AR to Property	171,070.09
1011.4 · Shared Payroll Receivable	32,045.04
1011.9 · Temp Rest. Fund Loan Rec. GenFu	268,625.11
1011 · Accounts Receivable - Other	(8,232.71)
Total 1011 · Accounts Receivable	550,268.63
1013 · Prepaid Expense	512.99
1021 · Loans Receivable	
1021.3 · 1st LA fund Loan Receivable GF	187,038.30
1021 · Loans Receivable - Other	7,019.02
Total 1021 · Loans Receivable	194,057.32
1024 · Bible Baptist Note Receivable	64,814.93
1029 · Temp Restr. Fund Loans Rec	2,744.12
1033 · CCOL - Bakersfield	
1033.1 · CCOL 6Y MIF ~3641	(1,630.54)
Total 1033 · CCOL - Bakersfield	(1,630.54)
1200.7 · MM Interest Rec. St.John Note	38,999.98
Total Other Current Assets	849,767.43
Total Current Assets	9,481,708.17
Other Assets	
1041 · Equipment	
1041.1 · Accum Depr Equipment	(133,835.02)
1041 · Equipment - Other	145,787.11
Total 1041 · Equipment	11,952.09
1042 · Auto	
1042.1 · Accum Depr Autos	(16,125.67)

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Accrual Basis

Southwest California Synod
Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2017

	Jan 31, 17
1042 · Auto - Other	34,555.00
Total 1042 · Auto	18,429.33
1043 · Leasehold Improvements	
1043.1 · Accum Depr L/H Impr	(399,317.98)
1043 · Leasehold Improvements - Other	406,756.21
Total 1043 · Leasehold Improvements	7,438.23
1044 · First Glendale	179,680.61
1050 · Real Estate from Disbanded Cong	8,365,000.00
1060 · Loans to Congregations	
1060.1 · Fe y Esperanza - loan	23,370.99
1060.2 · St.John Cerritos - loan	93,994.55
1060.2A · St.John Cerritos-Loan Interest	17,479.45
1060.3 · Good Shepherd LA - loan	47,304.88
1060.4 · 1stLA Loan to GenFund	5,040.34
1060.5 · MM Disc Loan Rec from st. Johns	260,000.00
1060.6 · MM-Loans receivable	117,164.00
1060.7 · Trinity - San Gabriel	9,516.67
Total 1060 · Loans to Congregations	573,870.88
Total Other Assets	9,156,371.14
TOTAL ASSETS	18,638,079.31
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2001 · Accounts Payable	
2001.4 · Loan Payable to FLLAF	5,040.34
2001.8 · Loan Payable to MM-Disc	117,164.00
2001 · Accounts Payable - Other	48,461.99
Total 2001 · Accounts Payable	170,666.33
2004 · Loans Payable	
2004.1 · GenFund Loan Payable to TempFun	268,625.11
Total 2004 · Loans Payable	268,625.11
2005 · Security Deposit	18,660.87
2100 · Payroll Liabilities	
2103 · SIT Payable	5.53
2104 · SDI Payable	65.48
2105 · Medical Payable	178.64
2106 · TSA & Ins. Payable	3,812.10
2109 · Accrued Vacation Time	11,515.16
Total 2100 · Payroll Liabilities	15,576.91
2422 · Desingated Fund Payable to Gern	86,761.10
2423 · Agency Fund Account Liability	100,050.00
2425 · GenFund Loan Payble to 1st LA	187,038.30
2429 · Permanent Fund Loan Pay to Temp	2,744.12
Total Other Current Liabilities	850,122.74
Total Current Liabilities	850,122.74
Long Term Liabilities	
2506 · MIF Loan Lincoln Porperty	92,554.83
2507 · First Lutheran Glendale Loan	144,882.83
Total Long Term Liabilities	237,437.66
Total Liabilities	1,087,560.40

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Accrual Basis

**Southwest California Synod
Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2017**

	Jan 31, 17
Equity	
3001 · Property & Equipment	37,819.65
3010 · RE Disbanded Congregation Fund	3,185,451.13
3020 · Unrestr. Reser. Prop. Sales	5,079,548.83
3200 · Designated Funds	
3202 · Ministry in Aging	8,515.38
3203 · Rostered Ministries	
3203.1 · Seminary Scholarships	2,856.46
3203.2 · 1st Call Theol. Education	1,649.46
3203.3 · Continuing Ed - Pastors	(348.15)
3203.4 · Special Needs Retirement Fund	(743.34)
Total 3203 · Rostered Ministries	3,414.43
3206 · LC/LA Peace&Justice Award	5,550.00
3207 · Messiah Pasadena Latino	78.50
3209 · DEM travel fund	1,818.58
3211 · African Descent Strategy	4,024.87
3212 · Evangelism	739.39
3213 · Labyrinth	1,495.90
3214 · Sabbatical	2,250.00
3215 · Give2 Grow	
3215.1 · Grace Housing SB grant	12,000.00
3215.2 · First Lutheran Food Pantry	100.00
3215 · Give2 Grow - Other	13,621.57
Total 3215 · Give2 Grow	25,721.57
3216 · Mesias - Pasadena - Latino	3,725.01
3217 · Central Coast Latino	6,412.15
3218 · Events	
3218.1 · Ventures in Growing Stewards	1,308.38
3218.2 · GoGatherGrow	154.28
3218.3 · Germany Trip	438.26
3218.4 · 500th Roadtrip	2,551.22
3218 · Events - Other	15,695.14
Total 3218 · Events	20,147.28
3219 · Church of Finland	
3219.1 · CoF Ministry Support	202,683.00
3219.2 · CoF Travel Fund	2,849.00
Total 3219 · Church of Finland	205,532.00
3220 · Hunger & Global Missions	
3220.1 · World Hunger Grant	2,929.28
3220.2 · Global Mission Event	408.18
3220.4 · Hong Kong	724.25
Total 3220 · Hunger & Global Missions	4,061.71
3221 · Lutheran Musician	620.00
3223 · El Salvador	3,812.55
3224 · Sustainability Conference	2,515.55
3225 · PreMeditated Min.	3,625.00
3226 · Youth	10,598.03
3227 · Valley - New Start	19,706.36
3229 · Justice Team	
3229.1 · Guardian Angel	3,939.21
3229 · Justice Team - Other	9,472.26
Total 3229 · Justice Team	13,411.47
3230 · Lay Ministries	
3230.1 · Equipping Leaders for Mission	7,761.25
3230.2 · Book of Faith	363.12
3230.3 · Latino Lay Mission School(ELCA)	4,512.00
3230.4 · Living the Resurrection	10,688.23

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Accrual Basis

Southwest California Synod

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2017

	Jan 31, 17
3230 · Lay Ministries - Other	5,108.50
Total 3230 · Lay Ministries	28,433.10
3231 · Renewal Grants	386.17
3233 · New Ministries	200.00
3234 · Good Samaritan Fund	1,340.81
3235 · Young Adult	
3235.1 · Campus Ministries	16,194.54
3235.2 · Young Adult Project	8,610.63
3235.3 · Misc. Campus Ministry Hold	200.00
Total 3235 · Young Adult	25,005.17
3236 · Another Level	484.00
3237 · Mission Director Travel Fund	2,229.89
3238 · Vehicle Fund	24,999.92
3239 · Bishop's fund	3,177.48
3246 · BLP Enhancement Temp	1,973.22
3247 · Pfundstein Campership Fund	17,235.33
3248 · Barbara L Price Enhancement	81,530.34
3260 · Proceeds from Sales/Properties	60,253.05
Total 3200 · Designated Funds	595,024.21
3250 · Endowment Funds	
3251 · Mission & Ministry	1,664,889.33
3251.1 · Mission&Ministry gains (loss)	(33,074.27)
3252 · Mis & Min Income	120,604.79
3253 · Mission & Ministry Discretionar	814,582.51
3253.1 · M&M Discr gain / (loss)	(49,853.58)
3254 · Mis & Min Discr Income	77,869.94
3255 · Warner Trust	145,045.56
3255.1 · Warner Trust gain / (loss)	67.30
3256 · War Trst Income	13,591.81
3259.0 · FLLAF Endowment	
3259.2 · FLLAF gain / (loss)	206,926.51
3259.0 · FLLAF Endowment - Other	5,727,282.98
Total 3259.0 · FLLAF Endowment	5,934,209.49
3259.1 · FLLAF Income	
3259.1a · FLLAF Income 2/3	314,374.79
3259.1b · FLLAF Income 1/3	23.97
Total 3259.1 · FLLAF Income	314,398.76
Total 3250 · Endowment Funds	9,002,331.64
3300 · Under Synod Administration	
3309 · Reformation - Pasadena	(40,508.64)
3313 · Holy Shepherd	10,400.00
Total 3300 · Under Synod Administration	(30,108.64)
3900 · Retained Earnings	(194,360.78)
Net Income	(125,187.13)
Total Equity	17,550,518.91
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	18,638,079.31

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Accrual Basis

Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss
February 2016 through January 2017

	Feb '16 - Jan 17
Income	
5000 · Revenue	
5001 · Mission Support	1,042,209.35
5002 · Interest	8,257.12
5003 · Other Revenue	28,660.69
5004 · Investment Disbursement	
5004.2 · Grants supported by FLLAF	78,969.46
5004.3 · Property Income	0.00
5004.5 · Support by Congs under Admin	7,300.00
5004 · Investment Disbursement - Other	300,000.00
Total 5004 · Investment Disbursement	386,269.46
5005 · Fiscal Agent Payroll Reimb	539,283.91
Total 5000 · Revenue	2,004,680.53
5007 · Rental Income Lutheran Center	0.00
Total Income	2,004,680.53
Expense	
6000 · Mission Support	
6001 · Churchwide	518,626.63
Total 6000 · Mission Support	518,626.63
6100 · Grants	
6101 · Pacific Luth. Theo. Seminary	40,172.00
6102 · California Luth. University	5,858.00
6103 · Campus Ministry	28,771.00
6104 · Calif. Luth. Homes	639.00
6105 · Solheim Luth. Home	639.00
6106 · Atterdag Luth. Home	639.00
6108 · Luth. Retreats Camps & Conf.	5,036.00
6109 · Lutheran Social Services	7,999.00
6110 · Luth. Office/Public Policy	4,446.00
6111 · So. Calif. Ecumenical Council	639.00
6112 · New City Parish	4,747.00
6113 · Luth. Maritime Ministry	3,396.00
6118 · Lutheran Planned Giving	5,000.00
6100 · Grants - Other	0.00
Total 6100 · Grants	107,981.00
6200 · Payroll Expenses	
6201 · Bishop	120,454.08
6202 · Staff	242,564.37
6203 · Fiscal Agent Staff	
6203.1 · Fiscal Agent Managed Payroll	258,540.61
6203.2 · Fiscal Agent MD	11,099.92
6203.3 · Fiscal Agent MP	219,951.69
6203.4 · Fiscal Agent MD Benefits/FICA	55,881.17
6203.5 · Fiscal Agent MP Benefits/FICA	16,870.31
Total 6203 · Fiscal Agent Staff	562,343.70
6204 · Support Staff	137,561.77
6210 · FICA Allowance	9,792.00
6211.1 · Payroll Taxes	23,892.80
6212.1 · Pension/Benefits	154,345.70
6214.1 · Workers' Comp	7,215.17
6200 · Payroll Expenses - Other	21.48
Total 6200 · Payroll Expenses	1,258,191.07
6220 · Staff Expense	
6220-1 · Vehicle Fund	5,000.00
6221 · Bishop	29,838.66

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Accrual Basis

**Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss
February 2016 through January 2017**

	Feb '16 - Jan 17
6222 · Dir Fin&Admin	1,546.91
6224 · Assist Rosterd Leadership	9,590.67
6225 · Dir Latino Ministry	13,079.09
6226 · Cong Mission	997.82
6227 · AfricanAm Ministries	394.31
6229 · All Staff Expense	4,490.48
Total 6220 · Staff Expense	64,937.94
6230 · Administration	
6231 · Office Supplies	16,962.60
6232 · Insurance - Liability	3,688.95
6233 · Auditing & Legal	
6233.1 · Auditing	27,000.00
6233.2 · Legal	6,068.00
Total 6233 · Auditing & Legal	33,068.00
6234 · Hospitality	9,565.23
6235 · Postage & Delivery	9,695.11
6236 · Copier Lease	11,022.67
6237 · Maintenance & Repair	3,518.72
6239 · Telephone	7,321.88
6240 · Printing	2,532.76
6244 · Information Technology	19,394.72
6247 · Interest & Finance Charges	1,355.22
6248 · Uncollected Funds	1,530.09
6249 · Office Equipment	2,383.67
Total 6230 · Administration	122,039.62
6310 · Synodical Ministries	
6311 · Meeting	167.20
6312 · Worship	3,078.15
6313 · MLK Service	6,011.83
6314 · Region 2	4,421.29
6318 · Chrism Mass	201.98
6319 · Communications	1,012.22
6322 · Ecumenical	446.96
6323 · Bishop's Colloquy	1,624.14
Total 6310 · Synodical Ministries	16,963.77
6330 · Mission Team for Justice	
6331 · Meeting	200.00
6332 · Church in Society	100.00
6333 · Hunger	1,000.00
6334 · Prison & Parole	300.00
6335 · Middle East Peace	200.00
6336 · Immigration & Welcom. Cong	200.00
Total 6330 · Mission Team for Justice	2,000.00
6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh	
6359 · Candidacy	3,308.01
Total 6350 · Mission Team / RosteredLeadersh	3,308.01
6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries	
6361 · ELM	74.33
6362 · Faith Formation	150.00
6363 · Youth	5,588.00
Total 6360 · Mission Team for Lay Ministries	5,812.33
6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach	
6371 · Meetings	200.00
6373 · Ethnic	55.00
6373.1 · Ethnic - African Descent	3,763.32

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Accrual Basis

Southwest California Synod
Profit & Loss
February 2016 through January 2017

	Feb '16 - Jan 17
6373.2 · Ethnic - Asian	2,804.16
6373.3 · Ethnic - Latino	1,707.57
6375 · New Starts & Redevelopment	96.00
6376 · Stewardship	739.25
Total 6370 · Mission Team for EvangOutreach	9,365.30
6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership	
6381 · Companion Synod	1,000.00
6382 · Global Missions	1,000.00
Total 6380 · Mission Team/Global Partnership	2,000.00
6400 · Council	
6401 · Synod Council	2,367.10
6402 · Executive Committee	518.01
6403 · Deans' Meeting	230.15
6405 · Budget Meeting	234.00
Total 6400 · Council	3,349.26
6430 · Properties under Administration	
6431 · Bakerfield Land	0.00
6432 · South Gate Property	0.00
6433 · Christ the King Van Nuys	0.00
6434 · Storage	4,866.00
6435 · First Lutheran - Glendale	0.00
Total 6430 · Properties under Administration	4,866.00
6450 · Assembly	
6451 · Registration	
6451.1 · credit card fees	721.27
6451 · Registration - Other	(60,903.20)
Total 6451 · Registration	(60,181.93)
6452 · General Expense	15,029.39
6453 · Catering	33,008.49
6454 · Program	1,387.69
6455 · Worship	815.28
6456 · Printing	7,636.56
6457 · Media	12,731.25
Total 6450 · Assembly	10,426.73
7000 · Lutheran Center	
7010 · LC Utilities	0.00
7020 · LC Maintenance	0.00
7021 · LC-Cleaning Service	0.00
7030 · LC Food Pantry	0.00
7050 · LC Mortgage Interest	0.00
7060 · LC Repairs	0.00
7070 · LC Insurance	0.00
7090 · LC-Payroll	
7091 · LC-Food Pantry Payroll	0.00
7092 · LC-Payroll Property	0.00
Total 7090 · LC-Payroll	0.00
Total 7000 · Lutheran Center	0.00
Total Expense	2,129,867.66
Net Income	(125,187.13)

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05/15/17

Accrual Basis

**Property SoCalSynod
Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2017**

	Jan 31, 17
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Bank Accounts	
10001 · Wells Fargo	-11,118.19
Total 10000 · Bank Accounts	-11,118.19
Total Checking/Savings	-11,118.19
Accounts Receivable	
11000 · Accounts Receivable	-531.18
Total Accounts Receivable	-531.18
Total Current Assets	-11,649.37
TOTAL ASSETS	-11,649.37
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
12005 · AP to Synod QB	171,070.09
Total Accounts Payable	171,070.09
Total Current Liabilities	171,070.09
Total Liabilities	171,070.09
Equity	
Net Income	-182,719.46
Total Equity	-182,719.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	-11,649.37

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05/15/17

Accrual Basis

**Property SoCalSynod
Profit & Loss
February 2016 through January 2017**

	Feb '16 - Jan 17
Income	
400000 · Rental Income	
40000 · Lutheran Center	39,110.50
41000 · Reformation	250.00
42000 · San Pablo NoHo	50,608.23
43000 · Pueblo de Dios Compton	80,506.27
44000 · Lake Los Angeles	4,868.00
45000 · Chatsworth	15,080.26
47000 · CtK Van Nuys	66,000.00
Total 400000 · Rental Income	256,423.26
Total Income	256,423.26
Expense	
60000 · Lutheran Center	
60005 · Supplies	4,278.36
60010 · LC Utilites	43,656.08
60020 · LC Maintenance	17,534.96
60021 · LC Janitorial & Gardener	15,743.18
60030 · LC Repairs & Maintenance	8,930.48
60040 · LC Food Pantry	2,504.65
60050 · LC Mortgage Interest	2,434.80
60080 · LC Insurance	19,121.44
60081 · Legal Expenses	3,865.70
60085 · LC Property Taxes	12,785.41
60090 · LC Payroll	80,387.34
66006 · First Lutheran Loans	5,048.04
Total 60000 · Lutheran Center	216,290.44
62000 · San Pablo NoHo	
62010 · SP Utilities	14,220.63
62020 · SP Maintenance	3,652.52
62030 · SP Repairs & Maintenance	31,472.53
62080 · SP Insurance	12,763.83
62085 · SP Property Taxes	33,400.40
Total 62000 · San Pablo NoHo	95,509.91
63000 · Pueblo de Dios	
63010 · PD Utilities	9,468.49
63020 · PD Maintenance	1,957.00
63030 · PD Repairs & Maintenance	36,259.00
63080 · PD Insurance	8,762.22
63085 · PD Property Taxes	24,615.68
Total 63000 · Pueblo de Dios	81,062.39
65000 · Chatsworth	
65010 · CH Utilities	2,272.72
65020 · CH Maintenance	525.79
65021 · CH Janitorial & Gardener	3,017.50
65030 · CH Repairs & Maintenance	1,309.28
65080 · CH Insurance	743.00
65081 · CH Legal	1,842.50
65085 · CH Property Taxes	5,299.28
65090 · CH Payroll	30.60
Total 65000 · Chatsworth	15,040.67
66000 · Bakerfield Land	
66085 · BL Property Taxes	22.46
Total 66000 · Bakerfield Land	22.46
67000 · CtK Van Nuys	
67005 · CtK Supplies	50.00
67010 · CtK Utilities	549.00

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05/15/17

Accrual Basis

**Property SoCalSynod
Profit & Loss
February 2016 through January 2017**

	<u>Feb '16 - Jan 17</u>
67020 · CtK Maintenance	2,658.00
67021 · CtK Janitorial & Gardener	1,375.00
67080 · CtK Insurance	7,180.00
67081 · CtK Legal	7,514.10
67085 · CtK Property Taxes	11,890.75
Total 67000 · CtK Van Nuys	<u>31,216.85</u>
Total Expense	<u>439,142.72</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-182,719.46</u></u>

Contribution Report for Southwest California Synod

Date Range: 01/01/2016 to 12/31/2016

Status to use: Everyone

ID Number	City	Name	Period Intent	AAA Mission Total Intent	Amount	Other Funds	Total Given
Conference:							
14018		*** Deleted ***	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13914		*** Deleted ***	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals:			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Conference: Central Coast							
5080	Solvang	Bethania Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,171.59	\$12,286.00	\$32,457.59
5083	Templeton	Bethel Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,115.70	\$10,352.00	\$25,467.70
5068	Morro Bay	Calvary Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,756.61	\$705.00	\$2,461.61
5078	Santa Maria	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,729.00	\$3,745.00	\$22,474.00
30281	Atascadero	Hope Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$22.15	\$3,022.15
30548	Santa Maria	Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$45,226.19	\$46,126.19
13985	San Luis Obispo	Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,273.14	\$2,083.35	\$23,356.49
5067	Lompoc	Peace Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,751.59	\$2,804.00	\$11,555.59
Central Coast Totals:			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$89,697.63	\$77,223.69	\$166,921.32
Conference: Channel Islands							
14014	Thousand Oaks	Ascension Thousand Oaks	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52,833.00	\$138,335.29	\$191,168.29
13820	Goleta	Christ Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
30054	Santa Paula	Emmanuel Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$916.66	\$0.00	\$916.66
5077	Santa Barbara	Grace Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14,557.60	\$0.00	\$14,557.60
13907	Ojai	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$872.85	\$0.00	\$872.85
5084	Thousand Oaks	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50,990.54	\$4,239.26	\$55,229.80
13891	Newbury Park	King Of Glory Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,253.00	\$1,650.00	\$5,903.00
13913	Oxnard	Lutheran Church Our Redeemer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,149.33	\$1,300.00	\$8,449.33
5091	Camarrillo	Mount Cross Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,672.25	\$6,315.10	\$35,987.35
7354	Agoura Hills	New Hope Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$850.00	\$30,850.00
5072	Oxnard	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,666.68	\$500.00	\$12,166.68
30829	Simi Valley	Shepherd Of The Valley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,443.79	\$3,168.68	\$8,612.47
13992	Santa Barbara	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$21,156.23	\$31,156.23
14029	Ventura	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,400.00	\$3,600.00	\$12,000.00
Channel Islands Totals:			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$230,355.70	\$181,114.56	\$411,470.26
Conference: Foothill							
30577	San Gabriel	Agape Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5197	Altadena	Christ The Shepherd Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,125.00	\$550.00	\$4,675.00
30767	Los Angeles	Eagle Rock Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$600.00	\$2,400.00
5011	Glendale	First Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$281.50	\$281.50
13922	Pasadena	Hill Ave. Grace Luth Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00
5205	La Canada	Luth Church in the Foothills	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,955.49	\$7,447.85	\$21,403.34
13867	Los Angeles	Lutheran Church Good Shepherd	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
5065	La Crescenta	Mt. Olive Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
5209	Pasadena	Reformation Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13818	Glendale	Salem Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$31,705.99	\$61,705.99
13872	Los Angeles	Solheim Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$436.35	\$785.00	\$1,221.35
5012	Glendale	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,380.00	\$9,604.38	\$19,984.38
13884	Monrovia	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13980	San Gabriel	Trinity Luth. Church --wh--	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5210	Pasadena	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$1,959.00	\$8,959.00
Foothill Totals:			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$88,696.84	\$52,933.72	\$141,630.56

Contribution Report for Southwest California Synod

Date Range: 01/01/2016 to 12/31/2016

Status to use: Everyone

ID Number	City	Name	AAA Mission		Amount	Other Funds	Total Given
			Period Intent	Total Intent			
Conference: Gr. Long Beach							
5101	Downey	Christ Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$90.16	\$4,890.16
13860	Long Beach	Christ Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,993.87	\$29,254.81	\$50,248.68
5106	Long Beach	Faith Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5107	Long Beach	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$20,795.00	\$38,795.00
5098	Bell	Grace Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,850.00	\$0.00	\$1,850.00
13765	Bellflower	Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$200.00	\$5,000.00
30341	South Gate	Iglesia Luterana Fe Y Esperanza	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13862	Long Beach	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,500.00	\$3,489.00	\$16,989.00
13861	Long Beach	Resurrection Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
30384	Cerritos	St. John's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5109	Long Beach	St. Luke's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$9,000.00
13847	Lakewood	St. Timothy Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$2,361.58	\$12,361.58
5111	Long Beach	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	\$300.00	\$4,800.00
Gr. Long Beach Totals:			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$102,443.87	\$56,490.55	\$158,934.42
Conference: L.A. Metro							
5015	Los Angeles	Angelica Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13865	Los Angeles	Ascension Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,735.06	\$0.00	\$5,735.06
5016	Los Angeles	Bethel Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
13835	Inglewood	Chapel Of Peace Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,100.00	\$2,350.00
13866	Los Angeles	Community Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,530.00	\$600.00	\$4,130.00
5019	Santa Monica	Finnish Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$161.78	\$1,000.00	\$1,161.78
13836	Inglewood	First Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,229.95	\$2,230.84	\$4,460.79
5009	Culver City	Grace Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,078.84	\$2,800.00	\$29,878.84
5013	Hollywood	Hollywood Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,060.46	\$0.00	\$4,060.46
5014	Inglewood	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$15,000.00
13830	Hollywood	Hope Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
30361	Hollywood	Light Of Christ Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14038	Los Angeles	Lutheran Church Master	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,948.00	\$1,500.00	\$17,448.00
13868	Los Angeles	Messiah Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13995	Santa Monica	Mount Olive Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,590.00	\$6,536.00	\$17,126.00
13871	Los Angeles	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	\$0.00	\$5,500.00
5024	Los Angeles	St. Mark's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$4,200.00
5028	Santa Monica	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,046.33	\$833.05	\$25,879.38
5026	Los Angeles	Village Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13873	Los Angeles	Westchester Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
L.A. Metro Totals:			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$122,830.42	\$20,799.89	\$143,630.31
Conference: SanGabriel Val.							
5220	Temple City	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$3,900.00	\$4,050.00
13887	Monterey Park	Christ Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,700.00	\$5,100.00
14035	West Covina	Christ Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,823.90	\$9,336.40	\$15,160.30
7212	Monterey Park	Faith Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13973	San Dimas	Faith Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,413.03	\$6,784.06	\$13,197.09
13789	Covina	Grace Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00
13819	Glendora	Grace of Calvary Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$1,000.00
13757	Arcadia	Lutheran Church Of The Cross	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13790	Covina	Prince of Peace Luth Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,780.00	\$650.04	\$16,430.04
7612	La Verne	Rock Of The Foothills Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,884.00	\$3,885.00	\$23,769.00
5223	Diamond Bar	Shepherd Hills Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13898	Hacienda Heights	St. Mark's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,523.57	\$1,931.76	\$17,455.33

Contribution Report for Southwest California Synod

Date Range: 01/01/2016 to 12/31/2016

Status to use: Everyone

ID Number	City	Name	----- Period Intent	AAA Mission Total Intent	----- Amount	Other Funds	Total Given
5207	Monterey Park	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$20.00	\$4,020.00
		SanGabriel Val. Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$77,974.50	\$29,707.26	\$107,681.76
		Conference: South Bay					
88888	Gardena	Another Level	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13948	Rancho Palos Verdes	Ascension Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13783	Compton	Christ Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
14016	Torrance	Christ the King Luth Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,040.90	\$50.00	\$28,090.90
14017	Torrance	First Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29,499.96	\$26,219.05	\$55,719.01
16123	Carson	First Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
30835	Torrance	Glory Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$540.00	\$39,996.00	\$40,536.00
5117	San Pedro	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,215.00	\$0.00	\$13,215.00
13940	Redondo Beach	Lutheran Church Resurrection	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,802.29	\$11,565.00	\$25,367.29
7565	Torrance	Lutheran Oriental Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,800.00	\$785.00	\$11,585.00
13837	Hawthorne	Olivet Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,700.00	\$6,700.00
30598	Compton	Pueblo De Dios	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$166.67	\$8,833.33	\$9,000.00
5010	Gardena	St. John Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,219.73	\$6,000.00	\$9,219.73
5029	Rancho Palos Verdes	St. Paul Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$13,625.00	\$18,625.00
5027	Manhattan Beach	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$46,373.37	\$0.00	\$46,373.37
13825	Hawthorne	Trinity Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,546.27	\$7,546.27
		South Bay Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$171,657.92	\$114,319.65	\$285,977.57
		Conference: Tehachapi					
30021	Bakersfield	Emmanuel Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
5066	Lancaster	Lutheran Church Master	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,924.81	\$2,645.00	\$21,569.81
13849	Lancaster	Our Savior Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,550.50	\$4,721.50	\$18,272.00
13762	Bakersfield	Redeemer Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,557.00	\$6,057.00
5074	Palmdale	St. Stephen/valley Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,687.81	\$660.04	\$13,347.85
		Tehachapi Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,663.12	\$12,583.54	\$69,246.66
		Conference: Twin Valleys					
5082	Sun Valley	All Saints Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,004.00	\$1,060.00	\$9,064.00
13767	Burbank	American Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,778.55	\$0.00	\$1,778.55
13801	Encino	Bethel Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.00
13822	Granada Hills	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	\$629.00	\$7,129.00
30882	Santa Clarita	Bloom Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,014.00	\$1,822.00	\$3,836.00
14028	Van Nuys	Central Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,641.00	\$9,156.28	\$13,797.28
14009	Sylmar	Church Of The Foothills	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13894	North Hollywood	Emmanuel Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,184.00	\$3,944.00	\$22,128.00
5064	Canoga Park	Faith Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,510.59	\$17,872.96	\$23,383.55
13776	Chatsworth	Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,217.76	\$0.00	\$1,217.76
30612	North Hollywood	Iglesia Luterana San Pablo	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13896	Northridge	LIFEhouse Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,368.65	\$0.00	\$3,368.65
5070	Northridge	Prince of Peace Luth Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,007.10	\$499.45	\$2,506.55
13771	West Hills	Shepherd Valley Luth Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,527.45	\$550.00	\$26,077.45
5086	Van Nuys	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,929.50	\$468.00	\$2,397.50
5087	Woodland Hills	St. Luke Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,552.97	\$3,407.60	\$27,960.57
5069	North Hollywood	St. Matthew Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,420.00	\$0.00	\$6,420.00
13823	Granada Hills	St. Stephen's Lutheran Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
30122	Canyon Country	The Church Of Hope Elca	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$150.00	\$900.00
		Twin Valleys Totals:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$123,705.57	\$39,559.29	\$163,264.86

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

JANUARY 31, 2016

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Gregg McGinley, CPA

Retired
Michael E. Parmelee, CPA
Wayne L. Harvey, CPA Inactive
Genno S. Coppa, CPA Inactive

Independent Auditor's Report

Synod Council
Southwest California Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (a nonprofit corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2016, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based upon our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America as of January 31, 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

March 10, 2017

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

January 31, 2016

	Unrestricted	Designated	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<u>ASSETS</u>					
Current Assets					
Cash in Checking Accounts	\$ 207,371	\$ -	\$ 293,902	\$ -	\$ 501,273
Money Market Accounts		15,074	5,138	100,920	121,132
MIF Term Certificates		153,102			153,102
ELCA Endowment Pooled Trust			7,971,621	141,195	8,112,816
Other Receivables	5,769				5,769
Notes Receivable, current	36,075				36,075
Loans Receivable	7,106				7,106
Prepaid Expense	13,374				13,374
Total Current Assets	<u>269,695</u>	<u>168,176</u>	<u>8,270,661</u>	<u>242,115</u>	<u>8,950,647</u>
Fixed Assets					
Property and Equipment, net	37,819				37,819
Other Assets					
Real Estate of Disbanded Churches	8,365,000				8,365,000
Interest Receivable - St. John	17,480		39,000		56,480
Notes Receivable, long-term	169,933		260,000		429,933
Loans Due to/from Operating Fund	(488,363)	(86,761)	577,868	(2,744)	-
Total Other Assets	<u>8,064,050</u>	<u>(86,761)</u>	<u>876,868</u>	<u>(2,744)</u>	<u>8,851,413</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 8,371,564</u>	<u>\$ 81,415</u>	<u>\$ 9,147,529</u>	<u>\$ 239,371</u>	<u>\$ 17,839,879</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 35,398	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,398
Agency Trust Accounts Payable	109,048				109,048
Security Deposit	18,661				18,661
Mortgage Payable, current	7,450				7,450
Total Current Liabilities	<u>170,557</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>170,557</u>
Long-term Liabilities					
Mortgage Payable	92,550				92,550
Total Long-term Liabilities	<u>92,550</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>92,550</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>263,107</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>263,107</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>	<u>8,108,457</u>	<u>81,415</u>	<u>9,147,529</u>	<u>239,371</u>	<u>17,576,772</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 8,371,564</u>	<u>\$ 81,415</u>	<u>\$ 9,147,529</u>	<u>\$ 239,371</u>	<u>\$ 17,839,879</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended January 31, 2016

	Unrestricted	Designated	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<u>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</u>					
Support:					
Mission Support, Congregations	\$ 1,047,837	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,047,837
Support to Synod	83,576		(83,576)		
Contributions			107,246		107,246
Interest	12,638	11,811	20,980		45,429
Dividends			334,784		334,784
Administration of Churches			111,564		111,564
Fiscal Agent Payroll Funding - ELCA			463,189		463,189
Church of Finland Ministry Support			194,620		194,620
Revenue:					
Property Revenue	63,500				63,500
Other Revenue	13,188				13,188
Registration Fees			70,725		70,725
Unrealized (Loss) on Investments			(774,877)	(13,725)	(788,602)
Synod Owned Church Properties Income:					
Messiah Lutheran - Pasadena	2,700,000				2,700,000
Christ the King, Van Nuys	2,200,000				2,200,000
Fe Esperanza House Value Increase	170,000				170,000
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	1,782,124	(406,295)	(1,375,829)		
Total Support and Revenue	8,072,863	(394,484)	(931,174)	(13,725)	1,663,480
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Mission Support Churchwide ELCA	518,571				518,571
General Administrative	195,941	6,548			202,489
Personnel	671,724	(2,000)			669,724
Leadership, Support and Program	61,955				61,955
Program Services - Other	243,650				243,650
Temp Funds Released from Restrictions					
Grants	231,391				231,391
Church Administration Costs	157,461				157,461
Travel	39,880				39,880
Salaries and Benefits	80,971				80,971
Fiscal Agent Shared Staff	658,510				658,510
Continuing Education	1,258				1,258
Programs and Conferences	101,548				101,548
First Glendale Expenses	104,238				104,238
Other	575				575
Total Expenses	3,067,673	4,548	-	-	3,072,221
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	5,005,190	(399,032)	(931,174)	(13,725)	3,661,259
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	3,103,267	480,447	10,078,703	253,096	13,915,513
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$ 8,108,457	\$ 81,415	\$ 9,147,529	\$ 239,371	\$17,576,772

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year Ended January 31, 2016

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Increase in Net Assets		\$ 3,661,259
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to		
Net Cash (Used) by Operating Activities:		
Unrealized Loss on Investments	\$ 788,602	
Depreciation	12,370	
Synod Owned Church Properties Income	(5,070,000)	
(Increase) Decrease in Other Receivables	50,156	
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expense	(7,298)	
(Increase) Decrease in Interest Receivable	(13,000)	
(Decrease) Increase in Security Deposit	5,000	
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	12,999	
(Decrease) Increase in Agency Trust Accounts Payable	95,979	
Total Adjustments		<u>(4,125,192)</u>
Net Cash (Used) by Operating Activities		(463,933)

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Interest Income Invested in Mission Certificates	(12,398)	
Early Withdrawal Penalty	6,110	
Withdrawal from Term Certificates	609,773	
Principal Collected on Notes Receivable	18,718	
Additional Loans Receivable	(2,600)	
Net Cash (Used) by Investing Activities		<u>619,603</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Capital Expenditures		
Purchase of Leasehold Improvements	(5,297)	
Principal Payments on Mortgage	(9,548)	
Net Cash (Used) by Financing Activities		<u>(14,845)</u>

(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS 140,825

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - Beginning of Year 481,580

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - End of Year \$ 622,405

Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information:

Cash Paid During the Year For:		
Interest	\$	29,365
Income Taxes		None

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Activities

The Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Synod) was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in May 1986. The Synod is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is responsible for the oversight and the life and mission of the ELCA in the counties of Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Kern, and Ventura in the state of California. The Synod is supported primarily through contributions received from member congregations.

Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Synod have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables, and other liabilities.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Financial Statement Presentation

Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in FASB ASC 958. Accordingly, the net assets of the Synod and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Unrestricted net assets include all resources which are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions of a more specific nature than those which only obligate the Synod to utilize funds in furtherance of its mission.

Designated funds are those which Synod Council, rather than the donor, has determined are to be retained for specific purposes. Synod Council has the right to decide at any time to spend the principal of these funds. Since the restrictions are not donor-imposed, designated funds are classified as a portion of unrestricted net assets.

Temporarily restricted net assets carry specific, imposed restrictions on the expenditure or other use of contributed funds. Temporary restrictions may expire either because certain actions are taken by the Synod which fulfill the restrictions or because of the passage of time.

Permanently restricted net assets are those that are subject to donor-imposed restrictions which never lapse, thus requiring that the funds be permanently retained. The donors of these funds permit the Synod to use all or part of the income earned on related investments for designated purposes.

Leases

Leases are evaluated and classified as capital or operating in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(Continued)

Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Donated Services

The Synod receives services donated by individuals involved in the Synod's missions. The services provided generally involve the contribution of time to various Synod committees. No amounts for contributed services have been reflected in the financial statements since the services do not meet accounting standards for recognition. The criteria require that donated services create or enhance financial assets, require specialized skills which would be purchased if not donated, and have an objective basis for measurement.

Income Taxes

The Synod is included in a group ruling issued by IRS to the ELCA and therefore is exempt from Federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash consists of checking and savings deposits with banks.

Investments and Credit Risks

Investments consist primarily of funds invested with Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the ELCA Endowment Fund. Investments in the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are similar in character to savings accounts and certificates of deposits and are stated at cost. The Mission Plus and Mission Certificates held with Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are not protected by FDIC. The balance of uninsured Mission Plus and Mission Certificates was \$153,102 as of January 31, 2016. Investments in the ELCA Endowment Fund are stated at fair value based on amounts reported to the Synod by the management of the Fund. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the statement of activities. Investments in the ELCA Endowment Fund are not protected by SIPC (Security Investor Protection Corporation). The uninsured investment balance in the ELCA Endowment Fund was \$8,112,816 as of January 31, 2016.

Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The Synod has adopted FASB ASC 820-19, which defines fair value, establishes a framework of measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements.

FASB ASC 820-10 defines fair value as the price that would be received upon sale of an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. FASB ASC 820-10 also establishes a fair value hierarchy, which requires the Synod to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs, when measuring fair value. The standard describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1

Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(Continued)

Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities (Continued)

Level 2

Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3

Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying statement of financial position, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - The carrying amount approximates fair value.

Investments - Where quoted market prices are available in an active market, securities are classified within Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy. If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated by using pricing models, quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics, or discounted cash flows (Level 2). Where Level 1 and Level 2 inputs are not available, investments are classified within Level 3 hierarchy. Because market activity for the ELCA Endowment Fund investment is not active, the Synod's investment in the Fund is classified as Level 3.

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Fair Value Measurements Using</u>		
		<u>(Level 1)</u>	<u>(Level 2)</u>	<u>(Level 3)</u>
Term Certificates (MIF)	\$ 153,102	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 153,102
ELCA Endowment Fund	<u>8,112,816</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,112,816</u>
	<u>\$ 8,265,918</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,265,918</u>

Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3):

	<u>MIF T-CD's</u>	<u>ELCA End Fund</u>
January 31, 2015	\$756,587	\$8,901,418
Interest earned	12,398	
Early withdrawal penalties	(6,110)	
Withdrawals	(609,773)	
Unrealized (loss) on investment		(788,602)
January 31, 2016	<u>\$153,102</u>	<u>\$8,112,816</u>

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing various programs and other activities have been presented on a functional basis at Note K, where expenses have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(Continued)

Property and Equipment

Acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$1,500 are capitalized. Property and equipment are carried at cost or, if donated, at the approximately fair value at the date of donation. The Synod depreciates assets using the straight-line method over the useful lives of the assets of 5 and 7 years.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through March 10, 2017, which is the date the financial statements were available to be used.

