

## Keeping The Community Vibrant

“During a holiday get-together, several times the topic of conversation became, “Things that have quietly disappeared from ordinary life.”

We had been playing a word game that requires you to come up with examples from obscure categories of nouns: shampoo brands, film directors, types of fish. When “fashion model” came up, we noticed nobody could name one from this century.

In the 1990s, some of the most famous people in the world were fashion models, but at some point the world-famous model must have become an obsolete institution. Nobody was sad about this, but it seemed interesting that we hadn't noticed their disappearance till twenty years later.”



These are not my words, though I wish I had a hip group of friends who would get together and play word games! (But I digress.) This was the introduction to David Cain's blog post lamenting the loss of human interaction, another thing that has quietly been disappearing from ordinary life. (I recommend reading the whole post. He is wise and insightful... Find it at “Raptitude” <https://www.raptitude.com/2020/01/the-other-environmental-crisis/> )

It is true in society and in the church too. Many people seem to prefer to sit at home and watch church on TV or livestream onto a service or just read a spiritual blog or two. While these options are wonderful when you can't get to worship to be with your community, choosing them for a person's 'every day' worship choice limits how God can speak to you. So often God speaks to us through the voice of the community in service, in ministry and in conversation. If you are just watching a service electronically, those parts are lost. Those interactions don't usually happen on Sunday morning and usually not in the worship space. They happen between and among people working side by side on a project, quietly taking care of business, doing the work of faith-living together.

All too often, we don't even notice that we haven't done any of that kind of sharing in way too long. When we are homebound, that's one thing, but cutting ourselves off from the community for convenience is quite another. Interacting with people is hard work sometimes; especially when they have ideas that clash with ours or have needs or expectations that require something of us. Sometimes it seems better to just not bother with all that. But that only benefits us in the short run. In the long run, we all lose. Continuing to invest your time, effort, energy, and resources into a worshipping community is a commitment to God, to yourself, and to the good of the whole. Let's not lose that. Keep coming to worship. Keep volunteering to be of service.

Keeping the community vibrant takes input from all of us.  
Blessings to you in the new year,  
Pastor Karla

**“UNSHAKABLE HOPE”**  
**IS NOW AVAILABLE**

The book and video “Unshakable Hope: Building Our Lives on the Promises of God” is now in the Gethsemane Library in Pastor Karla’s office. This is the book and video from the class that was just completed. If you were in the class, but not able to make all the sessions, you might want to check out the video and watch the rest. If you wanted to take the class but couldn’t for whatever reason, you might want to check out the book and / or the video. If you didn’t know about the class and need some hope in your life, you might want to check them out. Either way, they are there and checking them out is easy... just write your name, the date and the book title on the clipboard just inside the back door.



*January*

Julie Pfizenmeier	2nd
Jeanie Williams	3rd
Chuck Doane	19th
Katy Meindl	19th
Debbie Attwood	21st
Pastor Karla	24th
Eileen Neuman	30th

*February*

Jean Arneson	2nd
Jerry Class	6th
Aaron Williams	10th
Tom Templeton	24th

**2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS/OFFICERS**

Jeanie Williams, President  
Virginia Morse, Vice-President  
Linda Juhasz, Secretary  
Hildie Class  
Sheila Peterson  
Debbie Attwood, Treasurer (appointed, non-voting)  
Jean Arneson, Financial Secretary (appointed, non-voting)  
Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

**2020 PRESCHOOL BOARD**

Susan Mendoza  
Joanne Driskill  
Jeanie Williams  
Vicki Coffee/Becky Ackerman  
Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

**2020 MISSION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

Mary Erlenborn, Chair  
Jerry Albert  
Judy Nagy  
David Pfizenmeier  
Debbie Attwood, Church Treasurer  
Pastor Karla Seyb-Stockton

**2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Susan Mendoza, Roxanne Rosengarten, and Tom Templeton

**DID YOU KNOW...**

- ◆ Looking Ahead-Ash Wednesday is February 26th.
- ◆ Kelly Greason and Frank are looking for new lodging and would be open to renting a couple of rooms from someone in the congregation beginning sometime in the next couple of months. If you have rooms available please reach out to Kelly.
- ◆ Christmas greetings from absent congregation members are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex...
- ◆ The Office is CLOSED on Fridays however Debbie is available. Call or email her to make arrangements.
- ◆ AGAPE Chili Cook-Off is coming Sunday, May 3, 2020 from 3-6 p.m. Mark your calendars now.

**Our Thanks for...**

- ◆ Prayer Retreat, Altar Guild Christmas décor, outside Christmas lights, Choir Cantata (we appreciate our volunteers).
- ◆ All who contributed to poinsettias.
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Thank you so much for the gifts you gave over the holidays to me and the staff. I am thankful for your love and support for all of us. Blessings to you, Pastor Karla



## GLC ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

### GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

GLC's Endowment Committee (Mary Erlenborn, Jerry Albert, Debbie Attwood, Dave Pfizenmeier, Joanne Driskill) is pleased to announce the latest list of Endowment Fund grant recipients following the Council's ratification at their December 17 meeting.

The Endowment Fund is a perpetual investment fund (separate from the general Church budget) used to further worthwhile ministries and organizations on behalf of our Church. The amount available for Endowment Fund grants is limited to capital appreciation and earnings from investments. Therefore, all amounts donated to the Endowment Fund remain intact.

The following grants totaling \$5,000 were selected to align with the three purposes specified in the Endowment Fund's charter:

#### **1. Outreach into the community and synod**

- ◆ \$500 general contribution to the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) to support TACO's important ministries to San Diego's homeless and working poor;
- ◆ \$1,000 to Agape House's (Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry at SDSU) "Building Sustainable Campus Ministry Campaign" to replace their obsolete and inadequate facility with more space for their growing community including dedicated quiet spaces for prayer, work, study, and focused gatherings;
- ◆ \$500 general contribution to Warrior Foundation Freedom Station to support their mission of providing overall assistance to transition our wounded military heroes from a career in the military to a successful career and quality of life in the civilian world.

#### **2. Missions of the ELCA**

- ◆ \$1,000 contribution (designated \$500 for water projects and \$500 for other) to the ELCA Good Gifts program, in support of the vital ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world;
- ◆ \$500 general contribution to Lutheran Disaster Response to support their critical work of bringing God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the USA and around the world;
- ◆ \$500 general contribution to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services to support their important work of welcoming and supporting refugees and migrants entering the USA.

#### **3. Gethsemane Lutheran Church capital improvements**

- ◆ \$1,000 designated for the upcoming Labyrinth Upgrade project to improve our labyrinth's design and appearance, thereby enhancing GLC's outreach to the community and providing for future opportunities for spiritual retreats, outdoor services, commemorative events, concerts and other gatherings.

If you are interested in furthering our congregation's outreach, please consider donating to the Endowment Fund. The process is simple, just write a check to Gethsemane Lutheran Church, designate "Endowment Fund" on your check or offering envelope, and the money will be transferred to that account. Contributions to the Endowment Fund are oftentimes made as memorial gifts, but general contributions (other than memorials) are also welcome.

If you have any questions about Fund donations or distributions, please contact Mary Erlenborn or Pastor Karla.

At **Souper Bowl** time, Gethsemane has some fun while doing some good for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. Bring a can or package (or many cans or many packages) and put it in one of the boxes on February 2nd for: Kansas City Chiefs, San Francisco 49ers, or "I don't care!" Let's see if we can predict the winner of the big game or say to "footballmania", "I found something more fun to do than watch a football game!"



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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.*



## 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>

## Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in January

8:00 a.m. Contemplative

Communion Service

9:30 a.m. Classic Communion Service

Monday

10:30 a.m. Text Study

Tuesday

12:30 p.m. Centering Prayer

Saturday Adult Group Study

*How The Bible Actually Works*

Starting January 11—continuing on the 2nd and 4th

Saturdays of each month. 10:00 a.m.—Noon

Looking Ahead—Ash Wednesday is February 26

(watch for times to be announced for joint services)