

Praxis *

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

March 2006

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Synod Assembly May 19-21

Living in God's Amazing Grace: Bringing Good News to the Poor

Voting Members from congregations and missions, special ministries and visitors may register online at www.spselca.org

Guests

Special guests will include, Pr William "Bill" Kees, who will represent Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. Pr Kees is a Sierra Pacific Synod pastor serving the ELCA as the Director for Youth Ministries.

We are pleased to have a Keynote Presentation Team, Pr Karen Ward of Apostle's Church in Seattle and Pr Nathan Frambach, of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque.

Pr Byron Williams, a syndicated columnist, as well as pastor of Resurrection Community Church in Oakland, will also be a featured guest speaker.

Program/ Business

Workshops will cover an array of topics from Disaster Preparedness by LSS ,to Prison Ministry, Community Organizing Projects, Coaching for Congregations, and more. The proposed budget will be discussed in a Committee of the Whole on Saturday afternoon.

Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee is already at work. Hearings will be held Friday at 10:00 am prior to the Opening of the Assembly. Resolutions will be considered in the first Plenary Session on Friday afternoon.

Stewardship



Pr Bud Egdahl

Archbishop Romero's Words

A STEWARD'S UNDERSTANDING

Pr Lauren "Bud" Egdahl, Stewardship Specialist

The late Archbishop Romero of El Salvador preached these words in another context, but they offer stewardship understanding.

"It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

"We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. Not statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

"That is what we are about. We plant seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

"We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

"We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. Amen"

To which let all the people of God say: "AMEN!"

The Bishop

Our Lenten Time

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

With Lent once again we enter a *kairos* time (opportune time) for greater conscious of the realities of our existence.

An ancient prayer, embedded in the Orthodox Lenten tradition, can raise our consciousness: “Christ and Master of my life, do not give me a spirit of idleness, curiosity, lust of power and occupation with trivialities. Instead, give me, your servant, a spirit of prudence, humility, patience and love. Yes, Lord, make me able to see my own faults and not judge my brother, for You are blessed unto the ages of ages. Amen.” (from Saint Ephraim the Syrian.)



If, along with faithful attendance at liturgies and our personal devotions, we fervently pray that prayer several times a day during Lent, we and others will be blessed. We will become more conscious of the merciful presence of Christ in our lives. We will then sense the urgency of the need for evangelization. For when we see Christ more clearly, we see everything more clearly, including the spiritual confusion everywhere around us.

This consciousness is why Lent initially was the period of time in the early church when there was an intentional focus on those seeking Christ. The seekers, who had been catechized for over the prior year or longer, were more intensively presented the parameters of life in Christ in his body the church. And then, at the Easter Vigil, the glorious end of Lent, they turned their backs on their old way of life by receiving the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and so entered Christ’s new way of life in the world.

Turning away from trivialities to attain greater consciousness of our own need for mercy, greater consciousness of the merciful and blessed presence of the risen Christ in the one holy catholic and apostolic church, we understand and obey with greater urgency Christ’s mandate to go and make disciples of all people, helping them to observe all he that continues to teach us.

It is a truly blessed Lent when this *kairos* season becomes an anticipatory consciousness of the church’s great joy: welcoming others into the life of Christ.

+David G. Mullen

Discipling Team

Leadership

Discipling Team

Chair

Pr Todd Bertani

District A

Pr. Arden Strasser

District B

vacant

District C

Dr. Margaret McLean

District D

Pr. Nancy Nelson

District E

vacant

At Large

Ms Karen Idler

At Large

Pr. Mark Holmerud

Pr. Bob Andersen

Dean

A Fast Moving Stream

Pr Todd Bertani

“Supporting and nurturing pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers” rostered in our synod while also “identifying and encouraging qualified person to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel” is the Leadership Team’s charter. Our work is cut out for us!

A Team With Passion

To accomplish that task, it is essential to have people who are *fired up!* We have that with Mark Holmerud, Nancy Feniuk Nelson, Margaret McLean, Arden Strasser, Tom Stoffregen, Karen Idler, Bob Anderson, and Todd Bertani. Each has a passion for creating an environment where folks are supported and fed in their ministries. It’s great to be a part of such a group

Listening Posts as Priority One

After more than a year of careful preparation, we began a series of workshops called “listening posts” with the purpose of hearing from rostered leaders what extent they are *or* are not finding support in their ministry. In partnership with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, team members were trained to be listening post facilitators.

The PBS documentary, “The Congregation” was used as an entry point for discussions as well as several case studies. Four listening posts have been held in Foster City, Davis, San Rafael, and Fresno. The feedback has been very positive and affirming. Simply by providing these events, we heard that support and nurture occurred. A blessing indeed!

