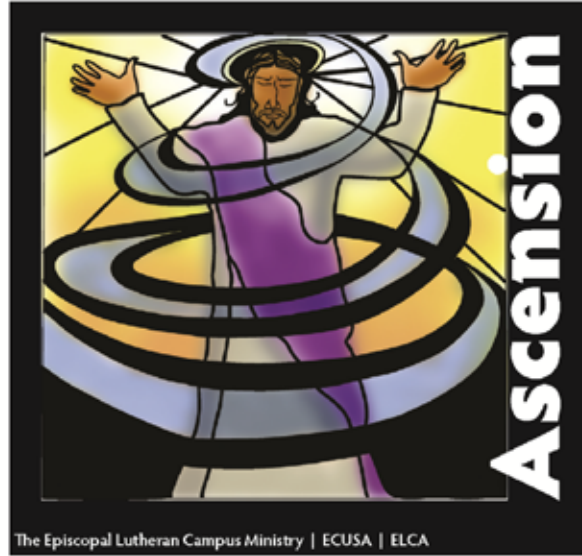


First Words

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Thursday
June 2, 2011
7:30 pm



The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori
26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Preaching

29th Annual Episcopal Lutheran Ascension Day Service Stanford Memorial Church

June 5th, Congregational Meeting

At the semi-annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 5th, we will receive the program committee reports, including the newest from the New Property Task Force, along with the reports of the Pastor and president, elect new Council members.

All Confirmed members please plan to stay after worship on the 5th and participate in the meeting. A light lunch will be served and Childcare will be provided.

June 12th, The Day of Pentecost



The Fiftieth Day of Easter

July through September 4th

One service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.

Coffee & conversation to follow. Childcare from 9–11:30 am.



The communion of saints

Pastor's Ponderings

"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting."

The third article of the Apostles' Creed.

There he stood in our parish hall, Bishop Medardo Gomez, a larger-than-life figure within the Lutheran Church of Central America, North America, and the world!

One person said to me after hearing Gomez speak that someone had once quipped, he'd be a Christian if he ever met one. Well, "we just met one!"

What an honor and privilege to have this living voice of faith, courage and hope at FLC! He, his wife Abelina, and three women from his synod staff came to the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly as guests of the Global Mission Action Team.

That team (including Joe Haletky and Karan Barich) seeks to foster sister parish relationships with our Companion Synods in El Salvador, Rwanda and Taiwan.

Our Social Ministry Committee was able to host them for a pot luck dinner Tuesday, May 17th. During the program, Bishop Gomez presented FLC with a replica of the large cross that is in Lutheran Church of The Resurrection, San Salvador.

They are celebrating the twentieth anniversary of this cross being placed in the church.

Bishop Gomez referred to this cross as "The Cross of Subversion" and told us the story behind its meaning. During the war Gomez had been identified as a revolutionary and was marked for assassination.

One day the people of the church were invited to come and write, in their own words, the sins of the nation upon this large, white cross.

When soldiers came one Sunday to seize Gomez they did not find him but after reading the words on the cross, they took 15 people and the cross into the prison.

The people were released but the cross remained! In time Bp Gomez secured its release through the German ambassador to be delivered to the Presidential Palace!

In 1991 the cross was returned to Bishop Gomez and the Church of The Resurrection.

In moving tone, Bishop Gomez spoke to us. "God has no voice but our voice, no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet" in bringing forth justice and life for the sake of the people.

The church, he continued, is the risen body of Christ in this world and the cross is a precious jewel to remind us of this.

We experienced during these days with Bishop Gomez once again the depth of meaning in the words, *the communion of saints*.



We have rich memories to relish and now a small cross to place on the altar on the fourth Sunday of the month, reminding us of our communion with the people of Rios de Agua Viva and the subversive power of Jesus Christ leading from death into life!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Kemp Segelmann".



An invitation to reach out

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Although it is perhaps difficult to believe, we are just four months away from the ten-year anniversary of September 11, 2001. Even as we seek public healing from the violence and hatred of terrorism, the losses we experienced that day are deeply personal, especially to those in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania. Our words of healing must speak to the grief that still remains.

On September 11, President Obama will dedicate a national memorial to those who died on that day ten years ago. This memorial is made possible by the Association of Victim's Families, a group founded, funded and supported by the ELCA through Lutheran Disaster Response of New York. Even as we dedicate this national memorial, we affirm that our real strength lies in our neighborliness and in relationships that have the power to shape the future of religious expression in this country.

In the 2004 ELCA message, "Living in a Time of Terrorism", this church made sober assessments about what it means to be Lutheran in the United States at a moment when Islam is so quickly paired with terrorism. As Lutherans, we affirm our baptismal commitment "to proclaim the good news" and "strive for justice and peace in all the earth." These words are often spoken on Sundays in our congregations throughout the ELCA, where we pray "for all the baptized everywhere" to be "sent into the world to witness" to God's love. The liberating power of the gospel releases us from human limi-

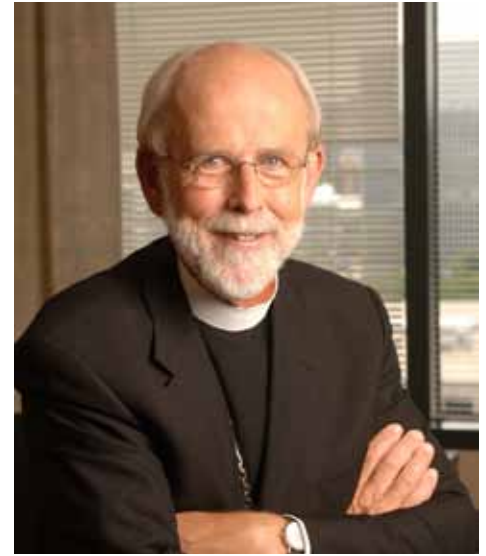
tations so that we are freed in Christ to reach out to all our neighbors.

In the past ten years, ELCA members have served frequently with Muslim, Jewish, Christian and other religious partners in efforts to heal national wounds and address the rise of bias against Muslims. A Quran burned in Florida or Michigan is an attack against the very faith we confess if we do not speak out on behalf of our neighbors. Religion must not be used as a foil for human hate; we know that Muslims join us in our commitment to combat terrorism. As we seek to build trust through these relationships, we experience the truth that terrorism is not in the core of any religion, that sacred scriptures have deep relevance to communities today, and that God's vision for our future will not be diminished by unchecked fear.

Fear of Muslims all too frequently shows up in our society as public suspicion of an entire religion. As a consequence, ethnic and religious stereotyping against Muslims spills into broad discrimination of Eastern Christians, Sikhs and others. Thoughtless acts against these groups also have an impact upon Christian communities, because they are contrary to God's vision for our future together.

I encourage you to reach out to ecumenical partners, including Muslim and Jewish partners, in your communities to plan 9/11 commemorations. I invite you to focus on increased awareness, healing of relationships and our future. I've provided information below about events being planned across this country, along

Presiding Bishop



with specific resources that will help you choose activities that promote healing and solidarity.

My prayer is that we dedicate ourselves to a common mission of reconciliation and restoration, focusing on the larger issues of peace, justice and interfaith encounter. Our local communities can be places of healing. Let us show the world that dialogue is possible and that there is room for voices that represent faith without rushing to judgement and closing off discussion. Thanks be to God that through our baptismal vocation we are freed in Christ to do God's work with our hands.

In God's grace,

– THE REV. MARK S. HANSON

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

On behalf of the children of our Sunday School, thank you very much for your support of our bake sale!

We raised \$595.64, and it was promptly sent by Karen Krogh to the ELCA Disaster Fund for relief work in Japan and Haiti.

– MARIA CORTEZ

Congratulations to the Newly Confirmed!

Lindsey Bogott, Annie Harrier, and Trevor Varney affirmed their baptismal faith on Sunday, May 29th. In this affirmation they now take on full adult membership in the body of Christ, with all its privileges and responsibilities.

Welcome them as you see them in the days ahead as they more deeply root into this community and the church of which we are a part.

– KEMP SEGERHAMMAR

An eye-opening experience

Our time at the Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly (May 13-15) was exciting and inspiring, as always. I look forward to the opportunity to touch base once again with friends and former colleagues. And of course there is the usual battle over the budget.

This year, though, the most memorable moments by far, for me at least, had to do with the greetings and sermon brought by Medardo Gomez, Bishop of El Salvador.

This humble and unassuming man recounted for us how he and his very small band of Lutherans have struggled against

terrifying opposition and persecution, not only to survive but to thrive and to grow. His message for us was that we too may find victory and security through faith in God who forms us into one family in the church, sending us out in the name of Christ to care for the last and the least.

Participating in a wider expression of the church in this way is an eye-opening experience. I hope others who have not done so in the past will consider it in the future.

– GEORGE KNUDSON

Synod Assembly



Trade judgment for curiosity

This year's Sierra Pacific Synod Assembly was my first assembly experience.

I wasn't sure what to expect, but the three days I spent there were educational, inspirational, and fun. Yes, a group of Lutherans can have fun!

The message that has left me thinking deeply about my Christian walk was a two-part bible study taught by Dr. Carol Jacobson. It was titled

“Living in 3D: Being a Mathew 25 Church.”

According to Dr. Jacobson, the message of Matthew 25 about the goats and the sheep

is not about judgment day, but rather a message about how to live in an on going relationship with God and how to love our neighbors.

Being spiritually vigilant in all that we do is the clear message of this text. According to Dr. Jacobson if we do so, “we trade judgment into curiosity.”

I wish you all could have been there with us.

– AMBER STIME

Synod Assembly



Synod Assembly report

Many members of FLC were involved with this year's Synod Assembly.

Pastor Kemp as Dean of our conference welcomed all the voting members to our territory.

Amber Stime and George Knudson were our voting members. Joe Haletky was there working with the Sister Parish committee. George and Ingrid Yule were there to give information at a display about their recent trip to Israel and Palestine.

Jill Knuth created some of their handouts and Jill also helped me with the backdrop

that hung behind the podium. John Alured served as a volunteer on both Friday and Sunday. Stephanie Leong is part of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee.

I worked on preparing the three major worship services, preached on Saturday, and was one of the chaplains to open a business session with prayer.

At the Sunday worship, Julie Valentine was one of the lectors; our FLC Choir under the direction of Kathy McKee sang at the service; Andy Chislett was the organist; Amber Valentine was the crucifer; and

Worship, Arts, & Music

Lucas Simon, Alemayu Kassa, Aya Cortez, Ricardo Hariguchi, Haley King, and Erickson Valentine were all banner bearers. The music was spectacular and people loved the banners.

At the Friday evening dinner, Bob Brohm and David Rohrer were each recognized for 50 years of ordained ministry.

I was also recognized for 25 years of ordained ministry. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this year's assembly.

– SUSAN SCOTT



David Rohrer, our former interim pastor, offering remarks on receiving his 50-year certificate



Andy Chislett at the organ preparing



Voting delegates Amber Stime and George Knudson, with Joe Haletky

The Salvadoran delegation

Social Ministry

Tuesday night, May 17th, FLC was honored to host the bishop of the Salvadoran Lutheran Church, Medardo Gomez, along with his wife, Pastor Abelina, and three women synod staff members at a festive potluck celebration.

We were moved by the stories that Bishop Gomez shared about his faith journey in the face of poverty, violence and the suffering of his people.

We were inspired by his recounting of the hope and joy that the Salvadoran people possess in the face of difficulties, and invited us all to “come and see!”

Thanks to the Social Ministry Committee and all who helped make the evening beautiful and memorable!

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR



The three El Salvador synod delegates, visiting Redwood City: Guadalupe Rosario, administrator of pastoral ministry; Aracely Ventura, synod finance administrator; Norma Castillo, Director of Sister Parish Relations (plus Brita, Christine, and “Don Jose” Joe Haletky)



Bishop Gomez, and his wife, Abelina—they really appreciated our sanctuary



Bishop Gomez, the delegation, and a group of Salvadoran students from UC Santa Cruz



Mark Holmerud, our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop with Pastor Kemp, Antonia Mendoza, Christine, Bishop Gomez, and Brita

Rios de Agua Viva is making a visit!

Preparations are underway for a visit from our sister parish in El Salvador, Rios de Agua Viva (“Rivers of Living Water”) Lutheran Church this summer!

The last time we hosted members of our sister parish was in 2002, so the time is ripe to re-invigorate our relationship with face-to-face sharing and experiences.

The dates will be June 30th–July 11th, and more news will follow in the weeks ahead as plans for activities and opportunities for interaction take shape.

