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February 2018

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Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

Romans 12:12



While reading these lines, you have lived already through the first weeks of the New Year. You also might have turned a few calendar pages and crossed out some scheduled appointments which have been taken care of – and you might wonder: will there be anything *different* this year? My prayer is that 2018 is different already and that it will continue to be.

For one, I cannot help but writing in the light of the school shooting in Kentucky. It is the 11th school shooting this year alone! I cannot help but thinking about the 345 mass shooting incidents of last year – among them First Baptist Church Sutherland Springs, TX and the Las Vegas massacre. Did you know that 61,434 U.S. gun violence cases in total, caused 15,583 deaths (among them 732 children age 0-11) and injured 31,163? Staggering numbers! If a violent rhetoric during political campaigns became socially acceptable, if heated battles of words hit common ground, and if it seems “okay” to hurt rather than to convince or persuade, then we all ought to think twice especially at the beginning of a New Year. According to my experience violence creates even more violence, and hatred evokes hatred. New Year’s resolutions provide a great opportunity to do things differently. And following one of our deceased member’s, John Hoaglin’s, values we are also called to “do it right”. Even if you fall short already, remember: we are living in God’s amazing grace and failing is no excuse to not keep on trying.

For two, I hope the best for Gethsemane Lutheran Church and her people. This year will be different because you will move on by calling a new settled pastor. When? I cannot say. It is up to the Holy Spirit and will take as long as it takes, but my prayer is that it will be a truly spirit filled journey for all of you, and abundantly blessed by surprises and revelations.

“Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.... Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.” (Dr. Martin Luther King) or “Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.” (Romans 12:12) I think this is a perfect entry into Lent! For imagine what it would be like, if the opposite is true too? “Returning kindness for kindness multiples kindness, believing the impossible will create the impossible; adding brilliant light to a glorious day already radiating in a thousand suns... kindness changes everything, it can do that.”

A blessed beginning of Lent to all of you!

Yours, *Pastor Karin*

Lent

The English word *Lent* is a shortened form of the Old English word *len(c)ten*, meaning "spring season". In the Christian tradition it is a solemn religious observance that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later, before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, and almsgiving.

Ironically this year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 (Valentines Day) and it ends on April Fools Day (Easter). **For Gethsemane Lutheran Church** it will be a time period of discernment of who the next pastor will be, a "spring time" of waiting and preparing for new growth.

Prayer support makes a difference!

Your generous out-pouring of God's love through prayer support has carried me and my family through many trials over the past few years. The prayer quilt ministry has a special place in my heart. My sister Maxine Kottwitz kept her prayer quilt from Gethsemane with her at all times. She never let it out of her sight. She used it daily in her wheelchair or on her bed. She felt your love and support throughout her final struggle.

Blessings to all,
Judy Albert



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Representatives from the ministries that GLC supports are visiting us during the 9:30 a.m. worship!

On January 14, our first visitor was Beverly Latham. She is a volunteer at the Food Bank as well as a gardener in the Community Garden. She shared the history, development, and organizational success of a ministry that serves 80 to 100 customers per week. On January 28, Becky Baker will report on Gethsemane's Quilting Ministry. On February 4, Maryanne Olmedo, Coordinator of the Drop-in-Center of Storefront will be our guest. Storefront serves homeless, runaway and exploited youth in San Diego. GLC supports this ministry by providing meals on every first Monday of the month. The visitor on February 11 is not confirmed as of writing.

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

Transition Update/ Call Committee

It happened! On January 22, Council, Transition Team and Call Committee met with Rev. Terry Tuvey Allen, Assistant to the Bishop, Pacifica Synod. She is our alliance in all questions re: the Call Process. At this meeting your leaders went through the Ministry Site Profile for one more time. Slight changes were made in order to highlight what GLC has to offer and to be more precise in what GLC needs and wants in the new pastor.

Now the Call Committee can begin its work. Please, pray for your leaders! Because if you're going to lead a church through transition, you have to accept the reality that the process will generate some hostility and conflict: why are they not presenting the candidates they talk to? what is taking them so long? why can't we have some sample sermons? etc. *Confidentiality* is the big word in this part of the process until the candidate of choice will finally be presented. Trust your leaders and trust the Holy Spirit!!! GLC is moving forward!

And after all, hostility and conflict should not be new to a church that's working right and reflecting Christ. He faced these same realities during his ministry on earth...

Ash Wednesday in a Holy Communion!

Now for the 8th year Gethsemane will celebrate the Ash Wednesday Evening Service **together with Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community**. All are welcome!!!

February 14, 2018, 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Imposition of Ashes

GLC Endowment Fund Committee

Grants Announcement

The Endowment Fund Committee (Mary Erlenborn, Earlene Trinkle, Joanne Driskill, Dottie Burger, Debbie Attwood) is pleased to announce that the Council has approved grants totaling \$6,000 for distribution.

The Endowment Fund is a perpetual investment fund (separate from the general Church budget) used to further worthwhile ministries and organizations on behalf of the Church. The amount available for Endowment Fund grants is limited to capital appreciation and earnings from investments. Therefore, all amounts donated to the Endowment Fund remain intact.

The grants were selected to align with the three purposes specified in the Endowment Fund's charter:

Outreach into the community and synod

\$1,000 general contribution to the Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) to support TACO's important ministries to San Diego's homeless and working poor;

\$1,000 for the food pantry at Agape House (Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry at SDSU) which will aid students who are food insecure;

\$1,000 to honor of Dianne Finney's recent ordination with a general contribution to Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences;

\$800 general contribution to Fisher House to support their mission of providing sanctuary to families of our military's wounded, ill and injured.

Missions of the ELCA

\$1,200 general contribution to Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services to support their important work of welcoming and supporting refugees and migrants entering the USA.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church capital improvements

\$1,000 for future (to be determined) capital improvement projects at GLC.

If you are interested in furthering our congregation's outreach, please consider donating to the Endowment Fund. The process is simple, just write a check to Gethsemane Lutheran Church, designate "Endowment Fund" on your check or offering envelope, and the money will be transferred to that account. Contributions to the Endowment Fund are oftentimes used when making memorial gifts, but general contributions are also welcome.

If you have any questions about Fund donations or distributions, please contact Mary Erlenborn or Pastor Karin.

Thanks from our Endowment Recipients

- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for the \$1,200—This is a wonderful gift that will change many lives!
- The Fisher House Staff for the \$800—your gift enables us to continue providing the comforts of home for the families of patients staying with us.
- Agape House (Food Pantry) for the \$1000—contributions enable us to continue to support the students in need.
- Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences for the \$1000—what a nice surprise to receive your gift honoring Pastor Dianne! We know that there are endless numbers of ministry options for all of us to support. Thus, we pledge to pinch every penny...

Read these thank you notes in their entirety, they are posted in the Narthex.

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 Philadelphia Eagles, New England Patriots, and "I Don't Care!" where you can put cans (plural) or packages of food to "vote". If you arrive on the 4th 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.

Bible Study February 17, 10:00 a.m.

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. **NOTE: DATE CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT**—the February study will take place in the Chapel!

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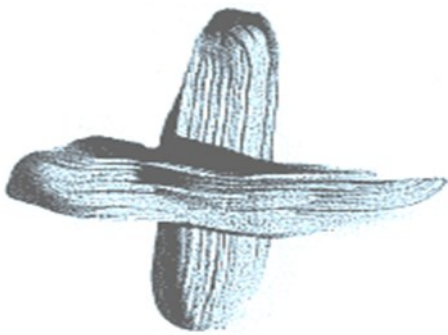
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Check out our Website
at
www.gethsemanesd.org



*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



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 February

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

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

February 25th 9:30 a.m. is Gospel Sunday

Monday

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

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

February 14—Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. together with Mary Magdalene Apostle
Catholic Community with Imposition of Ashes