

# *Sierra Pacific Synod*

## *“Claimed... Gathered... Sent”*

May 5, 2009

Dear Voting Members and Visitors to the 2009 Sierra Pacific Assembly,

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

As we gather in Fresno for our Assembly during the week before Pentecost, I wonder, will we be as expectant of the inspiration of God’s Spirit as those who first lived between the breath of the Risen Christ falling upon them in the upper room and the tongues of fire which inspired their witness on the day of Pentecost? That is, in part, our calling – to live expectantly that God’s presence is ever ready to break into our world -- as we gather to pray, worship, study God’s Word, fellowship and yes, do the business of the Sierra Pacific Synod.

In this handbook, you will find information to review before we gather, as well as to use while we are in Assembly. Please note the information about the Agenda (Section 1), the Synod Budget (Section 2), candidates for Synod Treasurer, Synod Council and Synod Discipling Teams (Section 3), a proposed Amendment to our Constitution and By-Laws (Section 4), Resolutions (Section 5), and the Rules of Order for Synod Assemblies (Section 7). Reports from ministries both inside and outside of our synod can be found in Section 6. **As voting members and visitors you are responsible for downloading, printing, reading and bringing with this information with you to the Assembly. *Packets of information will NOT be available at the Assembly.***

Our theme this year -- **“God’s Work – Our Hands”** -- is reflective of the Mission Statement of the E.L.C.A. – **“Marked with the Cross of Christ forever, we are claimed, gathered and sent for the sake of the world.”** We gather in the name of the One who has **claimed us, gathered us in, and sent us out** to serve in Christ’s name. We gather to hear the Word proclaimed in Bible Study by **Bishop Emeritus April Ullring-Larson**, and to hear calls to serve from **The Rev. John Rutsindintwarne**, General Secretary of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda, **Robin Strickler**, Director of the Rwandan Schools Project, and **The Rev. Walt Parry**, Executive of Fresno Metro Ministry. We will hear a report of the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from **Mr. Carlos Peña**, Vice President of the E.L.C.A.

We also gather to give thanks to God through Assembly Worship, offerings from which will be divided between the **Rwandan Schools Project** and **Fresno Metro Ministry**. Please be sure to bring your congregation’s/ministry’s contribution for the synod assembly offering. In addition, you are asked to bring **“in-kind offerings”** of new or gently-used **books** which will be donated to the Central Valley Book Bank, and for those who are **knitters and crochet-ers**, there is an opportunity to bring yarn and knitting needles for the opportunity to make **scarves** for the homeless of the Fresno area.

Two different dinner events on Thursday evening will feature the work of advocacy ministries on regional and international levels. The Global Missions Dinner will feature work being done in our Companion Synod, The Lutheran Church of Rwanda. The Lutheran Office of Public Policy/Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Nevada Dinner event will feature work being done locally/regionally to improve the quality of life for people in the communities we are called to serve. (OK -- if you’ve read this far – I am really impressed! Please e-mail me at [bpmark@spselca.org](mailto:bpmark@spselca.org) by May 17<sup>th</sup> with the following message – “Star Trek Forever!” and you will receive special recognition at the Assembly... If you don’t e-mail me, you’ll also receive recognition, it just won’t be as special...)

The Friday evening banquet will include a celebration of significant anniversaries of ordination of clergy in our synod and congregations celebrating significant anniversaries. Information about those who are celebrating anniversaries can be found in the pages following the Synod Assembly Agenda. ***All of the meal events require that you be either a registered Voting Member of the Assembly or a registered Visitor. No tickets will be available for purchase at the Assembly.***

We have been and will be blessed by the people of the churches/conferences of the Fresno area – thank you to all who have helped with local arrangements for everything from registration to hospitality. ***An Assembly Choir*** is being formed for the closing worship service on Saturday morning – please look for information that will be offered during the Assembly as to how you can participate.

What's new, different or important information for you to know about this year's Assembly?

- + We will be using wireless electronic voting for the first time!
- + We are “going green” by attempting to use as little paper as possible; there will be no “packets” as in years past. Information can be picked up by interested persons in the Display Area in the Radisson Conference Center.
- + If you are bringing materials for Assembly Voting Members, there will be an additional table in the display area where these may be made available. NO documents may be distributed on the Assembly floor without the approval of the Synod Secretary or Bishop's Associate Nancy F. Nelson.
- + There will be three worship services to lift up opportunities to join our voices together as we sing praises to God . Thanks to all those who are offering their gifts in leading us.
- + All called leaders in the synod (Pastors, Associates in Ministry and Diaconal Ministers) are invited to have their picture taken by Olan Mills Photography for a new Synod Directory. Appointments can be made and pictures will be taken in the Display Area.
- + There are a number of workshops available for you to attend on Friday afternoon – all of which are offered in the hope of strengthening/encouraging the ministries of our Synod.

I especially want to thank those of the Assembly Planning Team and from the Fresno area who have planned for this assembly, including Kathryn Beck, Assembly Planning Committee Chair, and members of the synod staff: The Rev. Nancy Feniuk Nelson, The Rev. Harvey Blomberg, Barbara Nelson, Mary Brown, Suzanne Bruce and Steve Krefting.

Lastly, please pray for our time together in Assembly as we gather round the theme, ***“God's Work, Our Hands.”*** All those who have worked hard to prepare for this gathering are excited to welcome you to the 2009 Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly.

God's Peace,  
Mark W. Holmerud, Bishop

Fresno Convention Center, Valdez Hall  
&  
Radisson Hotel Conference Center  
2233 Ventura Avenue,  
Fresno, CA

<http://www.fresnoconventioncenter.com/venues/map.html>

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## **Bulletin of Reports for the 2009 Assembly**

### **Section 1**

**AGENDA of the Assembly**

**Leadership at the Assembly**

**Anniversaries, Roster Changes, Retired Pastors, Necrology**

### **Section 2**

**Proposed 2009 Budget and 2008 SPS Mission Support Report**

### **Section 3**

**Nominations and Elections**

**Treasurer**

**Synod Council**

**Discipling Teams**

### **Section 4**

**Proposed Amendment to the By-Laws**

### **Section 5**

**Resolutions**

### **Section 6**

**Reports from Institutions, Agencies and Ministries of the Sierra Pacific Synod**

### **Section 7**

**Standing Rules of Order, Voting Member Guide, Sierra Pacific Synod Constitution and Bylaws**