

## What's Inside?

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# January 2018

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## GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH The Gethsemane Witness

**God says: To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.\*)** (Revelation 21:6)



Experience shows that **There's no such thing as a free lunch!** Our society, our economy, the life in this world as we have learnt to live it, tells us this in no uncertain terms. Nothing is for free – you have to work for it, or offer something of equal value in return for it. And if something is offered for free, we know that there's a catch – it's an attempt to convince us to buy some more of it, or become active members of the organization, handing out such free gifts.

Even in matters of religion, humans all over the world are convinced that this is how things are. To appease or reconcile the gods, humans have always had to do something – make a sacrifice, live according to strict rules, follow some or other ritual or be members of a certain class, race or ethnic group. You can only expect blessings, grace, forgiveness and success if you are prepared to make the necessary contribution for it.

Even in Christendom this scheme has infiltrated our thinking again and again. It is used to keep the members in tow and convince them to give or contribute time, money and effort towards keeping the institution going.

This is why the rediscovery of free grace by Martin Luther was seen to be such a dangerous thing by the church of his day. Lutherans have celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation last year with many festive occasions and events – but reformation needs to be an ongoing movement – because the announcement that God will give the water of life to those who thirst for free is still a revolutionary, transforming message – for me personally, as I still measure the success of my life by counting all the things I have done, for various congregations in various places, as we continue to measure the success of our faith community by the things we manage to do and offer for our members.

Yet at the same time I realize how this contradicts all of God's intents. God is a God of love and grace - and there are no strings attached. This leads me to believe that the best days of GLC are still ahead: beyond all that we think needs to happen, has to happen, should happen and ought to happen... God is in this place already, doing the God-thing in our midst.

May God be gracious to us, so that we will relearn the astonishment that benefits the message, that life is a free gift. Then we can walk into 2018 with freedom and joy, doing the things we can, and leaving all else in the hands of God, who holds the whole world in divine hands—including Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Serra Mesa and YOU.

I wish you all a good, gracious and free New Year.  
In deep gratitude,

*Pastor Karin*

\*) Since 1731 the Moravian Church publishes daily, monthly and annual scripture text for spiritual inspiration and renewal. This is the word for 2018.



### Did you know...

- Christmas greetings from absent congregation members are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex...

### Transition Update/ Call Committee

The adventure continues! The year ended strong for Gethsemane Lutheran:

With the election of the **Call Committee**, its installation and the election of the committee's chair, now there is a good group in place to begin the work of identifying GLC's next settled pastor. These are the committee members: Jerry Class, Jeffrey Jenkins, Linda Juhasz, Mark Mendoza, and Earline Trinkle (Aaron Williams serves as an alternate), and the chair is Mary Erlenborn. Please support them with your continued prayer!

In January the Call Committee will meet with bishop's staff, Transition Team and council (the so called 4-way-meeting) to receive detailed information on the process and further steps. The date will be determined soon.

Meanwhile the congregation will have to take a second look at the range of possible call **expenses** and a **salary** package. This step has to do with GLC's budget 2018, i.e. your commitment and most likely will require a campaign to raise additional funds above and beyond. You would want to be in a financially solid place to avoid any surprises. In its last meeting during December Council educated itself on the possible variables and will forward this information to you. Let's get ready!!!

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

At this point in time we will interrupt our series of articles about GLC's core ministries in this Witness edition. Instead **representatives from the ministries that GLC supports** will visit us during the 9:30 a.m. worship, starting January 14, to tell us what the particular organization is about and how GLC's contribution makes a difference and changes people's lives.

As of writing the Sundays are not finalized yet, so watch out for bulletin announcements, emails or face book entries.

### A Reminder...

Thanks to all of you that contributed cards to the St. Jude's Ranch Recycle Project in the past. This project is not continuing and I have not found an alternative to recycle. I will not be collecting cards this year.

Linda J.

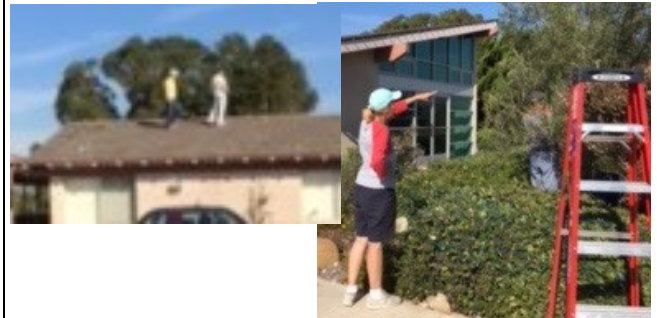
### *January Happy Birthday*



Julie Pfizenmeier	2nd
Jeanie Williams	3rd
Chuck Doane	19th
Katy Meindl	19th
Debbie Attwood	21st
Eileen Neuman	30th

### Our Thanks

- Prayer Retreat  
Debbie Attwood and Virginia Morse
- Altar guild Christmas décor  
decorating chapel: Hildie, Jerry C, Sheila, Dianne, Linda J, Jeffrey, Richard, Barbara...
- Outside Christmas lights  
From the rooftop—Jeffrey & Alan  
Roxanne at ground level



- Choir Cantata

To all who contributed to poinsettias

We are very appreciative of the gift given us at Christmas and also of the support and appreciation you share with us all year long. Thanks and God bless you! s/Staff



## San Diego Project Heart Beat

Project Heart Beat has one main goal: "To save lives through early defibrillation and educate society on simple recognition and response to SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest)."



AEDs are designed to be used by non-medical personnel. The new generation of AEDs analyzes a victim's condition and, if necessary, delivers an electrical shock to the heart to reverse sudden cardiac arrest. Ease of operation with clear voice directions and automatic analysis enables a person with minimal or no training to use the device.

Our AED equipment is located in the Garden Room. Be familiar with its location. Read the insert that will be in your bulletin this month and check out the demo of the AED that is available online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMhSWnu0ST8>

## Souper Bowl Sunday is coming February 4th



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 Bible Study Coming in 2018

You may know many Bible stories but did you know the Bible actually has one big story that knits all these smaller stories together? Join us in the upcoming year as we journey through the Bible and learn how all these stories fit together into God's master plan. **See Through The Scriptures** is an interactive study that combines graphics, illustrations and a visual timeline that help bring this story to life. By the end of the course you will know what the entire Bible is about! Stay tuned for more details.



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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**



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

24/7

## Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday

in January

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Communion Service with  
Word and Music

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