



## "Build UP the Walls!" Gathering

Based upon the Book of Nehemiah

Sponsored by the Association of Downtown Lutheran Churches

Friday 29 April – Sunday 1 May 2011

Historic First Lutheran

808 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104

Host Pastors: The Reverend Christopher G. Schaar, Senior Pastor

The Reverend Marcello Gómez, Associate Pastor

Mr. John Ochetti, Deacon

### FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2011

3 – 6 pm – Registration at Historic First Lutheran. Campus tour. Light snacks provided.

6:30 pm – Opening Cocktail Hour and Dinner at the home of Marian and John Hoehner.

8:00 p.m. – Opening Devotion by Reverend Dr. Lee Settgest, Gathering Chaplain.

### SATURDAY 30 APRIL 2011

8:00 a.m. – Continental Breakfast at Historic First Lutheran.

9:00 a.m. – Bible Study by Reverend Dr. Lee Settgest.

10:00 a.m. – Reverend Bishop Dean Nelson: "When to Build Up and When to Tear Down?"

11:15 a.m. – Questions & Answers for Bishop Nelson.

11:30 a.m. – Neighborhood Prayer Walk.

12:15 p.m. – Lunch at Historic First Lutheran.

1:30 p.m. – Participant Sharing Time.

2:15 p.m. – Matthew Rosebrock: "The ABC's of a Biblical Aesthetic – Art, Beauty, and Confession."

3:30 p.m. – Questions & Answers for Matthew Rosebrock.

3:45 p.m. – Gathering Spitball Session (gathering up discussion topics for Sunday).

4:00 p.m. – BREAK with snacks.

4:30 p.m. – Reverend Gregory Seltz: "Christ Confidence when Worldviews collide – Bridging the Gospel in Urban Missions Ministry."

5:45 p.m. – Questions & Answers for Reverend Seltz.

6:00 p.m. – Dinner at Historic First Lutheran.

7:00 p.m. – Bible Study by Reverend Dr. Lee Settgest.

### SUNDAY 1 MAY 2011 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00 a.m. – Continental Breakfast at Historic First Lutheran.

8:45 a.m. – Spitball Discussion Session.

10:00 a.m. – Bilingual Worship Celebration with The Lord's Supper.

12:00 p.m. – Lunch at Historic First Lutheran.

1:00 p.m. – Dr. Mark Lau Branson: "Late Modernity, Missional Church, and Being Neighbors."  
(Option at 1:00 p.m. – Spanish Worship Celebration with The Lord's Supper.)

2:15 p.m. – Questions & Answers for Dr. Branson.

2:30 p.m. – Reverend Dr. John Arthur Nunes: "Good News for the Poor from the Poor."

3:45 p.m. – Questions & Answers for Dr. Nunes.

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SUNDAY 1 MAY 2011, continued

4:00 p.m. – Spitball Discussion Session.

4:30 p.m. – Gathering Evaluation.

5:00 p.m. – Closing Devotion by Reverend Dr. Lee Settgast.

5:30 p.m. – Dinner at Historic First Lutheran.

MONDAY 2 MAY 2011

Optional add-on event – “Our Mission in the City.” A 4-mile, 6-hour Urban Hike of Downtown Los Angeles led by Reverend Doug Johnstone, including Metro Gold Line transportation from Pasadena to Union Station, Los Angeles. Lunch provided.

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## General Information



### Registration Fee includes:

All workshop sessions, Friday Evening Cocktails & Dinner, Breakfasts, Lunches and Dinners on Saturday and Sunday.

Additional fee of \$25.00 per person for Monday's Urban Hike includes transportation and lunch.

Fly in and out of Pasadena at Los Angeles International (31 miles) or Burbank Airport (15 miles). Additional possibilities include Long Beach Airport (36 miles), Ontario International (36 miles) or John Wayne Orange County Airport (55 miles)

### Shared-Ride Ground Transportation Contacts (to/from LAX or Burbank)

Premier Airport Shuttle (818.476.7072 – ask for Leo the General Manager and mention the Association of Downtown Lutheran Churches for 10% discounted rate.)

Prime Time Shuttle (primetimeshuttle.com / 800.733.8267)

Super Shuttle (supershuttle.com / 800.BLUEVAN)

### 10% Rental Car Discounts

Alamo (www.alamo.com/index.do?action=/hotDealsTemplate&msg=AL\_AssociationDiscount\_offer)

Hertz (hertz.com 800.654.2240. CV number O47Z0001.)

National (www.nationalcar.com/index.do?action=/hotDealsTemplate&msg=ZL\_associationDiscount\_splash)

### Hotel Reservations

Courtyard by Marriott, 180 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena, 1.44 miles from Historic First.

Blocked Rooms at \$109.00 per night plus taxes under "The Association of Downtown Lutheran Churches" (MUST mention group name for discounted rate).

Block expires 4-7-2011.

626.403.7600 (contact person is Truc Lee, Sales Assistant)

www.courtyardpasadena.com (group code for King Standard is ADLADLA; group code for Double Queen is ADLADLB)

Overnight Parking: \$15.00 self; \$17.00 valet

Sheraton Pasadena, 303 E. Cordova St., Pasadena, 1.37 miles from Historic First.

Blocked Rooms at \$109.00 per night (singles/doubles) plus taxes under "The Association of Downtown Lutheran Churches" (MUST mention group name for discounted rate).

Block Expires 3/29/2011.

626.449.4000 (contact person is Debbie Flores, Sales Manager)

www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/LutheranChurches

Overnight Parking: \$13.00

### Daily Transportation

Each hotel has a shuttle van, which may be available.

A list of participants with transportation will be provided participants needing transportation.



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## Registration Form

(Please use this form to register ALL people from your church)

(Make additional copies of this form, as necessary)



Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State: \_\_\_\_\_

### Regular Registration (first participant @ \$125.00 each)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Discounted Registration (second or more participants @ \$75.00 each)

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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"Our Mission in the City" Urban Hike Registration (\$25.00 each)

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SUMMARY

Regular Registrant	_____ @ \$125.00 each	\$ _____
Discounted Registrants	_____ @ \$75.00 each	\$ _____
Urban Hike Registrants	_____ @ \$25.00 each	\$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED		\$ _____

REGISTRATION POSTMARK DEADLINE: 15 April 2011

Make Checks Payable to "Historic First Lutheran Church" and mail to Historic First Lutheran, 808 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104-4317

I plan to make hotel reservations at \_\_\_\_\_ Courtyard by Marriott  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sheraton Pasadena

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you will have transportation and would be willing to shuttle others to and from the hotels and Historic First Church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Presenters

**Dr. Mark Lau Branson** is the Homer L. Goddard Associate Professor of the Ministry of the Laity at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, where he teaches courses in congregational leadership and community engagement. He was ordained at San Francisco Christian Center, an African American Pentecostal church, and has served on the pastoral teams in United Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Branson has served with several Christian agencies active in education, community development, and community organizing, and works frequently as a consultant. He has graduate degrees from Claremont School of Theology and the University of San Francisco. Recent publications include Churches, Cultures and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities (with Juan Martinez, InterVarsity) and Memories, Hopes, and Conversations: Appreciative Inquiry and Congregational Change (Alban) and chapters in The Missional Church in Context (Craig Van Gelder, ed.), Leadership in Congregations (Richard Bass, ed.), and The Three Tasks of Leadership (Eric Jacobsen, ed.). Mark, Nina, and sons Noah and Nathan are members of First Presbyterian Church, Altadena, California.

**Reverend Douglas Johnstone** serves as Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Downtown Long Beach, CA. An 18-year missionary in Venezuela, including 2 terms as national church president, his work as a church planter and educator took him through over 20 countries. He served for 5 years as Mission and Ministry Facilitator for Region 2 of the Pacific Southwest District, LCMS. He was the first elected president of the Interfaith Council of Garden Grove, Stanton and Westminster. He has been a speaker for city and county agencies relating to multi-religious settings. He has written Spanish video courses for the Hispanic Institute of Theology and serves as a mentor for ethnic and urban work for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He and his wife, Phyllis, live in Garden Grove, CA.

**Bishop Dean Nelson** was elected Bishop of the Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in June, 2001 and elected to a second term in 2007. The spiritual leader of 45,955 baptized members, including 160 pastors in 140 congregations across five Southern California counties, Bishop Nelson was born in Chicago, Illinois, and is a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Ordained in 1970, he served as pastor of Faith American Lutheran in Enid, OK, Park View Lutheran in Chicago, IL, Our Savior's Lutheran in Milwaukee, WI, and First Lutheran in Torrance, CA. Bishop Nelson and his wife, Marianne, have two adult children.

**Reverend Dr. John Arthur Nunes** has been President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief since 2007, where he leads staff in 17 countries in working to end poverty, injustice and human suffering worldwide. Born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, John grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and has lived in the U.S. since 1981. A graduate of Concordia College, Ann Arbor, MI and Concordia Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada, John earned a Master of Theology from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Concordia, Ann Arbor and is a PhD candidate at LTSC. He has been an urban pastor in Dallas and Detroit and served as Professor of Theology at Concordia University Chicago while pastoring Bethany Lutheran Church in Chicago. He is the author of Voices from the City: Issues and Images of Urban Preaching and, with his wife Monique, the children's book Little Things Make Big Differences: A Story about Malaria. He has written for *Concordia Journal*, Hartford Seminary's *Conversations in Religion and Theology* and [www.Beliefnet.com](http://www.Beliefnet.com). He and his wife have five children and live in Baltimore.

**Matthew Rosebrock** is a current graduate student at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena. A native Ohioan, he holds a B.A. in Studio Art from Concordia University Chicago and an MDiv. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He and his wife, Kim, live in Pasadena and worship at Historic First Lutheran.

**Reverend Gregory Seltz** is Professor of Theology and Director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University, Irvine, CA. He was the founding pastor of "Church for all Nations" in Manhattan, the first new Lutheran mission start in New York City for 40 years. He was also the Executive Director of "Life's Journey Ministries," an urban evangelism ministry in Manhattan. He has led several seminars on Urban Ministry, entrepreneurial leadership development, team ministry for the city, and evangelism. He has served on the steering committee of the national Urban Evangelism Institute for the LCMS and the Board of the Center for US Missions. His present work trains pastoral students to launch LCMS churches in a variety of cultural settings. Married to Yvette for 23 years, with one college-aged daughter, Seltz is also a PhD Student in "Theology and Culture" at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. On 21 January 2011, he was named the Speaker of "The Lutheran Hour," assuming those duties on or about 1 June 2011.

**Reverend Dr. Lee Settgast** started his ministry in Nebraska, but soon followed the Lord's guiding to urban ministry in the Los Angeles basin, where he has served as pastor or interim pastor at a number of congregations while also serving as a prison chaplain both in Southern California and in Baja California, Mexico. He was the founding pastor of Peace Lutheran Church of the Desert in Palm Desert, CA. Prior to his "retirement," he served as founding Executive Director of The Los Angeles Nehemiah Project, a coalition of two LCMS Districts and 12 urban Los Angeles congregations. He is an instructor for The Lay Leadership Training Program of the Pacific Southwest District, LCMS. In "retirement," he serves as pastor of Hope Memorial Lutheran Church in Los Angeles.

## Presentation Summaries

**"Christ Confidence when Worldviews Collide - Bridging the Gospel in Urban Missions Ministry."**  
(No presentation summary provided)

**"Good News for the Poor, from the Poor."**

There are many ways to be poor (Matthew 5:3). Organizations like Lutheran World Relief work among those working to overcome financial impoverishment. Yet, from these overseas' communities that are struggling, much wisdom can be gained for those of us in North America who suffer from diseases of prosperity. Hear how the hungry are filled with good things when Lutherans go global.

