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July 2016

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The Pastor Ponders...our vocation as citizen

Most Sundays we pray for a powerful moving of the Holy Spirit among the powerful and the powerless in all nations to work for peace, mercy, and justice; for those who lead and serve us in the diverse levels of government in the United States; and for "our vocation as citizen". Lutheran theology holds that God's design to preserve human community uses "government" so that serving as civic leaders or in staff positions within government is "godly" work.



Pastor Gloria

In real, practical terms, Christians have lived under many systems of good and bad governance. In my travels over the years, the most profound statement about the vocation of citizen came from a Lutheran pastor in the German Democratic Republic ("East Germany") in 1984. (Before the fall of the Berlin Wall, I was on a Peace Pilgrimage visiting Martin Luther "sites" and the close of the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in Budapest, Hungary). He believed that wise and thoughtful people could make a difference while at the same time understanding that critique and peaceful protest, which was needed at times, carried risk.

Lutheran theology is also humbled by our failures... painfully visible ones such as support for the Nazi government by some German Lutheran Christians or the Christian defense of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia and hidden ones where "our neighbor's need" is ignored.

That "government is from God" is true in the big picture but not necessarily true in the real life situation Lutherans find themselves in. We "know" about protest as the church in Luther's day was often corrupt when it had governing and churchly power. Thinking this through is hard work!

This year's campaign for the Office of President of the United States is challenging, to say the least. Both presumptive nominees have high "negatives", and citizens are very polarized and often not open to the thoughts of those who differ from themselves. I don't intend to tell you how I plan to vote or how you should vote...that would be inappropriate. But I am inviting you to worship on July 3 when Galatians 5:13-14 on freedom and law will be explored as the church's need as well as society's need...Judge Roger Krauel will help on the latter one. Then from 11am-noon we will explore what is meant by the "vocation of citizen", especially in times of polarization. Where are the voices of reason? Might that be our call? What are our biblical and Lutheran theological resources "for a time like this"?

GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERTS

It's summertime and that means the return of the Gospel Music Concerts by Andy and Debbie Attwood and Salad Bar Suppers by us. Invite friends, neighbors, family members, co-workers, and strangers to join you on Saturdays July 30 and August 27. Richard Norton is our tossed salad chef with a variety of salads by others (sign up in narthex). We need dedicated set-up and clean-up crews to have these wonderful events run smoothly. Thanks to all who make these concerts possible, especially Debbie and Andy!!

WOMEN AND JUSTICE STUDY

At the direction of the Churchwide Assembly in 2009, a Task Force of the ELCA has been working on a Social Statement on "Women and Justice: One in Christ". They are releasing a study document which is designed for wide use within the ELCA. You and interested others have the opportunity to engage in this study at 7pm on Wednesdays, July 6 & 20 and August 3, 17, & 31. Pastor Gloria and Cyndi Jones will lead the study.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The tragic mass shooting of June 12 at Pulse in Orlando and the planned Conversation & Prayer on June 29 open us to ask whether "more" is needed for our witness of God's love and grace for all people and for being a community of Christians for whom sexual orientation is not a barrier. Gethsemane's "Welcome Statement" was adopted in 2005, and some from the LGBT community have "tested our waters". On June 29, we will begin with conversation in the Garden Room and then move to the Chapel to pray and remember. Together we will decide, "What's next?"

Around Serra Mesa...

4th of July Breakfast... it has been our joy the past five years to partner with Friends of Ruffin Canyon, the Serra Mesa Community Council, and (added last year) the Serra Mesa Village and host a breakfast from 7-9am on July 4. In the past we did this in our "backyard" in Shawn Canyon. This year it is moving to Ruffin Canyon (next to Taft Middle School) so that we can showcase the "Bonnie Hough Native Habitat Garden". This amazing treasure in the heart of Serra Mesa is named for a wonderful woman who began and energized Friends of Ruffin Canyon. There will be a guided hike into Ruffin Canyon for those who want to go—sturdy shoes are needed. Help is needed on the 4th to get tables/chairs there as well as providing hospitality.

The Serra Mesa Village continues to grow and develop as a voice for and with seniors in our community. On the first Thursday of each month, there is a local tour which begins with carpooling at 10am at the Library. A trip to the Coronado Ferry Landing is set for July 7, and Old Town is on for August. On the 3rd Thursday, "Senior Connections" happens at the Library. Serra Mesa seniors connect with one another, with interesting resources in Serra Mesa, and with the many services offered for seniors in San Diego (both the city and county). The July meeting will be a fun social gathering to continue celebrating the 4th. The exciting news is that the games and conversation that meets in our Garden Room on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays will soon have a new home at the Serra Mesa Rec Center on Village Glen Drive. It is hoped that some of the rooms will take on the flavor of a "Senior Center".

The "Market on the Mesa" Farmers Market makes its debut on July 6 from 3-7pm at the corner of Sandrock and Grammercy, across from CVS. Our Council voted to support its establishment with \$100 for which we received a gracious thank you. Check it out!

The Serra Mesa Planning Group and Community Council continue to lead Serra Mesa in community enhancement. The **SMPG** meets on the 3rd Thursday and **SMCC** on the 4th Wednesday (except July) at the Library.



Happy Birthday in July

John Hoaglin 90 on the 3rd
 Carly Pfizenmeier 5th
 Don Burmeister 12th
 James Neuman 23rd
 Jon Peterson 25th
 Julia Miller 26th
 Eva McGinley 29th
 Piper McGinley 31st

An opportunity to serve...

Recently, hundreds of Haitians have come to the border crossing in Tijuana to ask for asylum. Allowed to cross while their applications are being processed, the Haitian ministry of Exodus United Methodist Church in Normal Heights is receiving them but overwhelmed with their needs. Most people arrive with very little and nothing with which to set up a household. Francie Krauel will serve as our contact point with her friends from First United Methodist in Mission Valley. She has more information.

Items needed: clothing, baby diapers, baby clothes, a couch, sleeping bags (children and adults), blankets, pillows, toiletries (shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, deodorant, tissues, combs, toothpaste), and canned food

Pre-K Preschool 2016

"We Came as Strangers...We Leave as Friends"

Of the 13 Pre-K students now ready for kindergarten, four came as 2 year olds and have been with us for 3 or more years. Ms. Ashleigh and Ms. Becky have them well-prepared for Kindergarten. Blessings to all the children taking this next step (and on their parents too)!



Are you social media savvy?

Like us on Facebook...search Gethsemane Lutheran Church, San Diego to find us and get reminders and updates of happenings here at church, share our posts on your page, and help us spread the word about our hidden treasure here in Serra Mesa.

Thanks so much for being a part of this growing community. Want to see something on our page?

Just contact Peggy Watkins in the office or connect with Ashley Mulcahey on Facebook or Sundays. We are here to serve.



Around the property and grounds...

PARKING LOT/FRONT SIGN UPDATE...

We met our goal! Over \$10,000 in gifts and pledges was received by June 15. If you have not yet responded, it's not too late. Our hope was that everyone will be a part of this project. Our Financial Secretary reports that gifts were \$5, \$50, \$500, \$5,000 and many stops in between. "We may be small in number but when we work together we can do some amazing things!" (If we do not use all of Don Snowden's Bequest for this project, we will be able to do something missional as we continue our forward movement.) The Council will vote on extending contracts when they meet on June 27. Work could begin on the Front Sign around July 11 and on the Parking Lot in mid-August.

Might it really get done after all this time? Also, we are looking at the lighting in the parking lot at the same time as well as how best to display our address.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM TO BE LAUNCHED

Another project long dreamed of is to make the side yard between the Preschool and Chapel into an Outdoor Classroom where food can be grown and where the wonder of God's world can be explored through science. The first phase will be launched with Creation Camp June 27-July 1. The children are eager to learn "where their food comes from" and how the world is made! The Preschool staff is leading this new adventure.

Celebrating on Sunday, June 19

We gave thanks for Sydney & Jordon Cummings promoted from middle to high school, Jenny Mendoza graduating from Serra High School and on her way to UC Davis, Pat Wiedower who retired as a Clinical Hospital Chaplain at Grossmont Hospital, Carly Pfizenmeier who graduated from San Diego State University in Public Health, and Julia Miller who graduated from UC Santa Cruz in Environmental Studies.



Adding to the day were the insights on "Ministry in Daily Life" from Mary Erlenborn, Jerry Albert, Roxanne Rosengarten, and Rena Rustad. What a joy-filled morning!

One last thought...these five young women all had "three generations" of one side of their families present June 19. Wonderful!

Liturgy and Worship Update

Written comments were received and conversation happened in response to the Holy Communion Liturgy (Setting Eight) during the season of Easter.

Generally, the comments were favorable with requests that the Holy Communion Liturgy be used once a month in addition to the season of Easter. We will implement this starting in August. Another request was that we might occasionally sing one of the chant-like settings used in the (green) Lutheran Book of Worship. In our current hymnal, this would be Setting Three or Four. We will wait until the choir returns to try this.

There was strong support for the blended form of liturgy that we use regularly because we sing more hymns. Appreciative comments noted that the ELW has a wide range of songs/hymns, old and new, global and ecumenical.

The one part of the Holy Communion Liturgy which received "negatives" was the passing of the peace. Since we have time both at the beginning and the end of the liturgy to greet and share God's peace with one another, we will not use this part.

Thanks to everyone who shared their thoughts and engaged in conversation.

As we come to the end of the "choir year", we express our deep appreciation for the commitment and faithfulness of the choir, director Ken Baker, and accompanist Andy Attwood. May you have a blessed Sabbath rest.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church +
Mission Village Christian Fellowship

supporting our

Serra Mesa Food Pantry

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 1:40p.m.

SAN DIEGO PADRES VS.

CINCINNATI REDS @ PETCO PARK

Tickets are \$40 each with \$10.75 going to SMFP

Seats in Shady Toyota Terrace Pavilion Section 218

Buy tickets NOW from Jerry Albert or the Church office.



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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



3rd Annual Summer Gospel Music Concerts

July 30...August 27

**5pm Gospel Music Concert by
Andy & Debbie Attwood**

**6pm Salad Bar Supper
by "us"**

