

### Trouble Finding the HO, Ho, Ho in the Holiday Season?

Christmas is not a joy for everyone. Expectations are high and realizations often do not deliver. Some have lost loved ones earlier in the year and traditional times are hard to imagine without them. Difficult relatives now need to be entertained. There may well be a clash of opinions with no quarter being given. Expressions of joy in the anticipation of gifts given and received, colorful decorations, and traditional music are just missing.



Pastor Carol Reed

And many of us would rather just skip the whole thing. So give me the coal already and let's just move on. For me, it was one more time of being unacceptable, inexcusable, and intolerable. I needed to learn Christmas was not about me. It is about others.

I have attained a place in life that now allows me the joy of being treasured and cherishing in return. God has gifted my life with loving people. Generous people. People who know how to live and laugh. People who understand and accept. People who lift up and affirm. People who welcome joy in their lives and the people who surround them.

My Christmas blessing for each of you begins with a huge 'thank you' for being the warm, loving people you are, for sharing those gifts with others. I am awed by your generosity and your tolerance. Truly you are the people of God and God is to be praised for creating you.

May all the days of the year ahead bring love and joy with each other. You are very special.

*Pastor Carol*

### Christmas Donation

As is your annual tradition, Our Christmas offering (by special envelope) is donated to a third party charity. This year, the council has chosen Lutheran Disaster Response and International Heifer Project. LDR is dealing with the California fire victims, so we get to help our most immediate neighbors. Our donation will be split with International Heifer Project which is one of your pastor's favorite charities. They help destitute people worldwide. For example, a donated goat not only provides milk for the family but also baby goats for a perpetuating income. Of course more than goats can be involved but you can easily see how valuable this is. And Bonus! Now through the end of the year, donations will be TRIPLED!



## Christmas Schedule

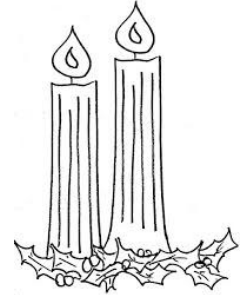
There are lots of special ways we will worship together this month. So mark your calendars.

- December 9th is our annual Advent Prayer Retreat. What a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the true Holy Spirit of the season.
- December 16th is our Christmas Cantata. Don't miss our wonder choir and musicians and the music of Christmas.
- December 24th, Christmas Eve we will meet at 5:00 p.m. (music starting @ 4:30) for a telling and singing of the first coming of Jesus. Not too late, so there will be plenty of time for family Christmas traditions.
- Check your December calendar for holiday office hours.

## Advent Prayer Retreat

### Sunday, December 9th

Does the prospect of "The Christmas Season" awaken anxiety or even dread for you? The thought of "holly, jolly" or even "blessings & peace" seem unrealistic? Sometimes we just need space for calm and quiet, especially during a time of year when busyness and joy are all but expected. This year, we continue our tradition of providing some of that space through the Advent Prayer Retreat. The chapel will be set with various stations for prayer and contemplation, and a journal is provided for your personal reflections. The 8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. liturgies will complement the prayer retreat. The chapel will be open before and after both liturgies, stay tuned for exact hours.



Due to the contemplative nature of the prayer retreat and because your fellow sojourners may already be inside in prayer, please enter the chapel quietly on Sunday, December 9th.

## 2019 Leaders Thank You

What a fantastic group we have who have offered their services and time as leaders of the church for 2019. Super kudos to council members and other committee members. You are a blessing to us all.

## NEWS FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE

In early November, the call committee received additional candidates from Pastor Terry Tuvey Allen at the Pacifica Synod, and we have since been busy learning more about the candidates in preparation for interviews to take place in early December.

Pastor Terry provided us with a Rostered Minister Profile (RMP) for each candidate. Each RMP runs about 10 pages in length and includes information about the candidate such as their education and their current and past positions.

The RMP format allows candidates to list out their areas of strength and to provide specific examples of their pastoral competencies. There are also sections in the RMP where the candidate can creatively reflect and expand on their ministry vision and passions.

As well, the Synod has provided these candidates with Gethsemane's Ministry Site Profile so they can learn about GLC's mission, ministries and giftedness, and then reflect on how their own talents and experiences might meet the present and emerging needs of our congregation and community.

In preparation for the interviews, we have dusted off our list of questions from previous interviews and have updated them as needed. We have found it beneficial to send our questions to the candidates in advance of the interviews.

The call committee has also received writing samples from the candidates (such as newsletter articles, sermons and devotions) that help us in assessing how each candidate expresses themselves and communicates with their parishioners and others.

The call committee invites questions about the call process itself, although candidate details must remain confidential. Please contact any of us: Jerry Class, Mary Erlenborn, Jeffrey Jenkins, Linda Juhasz, Mark Mendoza, and Aaron Williams.

Your continued prayers for the call committee and our candidates are greatly appreciated.

### ALL SAINTS

Candles were lit on Sunday, November 4 in memory of those in and near our community who died last year: *Francie Krauel, John Hoaglin, Joan Porter, Allan Peters (Bryan's dad), Maxine Kottwitz (Judy Albert's sister), Richard Morse (Pam Howard's brother-in-law), Joseph Brovovic (Jean Knapp's brother-in-law), and George Lang (Kristen Nelson's granddad).*



### *December Happy Birthday*



Ellen Wagner	4th
Rolando Garcia	5th
Shirley Mitchell	12th
Rachel Evans	14th
Kristen Nelson	18th
Susan Mendoza	24th

### Continued SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY Support

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, over 100 people used the Food Pantry. We will continue our support of this vital community ministry so all have the opportunity of a full tummy. Please place your non-perishable items in the collection basket in the Narthex. Deliveries are made to the pantry every Wednesday.

### Wednesday Friendship Luncheons

For some years, Wednesday lunches have been provided to the community. This outreach, shared with Mission Village Christian Fellowship ("the church next door") outgrew our Garden Room capacity and moved permanently next door, rather than the alternate month routine set up initially. All things have a season as we learned from Ecclesiastes and it is now time to redirect our efforts. Therefore the council has voted to discontinue our participation in 2019. This action was taken in part due to the dwindling number of volunteers, making the hosting process more challenging. Let us be open to movement of the Spirit for other opportunities to serve the Serra Mesa Community in 2019.

### Cal Lutheran Quilts

One of the talents of this congregation is the creation of beautiful handmade quilts. Due to the fires near Cal Lutheran and Pepperdine Universities and the onset of winter weather, a call for quilts went out to our churches. We are pleased to have tied knots, prayed over, and blessed six lovely quilts and forwarded them to Cal Lutheran. May they help ward off winter chills and remind their new owners of the love and care of God through others.

### 2019 Church Directories

Our church directory is showing its age. There have been changes, so it is time for an update. There will be a new form to fill out next month. So please take the time to complete it and help us update our directory.

### Pastor's Vacation

Pastor will be on vacation December 30 for a week. Candidate Cyndi Jones will be filling in the Sunday. There will only be **one service at 9:30**. Please be your usual loving selves that week!

### DID YOU KNOW...

- **Earline and Robert Trinkle** have a new address: 4223 Treehouse Drive, San Antonio, TX 78222-3711
- We mourn the passing of **Oz Meindl** (November 14, 2018) and pray for Katy Meindl and family in his loss.
- Hello from the **Mulcahey's** in Maryland! Their new address is 20744 Tenby Drive, Lexington Park, Maryland, 20653

**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](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 December

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

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

December 9, 8:00 a.m.—Noon Advent Prayer Retreat

December 16, 9:30 a.m. Cantata

December 24, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Special Music starts @ 4:30 p.m.

December 30, 9:30 a.m. One Service

### Monday

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

(no study Dec. 24 or Dec. 31)

### Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer (not on holidays)