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September 2017

www.gethsemanesd.org church@gethsemanesd.org
2696 Melbourne Dr., San Diego, CA 92123
Church Office: 858-277-6572 FAX: 858-277-6511

How should a church respond to a hurricane?

As of writing Hurricane Harvey has left severe damage and flooding in its wake throughout south Texas and Louisiana. Today I heard that some houses will stay in 6 ft. of water for the next 8 weeks. The magnitude of the devastation and loss is overwhelming and scary. Yet, like Mr. Rogers told his young audience: "If you experience something scary, look for the helpers." And currently there are many pictures and stories of people helping people.



As always, natural disasters — horrible and devastating as they are—present an opportunity for all to see the children of God — professionals and volunteers, young and old, neighbors and strangers, believers and non believers — come together and bring calm, healing, and restoration into the midst of the storm.

So I think, while the disaster in Texas is still ongoing, the answer is a) a church responds in gathering together to unite in prayer; b) reflect on ways to support relief efforts; c) do what is possible to make a difference in the lives of those effected.

It strikes me that a good part of Jesus' ministry during his time on earth was dedicated to speaking calm into the midst of storms. Yes, he very literally calmed storms on the Sea of Galilee with his words, but he also calmed the metaphorical storms of death, disease, and demon-possession. In fact, the very first act God does in the Bible is to bring order out of chaos, and God's final act will be to bring an end to the curse and restoration to the world. So following Christ and being God's church calls us to respond to all storms in life, the actual hurricane or the metaphorical ones. For now, through our prayers as well as contribution to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief or other relief organizations the unmistakable message is that God's love is poured out through his people.

And then there are the storms and tribulations in our own lives and the lives of our immediate neighbors. Therefore I suggest to take a step back and ask yourself:

Why am I here and why am I here now? and as a congregation in Serra Mesa:

Why are we here and why are we here now?

Whatever your answer might be, it will be an answer framed by the context. As far as I can see, Gethsemane Lutheran Church is the only main-line Protestant congregation in the Serra Mesa community. The location is more to the south of the community, putting all kinds of Mission Valley development projects onto the congregation's door step.

So why are we here? How shall the people of God in this place respond to the changing winds and tides of the community we live in? And what is God's Spirit calling us to do?

God put you here and now with the people around you. There is a reason for it...

In his Great Commission Jesus laid out the purpose of all of his disciples, then and now: **"Go into the world, train everyone you meet in matters of love and peace, by baptism put them in a relationship with God, and instruct them in the practice of all that I have commanded you!"** (Mt 28)

How else should God's people respond to God's call?

Responding to all kinds of storms together with you. Yours, *Pastor Karin*

Did you know...

- Cyndi Jones is approved for candidacy, i.e. now she is available for call. Congratulations Cyndi!
- Gethsemane went Hollywood! A young team produced a video at our campus —check it out

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlk8LO8nXrY&sns=fb>

- New Addresses:

Linda & Bryan Peters, 517 Springhill Crossing,
Brandon, MS 39047-5020

Jon Peterson, 4949 Mount Longs Dr., San Diego, CA
92117-3054 (858) 737-4984

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team is preparing for its 9th meeting and is also increasingly enjoying the process of what it takes to complete the Ministry Site Profile. There is a lot to learn and to discover about who and what GLC is (and is not!) at this point in time and how to focus on God's future mission among us. Once the MSP is completed, Council will get a chance to review it before it is presented to the congregation. Only thereafter it will be submitted to the bishop and his staff. So stay tuned.

A few of you approached me if I would be available for call. No, I am not! For various reasons it is part of the covenant with an interim pastor that this is not an option. And speaking of the covenant: I was contracted through November this year. But the contract also includes a 30-days notice, which means at any given time GLC, the bishop or I could end the contract prior to the end of the year. BUT if that is not the case, after a year it automatically rolls over into continued 30-days notice. It takes as long as it takes until the process allows us to depart! And the Spirit will tell us when this is the case! Meanwhile: keep praying... PK

September Happy Birthday



Maryella Cheek	1st
Jordan Cummings	5th
Sydney Cummings	5th
Riley Wasiluk	10th
Andy Attwood	13th
Linda Trousdale	15th
LaVerne Trousdale	16th
Maureen Miller	21st
Lee Wolf	23rd
Linda Peters	27th

On Sunday August 20, Jerry Albert completed his 40th America's Finest City Half-Marathon in 2:49:21. The course started at the historic Cabrillo National Monument in Point Loma and then traveled along the scenic San Diego Bay before winding through the downtown area and finishing near the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park; and the back of Jerry's runner shirt read:

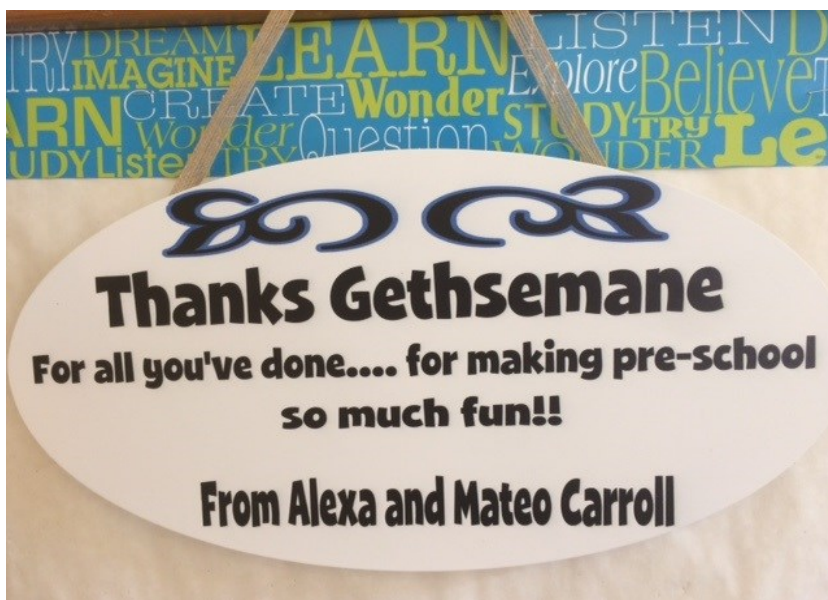
**Everything that breathes should
praise the Lord.** (Psalm 150:6)

Congratulations, Jerry, and well done, good and faithful servant; you have put a lot of breath into this race, praising the one who called you into being.



Lutheran Disaster Response

Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast August 25th. Lutheran Disaster Response's affiliate is actively present, collaborating with community leaders on the long-term recovery efforts. Please see the insert in Sunday's bulletin to help with the ELCA efforts.



What's going on in the neighborhood?

If you are not really sure how to answer that question—because you don't live in Serra Mesa, know that usually the answer was provided by your pastor because she was a member of the Community Council, or you lost track on neighborhood matters in the 21st century—you are not alone. Yet GLC's mission and ministry was, is and will be related to her context! Therefore the Transition Team invited the Community Council members, Carl and Marge Demas to give us an update: **Sept. 10, between services!** All are welcome to attend and learn!!!

"God's work, Our hands"

On Sunday, September 10, congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will again join together for "God's work, Our hands" Sunday. As we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are reminded of the gospel's promise that we are freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbors. We will be collecting books to donate to T.A.C.O. as our project. Please place your books in the collection box by September 10. Roxanne and Ian will make the delivery. Thank you for reaching out to the community.

Lutherans at 500 Class

There will be no class in September. We will resume our class in October. Watch for details and study materials to come.



San Diego Choral Society

San Diego Choral Society is a women's singing group. They have begun rehearsing in the Garden Room on Tuesday evenings from 7:00—8:45 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, August 29th. They invite any ladies who enjoy singing to join them. They give performances at San Diego area retirement homes, as well as a formal concert twice a year for the public. Songs include popular, classical, show tunes, folk songs, and more. Scholarships in the spring are awarded to young voice students thru this organization. Please see their website @ www.sdchoralsociety.org for more information and to hear a sample of their music. No formal audition is required. Dues are \$75 per season. You may join on September 5th or 12th. Stop in and check them out! You will find it a fun and rewarding experience... and maybe they will sing in one of our services...



T.A.C.O. Fundraiser

Join in for an evening of Beer, Boots & BBQ!
"Eat, Drink & Be Sharing"

Food, friendship and fundraising to support social outreach for San Diego's homeless, low-income elderly and working poor.

Saturday, September 23, 2017 4pm—7pm

@ Calvary Lutheran Church

424 Via De La Valle, Solana Beach

Musical entertainment provided by

The Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Choir San Diego

Tickets \$35 advance or \$40 at the door

Purchase at tacod.org

Honoring Congressman Scott Peters for his service and work in homelessness, healthcare and immigration.



Yes, it is a big deal: End of July, **Dianne Finnecy** got ordained as a pastor of the ELCA by Bishop Dr. Andy Taylor at her intern church, Calvary Lutheran, Solana Beach. Jerry, Judy, Pastor Gloria, Earline, Mary, Cyndi and Pastor Karin were able to be there. Her First Call is leading Dianne to Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church in Big Bear, where she was installed. Congratulations Pastor Dianne! GLC is grateful to be part of your journey.

May God bless your ministry, Pastor Dianne.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
2696 Melbourne Drive
San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: (858) 277-6572 - Fax: (858) 277-6511

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



Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday
in September

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Contemplative Communion

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Word, Prayer, and Meal

Monday

10:00 a.m. Text Study for next Sunday

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

24/7

A Labyrinth for prayer and meditation is in our
front yard and available to all.