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# December 2016

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**Awake! Be ready for His coming, because no one knows the exact day and hour (Mark 13 & Matth. 24)**

Frankly, I don't like it when people start asking me "Are you ready for Christmas?" Usually they refer to gifts purchased and food prepared. Also they push my button that for decades now we seem to get up our Christmas decorations at the last minute. (Well, we made it a tradition...)



But seriously, will we be ready for God's coming? Ever? The answer is tied to our hopes and expectations. It divides pessimists and optimists. There are those saying "Why would I need God to have a party and be merry?" or "For years I'm all by myself, why should it be different this year?" And there are those saying "If love came to earth embodied in Christ, they killed the man on the cross but cannot kill the love he brought."

According to Mark and Matthew, the only way to get ready for God's love coming into our lives is to stay alert and be on the lookout because there is always the chance to miss it. My hope for Advent 2016 is that our church and her faithful people will capture the fiery Spirit of Love burning on the backstage of the world and share it in a way that the world will understand. On Christmas Eve at 6pm a service will bring the message of hope, wisdom, love and joy to young and old. That is my hope!

It was the poet Emily Dickinson who referred to hope as a thing with feathers, in a poem she wrote more than 100 years ago:

*Hope is a thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all.*

Perhaps Emily Dickinson understood that hope is what gives the human soul wings. Hope helps to be awake. Hope allows us to rise above what we have been to whom we might become. That is, after all, why the baby was born in Bethlehem all those years ago. That is why God comes again and again. As we start this Advent season and our journey into the Holy Night, may that be the hope that keeps us.

Yours, Pastor Karin



Dear Gethsemane,

From the very bottom of my heart, thank you, thank you, thank you. The Retirement Party, the last two months of Sunday liturgies, the Thanksgiving at the Conclusion of a Call on November 20, the many expressions of affection and thanks, the support of my book habit (and desire to always know more!), the generous gifts (which begins funding a 2018 Norway Trip with nephews and nieces who want to see their heritage), and, last but not least, The Quilt. What a unique, personal, and special way to seal our time together. A special thanks to Earline, Becky, Ken, and Joanne.

I will look forward to seeing your next season of life. Pastor Karin is a gifted Interim Pastor, and you are a gifted people called by God to be God's people in this time and place. I so deeply believe in the power and potential of small congregations who experience and understand God calls them to the mission in the here and now. Seven people on November 13 affirmed that, and more will come. God bless you as you are open to joining God in God's mission to the world, as you live in a Christian community of "eclectics" (!), and as you are so deeply grounded in the gospel of God's grace and mercy that you can't but help share it.

Once again, thank you.  
Pastor Gloria



## December Happy Birthday

Ellen Wagner 4th  
Rolando Garcia 5th  
Shirley Mitchell 12th  
Rachel Evans 14th  
Kristen Nelson 18th  
Susan Mendoza 24th  
Pastor Karin 28th  
Earline Trinkle 30th

### A Word About Offerings

Thank you to all who gave gifts in their Thanksgiving envelope. These will be shared with the Serra Mesa Food Pantry and TACO at First Lutheran downtown. The total was not available at 'press time' but will be reported soon in the Sunday bulletin.

Please notice that your box of offering envelopes has a "Christmas" envelope and a regular Sunday envelope for December 25. Your regular mission & ministry support should go in the December 25 envelope. Gifts received in "Christmas" envelopes will be split between Storefront Teen Shelter, and the ELCA's Disaster Response-Domestic and International, as a reminder that Hurricane Matthew struck the U.S. and Caribbean nations, and recovery takes time.

With New Year's Eve falling on a Saturday this year, we will need to make our final 2016 deposit no later than Friday, December 30. If you wish to make a gift that appears on your 2016 contribution report, please bring it to the church office no later than **noon on Thursday, December 29**, to allow us time to process it. Thank you very much!

We, the staff of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, are wishing you a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! It is an honor to serve you and we look forward to joy and happiness within our Christian family in the year to come.



Many Thanks were received from The City of San Diego Police Department for the wonderful care packages of goodies and the prayer square. You will find their Card of Thanks posted in the Narthex. Our continued thanks goes to all those who serve.

### Christmas Decorating

Anyone available is invited to help the Altar Guild prepare the Chapel for Christmas on Saturday, December 17, at 9am. These dedicated women provide faithful support for our worship experience year-round, and at Christmas, they pull out all the stops! Thank you



### You're Invited:

Hearing Loss Association of America  
San Diego Chapter  
Meets the 3rd Saturday of the month  
10:00am-12:30pm  
At Mission Village Christian  
Fellowship  
The San Diego Voice for People with  
Hearing Loss

- ◇ Information
- ◇ Education
- ◇ Support
- ◇ Advocacy

[www.hearinglosssandiego.org](http://www.hearinglosssandiego.org)

Dear GLC Members,

I want to thank each of you for your gracious acceptance of me these past years. I cherish the relationships I have established and I have enjoyed working on all the different projects over the years.

I pray the blessings be returned to you one hundred fold for the blessing this community has been for me.

With love and thanksgiving, Pat Wiedower

### *Recycle Cards for the Children of St. Jude's Ranch*

*I am again collecting all types of cards for the St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Las Vegas. Residents earn allowance money by assembling cards for sale. Hallmark and American Greetings will NOT let their cards be reused so please do not include these. The collection box will be in the narthex from January 1-29. If you put your name on your donation I will have a drawing for a free set of cards!!*

*In 2012 we collected 2,200 fronts and 4,500 in 2013. With the restrictions, it will be a challenge but let's see what we can do this year.*

*Let me know if you want to buy any of the finished cards at \$17.00 for 10 cards (a value at \$1.70/ card.).*



*Thanks, Linda Juhasz*



### **"Linda Juhasz reports..."**

As chair for Pastor Gloria's retirement party, I deeply appreciate the help from all the team leaders and volunteers:

Roxanne & Ian R, party rental coordinators;  
Earline T & Pat W, table decorations;  
Tom T, set-up with help from Robert T, Ellen W, Eileen N, Joanne D, Richard N;  
the Koishers & Mendozas, beer & wine table;  
Sheila P & Ellen W, coffee station;  
Kristen N, dessert table;  
Maryella C, gift table;  
Mary E, recycling & trash supervision;  
Bryan P, parking supervision;  
Dianne S & Bob J, extra transportation;  
Andy & Debbie, chapel set-up & music;  
Dave P, program M.C.

A big 'thank you' goes out to all the bakers for the great desserts; especially to Arline B for the Costco cake, and the heavy-duty gardening she tackled in the days before the event.

The Preschool, led by co-directors Vicki & Becky, provided lots of help including preparation of trash bins, the driveway sign, and event photography, plus a generous financial donation. Judy & Jerry A also helped in so many ways throughout the days leading up to the party, and last but definitely not least, Peggy in the office was invaluable, tracking RSVPs, forwarding emails, creating the program cards & table tents, just to name a few details she handled with grace and good humor.

Please forgive me if I overlooked anyone, you are all appreciated, all the volunteers, everyone who donated funds, and everyone who attended. It was a tremendous team effort, and together we created a meaningful and memorable event. Thank you, thank you!

### Christmas Concert

Sing Gloria!

"...tidings of great joy for all people..."

Sunday, December 18, 2016

7:00pm

Faith Presbyterian Church

5075 Campanile Dr., SD



### **Serra Mesa Village...**

The General ("Senior Connections") Meeting for December is at the Library on Thursday, December 15, at 3pm and will be a holiday celebration! You do not need to be a Village member to come to these meetings to meet your Serra Mesa neighbors and learn more about the Serra Mesa Village, "a neighborly network for seniors by seniors".

On select Tuesdays, games and social activities will begin at the rec center once remodeling is complete. Watch for upcoming information on the website at <http://www.serramesa.org/news-events/>

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**Check out our Website  
at  
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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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## *Christmas Worship*

*Sunday, December 11*

*Third Sunday in Advent*

*8:00am Contemplative Communion*

*9:30am Liturgy of Word, Prayer, and Meal with  
the Advent Cantata*

*Sunday, December 18*

*Sunday before Christmas*

*8:00am Contemplative Communion*

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

*Saturday, December 24*

*6:00pm Christmas Eve Service*

*Sunday, December 25*

*9:30am Christmas Day—ONE Service*

