

## Cultivating And Letting Go

This will be our theme for Lent.

*Cultivate (verb): to prepare and use for the raising of crops; to foster the growth of; to improve by labor, care, or study; to refine; to further; to encourage.<sup>1</sup>*

*"Faith is a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty." from Brene Brown, "The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You're Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are"*

Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, of inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge. This year, our lectionary offers us images and stories with themes of earthiness and grit. It is good, in my mind, at the beginning of our ministry together, for us to look at these passages with a view of what God is tending in us, what we are to cultivate together and individually, and what the characters or concepts in each passage has to teach us.

Looking ahead, we'll touch on these passages:

### 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

- Luke 4:1-13 (*Jesus in the wilderness*)
- Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (*The Israelites settle in the wilderness*)

### 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

- Luke 13:31-35 (*Jesus as a mother hen*)
- Psalm 27 (*"I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" v. 13*)

### 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

- Luke 13:1-9 (*Parable of a fig tree with no fruit*)
- Isaiah 55:1-9 (*"Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters" v. 1*)

### 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

- Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (*Parable of the prodigal son*)
- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away" v. 17*)

### 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

- John 12:1-8 (*Mary anoints Jesus' feet with precious oil*)
- Isaiah 43:16-21 (*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" v. 19*)

### HOLY WEEK

Luke 19:28-40 (*Jesus' entry into Jerusalem*)

- Luke 22: 39-46 (*Jesus prays at the Mount of Olives*)
- Psalm 22 (*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" v. 1*)

We have a sweet gum tree in our side yard by our garage. Its leaves hang on late, and each year, other trees are leafing out well before this tree brings on its first bud. I tend to wonder, each year, whether it will eventually get leaves or did it actually die over the winter. So far, it has always budded out, but I have to remind myself it is on its own time. It cannot be compared to the other trees in the neighborhood. God has set the timetable for this tree.

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Same with congregations. We will be on our own time, and cannot be compared to other congregations. As we seek God's continuing guidance for what we need to cultivate in our particular location and setting, and what we also need to let go of, Lent is a good time to remember that God has set the timetable. God has life intended for us, and life in all its leafy glory. Be sure to come to worship each Sunday in Lent to get the whole story.

Blessings, *Pastor Karla*

<sup>1</sup> Definition by Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary.

## FINAL UPDATE FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE :

The call committee members join the congregation in sending our sincere wishes of welcome to Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton, who will be joining Gethsemane as our new pastor on Monday March 4.

Pastor Karla's first service among us will be Ash Wednesday March 6, which will be especially meaningful as Ash Wednesday has traditionally been our joint worship with members of Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community (MMACC). Both Pastor Karla and Pastor Kori Pacyniak of MMACC will be leading the Ash Wednesday service.

GLC's congregation first had the opportunity to meet Pastor Karla and her husband Ed Stockton at a meet-and-greet held on Saturday January 26. This event was very beneficial and welcoming on all sides, with opportunities to get to know Pastor Karla both in a group setting and individually during the fellowship time.

The following day, Sunday January 27, at our Special Congregational Meeting our congregation voted unanimously to issue a call to Pastor Karla and then voted to approve her compensation and benefits.

Pastor Karla was very excited to accept our call and to join us in seeing where the Spirit takes us! She also expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome she received from our congregation.

Those of us on the call committee (Jerry Class, Mary Erlenborn, Jeffrey Jenkins, Linda Juhasz, Mark Mendoza, Aaron Williams, and former member Earline Trinkle who relocated to Texas) have many people to thank for their continued support and encouragement during the call process.

Among those on our "thank you" list:

- Members of Gethsemane's congregation for placing your trust in us and confirming this trust by voting to call Pastor Karla (and for your prayers along the way);
- Pastor Carol Reed for her prayers, support, advice and confidence, both privately and during the worship announcements;
- Pastor Karla and all of the other candidates whom we were privileged to interview and to learn about their gifts and talents as part of the call process;
- Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen (and others in the Pacifica Synod) for their prayerful support and words of hopefulness and encouragement as we navigated through the multi-faceted call process;
- The members of GLC's Transition Team and Pastor Karin Boye for their preparation of GLC's Ministry Site Profile and their extensive work to synthesize the various surveys and focus group results into a comprehensive document;
- All those who pitched in to make Pastor Karla's meet-and-greet such a wonderful reflection of GLC's welcoming and forward-moving presence in our community;
- GLC's council for their vote of confidence in recommending Pastor Karla to the congregation when the call committee could only refer to her as "the unnamed candidate of choice" due to confidentiality reasons;
- And final thanks to Pastor Gloria Espeseth for leaving us in good hands (and God's hands) at her retirement!

