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# January 2016

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## The Pastor Ponders...2016

December 31, 2015, turned into January 1, 2016, in the blink of an eye. Something changed in that moment...we were able to leave some things behind while other things came into view because we upped the number of the year by one.

Now, some things didn't change. The laundry still needs to be done with regularity. The sun rises in the East. My Aunt Ruth's potato salad is still the best there is.

Yet we enter a new year thinking about the things that are coming...Jenny graduates from high school and will be off to college in the fall. Sydney and Jordan will be in high school come August. We will have an election on November 8 and elect a new President of the United States of America to inaugurate in late January 2017!

And yes, this is the year I turn 66 and retire from Gethsemane after almost 21 years. Some remember the day I came, and others of you know only me as the Pastor here. Last summer we established a Sustainability and Transition Planning Task Force to study, reflect, and bring recommendations regarding Gethsemane's present and future. The column on the right is a summary of the first three reports the "STP" produced. Roger Krauel, Susan Mendoza, Jerry Albert, Liz Thompson, and Pat Wiedower are working diligently. "You all" have also been at work in completing their surveys. When we gather for the Annual Meeting on January 31, we will take time to talk with them...ask questions, offer our thoughts and suggestions, and hear what else they are working on. We are on our way to change thoughtfully!

Yet not all is changing. The Christian community has a foundation, a center, an anchor to keep us steady and focused. The Good News of Jesus Christ remains...the Office of Word and Sacrament into which some of the baptized are ordained is grounded in the Holy Triune God's reconciling love and grace in the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus of Nazareth. The pastor/preacher/presider may change but God is steady and faithful and present. Yes, it will be different but it will also be the same. May God bless and keep us in 2016!



Pastor Gloria

## Reports from the Sustainability and Transition Planning Task Force

The "STP" has worked through three issues and printed reports for all to read (in the narthex/office).

1. **"Calling a Pastor"** is the first report which describes the process the ELCA has established so the calling a pastor is thoughtful and thorough. Definitions of interim ministry, Ministry Site Profile, and more are given, and the steps of the process are laid out. Since Pacifica Synod will be electing a new Bishop at its Assembly May 5-7, some of the conversation we might like to have cannot begin before he or she takes office on August 1.

2. **"Pastor Compensation"** is the next report. Pacifica Synod has carefully developed salary guidelines to reflect the variety of housing costs throughout the Synod, years of pastoral experience, prior work experience, additional degrees, and more. The baseline full time salary for 2016 for the Serra Mesa area (adjusted for housing costs here) is \$75,400. Benefits and reimbursed work-related expenses are added to salary for total compensation. Ideas other than full time are explored.

3. **"Financial Position"** is the third report. Graphs of the income and expenditures of the last ten years show a solid basis from which to move into the future. Reserves have been established so that a "hiccup" could be handled. The STP identifies Gethsemane as having "a disciplined, budgetary management process" which has served us well.

THANKS, "STP", for your work!

## Brief Tour Around Gethsemane as We Begin 2016

...We rejoice at the faithfulness and generosity of our members and visitors in 2015. Our goal from "Envelope and Loose Offerings" was \$114,000, and we received \$118,751. We continue to encourage everyone to consider the "Spirituality of Giving" where one gives to God's mission and ministry on a first fruits (regular) basis, according to what one has, freely and cheerfully. This was St. Paul's counsel in 2 Corinthians 8-9. May God continue to give us joy in responding to God's call to be the "people of God in this time and place." At the same time, our expenditures in 2015 were slightly under budget so we added to our reserves for the year. Final figures will be a part of the written Annual Report which you will receive on January 24 (or earlier). The Annual Meeting is 10:35am on Sunday, January 31.

...The Council met December 14 to organize for 2016. They elected Roxanne Rosengarten as President, Tom Templeton Vice President (he will return this fall but we are in email and phone contact with him already), Judy Nagy Secretary, Debbie Attwood Treasurer, and Jean Arneson Financial Secretary. Also serving on Council are Jean Knapp, Joetta Koishor, Ann Larion, Susan Mendoza, Virginia Morse, Nick Mulcahey, Pat Wiedower, and Pastor Gloria. Thank you for serving in leadership!

...Our two closest ELCA neighboring congregations have been/are in the call process for Pastor. Atonement Lutheran has called Rev. Kate Schlechter to serve them after 7 years of interim and supply ministry. Pastor Kate has over 20 years in parish ministry and is working on a doctorate in clinical psychology. She will serve on a half time basis. We have been invited to her installation, Saturday, January 30, at 10:30am. Ascension Lutheran will soon receive names of Pastors from the Pacifica Synod's Bishop's Office. Rev. Karin Boye has been their Intentional Interim Minister for 18 months.

...The Monday Morning Bible Study (9:30am) and Text Study (10:30am) continue to be places of interesting and deep conversation, shared planning for worship, and inspiration for Pastor Gloria's sermons. Newcomers are welcome.

...The Friendship Lunch continues to have new community members attend as well as a faithful core for whom it is a vital social gathering. We remembered how much it meant to Art and Jan Marx by including soup at their Memorial Service. Thanks Jean Knapp, Linda Peters, and Pat Wiedower! Jean Knapp, Richard Norton, and Ellen Wagner keep on making it happen in Gethsemane's month to serve (odd months). We are covered for January but invite people to check out March or May.

