

# The Daily Assembly

## Special points of interest:

- > Our keynote speaker Rev. Eric Law *Leading Us in Discussion*
- > What Happened at Churchwide Council?
- > Bunko Anyone?

## Leading Us in Discussion

*Submitted by Pastor Matthew Eagan, Calvary Hillsboro*

**K**eynote Speaker Eric Law is an Episcopal Priest and director of the Kaleidoscope Institute for Competent Leadership in a diverse and changing world.

He opened the first plenary session of the assembly on Friday afternoon. He began with a meditative video.

Noisy scenes of a crowded hall gave way to a quiet lake side.

The video was based on Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." You can find this video by Googling the "graceincyberspace channel." Law ex-

pressed his goal "to seed cyberspace with grace and prayer."

The world we live in is changing quickly and is becoming more complex in the areas of race, ethnicity, economics, gender and theology. As people of God, we need to become more competent in the way we lead.

Eric Law outlined several areas of competency that are both helpful and trainable for leadership in this fast changing world:

- **Self Awareness** – developing a deeper understanding of cultural val-

ues, privileges and power.

- **Difference as Opportunity** – seeing problems as opportunities for learning and growth.
- **Commitment to Pluralism** - appreciating the differences.
- **Theological Reflection** – Where is God in this fast changing world? What is God calling us to be and to do?
- **Skills, Models and Theories** – practicing disciplined and intentional skills that will increase

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## Today's Brief Agenda

Breakfast	7:00 AM
Spiritual Disciplines	8:00 AM
Eric Law Presentation	9:00 AM
Plenary 2	10:15 AM
50 Year Anniversaries - Banquet	7:00 PM
OLYO Bunko	9:00 PM

## Opening Worship- Rules for Living in the Absence of Jesus

*Submitted by Paul Admudson, Atonement, Newport*

**O**pening worship was a joyful and enthusiastic experience shared by the assembly attendees on Friday afternoon. Assistant to the Bishop Susan Kintner presided; Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke

delivered the sermon. Bishop Dave reflected on the Apostolic Creed in light of Jesus' absence. Brauer-Rieke recited the creed to the point where Christ ascended into heaven -- he was on Earth for the

disciples, he is in heaven for us now, and will return for us.

Bishop Dave spoke of the inclusiveness of Jesus and how that is wooing us from one state of being to an-

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### Leading Us in Discussion

our ability to guide a community toward inclusiveness.

People come to community with different assumptions. They come with different communication styles. Some listen. Others convince. When the convincers don't agree, the listeners watch the 'ping pong' match ensue; left out of the conversation.

In a diverse world we need to remind people how to communicate. Eric offered some guidelines for respectful and community building conversations using the word R-E-S-P-E-C-T as an acronym.

- R – Take responsibility for what you say and feel (without blaming or judging.) Use "I" statements.
- E – Empathetic listening. Put yourself in the

other person's shoes. You don't have to agree. The goal is mutual understanding.

- S- Sensitive – Be aware of other peoples' communication styles which may include stories, succinct points, spirals, and silence.
- P – Ponder – Think and Ponder what you hear and feel before you speak.
- E – Examine your assumptions and perceptions. Why did I react this way? What do I want to say?
- C – Confidentiality – this is different than keeping a secret. Secrets may be divisive and are often used to wield power or to protect someone. Confidentiality means to keep in mind one's

love and care for someone so that you will know what to say and not to say.

- T-Trust– Tolerate ambiguity for awhile so that the community can arrive at the truth.

Using the story of the five blind persons and the elephant to illustrate the need for these communication skills, he urged us to use these guidelines and leadership skills in our discussions of sexuality, money and other issues that we discuss throughout our synod assembly.

Then we can make decisions based on love and trust.

...make  
decisions based  
on love and  
trust.

### What Happened at Churchwide Council?

*Submitted by Debby Chenoweth*

The ELCA Church Council met in Chicago March 27-30, 2009. At that meeting the Council took several actions including forwarding on to the ELCA Church Assembly the proposed social statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" and the implementing resolutions on ministry policies.

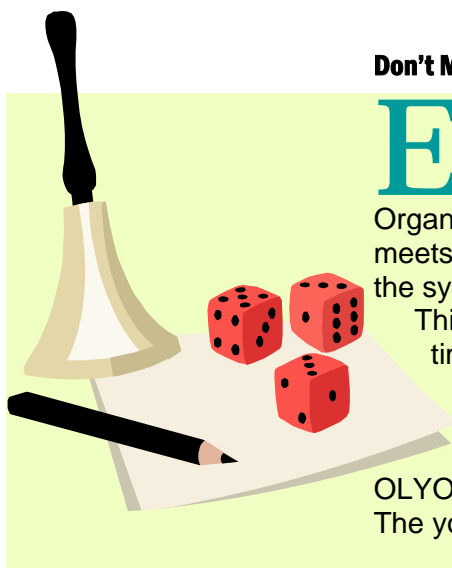
Council did not change the standing procedures for voting on the imple-

menting resolutions. The requirements are for a two-thirds majority to pass a social statement and a simple majority to pass implementing resolutions.

In response to declining mission support and the current economic climate a revised budget was approved that has resulted in 25 church wide staff losing their positions and in 12 vacancies not being filled. A church wide

capital campaign has been deferred. The HIV/AIDS strategy was adopted and the Lutheran Malaria Initiative will continue to be developed as planned.





**Don't Miss Your Chance to Win Prizes**

Every year the Oregon Lutheran Youth Organization (OLYO) meets concurrently with the synod assembly. This gathering is time for leadership development and the election of next year's OLYO Board Officers. The youth also partici-

pate in discussions and meet with the bishop.

**All work and no play for the youth?** Well not the entire time! This year they invite you to join them in a round of Bunko at 9:00 pm tonight at Bloch (room right off the lobby area). Don't miss your chance. Prizes will be awarded!

**BUNKO**  
**9:00 PM**  
 @  
**Bloch**  
**Prizes!**

**Cluster Dinners with the Synod Staff**

On Friday evening assembly attendees enjoyed dinner with their fellow cluster members. During this time Oregon Synod staff members joined in the cluster's conversation and offered information on upcoming events, resources, and gave updates on the synod. A key message from the bishop was given on the 28 congregational visits made by our members and friends of the Oregon Synod Council this past fall and winter was shared. Three main messages were heard repeatedly from these visits.

1. The effort to be in mutual, face to face conversations was highly appreciated

and valued. The Synod Council is planning on continuing this effort in the coming year.

2. Effective communication between and among congregations, clusters and the synod office was raised frequently as a concern. A Communication Task Force is being developed to deal with this issue. The bishop and council are already working on relationship building and enhancing efforts.

3. Financial concerns, physical restraints and the need to revitalize congregations and ministries was also raised again and again. The addition

of The Rev. Harvey Blomberg to our synod staff is directed precisely at this need.

Budget restrictions suggest that we can not immediately fill the communication position left vacant due to Julie Mankin's departure, even though this position is central to the communication issues of the synod.

Communication is a two-way street. The synod staff encourages you and your congregation to be proactive in communicating with the them. They are especially interested in your stories of ministry and community.

A Communication Task Force is being developed to deal with this (communication) issue. The bishop and council are already working on relationship building and enhancing efforts.

## Opening Worship- Rules for Living in the Absence of Jesus

other. Jesus leads us from hopelessness to hope, from exclusion to home, and from darkness to light.

Bishop Dave stated, "Now my fantasy is that if Jesus were present, rather than absent, life would be easier." Bishop Dave said he had fantasized about Jesus being alive today so we could ask him about genetic engineering, global warming, gay lesbian relations and parenting situations. But in the absence of Jesus we have to do something or we just grind to a halt. In worship we generally throw our coins into the offering plate and yell "Amen, come Lord Jesus!" and continue to do our best.

But such is the calling we have been given. And we remember that Jesus *will* come – future tense, maybe today, maybe tomorrow, maybe not for a long time, but someday – Jesus will come to judge us on our performance.

So here are Bishop Dave's rules for living in the absence of Jesus:

1. Remember that Jesus Christ, through his life, death and resurrection, has moved us from death into life – as a gift, without warrant or reason, certainly without my earning or deserving it. For this always give thanks.
2. Remembering that our lives are secure in Christ, I know everything else is secondary. That would include things like financial security, social status, gender and sexual orientation, marital status, the church budget and the behavior of our children. We are free to discern and deal with life as the Spirit directs and we are able.
3. And finally, knowing our lives are secure in Christ and that everything else is secondary, we seek to serve. We are called to feed the hungry, house the homeless, proclaim liberty to the captive, welcome the outcast, honor the weak and despised,

respect our elders and care for this planet. No small task this, but we do not do it alone. We do it together in the power and pleasure of the Spirit of Christ who makes us one.

So as we remember the ascension of our Lord this day we confess that Jesus *has* ascended. We confess that Jesus *is* seated at the right hand of the father and that Jesus *will come* again. Today, though, the privilege and the power of being the hands that do God's work has been given to us. It is we, in the power of the Spirit, as the Body of Christ, who are responsibility to reconcile, redeem and renew all that God has given us. Thanks be to God!

## Resolution : Hunger – A Community Priority Passes at Assembly

*Submitted by Bob and Janet Raes, West Linn Lutheran, West Linn*

This resolution passed with slight modifications. The complete wording can be found at [www.oregonsynod.org/09assembly/res1.htm](http://www.oregonsynod.org/09assembly/res1.htm). The Oregon Synod Hunger Committee is active in linking our hunger groups across the synod.

A hunger liaisons' survey can be found on the synod

website front page. Liaison contact information and your congregation's hunger program survey can be filled out there. This information will then be available for all congregations to use to help set up networks.

At the cluster meetings each congregation received a hunger information packet. It's a resource for hunger pro-

grams and advocacy. Please share it with your congregation's hunger liaison. We shall celebrate all of our hunger ministries at the 2010 synod assembly.

Ideas for the "10 in 10" campaign can be found at the hunger table in the resource area. This campaign makes a pledge to help end childhood hunger by 2015.

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**We are on the web at  
[www.oregonsynod.org](http://www.oregonsynod.org)**

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