

## What's Inside?

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# November 2016

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The Gethsemane Witness

### The Pastor Ponders...the Journey continues...

*I've not been here before...retiring from a Call to serve a congregation in the Office of Word and Sacrament. In my 32 years of ordained ministry, I resigned one call, finished five contracts for interim ministry (one early), and been on "leave from call".*



Pastor Gloria

*I've not "retired" which is different from "resigned". My ministry at Gethsemane will be completed, and I will remain on Pacifica Synod's roster of ordained ministers as 'retired'. I can preach/preside on Sundays and/or serve an interim ministry if I choose and if a congregation or the Bishop asks. However, I'm not saying yes to invitations for at least six months as I've set this time as "sabbatical".*

*My standard answer to "what are your plans" is this: "I plan to spend six months to 'decompress' and explore options for the next part of my journey." I have a file folder of places/things to explore, and, alas, it continues to grow! In the folder is the New Arrivals Center at Crawford High School where teenagers from all over the world enter San Diego Unified; a class in Windows, Word, and Excel; TACO, Rachel's Women's Drop In Center, and Serving Seniors downtown because I am concerned there are so many older women and men with few options; Mid City Nazarene, a multicultural congregation in City Heights, led/served by friends; continue with a Personal Trainer and ponder weightlifting in the Senior Olympics; Oromo Christian Fellowship, Pacifica Synod's developing congregation of Ethiopian immigrants, needing support with English language ministry; a class at the Osher Institute at SDSU; read my Louise Erdrich collection (Chippewa/German writer from North Dakota); experience Holy Week spiritually (not leading liturgy); a 2000 piece jigsaw puzzle, and more! Notice what's not there: golf, tattoo, or Half Marathon. I hope to make commitments after these six months but, as of now, I have no idea what it will be. I hope to discern whether God has a particular call for the next part of my life or whether God is saying, "You're free to choose what's next—surprise me with your faithfulness and creative use of your experiences."*

*For those of you for whom this Witness is my sole contact and thus "farewell": thank you for your place in my life and for being you and affirming me for who I am. May God's ongoing presence and blessing keep us living in God's amazing and sufficient grace!*

### Our Christian Vocation of Citizen

Most Sundays we pray for our vocation as citizen. These past months, our "Remember in Prayer" page in the bulletin had this request: "our Christian vocation as citizen in a contentious election year." I've had conversations with some of you in which you've shared your concern with the divisiveness of the campaign for President. There's no unanimity on the stadium, legalization of marijuana, or abolishing the death penalty but these don't cut as deeply! Some of you have wondered whether the deep divisions in our country will be healed in the foreseeable future, if ever. Because you've shared these concerns and because we are a 'place of prayer', I will ensure the Chapel is open the day before, the day of, and the day after Election Day, November 8 (see the calendar for the specific times).

Trusting we can be a different kind of community than we see in the news, I am offering times for conversation as Christians in community:

Monday, November 7, 1 or 7pm

Tuesday, November 15, 1 or 7pm

I will moderate these conversations so we might explore our vocation as citizen before and after the election and, if we choose, share our concerns. These times are not designed to be partisan and debate who is right and who is wrong. I ask those who come to acknowledge that Christians do not always agree on candidates or basic principles of public policy. If needed, I will review a Lutheran understanding of how God works in the world and the church. I ask those who come to acknowledge the following: the unity we have in Christ is our deepest relationship.

Pastor Gloria

## It's November...ELCA World Hunger Month!

# Raw talents

UNITED STATES  
ELCA.org/hunger



In the midst of a food desert, where no grocery stores sell fresh produce, McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm is meeting a critical need for residents of Muskegon, Mich.

McLaughlin Grows Urban Farm, supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, grows everything from radishes to tomatoes in the middle of the city and teaches adults and teens how to grow their own food.

During the summer, Laurie Wieschowski, the farm's manager, teaches middle schoolers the importance of weeding the farm and picking bugs off plants. The reward, says Laurie, comes when the produce grown is served at the public school for lunch.

"They get excited when they see the kale, lettuce and carrots they've been tending," Laurie said, adding that some students return after the session to volunteer at the farm.

This program also hires student interns who earn a stipend while learning how to

promote urban gardening and develop leadership skills. In a city where nearly two-thirds of the residents earn incomes below the federal poverty level, this is an important investment in the community's future.

High school senior Briane Brooks has been involved with the farm for two years, weeding, harvesting and talking to the farm's visitors. "I love the work," she said. "I love being involved in the community."

As part of the Youth Empowerment Program, Briane is paid hourly, but for her, getting healthy food to people is the important goal.

To ELCA World Hunger, she adds, "Your donors are involved in something much bigger than you'd ever believe. You are helping a hurt community."

Thanks to your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, Briane and many residents of Muskegon now have access to fresh, affordable fruits and vegetables they need to thrive.



## Happy Birthday in November

Bill Burmeister 11th  
David Pfizenmeier 11th  
Pastor Gloria 16th (66!!)  
Paula Cummings 21st  
Virginia Morse 27th

## 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 mission opportunities beyond the regular budget. The gifts are never spent as only the increase in value, capital gains, and interest earned are available for distribution. In this way, gifts keep on giving!

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

## Is your calendar marked? Have you RSVP'd?

Retirement Party for  
Pastor Gloria Espeseth  
Saturday, November 12

4:30pm Catered Dinner (RSVP required by Nov. 3)

6:30pm Program (RSVP not necessary)

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"We don't want anyone to miss the party because of transportation. If you don't drive at night or need a ride for any reason, please call the office by November 8, and we will make arrangements so you can be there."

## Here and there...

...the Monday morning Text Study has a new time – 10-11:30am. Jerry Albert will convene the group. The texts for the next Sunday are commented upon at [www.workingpreacher.org](http://www.workingpreacher.org), a website of Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

...Tijuana Mission Outreach 2016 has a video produced by one of its members, Philip Kuey of Ascension. View it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P VnaLUTVktA&feature=youtu.be>. The "square dancing" is worth the effort!

...November is our month for the Friendship Lunch...sign up in narthex.

...thanks to the Preschool staff for a wonderful Halloween Carnival and to the Board for volunteering at it.

### Around the property and grounds...

What should you do if you notice something that needs fixing around Gethsemane? Chuck Cheek, our Maintenance Coordinator, has a mail slot in the office, and you can put a note in there. Tom Templeton and Jeffrey Jenkins are the Team Leaders for Property so you may also talk with them about your concerns. If you are willing to be a part of a work day or take on something specific, talk with Tom or Jeffrey. Take time to thank Tom and Jeffrey for being willing to lead this very important part of our ministry.

With the Front Entry refurbished and the Parking Lot repaired, we can move on to "normal" maintenance that is required for six buildings on 3 1/2 acres. (Sort of exhausting just to think about it!) The posts by the Office/Garden Room are in need of repair and painting, and bids will be sought in the spring. We are looking at lighting in the parking lot and whether to fix the small cracks in the pipe on the slope leading to the city's sewer connection. The flooring in the Children's Center will be replaced (hopefully) over the Preschool's Christmas break. Funds have already been set aside for this in the Capital Improvements Account.

A huge thank you to Arline Blood who led the way in renewing the green space between the sidewalk and office. She removed the dying plants, worked the soil, and planted the new plants. Helping at different points were Kathleen Lynch, Joanne Driskill, Chris Nies, and Roxanne Rosengarten. What a difference this makes!

Roxanne Rosengarten is exploring a "Gardening Club". Interested? Talk with her.

Willing to help put up the Christmas lights on the buildings and some of the trees? Talk with Tom or Jeffrey as to when you might be available.

### Meet Pastor Karin Boye

Bishop Andy Taylor of the Pacifica Synod of the ELCA appointed Pastor Karin Boye as the Intentional Interim Pastor for Gethsemane. This was affirmed by the Council in October. An Intentional Interim Pastor is trained in the tasks/needs of congregations in the transition of pastors. While the experience of each congregation is unique, this time in the life of a congregation has been researched extensively and a "best practices" approach has been developed. Interim Pastors also assist in the development of the Ministry Site Profile, a congregation's "Job Posting".

Pastor Karin served San Marcos Lutheran (where she still lives) and five interim ministries, including Ascension in Allied Gardens. Hamburg, Germany, is "home" and where she was ordained and served the church prior to immigrating to the U.S. 15 years ago with her husband, Hossein Nahrvani. Pastor Karin serves a German speaking congregation, leading worship at First Lutheran one Sunday afternoon a month and is on-call for pastoral care. She also works at a North County Mortuary. Welcome, Pastor Karin!

### Council News

#### Who's Who in Leadership: Council

President, Roxanne Rosengarten

Vice President, Tom Templeton

Secretary, Judy Nagy

Treasurer, Debbie Attwood

Members: Jean Knapp, Joetta Koishor, Ann Larion,

Susan Mendoza, Virginia Morse, Nick Mulcahey,

Pat Wiedower, and *Pastor/Interim Pastor*

#### Ministry Team Leaders/Conveners/Coordinators

*(other Team members or staff in italics)*

Property: Tom Templeton and Jeffrey Jenkins (*staff—Chuck Cheek, Debbie Attwood, Vicki Coffee, and Ellen Wagner*)

Worship: Debbie Attwood (*Hildie Class, Altar Guild; Linda Juhasz, Ministry Assistants Scheduler; Pat Wiedower, Christ Bearers and Prayer Retreat; staff—Andy Attwood and Ken Baker; Interim Pastor*)

Social Ministry: Mary Erlenborn and Peggy Watkins (*Becky Baker, Storefront; Jean Knapp, Richard Norton, and Peggy Watkins, Friendship Lunch*)

Community Care: Roxanne Rosengarten and Tom Templeton will work with Pastor Karin Boye to ensure that people have appropriate care (*Pat Wiedower Christ Bearers [Home Communion visits]; Pat Wiedower and Aaron Williams, Prayer Ministry; Visitation/Helping: various persons*)

Adult Study: Jerry Albert and Paul Sanderson

Preschool Board: Susan Mendoza, Convener, with Joanne Driskill and Joetta Koishor (*staff/Board members—Vicki Coffee and Becky Ackerman*)

#### Other Council News...

—the interim contract will be for 3/4 time

—the annual **Election Meeting** will be at 10:30am on November 27. Jerry Albert is convening the Nominating Committee. Only one person goes off Council this year.

—November is ELCA World Hunger Appeal month.

Offerings received in the **Thanksgiving envelope** will be shared with TACO (Third Avenue Charitable Organization at First Lutheran downtown) and Serra Mesa Food Pantry.



**Mary Magdalene Apostle  
Catholic Community**

### FALL FEST MUSICAL MEDLEY

November 19, 2016—1:30 to 5:30pm

San Diego LGBT Community Center

3909 Centre St., San Diego, 92109

Tickets—Adults \$25 Children under 15—\$15

Delicious Appetizers and Drinks

*World Renowned Guitarist, Fred Benedetti at 2:00pm*

*Celebrated Flamenco Artist, Rocio Carrera & Company*

*Farewell to Pastor Nancy Corran*

Live Auction \* Raffles \* Silent Auction \* Cakewalk



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**Check out our Website  
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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**

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**“All Are Welcome!”**

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

**Come and join us every Sunday —**

**8am Contemplative Communion**

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

**One Liturgy only at 9:30am on November 20**

**Advent begins Sunday, November 27**