



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE NEIGHBORHOOD
AROUND YOUR CHURCH SUDDENLY DECIDED...
Your church is somewhere they can build solid friendships
Your church is a safe place for their kids to talk about important stuff
Your church actually helps when something goes wrong in your community
Your church can help their family win at being a family
Your church answers the questions they are really asking
Your church gives them hope and a reason to believe
What would happen if those of us who are in the church simply decide...
WE ARE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

I read this on a brochure about a conference. The question stuck with me. What would happen? How would the neighborhood be changed if the church had this kind of positive impact on people?

What's more, another question bubbled to the surface. What is keeping us from being that kind of a positive influence on our neighborhood now? Do they know we exist? Probably. Do they know what we have to offer? Probably not. Do we have what they need? That is a good question.

What do we know about our neighborhood?
What would we have to change to be a resource for our neighbors?
Have we even had this kind of impact on our own members?
Have we adequately been there for each other?

In a previous congregation, I dropped by the church to re-fill my communion kit. It was late afternoon and as I drove up, there was a young woman standing outside the Fellowship Hall. As I got closer, I could see she had two little boys with her. One was riding a tricycle and one was riding the smallest bicycle I had ever seen. They were riding around and around, looking like they were having a great time.

I approached the woman and introduced myself. She said she lives across the street. She asked if it was OK that they were riding here. I said, "It is totally fine with me." as I secretly said to myself, "I hope it is fine with the members/council." We visited a little more. She said it is too dangerous to let her little ones ride in the street and she is so glad we have this large parking lot, and even better, while her boys are small, the flat courtyard that was smaller and more contained. She said she loves bringing her boys to ride here. It is safe. They can get some exercise and work off some of their energy.

As we wound down the conversation, she said to me, "I am so relieved you said it was OK. When you drove up I was just sure we were going to get in trouble for being here." That nearly broke my heart. **All too often people have the impression that they will be in trouble if they come to the church.** We have our work cut out for us to change that perception because Jesus taught that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Paul wrote that as we walk by the Spirit we will discover the 'fruits of the Spirit' growing in our lives: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.* (Galatians 5:22-23) and we will express the divine kind of love that is *patient and kind, not envious, boastful, arrogant or rude.* (1 Corinthians 13:4-5)

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The church exists for the good of the world, not the other way around, but Christians don't often act like it. All too often Christians act as if the church exists for our own benefit. That isn't Jesus' way. Jesus gave his life for the benefit of all, not just those who followed him. It is our calling and task to give ourselves for the good of the world, to live for the good of our neighbor, to love God in the form of the stranger. When we do that, good news happens.

blessings to you,
Pastor Karla



Thank you all for attending Pastor Karla's installation!

DID YOU KNOW...

- Maryella Cheek has moved to Oregon with her daughter. Her new address is :
3579 N. E. Surf Drive
Lincoln City, OR 97367-50
- Inga Johnson has relocated to Florida to be with her grandson. Mail can be sent C/O: Mr. John Ellis, 4315 Aegean Dr., Apt. 222 C, Tampa, FL 33611.
- APRIL BIBLE STUDY has changed it's date— They will meet on the 1st Saturday of the month—this month only—April 6.
- We have a new canopy cover in the courtyard!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COUNCIL :

- We are grateful to the Preschool for their generous gift of an awning above the Church office door which will complement the awning they are purchasing above the Preschool office door (and our recently installed canopy).
- In anticipation of the Agape House chili cook-off and cookie chill-out on May 5 at St. Dunstan Episcopal Church in San Carlos, we will have our own cook-off and chill-out after the 9:30 service on April 28 to determine Gethsemane's representatives at the "main event". Bring on your best, most imaginative entries!
- At its March meeting, your Council decided to designate Agape House as the recipient of our gifts in the purple bordered "Lenten Offering" envelopes.

Check out the GLC Facebook page each Friday for a hint about the sermon topic for the weekend.



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.

PADRE FUNDRAISER FOR SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY

Tickets are now available for
Sunday, July 14, 1:10 pm
Game Time

Check your calendar and see
Jerry Albert to join in the fun!



*April
Happy
Birthday*



Inga Johnson	2nd
Judy Albert	5th
Jenny Mendoza	6th
Becky Baker	8th
Ken Baker	15th
Jay Trousdale	24th



CHILI COOK OFF

Save the date for Agape House annual fundraiser to support our Campus Ministry and celebrate the launch of our building project!

Prizes, food, music and so much fun!

3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 5th @
Saint Dunstan's Episcopal Church
For more info contact Agape House at
agapehousesdsu@gmail.com
or 619-583-3972

2018 TACO FACTS

(Third Avenue Charitable Organization)

- ◆ **15,721** people received food from us
- ◆ We served over **20,000** meals
- ◆ An average of **300** people a week received free health services, legal services, dental care, and acupuncture care. They were assisted by over **150** student volunteers who were supervised by licensed attending professionals in each of their clinical capacities.
- ◆ Each month **55+** people came to our office for basic assistance. This kind of assistance includes providing a mailbox, information about program services, clothing & hygiene, assistance with identity documentation.
- ◆ Each week **35+** people came to our office for Social Services. This includes assistance with finding affordable housing, receiving life-saving medicines, establishing identity, Crisis Intervention, to assistance with emotional trauma. Our MSW team provides these services.
- ◆ **312** new volunteers came to learn about those who go without in our community, and to support them.
- ◆ Our **Going Home End-of-Life Services** program & volunteers continued weekly to work with people who were terminally ill or medically vulnerable while we continued to search for a new coordinator.
- ◆ Our meal volunteers gave **6500** hours of service in 2018.

None of this could happen without your tremendous financial support!

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 April 6 at 10 a.m. for this study into God's word.

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

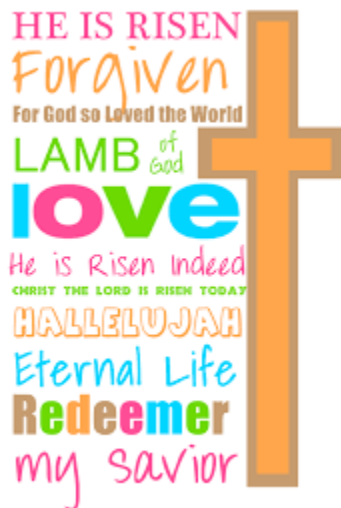
**Phone: (858) 277-6572 - Fax: (858) 277-6511
Preschool: (858) 277-7710**

**Check out our Website
at
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



Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in April

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

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

Passion Sunday Cantata April 14th @ 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday April 18th

1:00 p.m. Healing Service

Good Friday April 19th

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday

Easter Egg Hunt between services

Monday

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

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer