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September 2016

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The Pastor Ponders...

My custom is to have this front page be "inspirational" or "visionary". This month I'm trying to be practical using the FAQ (frequently asked questions) format because it is clear to me that this call process "stuff" is still quite confusing for most people...



Pastor Gloria

FAQ (...in the parking lot, after worship in the Garden Room, etc.)

Q. We've known for nearly a year that Pastor Gloria is retiring. Why does it take so long to get our next Pastor?

A. The relationship between Pastor and People is most often deep and personal because of the very nature of pastoral ministry. Extensive experience has shown that having a different Pastor for an "interim" period is helpful for congregations to be open and excited to enter into relationship with the next called Pastor. (This is also true when there is a deep conflict between the Pastor who is leaving and all or part of the congregation...in these situations, there needs to be time for healing.)

Q. How do we get an Interim Pastor?

A. Bishop Andy Taylor will meet with the Council to listen to our hopes and concerns and then will appoint an Interim Pastor which the Council must approve. Bishop Andy will be at the Council meeting on September 26 to begin the conversation with us. (He was elected in early May and just began his term on August 1. He may not have "all" the answers yet but it's important to get started.) The Council and Transition Team have already met with Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen, Assistant to the Bishop.

Q. What is an "Intentional" Interim Pastor?

A. Some pastors have specialized training to lead congregations who are in transition. Other Interim pastors may be retired or between calls but don't have the specialized interim training. Pacifica Synod uses Intentional Interims whenever possible but may or may not have one available when Pastor Gloria retires. If there isn't an Intentional Interim available, synod staff or a consultant experienced in interim work may need to assist with some of the specialized tasks (i.e. review of MSP).

Q. What is this Ministry Site Profile (MSP) we've been hearing about?

A. Think of the MSP as a congregation's "job posting or help wanted ad". It's entered into a national database open to all ELCA pastors. It is the reason Ascension Lutheran recently called a pastor from Wisconsin, and Atonement Lutheran one from Colorado. ELCA pastors will see our MSP and contact the Pacifica Synod to say, "I'm interested." The Synod staff review the forms ("resumes") filled out by Pastors looking for a new call. Usually, 3-5 pastor profiles are brought to a Call Committee.

Q. When do we elect a Call Committee?

A. Not until the Ministry Site Profile is completed by the Transition Team, reviewed by the Council, and brought to the congregation for approval. These steps have been developed to have agreement and understanding by everyone as to what Gethsemane's MSP is saying to ELCA pastors across the United States. The Council appointed Roger Krauel, Jerry Albert, Debbie Attwood, and Jean Arneson to be the "Transition Team" with the responsibility for the developing the MSP. Again, the MSP must be approved at a Congregational Meeting. As far as electing the Call Committee, the most optimistic timeline would be the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017, but it might be later. The Council is committed to taking the time it needs to have a good and thoughtful process. "Haste makes waste!"

What are your Questions? Come to the Council meeting on September 26 to ask, listen, and learn. Pray for wisdom and clarity for everyone in this process that we may discern how the Holy Spirit is leading us. Anxiety is a normal human reaction to change, and the retirement of a pastor is a BIG change ...for the Pastor and the People!

News from Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry

(Adapted from an article by LBCM Ministry Coordinator, Pastor Ramon Contreras, in a recent LBCM newsletter.)

New LBCM Center in Tijuana

As I write these articles, a mission team from Memorial Lutheran Church, Vancouver, Washington, is building a new multipurpose facility on the east side of Tijuana, in an area called El Maclovio. This new building will serve not only mission teams coming from the United States to Tijuana to build houses but it will also serve the Maclovio community. The building has dorms to stay overnight, bathrooms, showers, kitchen, dining area, and a hall for meetings for mission teams and to serve as a worship center.

Some of the activities that are planned for the new building are serving breakfast to children every day, music lessons, sewing classes, and ESL classes. In the near future worship services will be held to provide opportunities for the Maclovio community to hear God's Word. When groups or mission teams from the United States stay overnight at this new facility, they will have the opportunity to meet with children from an orphanage that is next door. This orphanage has been receiving help and support from LBCM this year.

The first mission team at the new center was the first weekend of June. We want to get involved with and in the community for the Gospel and Love of Jesus Christ to be shared. We are very excited about the new possibilities for this new center. (Ramon Contreras)

The Gethsemane-Ascension (plus a few others) Mission Trip to build a house in the El Maclovio area of Tijuana is October 1 with an option to stay overnight at the new Center and worship with the community on Sunday. Mark and Susan Mendoza, Roxanne and Ian Rosengarten, Jerry Albert, and Pastor Gloria plan to go this year.

Thanks again to everyone who supported our "Fiesta" in June. As we've said before, "We won't solve the problem of poverty in Tijuana with one house but we will make a difference in the life of a family."

We usually take school supplies with us so check the sales after the back-to-school rush. We need basics: pencils, paper, scissors, crayons, etc. Large packages of rice and beans are also needed.

October Lutheran Reformation Class

The commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation begins October 31, 2016, continuing through October 31, 2017, 500 years since Martin Luther called for debate within the Christian church regarding the grace of God and the sale of indulgences. Next month, Pope Francis will be with the Church of Sweden, led by Archbishop Antje Jackelén, to begin this Year of Commemoration. She invited Pope Francis when visiting the Vatican earlier this year, and he said, "Yes!" Fifty years of dialogue is bearing fruit. It's a new day!

There will be several celebrations in San Diego in 2017. To prepare, we will have two introductory events at Gethsemane. From 9-11am on Saturdays, October 8 and 29, Pastor Gloria will take all who attend on a quick tour of Reformation history and the core Lutheran documents: 95 Theses, Luther's Small and Large Catechism, Augsburg Confession, and Book of Concord. Those who attend will decide how/whether to continue to study together in 2017.



Happy September Birthdays

Maryella Cheek 1st
Jordan Cummings 5th
Sydney Cummings 5th
Andy Attwood 13th
Linda Trousdale 15th
LaVerne Trousdale 16th
Maureen Miller 21st
Lee Wolf 23rd
Linda Peters 27th

Preschool News

While the Preschool is open year around, we are influenced by the public school calendar as the last of our Pre-K children go off to "big school", and families with older children find it a good time to enroll younger siblings in Preschool. As a result, we have new children on August 29 when San Diego Unified begins and more after Labor Day. We had a Staff Development Day on August 26 to prepare classrooms and to plan together. Pastor Gloria had lunch with the staff and explored the "spirituality of young children".

Beginning our 34th year of ministry and community service through the care and education of young children, we have an excellent reputation within Serra Mesa and among kindergarten teachers at the Serra Mesa elementary schools. As in recent years, we have full enrollment with a sizeable waiting list. Our teaching staff is stable, and parents refer their friends to us. Co-Directors, Vicki Coffee and Becky Ackerman, have been with us for 27 and 25 years, 3 years as Co-Directors. We recently elected Joetta Koishor and Joanne Driskill to the Preschool Board with Susan Mendoza a continuing member.

We salute the staff for their love and care of children: Vicki, Becky, Kristin, Sharlet, Karen, Linda, and Ashleigh. We trust you'll have another great year, and the next group of Pre-K children will be ready to move on next August!

Around the property and grounds...

At long last, we are nearly done with refurbishing our Melbourne Drive entry. From the demolition of the asphalt and concrete on Monday, August 15, to the striping of new and old areas on Friday, August 26, the parking lot was completed! The front sign area will take another week or so because some parts couldn't be done until the concrete was laid. We are working with a vendor for lettering on the sign, and this too will take a few weeks to complete. Finishing touches include preparing, planning, and planting the area between the sidewalk and parking lot with a drought tolerant splash of color that won't take much care. We'll find other odds and ends but, bottom line, we're close!

The Preschool parents were (mostly) real troopers with the disruption of their normal drop off and pick up. The Preschool staff helped in many ways, including Ms. Becky raking a path across the mulch in the overflow parking lot to make it easier for parents with fancy shoes!

Many thanks to Maintenance Coordinator Chuck Cheek who was on site every day to work with both contractors. In addition, he did many other things that came up like cleaning the cracks in the old parking lot to get it ready for restriping, paying close attention to safety issues, clearing the overflow parking lot of thistles, and much more. Ellen Wagner helped with overnight care of the fresh concrete so that we didn't have "love notes in the morning" and with sweeping the old parking lot to be ready for striping. Roger Nies researched the sign lettering and is much relieved to find a local vendor.

Finally, everyone who financially supported this project over the years made it happen. The generous bequest by Don Snowden made it possible for us to do the job within our resources. For all these reasons, maybe the parking lot did end up to be inspirational (at least partially) after all!

Around Gethsemane...

...Welcome to Paul Sanderson who transferred his membership from St. Paul's Lutheran in Santa Monica. Paul is a graphic designer for Revlon and would like to share his gift of teaching with us.

...Congratulations to Jerry Albert who ran his 39th America's Finest City Half Marathon at 79. He will train for his 40th at 80! Amazing! You're awesome!

..."Deb and I want to thank everyone for the cards and calls about our Aunt Judi. She is on her way home to North Dakota. Our journey as her family never ends. Thanks for all your support." s/Jo & Deb

What's Our "Brand"?

Marketing people help their clients by getting them to ask, "What's our 'brand'?" As we were considering the possibilities for the sign, the Council found two themes raised repeatedly: "All Are Welcome!" and "Gethsemane...a place on the Mt. of Olives where Jesus prayed." Clearly all of this could not be on one sign but we wondered if we could find ways to say both of them in other locations. Currently, a simple but striking "Gethsemane Lutheran Church" is the plan (gold letters on the tiles which will be larger than the letters on the Shawn corner sign).

Our welcome statement has been expressing who we are for at least 15 years. During this same time frame, we've been developing a "Mt. of Olives" theme for our grounds with over 25 olive trees given as memorials and placed near the labyrinth, in the gardens between the Garden Room and driveway, and on the slope on both sides of the cross. This month, two more olive trees have been gifted for alongside the driveway so one enters and leaves among olive trees.

"All Are Welcome!" and "Gethsemane...a place on the Mt. of Olives where Jesus prayed"...how do we live this out? Is there more we could be doing to share our heart?

Around the SD Lutheran Community

With summer over, there's activity! Atonement Lutheran invites everyone to a celebration at the St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Community Center, 8350 Lake Murray Boulevard, Sunday, September 25, at 3pm. **"A Spirit of Hope through Waters of Promise"** is a celebration of the resilience of the human spirit expressed through the inspirational music of the African Spiritual, dance, and poetry. Atonement wishes to thank everyone for the help and prayer support when the 2016 winter storms caused heavy damage to their property.

TACO's annual fall fundraiser is **"Eat, Drink, and Be Sharing"**, 4-7pm on October 15 at Calvary Lutheran in Solana Beach. More information next month.

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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

“All Are Welcome”

**“Gethsemane...a place
on the Mount of Olives
where Jesus went to pray”**

Join us every Sunday

8am Contemplative Communion

9:30am Liturgy of Word, Prayer, and Meal