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October 2016

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The Pastor Ponders... "Being Lutheran"

"Grounded in the grace of the gospel"... what joy comes with these words. What a gift to explore over and over again what this means in daily life... "in theology made real among real people". It's what I learned as the "core value" when being educated and trained to serve in the Office of Word and Sacrament as a Lutheran pastor. Or, I might say, in the strand of the Lutheran tradition in which I was formed. The Lutheran community is global; it's diverse; it developed in a variety of historical settings through the lens of different Northern European cultures and through different ways of being Lutheran. (What a complicated history we have! Ask Cyndi Jones about her "Lutherans in North America" class!) But when you locate and examine the DNA of "Lutheran", God's gift of the grace of the gospel will be there (even among the most legalistic of us!).



Pastor Gloria

As I come to retirement, I am reflecting on my journey as a Lutheran pastor. My husband jokingly says, "How hard can the job be? You read one book and work one morning a week!" (Of course, he says this having had a front row view of pastoral ministry for over 30 years!) There are a number of experiences of being a Lutheran pastor that have been very complex and hard. After all, we are vulnerable, broken human beings in all too fragile, fractured communities. Yet we are still here because God moves in and among us with mercy, grace, love, strength, and hope for today and tomorrow.

My hope and prayer is that all who are a part of Lutheran communities of faith would say, "The good news of 'Jesus for all' is where we find our center, our anchor, our foundation." When Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was elected three years ago, she brought a focus to who we are and what we do as the ELCA as a whole. At our recent Pacifica Synod Bishop's Gathering, Bishop Andy Taylor used this same framework to help us talk about working together. I offer it in this month's Reformation article for you to ponder:

We are Christian... We are Lutheran... We are church together... We are church for the sake of the world. These simple four statements are worth reflecting upon in light of the bumper stick I saw recently:

*"Religion is for those who are afraid of going to hell.
Spirituality is for those who have already lived it."
What would you say to the owner of that car? What does being a part of a Lutheran faith community mean to you?
October... Reformation Sunday on the 30th but also
"grounded in grace" month... let's celebrate grace-fully!*

"Celebrating the Reformation"

"Reconciliation Sunday 2016"... in recent years, through an exchange of preachers and people, we have shared the history of the 1500s and the need all Christians have for ongoing reform with Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community. October 9, Nancy Corran of MMACC will preach at our 9:30am Liturgy, and Pastor Gloria will preach at MMACC's 5pm Mass. (As a side note, this is our last opportunity to host this gifted preacher as Nancy and their children will be joining her husband, Rev. Rus Kosits, in Omaha, NE, where he was ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA on September 25.) What we've been doing locally is now being done internationally as Roman Catholics and Lutherans will jointly commemorate October 31, 1517, and the ecumenical progress toward unity made since then.

"Lutherans at 500... Then and Now"... 9-11am, Saturday, October 8, Pastor Gloria will teach/lead discussion on the history and documents of the 1500s that led to the Lutheran Reformation and those adopted as fruit of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogues since Vatican II in the early 1960s. The ideas and questions that need follow up will be explored on Reformation Sunday, October 30, at 11am.

A "Grateful for Grace" Offering is possible through the Reformation envelope in your box. All special gifts through this envelope will support our Core Mission and Ministry Plan (i.e. "budget") here at Gethsemane. The report of our offerings printed in the bulletin each week shows that when we average what is needed each week to reach our 2016 goal, we are slightly under the need year to date. These gifts will help for a strong 4th quarter.

Around the San Diego Lutheran Community in October

San Diego Lutheran Pastors, Rostered Leaders, and Interns have been gathering for weekly worship, conversation, and text study for over 40 years. From now until July when they go to visit congregations, they are meeting here at Gethsemane on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30/11am. Welcome Pastors, Rostered Leaders, and Interns!

Sacred Conversations on Race and Power will be held at Clairemont Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 8, from 9am-3pm. Jointly sponsored by Justice Overcoming Boundaries and the Latino Ministry Area Strategy Team of Pacifica Synod, the day will be a multi-lingual, interfaith event with speakers, breakout sessions, workshops, and personal conversations in order to engage in a safe and respectful manner what is all too often a highly polarized topic. A special gift of the day will be guest artist Ariel Luckey performing a critically acclaimed play, "Amnesia". For more information or to register, contact Pastor Nate Allen at 626-627-5802 or pastor.nate@clairemontlc.org.

Eat, Drink and be Sharing!, TACO's fall fundraiser will be held on Saturday, October 15, 4pm-7pm at Calvary Lutheran Church, 424 Via De La Valle, Solana Beach. The menu this year is Tacos, Brats, and Beer. There is live music, silent and live auctions, and lots of fun. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door. For more information or to get your tickets, contact TACO at 619-235-9445 or tacosd.org.

A Taste of Agape Fall Fundraiser will be Sunday, October 30, from 5-7pm at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 6556 Park Ridge Blvd., San Diego. This is a time of food, fun, and community and to hear the experience of SDSU students who have found Agape House to be an enriching place to explore faith and life.

News from Council...

....Our meeting with Bishop Andy Taylor on September 20 was both informative and reassuring as we reviewed the call process and heard his knowledge of and commitment to Gethsemane. He expects to name an Interim Pastor in October or early November.

....We decided to have a Council Leadership Retreat Saturday, October 29, from 2-5pm. Afterward, we will go to Maggie's Café for dinner to which all are invited to join us. Our goal is to take time to build relationships and to explore issues in more depth than is possible at a regular Council meeting.

....We affirmed a plan for organizing leadership teams for the Interim and possibly beyond. If you did not fill out an interest survey and want to be on a ministry team, talk with Roxanne Rosengarten, Tom Templeton, or Pastor Gloria. The leaders cannot do "everything"! The ministry areas and leaders/conveners are:

Property: Tom Templeton and Jeffrey Jenkins

Worship: Debbie Attwood, Convener of the Team

Community Care: Pat Wiedower, Convener of the Team

Adult Study: Jerry Albert and Paul Sanderson

Finance: Debbie Attwood, Tom Templeton, & Jean Arneson

Social Ministry Coordination: Mary Erlenborn & Peggy Watkins

Each of these teams will work with the staff in each area. Also, the Preschool Board and Mission Endowment Committee are established and functioning. "It" is coming together!



Happy Birthday in October

Bruce Davidson 6th
Judy Nagy 11th
Deb Hoistad 17th
Dottie Burger 22nd
Pam Hartley 23rd

"Understanding Islam & Muslims"

The Education Committee of Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community invites us to join them for a presentation, "Understanding Islam and Muslims" by Imam Taha Hassane at 7pm, Thursday, October 20, here at Gethsemane.

Imam Hassane has been Imam/Director of the Islamic Center of San Diego since 2004 and is a graduate from the Institute of Islamic Studies at the University of Algiers, Algeria. He was a high school teacher and Imam in Algeria for ten years before coming to the United States. He also has a Master of Theology in Islamic Studies from the Graduate Theological Foundation in South Bend, Indiana.

A side note: Atonement Lutheran is next to the Islamic Center of San Diego. The pastors who have served there since Imam Hassane's arrival say that he is engaging and very interested in having good relationships with Christians.

There is no cost. A free will offering will be taken.

Preschool Halloween Carnival

The always delightful Halloween Carnival featuring creatures of all sorts will be 6:30pm, Thursday, October 27. All the food and games are free!

We are invited to bring children, grandchildren, and neighbors. If you come in costume, please no scary ones.

Around the property and grounds...



The last touches to the Front Sign area will be done by early October. Neighbors who walk or drive by the area have given us many compliments. We will look at whether we need more lighting or more "information", especially worship times. We are planning "Dedication" on All Saints Sunday, November 6, since Memorial Funds provided the majority of the funding.

Next area needing attention is the area between the sidewalk and the office building. Many of the plants in this area were in need of renewal. We will take all the plants out and start anew. The area between the sidewalk and parking lot will stay bark only for the time being since the stepping stones are much easier to find and safely use. Whether we do a little splash of color will be decided later. Looking into drought-tolerant, tall rather than wide, pleasant plants for the sidewalk to office area are Joanne Driskill, Katherine Lynch, and Arline Blood. (We've already seen Arline begin the prep work!) If you are willing to help with the prep or the planting of this very visible area, speak up!

Again we thank Carol Stroud for her faithful tending of the "Sin and Grace Garden" each Sunday morning. Look on the October calendar for an invitation to come Saturday morning, October 22, to help spruce up the grounds for fall and winter. You may come at anytime but between 7am-noon, there will be helpers and food!!

A great way to stretch donation dollars...

With Pastor Gloria's retirement plus end of the year financial planning, a gift to Gethsemane's Mission Endowment Fund may be of interest to you. The Endowment is a perpetual investment fund to further worthwhile mission opportunities apart from the regular budget. The gifts are never spent as only the increase in value, capital gains, and interest earned are available for distribution. The Funds are conservatively invested in The American Funds. In this way, gifts keep on giving!

The process is easy. Write a check to Gethsemane Lutheran and mark it for Endowment Fund. The money will be transferred to that account. If you have any questions about the donations or past or future distributions, please contact Linda Juhasz, Chair, Mission Endowment Fund.

"God's Work. Our Hands."

The ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday fell on September 11 this year, and we selected to express appreciation to Eastern Division of the SDPD as our project. Virginia Morse and Debbie Attwood delivered cookies, fruit, a Prayer Square, and notes of appreciation to Eastern Division station on Aero Drive on Tuesday morning. In this way, we were able to honor First Responders who serve us every day and remember the sacrifices of so many people on 9/11/2001.

In the picture below, Officer Jaime Alvarado poses with the homemade cookies, Cuties and apples, the Prayer Square, and our individual notes written on Sunday morning.

Officer Alvarado said that he'd see that the staff there (about 70 officers) knew about our gifts. The notes seemed especially meaningful as well as the Prayer Square. He mentioned their appreciation of community support after recent tragedies.



Around Gethsemane, briefly...

...Great to have the **choir** back and to see several new faces...thanks to all of you for sharing your gifts!

Several people who've been attending Gethsemane are interested in "**Membership**". We understand "member" as welcoming our worship, theology, and vision/mission, accepting responsibility for the mission and ministry along with all the members, and being in a relationship to share yourself and your gifts according to the time you have. If you want to explore membership, talk with Pastor Gloria. ...There is a "**Quilter's Rally**" on Saturday, October 8, from 9am-noon at First Baptist Church of San Diego. Becky Baker has the information. We continue to be so very appreciative of this ministry in our midst.

...We are looking forward to hearing from the **Mission Trip Team** after their October 1/2 experience in Tijuana. We are grateful for all the school supplies donated for this trip!

...We welcome Maryella Cheek to the **Altar Guild**. This faithful "behind-the-scenes" ministry prepares the Chapel for worship. If you might be interested in serving this way, talk with Hildie Class.

...Thanks to all who provided soup, bread, or dessert for the **Friendship Lunch** in September. Come and check it out for not only the nutritious food but the fellowship!

...Check out the signup sheet for **Storefront Teen Shelter** where we bring the evening meal on the first Monday.

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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

***“Lutherans at 500...
Then and Now”***

*...a time to learn and/or
review the history and
documents of the 1500s
and what they mean for
Lutheran Christians as
we commemorate the
Reformation “unleashed”
on October 31, 1517.*

Saturday, Oct. 8, 9-11am
(MMACC has been invited)

Sunday, Oct. 30, 11am
(follow-up for discussion)

“Reconciliation Sunday”
Sunday, October 9, 9:30am,
with Mary Magdalene Apostle
Catholic Community
and also

8am Contemplative Communion

“Reformation Sunday”
Sunday, October 30
8am Contemplative Communion
9:30am Gospel Hour Liturgy
11am “Lutherans at 500...”