

A Warm Welcome

Hospitality has been a reoccurring topic this spring and summer. Martha wanted to provide a feast for Jesus to show her love and generosity. It backfired, of course, when she got in over her head and she got resentful of the gift she was preparing. Abraham entertained the three men/messengers from God under the great oak tree. He offered them a snack and some water, but ended up directing Sarah to prepare a feast, making bread from the finest flour, slaughtering the best calf. As one commentator has said, "He underpromised and over-delivered."



But hospitality is about more than preparing food and serving it with a smile. Hospitality is also about building relationships. That takes time. It requires more than a good first impression (although we never get a second chance to make a good first impression.) Good hospitality

- Takes getting to know the people in our community—including the guests among us, each other, and the people who have never yet set foot inside our doors.
- Requires that we fully value other people and honor their beliefs, especially when they differ from our own, and celebrate their uniqueness.
- Benefits when we listen more than we speak.
- Is meeting people where they are, not where we want them to be.
- Involves doing this work together. (As Martha found out, one person cannot do hospitality alone.)

The goal in church is always to model this grace-filled hospitality. But it isn't only for us to practice on Sunday morning. It isn't only for welcoming people to worship and church events. Hospitality is a way of life. If we are going to do it well, it becomes something we do every day, all day long. Then it becomes something we ARE. Hospitality in this way is a spiritual discipline. It starts out as something we practice. Then it becomes so natural it is part of who we are.

We are ALWAYS the Church. How we treat others in our daily life is how the Church is treating people. To always consider, "I am the Church. What should the Church be saying or doing in this moment?"

In August, we will be talking about how to welcome people who are different from us; how to show hospitality to the people we meet along the way, and how to invite people to come to church. I'm looking forward to some rich conversations. I hope you will too.

blessings to you,
Pastor Karla

How to Kill Ideas (or Phrases Not to Say)

- Don't be ridiculous.
- We tried that before.
- It costs too much.
- It can't be done.
- That's beyond our responsibility.
- It's too radical a change.
- We don't have the time.
- That will make other equipment (or practices) obsolete.
- We're too small for it.
- That's not our problem.
- We've never done it before.
- Let's get back to reality.
- Why change it, it's working OK.
- You are ahead of your time.
- We're not ready for that.
- It's not in the budget.
- Can't teach an old dog new tricks.
- Let's form a committee.
- It's too hard to sell.
- If it was a good idea, we'd already be doing it.
- We'll be the laughing stock.
- That doesn't apply to us.
- We're doing the best we can.
- We did alright without it.
- Has anyone else tried it?



Pastor Karla and Bishop Andy Taylor

Outreach in the Community

Gethsemane walked with First Lutheran in this year's Pride Parade



DID YOU KNOW...

- ♦ Joetta and Bobby Koishor made their safe journey to Indiana and she has started her new job...a permanent address will be forthcoming when they are settled.
- ♦ *MMACC Book Club* - The MMACC Book Club will not meet during the month of August. The next Book Club meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room. The book they will discuss is **WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING** by **Delia Owens**. If you're a reader GLC is invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Bev at 619-322-9342.
- ♦ Our thanks to Dave Pfizenmeier for serving the remainder of Joetta Koishor's council term.
- ♦ Congratulations to our own Gethsemane member, Cyndi Jones. Her ordination took place on Saturday, July 27, at Clairemont Lutheran, where she served an internship. Prelude assembly singing was led by Andy and Debbie Attwood. Cyndi has accepted the call to serve Atonement Lutheran as pastor, and the Pacifica Synod on disability awareness issues.
- ♦ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** "God's Work. Our Hands." August 25th. Watch for details as the council works on a prayer retreat, orientation to the labyrinth, and a group walk.

FIVE MORE TITLES FROM THE GETHSEMANE LIBRARY

Here is an introduction to some more of the books in our little Gethsemane Library...

(Non-fiction: Christian Theology) **It's Not About Me by Max Lucado**. Best selling author Lucado turns the greatest lie we've believed—that our happiness is all about looking out for #1—on its head and sets our sights on a different goal. Consider how to make the highest priority of your life a divine pursuit. This book can help you put God in the #1 position. It changes everything. (We also have this book in its teen edition.)

(Non-fiction: Theodicy) **When Bad Things Happen to Good People by Harold S. Kushner**. This spiritual classic will help you re-think what suffering means to you in life. None of us get out of this life without suffering, so we might just as well deal with it in a healthy way. Even if you have read this before, give yourself the gift that this book offers: clear thinking and consolation in times of sorrow.

(Non-fiction: Living and Dying) **The Needs of the Dying: A Guide for Bringing Hope, Comfort, and Love to Life's Final Chapter by David Kessler**. Everyone has to face their mortality sometime, and more often we have to face the mortality of the ones we love. Be prepared for your last chapter, even if you hope it is far into the future, because it will help you live well in the present. "This book serves the needs of the person sitting by the bedside as much as it does the person who is lying in the bed. In it you will find gentleness and peace in the experience of death." —Marianne Williamson

(Non-fiction: Anthology) **The Wisdom of Listening edited by Mark Brady**. Eighteen contemporary spiritual teachers explore the effect of listening and being listened to. Authors range from Ram Dass to Joan Halifax to Nancy Mangano Rowe. The three book sections include The Promise of Listening, The Practice of Listening, The Power of Listening.

(Non-fiction: Bible Study) **Galatians by Charles B. Cousar**. Interpretation Commentary Series. Along with Romans, Galatians is one of the most influential portions of scripture for Martin Luther's transformation that led to the Protestant Reformation. This commentary is focused on the portions of this letter that are primarily used for teaching and preaching.

Come into my office any Sunday after worship and find a book that will provide a boost to your spirit from the shelves of our Gethsemane Library.

*August
Happy
Birthday*



Mindy Garcia	1st
Pam Howard	5th
Sheila Peterson	11th
Ann Larion	15th
Scott Miller	24th
Jeffrey Jenkins	24th
Chuck Cheek	30th

ELCA FEDERAL CHAPLAINCY SCHOLARSHIP GOAL

We will welcome Navy Chaplain Jeff Jacobson as our guest speaker on Sunday, August 11th and hear more about how we can help thru this scholarship program.

Here at GLC, we are hoping to raise \$500 before Veterans Day toward a gift to this scholarship fund. A challenge has been offered to match our \$500 for a total gift of \$1000, achieving the status of a Medallion Congregation. Make out your check to GLC with a note Chaplain Scholarship. A gift of any amount will be gratefully accepted, every little bit helps; it all adds up.

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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.



Watch for details of "God's Work.
Our Hands." as it is incorporated
into the labyrinth on Sunday,
August 25th with an orientation
and group walk.

Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in August

8:00 a.m. Contemplative

Communion Service

9:30 a.m. Classic

Communion Service

August 25th is Gospel Sunday

Monday

10:30 a.m. Text Study

Tuesday

12:30 p.m. Centering Prayer