...We will elect three Voting Members to the Pacifica Synod Assembly which is Thursday, May 5, through Saturday noon, May 7. We can have one woman, one man, and one youth or young adult. This Assembly's agenda includes the election of a new Bishop since Bishop Murray Finck has served three six year terms and cannot run for reelection. The Council will elect our Voting Members in January or February. If you are interested in serving in this way, tell one of the Council members.



## January

Julie Pfizenmeier 2nd  
Jeanie Williams 3rd  
Chuck Doane 19th  
Katy Meindl 19th  
David Thompson 20th  
Debbie Attwood 21st  
Eileen Neuman 30th  
Pat Wiedower 30th

## RECYCLED CARDS FOR ST. JUDE'S RANCH FOR ABUSED CHILDREN

Linda Juhasz is collecting all types of card fronts (Christmas, Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, etc.) for St. Jude's Ranch. There is a box in the narthex to collect these cards. Remember...NO Hallmark, American Greetings, or Disney cards as they don't allow their cards to be reused. The children repurpose the cards to earn spending money. Thanks!

## Thanks...

We are very appreciative of the gift given us at Christmas and also of the support and appreciation you share with us all year long. Thanks and God bless you!

s/Staff

I am grateful for the affirmation and gift given to me at the "Last Show" and throughout these seven years. It's been a meaningful project for me, and I'm glad it brought a smile to others. Also thanks to my helpers!

s/ Roger Nies

Thanks to those who have completed their terms on Council: President Linda Juhasz, Vice President Mark Mendoza, Linda Peters (who served two terms as Secretary), Jerry Albert (who served two terms as President and one as Vice President), and Jenny Mendoza. Thanks also to Kristen Nelson who resigned due to responsibilities at work.

### Around the property and grounds...

Chuck Cheek's work on the gutters and drains meant that they were able to keep up or get caught up quickly with the rains. We do have some work that needs to be done on the slope where the playground sand clogs the drains.

We have Troung's Gardening Service which provides upkeep on lawns, bushes, and the slope. We also can hire them for once or twice a year upkeep. However, we need to form a "Landscaping Team" that will be responsible for the oversight of the grounds, replant when needed, the regular upkeep, contract with Troung in spring when weeds start taking over the "Garden of Gethsemane" and when the slope needs its once-a-year "manicure". The proposed Mission and Ministry Plan separates out the expense items for the buildings and the grounds so there are funds to replant, upgrade, or what is needed. Interested? Most of this is "oversight" but replanting is a "hands on" commitment. Talk with Pastor Gloria or President Roxanne Rosengarten if you are willing to serve in this way.

We are looking forward to having Landscape Contractors begin submitting bids now that it is the first of the year. If you know of a Landscape Contractor whose work you valued, talk with Chuck or Pastor Gloria.

### Connecting to the Serra Mesa community...

Serra Mesa is a hidden community within the whole of the city of San Diego. The "small but hearty" description of Gethsemane works well for Serra Mesa also.

Serra Mesa community organizations include:

The **Serra Mesa Community Council** is a "private/non-profit" organization whose bylaws define everyone who lives and works in Serra Mesa as members. The SMCC has monthly meetings and works on well-being of the community. The Board leads the effort and also meets monthly. Pastor Gloria is going off the Board after serving for ten years. The SMCC is the 501c3 sponsor of **Friends of Ruffin Canyon** and **Serra Mesa Village**.

The **Serra Mesa Planning Group** is an official group of the City of San Diego and advises the City of San Diego Planning Commission on issues.

The **Food Pantry** is a community outreach of Mission Village Christian Fellowship, and we are the "sponsor" of the **Community Garden and Orchard** which operates as an association of gardeners.

These organizations are on our monthly calendar to invite Serra Mesa residents to support our neighborhood.

### Mission Possibilities...

January to May brings us opportunities to serve.

**Storefront** "First Monday" serving nights to bring dinner to the teens at the Storefront Teen Shelter are January 4, February 1, March 7, April 4, and May 2. Becky Baker is our Coordinator for this outreach and is willing to help people volunteer. Supplies such as snacks and hygiene items can be brought to the basket in the narthex at any time.

**The Chili Cookoff and Cookie Chillout** for Agape House, the Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at SDSU, is Sunday, April 10, from 3-6pm. What will be our winning strategy this year? Any ideas??

**The NAMI Walk** will be Saturday, April 30, at NTC Park in Liberty Station. We participate each year to provide support and commitment to the destigmatization of mental illness. Who wants to walk? New T shirts??

**Empty Bowls** for Third Avenue Charitable Organization takes place on the second Saturday in May, the 14th. Stay tuned for more information. The soup and bread provided by local restaurants and the soup bowls by local potters make this an amazing day.

### San Diego Project Heart Beat

Project Heart Beat has one main goal: "To save lives through early defibrillation and educate society on simple recognition and response to SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest)."

AEDs are designed to be used by non-medical personnel. The new generation of AEDs analyzes a victim's condition and, if necessary, delivers an electrical shock to the heart to reverse sudden cardiac arrest. Ease of operation with clear voice directions and automatic analysis enables a person with minimal or no training to use the device.

Our AED equipment is located in the Garden Room. Be familiar with its location. Read the insert that will be in your bulletin this month and check out the demo of the AED that is available online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMhSWnu0ST8>





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**Check out our Website  
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***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**



A Labyrinth for prayer  
and meditation is in our  
front yard and available  
to all on a 24/7 basis.

**We Gather Weekly to  
Worship...Every Sunday...**

**8:00am Contemplative  
Communion**

**9:30am Liturgy of Word,  
Prayer, and Meal**