

Report from
The African Descent Lutheran Association (ADLA) – Los Angeles Chapter
To the Southwest California Synod

FY 2025-25 Program Year @ A Glance

Statement of Purpose

The ADLA Los Angeles Chapter is 1 of 9 such chapters across the country. The Association serves as a collective “voice” for African Americans and those of African descent in the Caribbean who are Lutheran.

Local Mission - *The Los Angeles Chapter seeks to improve our communities with direct assistance programs, promote the qualities of higher education through scholarships and support the Southwest California Synod and the ELCA with its special agency appeals.*

Mission in Action

The 2026 program year began by coordinating and co-hosting with the Southwest California Synod, the 46th annual tribute to The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year’s Commemoration and Celebration Worship Service was held on the campus of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, West Hills with some 320 in attendance.

The Rev. Lucille (CeCee) Mills, newly elected ELCA Secretary served as the keynote speaker, our Preacher of the Hour! This is the 11th consecutive year in which ADLA – Los Angeles has facilitated this synod-wide worship event, which remains among one of the highest attended synod annual events (whether in-person or virtual). The theme for this year was derived from John 15: 9-13: “Bound by Faith, Called to Love!”

A gift of \$2,072 was presented to ELCA Foundation – The Rev. Dr. Nelson W. Trout Endowment. Since 2015, ADLA – LA has directed proceeds from the MLK celebration on behalf of the Synod to the following notable programs:

- ☞ First Call Theological Education (2015)
- ☞ Ebola Relief (2015)
- ☞ Synod’s Unaccompanied Minors Initiative (2015)
- ☞ Showers of Blessings (2016)
- ☞ Guardian Angels (2016)
- ☞ TruEvolution – Aids Intervention Services (2016)
- ☞ Guardian Angels (2017)
- ☞ Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service-IRIS (2017)
- ☞ ELCA Disaster Response (2018)
- ☞ ELCA Disaster Response (2019)
- ☞ ELCA Disaster Response (2020)
- ☞ Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service (2021)
- ☞ Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Service (2022)
- ☞ ELCA Fund for Leaders – Federal Chaplaincy (2023)
- ☞ ELCA Fund for Leaders – Federal Chaplaincy (2024)
- ☞ ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response – LA Fires (2025)
- ☞ ELCA Rev. Dr. Nelson W. Trout Endowment (2026)

Total distributed offerings to all recipients amounted to \$25,228.00

ADLA – LA has continued for the 4th year, as co-host with CLU, in coordinating its preaching series and musical accompaniment for the 4-week Black History Month celebration.

CLU and The Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) are valued agency affiliates of ADLA whose assistance helps further ADLA's vision!

Special Thanks

A special thanks to our congregational and affiliate network for whom the mission and ministry of ADLA – Los Angeles could not take place nor achieve the level of effectiveness that it enjoys in Christ. Those congregations and affiliates are:

- ☞ Another Level Ministries – Los Angeles
- ☞ Ascension Lutheran – Los Angeles
- ☞ California Lutheran University – Thousand Oaks
- ☞ Central Lutheran – Van Nuys
- ☞ Chapel of Peace Lutheran – Inglewood
- ☞ Christ the Shepherd Lutheran - Altadena
- ☞ Community Lutheran – Los Angeles
- ☞ First Lutheran – Carson
- ☞ Holy Redeemer Lutheran- Bellflower
- ☞ Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran – Inglewood
- ☞ Lutheran Church of the Master – Los Angeles
- ☞ Messiah Lutheran – Los Angeles
- ☞ Olivet Lutheran – Hawthorne
- ☞ Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary – Berkeley
- ☞ Shepherd of the Valley – West Hills*
- ☞ St. Mark's Lutheran – Los Angeles

Note: * The latest ADLA Congregation to join.



Necrology – “We Remember...”

“Let me die the death of the righteous and let my end be like His!” Numbers 23:10

In remembrance of those ADLA Los Angeles Members who have transitioned from God's Creation to God's Heavenly Dominion, we lift in the order of their passing by name:

- ☞ William (Bill) Beal, Holy Trinity, Inglewood
- ☞ Ruth Hines, Messiah, Los Angeles
- ☞ Lorraine Ingram, Olivet, Hawthorne

- ☞ Darlene Love, Olivet, Hawthorne
- ☞ Simeon Simmons, Messiah, Los Angeles
- ☞ Oscar Willie, Olivet, Hawthorne
- ☞ Betty Wimberley, Holy Trinity, Inglewood
- ☞ Mary Beal, Holy Trinity, Inglewood
- ☞ Estelle G. Beard, Ascension, Los Angeles
- ☞ June Sorrells, Community, Los Angeles
- ☞ Doris M. Lewis, Ascension, Los Angeles
- ☞ Roberteen Wilson, Holy Trinity, Inglewood
- ☞ Alfred Schoepke, Christ the Shepherd, Altadena
- ☞ George W. Jackson, Jr., Olivet, Hawthorne

These members have joined the Church Triumphant, the House with many rooms!

Year-to-Year Membership

Membership in ADLA has remained relatively stable over the years, despite the two years of social isolation and restricted access emanating from the pandemic. The success of the past years in membership is noted by the accompanying comparisons.

<i>ADLA Membership by Year</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Chapter Goal
	109	111	114	116	110	130	154	101 As of March	150
Number of Congregations with ADLA members: 23									

There are 4 ADLA – LA residing in other states: the Atlanta and Chicago areas along with one member in Spain! ADLA's mission field continues to expand!

Plans on the Horizon

ADLA Los Angeles members continue to serve the larger church with participants serving in its 3-levels:

- ☞ Churchwide, Synod and various congregational councils
- ☞ PLTS Advisory Board
- ☞ CLU Convocators (previous service also included the CLU Board of Regents)
- ☞ ELCA Taskforces/Committees emanating from the 2019 ELCA Triennial Assembly
- ☞ ELCA Assembly Committees (Memorials, 2022) Reference and Counsel, 2019)
- ☞ Synod Assemblies (Registration/Credentials) and project/ministry committees
- ☞ Mission Investment Fund

We extend our heartfelt thanks to those members for allowing *The Spirit of Almighty God* to guide their steps in service!

ADLA – Los Angeles' Commitment to Ministry

Outreach to the Community

- ☞ *11th Year hosting God's Work, Our Hands Sunday* – providing school-based backpacks for returning students, supplying hygiene, personal care kits and food commodities to High School and University students experiencing periodic food insecurity. Deliveries are made each month to CLU, CSUDH, and area parochial schools. ADLA for many years has similarly provided for the un-housed on Skid Row, Los Angeles in partnership with Church of the Nazarene, L.A., along with area mobile home sites. Between 1,500- 1,600 kits across all sites are distributed each year. Each kit cost approximately \$20.00.

- ☞ *9th Year supporting Bibles for the Incarcerated – providing recovery bibles for inmates in concert with Hope Lutheran Church. \$2,000. A new intervention involving the Juvenile Authority has commenced with 5 cases of 12 bibles each having been delivered and distributed.*
- ☞ *11th Year contributing to The Ronald McDonald House, Long Beach – offering aluminum pull-tabs collected to help defray the costs of family support to children with chronic illnesses. 132 pounds of pull-tabs submitted. 1,238 tabs per pound.*
- ☞ *8th Year of network support to My Friends House, Inc. (501C3) – A Gold Certified Food Pantry, Los Angeles. An average of 9,360 family units, consisting of 2-4 members are served annually. 1,040 volunteer hours are provided annually. Commodities and related non-perishables are directed to California Lutheran University's Student Pantry, Bishop Conaty – Our Lady of Loretto Girl's High School, Los Angeles and formerly California State University, Dominguez Hills, Carson.*
- ☞ *6th School Year Backpack Giveaway for desiring students entering the new school year. Up to 1,300 backpacks with school supplies have been distributed.*

Sponsored Services and Scholarships

- ☞ Contributed \$3,600 to the ELCA - Robinson/Conway scholarship for seminarians of color.
- ☞ Contributed \$800 to the ELCA - Daniel Payne Scholarship.
- ☞ Established and contributed to the ELCA – Rev. Dr. Nelson W. Trout Endowment \$14,000.
- ☞ Contributes annually to California Lutheran University and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at \$100 respectively each year. Total contribution \$700.

Total distributed offerings to all recipients amounted to **\$19,100.**