

# Praxis

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

**January 2008**

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## Catechumenate Training



Pictured above during a break at Fr Bernard Youth Center, Mt Angel, Oregon, Left to right:

*Pr Christian Jennert, ( St Mark's, SF), Dean Atkinson (St Mark's), Christina Lynn (Faith, Chico), Liv Beck (St Mark's), Pr Reg Schultz Akerson (Faith), Jan Charter (St Mark's).*

The Word and Sacrament Team was pleased to assist in the costs of sending two Sierra Pacific Synod congregational teams to Oregon for training in this process of faith formation. They report that it was a wonderful experience and though it rained(!) it was a beautiful and inspiring time.

The next steps will be sharing their experience with the lay leadership of the two congregations. Next comes the planning for implementing this faith formation process and introducing it to the congregations.

For a reflection on the training, go to page Four ( the Discipling Team page) for a report from Pr Christian Jennert of St Mark's in San Francisco.

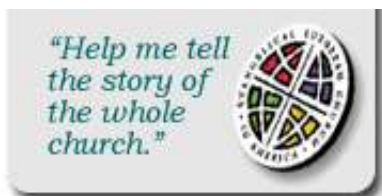
For an overview of the catechumenate, visit [www.wordandsacrament.org](http://www.wordandsacrament.org) click on the catechumenate button.



## Pr Bud Egdahl

Read Bits from Bud in the weekly Byte of Synod. Not a subscriber? Send a note to [info@spselca.org](mailto:info@spselca.org)

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[Stories of the church to Share](#)

## GET A GRIP

### Pr Lauren “Bud” Egdahl, Stewardship Specialist

We’ve heard that piece of advice more than once, haven’t we? Maybe even handed it out ourselves on occasion. Get a grip! Often, it is meant as a put-down. But it need not be. Think of it as an invitation. Let me explain:

Every time I have ridden (or watched) the cable cars in San Francisco I am always impressed by how they are propelled. No motor and gears, like a bus. The “big man” on the cable car is THE GRIP!

Down below the roadway is a big continuous loop cable, and “the grip” pulls back a big lever which attaches something to the cable and away goes the car – up hills and down hills, and over all the level land as well.

To move along in faithfulness in discipleship each day, it seems to me that each of us needs to “get a grip” on the continuous pull of the Holy Spirit of God.

Not pulling some lever or another, but stepping out in faithful witness by word and deed, using the gifts of prayer and The Word, participating wholeheartedly in worship of the Lord.

And more than just “get a grip”, we should hold that grip, constantly, propelled by the Presence and the Power of God.

The Christ that invaded our world and enters our hearts is God’s invitation to “get a grip.” Jesus promised to “draw” all who will to His kingdom. He promises a “good ride” filled with forgiveness and among the joy of all the other faithful who are “riding” with us.

Got a grip? Hang on. It will be a good new year! Enjoy the ride!



### Response to Kenya Crisis

Rising tensions and violence in Kenya following a disputed election has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people, with tens of thousands fleeing their homes.

Reports estimate that between 70,000 and 100,000 Kenyans have been uprooted by the violence in the country, with some people fleeing to nearby Uganda and Tanzania.

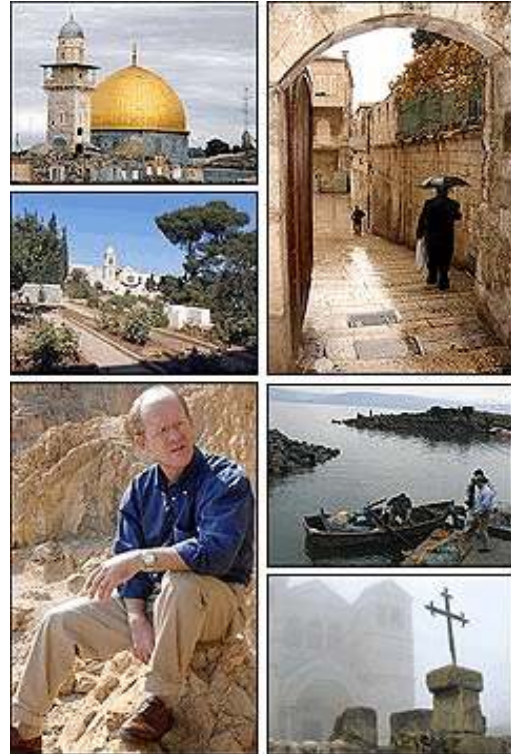
Lutheran World Relief, has an office is based in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, and is responding to this humanitarian crisis as part of the alliance Action by Churches Together International. The massive displacement requires urgent attention.