The following six Rios members will be representing Rios on this trip: Ana Rivera de Rodriguez, who is in charge of the scholarship program which we support, as well as community service; Sandra Argueta, who directs Youth ministry and the tutoring program as English teacher; Fermin Gonzalez, a youth who runs the preschool program (and who also is grandson of Antonia Mendoza, a member of Rios who is our friend here at First!); Gabriela Ventura, leader of the Children’s Ministries, Sunday school and after school tutoring; Diana Muñoz, who co-leads the Sunday School program; and Pastor Vilma Rodriguez.

You can help make this visit a meaningful success!

We will be looking for FLC members who would like to host members of the delegation in their homes for “bed and breakfast” while they are with us.

It could be for a couple of nights, or longer. It will be fun to share this responsibility and it is a great opportunity to deepen friendships while enjoying a cultural exchange that you should not pass up!

Please contact Karan Barich (kbarich@juno.com) or Christine Segerhammar (segerhammar@comcast.net) to volunteer. Also, people who are free to drive and/or accompany the delegates are also needed. And money to help support this important ministry experience is also needed!

In lieu of a “fundraiser” at this point, we encourage you to please make personal donations in the offering plate earmarked for “Rios Visit”. Thank you all for joining this exciting venture!

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR



FirstWords welcomes all submissions and letters from readers.

Email firstwords-editor@flcpa.org.

Upcoming artwork

The 12-paneled piece entitled “The fire within” was painted by artist Sukey Bryan. The piece was designed for liturgical use at Pentecost using the image of wildfire as an expression of the Holy Spirit.

The number of panels correlates to the apostles as well as the 12 tribes of Israel, and the fire is the unifying element of the 12.

The power and light of the fire, the idea of being transformed in giving oneself to

and being filled with God’s love and truth are concepts behind the painting.

Like a wildfire, this spiritual fire is seen as regenerative, a cleansing fire and a reclaiming fire.

Sukey is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and her work is exhibited nationally.

The painting was created at Stanford where Sukey lives and works. Her

work which explores cycles and elements in nature, including new work with glacier imagery, can be viewed at www.sukeybryan.com.

– SUKEY BRYAN



“The fire within” installed in Memorial Church at Stanford University

One summer worship service

The Church Council has approved the Worship, Arts, and Music Committee's recommendation that for the summer we change our schedule to one worship service on Sunday mornings.

Beginning Sunday, July 3rd and continuing through Sunday, September 4th, there will

be one worship service on Sunday morning at 9:30 am. The committee consulted with the members of the Learning Committee who had determined that Sunday School classes would not be offered during the summer months so the teachers could have a summer break.

On Sunday, September 11th, the plan is to return to the two-service schedule.

– SUSAN SCOTT

Hi, dear FLC!

Greetings from Minnesota!

I think many of you have heard our family's most recent good news: the birth of

Alec Robert Langholz on April 11th, 2011 in Mankato, MN. He weighed 6 pounds 4 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

My husband Joel and I have been amazed day to day as we watch him grow!

As you might have guessed, his middle name "Robert" is for my grandpa, Bob Herhold.

I am coming to the end of a six-week parental leave from my internship congregation, Augustana Lutheran Church in Saint James, MN.

I walked in my seminary graduation on May 21st at PLTS in Berkeley, and I will be done with all requirements at the end of August when internship is complete.

Come next fall, the future holds many question marks. Joel and I would love to head back west at some point (grandparents also like this idea!), and I look forward to meaningful work in a congregation.

Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers! You all continue in ours.

In Christ's love,

– BECKY LANGHOLZ (HERHOLD)

PLTS MDiv 2011



Speaking of newborns...

The entire FLC community joins in congratulating Margaret Marshall and Karl Hillesland on the birth of their daughter Rosemary Dawn.

She was born on May 10th and weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces. Her first appearance at church was Sunday, May 22nd.



Call for talent

Anyone interested in participating in First Players' third summer play, please let us know your interest by June 10th!

The First Players are a group of talented beginners and other amateur actors, set designers, scene painters, prop and wardrobe masters, and others who take the work seriously—but not ourselves. (We laugh a lot.)

Auditions

We will soon offer a couple of evenings reading through the script together. This is a chance to get to know the play and

other players in a relaxed environment with a glass of wine.

Music

Music is part of all our shows, but don't be discouraged if you are not a singer, as not all actors are required to sing.

Rehearsals, Performance

We rehearse through the summer, working around absences for vacations, and pull the show together in September for performance usually in early October (exact date still t.b.d.).

First Players

Requirements

All men are required to buy a \$10 personal makeup kit (we order them) and apply their own base, as are women who do not already own makeup.

Please contact Julia Ball with any questions not answered above.

godzilla@stanford.edu

650.283.5661

— JULIA BALL



From last year's show "The True Story of Cinderella"

FLYing far

Well another busy year is coming to a close. The college students have returned now, if they are not already gone on other travels, our seniors and eighth graders will both be graduating and moving on to their larger worlds—if perhaps smaller schools.

As a community at First, FLY and Confirmants have been spending this month focusing on putting words to our faith.

All the efforts at memorization on the Saturday Confirmation sessions have brought forward some very interesting and poignant questions from these young minds and hearts, and we're going to spend some time really digging into what

we mean (personally but also collectively) when we talk about believing in this Jesus guy.

And this all builds up to Pentecost Sunday. This year, to celebrate the giving of the spirit, we are going to be sharing stories of faith during the church service.

This is something I would like all of us to take part in; students and adults. So, for Pentecost Sunday, come prepared to share a quick story about some time in your life when having faith made a difference in your experience, worldview and/or relationships. Not everyone will be able to share, but, it may be you who's asked to speak, so...

Youth

And then there is the fun... Mark your calendars for June 18th, because that's our best day for heading to Great America! I know the date doesn't work for a number of our FLY or Confirmants, but for those who can be there, prepare for a great day!

And that's how we're ending our school year. I hope you all enjoy your summers, and if you ever want to spend some time in the north woods of Wisconsin, you might have a place to stay.

Peace,

— NATE WINTERHOF



Summer 2011 Schedule



	Ages 6-8	Ages 8-13	Ages 13-17	Leadership
Week 1 June 5-10	Reserved for Special Friends 1			CIT 1 (Counselor in Training)
Week 2 June 12-17		Odyssey 2 (8-13) Tree Toppers 2 (Girls 9-11)	<Freshman Challenge>	
June 17-19	Young Explorers 2	Connection 2 (8-13)		
Week 3 June 19-24		Odyssey 3 (8-13) Tree Toppers 3 (Boys 9-11)	Hike, Bike & Raft Adventure (13-15)	CIT 2 (Counselor in Training)
Week 4 June 26-1	Mt. Cross Site: Reserved for District Jr. High Youth Gathering		Servant Event (High School)	
		Bear Creek Adventure (9-12)	Jr. [eXtreme] (13-15)	
Week 5 July 3-8	Mt. Cross Family Camp Week			
July 8-9		Odyssey 5 (8-13)		
July 8-9	Kinder Kamp 4-5 yr old w parent (or adult)			
Week 6 July 10-15	SHALOM Confirmation Camp (Group Registration ONLY)		Beach Camp 6 (15-17)	CIT 3 (Counselor in Training)
Week 7 July 17-22		Odyssey 7 (8-11) Tree Toppers 7 (9-11)	Jr. High Camp (12-14) Sr. High Camp (15-17)	
July 22-24	Young Explorers 7	Connection 7 (8-13)	Connection 7 (13-15)	
Week 8 July 24-29		Odyssey 8 (8-13) Tree Toppers 8 (12-13)	Beach Camp 8 (13-15)	
July 29-30		Connection 8 (age 8-15) for Sat. Pick-up		
Week 9 July 31-5	Reserved for Special Friends 2			

June Forum topics

Adult Forum is held in the Library on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am to 10:15 am. The schedule for June includes:

June 5th

First Lutheran's delegates—Amber Stime, George Knudson, and Pastor Kemp—and others who attended the 2011 Synod Assembly held on May 13th–15th will report on the Assembly and discuss Synod and ELCA issues of interest to FLC.

June 12th

George and Ingrid Yule will share their recent experiences traveling in the Holy Land.

June 19th

Ken Schreiber, who is on some interesting mailing lists, recently received a free Rosary in commemoration of the May 1st, 2011 beatification of Pope John Paul II

along with a Guide for the Schreiber Family's use of the Rosary.

Forum will discuss the Rosary and related topics such as: What is Beatification? What are the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary? Is praying the Rosary a type of meditative prayer that could be used by Lutherans? How do we react to giving Mary, mother of Jesus, a role in interceding on behalf of humans with her Son?

June 26th

A recent commentary in the Mercury News was titled: "U.S. need to clarify rules on assassination."

The Forum discussion will address the appropriateness of government instigated assassination and what rules we might focus on if given the task of creating rules for assassinations.

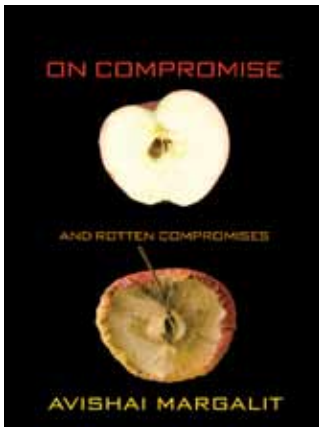
Adult Forum

Note: Forum will not be held in July, August and early September while FLC is on the summer schedule.

If you have an issue that you would like Forum to take up, whether you would like to develop information and lead a discussion or have a suggestion for others to follow up on, please contact Ken Schreiber (talk to him before or after Forum, call him at 650.853.1049 or email him at krsplan@mindspring.com).

– KEN SCHREIBER

Book group talks compromises



When is political compromise acceptable—and when is it fundamentally rotten, unacceptable no matter what?

Are there moral limits to acceptable compromise even for peace? *On Compromise and Rotten Compromises*, by Hebrew University and Princeton Professor Avishai Margalit, explores the ethical dilemmas involved and the nature of political compromise, writing with historical and philosophical perspectives.

Readable and fascinating! Come and join the discussion on Monday evening, June 13th, at 7 pm upstairs at the church. All are invited.

– CHRISTINE SEGERHAMMAR

Book Group

June birthdays

1	Jordan King, Ken Schreiber
3	Erik Bertelsen, Martha Stillman
4	Wayne Studer
5	Heather Bogott, Rand Rockwell
6	Anna Kirk
9	Merise Boda
14	Charles Haletky

17	Katie Barich
18	Becky Willrich
21	Christopher Schmoller
22	Ken Dwight
27	Jon Dechow, Johannes Schaeffner
30	Benjamin Schaeffner

Prayer petitions for Sundays follow the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and can be incorporated into the prayers at weekly worship. Weekday entries are offered as guides to prayer for the global, social and outreach ministries of the church.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the life and mission of this church.

1 Offer thanks for the young people who give one year of their lives to serve the church around the world through the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

Pray especially for Lauren Frail and Julie Rower who serve in Hungary.

2 Pray for the following ELCA synods as they meet in assembly this week: Allegheny, Central/Southern Illinois, Delaware-Maryland, Lower Susquehanna, New Jersey, North Carolina, Western North Dakota, Virginia, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Metropolitan Chicago, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, West Virginia-Western Maryland, Central States, Eastern Washington-Idaho, Indiana-Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, New England, Northeastern Iowa, Oregon, Southeastern, and Western Iowa.

3 Pray for the Pastor's Academy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and the two pastors from the ELCA Northwest Synod of Wisconsin who will join faculty this month in Malawi to teach Bible and the Lutheran Confessions to all the pastors of the church, as well as lay evangelists.

4 Pray that those attending the Bread for the World Gathering in Washington, D.C., this month come home inspired and equipped to speak boldly for people living with hunger and poverty.

5 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Merciful God, we thank you for the growing peace in Angola and Mozambique, and for the Lutheran churches there who are

making positive impact in their communities through health service programs and the proclamation of the good news.

6 Give thanks for the service of Carolyn Rasmussen, who serves as a volunteer teacher at Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing in Liberia.

7 Pray for summer camp ministries of Lutheridge + Lutherock Ministries, Inc., and Agape Kure Beach, outdoor ministries of the ELCA serving the southeast.

8 Pray for all world leaders, especially those in war-torn countries, as they consider decisions that will affect God's people and creation.

9 Pray for the following ELCA synods as they meet in assembly this week: Grand Canyon, South Dakota, La Crosse Area, and Southwestern Minnesota.

10 Pray for the North Carolina June 10-12 gathering of the North Carolina Women of the ELCA as they explore the theme, "Women of Faith with Arms Wide Open."

11 Pray for ELCA missionary Karen Anderson who is serving the people of Chile as they recover from the February 27, 2010, earthquake.

Karen helps to design, launch and direct an international training course on popular education in health.

12 Day of Pentecost

Good and gracious God, we thank you for the signs of hope in Brazil today.

Continue to enliven the churches in their witness to the hope in Christ that is brought within reach of men, women and children in their everyday lives.

13 Pray for all of the young people participating in the Young Adult in Global Mission program especially Katelyn Petrille, Valerie Rivas, Andrew Steele, Amanda Tompkins and Joy Waughtal, who serve in a variety of social ministry settings in South Africa.

14 Pray for the summer camps of Bear Creek Camp in Pennsylvania and Vandercamp in New York, both outdoor ministries of the ELCA.

15 Pray for the Rev. Ingebjorg Laugeland, who serves as children and youth pastor at Hjelmeland Lutheran Parish in Norway.

16 Give thanks for those who volunteer their time and gifts to teach at the Lutheran schools in Bratislava, Košice, Liptovsky Mikulas, and Tisovec, Slovakia, especially Carol Anderson, Kathy and William Fredell, Elizabeth Mitchell, Jim and Paula Stensvaag, and Suzanne Strekal

17 Pray for the following ELCA synods as they meet in assembly this week: Southwestern Pennsylvania, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Northern Illinois and Upper Susquehanna.

18 Give thanks for all ELCA short-term volunteers who give three to six months to service in locations around the globe.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

19 First Sunday after Pentecost

O God, you who are a part of the very fabric of our whole lives, we lift up to you the people of Argentina and Uruguay.

Living in the natural wealth you have given these countries they struggle with economic challenges, may they find peace with you and justice for their people.

20 Pray for the Bishop's School, a residential week for seniors in high school on the campus of Southern Seminary that gathers June 19 – 25.

21 Give thanks for God's good creation—from the smallest of sea creatures to the birds of the air—and all your magnificent handiwork at risk of exposure from our human errors.

22 Pray for the 30 youth who will gather this week for the Leadership Pathways program at Lenoir-Rhyne University in North Carolina, which serves to build up young people as strong disciples.

23 Give thanks for Bette McCrandall who began serving with the Lutheran Church in Liberia on June 1, 1984, and is concluding her service in Liberia this month.

She served as an advisor for the church's educational ministries.

24 Pray for the following ELCA synods as they meet in assembly this week: Caribbean, Slovak-Zion and Greater Milwaukee.

25 Pray that medical personnel be trained and clinics made available for people with

AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases who currently have no access to medical care.

26 Second Sunday after Pentecost

Come, Lord Jesus, into the life of Christian churches in Bolivia, Chile and Peru.

Help them be signs of your mercy as they work with the poor, the indigenous and the marginalized, and give them courage and faithfulness to walk in your steps.

27 Give thanks for the ministry of Nancy Anderson and the Rev. Rodney Nordby in Papua New Guinea.

Rodney serves as an auditor in the national offices of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea in Lae, and Nancy assists with work with the church's international relations.

28 Pray for the ELCA Region 9 Mission Resource Staff who are consulting together for mission strategy development today in Columbia, South Carolina.

29 Pray for those who have no clean water to drink, and who suffer with otherwise preventable diseases and infections.

30 Pray for the Rev. Dana Nelson and Thomas Ososki who serve in Peru.

Dana serves the Cristo Rey Lutheran Congregation in Lima, Peru and assists the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru with other congregations and mission work.

Tom shares his architectural skills as a consultant for new church buildings.

First Words is a publication of First Lutheran Church of Palo Alto, California.

Officers of the congregation:

Allen H. Simon Council President
George Yule Vice President
Maria Cortez Secretary

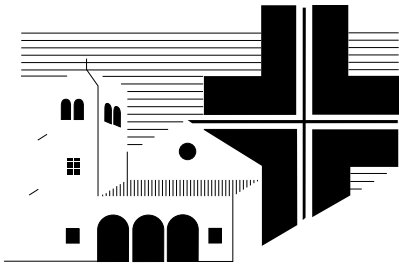
Staff:

P. Kempton Segerhammar Pastor
Katherine McKee Choir Director
Julia Simon First Kids Choir Director
Andrew Chislett Organist
Nathan Winterhof Youth Director
Karri Haddeland Childcare
Karen Krogh Financial Secretary
Maria Soria Custodian
Patricia Kerr Office Manager

The Rev. Mark Holmerud, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod
The Rev. P. Kempton Segerhammar, Dean, Peninsula Conference

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