

**What's Inside?**

- August Calendar and Ministry Schedule
- August Birthdays
- An Invitation to Strengthen GLC's Mission and Ministry!

# August 2016

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**The Pastor Ponders...**

The "lazy days of summer" have been anything but in 2016. Violence disturbs the calm nearly every day. Sharp divisions in the American electorate are showcased daily and will not end with Election Day in November. Personally, many of us have health or aging or family or work challenges. Some are still unnerved by my retirement.



Given what's happening, have you found a way to pause, to center in the grace and mercy of God, to look for all the good that is in our world and in our lives each day, to affirm life? Complex times are best addressed by intentional and thoughtful responses to each day's challenges.

Even brief personal quiet time in prayer and spiritual reflection seems essential. My early morning time in the recliner with the patio door open for the cool air of the new morning supports my centering and prayer. Sharing time for prayer and worship with Christian community is another "centering pause" that opens us to renewing grace, to light on days of long darkness.

At the Pacifica Synod Assembly, we asked ourselves, individually and as communities of Christians, to address the divisions over race and ethnicity which continue to this day. We have not yet found a "mode" to do this here at Gethsemane. I'm open to ideas. MMACC members are participating in a NAACP series which has a Prayer Vigil from 6-8pm on August 12 at the UCC Christian Fellowship Congregational Church, 1601 Kelton Road, SD. Through MMACC's invitation, I will participate in this Prayer Vigil to which everyone is invited.

Meanwhile, I encourage us to keep praying, hoping, and living together in the light of Christ. We will all be helped by taking time to practice random acts of kindness and to find ways to work for justice in our city, nation, and world today. In the words Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote, prayed, and confessed while living under the brutal oppression of South Africa's apartheid political system:

"Goodness is stronger than evil;  
 love is stronger than hate;  
 light is stronger than darkness;  
 life is stronger than death;  
 vict'ry is ours, vic'try is ours,  
 through God who loves us.  
 Vict'ry is ours, vic'try is ours,  
 through God who loves us."

(ELW 721)

**Gospel Music Concert**

Summer is going by quickly, and we only have one more Gospel Music Concert by Andy and Debbie Attwood and Salad Bar Supper by us. Invite friends, neighbors, family members, co-workers, and strangers to come with you for an inspirational time at **5pm on Saturday, August 27.**

Richard Norton is our tossed salad chef with a variety of salads by others. Dedicated set-up and clean-up crews make this wonderful event run smoothly. If you can help, sign up on the volunteer sheet.

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**Women and Justice Study/Discussion**

We eagerly await the availability of the study which is one step in the development of a Social Statement on Women and Justice. Approved for development by the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly but delayed for two years while the process for Social Statements was reviewed, this step is intended for the whole ELCA to have the opportunity to participate in a focused study and to offer feedback. All are welcome to the sessions which will be at 7pm on August 3, 17, and 31.

\* \* \* \* \*

**"Farewell Sermon Series" Continues**

Pastor Gloria continues the Memorial Day to Labor Day series of "sermons I should have preached, need to preach again, or texts not well known". Yet to come are Part III of "The Bible Jesus Read"; human body: sexuality, ability, and inevitability of death; "Grace, Vulnerability, and Trauma"; Paul's farewell to the Ephesians; "God"; economics and justice. If there is an interest in 11am Sunday discussions, just ask! Or come to Bible study on Monday morning.

### Around the property and grounds...

At long last, the Front Sign is being refurbished with the Parking Lot next in August or September. With the pink brick gone, the three olive trees really stand out and help us remember that Gethsemane was (and is!) a garden on the Mt. of Olives outside of Jerusalem. We look forward to rededicating the Front Sign, remembering all whose Memorial gifts enabled us to welcome everyone to a place of prayer. Thanks to all whose gifts this summer enabled us to go ahead with these two projects. If you have not yet given a gift, they are still welcome.

The "Outdoor Classroom" next to the Preschool indoor classrooms is taking shape. Currently three raised beds have been planted with zucchini and tomatoes already moving from blossom to fruit. More is coming!

We are looking for one or two people to adopt the Olive Tree Gardens (between the Garden Room and driveway). This means taking responsibility for weeding and refurbishing plants as needed, including putting in a splash of color at Christmas and Easter (we budget for this). You may do this on your schedule. Interested?

### Thanks...

...to Hildie Class and Earline Trinkle who helped with the Friendship Lunch in July. Blessing and thanks to Jean Knapp, Richard Norton, and Peggy Watkins who are there every week with soup, salad, and a smile and represent Gethsemane very well! More guests are coming with six full tables several times. Our next month to serve will be September...one more volunteer to help with serving and clean-up would be appreciated.  
...to all who helped with the first two Salad Bar Suppers!  
...to Roxanne and Ian Rosengarten, Jerry Albert, and Virginia Morse who walked with MMACC in the Gay Pride Parade, carrying a Gethsemane/Serra Mesa sign.

### Serra Mesa Village

The Village has some exciting news in that space will soon be available at the Serra Mesa Recreation Center for many of our activities. The Village Board expressed gratitude to Gethsemane for making the Garden Room available for Board meetings and Wednesday socials.

In August, the "First Thursday" trip is to Old Town; meet at the Library at 10am to carpool. Non-members are invited but are asked for a \$5 donation which can be applied to membership. The "Third Thursday" Senior Connections meets at the Library at 3pm and will connect with artists and crafters from Serra Mesa. I plan to bring a Gethsemane Prayer Quilt to showcase our talent! Y'all come!



### Happy Birthday in August

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

### TACO...Third Avenue Charitable Organization at First Lutheran downtown

In reflection of the recent attacks on our city's most vulnerable, it is important to take a moment and reflect on who we serve with the help of so many people in the community.

#### Homeless Statistics

San Diego County has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest homeless population in the country. In January, there were 3,752 sheltered homeless and 4,940 unsheltered homeless living on the street.

2,348 homeless live on the street in the city of San Diego

15% of the unsheltered homeless are veterans

1,647 unsheltered homeless have a physical disability

One in seven of the homeless are on probation or parole

One-fifth reported a severe mental illness

17% reported substance or alcohol abuse disabilities

#### TACO Statistics

We serve between 300-350 meals a week (Monday late afternoon and Friday morning) and have served over 10,000 meals so far in 2016. We uphold prayers of safety and health to all of our neighbors who call the streets their home.

Check us out on the web: [www.tacosd.org](http://www.tacosd.org)

Like us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/TACOSDfb>

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

If you didn't fill this form out from a Sunday bulletin, please tear out and return this page to the office or bring it on Sunday. You may also print this page off the web site to complete and return.

## Forming Ministry Teams for "Staying Strong"

With Pastor Gloria's upcoming retirement, the Council is working on the leadership transitions needed to keep us strong. The Council will meet with Bishop-elect Andy Taylor on September 26 to talk about Interim Ministry...what it is, what can be expected, fulltime or part time (how many hours per week), and so on. At this point, we do not know if someone will be available November 21 for the Sundays in Advent and Christmas. Even if available right away, no one will come with Pastor Gloria's 21 years of knowledge of our facilities, finances, and ministries. Since we have not used committees or ministry teams in the recent past, we need structure appropriate to this time (which may carry into the future with our next Pastor). Currently, our strongest areas are finances and worship leadership.

We ask that everyone prayerfully (*and with careful reflection about your gifts, skills, and time availability*) consider where you might serve the mission and ministry we are discerning God envisions for us in this time and place. We need "leaders" and "doers"...if you know specifically what you can do, write that under the area you have checked off. Questions? Talk with President Roxanne Rosengarten, Vice President Tom Templeton, or any Council member (names are in the Directory).

\_\_\_ **Property Team:** responsible for buildings and grounds (3½ acres and six buildings)...need a team of 2 or 3 people to work with Maintenance Coordinator Chuck Check, to listen to Chuck and to observe what needs to be done, and then to "make it happen" whether by volunteers, by Chuck, or by contracting with someone; especially need a person or two who will oversee our Gardener and the volunteers in order to have well-kept grounds. With bigger projects, Property Team would get bids and bring to the Council for approval.

\_\_\_ **Worship Planning & Leadership Team** (*check here for Sunday mornings; other areas below*)

\_\_\_ Prayer Retreat planning and leadership (*will there be an Advent Prayer Retreat on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent as in the past years and/or one on Maundy Thursday?*)

\_\_\_ Altar Guild would benefit from one or two additional members.

\_\_\_ Choir...it's great choir but there's always room for you!

\_\_\_ Sunday morning ministry assistants...Linda Juhasz is the scheduler.

\_\_\_ **Community Care Team** (Christ Bearers for Home Communion, Prayer Ministry, hospital visitation, following up with visitors, and other kinds of caring visitation...*use space below to specify what you would be interested in doing...*)

\_\_\_ **Ongoing ministry/mission** which you may be interested in supporting with your time...

\_\_\_ Wednesday Friendship Lunch (*we provide soup, bread, and dessert in the odd numbered months*)

\_\_\_ Storefront Teen Shelter Meal (*first Monday evening of each month*)

\_\_\_ Serra Mesa Village (*looking for additional Board members*)

\_\_\_ Prayer Quilt Ministry (*currently strong but always open to more folks*)

\_\_\_ Go on the House Building Mission Trip to Tijuana

\_\_\_ Open to **servicing on Council** next year (*Nominating Committee meets in October*)

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*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**



## ***Gospel Music Concert***

**August 27**

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

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

**or**

**Join us every Sunday**

**8am Contemplative Communion**

**9:30am Liturgy of Word,**

**Prayer, and Meal**