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April 2016

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The Pastor Ponders...

Looking from the historical view, the 50 days of Easter reflect the days separating the ancient Jewish festivals of Passover and Pentecost. Looking at the rhythm of this liturgical season from a theological and spiritual point of view, we need 50 days (or more!...a lifetime?) to explore in depth the meaning of the resurrection of the crucified Jesus of Nazareth and what it means for all of us that "The God of Easter won't let Good Friday have the last word!"



Pastor Gloria

On Easter we read from I Corinthians 15:19: "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied". Paul asserted this because some in the Corinthian Christian community were saying that the resurrection had already happened, and there was nothing more ahead. Today, in light of the enormity of suffering and trauma, we need to proclaim the reverse: "If for *the next* life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."

As each of us encounters or is encountered by the struggles and sorrows of daily life and the shared reality of human brokenness, we can lose hope, become cynical, or live in a subdued resignation that "nothing good can come out of this". The resurrection of the crucified Jesus in the middle of history invites us to expect life from death not only at the end of time but also, I assert, in the middle of time. That good comes out of sin, suffering, trauma, death, and the like is NOT that "it was meant to be" or that "God has His reasons"...nor is it only the passage of time or the cycle of life. Rather, with faith's discerning eye, "the Spirit of The One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in (and among) us" (Romans 8:11). How can we ever comprehend this reality? I know of no formula...rather, simple prayers and an open, discerning faith... "Come, Lord Jesus"... "You have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us...". A blessed 50 days of Easter!

From the Sustainability and Transition Planning (STP) Task Force

The Fifth Report of the STP will be distributed on Sunday, April 3. "The Strength of Gethsemane Lutheran Church" reports and summarizes the survey which around 50% of the membership completed. On Sunday, April 10, the final report on the Outreach Mission of Gethsemane will be out. These last two reports will be the focus of "Congregational Conversations" on Sunday, April 17, at 8:30 and 10:30am. If there are questions or highlights from any of the first four reports, those will be discussed also.

The Council is grateful for the faithful work of Chair Roger Krauel, Jerry Albert, Pat Wiedower, Susan Mendoza, and Liz Thompson. They committed a large number of hours to begin the work of understanding where are we, how to stay strong, and what our next steps might be.

At the April 25 Council meeting, discussion will begin on the next steps in this conversation and identifying changes needed in the transition Gethsemane is undergoing with Pastor Gloria's retirement in November.

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The first four STP reports were:

1. Calling a Pastor...the ELCA's process
2. Pastor Compensation...how does it work in Pacifica Synod?
3. Analysis of Gethsemane's Financial Position
4. When a Pastor Retires...

Copies of these 4 reports are on the table in the narthex. Every member is strongly encouraged to read all reports.

Short takes...

...if you've been around Gethsemane for a while, have you been embarrassed that you can't remember a new member's name? At the same time, new folks have lots of people to get to know. The Council has arranged for name tags for everyone so that we can make this easier on all of us! They will debut soon.

...for the next six weeks, the "Reading the Bible for All Its Worth" study at 9:30am on Monday morning will examine the literary and historical background to the Gospel of John and the Revelation to John since these are readings for Sundays in Easter. Newcomers are welcome!!

...for the season of Easter, we will use Setting Eight of the Holy Communion Liturgy in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the 9:30am Liturgy. We have not used this setting for several years. For some, it will be a "review" and for others, an "introduction" to Lutheran tradition. We'll reflect on this and our "blended liturgy" after the Easter season.

...the "Women in/and the Bible" study which meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm is open. Come and join us!

...the Serra Mesa Village is visiting Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park on Thursday, April 7. Meet at 10am at the Library on Aero if you need a ride. The General Meeting is at the Library on April 21 at 3pm. Our speaker will offer insight into why he thinks "Life Begins at 70"!

...the Preschool is nearly full for September! Most new students are siblings or other family members or referred by current parents. This speaks well of the day-in and day-out quality of our program. Hats off and thanks to Vicki, Becki, Ashleigh, Karen, Sharlet, Kristin, and Linda for their faithfulness and caring ways.



April

Ruth Gallivan "100" on 1st
(friend from Friendship Lunch)

Inga Johnson 2nd

Judy Albert 5th

Jennifer Mendoza 6th

Regina (Inga's Daughter) 7th

Becky Baker 8th

Ken Baker 15th

Jay Trousdale 24th

Ashley Mulcahey 27th

Gethsemane T-Shirts can be

ordered for \$14.00. Shirts are light



blue with a green logo: watering can, plants, and website. On the back it says, "Growing faith, love, hope".

The shirts are "generic" so they can be worn at the NAMI Walk, July 4th

Breakfast, Gospel Music Concerts, or "whenever". Complete an order form today (on the table in the narthex or call the office).

The 2016 NAMI Walk

Everyone is invited to join Gethsemane's team, "Gethsemane Gardeners", on Saturday, April 30, at NTC Park in Liberty Station for the annual NAMI Walk. We enter a team each year to provide support for NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) and show our missional commitment to destigmatize mental illness.

Who wants to walk? Jerry Albert is our Team Captain and has lots of information. Among our team members are Maisie Rosengarten (a rescued greyhound) along with Roxanne and Ian,



Dave Pfizenmeier, Ann Leeper, and Pastor Gloria. To register as a walker or to donate to the team, go to www.namiwalks.org/sandiegocounty and follow the trail to our team page or copy this specific address:

www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.team&teamID=5744

Anyone who can't walk is still invited to come to Liberty Station that morning for the festivities—a band, many booths and displays with valuable information, and lots of enthusiastic folks. A truly upbeat and full-of-hope experience!

Thanks...

...to the Choir, Altar Guild, Musicians, Staff, & Ministry Assistants for sharing their gifts and time in so many ways during Lent and Holy Week.

...thanks to Ellen Wagner and Peggy Watkins for the "extras".

...thanks to Hildie Class, Katy Meindl, and Pat Wiedower for arranging the lilies for Easter; to Maureen Miller and Susan Mendoza for arranging the flower cross (with help from Mark Mendoza and Bryan Peters to get it inside the Chapel!); to Rus Kosits and Nancy Corran (MMACC) for the palms; and to the Prayer Quilt Ministry for their help with the palms for Passion Sunday.

...thanks to all who provided lilies and flowers.

...thanks to Linda Juhasz for her faithful scheduling of Ministry Assistants!

Around the property and grounds...

When Mission Village Christian Fellowship cut down one of their big pine trees, we were able to get the "mulch" for our overflow parking lot where the ground cover had gotten quite thin. It was free! However, we need to spread it out and have scheduled a "Yard Day" on Saturday, April 9, to spread it out. Come anytime between 7/10am to push a wheelbarrow or use a rake.

T.A.C.O. FAST FACTS FOR 2015

- Celebrated the 40th year of serving hungry people
 - Celebrated the 20th year of T.A.C.O.
 - Served food to more than 14,900 people
 - Provided 20,793 meals
- Held 8 clinics each week (medical, acupuncture, legal, & dental) with 5 institutions treating 185 people weekly
- Assisted over 75 homeless individuals and 25 housed families receive Cal-Fresh (Food Stamps)
- Provided more than 40,000 pounds of healthy food to diabetic patients in unison with UCSD Student-run Free Clinic and Feeding America
 - Assisted in travel to health appointments
- Volunteers gave 9,000 hours+ of service to our meal programs

All for less than \$22,000 a month, without government funding!

13th Annual "Hotter than Thou" Chili Cook-off & Cookie Chillout

benefiting **AGAPE HOUSE**

Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry @ SDSU

Sunday April 10, 2016

3:00-6:00pm

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

8350 Lake Murray Boulevard



Our Chili Cook:
Richard Norton
Our Cookie Queen:
Earline Trinkle

Sample Richard's Chili and Earline's Cookies at 10:30am on April 3!

Once a year, we invite your financial support for Agape House, our ELCA ministry partners at SDSU ...a Designated Gift envelope is enclosed or simply designate a gift through your regular envelope.

HOMELESS TREASURES" to benefit TACO is coming

Saturday, June 25

As you "spring clean", keep this annual event in mind.

Items can be delivered to their storage facility beginning the end of April or furniture and large items directly to the church (St. Andrew's) the week of the sale.

Items for resale: Clothing, jewelry, household, décor, small appliances, furniture, toys & games, etc.

NO TVs, large electronics, mattresses, etc.

For information, contact Mary Krueger, Suzanne Pew, or Martha Radatz at 619-575-2845 or mradatz@cox.net



Mission Possibilities...

Storefront "First Monday" serving nights to bring dinner to the teens at Storefront Teen Shelter are April 4 and May 2. Becky Baker coordinates this ministry and is willing to help anyone who is a first time volunteer. Supplies, snacks, and hygiene items may be brought to the basket in the narthex at any time.

Our Christmas gifts enabled Storefront to have two new large capacity microwave ovens and gift cards for Costco, Target, and McDonalds (great for teens on the street with whom the Outreach Teams are trying to build trust and get them into shelter). Thanks to everyone for their generosity at Christmas!

Empty Bowls for Third Avenue Charitable Organization will be May 7 at La Jolla Methodist Church. The soup and bread provided by local restaurants and bowls by local potters make this an amazing day.



The House Building Mission Trip with Ascension and Lutheran Border Concerns will be October 1. If you have interest, talk to Jerry Albert, Bryan Peters, or Mark, Susan, or Jenny Mendoza about their experiences.

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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.

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...Sundays at**
**8:00am Contemplative
Communion**
and
**9:30am Easter Liturgy of
Holy Communion**