

Our mission at Gethsemane Lutheran Church is to explore and express Christian faith and to invite others to join us on this journey.

That is in our bulletin every week. My guess is it is something we don't even notice any more. It is there every week, but is it really who we are? Do we actually DO our mission, as we have identified it? Do we think just by existing we accomplish this mission, by having buildings and signs on the corner of Shawn Avenue and Melbourne Drive and at our driveway? Do we think that simply by having services every Sunday we are inviting others to participate?

Think again.

This is the season of Lent. This is the time, more than any other, (although it is wise to do at any time...) that we are called to examine what we believe. Do we really believe what we say we do? Do our actions support what we say we believe? Our actions display what we believe, deep down in the core of who we are. We might say we believe something is important, but if our actions don't follow that up, can it really be true? Let me give you a common example. We know eating healthy is important. We know exercise will make us stronger and better able to cope with life. We say we want to live well, but we load our bodies with sugar and highly processed foods. We drive everywhere we go, even a short way to a friend's house. We park in the closest parking space to the venue to which we are going if we possibly can. We don't get out into nature for a walk, or even a walk down the street or around the block, let alone go to the gym. What is really going on here? It could be a number of things. It could be that we value convenience more than healthy eating. It could be we value the taste of sweets more than we value our health. Maybe we don't like to sweat, even a little. Maybe... Our actions betray us.

So if we are a church that says we are exploring our faith, but we haven't had a spiritual conversation with anyone for years, whether over a cup of coffee one on one or in a Bible study; if it is easier to talk about sports or the latest recipe than what we believe, we are not alone, but we are also not living out the mission to which we say we are committed by being church together. Our Evangelical Lutheran Church tag line is "God's Work. Our Hands." This is good... but we need to get our minds and mouths involved too. Do you believe the same as you did 20 years ago? Ten years ago? If so, maybe it is time to think about what has changed and what is the same. Maybe it is time to examine whether it is really still working for you. With whom do you talk over what you believe, what you value, what your standards for living are?

This month, I encourage you to make a list of how you live out your faith. Include on that list how you know what you believe, how you keep your faith fresh, who you share your faith with, and who you might like to invite to be on this journey of growth with you. If your list is long, you have something to share. Consider being willing to share what you do. Come talk to me about what you might do. If your list is short, then maybe it is time to consider doing something new to liven up your life and refresh your spirit.

Blessed Lent...
Pastor Karla



News from the Endowment Committee

To update our members and friends on the GLC Endowment Committee status since our 2019 year-end report (in your Annual Report booklet), we are pleased to report that all grants awarded in December 2019 have been disbursed in January.

As a reminder, our December 2019 grants totaling \$5,000 were awarded as follows: Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO), \$500; Warrior Foundation Freedom Station, \$500; Lutheran Disaster Response, \$500; Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, \$500; ELCA Good Gifts, \$1,000; Agape House capital campaign, \$1,000; and GLC capital improvements (designated for Labyrinth Upgrade), \$1,000.

For the \$1,000 granted to ELCA Good Gifts, the Endowment Committee voted to allocate \$500 to water projects and \$500 to other projects. The selected Good Gifts projects are not only critically important to the ELCA's vital ministries in nearly 80 countries around the world, but also mirror certain of the vital ministries that GLC has undertaken in our own community:

Water projects: five water filters, two irrigation projects, and one latrine.

Other projects: one farmers' field school for a woman, one microloan for a woman, one community vegetable garden, one month of nutrition for a child, and one vocational training.

Don't forget to periodically check the bulletin board in the narthex where information and thank you letters from the various Endowment Fund grantees will be posted as received.

If you have any questions about Endowment Fund contributions or grants, please contact Mary Erlenborn or Pastor Karla.

PERSON WANTED: EASIEST JOB EVER

We need a replacement for Jean Arneson as a Monday Office Volunteer.

The job requires no special skills, no computer work. You will need a pleasant voice to answer the phone and write down messages. Complete training.

Commitment = **Once a month** 4 hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pay = **A huge dose of service and purpose**

Contact Linda Juhasz for details 858-268-8071

March



Rick Nagy
Jo Koch
Hildie Class

2nd
6th
15th

DID YOU KNOW...

- ♦ Cal Lutheran University Choir and Chamber Orchestra 2020 Concert Tour with Wyant Morton and Yoshika Masuda (conductors) will perform Saturday, April 4 @ 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 8350 Lake Murray Blvd.
- ♦ Count Me 2020: The Census is happening in the Spring. There are three ways for you to be counted: Mail, Phone, or Online. Watch your mailbox for your Census Form.
- ♦ Prayer requests received via email will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for a limited amount of time—be sure to check the board for updates.
- ♦ NAMI Walk is happening Saturday, April 25th. Join the Gethsemane Gardeners team on the NAMI website to register, donate, and establish your own individual webpage to receive donations, or donate to this team in general. Check in is after 7:30 AM; start for the "5Km (approx. 3 miles)" walk or run is 9:00 AM at NTC Park in Liberty Station.
- ♦ Save the date! Serra Mesa Food Pantry fundraiser: Sunday, July 19 1:10 PM, Padres vs. Milwaukee Brewers, a NL Central Play-Off contender. Watch for details.
- ♦ We predicted KC Chiefs, 53, SF 49ers, 61, and 59 who "Didn't Care." The ultimate winner? The Serra Mesa Food Pantry with 173 non-perishable donations. Thank you, everyone! What a fun way to help our neighbors.

God found in the engine room of Navy ships

“It was a man-made creation, but there was a sense of being in the middle of it all”

By Joseph O'Brien, Feb. 14, 2020 – San Diego Reader

Blog: www.pastorkarlablog.wordpress.com

San Diego Reader: *Why did you become a minister?*

Karla Seyb-Stockton: Throughout my life, I realized that many people did not take seriously the voice or perspective of the youth in congregations. So I thought that as a member of the clergy, I could be a better advocate for youth as full participants in the church today—rather than being just the future of the church sometime later. There was no exact moment when I knew I was going to be a minister, though; it just came upon me like the dawn—slowly but surely. But there was a precise moment when I realized being a Navy chaplain was my calling. That’s when my boyfriend proposed to me, and he was in the Navy. I realized I wanted to be with him. We got married and I was in seminary when we got married, and I interviewed some military chaplains at that time. More and more I felt, “This is my calling,” and I said God had to hit me over the head with a sailor or I would have never figured that out. So we both ended up having full careers – my husband was in the Navy for 31½ years and I was in more than 20 years.

SDR: *What is the mission of your church?*

KS: We want to be a place where people could come, be accepted, know God’s grace, and be part of a community where you can sort out what you believe. When you come here, you don’t have to have all your beliefs figured out. Our mission is to make our little corner of the world a better place through the members of the congregation.

SDR: *Where is the strangest place you found God?*

KS: I found God in the engine room of the ships I was assigned to in the Navy. There’s a feeling of being in the center of it all—with this total rhythm, with everything being in balance... It was a man-made creation, but there was a sense of being in the middle of it all. I also found God up on the bridge or places on ship out where you can look at the stars at night, or look at the ocean. Sometimes it was in the passageway because I was talking to a sailor who needed to work something out. I also saw God in the face of this tattooed rough-and-tumble sailor who would probably never darken the door of a church.

SDR: *Where do you go when you die?*

KS: I believe you go straight into the arms of God’s mercy. I may be surprised, but that’s what I think. Scripture tells me over and over again, that God’s mercy is sufficient. If someone is going to be in hell, it’s right here on earth, and sometimes it’s because of choices other people have made, and sometimes it’s because of choices individuals have made themselves. But if there is someone who completely says, “I don’t want you God, and I don’t want your love or your mercy,” that would be a hell of their own choosing. But I can’t imagine anyone saying that when they realize what that really is. Many people have misconceptions about what God’s love is, and that’s why it’s so important for me to preach it.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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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.



Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in March

8:00 a.m. Contemplative

Communion Service

9:30 a.m. Classic Communion Service

March 22—Gospel Sunday

60th Anniversary Kickoff

Monday

10:30 a.m. Text Study

Tuesday

Centering Prayer

March 3 - 12:30-2:00 p.m.

March 10 - 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Silent Retreat

Starting March 17 - 11:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Labyrinth Walks

Wednesdays beginning March 4 thru April 8

5:30 p.m. Orientation—5:45 p.m. self guided Walk



DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME
BEGINS

Don't forget to "Spring Forward"
and set your clocks one hour
ahead **Sunday, March 8!**