NOTE B - UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Unrestricted net assets consist of the following as of January 31, 2016

Operating Fund	\$ (294,362)
Property Fund	37,819
Real Estate of Churches	
Under Administration	<u>8,365,000</u>
	<u>\$8,108,457</u>

NOTE C - DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

Designated net assets consist of the following as of January 31, 2016:

Continuing Education – Pastors	\$ 733
Vehicle Fund	20,000
Sabbatical	2,250
Synod Sold Churches Fund (former	
First LA Synod, Mt. Olivet and	
CCOL Bakersfield Funds)	<u>58,432</u>
Total	<u>\$ 81,415</u>

NOTE D - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS

Temporarily restricted funds at January 31, 2016 consist of the following:

Bishop's Colloquy	\$ (827)
Ministry in Aging	7,645
Seminary Scholarships	2,856
First Call Theol. Education	3,473
Special Needs Retirement Fund	(743)
Candidacy Applications	(1,000)
LC/LA Peace & Justice Award	6,050
Messiah Pasadena Latino	4,300
DEM Travel	6,063
STAR	3,588

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE D - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS - FUNDS (Continued)

Evangelism	739
Labyrinth	1,496
Give 2 Grow	6,586
Events	16,021
Ventures in Growing Stewards	1,309
Go Gather Grow	77
Church of Finland Ministry Support	150,344
Church of Finland Travel Fund	23,894
World Hunger Grant	2,929
Global Mission Event	725
Hong Kong	724
Lutheran Musician	620
El Salvador	3,763
Sustainability Conference	2,516
PreMeditated Ministry	25
Youth	10,995
Valley - New Start	19,706
Lay Ministries	5,146
Justice Team	15,750
Equipping Leaders for Mission (ELM)	7,761
Book of Faith	363
Latino Lay Mission School	5,032
Renewal Grants	386
New Ministries	200
Good Samaritan Fund	1,341
Campus Ministries	18,564
Young Adult Project	8,611
Misc Campus Ministry Hold	200
Another Level	484
Bishop's Fund	2,347
Fiscal Agent Managed Payroll Fund	(56,430)
Mission & Ministry Funds	2,506,931
Warner Endowment Income Fund	7,916
Pfundstein Campership Income Fund	1,149
BLP Enhancement Income Fund	1,389
First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund	6,316,276
Churches under Synod Administration	
Pueblo de Dios, Compton	18,890
Iglesia Luterana San Pablo,	
North Hollywood	1,744
Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church,	
Lake Los Angeles	9,605
Total Temporarily Restricted	<u>\$9,147,529</u>

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE E - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS

MISSION AND MINISTRY FUNDS

At the 1997 Synod Assembly, a resolution was adopted creating a Mission and Ministry Fund. The fund's purpose is to receive gifts and bequests to be used for the Mission Outreach of the Synod and the ELCA and their successor bodies. The Mission and Ministry Fund is held in two accounts: the Endowment and the Discretionary. As directed by Synod Council, during the year ended January 31, 2008, \$1,540,264 of the proceeds from the sale of Shepherd of the Valley, West Covina was placed in the Mission and Ministry Fund. A transfer of \$1,026,843 was made to the Endowment account, and a transfer of \$513,421 was made to the Discretionary account. As of January 31, 2016 the accounts are comprised of the following:

	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>
ELCA Endowment Pooled Fund		
Cost	\$ 1,711,212	\$ 410,157
Unrealized (loss)	<u>(93,480)</u>	<u>(22,555)</u>
Market Value	1,617,732	387,602
Mission & Ministry Checking	69,724	
Bishop's Discretionary Checking		15,309
Interest Receivable – St. Johns Lutheran Church, Cerritos		39,000
Note Receivable from St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos		260,000
Loan Receivable from Operating Fund		100,000
Receivable from Operating Fund	<u>400</u>	<u>17,164</u>
	<u>\$ 1,687,856</u>	<u>\$ 819,075</u>

The following summarizes the activity in the accounts:

	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>
Balances, January 31, 2015	\$ 1,840,650	\$ 841,088
Interest	20	13,004
Dividends from ELCA Pooled Fund	67,940	16,278
Unrealized (loss) ELCA Pooled Fund	(157,251)	(37,677)
Grants paid	(63,470)	(13,585)
Other expenses	<u>(33)</u>	<u>(33)</u>
Balances, January 31, 2016	<u>\$ 1,687,856</u>	<u>\$ 819,075</u>

At its September 2012 meeting, the Synod Endowment Committee voted to sell sufficient shares in the ELCA Endowment Pool Fund held by the Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund to purchase from the General Fund its \$260,000 loan to St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos. The General Fund had provided St. Johns Lutheran Church, Cerritos with emergency financial assistance to pay substantial financial obligations of the congregation, in order to sustain its ministry. On October 1, 2011 a promissory note and deed of trust were executed by St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos to secure repayment of amounts advanced by the Synod. The promissory note secured by deed of trust calls for monthly payments of \$990 per month or more, and interest at the rate of 5% per annum. The General Fund's loan to St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos was originally financed with a loan from the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund. The purchase of the loan by the Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund allowed the General Fund to repay its loan from the First

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE E - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS (Continued)

Lutheran Los Angeles Fund. St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos has not commenced making payments on the note as of January 31, 2016. Unpaid interest on the loan has been recorded as a receivable.

At its September 2012 meeting, the Synod Endowment Committee voted to sell sufficient shares in the ELCA Endowment Pool Fund held by the Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund to pay the Operating Fund \$100,000 in order to restore to the Operating Fund amounts it had expended on behalf of Fe y Esperanza, a church under administration. The payment was made to the Operating Fund in the form of a loan which is to be repaid to the Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund from sales proceeds should there be a sale of the house on the Fe y Esperanza church property owned by the Synod.

FIRST LUTHERAN LOS ANGELES FUND

Final worship services were held at First Lutheran Church, Los Angeles on April 23, 2006. Upon closing of the congregation, the Synod assumed responsibility for administration of the Church property. The sale of the Church property was concluded in December 2007. The congregation's "Resolution for Congregation Closing" provided for the sales proceeds to be used (a) to pay a tithe to the Synod for use in its operations; (b) to fund the endowment of a chair at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary; and (c) to create a restricted First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund to be administered by the Synod to serve the Gospel.

In January 2008, an endowment of \$1,500,000 was funded at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and \$718,262 was transferred to an unrestricted, designated fund referred to as the "First LA Synod (Tithe) Fund". The \$718,262 amount represented the net operating profits from administration of the Church prior to sale and the Synod Tithe, as computed at the time. In 2013, the First LA Synod (Tithe) Fund was combined with the Mt. Olivet and CCOL Bakersfield New Mission Fund.

Synod Council voted that principal of the restricted First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund may be invaded only with the recommendation of the Executive Committee and with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Synod Council. Synod Council also voted that one-third of the income from the restricted First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund is designated to meet the mission needs of the Synod, and two-thirds of the income of the Fund is to be used for the following programs:

- (a) The planting and support of new congregations, including such things as contributions toward the mission developer's salary and benefits, purchase of equipment, and acquisition of property for housing the new ministry;
- (b) The support of congregations in transition or transformation, including support of a new or full-time pastor and resources that would support new ministry and outreach;
- (c) The support of candidates for rostered ministry; and
- (d) The support of agencies and institutions important for the life and mission of Christ as lived out through the Southwest California Synod.

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE E - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS (Continued)

FIRST LUTHERAN LOS ANGELES FUND (Continued)

The following summarizes the activity in the temporarily restricted First Lutheran Los Angeles Funds during the year ended January 31, 2016:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Income</u>	
			<u>(2/3)</u>	<u>(1/3)</u>
Balances, January 31, 2015	\$6,882,666	\$6,591,126	\$291,540	\$ - 0 -
Interest income	161		107	54
ELCA Endow Fund dividend income	250,566		167,044	83,522
Grants and scholarships	(49,167)		(49,167)	
First Glendale Expenses	(104,238)		(104,238)	
Other	(187)		(187)	
Synod Support -- Operating Fund	(83,576)			(83,576)
Unrealized (loss) on investments	(579,949)	(579,949)		
Balances, January 31, 2016	<u>\$6,316,276</u>	<u>\$6,011,177</u>	<u>\$305,099</u>	<u>\$ - 0 -</u>

As of January 31, 2016, The First Los Angeles Fund is invested as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Income</u>	
			<u>(2/3)</u>	<u>(1/3)</u>
Cash in checking	\$ 157,910	\$	\$157,910	\$
Loan to General Fund	147,189		147,189	
ELCA Endowment Pooled Fund (FMV)	<u>6,011,177</u>	<u>6,011,177</u>		
	<u>\$6,316,276</u>	<u>\$6,011,177</u>	<u>\$305,099</u>	<u>\$ - 0 -</u>

NOTE F - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ASSETS

Permanently restricted assets at January 31, 2016 consist of the following:

	<u>Pfundstein</u>	<u>B.L. Price</u>	<u>Warner</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balances, January 31, 2015	\$18,000	\$81,530	\$153,565	\$253,095
Unrealized (loss)			(13,726)	(13,726)
Balances, January 31, 2016	<u>\$18,000</u>	<u>\$81,530</u>	<u>\$139,840</u>	<u>\$239,370</u>

PFUNDSTEIN CAMBERSHIP FUND

In September 2002, the Synod received a bequest from the estates of Wayne and Helen Pfundstein. The Synod had been instructed to place the bequest of \$18,000 in an endowment fund, and the income from the investment of the funds is to provide camperships for children in the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Programs of the Synod. The Pfundstein Campership Fund at January 31, 2016 is invested in a Mission Plus Account.

BARBARA L. PRICE ENHANCEMENT FUND

Barbara L. Price Enhancement Fund was established in 1999 upon the retirement of Barbara Price, assistant to the Bishop. The fund was formed to augment low income pastor salaries, with initial contributions of \$59,789. By terms of the endowment, up to one-half of the interest earned from the investment of the endowment can be expended, until the account reaches \$1 million. When the fund reaches \$1 million, all subsequent income is available for use. At January 31, 2016 the fund is invested in a Mission Plus account.

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE F - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ASSETS (Continued)

WARNER TRUST BEQUEST

Southwest California Synod, as the surviving corporation of the Pacific Southwest Synod, received a bequest from the estate of Charles and Mabel Warner in 1990 and 1994 totaling \$697,349. Distributions of the bequest were made to the other Synods of Region 2 on the basis of their baptized memberships at the time of the merger. Southwest California Synod's portion was \$163,286, which has been invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust. Any appreciation of the investment is added to the principal of the permanently restricted fund. Any reduction in value of the investment reduces the principal of the permanently restricted fund. Dividend income received from the investment is treated as income, which is held in the Warner Trust Income Account. A trust committee oversees grants paid from the income fund.

At January 31, 2016, the permanently restricted Warner Trust Fund is held as follows:

ELCA Endowment Pooled Fund	
Cost	\$ 146,400
Unrealized (loss)	<u>(5,205)</u>
Value	141,195
Payable to Warner Income Fund	<u>(1,355)</u>
Balance	<u>\$ 139,840</u>

NOTE G - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment at January 31, 2016 consist of the following:

Leasehold Improvements	\$ 406,756
Equipment	145,787
Vehicles	34,555
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(549,279)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 37,819</u>

NOTE H - SYNOD OWNED CHURCH PROPERTIES

The Synod owns properties of five disbanded congregations. The properties are now home to four New Start and Redevelopment congregations, and a Charter K-12 School. Such real estate properties owned by the Synod as of January 31, 2016 are as follows:

Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate 6165 Lincoln Avenue, South Gate, CA	\$ 475,000
La Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, North Hollywood 7400 Tujunga Avenue, North Hollywood, CA	1,780,000
Iglesia Evangelica Luterano Pueblo de Dios, Compton 804 E. Rosecrans Avenue, Compton, CA	1,210,000
Messiah Lutheran Church Pasadena (Reformation), 570 E. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA	2,700,000
Christ the King, Van Nuys 17400 Vanowen St, Van Nuys, CA	<u>2,200,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 8,365,000</u>

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE H – SYNOD OWNED CHURCH PROPERTIES (Continued)

Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate --- In 2000, Faith Lutheran Church, South Gate was disbanded. Under provisions of the ELCA model constitution for congregations, the Church property was transferred to the Synod. In 2001, the Hispanic Ministry of the former Faith Lutheran Church organized worship services at the Church and was recognized as a congregation of the ELCA as Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate. Ownership of the Church property was transferred to the congregation. In 2009, the congregation was in default on its mortgage and property tax obligations, and under provisions of the ELCA model constitution for congregations, the Synod took back ownership of the property. The transfer of title to the property to the Synod has not been fully completed. In November 2010 title to only the house on the Church property was transferred to the Synod. Because transfer of title to the entire property has not been completed, only the house has been recorded as an asset of the Synod. A note payable to Lutheran Credit Union, which was secured by the house on the property, matured in December 2015 and was refinanced with a note payable to Mission Investment Fund in the amount of \$100,000 (See Note J). The house has been carried on the books in prior years at a value of \$305,000, the appraised value as of November 2010. The value of the house has been adjusted to \$475,000 to reflect current market conditions.

La Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, North Hollywood --- In 2002, Valley Lutheran Church, North Hollywood was disbanded. Since that time, the Synod has maintained and administered the property that has provided a home for the New Mission congregation, La Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, North Hollywood. In December 2012 title to the Church property was transferred to the Synod. An appraisal prepared in March 2013 has valued the property at \$1,780,000.

Iglesia Evangelica Luterano Pueblo de Dios, Compton -- In 1999, First Lutheran Church, Compton was disbanded. Since that time, the Synod has maintained and administered the property that has provided a home for the New Mission congregation, Iglesia Evangelica Luterano Pueblo de Dios, Compton. In July 2011 title to the Church property was transferred to the Synod. An appraisal prepared in March 2013 has valued the property at \$1,210,000.

Messiah Lutheran Church Pasadena (Reformation Pasadena) --- In May 2015, Messiah Lutheran Church Pasadena was disbanded. The following week, a new multicultural, multilingual ministry of ELCA, Reformation Pasadena, began utilizing the property. In January 2016, a grant deed was recorded that transferred ownership of the property to the Synod. Based upon a property valuation report prepared by Dilbeck Realty, the property has been valued at \$2,700,000.

Christ the King Van Nuys --- In October 2014, Christ the King Van Nuys was dissolved. In June 2014, a Real Estate Broker's market analysis placed a value on the property of between \$1,250,000 and \$2,550,000. In June 2015, the property was leased for a two year period to InSite Educational Facility Services ("InSite"), for the operation of an iLEAD charter school. Also in June 2015, InSite and the Synod entered into a letter of intent for the sale of the property to InSite for a sales price of \$2,200,000, and in April 2016 a purchase agreement was signed. The property has been valued at \$2,200,000 based upon this sale arrangement.

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE I - UNRESTRICTED NOTES RECEIVABLE

In 1996, the Synod sold the Shepherd of Grace Lutheran Church property to Bible Baptist Church of The Foothills. The terms of the sale included a note secured by deed of trust taken back by the Synod in the amount of \$369,000. The current terms of the note call for interest at the rate of 6.5% per annum and weekly payments of \$700. During the year ended January 31, 2015, 51 weekly payments of \$700 were received. The balance of the note at January 31, 2016 is

\$ 96,553

In August 2011, the Synod learned that St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos was delinquent on substantial financial obligations. In order to sustain the ministry it was necessary for the Synod to provide the congregation emergency financial assistance. On October 1, 2011 a promissory note and deed of trust were executed by the congregation to secure repayment of amounts advanced by the Synod. The promissory note calls for monthly payments of \$990 per month or more, and interest at the rate of 5% per annum. At January 31, 2013, the Synod's advances to the congregation amounted to \$292,245, and on that date the Mission and Missionary Discretionary Fund purchased \$260,000 of this loan from the Operating Fund, leaving the Operating Fund with a loan receivable from the congregation of \$32,245. Monthly payments of \$990 have not commenced. The congregation forwards certain weekly cash offerings to the Synod, which are applied to interest and principal owed on the operating fund portion of the obligation. During the year ended January 31, 2016, additional amounts totaling \$18,569 were loaned to the congregation. The combined amount of the \$260,000 loan balance owed to Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund and the balance owed to the general fund are secured by a promissory note and deed of trust for the Church property. At January 31, 2016 the principal balance of the obligation payable to the Operating Fund is

In November 2011, the Synod loaned \$62,500 to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Los Angeles. The loan is evidenced by a promissory note secured by deed of trust dated November 1, 2011. The note calls for monthly payments of \$412.47 including interest at the rate of 5% per annum. The balance of the note at January 31, 2016 is

58,875

50,580

Total Unrestricted Notes Receivable
 Current Portion
 Net Long Term Notes Receivable

206,008

36,075

\$ 169,933

NOTE J - MORTGAGE PAYABLE

On November 19, 2010, the Synod borrowed \$117,562 from Lutheran Credit Union of America (now America's Christian Credit Union). The Synod had taken title to the house on the Church property of Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate, and the purpose of the loan was to refinance in the Synod's name the congregation's mortgage loan on the house. The Synod's mortgage loan with America's Christian Credit Union was secured by the house on the Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate Church property. The loan matured December 1, 2015. The outstanding balance of the loan when it matured was \$107,736. The Synod paid the principal balance down to \$100,000 and obtained a new loan for \$100,000 with Mission Investment Fund to pay off the balance. As of January 31, 2016 the balance of the new Mission Investment

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE J - MORTGAGE PAYABLE (Continued)

Fund loan secured by the house on the Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate Church property is as follows:

Mortgage balance, January 31, 2016	\$ 100,000
Less: Current Portion	(7,450)
Long-term Portion	<u>\$ 92,550</u>

Maturities of the debt for the next five years are as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u>	
January 31, 2017	\$ 7,450
January 31, 2018	8,133
January 31, 2019	8,591
January 31, 2020	9,076
January 31, 2021	9,588
Thereafter	<u>49,712</u>
	<u>\$92,550</u>

NOTE K – FUNCTIONAL PRESENTATION OF EXPENSES

The following presents the expenses of the operating fund on a Functional Basis.

<u>General Administration</u>	
Office Supplies	\$ 14,295
Insurance - Liability	3,818
Audit	28,498
Legal	12,448
Hospitality	9,719
Postage and Delivery	10,674
Copier Lease	13,417
Maintenance and Repair	4,272
Rent	54,167
Telephone	9,966
Bishop Discretionary	501
Printing	1,352
Information Technology	17,275
Office Equipment	1,650
Interest/Finance Charges	95
Uncollected Funds	1,424
Depreciation	<u>12,370</u>
Total	<u>\$195,941</u>
 <u>Personnel</u>	
Bishop, Staff and Support Staff Compensation	\$ 477,172
Pensions, Medical and Disability	164,521
Payroll Taxes	21,999
Continuing Education	4,332
Workers Compensation	<u>3,700</u>
Total	<u>\$ 671,724</u>

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2016

NOTE K – FUNCTIONAL PRESENTATION OF EXPENSES (Continued)

<u>Leadership, Support, and Program</u>	
Region II Support	\$ 4,958
Council	2,438
Staff Expenses	<u>54,559</u>
Total	<u>\$ 61,955</u>
 <u>Program Services</u>	
Planning Giving	\$ 107,788
Synodical Ministries	12,911
Mission Teams	18,325
Synod Assembly	20,269
Mission Team/Global Partnership	3,600
Properties Under Administration	<u>80,757</u>
Program Services – Other	243,650
Mission Support Churchwide ELCA	<u>518,571</u>
Total	<u>\$ 762,221</u>

NOTE L – RETIREMENT PLAN

The Synod participates in a defined contribution retirement plan with Portico Benefit Services, formerly the Board of Pensions of the ELCA. The plan covers substantially all employees, and contributions are immediately fully vested and funded. The Synod's total contribution to the plan was \$91,377 for the year ended January 31, 2016.

NOTE M - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Synod and St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos are co-borrowers of a loan payable to America's Christian Credit Union, which secured by the property owned by St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos. The original amount of the loan was \$599,192. In December 2015 the bank advanced an additional \$74,213 on the loan for the payment of delinquent property taxes. As of January 31, 2016, the balance of the loan was \$638,264. The terms of the loan call for monthly payments of \$4,379.97, with a balance of \$394,445 payable November 1, 2023.

In August 2009, the Synod entered into a 60 month lease for a Konica Minolta C652 multifunction printer/copier that was scheduled to expire in August 2015. As of February 7, 2014 the Synod entered into a 60 month lease for a new Konica Minolta C652e multifunction printer/copier. The new lease calls for monthly payments of \$658.39. Both leases are operating leases and not capital. The Synod's future obligations under the lease total \$23,701, which are payable as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 31, 2017	\$ 7,901
January 31, 2018	7,901
January 31, 2019	<u>7,899</u>
Total	<u>\$23,701</u>

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
January 31, 2016

NOTE M - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Continued)

The Synod's executive offices are located in the Church, school and office complex of First Lutheran Church of Glendale. During the year ended January 31, 2016, rent payments of \$4,847 per month were paid under a month to month rental arrangement. On February 11, 2016, a grant deed was executed by which First Lutheran Church of Glendale transferred ownership of the property to the Synod. The grant deed was recorded March 21, 2016.

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SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

WITH INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

JANUARY 31, 2017

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Michael E. Parmelee, CPA
Wayne L. Harvey, CPA Inactive
Genno S. Coppa, CPA Inactive

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Synod Council
Southwest California Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (a nonprofit corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as of January 31, 2017, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based upon our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America as of January 31, 2017, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

May 31, 2017

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

January 31, 2017

DRAFT

	Unrestricted	Designated	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<u>ASSETS</u>					
Current Assets					
Cash in Checking Accounts	\$ 17,565	\$ -	\$ 279,577	\$ -	\$ 297,142
Money Market Accounts				100,739	100,739
ELCA Endowment Pooled Trust			8,326,026	152,790	8,478,816
Other Receivables	43,145				43,145
Notes Receivable, current	38,752				38,752
Loans Receivable	3,619				3,619
Prepaid Expense	513				513
Total Current Assets	103,594	-	8,605,603	253,529	8,962,726
Fixed Assets					
Property and Equipment, net	25,093				25,093
Other Assets					
Real Estate of Disbanded Churches	11,985,000				11,985,000
Lutheran Center, Glendale, CA	5,900,000				5,900,000
Interest Receivable - St. John	20,981		52,000		72,981
Notes Receivable, long-term	167,363		269,517		436,880
Loans Due to/from Operating Fund	(805,331)	88,785	719,109	(2,563)	-
Total Other Assets	17,268,013	88,785	1,040,626	(2,563)	18,394,861
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 17,396,700	\$ 88,785	\$ 9,646,229	\$ 250,966	\$ 27,382,680
<u>LIABILITIES</u>					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 64,039	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,039
Agency Trust Accounts Payable	6,462				6,462
Security Deposit	18,661				18,661
Mortgage Payable, current	15,599				15,599
Total Current Liabilities	104,761	-	-	-	104,761
Long-term Liabilities					
Mortgage Payable	221,839				221,839
Total Long-term Liabilities	221,839	-	-	-	221,839
TOTAL LIABILITIES	326,600	-	-	-	326,600
NET ASSETS	17,070,100	88,785	9,646,229	250,966	27,056,080
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 17,396,700	\$ 88,785	\$ 9,646,229	\$ 250,966	\$ 27,382,680

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year Ended January 31, 2017

DRAFT

	Unrestricted	Designated	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<u>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</u>					
Support:					
Mission Support, Congregations	\$ 1,034,949	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,034,949
Support to Synod	93,553		(93,553)		
Distribution from First LA Income	300,000		(300,000)		
Contributions			96,174		96,174
Interest	11,759	3,451	19,468		34,678
Dividends			315,083		315,083
Administration of Churches			321,663		321,663
Fiscal Agent Payroll Funding - ELCA			539,284		539,284
Church of Finland Ministry Support			221,732		221,732
Revenue:					
Other Revenue			113,569		113,569
Registration Fees			89,926		89,926
Unrealized Gain on Investments			629,795	11,595	641,390
Realized Gain on Investments			24,610		24,610
Funds of Disbanded Church			32,000		32,000
Synod Owned Church Properties Income:					
Holy Shepherd Lutheran of Chatsworth	1,500,000				1,500,000
Messiah Lutheran Church, Pasadena	2,120,000				2,120,000
Lutheran Center, Glendale	5,667,672				5,667,672
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	1,505,782	5,269	(1,511,051)		
Total Support and Revenue	12,233,715	8,720	498,700	11,595	3,408,448
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
Mission Support Churchwide ELCA	518,627				518,627
General Administrative	138,166				138,166
Personnel	695,847	1,350			697,197
Leadership, Support and Program	62,971				62,971
Lutheran Center Operation	159,316				159,316
Program Services - Other	186,094				186,094
Temp Funds Released from Restrictions					
Grants	199,038				199,038
Church Administration Costs	396,008				396,008
Travel	53,109				53,109
Fiscal Agent Shared Staff	688,303				688,303
Programs and Conferences	172,489				172,489
Scholarships	1,987				1,987
Other	117				117
Total Expenses	3,272,072	1,350	-	-	3,273,422
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	8,961,643	7,370	498,700	11,595	9,479,308
NET ASSETS - Beginning of Year	8,108,457	81,415	9,147,529	239,371	17,576,772
NET ASSETS - End of Year	\$17,070,100	\$ 88,785	\$ 9,646,229	\$ 250,966	\$27,056,080

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
Year Ended January 31, 2017

DRAFT

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Increase in Net Assets		\$ 9,479,308
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to		
Net Cash (Used) by Operating Activities:		
Unrealized Gains on Investments	\$ (641,390)	
Realized Gain on Investments	(24,610)	
Depreciation	12,726	
Synod Owned Church Properties Income	(3,620,000)	
Lutheran Center Property Income	(5,667,672)	
(Increase) Decrease in Other Receivables	(37,376)	
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expense	12,861	
(Increase) Decrease in Interest Receivable	(16,501)	
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	28,641	
(Decrease) Increase in Agency Trust Accounts Payable	(102,586)	
Total Adjustments		(10,055,907)
Net Cash (Used) by Operating Activities		(576,599)

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:

Interest Income Invested in Mission Certificates	(3,422)	
Withdrawal from Term Certificates	156,524	
Sale of ELCA Endowment Fund Shares	300,000	
Lutheran Center Costs of Acquisition	(232,328)	
Additional Note Receivable	(45,120)	
Principal Collected on Notes Receivable	35,496	
Collections on Loans Receivable	3,487	
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities		214,637

CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Capital Expenditures		
Borrowing on Mortgage	150,000	
Principal Payments on Mortgages	(12,562)	
Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities		137,438

(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (224,524)

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - Beginning of Year 622,405

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - End of Year \$ 397,881

Supplemental Disclosures of Cash Flow Information:

Cash Paid During the Year For:		
Interest	\$	8,930
Income Taxes		None

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2017

DRAFT

NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Activities

The Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Synod) was incorporated as a nonprofit organization in May 1986. The Synod is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is responsible for the oversight and the life and mission of the ELCA in the counties of Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Kern, and Ventura in the state of California. The Synod is supported primarily through contributions received from member congregations.

Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Synod have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables, and other liabilities.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Financial Statement Presentation

Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in FASB ASC 958. Accordingly, the net assets of the Synod and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

Unrestricted net assets include all resources which are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions of a more specific nature than those which only obligate the Synod to utilize funds in furtherance of its mission.

Designated funds are those which Synod Council, rather than the donor, has determined are to be retained for specific purposes. Synod Council has the right to decide at any time to spend the principal of these funds. Although set forth separately as designated, the funds are in fact unrestricted.

Temporarily restricted net assets carry specific, imposed restrictions on the expenditure or other use of contributed funds. Temporary restrictions may expire either because certain actions are taken by the Synod which fulfill the restrictions or because of the passage of time.

Permanently restricted net assets are those that are subject to donor-imposed restrictions which never lapse, thus requiring that the funds be permanently retained. The donors of these funds permit the Synod to use all or part of the income earned on related investments for designated purposes.

Leases

Leases are evaluated and classified as capital or operating in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2017

DRAFT

NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(Continued)

Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Donated Services

The Synod receives services donated by individuals involved in the Synod's missions. The services provided generally involve the contribution of time to various Synod committees. No amounts for contributed services have been reflected in the financial statements since the services do not meet accounting standards for recognition. The criteria require that donated services create or enhance financial assets, require specialized skills which would be purchased if not donated, and have an objective basis for measurement.

Income Taxes

The Synod is included in a group ruling issued by IRS to the ELCA and therefore is exempt from Federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash consists of checking and savings deposits with banks.

Investments and Credit Risks

Investments consist primarily of funds invested with Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the ELCA Endowment Fund. Investments in the Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are similar in character to savings accounts and certificates of deposits and are stated at cost. At January 31, 2017, all investments with Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are Mission Plus accounts. Mission Plus Accounts held with Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are not protected by FDIC. The balance of uninsured Mission Plus Accounts was \$100,739 as of January 31, 2017. Investments in the ELCA Endowment Fund are stated at fair value based on amounts reported to the Synod by the management of the Fund. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the statement of activities. Investments in the ELCA Endowment Fund are not protected by SIPC (Security Investor Protection Corporation). The uninsured investment balance in the ELCA Endowment Fund was \$8,478,816 as of January 31, 2017.

Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The Synod has adopted FASB ASC 820-19, which defines fair value, establishes a framework of measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements.

FASB ASC 820-10 defines fair value as the price that would be received upon sale of an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. FASB ASC 820-10 also establishes a fair value hierarchy, which requires the Synod to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs, when measuring fair value. The standard describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

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NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(Continued)

Disclosures About Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities (Continued)

Level 1

Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2

Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities.

Level 3

Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying statement of financial position, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - The carrying amount approximates fair value.

Investments - Where quoted market prices are available in an active market, securities are classified within Level 1 of the valuation hierarchy. If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated by using pricing models, quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics, or discounted cash flows (Level 2). Where Level 1 and Level 2 inputs are not available, investments are classified within Level 3 hierarchy. Because market activity for the ELCA Endowment Fund investment is not active, the Synod's investment in the Fund is classified as Level 3.

	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Fair Value Measurements Using</u>		
		<u>(Level 1)</u>	<u>(Level 2)</u>	<u>(Level 3)</u>
Term Certificates (MIF)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ELCA Endowment Fund	<u>8,478,816</u>	-	-	<u>8,478,816</u>
	<u>\$ 8,478,816</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,478,816</u>

Assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3):

	<u>MIF T-CD's</u>	<u>ELCA End Fund</u>
January 31, 2016	\$153,102	\$8,112,816
Interest earned	3,422	
Realized gain on investment		24,610
Unrealized gain on investment		641,390
Withdrawals	<u>(156,524)</u>	<u>(300,000)</u>
January 31, 2017	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$8,478,816</u>

Functional Allocation of Expenses

The costs of providing various programs and other activities have been presented on a functional basis at Note L, where expenses have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

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NOTE A - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES
(Continued)

Property and Equipment

Acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$1,500 are capitalized. Property and equipment are carried at cost or, if donated, at the approximately fair value at the date of donation. The Synod depreciates assets using the straight-line method over the useful lives of the assets of 5 and 7 years.

Subsequent Events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through May 31, 2017, which is the date the financial statements were available to be used.

NOTE B - UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Unrestricted net assets consist of the following as of January 31, 2017:

Operating Fund	\$ (839,993)
Property Fund	25,093
Lutheran Center, Glendale	5,900,000
Churches Under Administration	<u>11,985,000</u>
	<u>\$17,070,100</u>

NOTE C - DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

Designated net assets consist of the following as of January 31, 2017:

Continuing Education – Pastors	\$ (348)
Vehicle Fund	25,000
Sabbatical	2,250
Synod Sold Churches Fund	<u>61,883</u>
Total	<u>\$ 88,785</u>

NOTE D - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS

Temporarily restricted funds at January 31, 2017 consist of the following:

Ministry in Aging	\$ 8,515
Seminary Scholarships	2,856
First Call Theol. Education	1,649
Special Needs Retirement Fund	(743)
LC/LA Peace & Justice Award	5,550
Messiah Pasadena Latino	3,802
DEM Travel	1,819
STAR	4,025
Evangelism	739
Labyrinth	1,496
Give 2 Grow	13,622
Grace Housing SB	12,000

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NOTE D - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS - FUNDS (Continued)

First Lutheran Food Pantry	100
Events	15,695
Ventures in Growing Stewards	1,309
Go Gather Grow	154
Germany Trip	538
500 th Road Trip	2,551
Church of Finland Ministry Support	202,683
Church of Finland Travel Fund	2,849
World Hunger Grant	2,929
Global Mission Event	408
Hong Kong	724
Lutheran Musician	620
El Salvador	3,813
Sustainability Conference	2,516
PreMeditated Ministry	3,625
Youth	10,598
Valley - New Start	19,706
Lay Ministries	5,109
Justice Team	9,472
Guardian Angel	3,939
Equipping Leaders for Mission (ELM)	7,761
Book of Faith	363
Latino Lay Mission School	4,512
Living the Resurrection	10,688
Renewal Grants	386
New Ministries	200
Good Samaritan Fund	1,341
Campus Ministries	16,195
Young Adult Project	8,611
Misc Campus Ministry Hold	200
Another Level	484
Mission Director Travel	2,230
Bishop's Fund	3,176
Fiscal Agent Managed Payroll Fund	1,325
Mission & Ministry Funds	2,697,817
Warner Endowment Income Fund	13,595
Pfundstein Campership Income Fund	(765)
BLP Enhancement Income Fund	1,973
First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund	6,515,304
Churches under Synod Administration	
Holy Shepherd, Chatsworth	21,800
Reformation, Pasadena	250
Lake Los Angeles	4,868
San Pablo North Hollywood	(44,902)
Pueblo de Dios Compton	(556)
Bakersfield Land	22
Christ the King, Van Nuys	34,783
Total Temporarily Restricted	<u>\$9,646,229</u>

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NOTE E - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS

MISSION AND MINISTRY FUNDS

At the 1997 Synod Assembly, a resolution was adopted creating a Mission and Ministry Fund. The fund's purpose is to receive gifts and bequests to be used for the Mission Outreach of the Synod and the ELCA and their successor bodies. The Mission and Ministry Fund is held in two accounts: the Endowment and the Discretionary. As directed by Synod Council, during the year ended January 31, 2008, \$1,540,264 of the proceeds from the sale of Shepherd of the Valley, West Covina was placed in the Mission and Ministry Fund. A transfer of \$1,026,843 was made to the Endowment account, and a transfer of \$513,421 was made to the Discretionary account. As of January 31, 2017 the accounts are comprised of the following:

	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>
ELCA Endowment Pooled Fund		
Cost	\$ 1,711,212	\$ 410,157
Unrealized gains	<u>39,367</u>	<u>9,275</u>
Market Value	1,750,579	419,432
Mission & Ministry Checking	70,382	
Bishop's Discretionary Checking		18,693
Interest Receivable – St. Johns Lutheran Church, Cerritos		52,000
Note Receivable from St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos		260,000
Note Receivable from Trinity – San Gabriel		9,517
Loan Receivable from Operating Fund		100,000
Receivable from Operating Fund	<u>3,900</u>	<u>13,314</u>
	<u>\$ 1,824,861</u>	<u>\$ 872,956</u>

The following summarizes the activity in the accounts:

	<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>
Balances, January 31, 2016	\$ 1,687,856	\$ 819,075
Interest	40	13,015
Dividends from ELCA Pooled Fund	65,485	15,690
Unrealized gain ELCA Pooled Fund	132,847	31,830
Grants paid	(61,337)	(6,621)
Other expenses	<u>(30)</u>	<u>(33)</u>
Balances, January 31, 2017	<u>\$ 1,824,861</u>	<u>\$ 872,956</u>

At its September 2012 meeting, the Synod Endowment Committee voted to sell sufficient shares in the ELCA Endowment Pool Fund held by the Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund to purchase from the General Fund its \$260,000 loan to St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos. The General Fund had provided St. Johns Lutheran Church, Cerritos with emergency financial assistance to pay substantial financial obligations of the congregation, in order to sustain its ministry. On October 1, 2011 a promissory note and deed of trust were executed by St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos to secure repayment of amounts advanced by the Synod. The promissory note secured by deed of trust calls for monthly payments of \$990 per month or more, and interest at the rate of 5% per annum. The General Fund's loan to St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos

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NOTE E - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS (Continued)

was originally financed with a loan from the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund. The purchase of the loan by the Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund allowed the General Fund to repay its loan from the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund. St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos has not commenced making payments on the note as of January 31, 2017. Unpaid interest on the loan has been recorded as a receivable.

At its September 2012 meeting, the Synod Endowment Committee voted to sell sufficient shares in the ELCA Endowment Pool Fund held by the Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund to pay the Operating Fund \$100,000 in order to restore to the Operating Fund amounts it had expended on behalf of Fe y Esperanza, a church under administration. The payment was made to the Operating Fund in the form of a loan which is to be repaid to the Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund from sales proceeds should there be a sale of the house on the Fe y Esperanza church property owned by the Synod.

FIRST LUTHERAN LOS ANGELES FUND

Final worship services were held at First Lutheran Church, Los Angeles on April 23, 2006. Upon closing of the congregation, the Synod assumed responsibility for administration of the Church property. The sale of the Church property was concluded in December 2007. The congregation's "Resolution for Congregation Closing" provided for the sales proceeds to be used (a) to pay a tithe to the Synod for use in its operations; (b) to fund the endowment of a chair at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary; and (c) to create a restricted First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund to be administered by the Synod to serve the Gospel.

In January 2008, an endowment of \$1,500,000 was funded at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and \$718,262 was transferred to an unrestricted, designated fund referred to as the "First LA Synod (Tithe) Fund". The \$718,262 amount represented the net operating profits from administration of the Church prior to sale and the Synod Tithe, as computed at the time. In 2013, the First LA Synod (Tithe) Fund was combined with the Mt. Olivet and CCOL Bakersfield New Mission Fund.

Synod Council voted that principal of the restricted First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund may be invaded only with the recommendation of the Executive Committee and with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Synod Council. Synod Council also voted that one-third of the income from the restricted First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund is designated to meet the mission needs of the Synod, and two-thirds of the income of the Fund is to be used for the following programs:

- (a) The planting and support of new congregations, including such things as contributions toward the mission developer's salary and benefits, purchase of equipment, and acquisition of property for housing the new ministry;
- (b) The support of congregations in transition or transformation, including support of a new or full-time pastor and resources that would support new ministry and outreach;
- (c) The support of candidates for rostered ministry; and
- (d) The support of agencies and institutions important for the life and mission of Christ as lived out through the Southwest California Synod.

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NOTE E - TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS (Continued)

FIRST LUTHERAN LOS ANGELES FUND (Continued)

The following summarizes the activity in the temporarily restricted First Lutheran Los Angeles Funds during the year ended January 31, 2017:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Income</u>	
			<u>(2/3)</u>	<u>(1/3)</u>
Balances, January 31, 2016	\$6,316,276	\$6,011,177	\$ 305,099	\$ - 0 -
Interest income	24			24
ELCA Endow Fund dividend income	233,908		154,939	78,969
Grants and scholarships	(131,080)		(131,080)	
Synod Support – Operating Fund	(93,552)		(14,583)	(78,969)
Distribution to Synod	(300,000)		(300,000)	
Realized gain on investment	24,610	24,610		
Unrealized gain on investments	465,118	465,118		
Balances, January 31, 2017	<u>\$6,515,304</u>	<u>\$6,500,905</u>	<u>\$ 14,375</u>	<u>\$ 24</u>

As of January 31, 2017, The First Los Angeles Fund is invested as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Income</u>	
			<u>(2/3)</u>	<u>(1/3)</u>
Cash in checking	\$ 14,399	\$	\$ 14,375	\$ 24
ELCA Endowment Pooled Fund (FMV)	<u>6,500,905</u>	<u>6,500,905</u>		
	<u>\$6,515,304</u>	<u>\$6,500,905</u>	<u>\$ 14,375</u>	<u>\$ 24</u>

NOTE F - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ASSETS

Permanently restricted assets at January 31, 2017 consist of the following:

	<u>Pfundstein</u>	<u>B.L. Price</u>	<u>Warner</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balances, January 31, 2016	\$18,000	\$81,530	\$153,565	\$253,095
Unrealized (loss)			(2,129)	(2,129)
Balances, January 31, 2017	<u>\$18,000</u>	<u>\$81,530</u>	<u>\$151,436</u>	<u>\$250,966</u>

PFUNDSTEIN CAMBERSHIP FUND

In September 2002, the Synod received a bequest from the estates of Wayne and Helen Pfundstein. The Synod had been instructed to place the bequest of \$18,000 in an endowment fund, and the income from the investment of the funds is to provide camperships for children in the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Programs of the Synod. The Pfundstein Campership Fund at January 31, 2017 is invested in a Mission Plus Account.

BARBARA L. PRICE ENHANCEMENT FUND

Barbara L. Price Enhancement Fund was established in 1999 upon the retirement of Barbara Price, assistant to the Bishop. The fund was formed to augment low income pastor salaries, with initial contributions of \$59,789. By terms of the endowment, up to one-half of the interest earned from the investment of the endowment can be expended, until the account reaches \$1 million. When the fund reaches \$1 million, all subsequent income is available for use. At January 31, 2017 the fund is invested in a Mission Plus account

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NOTE F - PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ASSETS (Continued)

WARNER TRUST BEQUEST

Southwest California Synod, as the surviving corporation of the Pacific Southwest Synod, received a bequest from the estate of Charles and Mabel Warner in 1990 and 1994 totaling \$697,349. Distributions of the bequest were made to the other Synods of Region 2 on the basis of their baptized memberships at the time of the merger. Southwest California Synod's portion was \$163,286, which has been invested in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust. Any appreciation of the investment is added to the principal of the permanently restricted fund. Any reduction in value of the investment reduces the principal of the permanently restricted fund. Dividend income received from the investment is treated as income, which is held in the Warner Trust Income Account. A trust committee oversees grants paid from the income fund.

