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February 2017

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH The Gethsemane Witness

... and it was completely calm. And he said: Why are you so afraid?
(Mk 4:39b.40)

Advent, Christmas, New Year, the trees went up, the lights went up, the ball dropped, the lights went down, the trees went down – now all is calm again, right? Wishful thinking!



The world around us seems to witness changes in a speed never seen before. And those changes are impacting our lives and our neighbor's lives greatly: Which news can I trust? Will I be insured tomorrow and how? Will Social Security and Medicare be cut? Can my mother-in-law come to visit us? What will our international relationships look like in half a year? - and so on, and so on. Fear is creeping into many people's hearts.

So to those who were able to come to the conversations after worship and to those who were not able to join us, here is a timely recap:

Change is situational and external, change happens. Change causes transition which is the internal, psychological process to deal with change. Transitions are made. For Gethsemane Lutheran Church radical change happened when Pastor Gloria retired after 21 years of ministry in this place. Now you are transitioning into the new you. Yet, like the three Magi, you are carrying valuable gifts with you: gratitude for a successful ministry, hope and trust in your community, and a well-kept facility.

The interim journey began. But with the words of T.S. Eliot: "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." You started something new with an ending! It is part of our human nature that we like familiarity and continuity far better than change and the unknown. So be reminded that whatever comes next in the transition to the new you, you are walking as well-equipped and supported children of God. There is a larger church walking with you. And, rooted in Baptism, all of us are breathing a loving, compassionate Spirit.

Therefore we are not limited by the winter storms of recent days. When we look ahead, we will not give into seemingly overwhelming waves of fear and anxiety. The one, born for us in poverty in a dark winter night, will calm the storm. He is asking in a moment of calm: "Why are you so afraid?" And later he will add: "I am with you always."

I trust his word!

Journeying with you

Yours, Pastor Karin

Endowment Distributions for 2016

The Gethsemane Lutheran Mission Endowment Committee was able to make one distribution this past year from our investment proceeds. We are very proud of the great organizations (many of which we have supported in the past) that we were able to assist for the following programs and activities:

1. TACO-They are raising funds for a lift to their second-floor offices to aid those staff and clients with mobility issues. Amount \$500.
2. Agape House SDSU-They are starting a food pantry for students who are food insecure (of which there are many). Our donation will fund four movable shelf units and basic supplies to help establish the Agape Pantry. Amount \$500.
3. Fisher House (Naval Medical Center-SD)-They provide a well-needed service locally (and nationally at other military hospitals) to support recuperating military heroes...similar to a Ronald McDonald center where families can stay during their loved one's hospitalization. Amount \$500.
4. Warrior Foundation-Freedom Station-They provide excellent service locally to medically discharged military members transitioning to civilian life. Amount \$500.
5. ELCA Missions-We funded various "ELCA Good Gifts" projects including purchasing chicks, a rooster (thus providing even more chicks!), goats and honey bees for those in need of a nutritious, sustainable food source. Other worthy ELCA projects we supported are for water purification tablets, farming tools, fruit trees, cook stove, refugee food and supplies, and teaching a health care team. Amount \$1,500.
6. Gethsemane Capital Improvements Fund-As a follow-up to the recent parking lot improvements, GLC is now considering additional outdoor lighting options to enhance safety and security. Amount \$500.

Remember that Endowment donations are never spent, only the proceeds (capital appreciation and earnings), so the money keeps on giving. The funds are conservatively invested through American Funds.

If you are interested in furthering our outreach, the process is easy. Just write a check to Gethsemane Lutheran and mark for Endowment Fund and the money will be transferred to that account. The Endowment is a perpetual investment fund to further worthwhile needs apart from the general Church budget. If you have any questions about the donations or distributions, please contact Mary Erlenborn.

Many Thanks...

Christmas Envelope Gifts Totaled \$570. This was split in thirds: Storefront (Becky Baker is carefully looking over their wish list); Lutheran Disaster Response regarding Hurricane Matthew, both domestic and international. Here is a link to find out what LDR is doing in Hurricane Matthew's wake.

<http://www.elca.org/Home/Our%20Work/Relief%20and%20Development/Lutheran%20Disaster%20Response/Our%20Impact/Hurricane%20Matthew>



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February Happy Birthday

Jean Arneson	2nd
Jerry Class	6th
Tristan McGinley	6th
Aaron Williams	10th
Michael Miller	18th
Cordelia Mulcahey	18th
Grant Mulcahey	18th
Tom Templeton	24th
Joan Porter	25th

Around the property and grounds...

Again we thank those who share their time and talents with us. So many enjoyed the lights through the holiday season and thus began the task of removing and storing strings and strings of lights. Those who helped were Jeffrey Jenkins, Alan Nations, Jerry Albert, Bob Juhasz, Jerry Class, Richard Norton, Roxanne Rosengarten and Tom Templeton.

During the holidays our Pre School ie: Children's Center received a facelift with the installation of new flooring. Check it out. What a great improvement they were able to make to our facility. Thank You Vicki, Becky and Chuck for your time to coordinate all the moving parts and pieces so this could happen.

Remember:

Like us on Facebook
Search: christisrisen2day





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Connecting faith & finances for good.®

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thrivent is excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars® to more than 32,000 churches, schools and other nonprofits, including Gethsemane Lutheran Church, through Thrivent Choice®. **Based on member recommendations, Gethsemane Lutheran Church received \$424 in charitable outreach funding in 2016.** The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities.

REMEMBER THAT 2016 CHOICE DOLLARS EXPIRE SOON!

Now is the time to contact Thrivent Choice. All 2016 Choice Dollars have been made available for members to direct so there is no reason to wait. You can make a positive impact by directing Choice Dollars to Gethsemane. As a reminder, 2016 Choice Dollars expire on March 31.

Souper Bowl Sunday is coming

February 5th

The Souper Bowl Sunday tradition continues and offers us the opportunity to have fun and do some good at the same time. Boxes will be labeled with the participating teams along with a box for "I Don't Care!" where you can put cans (plural) or packages of food to "vote". If you arrive on the 5th without cans or packages, you may give \$\$. Each \$1 counts as one can or package.

Can we predict the winner?

All proceeds will go to the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. Help us support our neighbors in need.

New England Patriots

VS

Atlanta Falcons



The San Diego - Tijuana Mission Outreach Team
Invites you to attend our



de Amor

A donation dinner to support our 2017 House Build

Sunday, February 12

5pm to 7pm

Ascension Lutheran

5106 Zion Ave.

Please RSVP for a head count
(619)582-2636



Join us in sharing God's love
south of the border



AED Training coming to Gethsemane in March

MMACC has arranged for an onsite training session for our AED machine on Sunday evening, March 26th at 6:30p.m. following their evening mass. All are welcome to join in this FREE training session.



WATERJUSTICE
TRINITY INSTITUTE 2017

You're invited to attend Trinity Institute, an annual conference that takes place in New York City via webcast at Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach, a partner site, March 22-24.

Join the water justice movement! We'll develop a deeper appreciation for water as a sacred gift, gain a thorough understanding of the relationship between water justice and climate change, and learn what we can do about water issues of access, pollution, drought, and rising tides.

To register for Trinity Institute at Christ Lutheran Church, Pacific Beach, Visit: <http://www.christpb.org> or call 858-483-2300. to RSVP by March 10th.

For details see the flyer posted in the Narthex.

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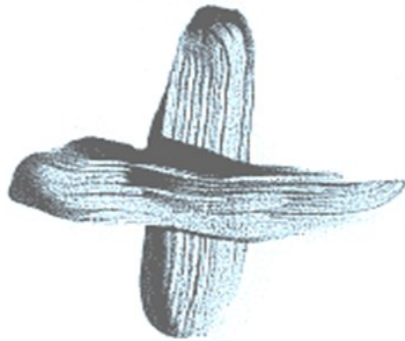
Preschool: (858) 277-7710

**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



Ash Wednesday

February 1, 2017

11:30am Contemplative Communion
with the imposition of Ashes

7:00pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy
with the imposition of Ashes
(shared with Mary Magdalene Apostle
Catholic Community)

Transfiguration Sunday
February 26