

Ponderings from Pastor

A Time for Everything

3 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
6 a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7 a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8 a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.



Pastor Carol Reed

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By now you know that the call committee has made a recommendation to the Council regarding your next called Pastor. As this process unfolds in the next few weeks, it is a season to prepare for what is to come.

In gardening parlance, it is time to prepare the soil, till the ground, plan the harvest, order the seeds, and start looking for seedlings. How appropriate it is that the season of Spring is around the corner! I have friends already drooling over their seed catalogs, excitement for new things in their eyes. So it also should be for yours.

This is not the time to be fearful of new things, as is too often the case when changes occur. This is the time to seek new opportunities. We have many empty chairs on Sunday mornings, so few at text study, the same faces at the same activities. None of this is bad, but there is room for so many more. Maybe even you!

On Christmas Eve, we welcomed at least two new people for every member that was there! Awesome! God's way of telling us the harvest can be great. Plan to learn how to welcome them for more than one worship service a year! Like drooling over the seed catalog. Let's don't assume we know what another person may welcome, for we cannot know what is in their hearts. God does and is probably working in mysterious ways to aid them in their journey.

We do the planting. God does the growing. Exciting time ahead!

CALL COMMITTEE & CONGREGATION COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT:

At a special meeting of the congregation council held on Sunday January 6, the call committee presented to the council their unanimous recommendation for their "candidate of choice".

To respect the confidentiality of the pastor candidate and out of consideration for their current ministry, the call committee presented information about the candidate but did not share the candidate's name or other identifying information with the council.

The call committee arrived at their recommendation after many hours of prayer, discernment and conversation in evaluating each candidate through the lens of "*Could we see this person as Gethsemane's pastor?*" The selected candidate has been notified of the committee's recommendation and has agreed to have their name put forward to the congregation.

The call committee's evaluation was informed through interviewing candidates in multiple face-to-face conversations, contacting their references (laypersons and rostered ministers), and experiencing the styles and content of their preaching and worship leadership. The format of the candidate conversations also allowed each candidate to ask questions of the call committee members concerning our congregation's vision for mission and ministries.

The candidate recommended as Gethsemane's next pastor is the individual whom the call committee discerned as the one that the Holy Spirit has guided us to, someone whose gifts and talents are well-suited to lead our congregation into God's future.

The motions passed at the January 6 special council meeting are as follows:

- 1) To recommend to the congregation (a) the pastor candidate of choice, as presented by the call committee, and (b) their compensation package.
- 2) To set the date of a special congregational meeting as Sunday January 27, 2019 for the congregation to vote on (a) calling the candidate of choice as pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, and (b) assuming the vote to call is successful, approving the compensation package to be offered to the pastor.

The January 27 special meeting of the congregation will be held immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting.

So that the members of the congregation can get to know the pastor candidate prior to the January 27 congregational meeting, a "meet-and-greet" event will be held at the church on Saturday January 26 starting at 2:00 p.m.

Please arrive at the narthex before 2 p.m. on January 26 to allow time to put on your name tag and to choose your preferred seat in the chapel. The pastor candidate will first share their personal and professional background, including why they're interested in being our pastor, followed by a period of light refreshments and informal conversation in the Garden Room.

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.

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 coming soon. Please take the time to complete it and help us update our directory.

MEET OUR PASTOR CANDIDATE

Saturday January 26th, 2 p.m. at GLC

(Arrive before 2 p.m. to put on your name tag and grab a seat!)

General remarks in the Chapel, followed by light refreshments and informal conversation in the Garden Room.

This will be your ONLY opportunity to meet the candidate prior to the voting on Sunday January 27th.

2019 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Tom Templeton: President; Jeanie Williams: Vice-President; Susan Mendoza: Secretary; Debbie Attwood: (non-voting) Treasurer; Jean Arneson: (non-voting) Financial Secretary; Joetta Koishor, and Roxanne Rosengarten.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: Mary Erlenborn: Chair; Jerry Albert, Debbie Attwood, Joanne Driskill, and David Pfizenmeier.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Ann Larion, Virginia Morse, and Judy Nagy.

The congregation is invited to attend council meetings as our guest.



Why is this pastor blindfolded?!

Okay, she's not really blindfolded, she's just covering her eyes. But that is effectively what you do to her when you neglect to wear your name tag. She may be engaging with you, but her mind is sub-divided as she flips through her mental Rolodex searching for your name. Think how much more meaningful the engagement could be if your name were revealed right there under your chin. With a new settled pastor on our horizon, now is a good time to get in the habit of taking that badge before taking a seat in the chapel.

In the interest of full disclosure, this writer confesses to not yet being in compliance. (And it took years after the child's high school graduation before "Mom" was no longer the default answer to any "Hi, my name is . . ." paper prompts.) In a recent issue of the San Diego Union-Tribune, columnist Neil Senturia opined that what the world truly needs is name tags, because, among other reasons, they are "a statement of humanity." He goes on to say they "would allow for people to spend some time in the other person's shoes." That's a powerful gift, a gift of hospitality, revealing your name to the world at hand, and receiving the other person's name in return. A simple gift of wearing a name tag.

January Happy Birthday



Julie Pfizenmeier	2nd
Jeanie Williams	3rd
Chuck Doane	19th
Katy Meindl	19th
Debbie Attwood	21st
Eileen Neuman	30th



February

Jean Arneson	2nd
Jerry Class	6th
Tristan McGinley	6th
Aaron Williams	10th
Michael Miller	18th
Cordelia Mulcahey	18th
Grant Mulcahey	18th
Tom Templeton	24th

READ IT NOW:

We proudly recognize Cyndi Jones on being published in the December 24th edition of The New York Times. Cyndi's heartfelt and thought-provoking opinion piece "What It Really Means to Heal" can be read

at: <https://>

www.nytimes.com/2018/12/24/opinion/what-it-really-means-to-heal.html

DID YOU KNOW...

- Christmas greetings from absent congregation members are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex...

Our Thanks for...

- Prayer Retreat
- Altar guild Christmas décor
- Outside Christmas lights
 - Choir Cantata
 - To all who contributed to poinsettias
- We are very appreciative of the gift given us at Christmas and also of the support and appreciation you share with us all year long. Thanks and God bless you! s/Staff

**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

San Diego Project Heart Beat

Project Heart Beat has one main goal: "To save lives through early defibrillation and educate society on simple recognition and response to SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrest)."



AEDs are designed to be used by non-medical personnel. The new generation of AEDs analyzes a victim's condition and, if necessary, delivers an electrical shock to the heart to reverse sudden cardiac arrest. Ease of operation with clear voice directions and automatic analysis enables a person with minimal or no training to use the device.

Our AED equipment is located in the Garden Room. Be familiar with its location. Read the insert that will be in your bulletin this month and check out the demo of the AED that is available online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMhSWnu0ST8>

Weekly Opportunities

Worship with us each Sunday in
January/February

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

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Word, Prayer, and Meal
Gospel Sunday is the 4th Sunday
of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Monday

10:30 a.m. Text Study for next Sunday
(except January 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Centering Prayer