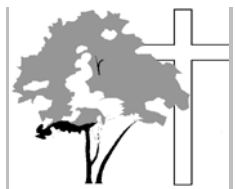


## The Gethsemane Witness



Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
2696 Melbourne Drive, San Diego, CA 92123  
[www.gethsemanesd.org](http://www.gethsemanesd.org); church@gethsemanesd.org  
Office (858) 277-6572  
Gethsemane Christian Preschool (858) 277-7710

June, 2010

---

### Summertime 2010...

**Summertime, and the livin' is easy**...so goes the song. It's the heat that breaks into "May gray/June gloom", the release from the pressure of school (delayed a little for those on "year around"), the vacations or family visits that are more frequent, and more. (*I was going to put the Padres into this list but it seems "not safe" since "baseball will break your heart every time", and October is a long way off when there will be only one "happily ever after"!*)

**"Grounded in grace", the livin' is easy**...because God's gift in Jesus of Nazareth calls us to trust that "God is for us and not against us" (Romans 8), that "we are saved by grace not works so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2), and more! There is a resting place of peace and safety within the love of God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. The first half of the liturgical year has once again gathered us around this story, culminating in the Day of Pentecost where God's holy presence stirs up the small community of witnesses (about 150 according to Acts 1) and "the rest is history" (or so it is said).

**Yet with this profound understanding as our foundation, we are finding that our way as one community in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church is not so easy**...the church as institution has damaged its credibility through too many scandals and a reluctance to change so that its message can be heard by new generations and populations. But it is more. We long for "livin' easy" when the reality is that Jesus calls us to "take up our cross and follow"...when the Holy Spirit messes around with our desire to be "just like everyone else"...when the Holy Triune God calls us to be the "body of Christ in the world today".

**"Easy" summertime living is not so easy** when we take the Day of Pentecost and our call to be God's people in this time and place seriously and seek to be faithful in this call. We will likely be called out of our comfort zone because God sees in us more than we see in ourselves. We have a tendency at Gethsemane to downplay our identity and calling with "we're all getting old" or "we're so small". Yet remember...age was not a limiting factor when God called Abraham and Sarah to an adventure of faith (or the boy Samuel or Mary of Nazareth for that matter). Size was not an issue when God started with only 150 in Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago.

**So let's try one more time.** "Summertime, and the livin' is easy..."when one embraces God's call which comes with the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit, giving us the gifts we need for this call. We do not need to be a large church but we do need to be missional...it's how God has made us! To stay focused on God and God's call, we will gather Sundays at 8 and 9:30am to praise and pray and to receive God's grace in word and bread and wine and the "mutual conversation and consolation of the brothers and sisters"...come to receive and give...come to be renewed in your call...our call...to be God's people in this time and place.

**"COME AND GO CHURCH"...HUH? WHAT'S THAT?** It's what we are calling our "experiment in intergenerational, cooperative Christian community" on June 26, July 24, and August 21 from 4 to 8pm. In the "old days", it might have been a form of family VBS. Today, we (*and all Christian communities seeking to share God's love and grace and call and to gather people into Christian community*) are searching for new forms and times to gather people together to study, fellowship, and worship. Will Saturday evening be a good time? We don't know...we have to try it. If it lasts for four hours, will people trust us that one can "come and go" as they are interested and able? We don't know...we have to try it. Will "Sunday morning regulars" invite people who don't find Sunday morning convenient or nourishing to come to something different on Saturday night? We don't know...we have to try it. All are welcome to attend a planning meeting on Thursday, June 3, at 6:30pm...the Council has affirmed this "experiment", now let's make it happen!

**AREA PASTORS ARE OFFERING A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE FAITH AND PRAYER.**

"Paths to Wholeness" explores four different ways people live their faith and experience God. Ever wonder why something is so meaningful to someone else but simply isn't to you? Or the reverse... people don't understand your way of faith and/or prayer? This "retreat" is being held at Clairemont Lutheran Church on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm. The cost is only \$10 and that includes lunch! Presenters are Pastors Richard Rollefson of Christ Lutheran, Richard Vevia of Calvary Lutheran, Michael Hagenow of Clairemont, and Erin Martinson. The Coordinator for the day is Pastor Jon Doolittle of Clairemont. Registration will be limited to 100...call Clairemont Lutheran at 858-273-7423. (Note from Pastor Gloria: I helped with the planning but am at the LSS Board meeting that day...I expect that those who set aside the time will find this day very meaningful and worthwhile and encourage you to attend.)

**AT THE MAY COUNCIL MEETING...**

1. The Council called for a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, June 6, at 10:30am. We have a bid of \$25,000 for restoration of the erosion damage done over the years to the Shawn Avenue slope. The recommendation will be to use \$5,000 of the Capital Improvement Fund and borrow the other \$20,000 so we can get the work done before the winter. With rates from the Mission Loan Fund and Lutheran Credit Union at 6-7+%, we decided to borrow from/with/through promissory notes at 5% for up to 10 years (3 @ \$5,000 and 5 @ \$1,000). These loans will be repaid by the monthly transfers currently being made to the Capital Improvements Fund.
2. The ELCA recommends Pastors have 3 months of Sabbatical Leave every 7 years. Pastor Gloria had a Sabbatical in May-July 2003. It is her desire to split it into two segments of September 2010 and January-February 2011. She is exploring a house/pulpit swap with one of the pastors serving a congregation in Hawaii for the two month period. More planning to follow.
3. Voted to give \$500 to the Serra Mesa Food Pantry for Food Bank purchases.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO MAKE THE GLOBAL FEAST AND PENTECOST MISSION FESTIVAL** such good experiences. The proceeds from the Donation Dinner and Auction were over \$1,400 with expenses quite low. That means that we will be supplying over 50 families with nets to protect themselves against malaria and have a nice start to our Front Entrance Design Fund. May we continue to discern the Holy Spirit's empowering presence for our lives of faith, discipleship, and mission.

**THE MONDAY SCRIPTURE STUDY OF THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S TEXTS** will continue over the summer while the Thursday Bible study will take a break (except for June 7 and 28 where Pastor Gloria has conflicts). Since each week stands on its own, come when you can to study and to begin your preparation for Sunday.

**THERE IS A "PAINTING" WORK PARTY** on Saturday, June 5, under the leadership of Dave Pfizenmeier. Call him to offer your help...858-449-4598. Anyone open to bring breakfast at 8:30am or lunch at noon?? We will paint the fascia and poles and will need a couple of ladders.

**IT WILL BE OUR JOY TO CELEBRATE AMY TROUSDALE'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** on Sunday, June 13, during and after the 9:30 liturgy. Amy graduates from Serra High school on June 21 and will be attending California State University in Monterrey Bay in the fall.

**ANOTHER JOYOUS CELEBRATION WILL BE THE DEDICATION** of our "Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives" on Sunday, June 20. We will dedicate the gift of olive trees and bench in memory of Don Peterson whose birthday is June 18 and celebrate all the gifts that have brought this renewal of our grounds to where they are now.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR "GARDENERS" TO HELP** on Saturday, June 19, so our grounds are "polished" for the Garden Dedication on June 20. Come at 8 or 9 (or whenever) and stay as long as you can. If you cannot come then, pick out anytime and find some weeds (a.k.a "plants out of place" ...if you are unsure of what needs to be done, talk with Pastor Gloria). As always, if you cannot come, gifts to the Grounds Fund enable us to hire the work done for which we don't have enough volunteers. The front bank and ground cover along the driveway shows the fruits of these donations!

Do you know about the "Friends of Ruffin Canyon" who gather at Taft Middle School or at the end of Shawn Avenue on the first Saturday of the month to do canyon cleanup, restoration of natural plants, and trail maintenance? (Rotate by months.) More community volunteers are needed!

**A 5<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY "BREAKFAST AND HIKE"** is being sponsored by Gethsemane, Friends of Ruffin Canyon, and the Serra Mesa Community Council (the "official" holiday since the 4<sup>th</sup> is on Sunday). We will take tables and chairs to the end of Shawn Avenue where the entrance to the canyon has been renewed through the partnership of the city's Department of Canyonlands and community volunteers. We will have breakfast of yogurt, muffins, fruits, etc. available from 7 to 10am. Friends of Ruffin Canyon will offer hikes and information. Come and bring someone with you for food, visiting (tables and chairs provided), and hiking (if you wish!).

**THE ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER**, co-sponsored by the Kensington Optimist Club and Gethsemane, will be Saturday, June 5, from 5:30-7:00pm. Our share of the proceeds will support Julia Miller's participation on a Servant Trip with the youth group from Clairemont Lutheran. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children 4-11. We also welcome donations for raffle gifts...nice but not too expensive is the key.

**FINANCIALLY SPEAKING...**we are keeping everyone informed on a weekly basis through the bulletin which shows our weekly and year-to-date offerings and the prorated weekly and yearly amount. Our Treasurer's Report at Council shows that all bills are current and paid. Together, our faithfulness enables us to move forward. A gentle reminder that our expenses do not take a vacation in the summer. "First fruits, proportionate, regular, and cheerful" were St. Paul's guidance to the church at Corinth in 2 Corinthians 8 and I Corinthians 16...these are good principles for us too.

**CENTERING PRAYER AT 7PM ON TUESDAY EVENINGS IS OPEN TO NEWCOMERS.** If you've never participated, come early (6:45pm) and get brief instruction before learning "on-the-job". For information or inspiration, talk with Roxanne Rosengarten.

**THE FRIENDSHIP LUNCH MOVES BACK TO MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP** for June. The simple lunch of soup, bread, and sweets is held on every Wednesday at noon. Thanks to all who helped Helen Bergen and Edie Kodadek host the lunch in May (will return to Gethsemane in July). There is no cost for the lunch but all are invited to bring a can or package of food for the Serra Mesa Food Pantry. Consider inviting someone who no longer drives to come with you!

**THE SERRA MESA FOOD PANTRY** got off to a rousing beginning on May 15. We will continue to share our food barrel donations. We need one person from Gethsemane to join Pastor Gloria on the Coordinating Committee which will meet once a month.

**A GROUP OF MEN (AND SOME WOMEN) MEET AT THE HOME OF JERRY CLASS** every Tuesday at 2pm for coffee and conversation. All are welcome! 8819 Haveluer Way...off Sandrock, a few blocks from Aero or Murray Ridge Road.

**MARY MAGDALENE APOSTLE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY INVITES GETHSEMANE** to their mass on June 20. In honor of the summer solstice, they will celebrate outside and incorporate a labyrinth walk into their Eucharistic celebration.

**VOICES OF EVE** is (was?) a liturgy series Pastor Gloria led with other Lutheran pastors and lay women. It has been on "sabbatical" for a year or two but will return over the summer to once again celebrate the feast days of Mary Magdalene (Thursday, July 22) and Mary, Mother of our Lord (the eve of, Saturday, August 14) and to determine whether there is interest in renewing Voices of Eve in forms old or new.

To begin, all (women and men) who are interested in "celebrating 'women and the church' while acknowledging the ongoing journey toward full inclusion at all levels of participation and leadership" will gather at 6:00pm on Monday, June 21, for a salad potluck, open and focused conversation, and time for prayer. The evening's theme will be "Eve", a powerful and complex symbol for females, and the reasons for changing the name of the series from "Remembering Forgotten Stories" to "Voices of Eve" will be shared. The date of June 21 (Summer Solstice that morning at 4:28 AM PDT) was chosen because "Eve" connects some women to earth-based spirituality. Some women who go this direction do so because they have had troubling experiences with the Christian church. Pastor Gloria will bring her research on the three appearances of "Eve" in Scripture (one in the Old Testament and two in the New), and those attending will be invited to explore "what does 'this' mean?" for the Christian community today. All are welcome to this initial gathering.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOSE CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY IN JUNE			
Jerry Albert	6/06	Palmer Hayward	6/11
Linda Juhasz	6/07	Karen Coleman	6/22
		Mark Mendoza	6/25

SUNDAY MORNING ASSISTANTS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2010				
	6	13	20	27
Altar Care	Barbara Gandolfo		Dianne Smalligan	Hildie Class
Reader:	Dave Pfizenmeier	Ken Baker	Mary Erlenborn	Bruce Davidson
Communion	Judy Nagy	Julia and	Dottie Burger	Susan Mendoza
Servers:	Ann Larion	Maureen Miller	Hildie Class	Sheila Peterson
Coffee Cart:	Helen Bergen	Graduation Celebration	Mary Erlenborn	Earline Trinkle
Ushers:	Jay and Bradley Trousdale	Lee Wolf and Mary Erlenborn	Hildie Class Barbara Gandolfo	Katy Meindl Helen Bergen
Monday Office	7	14	21	28
Volunteers.	Jean Arneson	Judy Nagy	Linda Juhasz	Helen Bergen

*Hildie Class and Katy Meindl lead the Altar Guild, and Linda Juhasz coordinates the Sunday morning ministers and the Monday office volunteers. Barbara Gandolfo coordinates the Coffee Cart volunteers. Talk to them to offer your help! Together we do amazing things!*

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2696 MELBOURNE DRIVE  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED