

Cross and Crown Lutheran and School Newsletter

June 2022



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Sierra Pacific Synod 2022 Summary

The Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA met for its annual assembly in Sparks NV June 3-5, 2022. CCLCS delegates were Rudy Mappus, Sue Michaelson, and me, Pastor Ted.

I would like to report that the assembly was uneventful. But, alas, that would not be honest. The assembly devolved into fireworks display of Lutheran bickering, finger pointing, and preoccupation with minutiae.

The principal item on the business agenda was the forced removal of Bishop Megan Rohrer. Prior to the synod assembly, Churchwide Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton wrote an open letter that said two things. First, after careful review, Bp. Megan was innocent of all charges. Second, Bp. Megan should resign from her office on the grounds that the synod has lost confidence in this bishop. In order to press this confusing dictum forward, Bishop Eaton herself flew to the West Coast to light fuses on the fireworks.

What were the Accusations?

What were the accusations? First, allegedly Bp. Megan had not disclosed prior to her election her part in legal proceedings regarding the closure and sale of Grace Lutheran Church in San Francisco. Second, allegedly Bp. Megan had mishandled the removal of a Spanish speaking minister in Lodi, leading to denunciations of the bishop for sponsoring racism. Third, a member of the bishop's synod staff complained of bullying on the job. The loudest accusation was that our bishop is guilty of racist policies.

By the way, the fact that Bp. Megan is transgender sounded no flat notes in this choir or acrimonious disharmony.

The motion required a 2/3 majority to pass. It received only 60%. Not enough for removal. In the end, nobody won. Everyone lost. Bishop Eaton's parting words were: this synod has a great deal to do to clean up its act before any healing can take place.

So much of assembly time was occupied with points of order that workshops and such inspiring sessions were canceled. A group of teenagers asked for microphone time and excoriated the grown-ups in the room for our childish behavior and inability to get the Lord's work done.

Other motions were passed and defeated. Watch for synod news.

It was not over. Immediately following the assembly, this memo was distributed: "Announcement from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton."

The Conference of Bishops met Sunday evening; Bishop Megan Rohrer chose not to attend. The Presiding Bishop shared with us that she is initiating the discipline process immediately, including suspension of Bishop Rohrer, based on new information that has come to light that is beyond the scope of the Listening Team report. The COB strongly affirmed her decision to do this. This process will take time, and Bishop Eaton will provide updates as appropriate. We remain committed to praying for this church. As more information becomes available, we will keep you updated. [https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm#inbox/FMfcgzGpGKjZqZgxVgHPNXxmntbtkkFC]

With this memo in hand, Bishop Megan Rohrer resigned on Monday, June 6.

What is Pastor Ted's Assessment?

What does Pastor Ted think? You may not like this. But I'll offer my assessment. Recall how I have attempted to describe the mechanism of scapegoating during our "Sin Boldly!" discussions? [https://www.patheos.com/blogs/publictheology/2021/11/sin-3-the-visible-scapegoat/] & [https://www.patheos.com/blogs/publictheology/2021/11/sin-4-the-invisible-scapegoat/]

Well, scapegoating is what we're witnessing here. The white progressives in the ELCA are attempting to bond together by scapegoating Bp. Megan. Why? To shed their guilt over failing to provide a racially integrated national church. For 35 years now the dominant white constituency of the ELCA has sought a racially diverse church. But institutional racism has endured and even become stronger. So, we feel guilty about this colossal failure.

If guilty white liberals could blame somebody other than themselves for the persistence of institutional racism—blame Bp. Megan!--then they could absolve themselves for their own failures. This, I believe, accounts for the vehemence, regardless of the guilt or innocence of the scapegoat. In sum, what we're witnessing is a lynch mob sacrificing one individual for the sake of cleansing the whole ELCA.

Will this scapegoating tactic succeed? It just might. Group sin has a way of triumphing even among the baptized children of God. Now that this chapter in the scapegoat story is behind us, we'll see just how purified and united the white liberals feel.

Well, that's life in Lake Wobegon West. Pray for confession, repentance, and renewal in our beloved church body.

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/publictheology/>



Pastor Ted's Take

Welcome to the Body of Christ

The Body of Christ grew by adding a new limb in May. Malcolm Ray Roth, born August 31, 2021, was baptized into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, on Sunday, May 22, 2022. Welcome, Malcolm!

Sin Boldly!

We finished up a three Wednesday adult discussion series on *Sin Boldly!* in May. We will resume this valuable discussion at some later time – probably July. Stay tuned.

Pastor Ted's Other Mischief

The Sierra Pacific Synod of the ELCA is scheduled to meet the first weekend in June. Pastor Ted and Karen along with Sue Michaelson and Rudy Mappus will there representing CCLCS.

The following week, Pastor Ted heads to St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict in Collegeville, Minnesota. He will serve for a few days as a consultant to faculty on incorporating natural science into the seminary curriculum.

Pastor Ted's Web Site & Blog Site

Visit Pastor Ted's website for various kinds of resources.
TedsTimelyTake.com.

Also visit Pastor Ted's blog on "Public Theology."
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/publictheology/>



Letter from the Congregational President

Greetings Cross and Crown Family,

As I am writing this letter to you, I'm in the town of Gedera in Israel. Yesterday was our trip to Nazareth & Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. Tuesday family & friends shared joy & happiness at my niece's wedding. Last week, I enjoyed my experiences taking in the sights of Jaffa, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

In emails & correspondence, I see & appreciate all the energy & movement which is happening at Cross & Crown. Be sure to put the June 10th Barbecue on your calendar. Also, come out and support Primera Iglesia Bautista during their tamales sales on Saturday June 25.

Please feel free to ask me questions about my trip or ask to see photos. Shalom!

Love and Peace,
Myrna Kappler, Council President



Update from Cross and Crown Lutheran School

My mother, Ruth Riddle, passed away on December 15, 2017, from complications following surgery. Her death was unexpected and devastating. She was a child of God and a devout follower of Christ. When she passed, she left my siblings and me a generous gift. My younger sister Beth and I took part of our share and booked a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. A month ago, we spent two weeks together following the very footsteps of Jesus in Israel and bringing mom with us in our hearts.

Years ago, I had a kindergarten student in my class who was struggling. His parents and I decided to have him tested through the Cotati Rohnert Park Union School District. When shown the mathematical plus sign and asked what it was, he replied, "That's the cross Jesus died on." When I questioned the mom on how her son had done on the test, she let me know that he did not do well, but he knew the answer to the only question that mattered.

This mother and my own were simple godly women of Christ. They both knew the greatest gift we can give our children is not purchased from a store nor ordered online. Neither is it handed to our children with our hands but rather our hearts, for the greatest gift we can give our children is the gift of Christ.

We are blessed to have a place where we can educate the children of the families brought to us and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The staff and I thank you for your constant support and prayers as we close this 2021-2022 school year, the 50th year of Cross and Crown Lutheran School, and look forward to the coming year ahead.

Blessings to you all,

Jean Bashi, Administrator



Update from NOAH

NOAH continues its weekly distributions to our community. In May we distributed staples (canned vegetables, canned fruit, soup, tuna, eggs, milk, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and sauce, rice, canned beans, bread, and fresh produce) as well as frozen burritos, ground meat, frozen pot pies, and Girl Scout Cookies.

Cross and Crown has the distribution in June so please volunteer to work a distribution on any Wednesday from 3:45 to 6:00 p.m. We are in need of an additional person most weeks so please volunteer.

Please let your neighbors and friends know about this opportunity to receive help with their food budget. No id is required but people should bring their own shopping bags.

Thank you for your prayers of support and your donations of food and paper bags.

Elizabeth Hoelter



Financials

| Monthly Reports on how we are doing: | |
|--|-------------------|
| For the Month ending Sunday, April 24, 2022 | |
| Envelope Giving | \$18,594 |
| Simply Giving | <u>\$ 3,555</u> |
| Total Giving | \$22,149 |
| Misc. Income | <u>\$ 2,505</u> |
| Total Income | \$24,654 |
| Expenses | <u>\$34,690</u> |
| Monthly Deficit | (\$10,036) |
| For the Month ending Sunday, May 29, 2022 | |
| Envelope Giving | \$15,825 |
| Simply Giving | <u>\$ 3,555</u> |
| Total Giving | \$19,380 |
| Misc. Income | <u>\$ 2,505</u> |
| Total Income | \$21,885 |
| Expenses | <u>\$34,690</u> |
| Monthly Deficit | (\$12,805) |
| 2 Month Deficit, April & May 2022 | (\$22,841) |



Milestones

Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| June 1 | Gene and Sharon Winterfeld |
| June 4 | Paul and Norma Grubb |
| June 6 | Tony and Kim Burns |
| June 11 | Ed and Shelley Slingland |
| June 17 | Gordon and Faith Adam |
| June 18 | Bob and Carol Roth |
| June 25 | Donovan and Kirsten Perkett |

Birthdays:

| | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| June 2 | Kim Burns |
| June 3 | Takoa Ross |
| June 4 | Hannah Brozovic Meryln Pfeiff |
| June 5 | Carol Wellman Ray Wellman |
| June 16 | J.J. Cornett |
| June 22 | Kendall Roth Ed Roth |
| June 24 | Tandy Whitaker |
| June 27 | Myrna Kappler |



Prayer List

Healing

Carole B.
Emily B.
Fred B.
Elizabeth H.

Long Term Healing

Carole B.
Zach S.
Gabe B.

Chris (Mandy Mc.'s BIL)
Mark (Curtis S' friend)
Karl Olson

Homebound Members

Pastor Leon
Norma C.
Robert and Leona A.
Janice S.



Scriptures for June

| | |
|---------|---|
| June 5 | Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Romans 8:14-17 John 14:8-27 |
| June 12 | Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Psalm 8 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15 |
| June 19 | Isaiah 65:1-9 Psalm 22:19-28 Galatians 3:23-29 Luke 8:26-39 |
| June 26 | 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 8:51-62 |



Events

Summer BBQ

This Friday, June 10, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. the church will host a BBQ for the church and school families. A dinner of hamburgers, chips, watermelon and drinks will be provided. School families are asked to bring a plate of cookies to share with the group. There will be games and fun for all ages. Contact Kim to RSVP at church@crossandcrownrp.org or 707-795-7853.

Art at the Source – Bill Theis

Mark your calendars: Art at the Source Open Studios returns for two weekends: June 4-5 and June 11-12 from 10AM-5PM. Our very own Bill Theis will be showing his photography at the studio of jewelry artist Michelle Hoting at 321 Buena Vista in Santa Rosa with painter Jamie Luoto joining us with her whimsical animal portraits. Come enjoy the variety of art that will be on display and support Bill and the many talented artists in Sonoma County.

Open Sanctuary for Prayer and Meditation

Beginning June 16, our sanctuary will be available every Thursday between 10:00 and noon, for anyone who wishes to come in for prayer and meditation. There is nothing fancy, no planned program, just peace and quiet and beautiful soft music.

Also, we will be open for **evening** prayer and meditation on **Tuesday evening, July 19th, from 6:00-8:00 PM.**

These times are set aside not only for members of our church, but for anyone who wants a peaceful time and place to commune with God. We certainly are not expecting crowds, but we know there are people out there who want and need this, so please make it known to your friends and neighbors.

Craft Fair Planned for November 18-19

Lori Newzell is heading up a team to present a Harvest Faire of Arts and Crafts here at CCLC, to be held on **Friday, November 18 and Saturday, November 19**. Lori has been a serious crafter for many years, and she has big plans for a fun event!

If you are a crafter interested in showing your wares, or if you would like to be part of the team to help with planning, set-up, clean-up, or whatever, please contact Lori by email at lnewzell@gmail.com. Lori gets a *lot* of email, so please put "Harvest Craft Faire" in the subject line to be sure and grab her attention!



How You Can Help Others

Phoebe Home Communion

If you or someone close to you is a shut-in—staying at home for whatever reason!—perhaps home communion is desirable.

If for whatever reason you cannot come to worship on Sunday and share the Eucharist with the rest of us, you might invite someone from the Phoebe Home Communion team. Simply phone Kim at the church office and let us know.

Then, one member of our Phoebe home communion team will call you to schedule a home visit. The Phoebe will bring bread and wine and share the Eucharist with you.

The Eucharist or Sacrament of the Altar unites us individually with the living Christ and to one another in the Body of Christ. Don't hesitate.

World Prayer Circle

The World Prayer Circle meets each Tuesday at 1:15 on Zoom to pray for members of our church, community and the world. The Holy Spirit is listening to us these days. If you'd like to join, please contact Kim with your email.

Current Information on the Esther Fund

The **Esther Fund, administered by Women's Ministries of Cross and Crown**, has given out several grants in recent months and consequently is running a little low. We like to make this known so that those who are able and so inclined can help replenish the fund.

Checks may be made out to CCLC with a notation that the donation is for the Esther Fund and placed in the church offering; or they may be made out directly to "CCLC Women" (with the same notation) and given to Kim in the church office. Either way, these donations will appear on your year-end giving statement.

The Esther Fund was established to provide small grants to women and children of Cross and Crown to help cover emergency needs. Some examples would be eyeglasses, dental work, clothing, and school supplies, but the Committee will consider all requests. The person requesting assistance must be a member in good standing with Cross and Crown Lutheran Church.

Periodically, we like to remind women of the congregation that these funds are available. To request a grant, please contact any member of the Esther Fund Committee — Kim Burns at (707) 694-3643; Tandy Whitaker at (707) 292-1770, or Nancy Umland at (707) 480-8821.



Miscellaneous Information

Call Committee Update

The call committee has been busy meeting multiple times during May, including a meeting with Pr. Manda Truchinski our Synod representative. The committee has worked, re-worked and finalized interview questions for candidates. Our first interview will be May 31, 2022. As a reminder, the committee can discuss the process with you, however, questions as to candidates' identities and specifics about the interview of a particular candidate are strictly confidential. A good analogy is these interviews are like "personnel matters" at a corporation. We ask that you continue to pray for Cross and Crown, the call committee, candidates and that the Holy Spirit send us who is best suited to lead Cross and Crown into its next phase of ministry.

Kid's Club Update

Kids Club has been regularly meeting for over a month now. Our first unit after Easter was Girl Power and the children's lessons focused on:

- Hannah Gives Away Baby Samuel
- Deborah Leads an Army
- Esther Saves the Jewish People, and
- The Samaritan Women at the Well.

Our next unit focuses on Boy Power:

- Daniel in the Lion's Den
- David and Goliath
- Gideon and his 300 Men
- Jonah and the Big Fish
- Joshua and the Walls of Jericho.

A BIG thank you to Kirsten Perkett, Janis Brokaw, Jean Bashi, Myrna Kappler, Kim Burns and Sue Michaelsen for teaching. Each week we have two classes, Age 3 through 2nd grade and the 3rd grade through 6th grade. We are in need of more teachers to help, so please contact Sue Michaelsen if you are interested in helping. As a reminder, the number 1 response to surveys and discussions in what the congregation wants in a new pastor and the direction for Cross and Crown is to focus on youth and family ministry. We need programs geared to this age group and we need all the congregation involved to make these programs a success.

