

Forgiveness is hard. It is also necessary. Not just for the person to be forgiven, but also to the one who needs to do the forgiving.

There is much in the news today about sexual assault and who did what to whom and when. Old wounds are being opened everywhere. Horrible memories long repressed are flooding forward and flipping personal worlds all over the planet.



Pastor Carol Reed

Let's begin with sexual assault is wrong. Attempted sexual assault is wrong. There is no gray in those statements. Arguing culpability is superfluous. So many have a story. So many have wounds. There is a great deal of pain. Once we thought we had it under control, but the fact of the matter is, it was buried, and as it turns out, not all that deep. All the hyperbole flying around news outlets, social media, and wherever people gather serves only to dig up the pain.

About that pain. Physical, yes. Emotional, most definitely. But also spiritually. The spirit has been betrayed, beaten, demeaned and cries out for a seemingly absent, uncaring, abandoning God. But of course God was there, perhaps providing an opportunity to escape, certainly to comfort, if only we could accept that comfort. Amid the fear and shock, there is anger. Lots and lots of anger and then more anger with those who judge, doubt, and placate.

There seems little point to reiterate the 'he said, she said' language. There is no rationalization that makes any kind of sense or offers justice to the aggrieved. So what now? What will finally bring healing?

Forgiveness is hard. Forgiving self is hard. Forgiving the aggressor is hard. But our souls need it.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor Carol

GLC Endowment Fund Call for Grant Proposals

The Endowment Committee (Mary Erlenborn, Earline Trinkle, Joanne Driskill, Dottie Burger, Debbie Attwood, and Pastor Carol as advisory) invites members of the congregation to submit grant proposals for the Committee's consideration at their next meeting on Sunday, October 14.

Gethsemane's Endowment Fund was established in 1997 and supports our church's mission outreach by providing grant funding to qualified charitable organizations (individuals are not eligible) as well as for specific outreach projects and capital improvements at GLC. Distributions have totaled \$31,700 since inception.

Our Endowment Fund grant recipients in 2017 were Third Avenue Charitable Organization (TACO) at First Lutheran in downtown San Diego; Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry at SDSU (Agape House); Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences; Fisher House at Naval Medical Center San Diego; Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services; and GLC capital projects.

Grant proposals must align with one of the following three purposes (which are specified in the Fund's governing documents):

- Outreach into the community and synod;
- Missions of the ELCA;
- GLC capital improvements.

Individual grant amounts have typically been \$500 to \$1,000, but higher and lower amounts have been awarded. Generally, four to six grants have been awarded in each of the past grant cycles.

The grant proposals need not be elaborate or lengthy (a paragraph or two should suffice). In the proposal, please address the following: (a) if the request is for a defined program or project (describe), or for the organization's general operating purposes, and (b) how the organization will use these funds to meet a spiritual and/or economic need.

In considering the proposals, the Endowment Committee will be vetting the organization's charitable status and other factors. This process will include reviewing the organization's web site and Charity Navigator rating, therefore applicants must also provide links to public sources for this information.

Deadline for proposal submissions is **Sunday, October 7**, either by email to Mary.E.Erlenborn@gmail.com or by collating the required information (including your name and contact information) in an envelope and putting this in the Endowment Fund mailbox in the church office. Questions about the grant process can be directed to Pastor Carol or to any of the Endowment Committee members.

*October
Happy
Birthday*



Cyndi Jones	1st
Bruce Davidson	6th
Judy Nagy	11th
Deb Hoistad	17th
Dottie Burger	22nd
Pam Hartley	23rd

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please mark your calendars for Nov. 11 for the Fall Annual meeting. Traditionally, you have selected new council members that meeting and that is the main subject this year, but with a slightly different approach. You will be voting on a Bylaws change to reduce the number of council members from 10 to five, to shorten the number of consecutively missed meetings from 4 to 3, and to adjust the number of people on the nominating committee accordingly.

The need for this action was brought home several times since spring when a quorum was not reached and a legal meeting could not be held. The result of that means rescheduled meetings, inconveniencing those who met their obligation, and sometimes delaying necessary business that the church needed to address. To do an honorable job and to honor those who give of their time and talents to be on council is the right thing to do. Effecting this bylaw change will help with that.

There may be additional items on the agenda, but they are not yet known. Watch your Witness for updates.

Visitation Ministry

On Sunday, Sept.30, three members were consecrated to make home visits, bring Holy Communion and words of good cheer to those who are unable to be with us regularly in worship.

Jerry Albert, Sheila Peterson and Peter Mazzone attended classes to learn some ins and outs and to practice serving home communion. More skills classes are planned and more people are welcome. Stay tuned. And welcome them if they come to visit YOU!

Bylaws and Changes

Jerry Albert and Roger Krauel labored diligently and carefully, penning the new bylaws change concerning the number of council members going forward. They got it down to one page. Yea! The existing council will make final approval of the wording at their October meeting. Copies will then be available in the entry way of the church. If any are curious and want to see a copy of the draft, please let Pastor know and one can be printed for you.

For those interested, bylaws are separate from the constitution and reflect the local practices of individual churches. The constitution reflects the practices of the church at large. It is drafted by the entire church at their meeting that occurs every three years. We then ratify it and adopt it as our own as an ELCA church.

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. CONTINUES

Gethsemane's project will continue 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. This is an ongoing support project as the need continues regardless of the season. All San Diego churches are invited to help.

Each quarter, we will announce specific items to collect. **This quarter our goal is to collect diapers and feminine hygiene products** for delivery in January. For your convenience you may also donate cash and the church will purchase these items.

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.

Leave of Absence

Andy Attwood has requested an extended leave of absence from the piano. He needs to handle some pressing personal issues which require undivided attention, something in short supply recently due to Debbie's ongoing and varied health difficulties. He hopes, with the council's consideration, to return to the position sometime in the new year. In the meantime, Malcolm Twentymen, pianist for MMACC, will cover the first two weeks of October.

Thanks Paul Sanderson

We have just completed Paul's Saturday Bible Study of "See Through the Scriptures". The dozen or so attendees thoroughly enjoyed the class. It was a great mixture of biblical and historical events. Paul is always energetic, well prepared, and does extra research to make the Bible come alive. We look forward to the next series in January of 2019.



Linda J.

Fun Times!

Recently, regular weekly devotional gatherings with the preschool and Pastor have begun. While Pastor was less sure of her ability to relate to the little ones, those fears have been allayed. We have been having a blast!

Forty something little fannies are crowded three to two chairs presenting a sea of faces, eager to sing, and pray, and learn. There is much energy, lots of laughter and hopefully some fruitful learning going on. While preschool policy does not permit published pictures of the children, you can see pictures on Pastor's phone. Just ask. Or better yet, drop by at 10 a.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays and witness for yourself!

"Thanks" is such a small word, but I'm packing it with all the love and gratitude it can possibly contain for this community of Gethsemane. The care and concern you have shown me, and Andy too, has buoyed and cheered me through this new chapter of physical fragility. I thought I had shed the impatience of youth, but apparently not as thoroughly as I'd claimed. And perhaps therein lies the lesson assigned to me: to be patient, because this recovery will take as long as it takes. (I've never been a fan of double-talk!) So thank you all for the prayers, the cards, the emails, the Friday office coverage. I appreciate you more than I can adequately express here. To be part of this community of Gethsemane is a treasured gift.

Debbie

**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



A Labyrinth for prayer and medita-
tion is in our front yard and availa-
ble to all. 24/7

Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in October

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

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Word, Prayer, and Meal
with October 28th being Gospel Sunday

Monday

10:30 a.m. Text Study for next Sunday

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer