

Ponderings from the Pastor

Well, dear ones, we are coming upon another transition in your journey to find the new pastor God has chosen for you. Let's recap and then postulate what might be coming up.

I came in May to see you through what was expected to be a couple of months. We all know that is now extended. We worked out a short extension to the end of August as we gear up for the next round of the call process. It is vacation season, so there is a bit of a slow down, but then we just learned that Jesus reminds us to rest.

During this extension we began contemplation of how to better articulate the church's mission. The first talk revealed the strength of the music ministry and how the community has come to know us for our concerts. The result was a new concert scheduled for August 11. Love how responsive you all are! I can envision other musical events, inviting other musical talents to complement our own, sing-alongs with non-church people of the neighborhood, hosting musical events for the community, etc.

Along with stating our strengths, we need also to re-evaluate some of the things you have been doing for a long time to see if they should continue, be re-energized, or if their season has come to an end. One example of that is the weekly Friendship lunches. A conversation with Pastor Steve next door revealed they also are evaluating that event as fewer folks are participating, both as preparers and as participants being fed. There will be continuing conversation as we go forward together.

We are an aging congregation and that will influence our current activities and our future activities. As we age, our abilities and our needs also change. So the third component for articulating our mission as a church is focusing on the future. How do we want to serve ourselves and others?

Early in August we will again have a conversation after church (late service) and talk about current ministries.

I have not forgotten new, younger folks we'd love to join us. Our connection there is through the preschool. The staff is willing to work with us. We also have access to a computer program you used two years ago to help prepare your site profile. See "Moving Forward" inside on page 2 for more on this.

Later in August we will have another conversation to discuss the future. There are no end of possibilities.

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Pastor Carol Reed

NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

During July, the call committee is taking a bit of a breather as we await additional candidates from the Synod. All members of the call committee have agreed to continue their service: Jerry Class, Mary Erlenborn, Jeffrey Jenkins, Linda Juhasz, Mark Mendoza, Earline Trinkle, and Aaron Williams.

Looking ahead, the call committee members have been coordinating our calendars so we can best accommodate our meetings around everyone's schedule. The "ground rules" that we established early on allow for us to conduct our business when members are unavoidably absent, although we attempt to keep these instances to a minimum. Accordingly, the congregation can rest assured that we are committed to maintaining our momentum while adapting to any scheduling challenges.

As before, we will continue to update the congregation about the call process and we invite questions about the call process itself, although candidate details must remain confidential.

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In my conversation with the bishop a few weeks ago, we discussed the big picture for Gethsemane and how I can best serve you going forward. The immediate future is from now until the end of the year. Pastor Terry will be meeting with the call committee to continue that process. As you can imagine, pastors rarely move the last two months of the year because of Christmas. So even if we have selected one before then, it is more likely they would begin after the first of the year.

More duties will be required of me during this period and a new contract will have to be negotiated. The council and I will be working on that. New activities may begin as they are identified as things you wish to do. One of the first is development and training of a visitation group to better connect with our housebound and ill members and others that may appreciate a visit. Second is a Children's Worship Center, see the article to the right. The preschool staff has offered to help train our volunteers. Third, a schedule of preschool chapel times is being worked out. We need to do this two times a week to cover everybody as the kids are on different schedules.

Fun stuff, folks. There are new ideas aplenty to consider. We have willing neighbors with whom we can work. We will set aside stuff we can no longer do and choose stuff we can do. All God's people will be served, albeit maybe differently than in the past. It's all good! It is not a time for hand-holding (or hand-wringing either!). It is time to do the things God is calling us to do and then find that pastor who will lead you in doing those very things. That will be a happy circumstance for all.

Shalom.
Pastor Carol

Children's Sunday Worship Center

Update following council discussion. The idea was to prepare and staff a special area for children to be present in the worship services on Sunday mornings. Via ballot, you decided to give it a try. Some conversations later, we found all the furnishings needed at no cost: a small table with chairs, a carpet to help quiet things down, and a short fence to clearly define the space. The preschool directors have offered to train monitors of the space for Sundays.

Now, we need the monitors, a couple of people to sit with the children and encourage them to stay quietly occupied. When we have them, we will begin. By the way, men are particularly good for this job – some family psychology we can discuss as we go along. See Pastor Carol.

MOVING FORWARD

As discussed a few weeks ago after the service, we get to decide what our future will be like and then move toward that. This way, the new pastor will know where you all want to take your ministry into the community.

There is a computer program available to us to help in that regard. We need two people who will commit to exploring the data presented and then pitch it to the rest of us for a decision on where and how we might move forward with the information. See Pastor Carol.

**THANK YOU
FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE**

At both services on Sunday July 8, Pastor Carol led the congregation in a prayer of thanks for the call committee's faithful and diligent performance over many hours of prayers, discussions and interviews.

As the call committee's task is not quite completed, Pastor Carol then rededicated the call committee for our work going forward towards discovering the right candidate for our church's next pastor.

The call committee thanks the congregation for your collective affirmation to support us with patience, prayer, and forbearance as we work on your behalf. We also express our appreciation to Pastor Carol for her words of thanks and rededication.

AGAPE HOUSE UPDATE

The 15th Annual Chili Cook-off and Cookie Chill-off raised over \$14,000—"we raised 30% more than last year, and we are grateful for your growing support as we lean into God's good future for Agape House." This comes from their Summer 2018 Newsletter

Bible Study Continues

We are back to our regular schedule of the second Saturday of the month, August 11, 10:00 a.m.—Noon. Contact Paul Sanderson if you have any questions.



*August
Happy
Birthday*



**Mindy Garcia
Pam Howard
Sheila Peterson
Ann Larion
Scott Miller
Jeffrey Jenkins
Chuck Cheek**

**August 1
August 5
August 11
August 15
August 24
August 24
August 30**

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Gethsemane's project will be helping out the refugee shelter in Tijuana, **Instituto Madre Asunta**, by coordinating with Clairemont Lutheran's Pastor Nate Allen! Pastor Nate collects supplies and cash for quarterly trips across the border to the shelter. We expect this will be an ongoing support project as the need continues, well after September 15th. All San Diego churches are invited to help.

Each quarter, we will announce specific items to collect. **Our first donation goal is cash which we will collect between now and September 15th.** Pastor Nate will use this money to purchase fresh food.

Instituto Madre Asunta has been working with refugees and deportees since 1994. For many years their work focused on reuniting women deportees from the United States with their children to live in Mexico. More recently they have had large increases of refugees from Central America as well as internally displaced peoples from other parts of Mexico. They provide much needed assistance, including help finding work, a place to live, legal assistance, and sustenance. Currently there are about one hundred residents at the shelter including women and children.

Make checks payable to: **Gethsemane** with the memo notation "**refugee shelter**," or mark the "special offering" space on your envelope. We will maintain a designated account for these donated funds.

Future needs we will help with could include diapers, feminine hygiene, underwear and socks.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

is preparing for our new pastor. We don't know who that is, or when they will arrive. The Holy Spirit is working on that, and She hasn't let us know yet.

IN THE MEANTIME:

we have entered an extended period of
SPRING CLEANING!

We are looking into all the nooks and crannies, drawers and cupboards, closets and bookcases, and we are asking, "why are we keeping this?"

If the answer is, "**I don't know**," that item will land on a table in the garden room.

If you would like to give any of these items a new home at your house, please be our guest! Periodically, these orphaned items will be donated to the Salvation Army or otherwise disposed of.

Thank you!

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
Seats in Shady Toyota Terrace Pavilion Section 218: see seating chart on Narthex bulletin board.

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

BREAKFAST OUTREACH WITH OUR NEIGHBORS

There were three hikes led by Friends of Ruffin Canyon. About 25-30 people came, and many stayed for the full two hours.



From GLC came Kelly Greason and her son Frank, Susan Mendoza (who took photos), Marilyn Lyons, Jeffrey Jenkins (and Alan Nations), and Virginia Morse (who took photos).

VISITATION MINISTRY

A visitation ministry is more than visiting folks. It is a ministry dedicated to keeping in touch in a myriad of ways so people know they are not forgotten. We have had two people agree to actually visit and I discovered another of you who is sending greetings to people. Wonderful stuff. Pastor would like to meet with you. Please talk with her about a time. Open to all.

"Well, it's about time!"

CONCERT & POTLUCK

with Debbie & Andy Attwood

Saturday, August 11, 4:00 p.m.

followed by...Potluck Dinner.



Sign-Up NOW!

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

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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

QUESTION:

Any interest in **MAKING** teddy bears
out there?



Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in August

8:00 a.m. Communion Service with

Word and Music

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Word, Prayer, and Meal
with August 26 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