**"Late Modernity, Missional Church, and Being Neighbors"**

Urban churches have often felt societal changes before others even know something is happening. These changes are often felt as threatening, and as pastors and laity feel these challenges they often learn that the usual programmatic and planning responses are inadequate. In this "unthinkable" context the Gospel can actually become better known and grace can become increasingly tangible. In this way, urban churches learn what all churches need to learn - that God is ahead of us in changing environments.

**"The ABC's of a Biblical Aesthetic - Art, Beauty, and Confession"**

Are all adiaphora created equal? Is there such a thing as a Christian aesthetic? How can that apply to the downtown setting? This presentation will begin to ask some of these questions and seek to sketch out what a Biblical aesthetic might look like as the Church lives in the freedom of the Gospel and faithfulness in Christ.

**"When to Build Up and When to Tear Down?"**

The preacher said there was a time "to break down and a time to build up." When we look at our historic downtown church buildings, we often find large buildings whose walls quite literally need to be built up. When we look at the congregations which meet in those buildings we sometimes find small communities separated from their downtown communities by structures and attitudes more appropriate to their twentieth century context than their present reality. How can congregations break down the walls that prevent them from sharing the Gospel with their new neighbors? And how can they generate the finances needed to maintain or modify their buildings to move effectively facilitate their ministries?





## Your Host Congregation

Historic First Lutheran Church of Pasadena was founded 29 May 1892, a "baby" by East Coast or Midwest standards, but the 9<sup>th</sup> oldest Lutheran church in the State of California and the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest congregation within The Pacific Southwest District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

The rough and tumble Western town of Pasadena was just 6 years old when Historic First Lutheran began meeting in the Grand Hotel on Colorado Boulevard and later at the Pasadena Opera House. Its first building was constructed along the Northwestern edge of downtown Pasadena in 1896. By 1914, the growth of the congregation demanded more space for mission and ministry so the decision was made to move to the "first ring" of residential neighborhoods outside downtown Pasadena. Twenty years later, additional space was again needed, but dedication to stay near downtown Pasadena led the congregational leaders to find property around the block from its 1914 church, constructing the present Mission Revival campus beginning in 1936. Constructed by recognized architects Frederick Kennedy, Jr., David Ogilvie and Scott Quintin, the church building, Parish Hall and "Koch Hall" were named historical landmark buildings in 2001.

Historic First Lutheran seems to have been often "ahead of the curve" in mission and ministry. Worship services in English were conducted as early as 1910 due to the lack of German-speaking residents in Pasadena. First Lutheran School was founded in 1910, later becoming Pasadena Lutheran School, a cooperative ministry of Historic First and its two daughter churches in Pasadena (the school closed in 1977). As early as 1950, Historic First Lutheran became integrated, welcoming into the congregation African-Americans who moved into the neighborhood and began enrolling their children into the school. Mission outreach in Spanish, reflecting the later influx of Spanish-speaking neighbors, began in 1989 and continues to this day, providing weekly youth ministry, Bible study and worship in Spanish. Today's Historic First Lutheran is 40% Anglo, 40% African American, 15% Latino and 5% "Other" (including Asian, American Indian and Middle Eastern members).

A founding congregation of The Association of Downtown Lutheran Churches in 1996 (along with First St. Paul's, Chicago, Historic Trinity, Detroit, Historic Trinity, St. Louis, Trinity Downtown, Orlando and Trinity, Memphis), Historic First Lutheran serves as the "Cathedral Ministry" of The Pacific Southwest District.

Pastor Christopher Schaar has served as Senior Pastor since 1994. Pastor Marcello Gómez has served as Associate Pastor for Hispanic Outreach since 2004.