

May is the month of Synod Assembly!


Why should you care? Because it is one of the ways we fit into the larger church. You see, we at Gethsemane Lutheran, are one church in three expressions. We have our congregational ministries, which are supported by and support the ministries of the Pacifica Synod. The ministries of the Pacifica Synod support and are supported by the ministries of our national body or denomination, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are Gethsemane AND we are Pacifica Synod ( along with about 100 other congregations) and WE ARE THE ELCA (along with 64 other synods.) Together we do big things like caring for the poor around the world through Lutheran World Relief and other agencies. We reach out to those whose lives have been turned upside down by natural and human disasters through Lutheran Disaster Response. We support our troops with military chaplains. We train future leaders through our network of seminaries (including the seminary I went to, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA) and Lutheran colleges (including Wagner College in Staten Island NY that our daughter went to), Young Adults in Global Mission and more. We support missionaries that proclaim the good news of the gospel around the world. We support ministries that reform prisoners and set them free, that pairs orphans with families and feeds the hungry in so many places and on so many levels.



If I listed all the things that the ELCA and Pacifica Synod does, through your offerings and mission support, I would fill up a whole book, not just the front page of this Witness. But I think it is an important witness to remind you of all we are a part of. Synod Assembly is the perfect occasion. It is the annual meeting of the Pacifica Synod (parallel to the annual meeting of our congregation) where the budget will be passed, resolutions regarding what emphasis our shared ministries might take in the years to come, and memorials that will be sent to the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly that will be held in August in Milwaukee. This will be our input into the direction of our denomination in the years to come.

So you see, you should care about Synod Assembly. Your voting members at Synod Assembly will be myself, Mary Erlenborn and Tom Templeton. It will be held at Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert May 10-11. We'll report back to you more about the agenda and the business conducted at the meeting. In the mean time, pray for us, that we will be wise in the voting and decisions that we'll be part of, that we'll be energized for mission and ministry by being part of it, and that we will return with a clear call to action for our part in the larger mission of being the church for the good of the world.

blessings to you,  
Pastor Karla



## FINDING WAYS TO SAVE

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Call 619-464-3373 or email [Toni.Arzillo@Thrivent.com](mailto:Toni.Arzillo@Thrivent.com)  
Complimentary refreshments will be served following the workshop.

**Details**

<b>Thursday April 11, 2019</b> <b>3pm-5pm</b> Thrivent Financial Mt Helix, Suite 250 7960 University Ave., La Mesa 91942	<b>Thursday May 16, 2019</b> <b>3pm-5pm</b> Thrivent Financial Mt Helix, Suite 250 7960 University Ave., La Mesa 91942
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## EASTER 2019

### DID YOU KNOW...

- that the two restrooms next to the Garden Room are now "unisex"? Each restroom has locks on both the exterior (deadbolt above the handle) and interior (push button on the handle) doors.
- the Garden Room and restrooms have been rekeyed to help secure our facility. DO NOT use your old key...New "B" keys will be checked out through the office as designated by the Council.
- it's with Sadness we share the passing of Helen Bergen. Her memorial will be held here on Saturday, April 27th @ 2:00 p.m., reception following.

### 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

Vicki Coffee—We Congratulate and Thank You for your years of service to Gethsemane Christian Preschool. You have served our area children faithfully with love and care as well as making it a professional & collegial work environment for the teachers. Congratulatory cards can be sent to Vicki at the church address.

*30<sup>th</sup>*  
*anniversary*

## AGAPE HOUSE NEWS

Gethsemane has a strong history of supporting Agape House (the Lutheran-Episcopal campus ministry at SDSU), most recently they were designated for our Lenten offerings to benefit their vital ministry.

Through Gethsemane's Endowment Fund, we have also granted over \$3,000 in support of Agape House's multi-faceted responses to student food insecurity, specifically a community garden area where fruits and vegetables are raised and a food pantry for students to select nonperishable items to meet urgent food needs.

One recent Friday in April, Pastor Karla served as the "guest chef" for one of Agape House's "Food Fridays", where students not only learn healthy and inexpensive cooking techniques but can also take home leftovers and ingredients to help with meals over weekends when some aren't covered by campus meal plans.

Pastor Karla chose spaghetti (choice of regular or gluten-free) with tomato sauce (meat or vegetarian) as her dish for the students to gain hands-on culinary skills. Pastor Karla expertly demonstrated how-to's for selecting and chopping ingredients such as garlic and green and red peppers. The students also harvested fresh kale from the community garden to add to their sauce.

These "Food Fridays" benefit students not just from providing them with practical knowledge and training for meeting their food needs on a student budget, but also by offering caring fellowship and connections with local churches.

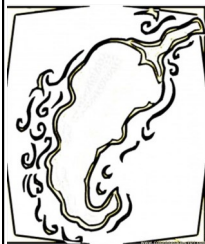
At their May 5 chili cook-off, Agape House will be kicking off their fundraiser for their new building project, which will replace their current facility and allow for greater services and outreach to students and to the greater SDSU community. Come join the fun on May 5 to learn about this next exciting chapter for Agape House!

Mary Erlenborn

## PADRE FUNDRAISER FOR SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY

Tickets are now available for Sunday, July 14, 1:10 p.m. Game Time.

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



## 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

## *May Happy Birthday*

*Happy Birthday!*



<b>Marta Brown</b>	<b>5th</b>
<b>Dianne Smalligan</b>	<b>16th</b>
<b>Mary Erlenborn</b>	<b>18th</b>
<b>Paul Sanderson</b>	<b>23rd</b>
<b>Joanne Driskill</b>	<b>25th</b>
<b>Roxanne Rosengarten</b>	<b>26th</b>
<b>Amy Trousdale</b>	<b>26th</b>
<b>Kathy Layritz</b>	<b>29th</b>
<b>Joetta Koishor</b>	<b>30th</b>
<b>Barbara Gandolfo</b>	<b>31st</b>

## SEMINAR ON DREAMS, HEALING, AND WHOLENESS

Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m.—3 p.m. @ St. David's Episcopal Church. Cost \$65 (scholarships available for the asking). Email your reservation to Rev. Peter Fritsch @ plfritsch@hotmail.com. See the detailed flier posted in the Narthex.

## Bible Study continues in May with a date change...

Join us May 4th at 10 a.m. for this study into God's word. This will be the first Saturday of the month due to scheduling conflicts... Thank you all!

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

**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](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**

**Happy Mother's Day**

**May 12th**



## Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in May

8:00 a.m. Contemplative

Communion Service

9:30 a.m. Classic

Communion Service

May 26th is Gospel Sunday

Monday

10:30 a.m. Text Study

for next Sunday (Tues. May 28 due to  
Memorial Day)

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer