

## What's Inside?

- April Calendar and Ministry Schedule
- April Birthdays
- April Gratitude!

# April 2018

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The Gethsemane Witness

The resurrection of Jesus came as a huge surprise to all. The political rulers didn't expect it; the religious leaders didn't expect it; his followers didn't expect it; and even his closest allies and family had no clue that this was coming – though he had announced it several times during the course of his ministry.

They didn't hear it or they didn't want to hear it; they heard it and didn't believe it. This was an impossible possibility! Why, on earth should anything like this happen? But it did! He was nailed to the cross, died a horrific death, was buried in a tomb and now he is alive. God chose to transcend all pain and death. It happened – for you, for me, for us. God fulfilled the promise given a long time ago:

***"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*** (Isaiah 43:19)

Remember these words; they are bearing a huge promise! A path leveled and laid out to walk, to grow, life and transformation in the midst of a tough context and challenging circumstances. But who wants "a new thing", who wants "change"?

The people of Gethsemane love their church. Here is familiarity and a sense of intimacy in this place. Song and prayer, word and sacrament are sustaining Gethsemane's people through the week. If God would add 3,000 daily to this place it wouldn't be Gethsemane any more...

However, God's word is valid. God is at work – and God can do surprisingly new things in our midst. God did it, and God can do it again.

**He is risen. He is alive. Alleluia! Happy Easter!**

Waking with you the path of life and transformation.

Yours, *Pastor Karin*



### Chapel Chair arrangement

You might have realized (or not) that the arrangement of the chapel chairs keeps changing. Partly this is the result of multiple groups using the sanctuary. But partly this is intentional:

**Human behavior communicates meaning!** Ever since the chapel had changed to a 'lengthwise' seating, the worship attendees sit spread out. The goal of changing the direction of the worshiping community was to create a setting like a semi circle facing the altar. God's table was moved more into the center of the congregation.

The flipside is that the music team and those sitting in front of the sound board get addressed 'over the preacher's shoulder'. Seeking eye contact with the whole congregation present, turns a preacher into watching a tennis match—left, right, left, right...

Then the desire emerged to have the slightly decreased number of attendees sitting closer together: Hopefully it would create a warmer, friendlier, more inviting, and a more cohesive feeling. "A new pastor would be able to see that the seating on Sunday morning would reflect the 'togetherness' of GLC."

So most of the chairs in front of the sound board got moved to the center, adding a front row that is now divided by an aisle to ensure better accessibility. The kneeler went to the side to move the altar closer to the wall. Communion is served now to the left and right of the altar.

Feed back on the rearrangement? Nobody said they loved or they hated it. One person said they liked it; nobody said they particularly disliked it. Nobody said they understood it or they didn't understand it.

PK

### Next Steps in the Call Process

- Call Committee (CC) confidentially receives names and interviews candidates for the call
- CC selects a candidate to recommend to the congregation and notifies church council
- CC Chair, Council Executive Committee, and candidate discuss and agree on compensation package
- Congregational Meeting will vote per constitution and by-laws to extend the call to the candidate
- Result and signed papers will be reviewed by the Bishop and forwarded for acceptance/rejection of call from the candidate (up to 30 days)

*April*

*Happy Birthday*



Inga Johnson	2nd
Judy Albert	5th
Jenny Mendoza	6th
Regina (Inga's daughter)	7th
Becky Baker	8th
Ken Baker	15th
Jay Trousdale	24th
Ashley Mulcahey	27th

### News From The Call Committee

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Call Committee had a positive and productive meeting with Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen from Pacifica Synod. During this meeting, **Pastor Terry provided names and profiles of three candidates** who will be our initial interviewees. The Synod will continue to receive and review candidates on our behalf, and we remind the congregation that the Call process provides an opportunity for congregation members to be included. **If a member knows of a rostered clergy or a seminary graduate** that they believe would be a good fit for our church, they can propose them. The form is sent directly to the Synod office. You will need to know the candidate's contact information and be able to explain why you think this person would be a good candidate. The Synod office will then decide if they think this person also would be an appropriate candidate for us to interview. You can get this form from Linda Juhasz or Mary Erlenborn. We never know how God will lead us to find our new Pastor.

LJ/ME

### Special Thanks...

- ◇ Maryella Cheek for your many hours of cleaning our facility.
- ◇ Mark, Susan, and Jenny Mendoza for weeding our labyrinth.
- ◇ Susan Mendoza and Maureen Miller for decorating the flower cross.
- ◇ MMACC for decorating the courtyard for Palm Sunday.

# 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](mailto:agapehousesdsu@gmail.com)

## ELCA News

Meeting March 1-6, the ELCA Conference of Bishops met to discuss congregational vitality and leadership. How vital is the ELCA now, how can vitality be cultivated and how can the ELCA foster cultivation. Key findings identified in the conversation included: The most vital congregations can be any size or shape; vitality is not directly connected to numeric growth nor is it related to congregation location; more vital does not mean more sustainable.

Also, the conference spent time discussing increasing the diversity in ELCA congregations. In 2016 the Churchwide Assembly had stated: "This church commits itself to ethnic and racial diversity. Each expression of this church shall annually assess its ethnic and racial diversity when compared to the demographic data of its community or territory."

If you want to read the full report on the conference go to [elca.org/News-and-Events/7916](http://elca.org/News-and-Events/7916)

## NAMI 5K WALK/RUN 2018

When: Saturday a.m., **April 28**, 2018

Distance: 5 km (3.1 miles or less)

Location: NTC Park in Liberty Station

Register to participate to walk with our Gethsemane Gardeners team, run, or donate to this team or to any individual team member. Your donation goes to NAMI either way.



More information can be found on NAMI's website: [www.namiwalks.org](http://www.namiwalks.org)

To find the walk type in "San Diego", under Top Teams click view more, and enter Gethsemane Gardeners or ask Jerry Albert.

**Currently we are trying to have a local NAMI representative visiting us during worship in April!**

**Watch for the announcement!**

???

"It's all about **people working together**, people helping people **to be the best** that they can be, **seeking to understand** before being understood...." - sounds like a good church, doesn't it?

But surprise! This quote is from Kathy Neyman, Sr. Asst. VP Culture and Leadership Development at RFCU; and she concludes: "And that's what we live at the credit union, **people helping people.**"

No matter the context and the resource, I think we can learn from her wisdom.

## Bible Study Continues

A visual roadmap for the Biblical journey. "See Through The Scriptures" is a continuing 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 **April 14, 10:00 a.m.—Noon.**

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**Check out our Website**  
**at**  
**[www.gethsemanesd.org](http://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 April

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

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Word, Prayer, and Meal  
with April 22 being Gospel Sunday  
Monday

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

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

Easter Sunday, April 1

9:30 am (One Service Only)

with the Egg Hunt and Fellowship following