At January 31, 2017, the permanently restricted Warner Trust Fund is held as follows:

ELCA Endowment Pooled Fund	
Cost	\$ 146,400
Unrealized gains	5,036
Balance	<u>\$ 151,436</u>

NOTE G - PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Property and equipment at January 31, 2017 consist of the following:

Leasehold Improvements	\$ 406,756
Equipment	145,787
Vehicles	34,555
Accumulated Depreciation	(562,005)
Total	<u>\$ 25,093</u>

NOTE H - SYNOD OWNED CHURCH PROPERTIES

The Synod owns properties of six disbanded congregations. Such real estate properties owned by the Synod as of January 31, 2017 are as follows:

Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate 6165 Lincoln Avenue, South Gate, CA	\$ 475,000
La Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, North Hollywood 7400 Tujunga Avenue, North Hollywood, CA	1,780,000
Iglesia Evangelica Luterano Pueblo de Dios, Compton 804 E. Rosecrans Avenue, Compton, CA	1,210,000
Messiah Lutheran Church Pasadena (Reformation), 570 E. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA	2,700,000
Christ the King, Van Nuys 17400 Vanowen St, Van Nuys, CA	2,200,000
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church of Chatsworth, 10347 Madison Ave, Chatsworth, CA	1,500,000
Messiah Lutheran Church, Pasadena, CA 570 E. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena, CA	<u>2,120,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 11,985,000</u>

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NOTE H – SYNOD OWNED CHURCH PROPERTIES (Continued)

Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate --- In 2000, Faith Lutheran Church, South Gate was disbanded. Under provisions of the ELCA model constitution for congregations, the Church property was transferred to the Synod. In 2001, the Hispanic Ministry of the former Faith Lutheran Church organized worship services at the Church and was recognized as a congregation of the ELCA as Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate. Ownership of the Church property was transferred to the congregation. In 2009, the congregation was in default on its mortgage and property tax obligations, and under provisions of the ELCA model constitution for congregations, the Synod took back ownership of the property. The transfer of title to the property to the Synod has not been fully completed. In November 2010 title to only the house on the Church property was transferred to the Synod. Because transfer of title to the entire property has not been completed, only the house has been recorded as an asset of the Synod. A note payable to Lutheran Credit Union, which was secured by the house on the property, matured in December 2015 and was refinanced with a note payable to Mission Investment Fund in the amount of \$100,000 (See Note J). The house has been carried on the books in prior years at a value of \$305,000, the appraised value as of November 2010. The value of the house has been adjusted to \$475,000 to reflect current market conditions.

La Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, North Hollywood --- In 2002, Valley Lutheran Church, North Hollywood was disbanded. Since that time, the Synod has maintained and administered the property that has provided a home for the New Mission congregation, La Iglesia Luterana San Pablo, North Hollywood. In December 2012 title to the Church property was transferred to the Synod. An appraisal prepared in March 2013 has valued the property at \$1,780,000.

Iglesia Evangelica Luterano Pueblo de Dios, Compton -- In 1999, First Lutheran Church, Compton was disbanded. Since that time, the Synod has maintained and administered the property that has provided a home for the New Mission congregation, Iglesia Evangelica Luterano Pueblo de Dios, Compton. In July 2011 title to the Church property was transferred to the Synod. An appraisal prepared in March 2013 has valued the property at \$1,210,000.

Messiah Lutheran Church Pasadena (Reformation Pasadena) --- In May 2015, Messiah Lutheran Church Pasadena was disbanded. The following week, a new multicultural, multilingual ministry of ELCA, Reformation Pasadena, began utilizing the property. In January 2016, a grant deed was recorded that transferred ownership of the property to the Synod. Based upon a property valuation report prepared by Dilbeck Realty, the property has been valued at \$2,700,000.

Christ the King Van Nuys --- In October 2014, Christ the King Van Nuys was dissolved. In June 2014, a Real Estate Broker's market analysis placed a value on the property of between \$1,250,000 and \$2,550,000. In June 2015, the property was leased for a two year period to InSite Educational Facility Services ("InSite"), for the operation of an iLEAD charter school. Also in June 2015, InSite and the Synod entered into a letter of intent for the sale of the property to InSite for a sales price of \$2,200,000, and in April 2016 a purchase agreement was signed. The property has been valued at \$2,200,000 based upon this sale arrangement.

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church of Chatsworth --- In October 2015, the final worship service of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church of Chatsworth was held, and the congregation was dissolved. The Synod obtained title to the Church Property in July 2016. The property has been appraised at a value of \$1,500,000

Messiah Lutheran Church, Pasadena --- In May 2015, the final worship service of Messiah Lutheran Church was held, and the congregation was dissolved. The Synod obtained title to the Church property in July 2016. The property has been appraised at a value of \$2,120,000.

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NOTE I – LUTHERAN CENTER, GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

In February 2016, the property located at 1230 East Colorado Street, Glendale, California, was deeded to the Synod by First Lutheran Church, Glendale. The property had been the site of First Lutheran Church, Glendale which was disbanded in April 2016. The Synod Offices are located on the property, as is First Lutheran School, a Pre-School through 8th Grade School, and other offices rented to tenants. First Lutheran School does not pay rent to the Synod for use of its facilities. The property has been appraised at \$5,900,000.

NOTE J - UNRESTRICTED NOTES RECEIVABLE

In 1996, the Synod sold the Shepherd of Grace Lutheran Church property to Bible Baptist Church of The Foothills. The terms of the sale included a note secured by deed of trust taken back by the Synod in the amount of \$369,000. The current terms of the note call for interest at the rate of 6.5% per annum and weekly payments of \$700. During the year ended January 31, 2015, 51 weekly payments of \$700 were received. The balance of the note at January 31, 2017 is

\$ 64,815

In August 2011, the Synod learned that St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos was delinquent on substantial financial obligations. In order to sustain the ministry it was necessary for the Synod to provide the congregation emergency financial assistance. On October 1, 2011 a promissory note and deed of trust were executed by the congregation to secure repayment of amounts advanced by the Synod. The promissory note calls for monthly payments of \$990 per month or more, and interest at the rate of 5% per annum. At January 31, 2013, the Synod's advances to the congregation amounted to \$292,245, and on that date the Mission and Missionary Discretionary Fund purchased \$260,000 of this loan from the Operating Fund, leaving the Operating Fund with a loan receivable from the congregation of \$32,245. Monthly payments of \$990 have not commenced. The congregation forwards certain weekly cash offerings to the Synod, which are applied to interest and principal owed on the operating fund portion of the obligation. During the year ended January 31, 2016, additional amounts totaling \$18,569 were loaned to the congregation. The combined amount of the \$260,000 loan balance owed to Mission and Ministry Discretionary Fund and the balance owed to the general fund are secured by a promissory note and deed of trust for the Church property. At January 31, 2017 the principal balance of the obligation payable to the Operating Fund is

93,995

In November 2011, the Synod loaned \$62,500 to Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Los Angeles. The loan is evidenced by a promissory note secured by deed of trust dated November 1, 2011. The note calls for monthly payments of \$412.47 including interest at the rate of 5% per annum. The balance of the note at January 31, 2017 is

47,305

Total Unrestricted Notes Receivable	206,115
Current Portion	<u>38,752</u>
Net Long Term Notes Receivable	<u>\$ 167,363</u>

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NOTE K - MORTGAGES PAYABLE

Luterana Fe y Esperanza Mortgage --- On November 19, 2010, the Synod borrowed \$117,562 from Lutheran Credit Union of America (now America's Christian Credit Union). The Synod had taken title to the house on the Church property of Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate, and the purpose of the loan was to refinance in the Synod's name the congregation's mortgage loan on the house. The Synod's mortgage loan with America's Christian Credit Union was secured by the house on the Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate Church property. The loan matured December 1, 2015. The outstanding balance of the loan when it matured was \$107,736. The Synod paid the principal balance down to \$100,000 and obtained a new loan for \$100,000 with Mission Investment Fund to pay off the balance. The terms of the loan call for interest at 5.5%, and monthly payments of \$1,085.00 for 10 years. At that time, the loan will be fully paid. As of January 31, 2017 the balance of the new Mission Investment Fund loan secured by the house on the Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza, South Gate Church property is as follows:

Mortgage balance, January 31, 2017	\$ 92,555
less: Current Portion	(8,133)
Long-term Portion	\$ <u>84,422</u>

Maturities of the debt for the next five years are as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u>	
January 31, 2018	\$ 8,133
January 31, 2019	8,591
January 31, 2020	9,076
January 31, 2021	9,588
January 31, 2022	10,129
Thereafter	<u>47,038</u>
	<u>\$92,555</u>

Lutheran Center Loan --- When the Synod obtained ownership of the Lutheran Center property, the property was subject to a mortgage payable of \$149,478. Shortly after taking title to the property, the Synod refinanced the mortgage loan with Mission Investment Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The original balance of the loan was \$150,000. The terms of the loan call for interest at 4.375% and monthly payments of \$1,138.00. Monthly payments are to be made for 7 years, at which time the unpaid balance of the note will be due. As of January 31, 2017, the balance of the mortgage is as follows:

Mortgage balance, January 31, 2017	\$ 144,883
less: Current Portion	(7,466)
Long-term Portion	\$ <u>137,417</u>

Maturities of the debt for the next five years are as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u>	
January 31, 2018	\$ 7,466
January 31, 2019	7,800
January 31, 2020	8,148
January 31, 2021	8,512
January 31, 2022	8,891
Thereafter	<u>104,066</u>
	<u>\$144,883</u>

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NOTE L – FUNCTIONAL PRESENTATION OF EXPENSES

The following presents the expenses of the operating fund on a Functional Basis.

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General Administration

Office Supplies	\$ 16,963
Insurance - Liability	3,689
Audit	27,000
Legal	6,068
Hospitality	9,565
Postage and Delivery	9,695
Copier Lease	11,023
Maintenance and Repair	3,519
Telephone	7,322
Bishop Discretionary	
Printing	2,533
Information Technology	19,395
Office Equipment	2,384
Interest/Finance Charges	1,355
Uncollected Funds	4,930
Depreciation	<u>12,726</u>
Total	<u>\$138,166</u>

Personnel

Bishop, Staff and Support Staff Compensation	\$ 510,393
Pensions, Medical and Disability	154,346
Payroll Taxes	23,893
Workers Compensation	<u>7,215</u>
Total	<u>\$ 695,847</u>

Leadership, Support, and Program

Council	\$ 3,033
Staff Expenses	<u>59,938</u>
Total	<u>\$ 62,971</u>

Program Services

Planning Giving	\$ 112,402
Synodical Ministries	10,918
Mission Teams	22,486
Synod Assembly	10,427
Mission Team/Global Partnership	3,600
Properties Under Administration	<u>28,237</u>
Program Services – Other	186,094
Mission Support Churchwide ELCA	<u>518,626</u>
Total	<u>\$ 704,720</u>

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 31, 2017

DRAFT

NOTE M – RETIREMENT PLAN

The Synod participates in a defined contribution retirement plan with Portico Benefit Services, formerly the Board of Pensions of the ELCA. The plan covers substantially all employees, and contributions are immediately fully vested and funded. The Synod's total contribution to the plan was \$91,324 for the year ended January 31, 2017.

NOTE N - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Synod and St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos are co-borrowers of a loan payable to America's Christian Credit Union, which secured by the property owned by St. John Lutheran Church, Cerritos. Neither the church property which is security for the loan, nor the mortgage payable balance are reflected in these statements. The original amount of the loan was \$599,192. In December 2015 the bank advanced an additional \$74,213 on the loan for the payment of delinquent property taxes. As of January 31, 2017, the balance of the loan was \$618,134. The terms of the loan call for monthly payments of \$4,379.97, with a balance of \$394,445 payable November 1, 2023. As the primary borrower, the monthly mortgage payments are made by St. John Lutheran Church. Payments are current as of January 31, 2017.

In August 2009, the Synod entered into a 60 month lease for a Konica Minolta C652 multifunction printer/copier that was scheduled to expire in August 2015. As of February 7, 2014 the Synod entered into a 60 month lease for a new Konica Minolta C652e multifunction printer/copier. The new lease calls for monthly payments of \$658.39. Both leases are operating leases and not capital. The Synod's future obligations under the lease total \$15,800, which are payable as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January 31, 2018	7,901
January 31, 2019	<u>7,899</u>
Total	<u>\$15,800</u>

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS
AS APPROVED BY THE 2016 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY
Official Notice of Required Provisions**

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
September 8, 2017

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

Under †S18.11., required provisions are to be introduced at once into the synod's constitution upon this formal certification by the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Required provisions become effective immediately upon their adoption by the Churchwide Assembly and this subsequent formal notification of their adoption. Therefore, no vote of the Synod Assembly is needed for such required provisions; neither is such a vote to be taken.

Required provisions are those that are marked by a dagger (†) in this summary of amendments adopted by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. Such required provisions may be amended only by the Churchwide Assembly.

Required provisions adopted by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly are now in force; the text of the amendments of required provisions should be incorporated immediately into your synod's constitution.

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. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of adoption.

In coordination with the following amendments, the 2016 Churchwide Assembly authorized the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

- strike the words “ordained minister/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
- strike the word “clergy” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament”;
- strike the words “pastor/s” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Sacrament” where appropriate;
- strike the words “associate in ministry, diaconal minister and deaconess” and replace with the words “minister/s of Word and Service”; and
- make editorial corrections that identify the rosters of this church and implement the creation of the ministers of Word and Service roster.

CONSTITUTION FOR SYNODS

†S3.02. “Determined by the Churchwide Assembly,” as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.-01. and 10.02.02.

†S5.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.

†S5.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.

†S5.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.

- †S6.03. Each synod, in partnership with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:
- a. Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ~~leaders~~ ministers in the synod;
- ...
- †S6.03.01. In providing for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ~~leaders~~ ministers in the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:
- a. providing for pastoral care of congregations, ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers~~ in the synod, including:
 - 1) approving candidates for the ~~ordained~~ ministry of Word and Sacrament in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synodical committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Sacrament on behalf of this church;
 - 3) approving ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal~~ ministers of Word and Service, which may be done through multi-synodical committees;
 - 4) authorizing ~~the commissioning of associates in ministry, the consecration of deaconesses, and the consecration of diaconal consecrations and consecrating~~ ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church; and
 - 5) consulting in the calling process for ~~ordained~~ rostered ~~ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers.~~
 - c. providing for discipline of congregations, ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament, and persons on the official lay rosters~~ ministers of Word and Service; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this church's constitution.
 - d. providing for archives in conjunction with other synods.
- †S6.04. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be female and 50 percent shall be male; and that, where possible, the representation of ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be both male and female. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- †S6.04.A01. *[continuing resolution becomes bylaw]*
- †S6.04.01. It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- †S6.04.B09. *[continuing resolution becomes bylaw]*
- †S6.04.02. It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.
- †S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least ~~biennially~~ triennially.
- S7.11.01.** The time and place of the Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced months prior to the assembly.
- †S7.21. The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of laypersons, shall be constituted as follows:
- a. All ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.

- b. All ~~associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of Word and Service~~, under call, on the ~~official lay rosters~~ of this synod shall ~~have both voice and vote as lay be~~ voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item †S7.21.c.

...

S7.22. ~~The This~~ synod may establish processes that permit retired ~~ordained-rostered~~ ministers, ~~retired associates in ministry, retired deaconesses, and retired diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21.c. above.~~ The synod may establish processes that permit ~~ordained ministers, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers who are on leave from call,~~ or those designated as disabled, ~~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. ~~above.~~ If the synod does not establish processes to permit the rostered ~~leaders-ministers~~ specified above to serve as voting members, they shall have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly.

S7.24. ~~Ordained ministers-Ministers~~ under call on the ~~rosters~~ of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the ~~rosters of ordained ministers~~ of this synod. ~~Associates in ministry, deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and diaconal ministers of this church serving under call on the roster of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the official lay roster of this synod.~~ Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

S7.27. This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant ~~an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that ~~ordained~~ minister's service in a congregation of this church.

†**S8.11.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a ~~pastor who is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†**S8.12.** As this synod's pastor, the bishop ~~shall be an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament who~~ shall:

- Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
- Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ~~ordained ministers, and its other rostered leaders~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.
- Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ~~ordained~~ ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
- ~~Commission (or provide for the commissioning of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as associates in ministry; consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as deaconesses; and consecrate-Consecrate (or provide for the consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as diaconal ministers of this church~~ ministers of Word and Service.
- Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
- Install (or provide for the installation of):
 - the pastors of all congregations of this synod;
 - ordained ministers called to extra parish service within this synod; and

- ~~3) persons serving in the other rostered ministries within this synod rostered ministers whose calls the bishop has attested.~~
- ...
- h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
- ...
- 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of ~~ordained-rostered~~ ministers, ~~other rostered leaders~~, and congregations of this synod;
- ...
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
- ...
- 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing:
- ~~a) the names and addresses of all ordained-rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled; and~~
- ~~b) the names and addresses of all other rostered persons of this synod and a record of the positions to which they have been called or the date on which they become retired or disabled;~~
- 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ~~persons-ministers~~ on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
- 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
- a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations;
- b) the issuance of certificates of transfer for rostered ~~persons-ministers~~ in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod; and
- ...
- †S8.31. The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or an ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament.
- †S8.41. The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a layperson or an ~~ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament.
- S8.55. Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be _____ years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a _____ year term.
- †S8.57. The recall or dismissal of an officer may be effected in accordance with the procedure established by the Committee on Appeals of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office; or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.
- a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synodical bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:
- 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
- 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting;
- 3) at least 10 synodical bishops; or
- 4) the presiding bishop of this church.
- b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synodical bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:

- 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of its members present and voting;
or
 - 3) the synodical bishop.
- c. The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.
- d. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee of the synod.
- e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:
- 1) the Synod Council will submit a written report of their findings and the basis of their decision to the Committee on Appeals.
 - 2) the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
- f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.21.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20. and 20.21. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20. and 20.21. as grounds for discipline.
- g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01. as grounds for discipline.
- h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply:
- 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.21.16. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and
 - 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.
- i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.
- †S8.58. If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period an ~~an ordained~~ minister of Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.
- †S9.01. The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S9.10. When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council.
- †S10.01. The Synod Council, consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one young adult, shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.

- a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ~~ordained~~ ministers on ~~the a~~ roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.

...

S10.03. The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:

...

- d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ~~ordained~~ ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service and of other official rosters~~, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.
- e. Issue letters of call to ~~ordained-rostered~~ ministers ~~and letters of call to associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers~~ as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

...

†**S11.02.** The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ~~ordained~~ ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election. 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.

†**S11.03.** The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons, of whom six shall be ~~ordained~~ ministers ~~of Word and Sacrament~~ and six shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election.

- 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.~~
- e. The Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.

S11.11. This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolution establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ~~ordained~~ ministers on the ~~rosters~~ of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.

S13.11. When a ~~pastor or when an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered~~ minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former ~~pastor or associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal-rostered~~ minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

Chapter 14.

~~ORDAINED MINISTERS AND LAY-ROSTERED MINISTERS~~

S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament

†**S14.011.** The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to congregations or ~~extra-parish non-congregational~~ service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†**S14.012.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

- a. Every ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall:
- ...
- 4) provide pastoral care;
 - 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;
 - 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and
 - 58) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.
- b. Each ~~ordained minister-pastor~~ with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:
- 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
 - 2) ~~supervise-relate to~~ all schools and organizations of the congregation;
 - 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; ~~and~~
 - 4) with the council, administer discipline.
- c. Every pastor shall:
- 1) strive to extend the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation, and abroad;
 - 2) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
 - 3) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its periodicals and other publications; and
 - 45) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of this ~~ELCA~~ synod.

S14.013. The pastor (a) shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation, (b) shall submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod, and (c) shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.014. 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.

S14.015. Each ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†**S14.116.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ~~pastoral office in the ordained ministry of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church:

- ...
- b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or ~~pastoral~~ candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.41., a two-thirds ~~majority ballot~~ vote shall be required of ~~voting members~~ of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
- ...

S14.127. No ~~ordained minister of Word and Sacrament~~ shall accept a call without first conferring with the bishop of this synod. ~~An ordained 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 of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.

†**S14.138.** ~~The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:~~

- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
- ...

- 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ~~ordained ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ of this church;
- ...

- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two ~~ordained-rostered ministers~~ and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two ~~ordained-rostered ministers~~ and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant ~~and the pastor shall be listed on the clergy roster as disabled. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled.~~ Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- ...
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds ~~majority~~ vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a ~~simple~~ majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

...

†S14.149. ~~Ordained m~~Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.

†S14.1521. The parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another ~~field of labor call~~, or
- b. ~~the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer approval of a request for change in roster status.~~

†S14.1622. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another ~~field of labor call~~, or
- b. ~~the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer approval of a request for change in roster status.~~

†S14.1723. During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any ~~ordained-rostered minister~~ who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the parochial records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.

†S14.1824. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.1318, a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.1318.

S14.245. All ~~ordained~~ ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.

S14.30. Official Rosters of Laypersons Ministers of Word and Service

†S14.31. The provisions in the churchwide documents and such provisions as may be developed by the appropriate churchwide unit governing associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers of this church shall apply in this synod.

- a. When a congregation of this synod desires to call an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister or a candidate for these official rosters of laypersons of this church:
 - 1) Such a congregation of this synod shall consult the synodical bishop before taking any steps leading to extending such a call.
 - 2) Issuance of such a letter of call shall be in accord with criteria, policies, and procedures developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - 3) When the congregation has voted to issue a call to an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- b. An associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister shall confer with the bishop of this synod before accepting a call within this synod.
- c. The call of a congregation, when accepted by an associate in ministry, deaconess, or diaconal minister, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the individual, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop in accordance with policy developed by the appropriate churchwide unit, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and adopted by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- d. Associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers on the roster of this synod who are serving under call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly.

The time and place of the consecration of those persons properly called to congregations or non-congregational service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:

- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
- b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
- d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
- e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
- f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
- g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
- h. Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
- i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.

S14.33. The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

S14.34. Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

†S14.41. When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:

- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.
- b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
- c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.

- 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 of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- †S14.43.** a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
- 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;
 - 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant and the minister of Word and Service shall be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

- †S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the Congregation Council.
- †S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:
- a. installation in another call, or
 - b. approval of a request for change in roster status.
- †S14.46. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43, a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.
- S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.
- †S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent units that share responsibly in God's mission, all share in the responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church and thus partnership in this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:
- ...
- b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage or amount of each congregation's mission support as determined ~~by the Churchwide Assembly to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in consultation with the churchwide organization and approved by the Synod Assembly as part of its budget consideration.~~
 - c. Should the Synod Assembly not approve the proportionate share of mission support determined in consultation with the churchwide organization, a new consultation with the churchwide organization shall take place. The Synod Council is authorized to amend the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly to reflect the results of this consultation.
- †S15.12. The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to partnership funding with other synods and the churchwide organization. ~~Unless an exception is granted upon the request of this synod by the Church Council, each budget shall include the percentage of congregational mission support assigned to it by the Churchwide Assembly.~~
- †S16.04. When written charges against ~~an ordained minister or a layperson on an official roster~~ a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by the synodical bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synodical bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be decided by the Synod Council.
- †S17.02. The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from ~~ordained ministers, associates in ministry, or other persons on the official lay rosters~~ rostered ministers of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. When the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, the prescribed procedures for investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline of ~~an ordained minister or a person on the official lay rosters~~ a rostered minister of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall

be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

- †S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the *Constitution for Synods*, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a simple majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the *Constitution for Synods* shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

Constitution
and
Bylaws
of the
Southwest California
Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA REGION 2

SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

Introduction

Placement together of those constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions that pertain to the same matter is recommended. Each is separately codified, but all are preceded by the letter “S” denoting that they are part of the synodical constitution.

- a. Constitutional provisions are codified by two sets of numbers, as in S9.08. or †S10.01.
- b. A bylaw related to S9.08. would be codified as S9.08.01., and to †S10.01. as S10.01.01. A bylaw under a required provision would not carry the dagger “†” that designates a required constitutional provision.
- c. Continuing resolutions also are codified by three sets of numbers, except that the third set is preceded by a capital letter. Thus, a continuing resolution might be numbered †S6. to designate the chapter; †S6.04. to designate the subject matter within the chapter; and the third set might be numbered B09. in the codification †S6.04.B09. to indicate by the “B” that it is the second continuing resolution regarding that subject and by the “09” that it was adopted in 2009.

Types of constitutional provisions

Three types of constitutional provisions are found within each synod’s constitution.

- a. Required provisions are designated by a dagger “†”. Such required provisions:
 - 1) may only be adopted or amended by the Churchwide Assembly;
 - 2) may not be altered or amended by the Synod Assembly; and
 - 3) are to be introduced “at once” into the synod’s constitution upon notification of the amendment or adoption of the provision (†S18.11.).
- b. Recommended provisions are provided in this *Constitution for Synods*, as approved by the Churchwide Assembly. Such recommended provisions may be adopted by majority vote at one meeting of the Synod Assembly (†S18.12.).
- c. Other provisions may be initiated in and adopted by each respective synod (†S18.13.), but such provisions may not conflict with required constitutional provisions or with churchwide constitutional provisions and bylaws. Synodical constitutional amendments become effective upon ratification by the Church Council or Churchwide Assembly.

Reviewed by the Church Council, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, March, 1988.

Amended by the First Synod Assembly to comply with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America review and submitted for ratification, May, 1988.

Amended - April, 1989

Amended - June, 1990

Amended - April, 1991

Amended - Churchwide Assembly, 1991

Amended - June, 1992

Amended - June, 1993

Amended - Churchwide Assembly, 1993

Amended - June, 1994

Amended - June, 1995

Amended - Churchwide Assembly, 1995

Amended - June, 1996

Amended - May, 1997 Amended - May, 1999

Amended - Churchwide Assembly, 1999

Amended - May, 2000

Amended – June, 2001

Amended - Churchwide Assembly, 2001

Amended – May, 2002

Amended - Churchwide Assembly, 2003

Amended – May, 2004

Amended – Churchwide Assembly, 2005

Amended - May, 2006

Amended - May, 2007

Amended - May, 2008

Amended – Churchwide Assembly, 2009

Amended – March, 2011

Amended - May, 1998

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

PREAMBLE

*CONVINCED THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS
CALLING US*

to renewed expressions of organic unity in the Body of Christ, and

SENDING US

**as messengers of the Gospel to unite all people, tongues and
nations in Christ,**

**we adopt this constitution in the name of the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit.**

Chapter 1.

NAME AND INCORPORATION

- †S1.01. The name of this synod shall be the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S1.02. For the purposes of this constitution and accompanying bylaws, the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is hereafter designated as “this synod” or “the synod”.
- †S1.11. This synod shall be incorporated. Amendments to the articles of incorporation of this synod shall be submitted to the Church Council for ratification before filing.
- †S1.21. The seal of this synod is a five petal rose outlined behind a cross formed of four trumpets with the image of a dove superimposed at its center. The name of this

church and this synod and the year of its constituting convention form the outer edge of the seal.

Chapter 2. STATUS

†S2.01.

This synod possesses the powers conferred upon it, and accepts the duties and responsibilities assigned to it, in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, which are recognized as having governing force in the life of this synod.

†S2.02.

The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA or “this church”) as used herein refers in general references to this whole church, including its three expressions—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization. The name Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is also the name of the corporation of the churchwide organization to which specific references may be made herein.

†S2.03.

No provision of this constitution shall be inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of this church.

Chapter 3. TERRITORY

†S3.01.

The territory of this synod, as determined by the Churchwide Assembly, shall be: Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties in the State of California.

†S3.02.

“Determined by the Churchwide Assembly,” as stipulated by †S3.01., is understood to include the reported changes in synod relationship made by any congregation in a border area agreed under ELCA bylaws 10.01.01. and 10.02.02.

Chapter 4. CONFESSION OF FAITH

†S4.01.

This synod confesses the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

†S4.02.

This synod confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

- a. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
- b. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 5.**NATURE OF THE CHURCH**

- †S5.01. All power in the Church belongs to our Lord Jesus Christ, its head. All actions of this synod are to be carried out under his rule and authority.
- †S5.02. This church confesses the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church and is resolved to serve Christian Unity throughout the world.
- †S5.03. The Church exists both as an inclusive fellowship and as local congregations gathered for worship and Christian service. Congregations find their fulfillment in the universal community of the Church, and the universal Church exists in and through congregations. This church, therefore, derives its character and powers both from the sanction and representation of its congregations and from its inherent nature as an expression of the broader fellowship of the faithful. In length, it acknowledges itself to be in the historic continuity of the communion of saints; in breadth, it expresses the fellowship of believers and congregations in our day.
- †S5.04. This church, inspired and led by the Holy Spirit, participates in The Lutheran World Federation as a global communion of churches, engaging in faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and in service for the sake of God's mission in the world.

Chapter 6.**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

- †S6.01. This Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.
- †S6.02. To participate in God's mission, this synod as a part of the Church shall:
- a. Proclaim God's saving Gospel of justification by grace for Christ's sake through faith alone, according to the apostolic witness in the Holy Scripture, preserving and transmitting the Gospel faithfully to future generations.
 - b. Carry out Christ's Great Commission by reaching out to all people to bring them to faith in Christ and by doing all ministry with a global awareness consistent with the understanding of God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of all.
 - c. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless, and committing itself to their needs.
 - d. Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness and service.

- e. Nurture its members in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.
- f. Manifest the unity given to the people of God by living together in the love of Christ and by joining with other Christians in prayer and action to express and preserve the unity which the Spirit gives.

†S6.03.

Each synod, in partnership with the churchwide organization, shall bear primary responsibility for the oversight of the life and mission of this church in its territory. In fulfillment of this role and consistent with policies and procedures of this church, the synod shall:

- a. Provide for pastoral care of congregations and rostered ministers in the synod;

†S6.03.01.

In providing for pastoral care of congregations and rostered leaders ministers in the synod, the responsibilities of the synod include the following:

- a. Provide for the pastoral care of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministry of Word and Service in the synod including:
 - 1) approving candidates for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in cooperation with the appropriate seminaries of this church, which may be done through multi-synodical committees;
 - 2) authorizing ordinations and ordaining ministers of Word and Sacrament on behalf of this church;
 - 3) approving ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church; and
 - 4) authorizing consecrations and consecrating ministers of Word and Service on behalf of this church; and
 - 5) consulting in the call process for rostered ministers
- b. Provide for leadership recruitment, preparation, and support in accordance with churchwide standards and policies, including:
 - 1) nurturing and supporting congregations and lay leaders;
 - 2) seeking and recruiting qualified candidates for the rostered ministries of this church;
 - 3) making provision for pastoral care, call or appointment review, and guidance;
 - 4) encouraging and supporting persons on the rosters of this church in stewardship of their abilities, care of self, and pursuit of continuing education to undergird their effectiveness of service; and
 - 5) supporting recruitment of leaders for this church's colleges, universities, seminaries, and social ministry organizations.
- c. Provide for discipline of congregations, ministers of Word and Sacrament, and ministers of Word and Service; as well as for termination of call, appointment, adjudication, and appeals consistent with Chapter 20 of this church's constitution.
- d. Provide for archives in conjunction with other synods.

- e. Plan for the mission of this church in this synod, initiating and developing policy, and implementing programs, consistent with churchwide policy, including:
 - 1) ecumenical guidance and encouragement;
 - 2) development of new ministries, redevelopment of existing ministries, and support and assistance in the conclusion, if necessary, of a particular ministry;
 - 3) leadership and encouragement of congregations in their evangelism efforts;
 - 4) development of relationships to and participation in planning for the mission of social ministry organizations and ministries;
 - 5) encouragement of financial support for the work of this church by individuals and congregations;
 - 6) provision for resources for congregational life;
 - 7) assistance to the members of its congregations in carrying out their ministries in the world; and
 - 8) interpretation of social statements in a manner consistent with the interpretation given by the churchwide unit which assisted in the development of the statement, and suggestion of social study issues through (a) Synod Assembly memorials to the Churchwide Assembly or (b) resolutions for referral from the Synod Assembly through the Synod Council to the Church Council and (c) Synod Council resolutions addressed to the Church Council or for referral to a unit of the churchwide organization through the Church Council's Executive Committee.
- f. Promote interdependent relationships among congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, and enter into partnership with other synods in the region.
- g. Participate in churchwide programs and develop support for the ministry of the churchwide organization.
- h. Foster the grouping of congregations in conferences, clusters, coalitions, or other area subdivisions for mission purposes.
- i. Support relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of colleges, universities, and campus ministries.
- j. Foster relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of social ministry organizations.
- k. Maintain relationships with and provide partnership funding on behalf of seminaries and continuing education centers.
- l. Foster supporting relationships with camps and other outdoor ministries.
- m. Foster supporting relationships with preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools operated by congregations of this synod.
- n. Interpret the work of this church to congregations and to the public.

- o. Respond to human need, work for justice and peace, care for the sick and suffering, and participate responsibly in society.
- p. Provide for archives in conjunction with other synods.
- q. Cooperate with other synods and the churchwide organization in creating, using, and supporting regions to carry out those functions of this synod which can best be done cooperatively with other synods and the churchwide organization.
- r. Elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and according to procedures specified in the bylaws of this constitution.

†S6.04.

Except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws, the Synod Council shall establish processes that will ensure that at least 60 percent of the members of the synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards, and other organizational units shall be laypersons; and that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units shall be female and 50 percent shall be male; and that, where possible, the representation of ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be both male and female. This synod shall establish processes that will enable it to reach a minimum goal that 10 percent of its assemblies, councils, committees, boards, or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

[continuing resolution becomes bylaw]

†S6.04.01.

It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

[continuing resolution becomes bylaw]

†S6.04.02.

It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.

†S6.04.A01.

It is the goal of this synod that 10 percent of the membership of synod assemblies, councils, committees, boards and/or other organizational units be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.

†S6.04.B09. *It is the goal of this synod that at least 10 percent of the voting members of the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, committees, and organizational units of this synod be youth and young adults. The Synod Council shall establish a plan for implementing this goal. For purposes of the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this synod, the term “youth” means a voting member of a congregation who has not reached the age of 18 at the time of election or appointment for service. The term “young adult” means a voting member of a congregation between the ages of 18 and 30 at the time of election or appointment for service.*

†S6.05. Each assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body of this synod or any synodical units shall be conclusively presumed to have been properly constituted, and neither the method of selection nor the composition of any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body may be challenged in a court of law by any person or be used as the basis of a challenge in a court of law to the validity or effect of any action taken or authorized by any such assembly, council, committee, board, commission, task force, or other body.

†S6.06. References herein to the nature of the relationship between the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization—as being interdependent or as being in a partnership relationship describe the mutual responsibility of these expressions in God’s mission and the fulfillment of the purposes of this church as described in this chapter, and do not imply or describe the creation of partnerships, co-ventures, agencies, or other legal relationships recognized in civil law.

Chapter 7.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

†S7.01. This synod shall have a Synod Assembly, which shall be its highest legislative authority. The powers of the Synod Assembly are limited only by the provisions in the Articles of Incorporation, this constitution and bylaws, the assembly's own resolutions, and the constitutions and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S7.11. A regular meeting of the Synod Assembly shall be held at least triennially.

S7.11.01. The time and place of the Southwest California Synod Assembly shall be determined by the Synod Council. The time and place for the next regular assembly normally shall be announced months prior to the assembly.

- S7.12.** Special meetings of the Synod Assembly may be called by the bishop with the consent of the Synod Council, and shall be called by the bishop at the request of one-fifth of the voting members of the Synod Assembly.
- a. The notice of each special meeting shall define the purpose for which it is to be held. The scope of actions to be taken at such a special meeting shall be limited to the subject matter(s) described in the notice.
 - b. If the special meeting of the Synod Assembly is required for the purpose of electing a successor bishop because of death, resignation, or inability to serve, the special meeting shall be called by the Synod Council after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- S7.13.** Notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be given by the secretary of this synod as provided in the bylaws.
- S7.13.01.** Notice of all meetings of the Synod Assembly shall be written and mailed to all ordained ministers on the synod roster, all associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers on the synod roster and each congregation related to this synod, not later than sixty days prior to the date of the meeting. In cases of extreme emergency, the length of notice may be shortened by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council.
- S7.14.** One-half of the members of the Synod Assembly shall constitute a quorum.
- †S7.21.** The membership of the Synod Assembly, of which at least 60 percent of the voting membership shall be composed of lay persons, shall be constituted as follows:
- a. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under call on the roster of this synod in attendance at the Synod Assembly shall be voting members.
 - b. All ministers of Word and Service, under call, on the roster of this synod shall be voting members in the Synod Assembly, in addition to the voting membership of lay members of congregations provided in item †S7.21.c.
 - c. A minimum of one lay member elected by each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members and a minimum of two lay members elected by each congregation with 175 or more baptized members related to this synod, normally one of whom shall be male and one of whom shall be female, shall be voting members. The Synod Council shall establish a formula to provide additional lay representation from congregations on the basis of number of baptized members in the congregation. The Synod Council shall seek to ensure that, as nearly as possible, 50 percent of the lay members of the assembly shall be female and 50 percent shall be male. Additional members from each congregation normally shall be equally divided between male and female.
 - d. Voting membership shall include the officers of this synod.

- S7.21.A10.** *In order to implement Continuing Resolution †S6.04.B09. each congregation with fewer than 175 baptized members may elect one additional voting member who is a youth or young adult. A congregation with more than 175 baptized members may elect two additional voting members who are youth or young adults, one of whom shall be female and one of whom shall be male.*
- S7.22.** This synod may establish processes that permit retired rostered ministers, or those designated as disabled, 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.
- S7.22.01.** Retired ordained ministers on the roster of this synod who are serving as Interim Pastors in a congregation of this synod at the time of the Synod Assembly shall be voting members to the Synod Assembly.
- S7.23.** The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other official representatives of this church may be designated from time to time by the Church Council to have a voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council shall from time to time designate.
- S7.24.** Ministers under call on the rosters of this synod shall remain as members of the Synod Assembly so long as they remain under call and so long as their names appear on the rosters of this synod. Lay members of the Synod Assembly representing congregations shall continue as such until replaced by the election of new members or until they have been disqualified by termination of membership. Normally, congregations will hold elections prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- S7.24.A87.** Challenges to congregational representation shall be settled by rule of the Chair after consultation with the Assembly Credentials Committee.
- †S7.25.** Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, each voting member of the Synod Assembly shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S7.26.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council that permit representatives of mission settings formed with the intent of becoming organized congregations and authorized worshipping communities of the synod, which have been authorized under Evangelical Lutheran Church in America bylaw 10.02.03., to serve as voting members of the Synod Assembly, consistent with †S7.21

- S7.27.** This synod may establish processes through the Synod Council to grant a minister of Word and Sacrament from a church body with which a relationship of full communion has been declared and established by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the privilege of both voice and vote in the Synod Assembly during the period of that minister's service in a congregation of this church.
- S7.28.** Duly elected voting members of the Synod Council who are not otherwise voting members of the Synod Assembly under †S7.21. shall be granted the privilege of both voice and vote as members of the Synod Assembly.
- †S7.31.** Proxy and absentee voting shall not be permitted in the transaction of any business of this synod.
- S7.32.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of the Synod Assembly, unless otherwise ordered by the Assembly.
- S7.33.** “*Ex-officio*” as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.
- S7.34.** Procedures for conducting the business of the Synod Assembly, including the method for processing resolutions, shall be established by the Synod Council.
- S7.34.01.** The synod budget shall be adopted by the Synod Assembly.
- S7.34.A87.** Regular meetings of the Synod Assembly may provide a time on the agenda for voting members to voice issues of conscience to the Assembly according to guidelines established by the Synod Council.