The ACT Kenya Forum has already mobilized some emergency food relief for displaced people in the Nairobi slums and in Kisumu, through ACT members Church World Service and Norwegian Church Aid, with local implementing partners of the local Lutheran Church bodies. LWR staff and other ACT members are closely monitoring the situation and will determine the best ways to respond.

You can help with a gift to LWR. Visit [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org) to give, or call 1-800-LWR-LWR-2 or mail a donation to: Lutheran World Relief: Kenya Crisis P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832

### Resources for Lent

Devotional helps for individuals, an explanation of what Lent is, resources for worship planners and more emphasize discipleship, simple living and the traditional lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and giving; all are linked from this [online resource](#). New this year: 2008 Global Mission worship resource, "[Global Companions](#): Who Is My Neighbor?" which includes an Easter Sunday resource from Jerusalem.



Pastor, theologian and *Grace Matters* ([www.gracematters.org](http://www.gracematters.org)) radio host Peter Marty travels through the Holy Land in this expanded broadcast version of *Introducing Jesus of Nazareth* (originally produced for Mosaic Television). Journey where Jesus walked, from Nazareth and Bethlehem to Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan Valley, the Mount of Transfiguration, and finally to Jerusalem. *Introducing Jesus of Nazareth*, presented on ABC television by the National Council of Churches through the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, is a straightforward, concise retelling of the gospel story told against a backdrop of breathtaking scenes from the Holy Land. For more information, visit [www.elca.org/introducingjesus](http://www.elca.org/introducingjesus).



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# Word and Sacrament Discipling Team

## Word & Sacrament Discipling Team

### *Chair*

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

### *District A*

**Pr Karen Woida**  
Alma Via  
San Rafael

### *District B*

**Mr Carlton Holte**  
Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Davis

### *District C*

**Susan Peterson,**  
Resurrection, Dublin

### *District D*

**Pr Debra Slifer**  
Interim Ministry

### *District E*

**Vacant**

### *At Large*

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

### *At Large*

**Diane McGeogh**

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

## Reflections on the Catechumenate Training

Historically, this process is for those preparing to be baptized, the “catechumens”. One of the roots of these words is a Greek verb (*katechein*) meaning “to sound out”. Sounding out the faith of the church, or borrowing from St. Paul's writing, catechumens learning how to articulate their faith.

I was not aware of this well-defined and deeply spiritual process of welcoming newcomers—for unbaptized seekers and for already baptized Christians desiring to re-connect with the church. This is a gift being shared with us by our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters.

There is no set time line- the journey to the waters of baptism does not have to be rushed, even for those already baptized. The gift of faith is precious and we are not to sell this gift short. Bonhoeffer's idea of “cheap grace” from his book “Discipleship” came to my mind!

There is time for reflection, discernment and the exploration of what it means to be a Christian. The process is clearly not a “quick faith sells” or a fast lane membership program. The inquirers are never alone in their journey—sponsors are a vital part!

Meetings for inquirers are lay-led and ideally offered year-round. On occasion, but not as the rule, a pastor can be the facilitator. These gatherings are not quick introductions to church teachings, but instead conversations on faith and the church, reflections on Sunday's scripture readings, and basic questions that people bring with them. Scripture and their own lives are the central topics. Any question on someone's mind can be asked- simple or profound. Such as “Why do Lutherans call ordained ministers ‘pastor?’” Or , “How do we pray?” The gatherings welcome all inquirers and the facilitator is open to the questions that seekers bring.

The Catechumenate is not a “church growth program” or a means to get more people into the pews. It is an intentional, and thorough process of making disciples- which involves the entire community. It is an inspiring, faith deepening, and immensely spiritual process which strengthens all to become better followers of Christ. I highly recommend the training of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate. It moved the hearts of all of us who attended from our congregation.

Resources on the Catechumenate and especially from a Lutheran perspective can be ordered from our SPS Resource Center [www.resourcecenterspselca.org](http://www.resourcecenterspselca.org) or Augsburg Fortress.

Pr Christian Jennert, St Mark's, San Francisco

# Congregations

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## **Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches work together for fair trade by Richard Judkins**

Two neighboring churches recently collaborated to introduce members of their congregations to fair trade. St. Dominic Catholic Parish and First Lutheran Church, both of Orland, California, together held a fair trade fair during Advent. Members of their communities bought handmade items and coffee from around the world.

Members of the two congregations were delighted with the opportunity to buy not only rich coffee, but also handmade items like bowls, baskets, and jewelry. The most popular items sold very quickly, including a singing bowl which makes a melodic sound when rubbed with its accompanying wooden baton. This was made in India. Other items were a beautiful blue porcelain bowl, a mother-of-pearl elephant-shaped pin, and a rain stick.

Many different kinds of coffee from around the world were offered and sold out very quickly. "Coffee is that it is a very important cash crop for many small producers," said Rev. Judith Morgado, pastor of First Lutheran Church. "Through fair trade, small farmers are provided a living wage – it's an issue of justice and human dignity."

Rev. Morgado with husband Ed Morgado, deacon in the Sacramento Diocese as well as a Global Fellow with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), recently observed the importance of fair trade first-hand when they toured Central America under the auspices of CRS. Upon returning home, she pondered the

question, How to participate and how to help local congregations to participate in fair trade on a very practical level. Catholic Relief Services and Lutheran World Relief provide just such opportunities. Handicraft items are obtained through the former and coffee is obtained via the latter.

"We liked the idea of offering both handicrafts and coffee," said Rev. Hernando Gomez, pastor of St. Dominic Parish. Father Gomez comes from Colombia, where coffee is central to the culture and the economy. "I was glad to see the coffee sell so quickly," Father Gomez concluded.

While everyone was gratified by the opportunity to work directly with fair trade, a definite highlight was that the two neighboring congregations worked together on this project. "It isn't the first time we have worked together: we collaborated on a joint VBS 2007 program," said Pastor Morgado. (More on Pg 6)

### **Let Your Light Shine!**

Don't be shy about sharing what the congregation is doing in your community...and beyond. Email pictures and stories to [info@spselca.org](mailto:info@spselca.org)

# Congregations

( Churches work together, continued)

Richard Judkins, Pastoral Associate at St. Dominic Parish, commented, “These two communities have a long history of working together. We have more in common than not in common. It is very easy to work toward common goals like fair trade.”

Will there be other fairs where fair trade items are sold? Judging by the satisfaction of customers at this one, it seems certain there will be. “A couple of items sold immediately and were in great demand,” said Pastor Morgado. “We’ve already had requests for another fair.”



(l-r) Richard Judkins, Pastoral Associate at St. Dominic Parish, and Revs. Judith Morgado of First Lutheran Church and Hernando Gomez of St. Dominic Parish, successfully co-hosted a Fair Trade Show in Advent of 2007

## Gift of Grace, Lutheran Mission at Fernley, Nevada



(L-r) Verl-lee and Bob Ely of Gift of Grace and other helpers and flood victims.

The building in the background is where Gift of Grace holds worship services and is also now serving as the clothing center. Pastor Paul Theiss reports that donations of more clothes is NOT needed!

## St Paul's in Oakland hosts University Chorale

The University Chorale of Pacific Lutheran University will perform at St Paul's on Friday, January 25 at 7 p.m.

Steven Zopfi is the conductor, with guest artist Paul Tegels, an internationally acclaimed organ and harpsichord recitalist who serves as university organist.

The performance is free, although donations will be gratefully accepted.

## We Pray

in thanksgiving for the continuing recovery of Irna Mikulasek, wife of retired Pr Ken Mikulasek

in sympathy with Pr Don Wolkenhauer at the death of his brother, Pr Richard Wolkenhauer, on Christmas Eve

( We welcome prayer requests—please be sure to secure permission from those you wish to have included in this public space)

Send prayer requests to [info@spselca.org](mailto:info@spselca.org)

## Roster Changes

Cora Aguilar, to retirement(Grand Canyon Synod)  
Marcia Brennan, to Trinity, Fort Bragg  
Cheryl Corneliussen, to Zion, Stockton  
Don Haven, to Resurrection, Granite Bay  
JoAnn Neal, to Emanuel, Modesto

## Congregations in Transition

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

### Congregation

### Interim Pastor

Auberry, Sierra (2)	
Citrus Heights, Advent (Associate)(4)	
Concord, Good Shepherd (1)	
Elko, Faith (3)	Beverly Jensen
Fairfax, Christ (2)	Terry Hamilton-Poore
Fort Bragg, Trinity (4)	Chris Warner-Carey
Fresno, Immanuel(Associate) (3)	
Granite Bay, Resurrection(4)	John Ridenour
Grass Valley, Peace (2) (Associate)	
Hayward, Messiah	
Kerman, Bethany (2)	
Lodi, Emanuel (2)	
Marysville, Faith (1)	Kirk Shipley
Merced, Shepherd of the Valley (2)	Nick Droge
Millbrae, Calvary (3)	Richard Smith
Modesto, Emanuel(4)	Roger Lee
Palo Alto, First (3)	David Rohrer
Quincy, Our Savior (3)	Ruth Hanusa
Redding, St James (1)	
Reno, Holy Cross (1)	Larry Quanbeck
Rio Linda, Calvary(3)	Bruce Johnson
Sacramento, Gloria Dei	
Sacramento, Good Shepherd (2)	Russ Creydt
Sacramento, Our Redeemer (1)	Scott Minke
San Leandro, St James (2)	Ruth Leshar
Saratoga, Immanuel (2)	William Norman
Stockton, Zion (4)	Cindy Beck
Woodland (Associate)(2)	

# Synod Calendar

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## January

- 1 Name of Jesus Day/New Year' s Day (office closed)
- 8-13 Bishop' s Academy
- 11-12 Candidacy Committee
- 12 Rwanda Connection Committee
- 13 Delta Diablo Conference Assembly  
Sierra San Jaquin Conference Assembly
- 14-17 Professional Leaders Retreat
- 16 Deans Meeting
- 17-19 " Leading the Song" event
- 21 Assembly Planning Team
- 24 San Francisco Conference Assembly
- 25-26 Synod Council

## February

- 6 Ash Wednesday
- 17-19 Clergy/AiMs/Spouses Retreat
- 18 Assembly Planning Team
- 26-28 Region II Bishops & Staff Retreat

## March

- 3-4 Clergy/Spouse Retreat
- 6-11 Conference of Bishops
- 17 Chrism Mass
- 21 Good Friday—office closed
- 23 Resurrection of Our Lord

## April

- 1-3 First Call Theological Education
- 11-13 Candidacy Committee
- 24 Synod Council
- 25-27 Synod Assembly
- 28 Office Closed

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

**by the Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA**

**Rev F Noreen Meginness, Editor**

**Rev David G Mullen, Bishop**

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