The Team will consider the input from the listening posts and begin to formulate a set of recommendations for ways to better support and nurture people serving in our synod.

A Fast Moving Stream

Add to the listening posts, work on the Heartsprings Project to deepen the spiritual leadership of our pastors and lay leaders, supporting the coaching efforts in the synod, and the Professional Leaders retreat, and you have a team swimming in a fast moving stream. Prayers are welcome! Amen.

News & Notes

Brownies Host the Red Hat Society



Shepherd of the Hills in Berkeley hosts a local Brownie Troop 1230 led by church members Johanna Reneke and Rene Kvidahl and their friend Ramona Vogt. Shepherd of the Hills is also the congregation home of an active group of the Red Hat Society. The Red Hatters, women over fifty, get together for fun. Red Hatters tend to be the kind of courageous, confident, and world changing women that these girls want to grow up to be. They are also characters,

but that's another story...

The Brownie Scouts decided to reach out to new friends and earn a "Manners Try It" badge by hosting a party for the Red Hatters. The girls made the refreshments and place cards and paper fans for the guests. Making introductions is a requirement for the badge, so the Brownies practiced that at the party. Red Hatters and Brownies also enjoyed table conversation together. The Red Hatters, showed off their good manners by always saying "Please" and "Thank-you" and by offering the girls a standing ovation for their efforts. Ending the special time, Brownies and Red Hatters stood in a circle holding hands and sang "Make new friends, but keep the old." It was a wonderful and inspiring event seeing the women of the church, young and young at heart growing in grace together.

Their pastor, Katie Hines-Shah, wore a pink hat (the appropriate color for someone under 50) and was proud to take part by taking pictures. Shepherd of the Hills is fortunate to have so many capable women in residence.





Prayer Ventures depends on you—not only for prayers, but also your prayer requests. Please e-mail your requests to info@spselca.org or call us. Remember to practice forgiveness when we err and let us know about errors and omissions.

Prayers for healing for:

Pr Ron Rentner who has completed chemotherapy treatment and is now doing well; **Ann Brannen** (Synod Council) home from the hospital; **Pr John Frykman**, healing from hip surgery.

Comfort of the gospel for:

Pr Lauren “Bud” Egdahl, at the death of his wife Mary; **Pr Merle Tollefson**, at the death of his wife May. **Pr David Lundgren**, at the death of his wife Jean.

ROSTER CHANGES

Calls extended by the Synod Council to:

David Ernat, Interim Ministry

Robert Crabb, Mission Developer,
Fresno

Susan Scott, Stanford University
Chaplain

Debra Slifer, Interim Ministry

Congregations in the call process

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

Congregation	Interim Pastor
Auburn, Bethlehem (1)	Dan Hodgson
Antioch, St John’s(2)	
Granite Bay, Resurrection(2)	John Ridenour
Hollister, Trinity (3)	Frank Starkey
Livermore, Holy Cross (2)	Don Haven
Los Altos, Immanuel(1)	Jan Womer
Los Banos, St John’s (3)	Roger Lee
Merced, Shepherd of the Valley	Carl Bengston
Orangevale, Christ the King(1)	
Orinda, Lamorinda Korean	Jae Guen Lee
Palo Alto, Grace (3)	John Kerr
Pleasant Hill, St Mark’s (2)	Lyle Beckman
Porterville, Trinity (4)	Russ Mueller
Sacramento, Church of the Master (3)	Dick Smith
San Jose, St Timothy’s (Associate)(3)	
Santa Rosa, Thanksgiving (2)	Lorents Flak
Stockton, Zion (1)	Stan Niemi
Ukiah, Grace	Allen Dunn
Vacaville, Shepherd of the Hills (4)	Bob Willse

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

Please email meet in g/ev

March

- 3-8 Conference of Bishops
- 6-7 Society of the Holy Trinity Retreat
- 10-12 PLTS Youth Spring Retreat
- 14 Discipling Team Chairs & Bishop's staff
- 25 Young Men Missing Event
- 31 3-6th grade Mt Cross retreat

April

- 1-2 3-6th grade gathering, Mt Cross
- 10 Chrism Mass
- 14 Good Friday, Office closed
- 21-23 Grace Gathering, Mt Cross

ent dates for entry

on the Synod's Master Calendar to Jean

Fuller at fuller@spselca.org

To receive the Synod weekly e-mail, "Byte of Synod" send a note to info@spselca.org

www.trinitypleasanton.org

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Items may be submitted for consideration by the 15th of the preceding month to info@spselca.org



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