

What's Inside?

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March 2018

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

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3:16)

A mentor and friend of mine posted the following story on his daily blog. I'd like to share it with you:



Jeremy jumped out of bed with a start, having been awakened by his mother's shouts. It took a moment to get oriented. Finally, he understood what she was saying: the barn was on fire.

Pulling on his jeans and boots, he ran toward the well to draw water, but it was too late. The fire was too far along when they discovered it. The barn was gone.

Fortunately, most of the animals got out. Even Bessy the old milk cow managed to break down her stall and escape. As morning dawned and they surveyed the damage, Jeremy walked beneath the charred rafters, which were all that remained. He almost stumbled over the body of a dead chicken, and he wondered why it hadn't made its escape.

As he bent to collect the remains before they began to stink, four chicks suddenly scurried from beneath the dead hen's body. Their soft, yellow down looked pure and clean against the soot and ashes.

Jeremy realized that the mother hen could have escaped. It wasn't the gate or even the fire that trapped her. It was her love. She laid down her life for her babies. Suddenly, Jeremy felt like kneeling. Although he'd been out of church for a long time, he still remembered that it was Jesus who compared his love to that of a mother hen. For just a moment, Jeremy simply wanted to nestle beneath those wings of love.

True or not, a very moving story. But I also wonder about the mothers, fathers, siblings, relatives or even strangers who are trying to protect threatened children, neighbors, elderly, and vulnerable during the deadly bombardments in too many places of the world...

We need to be reminded of our mortality, our ability to harm others, and of God's commitment to be with those who are suffering.

Lent is a powerful time to be reminded.

Have a blessed season
Yours, *Pastor Karin*

9% - let's talk money!

In December last year the Congregational Meeting accepted the budget 2018. In January this year the Congregational Meeting received the reports of last year—among them the financial reports. In this financial report it states on page 12 that “giving increases by 9%.

Let me be clear: By accepting the Budget 2018 and the Annual Reports as written YOU committed (are asked) to increase your giving by 9%!

If this comes as a surprise to you because you didn't notice or if you don't care a lot because you were not present at the meeting or you didn't vote for this because you don't know how to increase your offering or you feel that the church just wants your money and you cannot give more anyways—mind this:

It is your generosity that makes the church tick! Cent by cent, you are the one who moves Gethsemane's ministry and mission forward, changing one life at a time. Frankly, it is not about the facility, its upkeep, utility bills and salaries. It is about all of us together making a difference in the world, and will continue to do so—thus using a facility and professional staff. The main reason for my giving is that I believe in the church's mission!!!

So how can we go about this?

First let me state that I am not writing this as your pastor who wants more FROM you, i.e. your money. I am writing this because I want more FOR you, i.e. the joy of giving, the joy of giving back and of making a difference. How? In his book 'Not Your Parents Offering Plate', Clif Christopher suggests “three pockets of giving” that we can dig into, three areas providing resources ready to be given away graciously.

The first pocket is your **Earned-Income** (salary, pension etc.) out of which you pay all your bills as well as your weekly or monthly offering. The second pocket is the **Capital** Pocket in which you keep stocks, bonds, insurance policies, savings as well as excess money like a loan paid off, an inheritance received or a life insurance due. The third pocket is the **Estate** pocket. This is what you will have available once you leave this earth. You will not need it any longer but you will still be responsible for the treasures God gave you.

So looking at your first pocket you might feel your giving reached its limit. What about the other two pockets? I am not writing this because I want something **FROM** you - your money. I want something **FOR** you. I want you to experience the joy that follows giving. Joy about knowing that your action matters, knowing that sharing God's gifts sets you free from the bondage of treasures you are tempted to hoard. There is something deeply satisfying in being sure that you are doing the right thing. **“God loves a cheerful giver!”** (2 Cor 9:7)

PK

March
Happy
Birthday



Rick Nagy	2nd
Jo Koch	6th
Hildie Class	15th
Helen Bergen	18th
Oz Meindl	18th
Richard Norton	24th

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

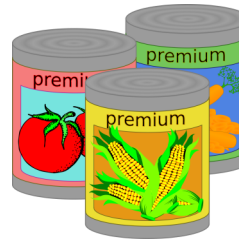
To honor the four ministries which made presentations at recent Sunday services, your Council decided at their February meeting to designate all gifts received in the Lenten Offering envelopes (with purple border) be distributed equally among them.

Those ministries are:

- **Agape House Food Pantry**
- **Serra Mesa Food Pantry**
- **Storefront**
- **Prayer Quilt Ministry**

Your gifts will be of great benefit to them and a true expression of your Lenten journey.

SOUPER BOWL



The count is in, Philadelphia Eagles 58, New England Patriots 9 and the winner “I Don't Care” with 90... Thank you all for supporting the

Serra Mesa Food Pantry with your generous donations.

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Don't forget to
“Spring Forward”
and set your clocks
1 hour ahead

Sunday,
March 11!



Chili 15th Annual Cook - off

Benefiting **Agape House**

Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry @ SDSU

SUNDAY APRIL 29, 2018
3:00-6:00PM

SAINT DUNSTAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
6556 PARK RIDGE BLVD

Featuring the best chili and cookie recipes by local congregations, along with salad and grilled cheese.

Childcare will be provided!

All are welcome!

Free Entry! Door prizes!



* Support Campus Ministry by making a donation today! Gifts received by the end of the event will be credited toward your congregation's chili. The congregation raising the most money will receive bragging rights and the highly coveted Golden Ladle and Golden Spatula awards!*

For more information Call 619-583-3972
or e-mail agapehousesdsu@gmail.com

News From The Call Committee

The Call Committee has been meeting. We are getting educated on the process of calling a Pastor and preparing interview questions tailored to our requirements. The process is extensive but we believe it will enable us to get the best candidate. The Synod office and Pastor Terri are supporting us through this endeavor. We expect to start interviewing very soon. We all must be patient and trust the process. Though we will do the footwork, God is in charge of finding our new Pastor. The Committee will be happy to answer any questions that are not confidential to a specific candidate. Please contact any member; Mary E. Chair, Earline T., Linda J., Jerry Class, Mark M., Jeffrey J. or Aaron W..

Holy Thursday and Good Friday

March 29 and March 30

Watch the bulletin for details on these upcoming services...

NAMI 5K WALK/RUN 2017

In the aftermath of the school shooting in Parkland, FL, which cost 17 innocent lives, a lot of finger pointing and blaming occurred. One attempt to identify a cause for this violent act was pointing to mental illness of the shooter.

This statement not only misleads the much needed conversation on gun control in our country but also it contributes to stigmatizing mental illness!

Mental illness is not the reason for violence. Anger causes violence! And people who are suffering from any kind of mental illness are usually pretty good with managing their own behavior through therapy, medication and other recourses.

The National Alliance of Mental Illness is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. And the people of GLC are supporting NAMI's work on the local level. Therefore:

Join our team of Gethsemane Gardeners participating in the April 28 NAMIWALKS at Liberty Station: <http://www.namiwalks.org> OR donate to our team or to any individual team member. 100% of all donations support NAMI programs to help destigmatize mental illness.



EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to beautify the Easter Liturgy with flowers be sure to watch for the insert in an upcoming Sunday bulletin. For inclusion in the bulletin, orders must be received by Tuesday, March 27.

Bible Study Continues

A visual roadmap for the Biblical journey. "See Through The Scriptures" is an exciting new Bible study class that helps people make sense of it all by laying out the entire Bible narrative in captivating graphics and illustrations. Knowing this "big story" allows us to fully grasp the life and teachings of Jesus, and see where we fit into God's plan.

We meet the second Saturday of each month...Our next meeting is March 10, 10:00 a.m.—Noon.

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



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 March

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

Holy Thursday March 29 & Good Friday—March 30

Watch your bulletin for updates on times of services...