Chapter 8. OFFICERS

- †S8.01.** The officers of this synod shall be a bishop, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
- S8.10.** **Bishop**
- †S8.11.** The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The bishop shall be a minister of Word and Sacrament of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S8.12.** As this synod's pastor, the bishop shall:
- a. Preach, teach, and administer the sacraments in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church.
 - b. Have primary responsibility for the ministry of Word and Sacrament in this synod and its congregations, providing pastoral care and

- leadership for this synod, its congregations, its ministers of Word and Sacrament, and its ministers of Word and Service.
- c. Exercise solely this church's power to ordain (or provide for the ordination by another synodical bishop of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for the office of ministry of Word and Sacrament (and as provided in the bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - d. Consecrate (or provide consecration of) approved candidates who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested letter of call for service as ministers of Word and Service.
 - e. Attest letters of call for persons called to serve congregations in the synod, letters of call for persons called by the Synod Council, and letters of call for persons on the rosters of this synod called by the Church Council.
 - f. Install (or provide for the installation of): rostered ministers whose calls the Bishop has attested
 - g. Exercise leadership in the mission of this church and in so doing:
 - 1) Interpret and advocate the mission and theology of the whole church;
 - 2) Lead in fostering support for and commitment to the mission of this church within this synod;
 - 3) Coordinate the use of the resources available to this synod as it seeks to promote the health of this church's life and witness in the areas served by this synod;
 - 4) Submit a report to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly concerning this synod's life and work; and
 - 5) Advise and counsel this synod's related institutions and organizations.
 - h. Practice leadership in strengthening the unity of the Church and in so doing:
 - 1) Exercise oversight of the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments within this synod in accord with the Confession of Faith of this church;
 - 2) Be responsible for administering the constitutionally established processes for the resolution of controversies and for the discipline of rostered ministers and congregations of this synod;
 - 3) Be the chief ecumenical officer of this synod;
 - 4) Consult regularly with other synodical bishops and the Conference of Bishops;
 - 5) Foster awareness of other churches throughout the Lutheran world communion and, where appropriate, engage in contact with leaders of those churches;
 - 6) Cultivate communion in faith and mission with appropriate Christian judicatory leaders functioning within the territory of this synod; and

- 7) Be *ex officio* a member of the Churchwide Assembly.
- i. Oversee and administer the work of this synod and in so doing:
 - 1) Serve as the president of the synod corporation and be the chief executive and administrative officer of this synod, who is authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to sign deeds or other instruments and to affix the seal of the synod;
 - 2) Preside at all meetings of the Synod Assembly and provide for the preparation of the agenda for the Synod Assembly, Synod Council, and the council's Executive Committee;
 - 3) Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of this synod and of the churchwide organization are duly observed within this synod, and that the actions of this synod in conformity therewith are carried into effect;
 - 4) Exercise supervision over the work of the other officers;
 - 5) Coordinate the work of all synodical staff members;
 - 6) Appoint all committees for which provision is not otherwise made;
 - 7) Be a member of all committees and any other organizational units of the synod, except as otherwise provided in this constitution;
 - 8) Provide for preparation and maintenance of synodical rosters containing the names and addresses of all rostered ministers of this synod and a record of the calls under which they are serving or the date on which they become retired or disabled;
 - 9) Annually bring to the attention of the Synod Council the names of all rostered ministers on leave from call or engaged in approved graduate study in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church and pursuant to prior action of this synod through the Synod Council;
 - 10) Provide for prompt reporting to the secretary of this church of:
 - a) additions to and subtractions from the rosters of this synod and the register of congregations;
 - b) the issuance of a certificate of transfer for rostered ministers in good standing who have received and accepted a properly issued, duly attested, regular letter of call under the jurisdiction of another synod;
 - c) the entrance of the names of such persons for whom proper certificates of transfer have been received;
 - 11) Provide for preparation and maintenance of a register of the congregations of this synod and the names of the laypersons who have been elected to represent them; and

- 12) Appoint a statistician of this synod, who shall secure the parochial reports of the congregations and make the reports available to the secretary of this church for collation, analysis, and distribution of the statistical summaries to this synod and the other synods of this church.

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

†**S8.15.** The presiding bishop of this church, or the appointee of the presiding bishop, shall install into office, in accord with the policy and approved rite of this church, each newly elected synodical bishop.

†**S8.16.** **Conflicts of Interest**

†**S8.16.01.** The following procedures shall govern matters of potential conflicts of interest for synodical bishops:

- a. Whenever a synodical bishop determines that a matter of the kind described in †S8.16.01.b. may require his or her determination or action with respect to a related individual as defined in †S8.16.01.c., the synodical bishop shall withdraw from personal involvement in such matter and shall so notify the presiding bishop. The presiding bishop shall then appoint another synodical bishop from the same region to handle the matter to conclusion. In dealing with such matter, the appointed bishop shall exercise all of the functions and authority to the same extent as if the appointed bishop were the elected bishop of the withdrawing bishop's synod.
- b. Matters include any proceedings under Chapter 20, proceedings under provision 7.46. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (†S14.13), candidacy, reinstatement, and similar matters where determinations or actions by the synodical bishop could change, limit, restrict, approve, authorize, or deny the related individual's ministry on one of the official rosters of this church.
- c. A related individual is one who, with respect to the synodical bishop, is a spouse, parent, son, daughter, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandparent, grandchild, or in-law (parent, son, daughter, or sibling of a spouse, spouse of a sibling, or the parent or sibling of the spouse of a sibling).

S8.20. **Vice President**

†**S8.21.** The vice president shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The vice president shall be a lay person. The vice president shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The vice president shall not receive a salary for the performance of the duties of the office.

S8.22. The vice president shall chair the Synod Council and represent the synod in required meetings.

S8.23. In the event of the death, resignation, or disability of the bishop, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the conduct of the duties of the bishop until a new bishop shall be elected or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop resumes full performance of the duties of the office.

S8.30. Secretary

†**S8.31.** The secretary shall be elected by the Synod Assembly. The secretary shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The secretary may be either a layperson or a minister of Word and Sacrament.

†**S8.32.** The secretary shall:

- a. Keep the minutes of all meetings of the Synod Assembly and Synod Council, be responsible for the printing and distribution of such minutes, and perform such other duties as this synod may from time to time direct.
- b. Be authorized and empowered, in the name of this synod, to attest all instruments which require the same, and which are signed and sealed by the bishop.
- c. In consultation with the bishop, classify and arrange all important papers and documents and deposit them in the archives of this synod.
- d. Submit to the secretary of this church at least nine months before the Churchwide Assembly a certified list of the voting members elected by the Synod Assembly.

S8.40. Treasurer

†**S8.41.** The treasurer may be elected by the Synod Assembly or may be appointed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod. The treasurer may be either a lay person or a ministered of Word and Sacrament..

S8.42. The duties of the treasurer shall be specified in the bylaws.

S8.42.01 The treasurer shall be responsible for:

- a. Management of the monies and accounts of this synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, evidences of claims and revenues, and trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of this synod.
- b. Investment of funds upon the authorization of the Synod Council.
- c. Receipt and acknowledgment of offerings, contributions, and bequests made to this synod, collecting interest and income from its invested funds, and paying regular appropriations and orders on the

several accounts as approved and directed by the Synod Council. The treasurer shall transmit each month to the treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America the funds received by this synod for the general work of this church.

- d. Maintenance of a regular account with each congregation of this synod and informing the congregation, at least quarterly, of the status of this account.
- e. Rendering at each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly a full, detailed, and duly audited report of receipts and disbursements in the several accounts of this synod for the preceding fiscal year, together with the tabulation, for record and publication in the minutes, of the contributions from the congregations.
- f. Giving of corporate surety in the amount determined by the Synod Council, which shall be in the custody of the secretary, and the premium therefore shall be paid by this synod. Fidelity coverage provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be deemed a fulfillment of this requirement.

S8.50.

General Provisions

†**S8.51.**

The terms of office of the officers of this synod shall be:

- a. The bishop of this synod shall be elected to a term of six years and may be reelected.
- b. The vice president and secretary of this synod shall be elected to a term of three years and may be reelected.
- c. The treasurer of this synod shall be elected or appointed to a 3-year term and may be reelected or reappointed.

S8.51.01

The vice president and secretary of the synod shall be eligible for one re-election.

S8.52.

The terms of the officers shall begin at times specified in the bylaws or, in special circumstances, at a time designated by the Synod Council.

S8.52.01

The term of the officers shall begin on the first day of the third month following election.

†**S8.53.**

Each officer shall be a voting member in a congregation of this synod, except that the bishop need not be a member of a congregation of this synod at the time of election.

†**S8.54.**

Should the bishop die, resign, or be unable to serve, the vice president, after consultation with the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, shall convene the Synod Council to arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the bishop until an election of a new bishop can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the bishop is able to serve

again. Such arrangements may include the appointment by the Synod Council of an interim bishop, who during the vacancy or period of disability shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop. The term of the successor bishop, elected by the next Synod Assembly or a special meeting of the Synod Assembly called for the purpose of election, shall be six years with the subsequent election to take place at the Synod Assembly closest to the expiration of such a term and with the starting date of a successor term to be governed by constitutional provision S8.52.

S8.55. Should the vice president, secretary, or treasurer die, resign, or be unable to serve, the bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, shall arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held or, in the case of temporary disability, until the officer is able to serve again. The term of the successor officer, elected by the next Synod Assembly, shall be three years. If the treasurer is appointed by the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall appoint a new treasurer to a three year term.

†**S8.56.** The Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall determine whether an officer is unable to serve; the officer may appeal the decision of the Executive Committee by requesting a hearing before the Synod Council. A meeting to determine the ability of an officer to serve shall be called upon the request of at least three members of the Executive Committee and prior written notice of the meeting shall be given to the officer in question at least ten calendar days prior to the meeting.

†**S8.57.** The recall or dismissal of an officer and the vacating of office may be effected for willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church; for such physical or mental disability as renders the officer incapable of performing the duties of office, or for such conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action as a rostered minister or as a member of a congregation of this church.

- a. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of a synodical bishop shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of its members present and voting;
 - 3) at least 10 synodical bishops; or
 - 4) the presiding bishop of this church
- b. Proceedings for the recall or dismissal of an officer of a synod, other than the synodical bishop, shall be instituted by written petition by:
 - 1) the Synod Council on an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of its elected members present and voting;
 - 2) the Synod Assembly on an affirmative vote of at least two thirds of its members present and voting; or

- 3) the synodical bishop.
- c. The petition shall be filed with the chair of the Committee on Appeals (in care of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631) and shall set forth the specific charge or charges.
 - d. Upon the filing of a written petition, the Executive Committee of the Synod Council may temporarily suspend the officer from service in the synod without prejudice, but with continuation of compensation, including benefits, if the officer is a salaried employee of the synod.
 - e. In the case of alleged physical or mental incapacity of an officer of the synod, the procedures outlined in †S8.56. shall be followed, and such officer shall comply with the decision of the Synod Council. If such officer fails or refuses to comply, the Synod Council may proceed to petition for recall or dismissal as follows:
 - 1) the Synod Council will submit a written report of their findings and the basis of their decision to the Committee on Appeals.
 - 2) the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, shall review the findings and decision of the Synod Council and by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting may adopt the findings and grant the petition.
 - f. If the synod officer is a minister of Word and Sacrament, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.21.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20. and 20.21. as grounds for discipline. If the officer is a minister of Word and Service, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.22.01. and as defined under the process described in ELCA constitutional provisions 20.20. and 20.21. as grounds for discipline.
 - g. If the officer is a layperson, grounds for recall or dismissal include those set forth in ELCA bylaw 20.41.01 as grounds for discipline.
 - h. If the case of alleged willful disregard or violation of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions or of alleged conduct as would subject the officer to disciplinary action, the following procedures shall apply.
 - 1) the petition shall be referred to the Committee on Appeals, which shall function as the discipline hearing committee that shall conduct a hearing in accordance with the rules provided for in ELCA bylaw 20.21.16. except to the extent that those rules are in conflict with the provisions of this bylaw; and
 - 2) the members of the Committee on Appeals, other than those who are disqualified, may grant the petition by an

affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.

- i. Written notice of a decision by the Committee on Appeals that the charges have been sustained shall be given to the affected officer and to the Synod Council, and the office shall be vacated.

†S8.58.

If the bishop is to be temporarily absent from the synod for an extended period, the bishop, with the consent of the Synod Council, may appoint as acting bishop for such period a minister of Word and Sacrament of this church. Except as limited by action of the Synod Council, an acting bishop shall possess all of the powers and authority of a regularly elected bishop other than authority to ordain or to authorize the ordination of properly approved candidates for ordination.

Chapter 9.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

†S9.01.

The Synod Assembly shall elect such officers of this synod and such other persons as the constitution and bylaws may require, according to procedures set forth in the bylaws. The Synod Assembly shall elect members of the Churchwide Assembly in accordance with bylaw 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

S9.01.A08.

The Synod Council Executive Committee shall provide for background checks for persons nominated for synodical office prior to the Synod Assembly at which the election will take place or as soon as possible after the Synod Assembly for newly elected officers nominated from the floor who were not identified as nominees prior to the assembly. The process shall be as follows:

- a. Prior to the Synod Assembly appropriate notice of the background check requirement and protocol will be provided to voting members, potential nominees, and others as directed by the Synod Council.
- b. Nominees and newly elected officers are required to provide written consent to a background check and all information necessary to complete a background check, which should be completed prior to the Synod Assembly with respect to nominees and prior to installation for newly elected officers, if possible.
- c. The Synod Council's Executive Committee shall designate one Executive Committee or Synod Council member to obtain the background checks.
- d. All background checks for nominees and newly elected officers will entail a criminal background check. A financial background check will be completed for nominees for treasurer. The Executive Committee shall decide whether additional types of Background checks are appropriate for each officer position.
- e. The background check results shall be provided to that nominee or elected officer and to the Synod Council's Executive Committee. Further disclosure of the results may be determined by the Executive Committee.

- f. The Executive Committee may adopt other procedures or protocols as are necessary to provide for background checks for nominees and newly elected synodical officers and shall report such actions to the Synod Council.

†**S9.02.** In all elections by the Synod Assembly, other than for the bishop, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.

S9.03. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the Synod Council to serve for each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations are made by the Nominating Committee.

S9.04. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot.

S9.04.01. The procedure to elect a bishop shall be as follows. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the four persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fifth ballot shall be limited to the three persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the fourth ballot, and a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The sixth ballot shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) who received the greatest number of legal votes on the previous ballot, and a majority of the legal votes cast shall constitute an election.

S9.04.02 Prior to each Synod Assembly at which an election of a bishop is to be held, the Synod Council shall appoint a task force which shall solicit names of potential nominees for bishop from members and congregations of this synod.

- a. Persons whose names are submitted shall be requested to supply biographical information on a form provided by the task force or be allowed to have their names removed from this process.
- b. The biographical information forms shall be collated by the task force in random order, duplicated and distributed without comment to the Synod Assembly voting members at least 30 days prior to the meeting of the Assembly at which the election is to take place.
- c. The first ballot in the election shall not be limited to the names included in this process. Voting members to the Synod Assembly who intend to vote on the first ballot for a candidate who has not been

included in this process may, on the first day of the Assembly, submit to the task force a completed copy of the approved biographical information form for duplication and distribution to the voting members prior to the second ballot.

- S9.04.03** Other means of organized advocacy or of circulating information about potential nominees for the office of bishop before or during the Synod Assembly shall not be permitted.
- S9.05.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one persons for vice president. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.06.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one person for secretary. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.07.** If the treasurer is elected, the Synod Council shall nominate at least one person for treasurer. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- S9.08.** In all elections, except for the bishop, the names of the persons receiving the highest number of legal votes, but not elected by a majority of the legal votes cast on a preceding ballot, shall be entered on the next ballot to the number of two for each vacancy unfilled. On any ballot when only two names appear, a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- S9.09.** The result of each ballot in every election shall be announced in detail to the assembly.
- S9.09.A87.** The number of votes cast for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes of the secretary.
- S9.10.** The Nominating Committee shall nominate persons who are members of congregations in this synod to fill the voting member positions allocated to this synod for the Churchwide Assembly as provided in 12.41.11. of the constitution and bylaws of this church. The Synod Assembly shall elect voting members of the Churchwide Assembly.
- †**S9.10.** When notified by the secretary of this church, on behalf of the Nominating Committee of the Churchwide Assembly, the Synod Assembly shall nominate two persons in the specified categories for possible election by the Churchwide Assembly to the Church Council
- †**S9.12.** Background checks and screening shall be required and completed for persons nominated as synodical officers prior to their election, if possible, or as soon as practical after their election. The specific procedures and timing of background checks and screening shall be determined by the Synod Council.

Chapter 10.
SYNOD COUNCIL

- †**S10.01.** The Synod Council consisting of the four officers of the synod, 10 to 24 other members, and at least one youth and at least one adult shall be elected by the Synod Assembly.
- a. Each person elected to the Synod Council shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod, with the exception of ministers on a roster of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod. The process for election and the term of office when not otherwise provided shall be specified in the bylaws. A member of the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, unless otherwise elected as a voting member of the Synod Council, may serve as an advisory member of the Synod Council with voice but not vote.
 - b. The term of office of members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the officers and the youth member, shall be three (3) years.
- S10.01.01.** Except for the bishop, members of the synod staff may serve only in an advisory capacity to the Synod Council.
- S10.01.02.** Except for the Treasurer and youth position all members of the Synod Council shall be elected to a term of three (3) years and are eligible for one reelection.
- †**S10.02.** The Synod Council shall be the board of directors of this synod and shall serve as its interim legislative authority between meetings of the Synod Assembly. It may make decisions which are not in conflict with actions taken by the Synod Assembly or which are not precluded by provisions of this constitution or the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- S10.03.** The functions of the Synod Council shall be to:
- a. Exercise trusteeship responsibilities on behalf of this synod.
 - b. Recommend program goals and budgets to the regular meetings of the Synod Assembly.
 - c. Carry out the resolutions of the Synod Assembly.
 - d. Provide for an annual review of the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament and the roster of ministers of Word and Service, receive and act upon appropriate recommendations regarding those persons whose status is subject to reconsideration and action under the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and make a report to the Synod Assembly of the Synod Council's actions in this regard.

- e. Issue letters of call to rostered ministers as authorized by Chapter 7 of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- f. Fill vacancies until the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly except as may otherwise be provided in the constitution or bylaws of this synod, and determine the fact of the incapacity of an officer of this synod.
- g. Report its actions to the regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- h. Perform such other functions as are set forth in the bylaws of this synod, or as may be delegated to it by the Synod Assembly.

S10.04. Any proposal to appropriate funds, whether by amendment to the budget or otherwise, which is presented to a meeting of the Synod Assembly without the approval of the Synod Council, shall be referred to the Executive Committee for a report and recommendation prior to action by the Synod Assembly and shall require a two-thirds majority vote by the Assembly for adoption.

S10.05. No elected member of the Synod Council shall receive compensation for such service.

S10.06. If a member of the Synod Council ceases to meet the requirements of the position to which she or he was elected, the office filled by such member shall at once become vacant.

S10.07. The composition of the Synod Council, the number of its members, and the manner of their selection, as well as the organization of the Synod Council, its additional duties and responsibilities, and the number of meetings to be held each year shall be as set forth in the bylaws.

S10.07.01 To the extent permitted by state law, meetings of the Synod Council and its committees may be conducted virtually. Notice of any meetings may be provided electronically.

S10.07.02. In addition to the officers and youth position, there shall be nineteen members of the Synod Council, nine elected as Conference Representatives by the Synod Assembly and ten elected as Members-at-Large by the Synod Assembly.

S10.07.03. Each Conference shall nominate its representative to the Synod Council in a rotating sequence approved by the Synod Council.

S10.07.04. Conference Representatives shall be nominated at the first meeting of the Conference Assemblies in a calendar year and the results of this nomination shall be reported immediately to the Synod Nominating Committee by the Conference Chairperson. The Conference nominees shall be elected at the

Synod Assembly by a yes/no vote. No nominations shall be made from the floor for any Conference Representative to the Synod Council.

- S10.07.05.** Members-at-Large on the Synod Council shall be nominated by the Synod Nominating Committee in a manner that will fulfill the provisions of S6.04. and insure that at least 40% of the Synod Council is male and at least 40% is female.
- S10.07.A87.** . The Nominating Committee shall nominate two persons for each Member-at-Large position and arrange the ballot so that both persons for each position are either ordained ministers or lay male or lay female or persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
- S10.07.B87.** Nominations from the floor for Members-at-Large on the Synod Council shall be listed on the ballot in a way that has nominees running against peers in harmony with S10.07.A87.
- S10.07.C87.** Nominations made from the floor must be endorsed by the signatures of at least ten members of the Synod Assembly, the agreement of the nominee to serve if elected must have been secured, and biographical information must be available in writing for distribution to the voting members.
- S10.07.D87.** No more than four members of the Synod Council, with the exception of the Bishop, may be from the same Conference.
- S10.07.06.** The Nominating Committee shall present at least two nominees for the youth position on the Synod Council each of whom will be either a Sophomore or Junior in high school upon entering office. The term of office shall be for two years.
- S10.07.07.** The synodical organization for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may provide an advisory member to the Synod Council with voice but not vote.
- S10.07.08.** The Synod Council shall meet at least three times each year, normally during the quarters of the year when the Synod Assembly does not meet.
- S10.07.09.** No member of the Synod Council may serve simultaneously on more than one synod team or conference leadership team, except as appointed by the Council to serve as Council liaison to specific teams and conference leadership teams, or as specified in the constitution, by-laws and continuing resolutions of the synod.

Chapter 11.

COMMITTEES AND MISSION TEAMS

- †S11.01. There shall be an Executive Committee, a Consultation Committee, a Committee on Discipline, a Mutual Ministry Committee, an Audit Committee and such other committees as this synod may from time to time determine. The duties and functions of such committees, or any other organizational units created by this synod, and the composition and organizational structure of such units, shall be set forth in this constitution or in the bylaws or continuing resolutions, and shall be subject to any applicable provisions or requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- †S11.02. The Consultation Committee of this synod shall consist of at least six persons and not more than 12 persons, of whom half shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and half shall be laypersons, who shall each be elected by the Synod Assembly for a term of six years without consecutive re-election. 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.
- †S11.03. The Committee on Discipline of this synod shall consist of 12 persons of whom six shall be ministers of Word and Sacrament and six shall be laypersons, 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 Synod Council shall fill vacancies on the Committee on Discipline for any unexpired term.
- †S11.04. The Mutual Ministry Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Synod Council to provide support and counsel to the bishop.
- †S11.05. The Audit Committee of this synod shall consist of three to six persons, none of whom are members of the synod staff. Up to half of the committee members may be Synod Council members. The Audit Committee members shall be elected by the Synod Council for a term of three years and be eligible for re-election to a second consecutive three-year term. The terms of the Audit Committee members shall be staggered. The Audit Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Synod Council in fulfilling its general oversight of the synod's accounting, financial reporting, internal control systems, and external audit processes as provided in †S15.31.
- S11.10. General Provisions**

- S11.11.** This synod shall in its bylaws or by continuing resolutions establish a process to ensure that the members of its committees and other organizational units will be persons possessing the necessary knowledge and competence to be effective members of such units, and to meet the requirements of †S6.04. With the exception of ministers on the rosters of this synod who reside outside the territory of this synod, each member of a committee of this synod, or any other organizational unit created by this synod, shall be a voting member of a congregation of this synod.
- S11.11.A87.** The Nominating Committee of this synod and its Conferences when making nominations, and the Synod Council when making appointments, shall evaluate the knowledge and competence of proposed candidates and nominate or appoint only those persons who are judged to have the gifts necessary for effective service.
- S11.22.A08.** The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Synod and four other members of the Synod Council appointed by the Council, including at least one person of color and/or person whose primary language is other than English. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on its behalf between meetings of the Council. The Executive Committee shall normally meet at least four times each year.
- S11.23.A08.** The Nominating Committee shall be composed of seven members appointed by the Synod Council (S9.03.). Three of these shall be members of the Council and four appointed from the synod-at-large. It shall be chaired by a Council member appointed by the Council.
- S11.30.A08.** The Mission Team for Evangelical Outreach shall be responsible for helping the Synod and its congregations implement the Synod's Mission Goals of "intentional outreach to the diverse populations of our Synod," the development of new congregations," "the transformation of congregations," and "the re-rooting of congregations in their neighborhoods." This team shall assist in implementation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Evangelism Strategy as well as to assist in implementation of ethnic strategies adopted by the Synod. This team shall communicate the goals of the Synod to congregations as well as to draft proposed budgets for submission to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Synod Council. Membership shall consist of one person from each Conference, a Synod Council liaison, and representatives of Task Forces created by the Team in areas such as: new congregation planting and development; transformational and renewal ministry for congregations; Mission Partners; stewardship; congregational evangelism; ethnic strategy implementation. Staff support will be provided to this team by the Director for Evangelical Mission.
- S11.30.B08.** The Mission Team for Rostered Leadership shall be responsible for providing opportunities to identify and support clergy and lay rostered ministers. This team shall promote participation in Conference Collegiums and Continuing

Education, suggest themes, and shall relate to the Candidacy Committee assisting those preparing for ministry including those enrolled in the TEEM program and First Call Theological Education. In cooperation with the Bishop, this team will review leaders whose Calls to service come through the Synod Council. Membership shall consist of one person from each of the Conferences, one active lay rostered person, at least three other persons chosen for their interest and/or expertise in this area, a Synod Council liaison, and representatives of Task Forces created by the Team in areas such as: Candidacy; First Call Theological Education; Call Process and Mobility; Etc. Staff support will be provided to this team by the Assistant for Rostered Mission Leadership.

S11.30.C08.

The Mission Team for Lay Leadership shall be responsible for providing opportunities to identify and support lay leaders as they witness and serve in their congregation and in daily life. This team shall help the synod and its congregations to implement the Mission Goals of the synod of “intentional outreach to children, youth and young adults,” and oversight and support for “the School for Equipping Leaders for Mission” (ELM). This team shall assist to implement synod sponsored workshops for: School Teachers and School Boards; Sunday School Teachers; Youth Leaders; Bible Study Leaders; Congregation Councils; Etc; as well as to communicate to congregations activities planned by groups within the synod that provide learning and leadership development for lay members of congregations. This Team shall relate to: Lutheran Youth Organization; the Young Adult Task Force; the Synodical Women’s Organization; Men’s Ministry; Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences; and Campus Ministries. Membership shall consist of one person from each of the Conferences, at least three other persons chosen for their interest and/or expertise in this area, a Synod Council liaison, and representatives of Task Forces created by the Team in areas such as: Schools and Preschools; ELM; Youth; Young Adults; Campus Ministry; Adult Catechumenate; Etc. Staff support shall be provided by Assistant for Lay Mission Leadership.

S11.30.D08.

The Mission Team for Justice shall be responsible to help the synod and its congregations, institutions and agencies address issues of justice in public life from Christian perspectives while being guided in their public witness by the Social Statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This team will work closely with the Lutheran Office of Public Policy and the California Council of Churches in matters of advocacy. It will recommend actions that will help the synod, its congregations, institutions and agencies in their advocacy for: the poor; the hungry; the disenfranchised; the environment; and those who are victims of injustice, violence or oppression; while also planning workshops that address specific justice issues. This team shall help to communicate to congregations the many ways that members can become involved in justice ministries both nationally and locally. Membership shall consist of one person from each of the Conferences, at least three other

persons chosen for their interest and/or expertise in this area, a Synod Council liaison, and representatives of Task Forces created by the Team in areas such as: Environment; Criminal Justice; Peacemaking; Anti-Racism; Immigration; Sexual Minorities; Justice for Women; Hunger; etc. Staff support shall be provided by the Director for Justice.

S11.30.E08.

The Mission Team for Global Partnerships shall be responsible to help the synod and its congregations establish connections with the global Christian community by supporting growth in Companion Synod relationships, creating partnerships with congregations in other parts of the world; learning about issues of globalization; and by lifting up opportunities to accompany global churches in their mission. This team shall lift up connections with other Christians through the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches while helping to communicate to the congregations the global partnerships of the synod and opportunities for more active engagement in those partnerships. Membership shall consist of one person from each of the Conferences, at least three other persons chosen for their interest and/or expertise in this area, a Synod Council liaison, and representatives of Task Forces created by the Team in areas such as: Companion Synod; Missionary Sponsorships; World Hunger; etc. Staff support shall be provided by the Bishop or the Bishop's designee.

S11.40.B08.

The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible to develop the Budget, review and recommend revisions to the Spending Plan, and encourage and review congregational giving to Mission Support while receiving and reviewing reports from the synod's Treasurer, Endowment Fund (including the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund), and Planned Giving Specialist. Four members of the Synod Council, plus the synod Treasurer, Assistant for Mission Support, and Stewardship Specialist shall serve on this Committee. Additionally, the five members of the Synod Council who serve as liaisons to the Mission Teams will participate in budget drafting.

Chapter 12.**CONFERENCES, CLUSTERS, COALITIONS, OR OTHER AREA SUBDIVISIONS****†S12.01.**

This synod may establish conferences, clusters, coalitions, area subdivisions, and networks as appropriate within its territory and in collaboration with other synods and partners as specified in the bylaws and continuing resolutions. The purpose of such groupings shall be to foster interdependent relationships for missional purposes among congregations, synods, the churchwide organization and other partners.

S12.10. Conferences

S12.11.01. This synod shall have Conferences each of which is a geographic subdivisions composed of all members of the synod's congregations within its territory.

S12.11.A96. Congregations of the synod shall be grouped into nine conferences as follows:

Central Coast

Arroyo Grande, St. John's
 Atascadero, Hope
 Lompoc, Peace
 Morro Bay, Calvary
 San Luis Obispo, Mt. Carmel
 Santa Maria, Gloria Dei

Solvang, Bethania
 Templeton, Bethel

Tehachapi

Bakersfield, Emmanuel
 Bakersfield, Redeemer
 Lancaster, Lutheran Church of the Master
 Lancaster, Our Savior's
 Mojave, Hope
 Palmdale, St. Stephen's of the Valley
 Santa Maria, Santa Cruz
 Santa Clarita, Christ

Channel Islands

Agoura Hills, New Hope
 Camarillo, Mount Cross
 Goleta, Christ
 Newbury Park, King of Glory
 Ojai, Holy Cross
 Oxnard, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
 Oxnard, Our Saviour's
 Santa Barbara, Grace
 Santa Barbara, Trinity
 Santa Paula, Emmanuel
 Simi Valley, Shepherd of the Valley

Twin Valleys

Burbank, American
 Canoga Park, Faith
 Canyon Country, The Church of Hope
 Chatsworth, Holy Shepherd
 Encino, Bethel
 Granada Hills, Bethlehem
 Granada Hills, St. Stephen's
 North Hollywood, Emmanuel
 North Hollywood, San Pablo
 North Hollywood, St. Matthew's
 Northridge, LIFEhouse/First

Thousand Oaks, Ascension
 Thousand Oaks, Holy Trinity
 Ventura, Trinity

Northridge, Prince of Peace
 Santa Clarita, Living Faith
 Sun Valley, All Saints
 Sylmar, Church of the Foothills
 Van Nuys, Central
 Van Nuys, Christ the King
 Van Nuys, Finnish
 Van Nuys, St. Andrew's
 West Hills, Shepherd of the Valley
 Woodland Hills, St. Luke

Foothill

Altadena, Christ the Shepherd
 Glendale, First
 Glendale, Salem
 Glendale, St. Matthew's
 La Cañada, Lutheran Church in the Foothills
 La Crescenta, Mt. Olive
 Los Angeles, Eagle Rock
 Los Angeles, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
 Los Angeles, Solheim
 Monrovia, St. Paul's
 Pasadena, Hill Avenue Grace
 Pasadena, Messiah
 Pasadena, Trinity
 San Gabriel, Agape
 San Gabriel, Trinity
 Temple City, Bethlehem

San Gabriel Valley

Arcadia, Lutheran Church of the Cross
 Covina, Grace
 Covina, Prince of Peace
 Diamond Bar, Shepherd of the Hills
 Glendora, Grace of Calvary
 Hacienda Heights, St. Mark's
 La Verne, Rock of the Foothills
 Monterey Park, Christ
 Monterey Park, Faith
 Monterey Park, St. Paul's
 San Dimas, Faith
 West Covina, Christ

Los Angeles Metropolitan

Culver City, Grace
 Hollywood, Hollywood
 Hollywood, Hope
 Inglewood, Chapel of Peace
 Inglewood, First
 Inglewood, Holy Trinity
 Los Angeles, Angelica
 Los Angeles, Ascension
 Los Angeles, Bethel
 Los Angeles, Community
 Los Angeles, Light of Christ
 Los Angeles, Lutheran Church of the Master
 Los Angeles, Messiah

South Bay

Carson, First
 Compton, Christ
 Compton, Pueblo de Dios
 Gardena, St. John
 Hawthorne, Olivet
 Hawthorne, Trinity
 Manhattan Beach, Trinity
 Rancho Palos Verdes, Ascension
 Rancho Palos Verdes, St. Paul's
 Redondo Beach, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
 San Pedro, Good Shepherd
 Torrance, Christ the King
 Torrance, First

Los Angeles, St. Andrew's
 Los Angeles, St. Mark's
 Los Angeles, Village
 Pacific Palisades, Palisades
 Santa Monica, Mount Olive
 Santa Monica, St. Paul
 Westchester, Westchester

Torrance, Glory
 Torrance, Lutheran Oriental

Greater Long Beach

Bell, Grace
 Bellflower, Holy Redeemer
 Cerritos, St. John
 Downey, Christ
 Lakewood, St. Timothy
 Long Beach, Christ
 Long Beach, Faith
 Long Beach, Gloria Dei
 Long Beach, Our Saviour
 Long Beach, Rejoice!
 Long Beach, Resurrection
 Long Beach, St. Luke's
 Long Beach, Trinity
 South Gate, Fe y Esperanza

S12.11.03. Each Conference shall be designated by a name selected by the Conference.

S12.11.04. Changes in the alignment of congregations in Conferences may be made by mutual agreement between the Conferences affected and a majority vote of the Synod Council.

S12.11.05. The functions of the Conference shall be:

- 1) to identify and provide leadership persons for the mission and ministry of the conference and synod;
- 2) to provide training and resources for the ministry of congregational leaders;
- 3) to provide support for rostered ministers serving under call within the conference ;
- 4) to provide programs that will nurture and strengthen the ministry of laypersons in daily life;
- 5) to provide programs of fellowship and celebration;

- 6) to establish and maintain inter-congregational ministries of outreach and service in the conference; and
- 7) to be a channel of information, interpretation and cooperation between the congregations of the Conference and the synod.

- S12.12.01.** The organization of the Conference shall include an Assembly, a Leadership Team, a Rostered Leaders Collegium and such other committees or task forces as the Conference may deem necessary.
- S12.12.02.** Each conference shall meet in assembly in the spring of each year. The agenda of these assemblies shall be determined by the Bishop in consultation with the Conference Deans. The voting members at conference assemblies shall be: the members of congregation councils and voting members of the Synod Assembly from congregations within the conference; the members of the Conference Leadership Team; and all rostered leaders serving under call in the conference.
- S12.12.03.** The Conference Assembly shall meet semi-annually.
- S12.12.A96.** The voting members at the Spring Conference Assembly shall be the members of congregation councils within the territory of the Conference, the voting members of the Synod Assembly, and all rostered ministers serving under call in the conference.
- S12.12.B96.** The agenda of the Spring Conference Assembly shall be determined by the bishop and include elections
- S12.12.C96.** All congregational members and rostered persons serving under call in the Conference are invited to participate in the Fall Conference Assembly.
- S12.12.D96.** The agenda for the Fall Conference Assembly will focus on programs of inspiration, information and instruction dealing with the mission and ministry of the church and its members.
- S12.13.01.** The Conference Leadership Team shall be composed of a Chairperson; Secretary/Treasurer; Conference Mission Interpreter; Conference Representative to the Synod Council [*ex officio*]; and Dean [*ex officio*] member.
- S12.13.02.** No elected member of the Leadership Team shall receive compensation for such service.
- S12.13.03.** The Chairperson, Secretary/Treasurer, and Conference Mission Interpreter shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be elected by the Conference Assembly.

- S12.13.A87.** The Conference Chairperson shall be a layperson who shall preside over all meetings of the Conference Assembly and Leadership Team.
- S12.13.B93.** The Conference Chairperson shall have seat and voice at all Synod Assemblies, but may not vote unless otherwise elected as a voting member.
- S12.13.C87.** The Dean shall be an ordained minister on the active roster who shall be elected for a term of three years by the rostered leaders serving under call within a conference. The Dean shall preside at all meetings of the Rostered Leaders Collegium and at the request of the bishop assist in fulfilling the duties of the bishop within the Conference. The duties are described in the document, "The Role of the Conference Dean." The Conference Deans will meet as determined by the Bishop.
- S12.10.D87.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep minutes of the Conference Assembly and Leadership Team meetings and be accountable for any Conference treasury.
- S12.13.F96.** The Conference Mission Interpreter shall communicate the mission and ministry of the synod and churchwide organization to the congregations of the Conference.
- S12.13.G96.** The Leadership Team shall meet at least three times a year and include the following among its duties:
- a) to plan the meetings of the Conference Assemblies with regard to business and programs;
 - b) to reflect on the mission needs in the territory of the Conference and recommend appropriate programs to the Mission Teams of the synods and/or Conference Assembly;
 - c) to carry out the actions of the Conference Assembly;
 - d) to oversee the conduct and quality of Conference programs.
- S12.14.01.** The Conference shall have a Nominating Committee composed of three persons appointed by the Leadership Team from outside its membership and a synod staff person. They shall present nominations for Conference Assembly elections for all elected members of the Leadership Team, except for the Dean.
- S12.14.A87.** The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees for each position open for election. Nominations may be made from the floor.
- S12.14.B87.** The Dean shall be elected to a three-year term by the rostered leaders under call using a nominating ballot. A two-thirds majority shall be required for election on the first ballot. The second ballot shall be limited to the four candidates who receive the highest number of votes on the first ballot and a two-thirds majority shall be required to elect. Each subsequent ballot shall eliminate the candidate who received the least number of votes on the

preceding ballot. The third ballot shall require a sixty percent majority and the fourth ballot a simple majority for election.

S12.15.01. The Conference Rostered Leaders Collegium shall meet at least six times annually and shall be composed of all rostered leaders on the rosters of the synod who are serving under call in the conference. The collegium shall have as its purposes: personal support; peer evaluation of ministry; and continuing education for ministry.

S12.15.A96. Under the leadership of the Dean, the Conference Rostered Leaders Collegium shall have as its purpose: personal support, peer evaluation of ministry and continuing education for ministry.

S12.15.B87. The Collegium shall meet at least bi-monthly.

Chapter 13. CONGREGATIONS

†**S13.01.** Each congregation, except those certified as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the uniting churches, prior to being listed in the register of congregations of this synod, shall adopt the *Model Constitution for Congregations* or one acceptable to this synod, which is not in contradiction to the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

a. **New congregations.** A congregation newly formed by this church and any congregation seeking recognition and reception by this church shall:

- 1) Accept the criteria for recognition and reception as a congregation of this church, fulfill the functions of the congregation, and accept the governance provisions as provided in Chapter 9 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.
- 2) Adopt governing documents that include fully and without alterations the Preamble, Chapter 1, where applicable, and all required provisions of Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the *Model Constitution for Congregations* consistent with requirements of the constitutions, bylaws, and continuing resolutions of this church. Bylaws and continuing resolutions, appropriate for inclusion in these chapters and not in conflict with these required provisions in the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, the constitution of this synod, or the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*,

may be adopted as described in Chapters 16 and 18 of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.

3) Accept the commitments expected of all congregations of the ELCA as stated in *C6.01., *C6.02., and *C6.03. of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.

- b. **Congregations from another church body.** If a congregation is a member of another church body, the leaders of the congregation first should consult with the appropriate authorities of that church body before taking action to leave its current church body. After such consultation, leaders of the congregation should make contact with the ELCA synod bishop or staff where the congregation is located.
- c. **Recognition and reception.** Recognition and reception into this church of transferring or independent congregations by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is based on the judgment of the synod and action by the synod through the Synod Council and Synod Assembly. The synod bishop shall provide for prompt reporting of such additions to the secretary of this church for addition to the register of congregations.

†S13.02. It shall be the responsibility of each congregation of this synod annually to choose from among its voting members laypersons to serve as members of the Synod Assembly as well as persons to represent it at meetings of any conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivision of which it is a member. The number of persons to be elected by each congregation and other qualifications shall be as prescribed in guidelines established by this synod.

S13.11. When a rostered minister resigns, the Congregation Council shall receive the letter of resignation, report it to the congregation, and at once notify the bishop of this synod.

S13.12. A congregation under financial obligation to its former rostered minister shall make satisfactory settlement of the obligation before calling a successor.

†S13.19. A congregation considering a relocation shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action. The approval of the Synod Council shall be received before any such action is effected.

†S13.20. A congregation considering development of an additional site to be used regularly for worship shall confer with the bishop of the synod in which it is territorially located and the appropriate program unit of the churchwide organization before any steps are taken leading to such action.

- S13.21.** The alignment of congregations in pastoral charges, and all alterations in any alignment, shall be subject to approval by the Synod Assembly or by the Synod Council.
- †**S13.22.** Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America within the territory of this synod, except those which are in partnership with the Slovak Zion Synod, shall establish and maintain a relationship with this synod.
- †**S13.23.** Provision 9.71. of ELCA constitution shall govern the relationship of this synod and a congregation of this synod regarding the property of the congregation. This synod may transfer or convey property to a congregation of the synod, subject to restrictions accepted by the congregation, including provision that if the Synod Council, in its sole and exclusive discretion, determines (1) that the property is not being used to serve the mission and ministry needs of this church, or (2) that the congregation has transferred, encumbered, mortgaged, or in any way burdened or impaired any right, title, or interest in the property without the prior approval of the Synod Council, then title to the property shall revert to the synod, and the congregation, upon written demand, shall reconvey the property to the synod.
- S13.24.** If any congregation of this synod has disbanded, or if the members of a congregation agree that it is no longer possible for it to function as such, or if it is the opinion of the Synod Council that the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished in numbers as to make it impractical for such a congregation to fulfill the purposes for which it was organized or that it is necessary for this synod to protect the congregation's property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council, itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of this synod. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Assembly.
- S13.25.** This synod may temporarily assume administration of a congregation upon its request or with its concurrence.
- S13.30.** **Discipline**
- †**S13.31.** Congregations and members of congregations are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the ELCA constitution and bylaws.
- S13.40.** **Synodically Authorized Worshiping Communities**
- S13.41.** Authorized worshiping communities, acknowledged under criteria, policies, and procedures approved by 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 14.

S14.10. Ministers of Word and Sacrament

†S14.11.

The time and place of the ordination of those persons properly called to congregations or non-congregational service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.

†S14.12.

Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:

- 1) preach the Word;
- 2) administer the sacraments;
- 3) conduct public worship;
- 4) provide pastoral care; and
- 5) seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel;
- 6) impart knowledge of this church and its wider ministry through distribution of its communications and publications;
- 7) witness to the Kingdom of God in the community, in the nation and abroad; and
- 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world.

b. Each pastor with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:

- 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
- 2) relate to all schools and organizations of the congregation;
- 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council;
- 4) with the council, administer discipline; and
- 5) endeavor to increase the support given by the congregation to the work of the ELCA churchwide organization and of this synod.

S14.13.

The pastor shall:

- a. keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from the congregation;
- b. submit a summary of such statistics annually to this synod;
- c. become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the pastor shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

- 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.
- S14.15.** Each minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †S14.16.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a pastor or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament of this church:
- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective pastor.
 - b. For issuance of a letter of call to a pastor or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision 7.41., a two-thirds vote shall be required of voting members of the congregation present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
 - c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call of a prospective pastor, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- 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 of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- †S14.18.** The provisions for terminations of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and a congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which, except in the case of the death of the pastor, shall be terminated only following consultation with the synodical bishop and for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the pastor, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in that congregation in view of the local conditions, without reflection on the competence or the moral and spiritual character of the pastor;

- 4) the physical or mental incapacity of the pastor;
 - 5) disqualification of the pastor through discipline on grounds of doctrine, morality, or continued neglect of duty;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the pastor from the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament of this church; or
 - 7) suspension of the congregation as a result of discipline proceedings.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one lay person.
- c. In the case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of ministers of Word and Sacrament as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the pastor to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In the case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation, all concerned persons shall be heard, after which the bishop of this synod together with the committee described in †S14.13.b. shall decide on the course of action to be recommended to the pastor and the congregation. If they agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action shall be taken by this synod. If either party fails to assent, the congregation may dismiss the pastor at a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a simple majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the pastor's call, the congregation may dismiss the pastor only at a legally called meeting after consultation with the

bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

- f. If, following the appointment of the committee described in †S14.13.b. or d., it should become apparent that the pastoral office cannot be conducted effectively in the congregation(s) being served by the ordained minister due to local conditions, the bishop of this synod may temporarily suspend the pastor from service in the congregation(s) without prejudice and with pay provided through a joint synodical and churchwide fund and with housing provided by the congregation(s).

†S14.19. Ministers of Word and Sacrament shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the pastor, or if there is no duly called pastor, then by the interim pastor in consultation with the Congregation Council.

†S14.21. The parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members transferred or dismissed, members who have become inactive, or members excluded from the congregation shall be kept accurately and permanently. They shall remain the property of each congregation. At the time of the closure of a congregation, such records shall be sent to the regional archives. The secretary of the congregation shall attest to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her hands in good order by a departing pastor before:

- a. installation in another call, or
- b. approval of a request for change in roster status.

†S14.22. The pastor shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another field of labor, or
- b. the issuance of a certificate of dismissal or transfer.

†S14.23. During service to a congregation, an interim pastor shall have the rights and duties in the congregation of a regularly called pastor. The interim pastor may delegate the same in part to an interim supply pastor with the consent of the bishop of this synod. The interim pastor and any rostered minister who may assist shall refrain from exerting influence in the selection of a pastor. Upon completion of service, the interim pastor shall certify to the bishop of this synod that the parochial records, for the period for which the interim pastor was responsible, are in order.

- †S14.24. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.18., a congregation may call a pastor for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the pastor and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.18.
- S14.25. All ministers of Word and Sacrament under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the pastors of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, collegium or other area subdivision to which the congregation belongs.
- S14.30. **Ministers of Word and Service**
- †S14.31. The time and place of the consecration of those persons properly called to congregations or non-congregational service of this synod shall be authorized by the bishop of this synod.
- †S14.32. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every Minister of Word and Service shall:
- a. Be rooted in the Word of God, for proclamation and service;
 - b. Advocate a prophetic diakonia that commits itself to risk-taking and innovative service on the frontiers of the Church's outreach, giving particular attention to the suffering places in God's world;
 - c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad;
 - d. Equip the baptized for ministry in God's world that affirms the gifts of all people;
 - e. Encourage mutual relationships that invite participation and accompaniment of others in God's mission;
 - f. Practice stewardship that respects God's gift of time, talents, and resources;
 - g. Be grounded in a gathered community for ongoing diaconal formation;
 - h. Share knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry of the gospel, and advocate for the work of all expressions of this church; and
 - i. Identify and encourage qualified persons to prepare for ministry of the gospel.
- S14.33. The minister of Word and Service shall become a member of the congregation upon receipt and acceptance of the letter of call. In a parish of multiple congregations, the minister of Word and Service shall hold membership in one of the congregations.

- S14.34.** Each minister of Word and Service on the roster of this synod shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- †**S14.41.** When a congregation of this church desires to call a minister of Word and Service or a candidate for the ministry of Word and Service of this church:
- a. Each congregation of this synod shall consult the bishop of this synod before taking any steps leading to the extending of a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service.
 - b. For issuance of a letter of call to a minister of Word and Service or candidate by a congregation of this synod in accord with ELCA constitutional provision. 7.71., a two-thirds vote shall be required of members of the congregations present and voting at a meeting regularly called for the purpose of issuing such a call.
 - c. When the congregation has voted to issue a call to a prospective minister of Word and Service, the letter of call shall be submitted to the bishop of this synod for the bishop's signature.
- 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 of the Congregation Council of the congregation issuing the call, an additional 15 days may be granted to respond to a letter of call.
- †**S14.43.**
- a. The call of a congregation, when accepted by a minister of Word and Service, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment which shall be terminated only by death or, following consultation with the synodical bishop, for the following reasons:
 - 1) mutual agreement to terminate the call or the completion of a call for a specific term;
 - 2) resignation of the minister of Word and Service, which shall become effective, unless otherwise agreed, no later than 30 days after the date on which it was submitted;
 - 3) inability to conduct the office effectively in that congregation in view of local conditions;
 - 4) physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service;
 - 5) suspension of the minister of Word and Service through discipline for more than three months;
 - 6) resignation or removal of the minister of Word and Service from the roster of ministers of Word and Service of this church;
 - 7) termination of the relationship between this church and the congregation;

- 8) dissolution of the congregation or the termination of a parish arrangement; or
 - 9) suspension of the congregation through discipline for more than six months.
- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the ministry of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
- 1) the bishop in his or her sole discretion may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - 2) when such allegations have been brought to the synod's attention by an official recital of allegations by the Congregation Council or by a petition signed by at least one-third of the voting members of the congregation, the bishop personally shall investigate such conditions together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson.
- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the minister of Word and Service's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant and the minister of Word and Service shall be listed on the roster of ministers of Word and Service as disabled. Upon removal of the disability and restoration of the minister of Word and Service to health, the bishop shall take steps to enable the minister of Word and Service to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.
- d. In case of alleged local difficulties that imperil the effective functioning of the congregation under paragraph a.3) above, the bishop's committee shall endeavor to hear from all concerned persons, after which the bishop together with the committee shall present their recommendations first to the minister of Word and Service and then to the congregation. The recommendations of the bishop's committee address whether the minister of Word and Service's call should come to an end, and, if so, may suggest appropriate severance arrangements. The committee may also propose other actions that should be undertaken by the congregation and by the minister of Word and Service, if appropriate. If the minister of Word and Service and congregation agree to carry out such recommendations, no further action need be taken by the synod.
- e. If either party fails to assent to the recommendations of the bishop's committee concerning the minister of Word and Service's call, the congregation may dismiss the minister of Word and Service only at

a legally called meeting after consultation with the bishop, either (a) by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of members present and voting where the bishop and the committee did not recommend termination of the call, or (b) by a majority vote of the voting members present and voting where the bishop and the committee recommended termination of the call.

- f. If, in the course of proceedings described in paragraph c. or paragraph d. above, the bishop's committee concludes that there may be grounds for disciplinary action, the committee shall make recommendations concerning disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of this church's constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

†S14.44. Ministers of Word and Service shall respect the integrity of the ministry of congregations which they do not serve and shall not exercise ministerial functions therein unless invited to do so by the Congregation Council.

†S14.45. The minister of Word and Service shall make satisfactory settlement of all financial obligations to a former congregation before:

- a. installation in another call, or
- b. approval of a request for change in roster status.

†S14.46. With the approval of the synodical bishop expressed in writing, which sets forth a clear statement of the purpose to be served by such a departure from the normal rule of permanency of the call as expressed in †S14.43., a congregation may call a minister of Word and Service for a specific term. Details of such calls shall be in writing setting forth the purpose and conditions involved. Prior to the completion of a term, the bishop of this synod or a representative of the bishop shall meet with the minister of Word and Service and representatives of the congregation for a review of the call. Such call may also be terminated before its expiration in accordance with the provisions of †S14.43.

S14.47. All ministers of Word and Service under a call shall attend meetings of the Synod Assembly, and the ministers of Word and Service of congregations shall also attend the meetings of the conference, cluster, coalition, or other area subdivisions to which the congregation belongs.

Chapter 15.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

†S15.01. The fiscal year of this synod shall be February 1 through January 31.

†S15.11. Since the congregations, synods, and churchwide organization are interdependent units that share responsibly in God's mission, all share in the

responsibility to develop, implement, and strengthen the financial support program of the whole church. The gifts and offerings of the members of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are given to support all parts of this church and thus partnership in this church should be evidenced in determining each part's share of the gifts and offerings. Therefore:

- a. The mission of this church beyond the congregation is to be supported by such a proportionate share of each congregation's annual budget as each congregation determines. This synod shall develop guidelines for determining "proportionate share," and shall consult with congregational leaders to assist each congregation in making its determination.
- b. This synod shall receive the proportionate share of the mission support from its congregations, and shall transmit that percentage or amount of each congregation's mission support as determined in consultation with the churchwide organization and approved by the Synod Assembly as part of its budget consideration.
- c. Should the Synod Assembly not approve the proportionate share of mission support determined in consultation with the churchwide organization, a new consultation with the churchwide organization shall take place. The Synod Council is authorized to amend the budget adopted by the Synod Assembly to reflect the results of this consultation.

†**S15.12.** The annual budget of this synod shall reflect the entire range of its own activities and its commitment to partnership funding with other synods and the churchwide organization.

S15.13. On the basis of estimated income, the Synod Council shall authorize expenditures within the budget for the fiscal year. Expenditure authorizations shall be subject to revision, in light of changing conditions, by the Synod Council.

S15.21. No appeal to congregations of this or any other synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the raising of funds shall be conducted by congregations or organizations related to or affiliated with this synod without the consent of the Synod Assembly or the Synod Council.

†**S15.31.** This synod shall arrange to have an annual audit of its financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm recommended by the synod Audit Committee and approved by the Synod Council. The audited annual financial report shall be submitted by this synod to the churchwide Office of the Treasurer and to the congregations of this synod. The financial reports shall be in the format approved from time to time by the churchwide Office of the Treasurer.

- †S15.32. This synod shall maintain adequate, continuous insurance coverage in accordance with standards recommended by the churchwide organization. Insurance programs offered or endorsed by the churchwide organization shall be deemed to fulfill this obligation.
- S15.40.** **Mission and Ministry Fund**
- S15.41.** This synod shall have an endowment fund named the Mission and Ministry Fund (hereafter referred to as the Fund). It shall not be a separately incorporated entity, but shall be a separate fund of this synod.
- S15.41.01** The Fund's purpose shall be to receive undesignated gifts and bequests to be used for the mission outreach of the Southwest California Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and their successor bodies.
- S15.41.02** The Fund shall be held in two accounts: Discretionary and Endowment. Disbursements of income from the Discretionary account are at the discretion of the Bishop, while disbursements of principal from the Discretionary account, and disbursements of income and principal from the Endowment account, are at the discretion of the Endowment Committee.
- S15.41.03** Undesignated gifts and bequests shall be allocated one-third (1/3) to the Discretionary account and two-thirds (2/3) to the Endowment account. Designated gifts shall be allocated to the account designated.
- S15.41.04** Both the principal and income from gifts and bequests are to be used for the purposes, projects, and programs consistent with the general purpose for which this Fund has been established.
- S15.41.05** Gifts and bequests that have special terms or conditions, or contain limitations or directions, may be accepted, provided such gifts and bequests are compatible with the vision for mission of the. The acceptance of such gifts must be agreed upon by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Endowment Committee members voting.
- S15.41.06** Gifts and bequests of tangible assets that are not immediately useful in or for the ministry of the synod are to be sold, liquidated, converted to cash, or returned to the donor or the donor's estate.
- S15.41.07** When gifts and bequests of real property are offered, the Endowment Committee is restricted to accept them conditionally to avoid governmental violations until the following criteria are met:
- 1.** The donor must provide a certified appraisal that established the market value of the property within 90 days of the gift date.

2. If the appraisal does not include an environmental impact evaluation, one must be done separately, and provided by the donor.
3. In the rare instance where an environmental impact study by a qualified engineer is called for, it must be done at the expense of the donor.

S15.42.

The Fund shall continue in existence and shall be used as hereinafter provided, (unless earlier revoked) so long as the synod shall continue to exist. If the synod should cease to exist, then the assets of the Fund shall become the property of a successor synod. If there is no successor synod, then the assets of the Fund become the property of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successor body. Furthermore, should the synod dissolve it shall, at the time of dissolution, have the right to determine, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a successor synod that qualifies as an exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code.

S15.43.**The Endowment Committee****S15.43.01**

The Endowment Committee shall administer the Fund. It shall be composed as follows:

1. The Bishop or the Bishop's designee.
3. The Treasurer of the synod. Six (6) members elected by the Synod Assembly for terms of three years on a rotating basis. An elected member shall be eligible for one reelection.
4. The chair of the Endowment Committee shall be elected by the Endowment Committee from among its members.

S15.43.02

The Endowment Committee shall receive and consider recommendations from the Investment Committee for investment management of the Fund, from the Marketing Committee for promotion of the Fund, and from the Allocation Committee for disbursements from the Fund. The Treasurer of the synod shall be responsible for all financial records of the Fund and make disbursements from the Fund when directed by the Endowment Committee to do so. Written financial reports shall be submitted at least annually by the Treasurer to the Synod Council and the Endowment Committee.

S15.43.03

Whenever possible, the Endowment Committee will act upon the need or needs that arise concerning acceptance of gifts and bequests, investment of funds, and disbursement of funds, at regular noticed meetings. Should the need for action be deemed so necessary as to deviate from this practice, the Endowment Committee may call a special meeting.

S15.43.04

Whenever the Endowment Committee takes action concerning matters of the Fund, a quorum shall consist of members present in person and via teleconference provided all members were duly notified of the time and place

of the meeting. A majority vote shall carry any motion or resolution concerning the Fund, unless otherwise provided in these bylaws. Actions taken that do not comply with this provision will be deemed illegal and void.

- S15.43.05** The Endowment Committee may establish written rules and regulations as may be necessary for the conduct of the business of the Fund. It may adopt standards and goals for guidelines in dealing with expenditures of the income/or principal from the Fund. These guidelines may be amended, added to, or deleted at any time by the Endowment Committee provided it is consistent with the constitution and stated purpose of the Fund.
- S15.43.06** The Synod Council shall be responsible for maintaining the accounts and authorizing financial institutions to hold the assets of the Fund. All checks and other documents transferring or expending any funds or assets in the Fund shall be signed by persons authorized by the Synod Council to do so. Records of transactions are to be held not less than 15 years.
- S15.43.07** All persons with check-signing authority shall be covered by a corporate fidelity bond or the equivalent, at the expense of the synod, in an amount to be determined from time to time by the Synod Council.
- S15.43.08** The Endowment Committee may seek advice from others and may employ, at the expense of the Fund, such professional counseling on investments and legal matters as it deems necessary in the best interest of the Fund.
- S15.43.09** Members of the Synod Council, the Endowment Committee, its sub-committees and its advisors, shall refrain from any self-dealing transactions of the Fund, and/or conduct where personal interest, or that of a relative or friend, could be construed to be in conflict with the best interest or integrity of the Fund.
- S15.44.01** For tax accounting, distribution of Fund earnings, or other purposes, the fiscal year of the Fund shall be the same as that of the synod.
- S15.44.02** The synod shall arrange an annual audit of the Fund's financial records conducted by a certified public accountant firm selected by the Synod Council.
- S15.44.03** Gifts and bequests to the Fund may be received, acknowledged, and receipts issued at any time during the year, so long as they meet the criteria established as stated in S15.41.06.
- S15.44.04** All assests of the Fund shall be accounted for and documented in separate, distinct, and independent accounts from those assets that otherwise belong to the synod. The Synod Council or Endowment Committee shall not be required to place or maintain funds in separate accounts, but may instead set

up and maintain separate accounting records for each account within the Fund.

S15.45. The Investment Committee

S15.45.01 The Investment Committee, a sub-committee of the Endowment Committee, shall be responsible for advising the Endowment Committee concerning the investment management of the Fund.

S15.45.02 The Investment Committee shall be composed as follows:

1. The Committee shall have no more than 9 members.
2. The Committee members shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee based on experience, skill and expertise, and may include members of the Endowment Committee.
3. The Chair of the Investment Committee shall come from its members. The Chair shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee.
4. The Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Endowment Committee.

S15.45.03 The Investment Committee, shall have the following powers and authority:

1. All assets of the Fund shall be managed to yield reasonable income and protect principal through socially responsible investments. Investments that would be considered high risk or speculative by a prudent and experienced investor must be avoided. All or any part of the Fund may be invested with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Mission Investment Fund with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation.
2. Whenever the synod, its agencies and/or institutions, or a member congregation is in need of borrowed funds in order to purchase tangible assets or repair of tangible assets, the Investment Committee may recommend that Fund income or principle be loaned to the synod, its agencies and/or institutions, or member congregation at the current market rate of interest being charged by the banking enterprise with whom the congregation does business on a regular basis.
3. In the event that a donation of real property adjacent to or remote from the territory of the synod could be beneficial to the synod in providing ministry activities, such property may be retained provided the Synod Council approves any such.

S15.46. The Marketing Committee

S15.46.01 The Marketing Committee, a sub-committee of the Endowment Committee, shall be responsible for advising the Endowment Committee concerning the promotion of the Fund.

S15.46.02 The Marketing Committee shall be composed as follows:

1. The Committee shall have no more than 9 members, plus the local representative of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Foundation as an *ex-officio* member.
2. The Committee members shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee based on experience, skill and expertise, and may include members of the Endowment Committee.
3. The Chair of the Marketing Committee shall come from its members. The Chair shall be appointed by the Endowment Committee.
4. The Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Endowment Committee.
5. The Marketing Committee may have a relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation for annuities and charitable trust administration.

S15.46.03

The Marketing Committee, shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. The Committee shall create and disseminate written materials, and host participatory events, that promote the Fund to synod congregations and members.
2. The Committee shall arrange for synod members to meet with professional counselors in the areas of charitable giving, wills, trusts, bequests, insurance, and other options that may serve the goals of the Fund.
3. The Committee shall provide the means for the acknowledgment of gifts and bequests. The receipt of each shall be recorded in the synod's records and published in an appropriate manner for distributions to its members.

S15.47.**Income and Principle of the Fund****S15.47.01**

The Endowment Committee shall determine what is principle and income of the Fund according to accepted accounting procedures. Income may include realized and unrealized capital gains in the portfolio.

S15.47.02

Annually the Endowment Committee shall declare the amount constituting the prior year's income. It may alternately declare the prior year's income to be a maximum of 5 percent of the Fund's year-end value.

S15.47.03

Income from the Fund shall be distributed annually and at such other times as deemed necessary and/or feasible to strengthen the ministry of this synod.

S15.48.**The Allocation Committee****S15.48.01**

The Allocation Committee, a sub-committee of the Endowment Committee, shall be responsible for advising the Endowment Committee on allocations and expenditures, both grants and loans, from the Endowment portion of the Fund.

- S15.48.02** The Allocation Committee shall be composed as follows:
1. The Committee shall have no more than 9 members, appointed by the Endowment Committee, one of whom shall be the Bishop or the Bishop's designee.
 2. The Chair of the Allocation Committee shall come from its members. The Chair shall be appointed by the Endowment.
 3. The Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Endowment Committee.
- S15.48.03** The Allocation Committee shall review all requests for grants and loans from the Endowment portion of the Fund and make recommendations to the Endowment Committee.
- S15.48.04** Any grant or loan recommended by the Allocation Committee must be approved by a majority of voting Endowment Committee members if from Fund income, and by a two-thirds majority of voting Endowment Committee members if from Fund principal.
- S15.48.05** Undisbursed Discretionary account income at the end of the year shall be retained for disbursement by the Bishop the following year.
- S15.48.06** *Principal* of the Discretionary account may be invaded only if requested by the Bishop and approved by a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Endowment Committee.
- S15.48.07** If, in the judgment of the Allocation Committee, causes and programs for disbursement do not seem sufficient to utilize total funds available, not all funds are required to be disbursed. Undisbursed Endowment account income at the end of the year shall be retained in the Endowment account and available for future disbursement by the Endowment Committee.
- S15.50.** **First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund**
- S15.51.A06** The treasurer of the synod shall maintain the First Lutheran Los Angeles Fund from the proceeds of the sale of the congregation's property.
- S15.52.B06** Investment of the FLLAF would rest with the synod's Mission and Ministry Endowment Committee.
- S15.51.C06** All disbursements from the income generated by the FLLAF must be considered by the Executive Committee and be approved by the Synod Council. The principal of the FLLAF may be invaded only with the recommendation of the Executive Committee, and with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Synod Council present and voting.
- S15.51.D06** Disbursement from two-thirds of the income would be designated for the three following purposes:
1. The planting and support of new congregations within the territory of the synod as determined by the synod's Outreach Committee, Mission Director and Bishop. Support could include such things as:

contributions towards the mission developer's salary and/or benefits, purchase of equipment, and the rental or purchase of property for housing the new ministry; and the support of congregations in transition and/or transformation, and who in the estimation of the synod's Outreach Committee, Mission Director and Bishop would be viable communities of faith as a result of this support. Such support could include support for a new or full-time pastor, and resources that would support new ministry and outreach;

2. The support of candidates for rostered ministry from this synod preparing for ministry at one of the Lutheran Church in America's seminaries or colleges.
3. The support of existing or new agencies and institutions that are deemed important for the ongoing life and mission of Christ as lived out through the Southwest California Synod.

S15.51.E06

All applications for disbursement of income will be made to the Executive Committee. The Evangelical Outreach Mission Team would make applications for purposes one; Rostered Leaders Mission Team for purpose two; and the synod Bishop for purpose three.

S15.51.F06

Income from the remaining third of the FLLAF would be designated for the purpose "to meet mission needs in the synod" (S15.48.05). The Executive Committee will make recommendations regarding the disbursement of this income to the Synod Council for their consideration and approval.

Chapter 16.**INDEMNIFICATION****†S16. 01.**

Subject to the limitations and duties imposed by law, each person who is or was made or threatened to be made a party to any proceeding by reason of the present or former capacity of that person as a Synod Council member, officer, employee, or committee member of this synod shall be indemnified against all costs and expenses incurred by that person in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification of any person by reason of that person's capacity as a director, officer, employee, or committee member of any other organization, regardless of its form or relationship to this synod, is subject to the provisions of section †S16.02.

- a. The term "proceeding" means a threatened, pending, or completed lawsuit, whether civil or criminal, an administrative or investigative matter, arbitration, mediation, alternative dispute resolution, or any other similar legal or governmental action. Except as otherwise required by law, the term "proceeding" does not include (a) any action by this synod against the individual seeking indemnification, or (b) subject to †16.04., a disciplinary hearing or related process described in Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

- b. The term “indemnification” includes reimbursement and advances of costs and expenses for judgments, penalties, fines, settlements, excise taxes, reasonable attorneys’ fees, disbursements, and similar required expenditures.

†S16.02. Whenever a person who, while a Synod Council member, officer, committee member, or employee of this synod, is or was serving at the request of this synod as (or whose duties in that position involve or involved service in the capacity of) a director, officer, partner, trustee, employee, or agent of another organization, is or was made or threatened to be made a party to a proceeding by reason of such capacity, then such person shall be entitled to indemnification only if (a) the Synod Council has established a process for determining whether a person serving in the capacity described in this section shall be entitled to indemnification in any specific case, and (b) that process has been applied in making a specific determination that such person is entitled to indemnification.

†S16.03. This synod may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of itself or any person entitled to indemnification pursuant to this chapter against any liability asserted against and incurred by this synod or such other person in or arising from a capacity described in section †S16.01. or section †S16.02.

†S16.04. When written charges against a rostered minister of this church are made in disciplinary proceedings under Chapter 20 of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* by the synodical bishop or when written charges against a congregation are made in disciplinary proceedings by the Synod Council or the synodical bishop, and the discipline hearing committee determines that no discipline shall be imposed, then if such determination is not reversed or set aside on appeal, indemnification shall be made by the synod to the accused for reasonable attorney’s fees and other reasonable expenses related to the defense of the charges. The determination of the reasonableness of such fees and expenses shall be decided by the Synod Council.

Chapter 17. ADJUDICATION

†S17.01. The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall be available to give counsel when disputes arise within this synod.

†S17.02. The synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council shall receive expressions of concern from rostered ministers of this church, congregations, and organizations within this synod; provide a forum in which the parties concerned can seek to work out matters causing distress or conflict; and make appropriate recommendations for their resolution. When

the matter at issue cannot be resolved in this manner, the prescribed procedures for investigation, decision, appeal, and adjudication shall be followed. Allegations or charges that could lead to the discipline of a rostered minister of this church shall not be addressed by the Executive Committee but shall be resolved through the disciplinary process set forth in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

†S17.03. When there is disagreement among units of this synod on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, the aggrieved party or parties may appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council for a consultation. If this consultation fails to resolve the issue, a petition may be addressed by the parties to the Synod Council requesting it to arbitrate the issue. The decision of the Synod Council shall be final.

†S17.04. When a component or beneficiary of a synod has a disagreement on a substantive issue that it cannot resolve, it may address an appeal to the synodical bishop and the Executive Committee of the Synod Council. In this case the decision of the Executive Committee shall prevail, except that upon the motion of a member of the Synod Council, the decision shall be referred to the Synod Council for final action.

†S17.10. **Adjudication in a Congregation**

†S17.11. When there is disagreement among factions within a congregation on a substantive issue that cannot be resolved by the parties, members of a congregation shall have access to the synodical bishop for consultation after informing the chair of the Congregation Council of their intent. If the consultation fails to resolve the issue(s), the Consultation Committee of this synod shall consider the matter. If the Consultation Committee of this synod shall fail to resolve the issue(s), the matter shall be referred to the Synod Council, whose decision shall be final.

Chapter 18.

AMENDMENTS, BYLAWS, AND CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS

†S18.10. **Amendments to Constitution**

†S18.11. Certain sections of this constitution incorporate and record therein required provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this church. If such provisions are amended by the Churchwide Assembly, corresponding amendments shall be introduced at once into this constitution by the secretary of this synod upon receipt of formal certification thereof from the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

†S18.12. Whenever the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America officially informs this synod that the Churchwide Assembly has amended the

Constitution for Synods, this constitution may be amended to reflect any such amendment by a majority vote at any subsequent meeting of the Synod Assembly without presentation at a prior Synod Assembly. An amendment that is identical to a provision of the *Constitution for Synods* shall be deemed to have been ratified upon its adoption by this synod. The Church Council, through the secretary of this church, shall be given prompt notification of its adoption.

- †S18.13. Other amendments to this constitution may be adopted by this synod through either of the following procedures:
- a. An amendment may be adopted by a two-thirds vote at a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly after having been presented in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Synod Assembly over the signatures of at least 20 members and having been approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
 - b. The Synod Council may propose an amendment, with notice to be sent to the congregations of this synod at least six months prior to the next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly. Such an amendment shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of the voting members present and voting at such a regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.
- All such amendments shall become effective upon ratification by the Churchwide Assembly or by the Church Council.

†S18.20.

Amendments to Bylaws

†S18.21.

This synod may adopt bylaws not in conflict with this constitution nor with the constitution and bylaws of the churchwide organization. This synod may amend its bylaws at any meeting of the Synod Assembly by a two-thirds vote of voting members of the assembly present and voting. Newly adopted bylaws and amendments to existing bylaws shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

†S18.30.

Amendments to Continuing Resolutions

†S18.31.

This synod may adopt continuing resolutions not in conflict with this constitution or its bylaws or the constitution bylaws, and continuing resolutions of the churchwide organization. Such continuing resolutions may be adopted or amended by a majority vote of the Synod Assembly or by a two-thirds vote of the Synod Council. Newly adopted continuing resolutions and amendments to existing continuing resolutions shall be reported to the secretary of this church.

SYNOD POLICIES

OPERATIONS

#101 - EXECUTIVE STAFF

- A. Job Description:** The Bishop shall develop and the Synod Council shall approve job descriptions for all executive staff called by the Synod Council. Job descriptions shall be reviewed by the Council upon request of the Bishop.
- B. Calls/Appointments:** Calls or appointments shall be issued by the Synod Council upon the recommendation of the Bishop. A term shall be for not less than 2 nor more than 6 years.
- C. Evaluation:** The Synod Council shall provide for an annual evaluation of staff, such evaluation to be conducted between September and December 31 each year.
- D. Salary and Benefits:** Salary and benefits for the executive staff shall be established annually prior to January 1 by the Synod Council upon recommendation of the Bishop. In addition to the base salary, which includes housing, the following shall be considered as benefits:
1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Pension and Benefits Package will be paid in full for each staff person. The Pension contribution rate will be at 12% of defined compensation.
 2. Vacation is earned at the rate of one month per year and vacation must be taken. Vacation may not be accumulated and employees will not be paid for vacation earned but not taken.
 3. The first 60 days of disability shall be paid by the Synod. Beginning with the 61st day of disability the employee will receive a monthly benefit equal to two-thirds of the employers defined compensation as coordinated by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Board of Pensions.
 4. Continuing education funds shall be provided at the rate of \$500 and three weeks per year for each staff person. These benefits may accumulate for up to three years. The Bishop must approve Continuing Education Plans for all synod employees and rostered staff persons must have a current GEM covenant on file with the synod's Continuing Education Committee, before payment of the benefit may be received.
 5. A book allowance of up to \$200 per year is provided for each staff person. The book allowance may not be accumulated and is usually paid as a reimbursement of the staff person's out-of-pocket expense.
 6. The employer's share of Social Security benefits shall be provided for lay employees only.
 7. Costs for room and board, registration and travel at the annual Synod Assembly and the annual pastoral conference for staff persons and their spouses shall be paid by the synod.
 8. Funds shall be provided for the executive staff to attend the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide assemblies provided their attendance is not funded from another source. Attendance at the Churchwide assembly is not mandatory. The decision to attend shall be at the discretion of the Bishop and the individual staff person.
- E. Moving Expenses:** The synod shall be responsible for moving expenses incurred by the executive staff within the following guidelines:

It is expected that the incoming new staff person being moved will do the majority of the packing. Costs up to \$350 will be provided for containers, cartons, and labor for packing

and unpacking of breakable items by the moving company. Cost of insurance up to a valuation of \$2.00 per pound will be allowed.

Normally costs of transportation, meals, motel expenses will be allowed -mileage being paid at the rate allowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Costs exceeding the above limits are the responsibility of the staff person. Unusual situations need to be discussed in advance. Normally shipping of boats, campers, pets, frozen foods, firewood, potted plants, etc., and second cars will not be allowed.

#101.1 - SYNODICAL SEVERANCE BENEFITS FOR SYNOD BISHOPS AND EXECUTIVE STAFF

PURPOSE:

These severance benefits are to be understood as providing support during the transition time prior to another call or employment. Severance benefits are not extended beyond such time when the individual begins work under call or finds other employment. Responsibility for notification of a call or other employment rests with the severance benefits recipient.

ELIGIBLE PERSONS:

The persons eligible for these benefits are bishops and executive staff members of the 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who are either:

- Elected bishop of a synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or
- Selected as synod executive staff

and whose office or employment by the synod was involuntarily terminated due to action of the synod by non-election of the incumbent synodical bishop, budget restraints, change of position functions, or resignation upon request of a newly elected bishop.

Disability is not covered under these provisions, since disability is covered under the provisions of the Disability Benefits Plan of the Board of Pensions.

Persons planning retirement and, therefore, voluntarily declining election or appointment, are not eligible for these severance benefits.

Eligible persons will be hereinafter referred to as severance benefits recipients.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This severance benefits policy is effective as of December 1, 1989.

BENEFITS:

The severance benefits shall:

- Be effective for the severance benefits recipient who has served at least one full term as bishop or, normally, in the case of other executive synodical staff, who has served a term concurrent with the bishop's term of service.
- Begin upon vacating the synodical office or position and following the period covered by earned vacation which was unused at the time of the termination.
- Be paid on the recipients' regular pay periods.
- Be three months of benefits.

AMOUNT OF BENEFITS:

Benefits recipients will receive:

- Current monthly compensation (salary and housing).
- Participation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Board of Pension Plans - pensions at the designated rate, Survivor Benefits Plan, Major Medical/Dental Benefits Plan, and Disability Benefits Plan for the months of severance benefits.

Following the expiration of the severance benefits, benefits recipients may retain their participation in the Survivor Benefits, Major Medical/Dental Plan, and Disability Plan at their own expense according to the provisions of the applicable plans. Solely for the purpose of determining rights to continue benefits under those plans, the benefits recipient's termination of call/employment will be deemed to occur on the date severance benefits cease.

In case of a difference of opinion in interpretation of this Severance Benefits Policy, the synod council will make the final disposition.

#102 - SUPPORT STAFF

A. Employment: Job descriptions, annual evaluation, work schedules, office hours and holiday schedules shall be the responsibility of the Bishop or his designate.

B. Salary and Benefits: Salary for support staff persons shall be determined annually by the Bishop and the Administrative/Finance Assistant to the Bishop within the guidelines of the approved budget.

The following shall be considered as benefits.

1. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Pension and Benefits package will be paid in full for each staff person working 30 hours or more per week. The pension contribution rate will be at 12% of salary.
2. Vacation is earned at the following rate: Two weeks vacation per year, three weeks after three years, four weeks after five years. Vacations must be taken in the year earned. Vacation may not be accumulated. Employees will not be paid for vacation earned but not taken except that the present year's accrued vacation will be paid when employment is terminated.
3. Twelve days sick leave is earned per year. Sick leave may be accumulated up to three years (36 days).
4. Termination of employment shall be 15 days' notice by employer or employee.
5. Continuing education is \$500 per year and 3 weeks leave. These benefits may accumulate for up to three years. The Bishop or his assistant must approve continuing education plans for all synod employees and rostered staff persons must have a current GEM covenant on file with the Synod's Continuing Education Committee, before reimbursement may be granted.
6. Up to five days a year will be granted for personal time off. (Death in immediate family, ill child, etc.)

C. Leave Without Pay: Leave without pay may be granted to an employee for personal reasons after due consideration has been given to the work requirements of the office. Service credit and other benefits do not accrue during absence of one month or longer,

nor can there be any promise or guarantee that the same position will be available upon return from such leave.

- D. Maternity Leave:** Normal period for maternity leave shall be considered six weeks. Any additional time granted beyond this period shall be treated the same as leave without pay. Maternity leave will begin when the personal doctor or pediatrician will no longer provide a written statement that the employee can work without endangering other employees or herself during the pregnancy.

Child **rearing**, as distinct from child **bearing**, may be granted to either the father or mother for up to six months. The provision for "Leave Without Pay" will prevail.

#103 - STAFF EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Mileage Reimbursement:** The cents per mile reimbursement rate shall be established annually by the Synod Council and shall correspond to the IRS-approved cents per mile for that year. The Southwest California Synod may provide cars (either leased or purchased) for Executive Staff members provided it does not increase the cost of staff travel to the synod. Providing leased or purchased automobiles means that the synod is responsible for the cost of the auto, insurance, maintenance, and gas and oil. The staff person will reimburse the synod for personal miles driven on a monthly basis.
- B. Executive Staff Expenses:** All necessary and normal expenses incurred by the Executive Staff in carrying out the functions of their position shall be reimbursed in full by the synod, (i.e. meals, lodging, taxis, air travel, etc.)
- C. Meal Reimbursements:** Guidelines for reimbursable meal expenses is as follows:
 Breakfast, up to \$8.00
 Lunch, up to \$10.00
 Dinner, up to \$18.00
- D. Receipts:** Staff members must submit receipts for all expense reimbursement. Receipts submitted charging expenses beyond these allowances should carry an explanation.
- E.** The Assistant to the Bishop for Mission Support determines which Staff members receive synod credit cards and to set appropriate limits.

#104 - SYNOD COUNCIL, MISSION TEAM, TASK FORCES, AND COMMITTEES

- A. Membership:** Membership on the Mission Teams of the synod shall include one member from each of the nine Conferences, *elected* by the Conference at the Spring Conference Assembly; a representative from the Synod Council *appointed* by the Council; and a Synod Staff person *appointed* by the Bishop. Persons are *elected* to a two-year term and are eligible for one re-election. *Initial elections* shall be made in such a way that one-half of the members will serve for one-year and one-half of the members shall serve a two-year term. The one-year term shall be considered a full term.
- B.** The chairperson of each Ministry Board shall be elected at the first Board meeting each year from among the *elected* members of the Board. The chairperson shall serve for one year and is eligible for two re-elections.
- C.** Whenever possible the communications technology to convene meetings to member convenience.
- D. Expense Reimbursement:** Travel reimbursement to meeting of Boards, Task Forces, Committees and Synod Council meetings shall be paid according to the following guidelines:

1. No reimbursement shall be paid for the first 50 miles (100 miles round trip) to the meeting site. Travel by auto beyond 100 miles shall be reimbursed according to the IRS Charitable mileage rate.
2. Reimbursement for meals not to exceed:

Breakfast	\$ 8.00
Lunch	\$10.00
Dinner	\$18.00
3. Receipts in support of expense vouchers will be required for the following:
Hotel/Motel accommodations

#105 - APPEALS TO CONGREGATIONS

The Synod Council gives consent to each of the institutions and agencies related or affiliated with the synod to appeal to congregations of this synod once each year for the purpose of raising non-capital funds designated for that particular agency or institution.

The following guidelines for conducting special appeals shall be the policy of this synod:

1. All special congregational appeals for support of the synod's agencies and institutions outside of the Southwest California Synod budget be channeled through the local congregation, who in turn remits monies received to the synod, as a designated gift, for forwarding to the institution or agency.
2. No direct mail offering envelopes shall be provided by the agency or institution for use by congregations in special appeals.
3. Promotional materials for the special congregational appeals provided by the agencies and institutions of synod encourage and promote the channeling of special financial gifts through the congregation and synod.
4. Each congregation is urged to make available to its membership the opportunity to contribute to the designated causes authorized by the synod and the Churchwide expressions of the Church.

#106 SYNOD EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Available on request from the Synod Office.

107 - SABBATICAL GUIDELINES FOR ROSTERED LEADERS

Board for Rostered Ministries February 19, 2005

A. BACKGROUND

1. The Scripture points to the renewing power of "Sabbath time." We usually think of Sabbath as the seventh day of creation when God finished creating and rested. More than an after thought of creation, the Sabbath is a gift from God of rest, renewal and hope. In today's busy life, God comes again and again offering rest and refreshment for the soul.
2. The first books of Scripture speak of "Sabbath" days and years. Even the land was given a Sabbath when it was left to lie fallow and replenish itself.
3. Sabbaticals allow for possible new directions. Jesus' forty days in the wilderness marked a turning point in his ministry. Moses' time spent tending sheep helped

change his perspective on life. David tended sheep, too, and learned valuable lessons about God's care and provision. Paul struck down on the road to Damascus, disappeared into the desert of Arabia for three years and emerged with a new vision.

B. DEFINITION OF A SABBATICAL

1. A sabbatical is understood to be a time of release from normal duties in order that a rostered person may devote time to study and renewal. This is beneficial to the maturing staff person, as it also brings benefits to the congregation and the church as a whole.
2. Any place the word "congregation" is used, the terms "employer" or "agency" or synod could also apply.
3. A sabbatical is not to be confused with continuing education which entail study opportunities of shorter duration and with much greater frequency. A sabbatical is at least a three-month period devoted to the rostered person's intellectual, spiritual and vocational growth and renewal.

C. PURPOSE OF A SABBATICAL

1. A sabbatical should provide stimulation for rostered persons to continue their mental and spiritual growth by contact with scholars, teachers, pastors, and others, so as to be competent in their ministries.
2. A sabbatical will provide strong leadership for the churches through rostered people who are kept abreast of new developments and stimulated to effective ministries.
3. A sabbatical nurtures and feeds the body and soul for renewed ministry. Hope builds on the dreams that God awakens in his people as they walk in pilgrimage with him, and it renews them to lead again the people committed to their charge.
4. Since the congregation and the church are ultimately enriched by the rostered person's sabbatical, it is desirable that there be shared planning with the rostered person's Staff Support Committee or Congregational Council. In the situation of a rostered person on synod staff, the shared planning should be between the person and the synod Bishop.

D. ELIGIBILITY AND LENGTH OF LEAVE

1. Rostered persons shall be eligible for a sabbatical and renewal time of at least three months every seven years in their present call. For rostered persons involved in the First Call Theological Education Program, this seven year period begins upon completion of that program.
2. Recipients of sabbatical opportunities will return to their ministry setting for at least a year after the leave, unless noted otherwise in the shared planning with their Staff Support Committee or Mutual Ministry Committee and Congregation Council. In the case of the synod staff this should be done in consultation with the synod Bishop.
3. Vacation time and Continuing Education time are not included as sabbatical but are granted as in any other year. Variations from the three-month sabbatical are to be approved by the congregation agency, or synod Bishop in case of synod staff.

E. GUIDELINES

1. A sabbatical should be intentional but allow enough freedom to change direction or let go of an old dream if a new vision emerges while planning. Sabbatical planning should take place at least one year prior to a sabbatical.
2. The best sabbaticals usually are more open-ended than rigid allowing for the surprises and the new directions that may come in the planning.
3. An experience of renewal is the hope of most everyone who takes a sabbatical. But creating such an experience requires more than luck, it takes imagination and planning and willingness to be surprised by God.

4. The plan and program should be one's own. Do not borrow or try to repeat or duplicate another's plan or program.
5. In terms of current job responsibilities, planning should always be in consultation with congregation council and Bishop while the rostered person is on sabbatical.

F. PROCEDURE

1. Rostered persons of the synod shall submit in writing a plan for study and renewal to their Staff Support Committee and Congregation Council or employer or in case of the synod staff, with synod Bishop, at least six months before the program is to begin. The plan may include formal study at a seminary or university, a quarter of Clinical Pastor Education, independent study and travel, or a combination of the above. The proposal is to be in consultation by both the rostered person's Staff Support Committee, Mutual Ministry Committee, Congregation Council or employer and receive their endorsement.
2. The rostered person will submit a brief written report and evaluation of the sabbatical to the Staff Support Committee, Mutual Ministry Committee or Congregational Council or employer or synod Bishop, in case of synod staff, within a month after completing the program.
3. It is recommended that the Letters of Call shall include a statement that congregations grant financial support and support in principle to the sabbatical program.
4. Information shall be sent annually to the chairperson of each congregation and each pastor of the synod encouraging the use of the sabbatical program. This information shall be placed on the agenda of each Congregation Council for discussion. The Board for Rostered Ministries will encourage each rostered person, congregation and the synod to study and consider the implication of a sabbatical fund.
5. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America looks to its rostered persons in ministry to be educated and dedicated servant-leaders. To become such a church is an ongoing challenge. A sabbatical program is one means by which rostered persons and the Staff Support Committees and Congregation Councils can work together to strengthen both ministry and the church's mission.
The Board and the synod will attempt to provide non-financial resources in implementing a sabbatical program.

H. COVERAGE AND COSTS DURING SABBATICALS

1. During the sabbatical the rostered person shall receive from the congregation or employer the equivalent of their current base salary and congregation/employer salary; 100% of housing allowance; 100% of pension and medical-dental benefits; all other compensation and benefits remain unaffected.
2. The congregation or employer is responsible to provide for interim ministry during the sabbatical. Increased use of lay members or collegial coverage is recommended. This may be done by an employed pastoral leader or lay congregational leadership.
3. The rostered person on sabbatical will be responsible for the costs of tuition, books, supplies, travel and living expenses while on sabbatical, unless congregation or employer chooses to contribute to these.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

#200 - ASSEMBLY DISPLAYS AND EXHIBITS

Authorization for setting up displays and exhibits, and for placing posters, announcements, etc., at assemblies of the Southwest California Synod shall be limited to those agencies or groups who are

organically within the structure of the synod or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or are direct beneficiaries of the synodical or churchwide budget. Exception to this policy regarding displays and exhibits will be allowed only by Synod Council action. The selling of goods or services is allowed by vendors approved by the Synod Council.

#201 - DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

All materials for distribution to voting members at the Synod Assembly should be in the synod office not later than 30 working days prior to the opening of the assembly. The synod secretary is responsible for distribution of all materials.

After the assembly is in session, permission to distribute materials must be secured from the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

#202 - PROCEDURE FOR RESOLUTIONS TO THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY

(Amended by the Synod Council - 2007)

The Synod Assembly Committee on Reference and Counsel shall be appointed by the Bishop prior to October 1 of each year. The appointment shall be for one year. It is recognized that members appointed to the Committee on Reference and Counsel might not be voting members to the next year's Synod Assembly.

Resolutions may come from any institution, agency, synod ministry board, coalition, congregation, or individual and must bear the signatures of at least ten people who are members of the Southwest California Synod. The resolutions shall be given in writing to the Committee on Reference and Counsel by 60 days prior to the start of the Synod Assembly each year.

All other resolutions not received by the Committee on Reference and Counsel by 60 days prior to the start of the Synod Assembly shall be placed on the assembly agenda as new business only and would require a two-thirds vote of voting members requesting the resolution be put before the assembly before it may be considered.

Resolutions not considered by the Synod Assembly will be referred to the Synod Council for consideration.

#300 - CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY VOTING MEMBERS

Voting members to the Churchwide Assembly shall be elected "at-large" by the Synod Assembly. The synod Bishop and the synod Vice-President are automatic voting members to the Churchwide Assembly.

The Synod Nominating Committee shall solicit and receive the names of the suggested nominees and prepare a nominating ballot for the Synod Assembly. The Nominating Committee, at its discretion, may nominate persons other than those submitted by congregations. In preparing the slate of nominees the Nominating Committee will be cognizant of the geographical distribution of the nominees and the inclusivity guidelines of the Church.

Additional nominations for voting members to the churchwide assembly may be made from the floor of the Synod Assembly.

#301 - CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Members of the Executive Staff of the Synod may not serve as voting members to the Churchwide Assembly.

#400 - SYNOD INVESTMENT POLICY

A. The synod holds investments for the purposes of keeping synod resources safe while deriving some income from them until the time is ripe for them to be used for their intended purpose and (2) as permanent or semi-permanent endowments for some of our ministries. In either case, good Christian stewardship demands that all funds be invested prudently; while a high return on investment is desirable, it is more important that risk be kept at a moderate level. At no time should investments be made in anything riskier than second mortgage loan funds.

- B. Occasionally funds are received from donors with restrictions placed on them. Such restrictions should always be honored even if they require economically unsound use of resources. When donors' wishes are expressed as preferences rather than as restrictions, they should be followed so long as they are reasonable. We believe, however, that Christian stewardship can best be practiced when there is freedom to use the best judgment in the circumstances. Donor restrictions should be discouraged whenever possible. Whenever funds come to the synod with restrictions that are contrary to good conscience, the synod shall refuse to accept them.
- C. We must remember that the synod exists to glorify God and to carry on God's work. John the Baptist's words, "*He must increase, but I must decrease*" (John 3:30) apply to church bodies, such as our synod, as much as to individuals. Our investment goal therefore is to increase the resources devoted to God's work, rather than to increase the resources devoted to synod's work. We think therefore that it is proper that funds should be invested in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Mission Investment Fund and/or in similar ways, even if a somewhat higher or safer return might be obtained from commercial or governmental sources such as Federally insured accounts/funds.
- D. As Christians we are called upon to live boldly in a world full of dangers, but we pray God to deliver us from temptation because we should take moral risks only in the pursuit of some clear vision of God's kingdom. Certain businesses and certain business practices, are either inherently immoral, gravely questionable, or fraught with serious moral risk. The synod shall not engage in such businesses or business practices. Investments will be made in conformity with the social, ethical and moral statements of the synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- E. It shall be the policy of this synod to convert all gifts of stocks and bonds to cash upon receipt or as soon as possible if restricted by donor.
- F. The Synod Council grants to the treasurer of the synod full discretion, subject to its review, in the application of this policy. Whenever the treasurer is unsure in the application of this policy, he or she should bring the matter before the council.

#401 - FINANCIAL POLICIES AND BUDGET BUILDING PROCESS

#401-a FINANCIAL POLICIES

- A. There shall be a Finance and Budget Committee composed of the chairpersons of each Mission Team, the synod Treasurer (who shall serve as chairperson of the committee), and 2 members of the Synod Council, appointed to serve a one-year term.
- B. The Bishop and the Assistant for Mission Support shall serve as staff resource to the Finance and Budget Committee.
- C. All Conference Assemblies and other Conference sponsored events shall be self-supporting.
- D. Budget allocations for sub-committees will be assigned to the Mission Teams that they relate to. Mission Teams will authorize all sub-committee expenditures.
- E. Mission Teams shall review budget requests from institutions and agencies, which they relate to, and shall submit funding recommendations for each to the Finance and Budget Committee.
- F. The Synod Council budget line item shall include funds for all standing committees, special task forces, and special committees of which the executive committee has oversight.
- G. Any proposal for new ministry, including staffing and programmatic needs, which is submitted to the Finance and Budget Committee for recommendation to the Synod Council shall include a fully developed plan for expenditures and a plan indicating the source of funding.

- H. When an Assembly adopted synod Budget requires revision, the Assistant to the Bishop for Mission Support refers to the Treasurer who shall make recommendations to the Synod Council who will authorize a revised “Spending Plan”.
- I. Immediately following the adoption of a revised “Spending Plan” the chairpersons of each Mission Team will notify the sub-committees and institutions/agencies that are affected by the budget revisions informing them of any amendments to their line item.

#401-b BUDGET BUILDING PROCESS

- A. Mission Teams review all sub-committee requests and submit a total Mission Teams budget request (including funding for sub-committees) to the Finance and Budget Committee no later than February 1 each year. Budget requests from institutions and agencies submitted to the Finance and Budget Committee by February 1 each year.
- B. The Finance and Budget Committee shall make a recommendation regarding the percentage of undesignated Mission Support receipts, which are shared with Churchwide.
- C. The Executive Committee shall recommend to the Finance and Budget committee annual salary adjustments for Synod Staff.
- D. The Assistant to the Bishop for Administration and Finance shall recommend annually to the Finance and Budget Committee the dollar amount for the line items in the Administration section of the synod budget.
- E. By March 1 each year, the Finance and Budget Committee prepares a First Draft of the following year’s budget for Synod Council review.
- F. The Synod Council reviews and approves the final draft and recommends its adoption to the Synod Assembly.

#500 - SEXUAL HARASSMENT

POLICY: It is the policy of this synod to maintain a work place free of any form of sexual harassment or sexual intimidation. Sexual harassment is an illegal form of discrimination, a violation of professional ethics, unacceptable behavior for Christian persons, and is subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

DEFINITION: Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to: unwelcome and unsolicited sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, discriminatory tormenting or persistent and offensive jokes or comments based on gender or sexual orientation, or other undeserved verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment is distinguished from voluntary sexual relationships by the introduction of the elements of coercion, threat, or unwanted attention. In particular, sexual harassment occurs when a person:

- (a) subjects another person to unwanted sexual attention;
- (b) attempts to coerce another person into a sexual relationship;
- (c) punishes, or threatens to punish another person for refusal to comply with demands of a sexual nature;
- (d) indicates that sexual favors are terms or conditions for participation in the work environment;
- (e) indicates that sexual favors may, in any way, enter into performance evaluation;
- (f) engages in conduct of a sexual nature which has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

#600 - EDITORIAL POLICY FOR PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD

(These policies of the Synod Communications Commission may also serve as guidelines for the publications of other entities within the synod.)

1. All official publications of the Southwest California Synod which fall under the jurisdiction of the Synod Commission for Communication will be identified: “An official publication of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”
2. Each issue will furthermore contain the name of the persons responsible, whether editor or producer, as well as the words “Published [or produced] under the auspices of the Synod Commission for Communication. Permission to quote or reproduce portions of this publication is granted provided the source is identified.”
3. Publications of other organizations within the synod should be clearly identified as to who has produced them.
4. An address through which the editor or producer can be reached shall also be given in each issue.
5. All reasonable efforts shall be made to distinguish news stories from opinion pieces or editorials.
6. All editorials and letters to the editor shall regularly be signed. In cases where anonymity is requested, the name and address of the writer must be known to the editor or the article will not be printed.
7. News items shall usually concern the doings of members, congregations, organizations or staff of the synod, as they carry out the purposes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Occasionally, items may be of interest to the synod where members receive honors or outside organizations work with, benefit or are benefited by synod persons, agencies or congregations. The reporting of news will not constitute synod endorsement of the activities reported.
8. Editorials and letters to the editor will express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily reflect the positions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the synod or the Commission for Communication. A statement reflecting this policy will be made along with such items.
9. Every effort consistent with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America guidelines will be made to reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the synod in its publications, including the use of languages other than English, inclusive photos and illustrations, and non-sexist terminology.

#601 - GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING ADVERTISEMENTS IN SYNOD PUBLICATIONS

Advertisements appearing in publications authorized by the Communication Commission shall be limited by the following:

- a. No ads will be carried for items deemed injurious to health, such as alcohol, tobacco or firearms;
- b. No publication will consist of more than 30% ads;
- c. All ad revenue will offset the cost of the publication;
- d. No “help or job wanted” ads will appear in the Synod Supplement to *The Lutheran*;
- e. No ads soliciting gifts to non-Lutheran organizations will be accepted;
- f. Advertisements in conflict with Lutheran organizations or agencies recognized by the synod shall not be accepted; and
- g. All ads will be in “good taste,” and refrain from exploitation of any segment of our society.

#700 - ACCESSIBILITY OF MEETING FACILITIES

It is the policy of this synod that all meetings of the synod, its Council, Mission Teams, Coalitions, Task Forces, Conferences, Boards and Committees, including meetings scheduled by

the synod in behalf of churchwide or deployed staff, shall be in rooms, buildings, facilities, etc., that are easily accessible to the differently-abled. If diligent search determines that no such accessible location is available, the lack of such accessibility shall be prominently noted in each announcement of the meeting and location.

Exceptions to this policy shall be allowed when all those who are expected to attend a meeting, including visitors and observers, are known by name in advance, and are known to be able-bodied.

#800 - MISSION PARTNER GUIDELINES

All requests for Mission Partner Funding must be reviewed by the Bishop, Mission Director, Mission Partner Coordinator and the Conference Ministry Coordinator for the particular conference where the Mission Partner Receiver (congregation) is located before being approved by the Mission Partner Committee.

The following process must be adhered to:

1. A Mission Partner Receiver makes the need for assistance known in writing to the Mission Director and the Mission Partner Coordinator. The written request must have congregational approval.
2. A meeting between the Mission Partner Receiver, the Mission Director, the Mission Partner Coordinator, Deployed Staff, and the Conference Ministry Coordinator will be held for the purpose of developing a mutually acceptable planned strategy for how best to proceed with the request. The meeting will clarify the scope and limitations of the planned strategy.
3. The Mission Partner Committee will review the request, including the planned strategy, before granting approval to the Mission Partner Receiver.
4. The Bishop, Deployed Staff, Conference Leadership Team and Board for Outreach will be notified of the request approval and planned strategy.

#900 - GUIDELINES ON COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES

The Synod Council and the Office of the Bishop have oversight responsibility for the ministries on the territory of the Southern California West Synod. For this reason, when new ministries are planned, and when existing congregations consider relocation or mergers/shared ministries involving changes in the present locations, early consultation among all partners locally, conference, synodical, and churchwide is essential. The Synod Council needs to give final approval to any such changes and the Bishop needs to approve any changes in the call/contract arrangements regarding the clergy who serve in these situations. The synodical Board for Outreach has the responsibility to conduct the studies and initiate the proposals for new ministry starts on the territory of this synod in cooperation with the Churchwide Division for Outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the synod council. When existing ministries are considering relocation as part of merger/cooperative plans, these same partners need to be consulted and approval given before such actions are finalized.

Factors to be considered when ministries enter into discussions about cooperation or merger:

- 1) How will the cooperative efforts and/or merger enhance the ministry of and outreach of the congregations involved? What factors within the congregations and in the communities they serve suggest that this is the best strategy for the future as well as the present? Both the positive and negative effects of such proposed efforts should be examined and described in any plan for cooperation and/or merger.
- 2) What professional staff is necessary to best implement these plans? How will the present called staff of congregations be affected by such a plan? What provisions are made in the planning to deal with staff, present and future?

- 3) What considerations have been given to the present and future community dynamics around the affected churches? What groups of peoples are being considered in these plans and which might be ignored and why? How can a plan be developed which affirms the stages necessary to accomplish the short term and long range goals?

The questions above will serve as a partial guide to those persons who begin such discussions. It is imperative that written reports of such discussions be submitted to the synod office for consideration by the synod council prior to the request for final approval of such mergers/cooperative ministries.

#901 - ASSESSMENT OF VIABILITY OF CONGREGATIONS

S13.24 “If any congregation of this synod has disbanded, or if the members of the congregation agree that it is no longer possible for it to function as such, or if in the opinion of the Synod Council the membership of a congregation has become so scattered or so diminished that it is necessary for the synod to protect its property from waste and deterioration, the Synod Council itself or through trustees appointed by it, may take charge and control of the property of the congregation to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the synod. The congregation shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Synod Assembly.”

It shall be the policy of this synod that when a congregation, in the opinion of the synod, has so diminished in size and resources that it appears that it can no longer meet the requirements outlined in the “Criteria for Viable Congregations”, the Synod Council shall request the Conference Leadership Team of the Conference in which the congregation is located, to meet with the congregational leadership to review the “Criteria for Viable Congregations” document and request that the congregation respond in writing to the Synod Council and Conference Leadership Team, explaining in detail how the congregation is fulfilling Items A through G of the document.

Representatives from the Synod Council, the Conference Leadership Team and the Congregation shall then meet together to ascertain if the congregation’s ministry fulfills the “Criteria for Viable Congregations” or if, in their judgement, the synod should “take charge and control of the property of the congregation...” as authorized in S13.24.

#1000 - STATEMENT REGARDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT BY ROSTERED MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

December 12, 1998

I. INTRODUCTION

The Southwest California Synod (“synod”) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is committed to preventing sexual misconduct within the Church and to responding with justice and compassion when such misconduct occurs. This Statement of Policy describes how the synod intends to fulfill these commitments. The synod recognizes that responding to allegations of sexual misconduct requires determination, sensitivity, flexibility, and respect for all persons affected, including the victim, the rostered person, their families and friends, the congregation, the synod, and the whole church. This policy is intended to provide a framework for guidance in dealing with these cases while preserving the synod’s discretion to treat each person and each case in the manner necessitated by differing facts, circumstances, and needs of those affected. This policy cannot be imposed as rigid law, binding the synod and others to its dictates; it must be interpreted and applied compassionately in accordance with the theological and biblical principles of the Gospel.

A. Definitions

1. **“Sexual Misconduct.”** Federal and state law make distinctions among various types of sexual misconduct, such as “sexual harassment,” “sexual abuse” and “sexual assault.” Similarly, the governing documents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America define what types of sexual misconduct can result in a rostered person being disciplined. This policy is intended to address those types of sexual misconduct that may lead to discipline of a rostered person under Chapter 20 of *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

These distinctions should not concern a person who is troubled about the sexual conduct of a rostered person. The synod is concerned about all types of sexual misconduct by these persons, regardless of whether or how the misconduct is characterized by the law or by the governing documents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Any sexual misconduct committed by one of these persons should be reported to the synod, including, but not limited to, any sexual contact between the rostered person and a congregant, counselee, employee, or volunteer.

It should be noted that the synod may not be able to assume primary responsibility for addressing all allegations of sexual misconduct. For example, if a rostered person who is working in a congregation is accused of sexually harassing another of the congregation’s employees, civil law may require that the congregation, as employer, take timely and appropriate action; the law may prevent the synod from interfering in the situation.

2. **“Complainant.”** As used in this Statement of Policy, “complainant” means a person who reports sexual misconduct to the synod. This Statement of Policy will assume that the complainant is also the victim of the alleged sexual misconduct, but that may not always be the case.

3. **“Rostered person.”** As used in this Statement of Policy, “rostered person,” includes ordained persons and rostered laypersons such as associates in ministry, deaconess, and diaconal persons. This Statement of Policy will assume that the rostered person who is accused of sexual misconduct is under call to a congregation, but it may also be adapted to calls in other circumstances.

B. The Role of Congregations

The synod and its member congregations have different responsibilities and thus different roles to play in preventing and responding to reports of rostered person sexual misconduct. Each Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregation calls its own rostered person, determines its rostered person’s duties and responsibilities, supervises its rostered person’s day-to-day ministry, and decides whether to terminate its rostered person’s call. The synod has neither the authority nor the ability to make those decisions for a congregation. Obviously, then, the synod cannot be a safe place unless every one of its member congregations shares its commitment to preventing rostered person sexual misconduct.

This Statement of Policy is the synod’s, and therefore it says little about the important role played by congregations in preventing and responding to reports of rostered person sexual misconduct. This should not obscure the fact that congregations also have a vital role to play. The synod strongly urges its member congregations to develop their own sexual misconduct policies. The publication, *Safe Connections: What Parishioners Can Do To Understand and Prevent Rostered Person Sexual Abuse* is available from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Division for Ministry. This is a useful resource for congregations in addressing this issue.

C. Role of the synod

The synod’s role is essentially twofold. First, the bishop is responsible for providing pastoral care and leadership to the synod’s congregations and rostered persons. Reports of rostered person sexual misconduct invariably create an acute need for such care and leadership. Second, rostered persons who commit sexual misconduct may be disciplined, leading to possible removal from the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The bishop is primarily responsible for

overseeing the preliminary or consultation stage of the disciplinary process and for initiating the formal stage of the disciplinary process.

Every report of rostered person sexual misconduct involves unique people and unique circumstances. This Statement of Policy merely describes the general approach that the synod will follow in responding to reports of rostered person sexual misconduct. It will not be appropriate or even possible for the synod to follow this approach in every case. The synod reserves the right to depart from this Statement of Policy at any time and for any reason.

When the synod provides pastoral care and leadership in the wake of rostered person sexual misconduct, it is performing acts of ministry. The freedom of the synod to decide for itself how God has called it to person to those harmed by sexual misconduct is a precious one that is constitutionally protected from governmental interference. The same is true of the synod's freedom to decide who will be on its roster, and of the freedom of each congregation to decide who will preach and teach from its pulpit. Nothing in this Statement of Policy is intended to diminish these freedoms in any respect or to create any legal rights or responsibilities.

In every sexual misconduct case, the bishop and his or her staff will attempt to provide pastoral care to the victim of the misconduct, the victim's family, the rostered person who allegedly committed the misconduct, the rostered person's family, members of the rostered person's present and/or former congregation(s), the rostered person's colleagues, and others. However, the bishop and the bishop's staff do not themselves function as a pastor, counselor, advocate, attorney, or other caregiver to any of these individuals. The ultimate responsibility of the bishop and his or her staff is to the synod, and not to any individual within the synod. If a conflict arises between what is in the synod's interests and what is in the interests of someone else, the bishop and the bishop's staff are obligated to act on the synod's behalf.

II. SYNOD POLICY

An Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Strategy for Responding to Sexual Abuse in the Church (Nov. 1992) recommended that nine elements be included in any synodical policy regarding rostered person sexual misconduct. This synod has decided to incorporate those nine elements as follows:

A. Adequate Preparation

The synod is committed to preventing rostered person sexual misconduct in the following ways:

First, the synod will not tolerate rostered person sexual misconduct. The synod will make that clear in educational opportunities that it provides, in the manner in which it responds to reports of sexual misconduct, in discussions that it has with seminarians and others who seek to join its roster, and in its public and private statements regarding this issue.

Second, the synod intends to provide ongoing educational opportunities regarding sexual misconduct for pastors, rostered lay persons, congregations, and others. Those efforts will focus on such subjects as the dynamics of sexual misconduct and the impact of such misconduct on its victims. The synod strongly urges its rostered personnel and congregations to take advantage of these educational opportunities, as well as appropriate educational programs offered by others.

Finally, the bishop and the bishop's staff will continue to take advantage of educational opportunities that are available to them. The synod recognizes that society generally and churches particularly have much to learn about sexual misconduct. As the synod's understanding of this problem changes, its Statement of Policy and educational efforts may change as well.

These preventative efforts are intended to complement similar efforts that have been or will be made by the synod's member congregations, by the churchwide organization, by Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seminaries, and by other entities affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

B. Initial Contact – First Response

Even the best preventative measures cannot completely eliminate rostered person sexual misconduct. The synod must always be prepared to respond to reports of misconduct. The more open it is to receiving such reports, the more often rostered person sexual misconduct will be reported.

Anyone who knows or suspects that a rostered person may have been involved in sexual misconduct should report that knowledge or suspicion to the bishop or an assistant to the bishop. If a complainant is uncomfortable about contacting the bishop or an assistant to the bishop, then the complainant should be made to a synod council member. Contact information for the bishop, assistant to the bishop or synod council member can be obtained by calling the synod office. Those people – include men and women, rostered persons and lay persons– have agreed to be available to receive reports of sexual misconduct from complainants who are uncomfortable contacting the bishop directly. However, it must be stressed that these people are acting on behalf of the synod, and any information that they are given will be shared with the bishop (unless it is the bishop who is being accused of sexual misconduct, in which case the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will be contacted.)

A contact may be made with the bishop or other authorized person by mail, by telephone, or in person. The complainant need not identify herself or himself when she or he first contacts the synod. The complainant may anonymously ask questions about how the synod would respond to a particular complaint of misconduct. However, the synod can do little about a report of sexual misconduct until the complainant identifies herself or himself and the rostered person involved in the misconduct.

The bishop or other person contacted by the complainant will (1) assure the complainant that the synod does not tolerate sexual misconduct and takes seriously all reports of such misconduct; (2) explain the synod's process for responding to reports of sexual misconduct and offer to provide a copy of this Statement of Policy; (3) answer the complainant's questions about the policies and procedures of the synod; (4) express care and concern for the complainant; (5) when the complainant is anonymous, encourage the complainant to identify herself or himself and the rostered person involved in the misconduct.

In all meetings with synod personnel, the complainant may be accompanied by a friend, family member, support person, or advocate of her or his choice. The bishop or other person contacted by the complainant may also offer to provide the complainant with a list of advocates who are available to provide support and to help interpret the synod's policies and procedures. This list may include advocates who are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and advocates who are not. The complainant will be invited to contact an advocate and to be accompanied by the advocate through the reporting, investigative, and, if necessary, disciplinary processes. If the complainant requests, the synod will contact an advocate for her or him. The complainant is welcome to use an advocate who does not appear on the list – such as a friend or family member – or to decline to use an advocate.

After a report of rostered person sexual misconduct has been received from an identified complainant, the bishop and/or bishop's designee will interview the complainant in person or, if that is not possible, by telephone. This interview may occur through a combination of meetings, calls, and correspondence. The bishop or bishop's designee will ask the complainant to provide as much information about the sexual misconduct as the complainant is comfortable sharing. The complainant will be asked to reduce the information to writing or to sign a written statement prepared by the synod. The bishop or bishop's designee will also ask the complainant what she or he is seeking in coming forward and whether the complainant is prepared to participate in the disciplinary process if necessary. The complainant should be given a copy of this Statement of Policy if she or he has not already received it.

The bishop or bishop's designee will discuss with the complainant how she or he feels about the

possibility that her or his identity may become known to the accused or others. Insofar as possible, the synod will respect the wishes of the complainant regarding confidentiality. However, at some point, the Synod may be required by civil law or by the governing documents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to disclose the identity of the complainant. Also, in unusual circumstances, the fact that the bishop or bishop's designee is responsible to the synod may require that he or she act contrary to the wishes of the complainant. Finally, the identity of the complainant may become known despite the best efforts of the synod to protect it. The synod cannot guarantee confidentiality to a complainant.

If the bishop or bishop's designee learns that a child or vulnerable adult may have been neglected or physically or sexually abused, the bishop or bishop's designee may be legally required to report that information to law enforcement authorities. If possible, the complainant will be notified before such a report is made.

The bishop or bishop's designee will discuss with the complainant her or his needs for pastoral care and/or professional counseling. If the complainant requests, the bishop or bishop's designee will help to put the complainant in touch with persons who can provide such care or counseling. Under no circumstances will any employee of the synod function as the complainant's advocate, pastor, or counselor.

The bishop or bishop's designee will appoint a contact person within the synod. That contact person (who may be the bishop or bishop's designee) will keep in regular contact with the complainant and will inform the complainant of significant developments. That contact person will also be available to respond to the complainant's questions and concerns about the process.

C. Initial Investigation of the Complaint

After interviewing the complainant, the bishop and/or bishop's designee will carefully review the information provided by the complainant. If the report appears credible and involves sexual misconduct for which the rostered person might be disciplined, the bishop or bishop's designee may conduct a preliminary investigation to determine whether information either supporting or contradicting the report exists. This preliminary investigation may include (1) further discussions with the complainant; (2) a review of the records of the synod, another Evangelical Lutheran Church in America synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or an entity affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; or (3) interviews of former bishops of the rostered person, those who served as assistants to former bishops of the rostered person, rostered persons who succeeded the rostered person at congregations that he or she served, rostered persons who served on the same staff with the rostered person at congregations that he or she served, rostered persons who presently serve on the same staff with the rostered person, respected members of congregations that the rostered person served, respected members of the congregation that the rostered person now serves; or (4) persons identified by the complainant, or friends, family members, rostered persons, or counselors of the complainant.

This preliminary investigation will be conducted as quickly and as discreetly as is possible under the circumstances. All of those contacted will be asked to keep the contact in strictest confidence. If the synod or a discipline hearing committee later determines that the rostered person did not commit sexual misconduct, that conclusion will be communicated to those who were contacted by the synod in the course of its preliminary investigation.

D. Conversation with the Rostered Person

The bishop will usually meet with the rostered person after the preliminary investigation is concluded. The bishop should be accompanied by the bishop's designee or another person. In some cases – such as when the rostered person is aware of the complainant's report or when the rostered person may pose an immediate danger to members of his or her congregation – the bishop or bishop's designee may meet with the rostered person immediately after or perhaps even before meeting with the complainant. If the bishop must meet alone with the rostered person, the bishop will clarify that the meeting is not confidential, and that the bishop may disclose anything that he

or she is told.

At their meeting, the bishop will provide the rostered person with information regarding the complaint and ask the rostered person to respond. The bishop may ask the rostered person to reduce his or her response to writing. The bishop will also (1) assure the rostered person that, while the synod does not tolerate sexual misconduct, the synod will give any rostered person who denies an allegation of sexual misconduct a full and fair opportunity to contest it; (2) explain the synod's process for responding to reports of sexual misconduct and provide copy of this Statement of Policy; (3) answer the rostered person's questions about the policies and procedures of the synod; (4) express care and concern for the rostered person, the rostered person's family, and the affected congregation; (5) strongly discourage the rostered person from having any contact with the complainant, either directly or indirectly; and (6) invite the rostered person to contact an advocate and to be accompanied by that advocate through the investigative, and if necessary, disciplinary processes. If the rostered person requests, the synod will assist the rostered person in finding an advocate. The rostered person may decline to use an advocate.

Depending upon the circumstances, the bishop may ask the rostered person to voluntarily agree to certain restrictions upon his or her ministry – such as agreeing not to have contact with children – until the investigation and/or disciplinary proceedings are concluded. If the rostered person refuses, the bishop may ask the congregation to impose the restrictions upon the rostered person. The bishop may also ask the rostered person to take a leave of absence – either with or without pay – until the investigation and/or disciplinary proceedings are concluded. If the rostered person refuses, the bishop may ask the congregation to place the rostered person on involuntary leave of absence, or, in extreme circumstances, the bishop may temporarily suspend the rostered person without prejudice. Finally, the bishop may ask the rostered person to resign his or her call or from the roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The bishop cannot force the rostered person to resign. Only a discipline hearing committee can remove the rostered person from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America roster.

The bishop or bishop's designee will discuss with the rostered person his or her needs for pastoral care and professional counseling, as well as the care of the rostered person's family. If the rostered person requests, the bishop or bishop's designee will help to put the rostered person in touch with persons who can provide such care or counseling. Under no circumstances will any employee of the synod function as advocate, pastor, or counselor to the rostered person or the rostered person's family.

The bishop or bishop's designee will appoint a contact person within the synod. That contact person (who may be the bishop or bishop's designee) will keep in regular contact with the rostered person and will inform the rostered person of significant developments. That contact person will also be available to respond to the rostered person's questions and concerns about the process.

E. Assess the Information

After meeting with the rostered person, the bishop will carefully review the information provided by the complainant, discovered during the preliminary investigation, and provided by the rostered person. The bishop will then decide upon a course of action. Among options available to the bishop are the following: no further action; further investigation; requesting the rostered person to undergo a psychodiagnostic evaluation; requesting the rostered person's congregation to take some action; convening a consultation or advisory panel; or initiating the formal disciplinary process.

F. Consultation or Advisory Panel

Reports of sexual misconduct always present a bishop with difficult decisions. To assist him or her in making these decisions, a bishop may, at his or her sole discretion, appoint a consultation or advisory panel. The function of a consultation or advisory panel is described at length in Sections 20.21.04 to 20.21.06 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Section D of *Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings Against an*

Ordained Minister, a Rostered Layperson, or a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Nov. 20, 1995). Both of these documents are available from the synod.

Essentially, a consultation or advisory panel is a small group of rostered persons and laypersons who are asked to recommend a course of action to the bishop. Before making that recommendation, the panel may interview the complainant, the rostered person, the bishop, the bishop's designee, and/or others. If possible, the panel will seek to resolve the controversy through recommendations that are pastoral and therapeutic and that will eliminate the need for disciplinary proceedings if they are accepted by all concerned. If such a resolution does not appear possible, the panel will advise the bishop whether it believes that the disciplinary process should be initiated.

Whether to employ the advisory or consultation process is always discretionary with the bishop. Use of such panels may be beneficial in a variety of circumstances. For example, a bishop may be confronted with "one person's word against another's" – that is, a situation in which both the complainant's report and the rostered person's denial of the report appear credible, and no one but the complainant and the rostered person can know for certain who is being truthful. The consensus of a panel may be the best indicator of who to believe.

G. Formal Hearing

Disciplinary proceedings are the process by which the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America determines if a rostered person is guilty of the charges and, if so, what the penalty should be. The process is governed by Chapter 20 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and by the Rules Governing Disciplinary Proceedings. A rostered person may be disciplined for committing "conduct incompatible with the character of the ministerial office," which is defined in *Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline of Ordained Ministers* (Dec. 5, 1993) to include "adultery, promiscuity, the sexual abuse of another, or the misuse of counseling relationships for sexual favors." *Definitions and Guidelines* is available on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's website.

To briefly summarize the disciplinary process, generally, the bishop will initiate the proceedings against a rostered person by filing written charges setting forth the offense that the rostered person is accused of committing – e.g., "the sexual abuse of another" – and the alleged facts supporting the charge – e.g., the name of the person that the rostered person is alleged to have abused and the date, place, time, and other circumstances of the alleged abuse. A committee of twelve persons is appointed to hold a hearing on the charges. The hearing resembles a court trial. The bishop presents testimony and other evidence in support of the charges, and then the rostered person presents testimony and other evidence in opposition to the charges. A bishop generally will not initiate formal disciplinary proceedings unless the complainant agrees to testify against the rostered person. The governing documents for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America provide for certain rights for the accuser, the accused, and the complaining witnesses.

The hearing described in the preceding paragraph is the usual process for hearing the written charges. There is an alternative process described in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Bylaws 20.23.01. through 20.23.09., that is invoked when the written charges specify that the accuser will not seek removal or suspension for a period exceeding three months. In such cases, the proceedings are conducted before a hearing committee of six members with less formality and without all the procedural requirements of the full hearing process.

Under either process, the discipline hearing committee decides whether the charges are true, and, if so, what discipline should be imposed. The options available (except under the alternative process described in the preceding paragraph) are private censure and admonition, suspension from the rostered person roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for a designated period of time or until the rostered person complies with specified conditions, or removal from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America roster. The discipline hearing committee's decision is generally made about four months after charges are filed.

H. Disclosure

Except in unusual circumstances, the synod will disclose all serious allegations of rostered person sexual misconduct. Although disclosure can increase the short term pain caused by rostered person sexual misconduct, experience has demonstrated that disclosure speeds the healing of the primary and secondary victims of the misconduct, empowers unknown victims to come forward and seek help, protects others from being victimized by the same rostered person, and demonstrates the commitment of the Church to deal openly and honestly with the problem. Decisions regarding who will make what disclosure to whom and when will vary from case to

case. In general, though, the synod will abide by the following guidelines:

1. Disclosure of rostered person's sexual misconduct will be made to the leadership of the rostered person's congregation, the members of the rostered person's present congregation, the members of the rostered person's family, and other rostered persons within the synod. All rostered persons, who are considering a call or employment within a congregation where sexual misconduct has taken place, will be informed by synod staff of such circumstances, prior to making a decision to accept a call or offer of employment. In some situations, wider disclosure to previous congregations or even to the news media may be made as well.
2. Disclosure will be made when (1) the rostered person admits to committing sexual misconduct; (2) the rostered person resigns his or her call or from the rostered person roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America after being accused of sexual misconduct; (3) the rostered person is placed on leave of absence or temporarily suspended in response to an allegation of sexual misconduct; (4) the rostered person is suspended or removed from the roster as a result of formal disciplinary proceedings; or (5) secular legal proceedings (civil or criminal) are initiated against the rostered person.
3. The synod intends to work closely with the congregational leaders regarding appropriate disclosure to the members of the congregation. Disclosure to the members will usually be made by one or more of these leaders or by the bishop.
4. To protect the privacy of those harmed by the misconduct, only the following will be disclosed: (1) the fact that the rostered person has been accused of, admitted to, resigned, or been found guilty of committing sexual misconduct; (2) the gender of the complainant; (3) whether the complainant was an adult or a minor at the time of the misconduct; and (4) whether the complainant was a member of the rostered person's congregation or a person to whom the rostered person was providing pastoral care. Disclosure should never include the name of the complainant or facts from which she or he could readily be identified. If the rostered person has denied the allegations, that fact will also be disclosed.
5. Persons who believe that they have been harmed (directly or indirectly) by the rostered person will be invited to contact the leaders of the congregation, the synod, or others who have agreed to be available to those persons.

I. Follow-up

The synod will work with congregations and others to help ensure that care and support are available to those harmed by rostered person sexual misconduct. As noted above, the synod cannot provide this care itself, but it will assist the primary and secondary victims of sexual misconduct to find resource persons and materials that might help them on their journey to healing.

#2000 - INSTITUTE FOR MINISTRY IN CHANGING COMMUNITIES

Introduction

After a year of careful planning, the Southern California West Synod is ready to establish an Institute for Ministry in Changing Communities and launch an extensive new educational

program designed both to equip lay persons for their work of ministry and to offer pastors supplemental resources to enrich their ministries. The Institute has been designed to support congregations and leaders alike as they courageously serve our Lord Jesus Christ in communities undergoing changes and growing in diversity.

The Institute is identified as one of seven mission goals in the document presented for action by the 1999 Synod Assembly entitled, "Mission Goals at the Dawn of the New Century." It is to serve as the educational wing of the synod, providing various kinds of resources, workshops, and seminars. In addition to offering basic seminars in biblical studies, Lutheran heritage, and practical skills of ministry, it will offer workshops that address changing economic, cultural and ethnic realities within our communities. Classes will be funded from various sources, including registration fees.

In order to meet these needs the Institute will initially be developed to offer three tracks of educational services: one to support the ministry of the laity, a second to support Synodically Authorized Lay Ministries, and a third to serve both lay and ordained rostered leaders.

1. Ministry of the Laity

Individual Christians, witnessing in word and in deed, are the light of the world. The Institute will address the need of the people of God for biblical education and theological reflection, which support ministry in everyday circumstances and situations within diverse and changing communities.

The heart of the Institute's educational program is a sequence of six introductory Core courses to be offered annually: "The Promised People" (the Old Testament), "The Promised Blessing" (the New Testament), "This is Our Story" (Church History), "This is Our Song" (Lutheran Heritage), "By Grace Through Faith" (Christian Theology), and "Faith Active in Love" (Christian Living). These courses will be offered at weekend workshops and will be open to all laity of the Southern California West Synod.

In addition to attending this Core program, congregational leaders of particular ministries will have opportunities to attend special learning modules such as the "Gift of Teaching" seminar for Sunday School teachers. These specialized modules will be developed and offered by the Institute as the need for them is perceived.

2. Synodically Authorized Lay Ministers

The Institute will also administer an educational program to support the synod's new Synodically Authorized Lay Ministry (SALM) program—which is introduced below in the second half of this report. The synod expects continuous participation of these lay leaders in a program of study developed by the Institute and designed for the specific needs and contexts of the authorized ministries.

In addition to the Core Learning Modules, the SALM program will include traditional areas of theological study such as Bible, confessional theology, worship, and spirituality, and will also offer opportunities for participants to examine the context of their ministries and to grow in the many practical skills of ministry. The curriculum will include studies such as Christian perspectives on popular culture, biblical perspectives on economics and the poor, interpreting the city in the light of the gospel, intercultural communications, reaching out to inactive Christians, and citywide evangelism and transformation.

Educational objectives focus on both the satisfaction of churchwide guidelines for SALM ministries and the unique multicultural character of this synod. Innovative approaches are sought that will both preserve what is valued from tradition and infuse what is needed to serve the emerging communities of our present and future church.

3. Pastors and Rostered Lay Ministers

Demographic, ethnic, economic, structural, political and cultural transformations daily challenge ordained and other rostered ministers serving in the Southern California West Synod. To remain effective, they need to meet these challenges with resource-fulness, flexibility and,

often, with new knowledge. In its third track, the Institute addresses this need by providing several different types of educational resources.

The Institute will build and maintain a network of information about other educational resources in the territory of synod for pastors and parishes in urban and change situations. These will include courses and conferences offered by local seminaries and colleges, workshops sponsored by sister denominations, and materials found in recent publications.

The Institute for Ministry in Changing Communities will also develop and offer programs, seminars and workshops in areas such as mission research and development, parish management, interpersonal skills, worship and music and pastoral theological leadership. In addition, its educational program for rostered leaders will supplement the many opportunities for continuing education available through other educational organizations and institutes by offering a showcase of short courses on local issues, by serving as a venue for continuing education offerings by extension of Lutheran seminaries and colleges, and by maintaining a Webpage and a publication which offer opportunities for theological dialogue and reflection among rostered ministers in the Southern California West Synod.

Administration

The Adult Education Committee under the Board for Synodical Ministries will assist with oversight of the educational track for the ministry of the laity. A newly created Standing Committee for Synodically Authorized Lay Ministry will assist with oversight of the track for Synodically Authorized Lay Ministries. The Continuing Education Advocates of the Board for Rostered Ministries will provide oversight for the educational program for rostered leaders.

The Institute will be developed and guided by a four-member Coordinating Team (one from each of the three groups named to oversee the three educational tracks of the Institute and the director of the synod's Resource Center) and the Institute Director who reports directly to the Bishop. They will determine curriculum content and sequencing in consultation with synodical leaders, synodical organizations and nearby universities and seminaries. In all matters of curriculum development and pedagogy the Institute will adapt to and respond to and remain receptive to new ideas and approaches to learning.

#2001 - SYNODICALLY AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTRIES

The new program of Synodically Authorized Lay Ministries (SALM) in the Southern California West Synod is intended to increase faithful and effective outreach ministry to all people who reside in the territory of the synod through specially trained lay volunteers. Congregations and other ministries within the synod can look to Synodically Authorized Lay Ministers when certain needs for leadership cannot be met by ordained clergy or other rostered persons.

The synod may desire to strengthen mission outreach in geographically isolated or economically challenged areas. Congregations may wish to recruit leaders for ethnic outreach. There may be a desire to increase ministry where there is no full-time pastor. Congregations may have specialized needs for leaders in areas such as evangelism, youth-at-risk, senior care and social ministry. In some cases, a combination of such situations may occur in the same congregation or ministry. These circumstances suggest that lay members of our congregations with gifts for ministry need to be identified, trained and trusted to assume new kinds of leadership in congregations and other ministries of our synod.

Therefore the synod will identify, equip, authorize, assign and oversee Synodically Authorized Lay Ministers to provide leadership for congregations and other ministries as may be deemed necessary. Such authorized leadership may include lay ministers of Word and Sacrament, lay ministers of the Word, worship leaders, catechists, evangelists, synodical missionaries, and deacons.

The authority to establish and maintain Synodically Authorized Lay Ministries is grounded in bylaws 7.61.01 and 7.61.02 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

When need exists to render Word and Sacrament ministry for a congregation or ministry of this church where it is not possible to provide appropriate ordained pastoral leadership, the synodical bishop—acting with the consent of the congregation or ministry, in consultation with the Synod Council, and in accord with standards and qualifications developed by the Division for Ministry, reviewed by the Conference of Bishops, and approved by the Church Council—may authorize a person rostered in other rostered ministry, or a non-rostered person who is a member of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to offer this ministry.

Such an individual shall be supervised by a pastor appointed by the synodical bishop; such service shall be rendered during its duration under the sacramental authority of the bishop as the synod's pastor. Such an individual will be trained and licensed to fulfill this ministry for a specified period of time and in a given location only. Authorization, remuneration, direct supervision, and accountability are to be determined by the appropriate synodical leadership according to churchwide standards and qualification for this type of ministry. Authorization for such service shall be reviewed annually and renewed only when a demonstrated need remains for its continuation.

Footnote to Synod Policy #2001:

Synodical authorization to initiate and maintain the use of Synodically Authorized Lay Ministers in the Southern California West Synod has been established by the adoption of Policy #2001, *Synodically Authorized Lay Ministries*, by the Synod Council, which reads as follows:

The synod shall initiate, maintain and oversee the use of Synodically Authorized Lay Ministers as described in Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide by-laws 7.60.01 and 7.60.02, following the “Guidelines Related to Synodically Authorized or Licensed Ministries” developed by the Division for Ministry and adopted by the Church Council, April 3, 1996.

The governance of the Southern California West Synod’s Synodically Authorized Lay Ministry program will follow the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America “Guidelines Related to Synodically Authorized or Licensed Ministries.”

A Standing Committee for Synodically Authorized Lay Ministry will be formed by adoption of S11.21 and S11.21.51. in the synod’s constitution and by-laws.

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CD170 Report

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Form A - Summary of Congregational Statistics as of 12/31/2015

Run Date 07/23/16
 Page 1 of 2

2B Southwest California Synod, ELCA

Summary of Membership Statistics		2014	2015	Change	Percent	Statistical Analysis
Totals -- End of Year						Averages per Congregation Reporting
Congregations		122	121	-1	-0.82	
Congregations - Organized		116	114	-2	-1.72	
Congregations - Under Development		6	7	1	16.67	
Congregations - Filled Form A		80	80	0	0.00	
Baptized Members		30,129	28,747	-1,382	-4.59	Baptized Members (/114) 252.17
Confirmed Members		23,162	22,367	-795	-3.43	Confirmed Members (/114) 196.20

Analysis of Membership Gains and Losses

Baptized Members -- Received	2014	2015	Change	Percent	Congregation Description (Averages)
By Baptism - Children Under Age 16	333	323	-10	-3.00	Worship Nurtures People's Faith 4.42
By Baptism - Adults Age 16 and Older	173	126	-47	-27.17	Clear Sense of Mission 3.81
By Affirmation of Faith	480	527	47	9.79	Excitement About the Future 3.81
By Transfer	218	174	-44	-20.18	Positive Force in the Community 4.92
From Other Sources and Stat Adjs	65	102	37	56.92	Ready to Try Something New 3.66
Baptized Members -- Total Received	1,269	1,252	-17	-1.34	Works for Social Justice/Advocacy 3.65

Baptized Members -- Removed

Baptized Members -- Removed	2014	2015	Change	Percent	Congregation Strengths (Averages)
By Death	279	297	18	6.45	Helps Deepen Relationship with God 4.20
By Transfer	218	277	59	27.06	
From Other Sources and Stat Adjs	907	1,793	886	97.68	Building Member Relationships 3.92
Baptized Members -- Total Removed	1,404	2,367	963	67.11	Incorporating Newcomers 3.61
Baptized Members Confirmed	206	674	468	227.18	Seeking/Using Member Gifts 3.63
Active Participants	22,309	20,830	-1,479	-6.63	Equipping Members to Share Faith 3.18
					Addressing Social Concerns 4.14
					Managing Disagreements 3.75
					Interacting with Local Community 3.73
					Live Out Faith in Their Daily Lives 3.80

Analysis of Membership Gains and Losses

Total Weekly Worship Attendance	10,884	10,258	-626	-5.75	
Avg Sunday Attendance per Cong	89	86	-3	-3.37	
PCT Bapt Mbrs Attending Worship	36.12	35.68	-0.44	-1.22	

Congregation Description Averages Range: Hardly at All(1) - Very Well(5); Congregation Strengths Averages Range: Poor(1) - Great(5)

2B Southwest California Synod, ELCA

Summary of Financial Statistics

Totals -- End of Year	2014		2015		Change	Percent	Statistical Analysis		
	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements			Averages per Congregation Reporting	Total Receipts	Total Disbursements
Total Receipts	47,615,206	40,542,516	45,923,573	6,684,008	-1,691,633	-3.55	Total Receipts (/117)	392,509.17	
Total Disbursements	40,542,516	18,389,165	47,226,524	16,030,371	6,684,008	16.49	Total Disburse (/117)	403,645.50	
Total Indebtedness on Dec 31	18,389,165	997.90	16,030,371	770.81	-2,358,794	-12.83	Total Indebtedness (/44)	364,326.61	
Average Total Giving / Bapt Member	997.90	1298.07	770.81	990.68	-227.09	-22.76	Percent--Congrs With No Debt	63.25	
Average Total Giving / Conf Member	1298.07		990.68		-307.39	-23.68			

Detail of Financial Statistics - Receipts

Regular Giving by Members	21,790,905	19,320,314	-2,470,591	-11.34
Designated Giving by Members	8,274,970	2,838,263	-5,436,707	-65.70
Earned Income (any source)	8,584,969	16,356,364	7,771,395	90.52
Grants (any source)	373,568	350,939	-22,629	-6.06
All Other Receipts	8,590,794	7,057,693	-1,533,101	-17.85

Detail of Financial Statistics - Disbursements

Current Operating Expenses	2014		2015		Change	Percent	Percent of Total Disbursements		
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent			Current Operating Expenses	Capital Improvements	Payments on Debts
Current Operating Expenses	34,530,456	41,209,808	6,679,352	19.34				87.42	
Capital Improvements	1,418,574	1,517,267	98,693	6.96				3.22	
Payments on Debts	1,116,188	1,411,449	295,261	26.45				2.99	
Mission Support	1,056,148	1,087,162	31,014	2.94				2.31	
Other Synod Benevolence	447,016	379,383	-67,633	-15.13				0.80	
Other CMO Benevolence	64,630	52,425	-12,205	-18.88				0.11	
Benevolence - Another Country	101,278	111,681	10,403	10.27				0.24	
Benevolence - Camps	40,196	32,008	-8,188	-20.37				0.07	
Benevolence - Colleges	53,892	60,970	7,078	13.13				0.13	
Benevolence - Seminars	22,983	5,731	-17,252	-75.06				0.01	
Benevolence - Social Service	167,133	155,823	-11,310	-6.77				0.33	
Benevolence - Campus Ministry		6,301						0.01	
Benevolence - Direct Recipient	337,040	370,085	33,045	9.80				0.79	
Subtotal Non-Mission Supt Benev	1,234,168	1,174,407	-59,761	-4.84				2.49	
Other Expenses & Realized Losses	1,098,972	738,421	-360,551	-32.81				1.57	

Distribution of Congregations by Size

Size of Congs	Congregations		Baptized Members		Congregations		Confirmed Members	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Under Development	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Very Small	1 - 175	50.41	5,664	19.70	69	57.02	5,853	26.17
Small	176 - 350	23.14	6,829	23.76	26	21.49	6,476	28.95
Moderately Small	351 - 500	11.57	6,063	21.09	13	10.74	5,243	23.44
Medium Sized	501 - 700	3.31	2,383	8.29	5	4.13	3,064	13.70
Moderately Large	701 - 950	4.96	5,061	17.61	0	0.00	0	0.00
Large	951 - 1,500	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Very Large	> 1,500	0.83	2,747	9.56	1	0.83	1,731	7.74

CD180 Report
 2B Southwest California Synod, ELCA
 (79 Congs Filed)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Form C - Summary of Congregational Information as of 12/31/2015

Run Date 07/23/16
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C30 Educational Ministry Provided
Sunday School
 Yes 66 No 13 No Resp 0
 Teachers 281 Students 971

C31 Curriculum Used
 Augsburg Fortress Resources..... 55
 Independent Publishers..... 27
 Create Own Materials..... 55
 Sparkhouse..... 36
 Concordia Publishing Resources.. 11
 Other Denominational Publisher.. 11
 No Response to Any..... 3

C37 ELCA Endorsed Insurance Program Awareness
 Yes 48 No 27 No Resp 4

C38 Tithing Spiritual Discipline Encouraged
 Yes 55 No 23 No Resp 1

Mid-week Education
 Yes 43 No 34 No Resp 2
 Teachers 108 Students 891

C33 Disability Assistance Provided
 Building Wheelchair Access..... 76
 Braille Worship Materials..... 3
 Large Print Worship Materials... 45
 Assistive Hearing Devices..... 33
 Sign Language Interpreters..... 3
 Special Needs Outreach/Support.. 34
 No Assistance Provided..... 1

C39 Congregation Connection with Military Members, Veterans and/or Families
 Specialized Pastor Training..... 4
 VA Medical Center or Vet Center.. 9
 ELCA Fed Chaplaincy Scholarship.. 0
 Intercession Recognition..... 56
 Veteran Homelessness Assistance.. 16
 Other..... 9
 No Response to Any..... 18

Confirmation
 Yes 51 No 27 No Resp 1
 Teachers 101 Students 388

Adult Bible Studies
 Yes 76 No 2 No Resp 1
 Teachers 205 Students 1,685

C35 Weekday Early Childhood Education
 Yes 32 No 44 No Resp 3

C40 Congregation's Future
 Thriving/Should Continue..... 23
 Doing Okay/Should Continue..... 25
 Doing Okay Now/Very Uncertain... 15
 Struggling/Future Looks Better... 7
 Struggling/Should Continue..... 3
 Not Sure Will Survive Much Longer 3
 No Response to Any..... 3

Vacation Bible School
 Yes 42 No 35 No Resp 2
 Teachers 372 Students 1,982

C36 Congregation Advocacy
 Education on Community Issues... 56
 Contacted Elected Decision-Makers 12
 Voter Registration Drives..... 0
 Advocacy Network Participation.. 20
 No Response to Any..... 23

C32 Languages in which Liturgies are Regularly Conducted

Language	Count	Language	Count	Language	Count
Amharic	0	Finnish	1	Iao	0
Anyak	0	French	0	Latvian	0
Arabic	0	German	1	Maban	0
Burmese	0	Hmong	0	Mandarin	1
Cantonese	0	Indonesian	0	Norwegian	0
Creole	0	Inupiaq	0	Nuer	0
Danish	0	Japanese	1	Oromo	0
Dinka	0	Kiswahili	0	Portuguese	0
English	79	Korean	0	Sign	1
Estonian	0	Lakotah	0	Slovak	0
				Spanish	12
				Swahili	0
				Tagalog	2
				Taiwanese	0
				Tamil	0
				Telugu	0
				Thai	0
				Tigrinya	0
				Vietnamese	0

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 2B Southwest California Synod, ELCA
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Form C - Summary of Congregational Information as of 12/31/2015

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Congregations Reporting Ethnic Active Participants	2014		2015		Change	Percent	Percent of Congregations Reporting Ethnic Active Participants
	2014	2015	2014	2015			
African American/Black	76	52	-24	-31.58	African American/Black	42.98	
African National/African-Caribbean	20	17	-3	-15.00	African Nat'l/African-Caribbean	14.05	
American Indian/Alaska Native	17	11	-6	-35.29	American Indian/Alaska Native	9.09	
Arab/Middle Eastern	29	25	-4	-13.79	Arab/Middle Eastern	20.66	
Asian/Pacific Islander	81	51	-30	-37.04	Asian/Pacific Islander	42.15	
Latino/Hispanic	97	61	-36	-37.11	Latino/Hispanic	50.41	
Multi-racial	52	40	-12	-23.08	Multi-racial	33.06	
White/Caucasian	108	69	-39	-36.11	White/Caucasian	57.02	
Other	10	8	-2	-20.00	Other	6.61	

Total Ethnic Active Participants	2014		2015		Change	Percent	Percent Ethnic Active Participants
	2014	2015	2014	2015			
African American/Black	1,882	1,383	-499	-26.51	African American/Black	8.62	
African National/African-Caribbean	170	150	-20	-11.76	African Nat'l/African-Caribbean	0.94	
American Indian/Alaska Native	47	51	4	8.51	American Indian/Alaska Native	0.32	
Arab/Middle Eastern	191	132	-59	-30.89	Arab/Middle Eastern	0.82	
Asian/Pacific Islander	1,223	808	-415	-33.93	Asian/Pacific Islander	5.04	
Latino/Hispanic	2,063	1,160	-903	-43.77	Latino/Hispanic	7.23	
Multi-racial	651	489	-162	-24.88	Multi-racial	3.05	
White/Caucasian	16,398	11,832	-4,566	-27.84	White/Caucasian	73.78	
Other	248	31	-217	-87.50	Other	0.19	

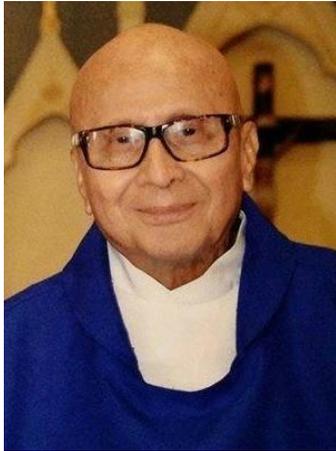
Roster of Congregations,**Roster of Pastors,****Roster of Deacons,****Anniversaries**

Necrology	374
Anniversaries of Pastors' Ordinations	377
Anniversaries of Deacons' Consecrations	386
Significant Anniversaries	390
Roster of Congregations	391
Roster of Ministers	395
Roster of Ministers – Special Call	399
Roster of Deacons	401

In Memoriam

Rev. Nimrod Flores

January 24, 1939 - February 17, 2017

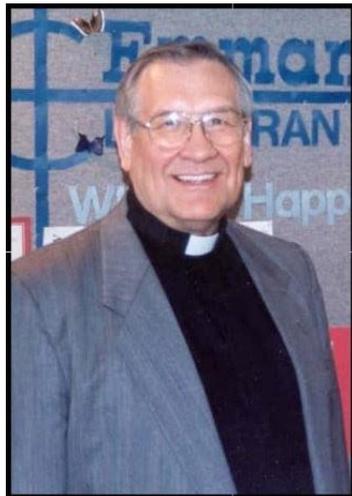


Nimrod Flores was born in El Salvador and served in the US Army and Department of Defense from 1963 – 1980. He received his M. Div at Fuller Theological Seminary in 1985. He worked for as a Congregational Developer in the Episcopal denomination and in independent ministry until his ordination in 1992 at Grace, Bell, where he served the congregation until his passing in 2017.

He is survived by his wife Juanita Ramirez de Flores, daughter Leonor Valencia, daughter Celina Flores, daughter Sarah Richardson, daughter Bridget Flores Santos, son Nimrod Flores, son Aaron Flores, and daughter Erika Sanquist.

Rev. Russ Wayne Mueller

April 22, 1931 - January 9, 2017



Rev. Dr. Russ Wayne Mueller of Paso Robles, California, entered into God's peace on January 9, 2017 in San Luis Obispo.

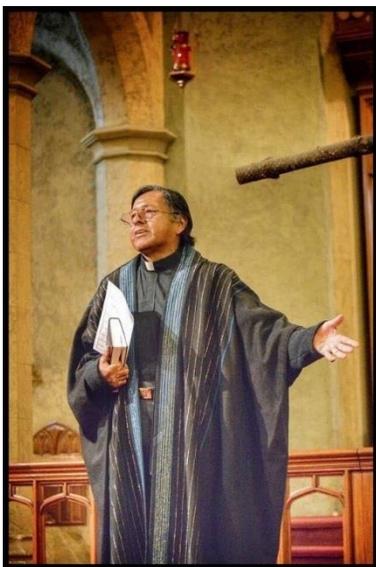
Pastor Russ was born in the small farming community of, Illinois in 1931. He married Norma in 1951 and Golden graduated from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in 1953, earning his M.Div at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa in 1957. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1958 to 1975, retiring with the rank of Major.

Russ was ordained as a pastor on June 9, 1957 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Golden, Illinois. In Illinois he also served Zion, Mt. Olive from 1957 to 1962, and Immanuel, Flatville from 1962 to 1969. In California he served at Faith, Castro Valley from 1969 to 1976 and St. Andrew, San Diego from 1976 to 1984. In San Diego, Russ pioneered work in television ministry, serving as part of a team that won an "Emmy" for the local FOCUS FIVE program in 1981 and introduced religious programming to San Diego cable. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California in 1982, writing his thesis on "The Use of Television in Parish Education." He then served at St. Timothy, Lakewood from 1984 to 1995, Emmanuel, Bakersfield from 1995 to 1998, and as an interim pastor at churches in San Pablo, King City, Templeton, and Porterville. He retired in Paso Robles, CA and was a member of Hope, Atascadero.

He is survived by his wife, Norma of Paso Robles, CA; his brother, Wilfred and his wife, Henriette of Highland Park, Illinois; five children, David and his wife, Judith Kulla of Hastings, Minnesota; Mike of Castro Valley; Kelly Greenne (former daughter-in-law) of Hayward; Matthew of Paso Robles; Brian and his wife Michelle of Castro Valley; Sylvia of Turlock; three Vietnamese foster sons: Khoa Van Do, Thanh Van Do, and Thien Pham and three grandsons: Steven Waybright, Micah Mueller, Christian Mueller and one granddaughter, Sierra Greenne; three nephews: Mark, Grant, Luke; numerous great-grandchildren and several cousins. He was preceded in death by one Vietnamese foster son, Hung Tran.

Rev. Carlos Paiva

November 12, 1950 - November 22, 2016



Rev. Carlos Paiva entered into Eternal Life on November 22 during a visit to his home country of Peru. At his passing he was in the presence of his wife 35 years, Maria Paiva, his children Pablo, Elizabeth, and David, and his granddaughter Sarah.

Pastor Paiva was born in Lima, Peru in 1950. He trained in Physics and Chemistry at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. His theological training took place at the Lutheran Bible Institute in Anaheim, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, and Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. He was ordained into the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on March 19, 1989 at Loving Shepherd Lutheran, Gardena.

After serving as a Lay Pastor at Iglesia Evangelica de Cristo and Iglesia Cristiana Bethel de Lince in Lima and Grace Lutheran in Bell, Loving Shepherd Lutheran in Gardena, and Iglesia Lutheran Pastor Amoroso in Gardena, he served as Pastor at Angelica Lutheran in Los Angeles.

Pastor Paiva committed his life to be a witness to the liberating power of Jesus Christ for all people. He dedicated himself to identify, nurture and develop new disciples for Christ to serve as leaders in the church and also in the public arena. He passionately prepared and sent forth members at Angelica Lutheran Church to exercise their leadership in daily life, locally, nationally, and internationally. Along with colleagues at the New City Parish community, he diligently trained student interns from the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at California Lutheran University, and from other seminaries and colleges. He was instrumental in the creation and development of the Southwest California Synod Latino Equipping Leaders for Mission. He served as mentor and coach for many Pastors and lay leaders throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Reverend Susan Wolfe-Devol

May 30, 1955 - December 16, 2016

The Rev. Susan Wolfe-Devol passed away at her childhood home in Ventura with family at her side on Friday, December 16. She is survived by her husband Steve; her son Pierce; her mother Elizabeth; her brother Ben; her sister Connie; and three nieces and nephews.

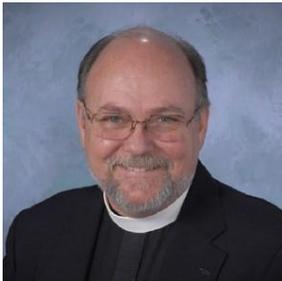
Earning her degree in sociology at UC Berkeley and her M.Div at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Iowa, she served as the first female Lutheran minister in Orange County at St. Peter, Santa Ana from 1985 to 1990. She was an associate pastor at Angelica, Los Angeles before serving 13 years at St. Matthew's, North Hollywood. Pastor Sue was a dedicated ally to the LGBT community and an advocate for the 2009 ELCA vote to allow clergy in same-sex marriages to continue to serve.

25th Anniversary of Ordination



The Rev. Janet A. Bregar **Ordained September 13, 1992**

After receiving her Masters degree from the University of Chicago, Janet Bregar worked with disadvantaged youth and taught in the South Side of Chicago. She served at First, Torrance and Christ, Long Beach before her call to Village Lutheran Church in Los Angeles. During her call to Village, where she still serves, she received her Ph.D in Religious Studies. She teaches courses on Comparative Religions at California State University, Fullerton. Rev. Janet Bregar has been active in various interfaith organizations for over 30 years, including Monks Without Borders, The Santa Monica Bay Interfaith Council and The Southern California Committee for the Parliament of the World's Religions. She and her husband Mike have two children, Nathan and Anna, and two grandchildren, Oliver and Eleanor.



The Rev. Dr. William L. Hurst, Jr. **Ordained May 19, 1993**

Pastor Bill Hurst has served as Senior Pastor at First, Torrance since October 2004. Born in Queens, New York and a product of the New York City Public Schools, he is a graduate of Queens College (CUNY), and holds the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, where he also serves periodically as an adjunct instructor in training pastors for parish mission. Pastor Bill began his work life in musical theatre, as an actor, singer and songwriter. He then shifted careers to marketing and sales. He served as a Deacon of the Lutheran Church from 1986 until his ordination in 1992. He served as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of White Plains, New York, and as Assistant to the Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA, responsible for the synod's work in evangelism and mission outreach. He was the synod's Director of Communication from 1996 until 2000, and its Ecumenical Officer until 2003.

Pastor Hurst has edited the Eastertide devotionals "Keep the Feast" (1995), "O Blessed Spring" (1999), and "Known in the Breaking" (2000), and has written for The Lutheran magazine. His doctoral concentration, and ongoing professional passion, is developing renewed interest in Martin Luther's Small Catechism for home and parish use, and for Great Commission renewal in local congregations.

Bill has been married to Sharon since 1980. Sharon teaches at First, Torrance's Early Education Center. They have four children: Elizabeth, Timothy, Joshua, and Hannah.

30th Anniversary of Ordination



The Rev. Cesar A. Arroyo
Ordained April 25, 1987

Rev. Cesar Arroyo Pastor Arroyo graduated with his B.A. in theology from the Universidad Evangélica de las Américas, San José, Costa Rica . He received his seminary degree from Seminario ESEPA, San José, Costa Rica, and served as a missionary in Lima, Peru and a pastor in Lima, Peru before immigrating to the United States. He then served as a Mission Developer for New City Parish and for Iglesia San Pablo, North Hollywood. Rev. Arroyo is currently pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Canoga Park.

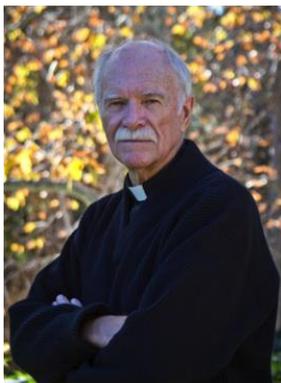


The Rev. Gregory J. Kintzi
Ordained July 26, 1987

Pastor Kintzi attended San Francisco State University where he earned a B.A. in Humanities in 1982, and received his M.Div in 1987 from Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary. Pr. Kintzi has served congregations in California and Arizona: Bethel, Roseville; Trinity, Santa Barbara; King of Glory, Tempe, Arizona; Our Redeemer, Oxnard. He currently serves at Gloria Dei, Santa Maria. In addition, he has been both a youth director and a camp counselor, and has served on the synod's youth committee. With his wife, Dona, he has two daughters and a son.

The Rev. Tyrone Partee
Ordained January 4, 1987

Pr. Partee attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, graduating in 1982 with a B.A. in Political Science. He then attended Lutheran Northwestern Theological Seminary and received his M.Div in 1986. He received his D.Min. in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and has served Reformation, Chicago, IL; Redeemer, Minneapolis, MN; Tøyen Church, Oslo, Norway; and Olivet, Hawthorne. Pasto Partee has worked nationally and internationally as a prison chaplain in Minnesota and Norway, including being an assistant director and street outreach pastor to the homeless, addicted and imprisoned. He is married to Pr. Alicia Partee and has two daughters and a son from a previous marriage.



The Rev. Jack T. Ledbetter
Ordained November 15, 1987

Pastor Ledbetter graduated from California State University at Long Beach and received his M.A. and Ph.D in English from the University of Nebraska. He began teaching at California Lutheran University in 1970 and was ordained in 1987. Pr. Ledbetter received a call to continue his work at CLU in the English department. He retired in 2005 though is still a Professor Emeritus at CLU teaching Environmental Literature and Creative Writing. An actively published writer, Dr.

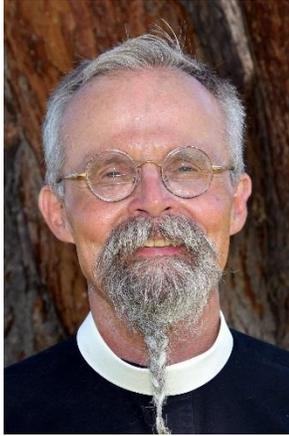
Ledbetter's Dr. Ledbetter founded Morning Glory, an award-winning literary magazine produced by CLU students, and served as adviser for 25 years, mentoring hundreds of student. Pastor Ledbetter assists and preaches on occasion at his home congregation, Ascension Lutheran, Thousand Oaks. He has published over 400 poems in literary journals, as well as fiction and non-fiction pieces. Pastor Ledbetter is married to Dolores and has three children and seven grandchildren.



The Rev. Alexia Salvatierra
Ordained November 22, 1987

Pastor Alexia Salvatierra is the Assisting Pastor at Hope Lutheran. She has over 35 years of experience in congregational and community ministry, including church-based service and community development programs, congregational and community organizing and legislative advocacy. She is the author, with Dr. Peter Heltzel, of *Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World* (Intervarsity Press) and is the founder of the Faith-Rooted Organizing UnNetwork. She was the Director of Justice for the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA under Bishop Dean Nelson. In addition to coordinating the Welcoming Congregations/Guardian Angels Network for the Southwest California Synod, she serves as a consultant (training, facilitating, organizing and leading strategic planning) for a variety of national/international organizations.

40th Anniversary of Ordination



The Rev. David J. Berkedal
Ordained July 3, 1977

Pastor Berkedal graduated from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota in 1973. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1969 – 1971 and graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary with honors in 1977. He was ordained into the ministry of the American Lutheran Church on July 3rd of that same year, serving Christ, Compton, California until 1986. He has served at Faith, San Dimas since September of 1986. He holds a second degree brown belt in Tae Kwon Do, played drums in jazz bands through college and seminary, and is a Masters Swimmer, competing from time to time in Southern California.

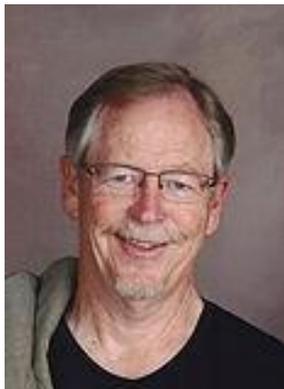
He is active in his service to the SWCA Synod, serving on its Evangelism Committee, planning worship for a synod assembly, and serving as the Dean of the San Gabriel Valley Conference, among other things. He and his wife, Rev. Sally Welch have one son, James.



The Rev. Brian G. Eklund
Ordained March 6, 1977

Pastor Eklund received his B.A. in Sociology from Muhlenberg College in Allentown and his M.Div from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. From 1977 until his retirement he served as pastor of St. Mark's Los Angeles, where he helmed hot food programs, clothing

giveaways, youth employment and community gatherings as well as traditional religious activities, providing opportunities for bringing together the various cultures in his parish and helping the poor. He was one of the forming pastors of New City Parish. With his wife Ruth he has three children: Ande Elise, Seth, and Karis.



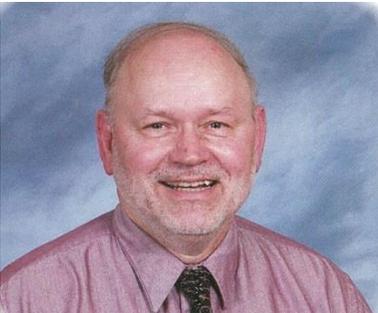
The Rev. David A. Hall
Ordained June 5, 1977

David Hall received a B.A. from Augsburg College in Minneapolis and his M.Div from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. He has served as Senior Pastor of Trinity, Ventura since 1989. He previously served St. Mary's, Kenosha, Wisconsin and St. John's, Creston, Illinois. He and his wife Deborah have three children: Matthew, Siri, and Benjamin.



The Rev. James S. Maines
Ordained June 12, 1977

Pastor "PJ" Maines received his B.A. in Anthropology from California State University, Long Beach and his M.Div in 1977 from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He then served Hope Lutheran church in Fresno for five years and Bethany, Pasadena for 15 years. He is presently serving at Grace, Culver City, where he has been pastor for half of his 40 years of ministry. He is married to Joanne.



The Rev. Gerald D. Schaar
Ordained April 16, 1977

Gerald Schaar received his Bachelors of Science in Education and Master of Arts from Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois. He graduated with his M.Div from Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis in 1977. He served as a principal and pastor at schools and congregations in Florida, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, and Indiana. He served as a 4th grade teacher at Timothy Lutheran School in Lakewood, and then as interim pastor and principal at Good Shepherd Church and School, Highland Park. He was called to be pastor at Gloria Dei, Long Beach in 2007, retiring in 2013. He and his wife Sue Ann have three children: David, Jonathan, and Rachel.



The Rev. Jarmo O. I. Tarkki
Ordained December 21, 1977

Pastor Jarmo Tarkki has a Ph.D and a Th.M from the University of Helsinki, and a D.Min from the Helsinki Diocese. He is Finnish Minister of California and Texas Finns, an office of the ELCA. Previously, he served as Senior Pastor at Bethania, Solvang. He is Adjunct Professor of Theology at California Lutheran University; a Teaching Fellow in Philosophical Theology at the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley; and the author of numerous books and articles on the philosophy of authority in religion, bioethics and social theory, published in journals and newspapers in Finland, Canada, and the United States. His occupations have included being a sailor, prison chaplain, political campaign manager, editor-in-chief, columnist and a Finnish television host in Finland.

50th Anniversary of Ordination



The Rev. Donald Koepke
Ordained May 24, 1967

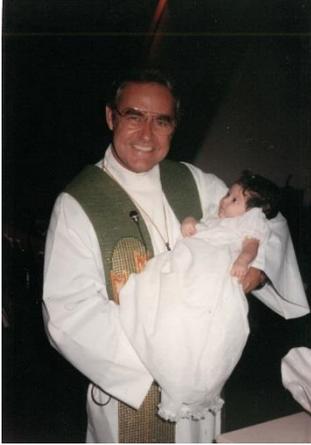
Rev. Koepke earned his Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 1967 and completed his residency in clinical pastoral care at the UCLA Medical Center in 1995. He also earned his certificate at the Geriatric Pastoral Care Institute at the Center for Aging, Religion and Spirituality in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is a member of the American Society on Aging, Forum on Spirituality and Religion, ASA, serving on its governing council; the National Council on the Aging, National Interfaith Coalition on Aging, serving as secretary to its delegate council; and a board-certified member of the Association of Professional Chaplains. In 1995 he has been endorsed by the ELCA for specialized ministry, conducting numerous professional workshops for service providers, caregivers, families, and older adults specializing in spirituality and aging. He is the author of *Ministering to Older Adults: The Building Blocks* and edited *The Essential Spirit: Providing Wholistic Services to and with Older Adults*. He is Director Emeritus of California Lutheran Homes Center for Spirituality and Aging. Rev. Koepke currently serves as the Interim Pastor at St. Paul's, Monterey Park.



The Rev. Edmond Yee
Ordained November 8, 1967

Rev. Edmond Yee is Professor Emeritus of Asian Studies, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS). He was also a member of the Core Doctoral Faculty for the Graduate Theological Union. He has a B.A. from Midland College; an M.Div from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary; an M.A. from San Francisco State University; and his C.Phil and Ph.D from the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *Abundant Harvest: Stories of Asian Lutherans*, and one of the four editors of and a major contributor to *Asian American Religious Cultures*, a two-volume encyclopedia published in August 2015. He is active in the Los Angeles area Association of Asian and Pacific Islanders.

60th Anniversary of Ordination



**The Rev. Thomas C. Cooper
Ordained June 5, 1957
in the United Lutheran Church in America**

Thomas Cooper received his B.A. in History for the University of Pittsburgh and graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg in 1957. In the Southwest California Synod, he served at Mt. Olive, Santa Monica; Christ, Downey; Westlake Lutheran; and was Pastor Developer for Our Redeemer, Simi Valley. He was also a Mission Developer in Honolulu, Hawaii. Pastor Cooper served for 17 years at St. Paul's, Palos Verdes, where he remains Pastor Emeritus. At St. Paul's, he regularly led Easter sunrise service at the former

Marineland, drawing at least 3,000 people of all ages to the site to watch the sun rise on the horizon and listen to the Easter message.

Rev. Cooper also served as Bible Study Leader for many of the Lutheran Church in America's Women's conventions, as Convocator at California Lutheran University for 11 years, and on CLU's Board of Regents for 9 years. With his wife Jean, who passed away in 2010, he has two daughters, Deborah and Carol.

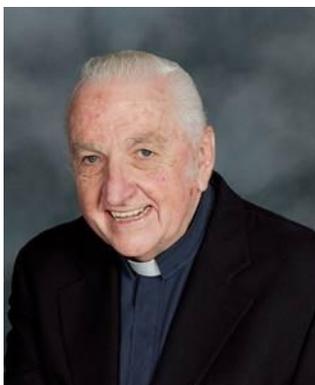


**The Rev. Paul A. Kloth
Ordained June 15, 1957**

Paul Kloth received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington in 1953, and graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1957. He served as Pastor at Christ, Santa Clarita for 29 and as Associate Pastor at Olivet, Inglewood for two years. He additionally served congregations in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and as the Chair of the Research and Social Action

committee of the Illinois District of the American Lutheran Church.

After his retirement from full-time ministry in 1999, Pastor Kloth served as an interim and visitation pastor at St. Paul's, Santa Monica; Hollywood Lutheran; and Emmanuel, North Hollywood. He has four children with his wife Esther: Tom, Cindy, Lisa, and Suzanne.



The Rev. Floyd L. Lawson
Ordained June 23, 1957
in the Augustana Lutheran Church

Floyd Lawson graduated from UCLA with a degree in History in 1954, and received his Master of Theology in 1957 from Augustana Theological seminary in Rock Island, Illinois in 1957. He served at Trinity, Pasadena; St. Paul's, Oakland; Bethany, Santa Clara; Mt. Calvary, Cypress; Trinity, Manhattan Beach and First, Torrance. He additionally served as Developer for the Board of American Mission in

Stanton/Anaheim and Vice-President of the Pacific Southwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

At First, Torrance, Pastor Lawson created and was Executive Director of the social ministry organization FirstServe Community Services of the South Bay. With his wife Carol he has three children: Janice, Andrea, and David.



The Rev. Jerry H. Miller
Ordained May 2, 1957
in the United Lutheran Church in America

Fourth President of California Lutheran University (1981-1992), Jerry Miller received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University in 1953, his M.Div at Hamma School of Theology, Springfield, Ohio, and an honorary D.D. at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. After serving as a parish pastor, he was Assistant to the President of the Ohio Synod of the Lutheran Church in America and Executive Director of the National Lutheran Campus Ministry in Chicago, Illinois. During his tenure at Cal Lutheran, the college received a ten-year accreditation from WASC, was ranked as one of America's Best Colleges by U.S. News and World Report, and joined the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

He and his wife Margaret have five children and 11 grandchildren, and established the Jerry and Margaret Miller Endowed Scholarship at California Lutheran University in 2001. In 2012 Rev. Miller was honored with the Christus Award, presented to those who have made significant contributions to strengthening the partnership between California Lutheran University and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America because of their love for both institutions.

70th Anniversary of Ordination



The Rev. W. Clayton Nielsen Ordained February 9, 1947

The Rev. Warren Clayton Nielsen was born May 14, 1923, and raised in Lake Benton, Minn. He received his Associate's in Arts degree from Grand View Junior College in 1942 and went on to obtain his Bachelor's Degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota in 1944. He later returned and graduated from Grand View Seminary in 1947. Several years after, he completed his postgraduate study at Garrett Theological Seminary and Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago in 1980. Nielsen married his wife, Ydun Virginia Jensen '42, June 27, 1947; she passed away in 2006. Together they have three children, Warren, Lance and Melanie, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Nielsen served many parishes during his career, including Denmark Community Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Bethany Lutheran Church. He served on the executive board of the Nebraska Synod, LCA, the Evangelism Commission, and various other positions with the AELC. Nielsen has also led folk dance groups in Denmark, Kansas, Wisconsin, and Nebraska, as well as directed folk dances at the Farstrup-Mortensen Lecture Series in Solvang, Calif., for 20 years.

25th Anniversary of Diaconal Consecration



Nancy J. Ackerman
Commissioned June 2, 1992

Deacon Nancy Ackerman received her Bachelor of Arts from The Pennsylvania State University and earned a Certificate in Fundraising from UCLA Extension. She served as Director of Development for Solheim Lutheran Home, where she managed capital campaigns and established an endowment for nurses' continuing education. She also served as Assistant to the Bishop of the Southwest California Synod, where she was responsible for all corporate operations of the office of the bishop including fiduciary stewardship, financial management, fund development, governance, board development, policy administration, personnel management, strategic planning and execution, and property management. She served on the SWCA Synod Council and Executive Committee, as well as the Candidacy and Worship and Music Committees of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Nancy is currently serving as vice president with Netzel Grigsby Associates, Inc, a synodical call, and she is a lecturer in the UCLA Extension fundraising program.

Nancy volunteers on the Annual Fund Committee of Hillsides, and with the Sierra Summer Festival (Mammoth Lakes, CA). She has been president of her church endowment committee and chaired the Lutheran Planned Giving Partnership of Southern California and Hawaii. She is a member of Emmanuel, North Hollywood, and has been its organist for the past 15 years.

30th Anniversary of Diaconal Consecration



Marilyn L. Chelsvig
Commissioned September 4, 1987
in the American Lutheran Church

Deacon Marilyn Chelsvig received her B.A. in Music Education at the University of Northern Iowa in 1970 and her M.A.L.S in Liberal Studies from Valparaiso University, Indiana in 1979. She has served at St. Paul's in Michigan City, Indiana; St. Olaf, Garden Grove; and Christ, Long Beach as Director of Music and Education. She has also taught elementary and middle school general music, and has served in the Synod Worship planning committee.



Ms. Barbara E. Hoffman
Commissioned October 13, 1987
in the Lutheran Church in America

Ms. Hoffman received her Bachelor of Music degree from Wittenberg University in Ohio in 1965, attending the Berliner Kirchenmusik Schule from 1967 to 1968. Prior to her commissioning she served at First English, Lockport, NY; Redeemer, Maywood, NJ; and Advent, Wyckoff, NJ. As an AIM and Deacon, she served at Angelica, Los Angeles; Messiah, Pasadena; First, Glendale; **and St. Paul's, Santa Monica**, where she has served for 25 years in music ministry and parish administration. She has served as chair and member of the Synod Worship Committee, as organist and choir director for many synod assemblies and Bishop's Colloquies, and on the Reference and Counsel Committee.

With the cooperation of the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA and the Los Angeles Diocese (ECUSA), Barbara Hoffman established and coordinated the Leadership Program for Musicians in Los Angeles, a teaching ministry that gives church musicians an increased awareness, along with the tools and resources to enable congregations to sing well and participate actively in worship. She has two sons.



**Karen S. Taylor Commissioned
September 8, 1987 in the American
Lutheran Church**

Deacon Taylor graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in 1976 with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a B.M. in Sacred Music. During her time in college, she studied organ building and performance in Holland. She taught at Washington public schools, moving in 1979 to teach school and director music at St. Mark's, Hacienda Heights and completing her Master's degree in Music Education at California State University, Fullerton. She served at Good Shepherd, Buena Park and Grace, Anaheim. She currently serves at St. Timothy, Lakewood as Director of Music and Preschool Resource Teacher, teaching music, religion, computer, and enrichment. She is married to Dennis and has two children, Elspeth and Stephen.

40th Anniversary of Diaconal Consecration



Nancy Berkeland
Certified June 14, 1977
in the American Lutheran Church

Nancy Berkeland received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Education and Math from Concordia Teacher's College in Seward, Nebraska in 1972, and her California Reaching Credential at Pepperdine University in 1981. She served as a 6th – 8th grade math teacher at Westchester Lutheran School, at Laurel Hall School in North Hollywood, Our Saviour's Lutheran School in Los Angeles, and Trinity Lutheran school in Whittier. She and her husband Kent have a son, Nathan, as well as several grandchildren.



Della E. Vivien
Certified October 26, 1977
in the American Lutheran Church

Della Vivien attended Aberdeen Business College in South Dakota and Augustana College, serving as a parish worker and Director of Parish Life in Davenport, Iowa; Berea, Ohio, and Madison, Wisconsin. She was active in the Parish Workers Association of the American Lutheran Church, serving as President at the time of the 1960 merger. She continued to be involved in the National Church Staff Workers' Association until her retirement. During her service at Bethel Lutheran Church in Madison, she founded and directed the eXtra Years of Zest (XYZ) Senior Center, which served hundreds of men and women in the community and remains an active ministry. She is a resident of University Village in Thousand Oaks, and acted as an ambassador for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as well as assisting with shut-in calls.

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

CONGREGATIONS

75 Years—Established 1942

Ascension, Los Angeles
 Hope, Los Angeles
 Mount Olive, Santa Monica

100 Years—Established 1917

First/LIFEhouse, Northridge

ROSTERED LEADERS

Ordained 05 Years (2012)

The Rev. Valerie C. Carlson
 The Rev. Jennifer A Chrien
 The Rev. Caleb J Crainer
 The Rev. Steven Simpson

Ordained 10 Years (2007)

The Rev. Stephanie B. Jaeger
 The Rev. Patricia R. Lowe
 The Rev. Elizabeth Radtke
 The Rev. Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun

Consecrated 15 Years (2002)

Deacon Jamie L. Hovland

Ordained 15 Years (2002)

The Rev. Jeffrey L. Berg
 The Rev. Daniel W. Gibson
 The Rev. Vivian A. Martin

Ordained 20 Years (1997)

The Rev. J Steven Beckham
 The Rev. Stephen M. Fiechter
 The Rev. Marjorie A. Funk-Pihl
 The Rev. Scott C. Peterson

Consecrated 25 Years (1992)

Deacon Nancy J. Ackerman

Ordained 25 Years (1992)

The Rev. Janet A. Bregar
 The Rev. William L. Hurst, Jr.

Consecrated 30 Years (1987)

Deacon Marilyn L. Chelsvig
 Deacon Barbara P. Hoffman
 Deacon Karen S. Taylor

Ordained 30 Years (1987)

The Rev. Cesar A. Arroyo
 The Rev. Gregory J. Kintzi
 The Rev. Jack T. Ledbetter, P.H.D
 The Rev. Tyrone Partee
 The Rev. Alexia G. Salvatierra

Ordained 35 Years (1982)

The Rev. James A. Fuller
 The Rev. Dana E. Hanson
 The Rev. Steven R. Herder
 The Rev. Ralph Midtlyng
 The Rev. Ruth Ellen Sievert
 The Rev. Albert Starr, Jr.
 The Rev. Gary T. Stevenson

Consecrated 40 Years (1977)

Deacon Nancy Berkeland
 Deacon Della E. Vivien

Ordained 40 Years (1977)

The Rev. David J. Berkedal
 The Rev. Brian G. Eklund
 The Rev. David A. Hall
 The Rev. James S. Maines
 The Rev. Gerald D. Schaar
 The Rev. Jarmo O. I. Tarkki, P.H.D

Ordained 45 Years (1972)

The Rev. Roger H. Anderson
 The Rev. Andrew W. Chae
 The Rev. Gary L. Wheeler

Ordained 50 Years (1967)

The Rev. Donald R. Koepke
 The Rev. Edmond Yee

Ordained 55 Years (1962)

The Rev. Frederick G. Masted
 The Rev. John C. Wilker
 The Rev. Joseph Wong

Ordained 60 Years (1957)

The Rev. Thomas C. Cooper
 The Rev. Paul A Kloth
 The Rev. Floyd L. Lawson
 The Rev. Jerry H. Miller
 The Rev. Russell W. Mueller

Ordained 70 Years (1947)

The Rev. W. Clayton Nielsen

ROSTER OF CONGREGATIONS

<u>City</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Agoura Hills	New Hope Lutheran Church	29295 Agoura Rd	91301-2521	Craig Beecker
Altadena	Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church	185 W Altadena Dr	91001-4750	Mark A. Witte
Arcadia	Lutheran Church of the Cross	66 W Duarte Rd	91007-6918	Charlie Jiali Wang
Atascadero	Hope Lutheran Church	8005 San Gabriel Rd	93422-4927	Elizabeth Radtke
Bakersfield	Emmanuel Lutheran Church	1900 Baker St	93305-3741	Dawn Wilder
Bakersfield	Redeemer Lutheran Church	P.O. Box #13132	93304-4209	Jon Christenson
Bell	Grace Lutheran Church	6714 Pine Ave	90201-2508	TEEM Minister Maria Elena Montalvo
Bellflower	Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church	14515 Blaine Ave	90706-3116	TEEM Minister Tracy Williams
Burbank	American Lutheran Church	755 N Whittall Hwy	91505-2951	Interim Reggie Hansome
Camarillo	Mt Cross Lutheran Church	102 Camino Esplendido	93010-1717	John Soyster
Canoga Park	Faith Lutheran Church	7500 De Soto Ave	91303-1430	Cesar Arroyo
Canyon Country	The Church of Hope	17866 Sierra Hwy #105	91351-1637	George McLeary
Carson	First Lutheran Church	19707 S Central Ave	90746-3176	Interim Dan Gibson
Cerritos	St John Lutheran Church	18422 Bloomfield Ave	90703-6048	Carl Bernal
Compton	Christ Lutheran Church	530 W Alondra Blvd	90220-4670	Roger Anderson
Compton	Pueblo de Dios Lutheran Church	804 E Rosecrans Ave	90221-2146	Samuel Nieva
Covina	Grace Lutheran Church	17880 E Covina Blvd	91722-1416	Steven Otte
Covina	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	1359 E Covina Blvd	91724-1501	Dr. Thomas Johnson
Culver City	Grace Lutheran Church	4427 Overland Ave	90230-4118	James Maines
Downey	Christ Lutheran Church	7707 E Florence Ave	90240-3726	Nancy Hamm
Encino	Bethel Lutheran Church	17500 Burbank Blvd	91316-1718	vacant
Gardena	Another Level Ministries	16010 Crenshaw Blvd, ste K	90249-4877	Jonathan Hemphill
Gardena	St John Lutheran Church	14517 S Crenshaw Blvd	90249-3144	TEEM Minister Maria Paiva
Glendale	Salem Lutheran Church	1211 N Brand Blvd	91202-1959	Kurt Christenson
Glendale	St Matthew's Lutheran Church	1920 W Glenoaks Blvd	91201-1616	Keith Banwart, Jr.
Glendora	Grace of Calvary Lutheran Church	804 E Foothill Blvd	91741-3622	vacant
Goleta	Christ Lutheran Church	6595 Covington Way	93117-1514	vacant
Granada Hills	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	12227 Balboa Blvd	91344-1703	Megan Hunt Fryling
Granada Hills	St Stephen's Lutheran Church	15950 Chatsworth St	91344-7128	Ioan Ittu
Hacienda Heights	St Mark's Lutheran Church	2323 Las Lomitas Dr	91745-4414	Mark Marius
Hawthorne	Olivet Lutheran Church	2506 W Imperial Hwy	90250-1953	Interim John W. Miller
Hawthorne	Trinity Lutheran Church	4783 W 130th St	90250-5148	Lawrence Becker

ROSTER OF CONGREGATIONS

<u>City</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Hollywood	Hollywood Lutheran Church	1733 N New Hampshire Ave	90027-4207	TEEM Minister Joseph Castañeda Carrera
Hollywood	Hope Lutheran Church	6720 Melrose Ave	90038-3439	Mark Rasbach
Hollywood	Thai House Fellowship	1733 N New Hampshire Ave	90027-4207	Golf Chutimpongpratt
Inglewood	Chapel of Peace Lutheran Church	1009 N Market St	90302-1505	Interim Charlene Limenih
Inglewood	First Lutheran Church	600 W Queen St	90301-1025	Interim George Villa
Inglewood	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	9300 S Crenshaw Blvd	90305-2908	James Lobdell
La Cañada	Lutheran Church in the Foothills	1700 Foothill Blvd	91011-2921	Scott C. Peterson
La Crescenta	Mt Olive Lutheran Church	3561 Foothill Blvd	91214-1850	Gary Helksley
La Verne	Rock of the Foothills Lutheran Church	4630 N Wheeler Ave	91750-2401	Eric Strom
Lakewood	St Timothy Lutheran Church	4645 N Woodruff Ave	90713-2555	William Hazard
Lancaster	Lutheran Church of the Master	725 East Avenue J	93535-3800	Jeffrey Berg
Lancaster	Our Savior's Lutheran Church	1821 W Lancaster Blvd	93534-2005	Interim James Fuller
Lompoc	Peace Lutheran Church	1000 W Ocean Ave	93436-6518	Jeffrey Nelson
Long Beach	Christ Lutheran Church	6500 E Stearns St	90815-3419	Dr. Pamela Challis
Long Beach	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	5872 E Naples Plaza	90803-5044	Steven Beckham
Long Beach	Our Savior Lutheran Church	370 Junipero Ave	90814-2267	James Proper
Long Beach	Resurrection Lutheran Church	1900 E Carson St	90807-3038	Interim John Plessner
Long Beach	St Luke's Lutheran Church	5633 E Wardlow Rd	90808-3646	Garry Mohr
Long Beach	Trinity Lutheran Church	759 Linden Ave	90813-4501	Scott Fritz
Los Angeles	ADORE Ministry	1733 N New Hampshire Ave	90027-4207	TEEM Minister Joseph Castañeda Carrera
Los Angeles	Angelica Lutheran Church	1345 S Burlington Ave	90006-5406	vacant
Los Angeles	Ascension Lutheran Church	5820 West Blvd	90043-3023	Supply Jonathan Hemphill
Los Angeles	Bethel Lutheran Church	5750 W Olympic Blvd	90036-4710	Scott Bartlett
Los Angeles	Community Lutheran Church	650 E 135th St	90059-3518	vacant
Los Angeles	Eagle Rock Lutheran Church	5032 N Maywood Ave	90041-2054	Violeta Sanders
Los Angeles	Light of Christ Lutheran Church	3921 Wilshire Blvd #400	90010-4207	Sion Kim
Los Angeles	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd	6338 N Figueroa St	90042-2733	Ernest King
Los Angeles	Lutheran Church of the Master	10931 Santa Monica Blvd	90025-4537	Interim Peg Schultz-Akerson
Los Angeles	Messiah Lutheran Church	1201 W Manchester Ave	90044-2237	TEEM Minister Roderick Hines
Los Angeles	Solheim Lutheran Church	2236 Merton Ave	90041-1915	vacant
Los Angeles	St Andrew's Lutheran Church	11555 National Blvd	90064-3827	Caleb Crainer
Los Angeles	St Mark's Lutheran Church	3651 S Vermont Ave	90007-3946	Matthew Keadle

ROSTER OF CONGREGATIONS

<u>City</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Los Angeles	Village Lutheran Church	343 S Church Lane	90049-3037	Janet Bregar
Los Angeles	Westchester Lutheran Church	7831 S Sepulveda Blvd	90045-2916	Fred Masted
Manhattan Beach	Trinity Lutheran Church	1340 11th St	90266-6067	Luther Martell
Monrovia	St Paul's Lutheran Church	911 S Magnolia Ave	91016-3325	James Thompson
Monterey Park	Christ Lutheran Church	417 N Garfield Ave	91754-1201	Interim Phil Demers
Monterey Park	Faith Lutheran Church	115 W Newmark Ave	91754-2813	Candidate David Lin
Monterey Park	St Paul's Lutheran Church	2009 S Garfield Ave	91754-6617	Supply Donald Koepke
Morro Bay	Calvary Lutheran Church	480 Monterey Ave	93442-2530	Jim Berg
Newbury Park	King of Glory Lutheran Church	2500 Borchard Rd	91320-3806	Steve Simpson
North Hollywood	Emmanuel Lutheran Church	6020 Radford Ave	91606-3323	Martin Hancer
North Hollywood	Iglesia Luterana San Pablo	7400 Tujunga Ave	91605-3328	Cesar Gogorza
North Hollywood	St Matthew's Lutheran Church	11031 Camarillo St	91602-1210	Stephanie Jaegar
Northridge	LIFEhouse Lutheran Church	18355 Roscoe Blvd	91325-4104	Dana Hanson
Northridge	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church	9440 Balboa Blvd	91325-2517	Charles Bunnell
Oxnard	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	721 Doris Ave	93030-4503	Nancy Switzler
Oxnard	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church	905 Redwood St	93033-5009	Interim Lynn Enloe
Palmdale	St Stephen's of the Valley Lutheran Church	1737 E Ave R	93550-5411	Christopher Hogstad
Pasadena	Hill Ave Grace Lutheran Church	73 N Hill Ave	91106-1904	Interim Gene Leiter
Pasadena	Reformation Lutheran Church	570 E Orange Grove Blvd	91104-4351	Jennifer Amos Burgos
Pasadena	Trinity Lutheran Church	997 E Walnut St	91106-1447	Interim Anthony Auer
Rancho Palos Verdes	St Paul's Lutheran Church	31290 Palos Verdes Dr W	90275-5390	Jon Gatlje
Redondo Beach	Lutheran Church of the Resurrection	330 Palos Verdes Blvd	90277-6304	Kenneth Johnson
San Dimas	Faith Lutheran Church	505 E Bonita Ave	91773-3124	David Berkedal
San Gabriel	Trinity Lutheran Church	6868 N San Gabriel Blvd	91775-1044	vacant
San Luis Obispo	Mt Carmel Lutheran Church	1701 Fredericks Street	93405-2005	Valerie Carlson
San Pedro	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	1350 W 25th St	90732-4417	Dr. Christopher Lindstrom
Santa Barbara	Trinity Lutheran Church	909 N La Cumbre Rd	93110-1233	Truls Person
Santa Clarita	Bloom Lutheran Church	P. O. Box 801958	91380-3074	Ryan Chaddick
Santa Maria	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	4380 Orcutt Rd	93455-3708	Greg Kintzi
Santa Maria	Iglesia Luterana Santa Cruz	624 E Camrino Colegio	93454-6704	TEEM Minister Esteban Salazar
Santa Monica	Finnish Lutheran Church	958 Lincoln Blvd	90403-2807	Jarmo Tarrki
Santa Monica	Mt Olive Lutheran Church	1343 Ocean Park Blvd	90405-4719	Eric Shafer

ROSTER OF CONGREGATIONS

<u>City</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Zip Code</u>	<u>Pastor</u>
Santa Monica	St Paul Lutheran Church	958 Lincoln Blvd	90403-2807	James Boline
Santa Paula	Emmanuel Lutheran Church	117 N 7th Street	93060-2615	Dr. Cynthia Jew
Simi Valley	Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church	4191 Cochran St	93063-2347	Jennifer Chrlien
Solvang	Bethania Lutheran Church	603 Atterdag Rd	93463-2603	Chris Brown
South Gate	Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza	13431 Paramount Blvd	90280-8254	Marta Moscoso Salazar
Sun Valley	All Saints Lutheran Church	8040 Glenoaks Blvd	91352-4218	Ralph Midtlyng
Sylmar	Church of the Foothills	13425 Glenoaks Blvd	91342-2049	vacant
Temple City	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	5319 N Halifax Rd	91780-2857	Frank Wang
Templeton	Bethel Lutheran Church	295 Old County Rd	93465-9550	Amy Beveridge
Thousand Oaks	Ascension Lutheran Church	1600 E Hillcrest Dr	91362-2612	Tim Delkeskamp
Thousand Oaks	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	1 W Avenida de Los Arboles	91360-2939	Erik Goehner
Thousand Oaks	Lord of Life Lutheran Church	60 W. Olsen Road #3100	91360-2700	Scott Maxwell-Doherty
Torrance	Christ the King Lutheran Church	2706 W 182nd St	90504-5229	Dale Krumland
Torrance	First Lutheran Church	2900 W Carson St	90503-6005	William Hurst
Torrance	Fruit of the Spirit Lutheran Church	2706 W 182nd St	90504-5229	Hongsun Kim
Torrance	Glory Lutheran Church	2900 W Carson St	90503-6005	Newman Chiu
Torrance	Lutheran Oriental Church	2654 W 164th St	90504-1515	Paul Nakamura
Van Nuys	Central Lutheran Church	6425 Tyrone Ave	91401-1926	Interim Larry Eckholm
Van Nuys	St Andrew's Lutheran Church	15520 Sherman Way	91406-4113	Charles Bunnell
Ventura	Trinity Lutheran Church	196 N Ashwood Ave	93003-1810	David Hall
West Covina	Christ Lutheran Church	311 S Citrus St	91791-2110	Robert Hamel
West Hills	Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church	23838 Kittridge St	91307-3107	Bryan Woken
Woodland Hills	St Luke Lutheran Church	5312 Comercio Way	91364-2029	Janet Hansted

ROSTER OF MINISTERS – CONGREGATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State Zip</u>	<u>Ordained</u>
Anderson, Roger H	2033 E 3rd St Unit 3D	Long Beach	CA 90814	1972
Auer, Anthony	2247 Glen Canyon Rd	Altadena	CA 91001	1980
Banwart, Jr., Keith	1920 W Glenoaks Blvd	Glendale	CA 91201	1995
Bartlett, Scott	1253 Hauser Blvd	Los Angeles	CA 90019	2004
Becker, Lawrence	5525 W 142nd St	Hawthorne	CA 90250	1983
Beckham, J. Steven	3334 Faust Ave	Long Beach	CA 90808	1997
Becker, Craig	4375 Wheeler Canyon Rd	Santa Paula	CA 93060	1990
Berg, James	495 Monterey Ave	Morro Bay	CA 93442	1981
Berg, Jeffrey	43848 Windsor Pl	Lancaster	CA 93536	2002
Berkedal, David	904 E Herbine St	La Verne	CA 91750	1977
Bernal, Carl	1047 W 132nd St	Gardena	CA 90247	2003
Beveridge, Amy	303 Crocker St	Templeton	CA 93465	2011
Boline, James	3333 Cardiff Ave	Los Angeles	CA 90034	1989
Bregar, Janet	1544 6th St	Manhattan Beach	CA 90266	1992
Brown, Christopher	1565 Laurel Ave	Solvang	CA 93463	2015
Bunnell, Charles	20118 Marilla St	Chatsworth	CA 91311	1985
Burgos, Jennifer Amos	1367 N Hill Ave	Pasadena	CA 91104	2009
Carlson, Daniel	4335 Olea Ct	San Luis Obispo	CA 93401	2013
Carlson, Valerie	4335 Olea Ct	San Luis Obispo	CA 93401	2012
Castañeda Carrera, Joseph	11131 Camarillo St Apt. 7	West Toluca Lake	CA 91602	CANDIDATE
Challis, Dr. Pamela	1449 E 3rd St Apt 202	Long Beach	CA 90802	1995
Chrien, Jennifer	1539 Corte Lejos	Camarillo	CA 93010	2012
Christenson, Jon	2521 Cedar St	Bakersfield	CA 93301	
Christenson, Kurt	307 E Mountain St	Glendale	CA 91207	1989
Chutimapongrat, Golf	15215 Janine Dr	Whittier	CA 90605	
Crainer, Caleb	5600 Kensington Way Unit 305	Culver City	CA 90230	2012
Delkeskamp, Dr. Timothy	1311 Calle Pimiento	Thousand Oaks	CA 91360	1998
Demers, Philip	15347 Sonnet Pl	Hacienda Heights	CA 91745	1973
Eckholm, Larry	1141 Pine St Apt 2	So Pasadena	CA 91030	1974

ROSTER OF MINISTERS – CONGREGATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State Zip</u>	<u>Ordained</u>
Fritz, Scott	5159 W 134th St	Hawthorne	CA 90250	2006
Fuller, James	1208 E Pasteur Dr	Lancaster	CA 93535	1982
Gathje, Jon	202 S Raymond Ave Unit 509	Pasadena	CA 91105	2014
Goehner, Erik	2662 Calle Bienvenido	Thousand Oaks	CA 91360	2000
Gogorza, Cesar	7400 Tujunga Ave	North Hollywood	CA 91605	
Gravrock, Paul	1890 Autumn Pl	Simi Valley	CA 93065	1970
Hall, David	103 San Benito Ave	Ventura	CA 93004	1977
Hamm, Nancy	12650 Lakewood Bl Apt 106	Downey	CA 90242	2003
Hancer, Martin (Marty)	6045 Carpenter Ave	North Hollywood	CA 91606	1993
Hansome Jr., Reggie	1200 W Riverside Dr Apt 271	Burbank	CA 91506	1984
Hanson, Dana	6522 Comanche Ave	Winnetka	CA 91306	1982
Hansted, Janet	3276 Calle Quebracho	Thousand Oaks	CA 91360	1994
Hazard, William	5537 Pepperwood Ave	Lakewood	CA 90712	1979
Heltsley, Gary	6851 Valmont St	Tujunga	CA 91042	2000
Herder, Steven	152 Urbana Ave	Newbury Park	CA 91320	1982
Hines, Roderick	22023 Violeta Ave	Hawaiian Gardens	CA 90716	
Hogstad, Chris	3125 W Ave J4	Lancaster	CA 93536	2006
Hunt-Fryling, Megan	10316 Newhome Ave	Sunland	CA 91040	2014
Hurst Jr., William	1753 Flower Ave	Torrance	CA 90503	1992
Ittu, loan	5600 Kensington Way Unit 305	Culver City	CA 90230	2010
Jaeger, Stephanie	1636 W 25th Street	Los Angeles	CA 90007	2007
Jerbi, Steve	2830 N. Booth Street	Milwaukee	WI 53212	2007
Jew, Dr. Cynthia	117 N 7th Street	Santa Paula		
Johnson, Dr. Kenneth	120 9th St#A	Manhattan Beach	CA 90266	1989
Johnson, Dr. Thomas	665 Ridgelfield Dr	Claremont	CA 91711	1983
Keadle, Matthew	7021 Glasgow Ave	Los Angeles	CA 90045	2011
Kim, Sion	11150 Tujunga Canyon Blvd	Tujunga	CA 91042	1974
King, Ernest	4205 Sea View Ln	Los Angeles	CA 90065	1971
Kintzi, Gregory	1127 Foxenwood Dr	Santa Maria	CA 93455	1987

CANDIDATE

ROSTER OF MINISTERS – CONGREGATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State Zip</u>	<u>Ordained</u>
Koepke, Donald	17702 Vierra Ave	Cerritos	CA 90703	1967
Krumland, Dale	4106 W Carson St	Torrance	CA 90503	1983
Leiter, Marshall (Gene)	17220 Village 17	Camarillo	CA 93012	1969
Lin, David	12527 206th St	Lakewood	CA 90715	CANDIDATE
Lindstrom, Dr. Christopher	1350 W 25th St	San Pedro	CA 90732	1991
Lobdell, James	3500 W Manchester Blvd Unit 112	Inglewood	CA 90305	1975
Lowe, Patricia	4239 Keystone Ave	Culver City	CA 90232	2007
Maines, James	12 Hidden Valley Rd	Monrovia	CA 91016	1977
Marius, Mark	4641 Maytime Ln	Culver City	CA 90230	2001
Martell, Luther	1331 10th St	Manhattan Beach	CA 90266	2004
Masted, Frederick	6351 W 80th St	Los Angeles	CA 90045	1962
Mcleary, George	664 S Brand Blvd	San Fernando	CA 91340	2004
Midtlyng, Ralph	11000 Collett Ave	Granada Hills	CA 91344	1982
Mohr, Garry	163 El Nido Ave	Monrovia	CA 91016	1979
Montalvo, Maria Elena	2428 E. Piru Street	Compton	CA 90222	CANDIDATE
Moscoso Salazar, Marta	1857 S Longwood Ave Apt 4	Los Angeles	CA 90019	2010
Nakamura, Paul	15909 S Manhattan Pl	Gardena	CA 90247	1955
Nelson, Dean	1355 W 20th St	San Pedro	CA 90732	1970
Nelson, Jeffrey	309 E Birch Ave	Lompoc	CA 93436	1985
Otte, Steven	9222 La Barca Circle	Fountain Valley	CA 92708	2016
Paiva, Maria	14608 Purche Ave	Gardena	CA 90249	CANDIDATE
Panohan Jr., Marcos	1520 Yosemite Dr Apt 115	Los Angeles	CA 90041	2013
Person, Truls	461 N La Patera Ln	Goleta	CA 93117	1989
Peterson, Scott	1700 Foothill Blvd	La Canada Flintridge	CA 91011	1997
Proper, James	115 Paloma Ave	Long Beach	CA 90803	1981
Radtke, Elizabeth	914 Larable Ct	Paso Robles	CA 93446	2007
Radtke, Ryan	914 Larable Ct	Paso Robles	CA 93446	2008
Rasbach, Mark	1615 N Laurel Ave Apt 108	Los Angeles	CA 90046	1980
Rogahn, Roger	2236 Merton St Apt 201	Los Angeles	CA 90041	1965

ROSTER OF MINISTERS – CONGREGATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State Zip</u>	<u>Ordained</u>
Sanders, Violeta	13917 Benbow St	Baldwin Park	CA 91706	
Shafer, Eric	1329 Ocean Park Blvd	Santa Monica	CA 90405	1976
Simpson, Steven	1539 Corte Lejos	Camarillo	CA 93010	2012
Soyster, John	609 Marsh Rondo	Camarillo	CA 93010	1979
Strom, Eric	2336 Tricking Creek Dr	La Verne	CA 91750	1996
Sumner-Eisenbraun, Sarah	940 Del Rey Dr	Glendale	CA 91207	2007
Switzler, Nancy	218 S G Street	Oxnard	CA 93030	2010
Thompson Jr., James	1043 E Mountain View Ave	Glendora	CA 91740	1976
Villa, Dr. George	14503 S Wadkins Ave	Gardena	CA 90249	1985
Wang, Charlie Jiali	312 N Orange Ave	Monterey Park	CA 91755	1996
Wang, Frank	10403 Freer St	Temple City	CA 91780	2009
Williams, Tracy	2738 S Mansfield Ave #3	Los Angeles	CA 90016	CANDIDATE
Winick, Mark A.	13425 Glenoaks Blvd	Sylmar		
Woken, Bryan	24028 Vanowen St	West Hills	CA 91307	1985
Yu, John	5319 N Halifax Rd	Temple City	CA 91780	CANDIDATE

ROSTER OF MINISTERS – SPECIAL CALL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State/Zip</u>	<u>Ordained</u>
Ackerman, Nancy	(Netzel Grigsby Associates) 601 N Kenwood St Unit 103	Glendale	CA 91206	1992
Arroyo, Cesar	(Faith Lutheran Church) 7233 Kelvin Ave #101	Winnetka	CA 91306	1987
Baughman-Collinge, Tom	(Vitas Healthcare-Orange County) 13948 Edgewater Dr	Norwalk	CA 90650	2014
Berg, David	(Optimum Hospice Care) 19712 Nancy Ct	Cerritos	CA 90703	1994
Bersley, William	(California Lutheran University) 1799 Benson Ave	Cambria	CA 93428	1970
Bowen, Kenny	(Southwest California Synod) 1817 Ashbrook Ave	Long Beach	CA 90815	1990
Bullock, Lynn	(New Hope Lutheran Church) 41 Fallen Oaks Dr	Thousand Oaks	CA 91360	2009
Chaddick, Ryan	(Bloom Lutheran Church) 24709 Magic Mountain Pkwy Apt 2431	Valencia	CA 91355	2015
Chiu, Newman	(Glory Lutheran Church) 18402 Grevillea Ave	Redondo Beach	CA 90278	1988
Dahill, Dr. Lisa	(California Lutheran University) 2150 Dunn Ct	Thousand Oaks	CA 91360	1990
Enloe, Lynn	(Our Saviour's Lutheran Church) 103 Rancho Adolfo Dr	Camarillo	CA 93012	2004
Erwin, Robert	(Southwest California Synod) 22226 Welby Way	Woodland Hills	CA 91303	2011
Fielder, Scott	(Bethel Lutheran Church) 29705 Windwood Cir	Temecula	CA 92591	2014
Funk-Phil, Marjorie	(Southwest California Synod) 1252 Alder Ct	San Luis Obispo	CA 93401	1997
Gibson, Daniel	(First Lutheran Church) 1021 Cravens Ave Unit 11	Torrance	CA 90501	2002
Hamel, Robert	(Christ Lutheran Church) 1159 N Conwell Ave Apt 131	Covina	CA 91722	1984
Hemphill, Jonathan	(Another Level Ministries) 16010 Crenshaw Blvd Ste K	Gardena	CA 90249	2015
Johnson, Kapp	(California Lutheran University) 1785 Sweet Briar Pl	Thousand Oaks	CA 91362	1984
Kärkkäinen, Dr. Veli-Matti	(Finnish Lutheran Church) 500 East Amado Road Unit 512	Palm Springs	CA 92262	2015
Kassahun, Beryam	(ELCA Global Mission) 8765 W Higgins Rd	Chicago	IL 60631	1994
Kim, Hongsun	(Fruit of the Spirit) 17556 Van Buren Ln	Huntington Beach	CA 92647	2017
Limenih, Charlene	(Chapel of Peace Lutheran Church) 3431 Walton Ave	Los Angeles	CA 90007	
Magee, Michelle	(Santa Paula First UMC) 189 Walden St	Santa Paula	CA 93060	2009
Manion, Dr. Synde	(Fairview Developmental Center) 9672 Flounder Dr	Huntington Beach	CA 92646	1984
Maxwell-Doherty, Melissa	(California Lutheran University) 188 Faculty St	Thousand Oaks	CA 91360	1981
Maxwell-Doherty, Scott	(Lord of Life Lutheran Church) 188 Faculty St	Thousand Oaks	CA 91360	1981
Miller, John	(Olivet Lutheran Church) 3852 Degnan Blvd	Los Angeles	CA 90008	2001
Nieva, Samuel	(Pueblo de Dios Lutheran Church) 3235 Garden Ln	Hawthorne	CA 90250	2003
O'Callaghan, Asher	(Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries) 1175 E Ocean Blvd Unit 103	Long Beach	CA 90802	2015
Plessner, John	(Resurrection Lutheran Church) 32427 Sea Raven Dr	Rancho Palos Verdes	CA 90275	2001
Salvatierra, Alexia	(Hope Lutheran Church) 9 Shadow Ln	Rolling Hills Estate	CA 90274	1987
Santizos, Martha	(Trinity Lutheran Church) 3108 Foothill Rd	Santa Barbara	CA 93105	2015

ROSTER OF MINISTERS – SPECIAL CALL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>State/Zip</u>	<u>Ordained</u>
Schultz-Akerson, Peg	(Lutheran Church of the Master) 1733 Sunset Ave	Santa Monica	CA 90405	1980
Schultz-Akerson, Reginald	(Southwest California Synod) 1733 Sunset Ave	Santa Monica	CA 90405	1980
Starr Jr., Albert	(ELCA Multicultural Ministries) 3618 W 59th St	Los Angeles	CA 90043	1982
Stein-Webber, Brian	(PLTS) 1265 Holman Rd	Oakland	CA 94610	1984
Sumner-Eisenbraun, Kevin	(Companion Hospice) 940 Del Rey Dr	Glendale	CA 91207	2009
Tarki, Dr. Jarmo	(Finnish Lutheran Church) 1670 Kronen Way	Solvang	CA 93463	1977
Taylor, Karen	(St Timothy Lutheran Church) 7378 El Tomaso Way	Buena Park	CA 90620	1987
Thasiah, Dr. Victor	(California Lutheran University) 1681 San Nicholas St	Ventura	CA 93001	2005
Wilder, Dawn	(Emmanuel Lutheran Church) 1243 Electric St	Gardena	CA 90248	2017
Wite, Mark	(Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church) 3008 E Cameron Ave	West Covina	CA 91791	1986

ROSTER OF DEACONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certified</u>	<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>
Ackerman, Nancy	1992	Netzel Grigsby Associates	601 N Kenwood St Unit 103 Glendale, CA 91206
Beaman, Tempie	2014	My Friends House	5728 Chesley Ave Los Angeles, CA 90043
Berkeland, Nancy	1977	Westchester Lutheran School	5900 Abernathy Dr Los Angeles, CA 90045
Bulock, Lynn	2009	New Hope Lutheran Church	41 Fallen Oaks Dr Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
Burnford, Frances	1989	Southwest California Synod	13044 Calvert St Van Nuys, CA 91401
Chelsvig, Dr. Marilyn	1987	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	1491 Interlachen Rd Apt 257E Seal Beach, CA 90740
Hoffman, Barbara	1987	St Paul Lutheran Church	554 N Arden Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90004
Howland, Jamie	2002	Our Savior's Lutheran Church	PO Box 6437 Lancaster, CA 93539
Santrizos, Martha	2015	Trinity Lutheran Church	3108 Foothill Rd Santa Barbara, CA 93105
Sumner-Eisenbraun, Kevin	2009	Companion Hospice	940 Del Rey Dr Glendale, CA 91207
Taylor, Karen	1987	St Timothy Lutheran Church	7378 El Tomaso Way Buena Park, CA 90620

ON LEAVE FROM CALL

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certified</u>	<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>
Alderson, Herbert	1964	Pastor	3300 Ramona Rd Atascadero CA 93422
Arroyo, Laurie	2001	Pastor	734 Terraine Ave Long Beach CA 90804
Buma, Christine	1985	Pastor	PO Box 6502 Pine Mountain CA 93222
Fiechter, Stephen	1997	Pastor	1213 N Cherokee Ave Los Angeles CA 90038
Gesch, Kenneth	1993	Pastor	4898 Sullivan St Ventura CA 93003
Hogstad, Megan	2006	Deacon	3125 W Ave J4 Lancaster CA 93536
Nees, Elizabeth	2010	Pastor	652 Leonard St Camarillo CA 93010
Stevert, Ruth	1982	Pastor	657 Quincy Ave Long Beach CA 90814
Tan, Dr. George	1984	Pastor	132 Casuda Canyon Dr Apt B Monterey Park CA 91754
Wilson, Karen	2009	Deacon	95 Santa Ana Ave Santa Barbara CA 93111