## THANK YOU, PASTOR CAROL

On behalf of the entire congregation, we greatly appreciate your leadership and good humor during this challenging time of transition as well as your willingness to stay the course with us when the "bridge" became longer than expected. Your sermons were consistently inspiring and meaningful as you applied your personal insights to the Gospel. We wish you a happy, healthy and long retirement. Know that you will be missed!

God's blessings to you, GLC Council



### National Alliance on Mental Illness

Join our team of Gethsemane Gardeners participating in the Saturday, April 27, 2019 NAMI Walk, Register online (if interested in supporting this worthy cause and one of GLC's outreach ministries). Jerry Albert will have a car pool leaving from our GLC parking lot on that morning to Liberty Station, check in time is 7:30 a.m. Start time is 9:00 a.m. Here is our team url: <https://www.namiwalks.org/team/27165>. Donate to our team or to any individual team member. 100% of all donations support NAMI programs to help destigmatize mental illness.

**Bible Study continues...** They say a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly message. Our study continues as we explore how Jesus' audience would have understood His parables in the context of their own lives. Learn the deeper meaning behind these seemingly simple stories. Join us March 9 at 10 a.m. for this study into God's word.

## LIVING LUTHERAN

After receiving feedback from members of the congregation that they were not reading the Living Lutheran magazine paid for by Gethsemane, the Council decided to discontinue providing these subscriptions to all members as a cost saving measure. Instead, Gethsemane is obtaining three subscriptions to the Living Lutheran, which will be available in the narthex for members to borrow and return. Anyone still wishing their own magazine may purchase an annual subscription for \$19.95 by submitting a request to Living Lutheran Circulation, Augsburg Fortress, PO Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730 or subscribing online at [livinglutheran.org](http://livinglutheran.org).

**Everything has a season** and every season has an end - a time of harvest. My time of harvest here has come. You are entering a new season as it should be. My season of harvest will be the warm memories, the fun times, the challenges of interaction, and the rewards of love that are now mine. As you know, I am retiring and my time here will always be the hallmark by which I remember my ministry. Thank you for the love, the acceptance, the tolerance and laughing at my jokes. May your future be full and blessed. Thank you for allowing me to be part of it.

Pastor Carol

*Thank you!* 

March  
Happy  
Birthday



Rick Nagy	2nd
Jo Koch	6th
Hildie Class	15th
Helen Bergen	18th
Richard Norton	24th

## SOUPER BOWL PREDICTION...

The Patriots WON...our predictions were New England Patriots 39, I Don't Care 42, and Los Angeles Rams 44. The big winner "Serra Mesa Food Pantry" with \$34 and 91 food items. Thank you GLC and Preschool for your participation in helping our neighbors.

## DID YOU KNOW...

- We look forward to welcoming Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton to GLC March 4th. She will preside at the joint Ash Wednesday service with MMACC at 7:00 p.m. March 6th.
- Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton will be installed March 24th @ 1:30 p.m. Details to follow.
- The Council will designate the recipient(s) of Lenten offerings at the March Council meeting. Suggestions from the congregation are welcomed and may be provided to any Council member for consideration at the meeting.

**What's Inside? Calendar,  
Birthdays, events & updates  
2696 Melbourne Drive**

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**Check out our Website  
at  
[www.gethsemanesd.org](http://www.gethsemanesd.org)**

*Gethsemane Lutheran Church...*  
*grounded in the gospel, anchored in Word  
and Sacrament, traditional yet creative,  
seeking to be God's people in this time and  
place.*



**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**



**ASH  
WEDNESDAY**

**Joint 7:00 p.m. service with  
MMACC, March 6th.**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
BEGINS**

Don't forget to "Spring Forward"  
and set your clocks one hour  
ahead **Sunday, March 10!**



## Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in March

8:00 a.m. Communion Service with  
Word and Music

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Word, Prayer, and Meal

NOTE: March 24th, 1:30 p.m.

Installation of Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

(there will be no morning services this day)

Monday

10:30 a.m. Text Study for next Sunday

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer