

One of the most important tasks of a pastor is to help us learn how to love one another. That is a pretty broad topic, so let's see if we can get a loving handle on it.

We have all had to deal with people who make demands on us, often without a real appreciation for what they ask for. Others are very appreciative and don't become a pain in the patootie with their asking. So how do we handle these demands/requests without being made to feel guilty when we are unable to say 'yes.' Or more importantly when we have wearied of saying 'yes' to the same people many times for the same things.

This is especially poignant in this time of dealing with immigration and finite resources. Never mind the political antics that have come along with it. I am talking about dealing with people we know by name in our daily lives.

With loving one another there needs to be an element of fostering dignity to the person in need. There is little dignity in begging. It isn't that we don't love you. It's that we want to help better. So how do we navigate life and promote dignity in this messy business of loving one another?

It is called having boundaries. Another title would be knowing when and how to say 'no.'

An example, when asked to provide transportation for someone without a car, negotiate a time and time limit. Or help them with a bus pass. Or form a transportation ministry at church. Encourage advance negotiations for things like doctor appointments when flexibility is more challenging. In other words, set up circumstances where each party has input and each party knows what has been agreed to. And then don't break the rules.

When asked for supplies and services, direct people to services that already supply those things. That's why there are food banks and Gethsemane already supports one. In fact, there are many social services and shelter organizations that not only do our taxes support, but many individuals and organizations support them as well. Let's make sure we have an up-to-date list of those resources and contact information.

Those are boundaries. We are already helping in those areas and those folks do a much better job of allocating resources than we could hope to.

All that said, we will still be asked to provide help of some nature. When we agree to help in a way that enables someone to get what they want outside of the systems available to them, we are enabling them to not live in a responsible manner. There is no dignity in that. They cannot feel good about themselves. Their self respect suffers though it appears to be bold and demanding. There is no dignity in that and no appreciation for what is received. Many of us have relatives who lived through the Great Depression and one metric that is remembered about that is that people were destitute but still willing to work in trade for the things they needed. It's hard to find that these days.

I am not saying that we should demand something in return for what we give, but maybe we can find a way to offer the opportunity.

A story here. When I was in internship in northern Nebraska, all the churches in our small town were beleaguered with demands for diapers, gas money, hotel stays, etc. from folks passing through. It didn't take long to figure out those folks where going from church to church begging. So the churches got together and each church took a month to be the designated 'giver' of resources - after the folks asking got a clean bill of health from the local sheriff's department. Begging from church to church dropped more than 90% almost immediately. What did we learn? Those that truly needed help would do what was needed to be eligible to receive it.



Pastor Carol Reed

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They often asked if there was something they could do when receiving help. That is called offering (and accepting) dignity.

These are hard lessons for God's people to learn because we are predisposed to being generous. And frankly, it is often easier to just give resources and move on. But offered without the gift of dignity is no gift at all. Let's don't be enablers of bad behavior. Let's give the gift of dignity as well. Let's learn to set boundaries that benefit everyone.

Wanna know more, let's talk.

Shalom, *Pastor Carol*



July Happy Birthday

Carly Pfizenmeier Jurasavich	5th
Don Burmeister	12th
James Neuman	23rd
Jon Peterson	25th
Julia Miller	26th
Frank Mazzone	28th
Eva McGinley	29th
Piper McGinley	31st

NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

During late May and into June, the Call Committee continued to work through our process by holding face-to-face conversations with specific candidates and by prayerfully considering each candidate through the lens of "Could we see this person as Gethsemane's pastor?"

The Call Committee recognizes that most everyone in the congregation is eager for information as to where we stand in the process and, in particular, how close we are to calling a rostered pastor. The answer is we place our trust in God that what we seek will be revealed to us in good time (i.e. God's time).

At this point, the Call Committee has, after much prayer and deliberation, decided to request additional candidates from the Synod, and to release from consideration those current candidates that we have interviewed.

This news is not to be taken as an admission of "failure", but rather as confirmation that the call process is working as intended. The members of the Call Committee are very mindful of the important responsibility that the congregation has entrusted us with, and we ask for your ongoing prayers and support as we continue to discern the path forward that God has prepared for us.

Mary Erlenborn

2018 FLOWER CHART...

You are invited to brighten our Chapel with flowers by signing up in the Narthex to celebrate an important event in your life or in memory or honor of a loved one.

Note the event on the calendar and deliver flowers that Sunday. It will be noted in the bulletin.

A new "Face"

of Gethsemane has been decided

Thank you all for your input and votes for our new logo to represent Gethsemane on all our printed matter. The "A's" for a win!



"EVERY VOICE COUNTS..."

All ELCA congregations and individuals have the opportunity to study and comment on the Draft Social Statement on WOMEN and JUSTICE.

Comment period ends September 30, 2018.

Questions? Call or email Pastor Gloria Espeseth at 619-913-5067 or gespeseth@cox.net

Copies of the Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice and other resources are available at elca.org/womenandjustice.

Ministry of Hospitality Mexico House Build 2018

Each year the border into Mexico gets crossed many times by groups of people willing to share their hearts and hands with others. Their collective work in a single day leave behind a tangible expression of friendship and support for one family needing a house to make into a home. We all worked together and built that house and we broke bread together so we prayed together, as well. When the cross became part of this new home God's work was complete at this place and time; our hands could rest. The heat and dust nearly got the best of me, but it's all too inspiring to remain unmoved for long. This thing we do is a bridge of hospitality. A ministry of mutual and equal benefit. After the keys, quilt and presents



were given I had this feeling that it was good we gave additional presents and prayers since the builders received full hearts. There is much honor in the spirit of generosity. Please join us next year; it's not pretty, but it is real, and I can guarantee you will leave with a smile on your face that you may carry all the way home.

Richard Norton

San Diego Pride Parade

July 14 @ 11:00 a.m.

We will be joining our friends of Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community again for the parade.

Come join us in our walk of support. See Roxanne Rosengarten or Jerry Albert for information.

Bible Study DATE CHANGE

We will meet the first Saturday in **July (7th), 10:00 a.m.—Noon. August we will return to the second Saturday (11th) of the month.** Contact Paul Sanderson if you have any questions.

SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY

Gethsemane Lutheran +
Mission Village Christian Fellowship
Supporting Our Serra Mesa Food Pantry in a
Fundraiser

Sunday, August 19, 1:10 PM

San Diego Padres vs. Arizona Diamondbacks, At Petco Park-See the seating chart in the Narthex.

11 Tickets remain —Buy from Jerry Albert or Church Office @ \$36 ea. with \$7 going to SMFP.



July 4, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

NOTE TIME

CHANGE

"Come for Breakfast"

and...

simply enjoy relaxing neighborly conversation

or

take a stroll through the Native Habitat Garden and experience this treasure in our midst

or

hike Ruffin Canyon (*wear sturdy shoes*)

**Our annual 4th of July Gathering at
Bonnie Hough Native Habitat Garden
at Ruffin Canyon next to Taft Middle School
in Serra Mesa**

Breakfast is free...donations will be accepted with any extra funds going to Friends of Ruffin Canyon.

The morning is made possible for the Serra Mesa Community by Friends of Ruffin Canyon, Serra Mesa Village, Serra Mesa Community Council, Mission Village Christian Fellowship, and Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

**What's Inside? Calendar,
Birthdays, events & updates
2696 Melbourne Drive**

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 July

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

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer

A Labyrinth for prayer and meditation is in our
front yard and available to all. 24/7