FIRST UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Established 1886

Keeping in Touch

October 9, 2016

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

We learn, grow, and become compassionate and generous as much through exile as homecoming, as much through loss as gain.—David Whyte

Pastor's Message

Pastor Susan Strouse

The theme of exile is one of the foundational stories of the Old Testament. Along with the exodus from Egypt, the deportation of the Jewish people to Babylon was a defining point in their history. These two "macro-stories" – liberation from slavery and exile/homecoming – continue to be relevant for our lives today. Slavery and exile can take many forms. In this week's scripture readings, the prophet Jeremiah gives advice to people who find themselves "strangers in a strange land" and Jesus encounters a man exiled from his home because of a dread disease. In what kinds of exile have you found yourself? What good news can be found even in such times of change and loss?

Pastor Susan

This Week on *PrS: Proud Member of the Religious Left*
"Pope Francis Fail"
https://progressivechurch.wordpress.com/

This Week on *The INTRAfaith Conversation*
"Not That Kind Of Christian!"
http://intrafaithconversation.com

The **Western States Youth Gathering** takes place at Cal Lutheran June 28-July 2, 2017. This event features mass gatherings with great speakers and musicians; learning and small group experiences; creative worship; immersion in Los Angeles and the beach! The planning team gathered on campus in September to make arrangements for this fabulous event. Several of your youth workers are helping plan this event, we are grateful for the sharing of their gifts! Postcards have been sent to ELCA Regions 1-4. www.WSYG.com

First United is a "Reconciling in Christ" (RIC) congregation that has declared that all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ–centered community.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
October 9, 2016

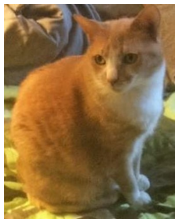
Our Creator beyond us, Yet you dwell among us,
we pray for the home of promise (which we've never fully known)
as we work to be your welcome in the world. Grant us this day abundant life.
And forgive us our exiling
as we pray for the peace to forgive those who exile us.
Lead us out of our need to create boundaries, and delight us in the diversity of life!
For you are the Keeper of Community, the Source behind our deepest longing,
and the One who provides an eternal Home. Amen.

http://www.hrc.org/resources/out-in-scripture

✠ Our prayers for our world:
- for all affected by Hurricane Matthew, for *Lutheran Disaster Response* and *Lutheran World Relief*
- for António Guterres, former Prime Minister of Portugal, the designate Secretary-General of the *United Nations*
- for *Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service* and all working to provide hospitality to the stranger
- for the *Paris Climate Agreement*, beginning in 30 days, after being ratified by 73 countries, accounting for nearly 57% percent of global greenhouse emissions

✠ Our prayers for our communities:
- for the *Faith-Based Social Service Agencies CEO Roundtable* convened by the *SF Interfaith Council* to address the effects of the "affordability crisis" on residents and non-profits
- for *CA Interfaith Power & Light* and all local efforts to care for our environment
- for the dismantling of systemic racism in the criminal justice system
- for this election season: for wisdom and guidance

✠ Our prayers for our congregation and beyond:
- for those grieving recent losses: Steve Johnson, Diane Flynn, and Orion Pitts
- for those in assisted living or nursing care facilities: Roger Creet, Charles McBrian, Marilyn Pearson
- for healing: John Patrick Williams, Jane Bolander, Stefani Schatz
- in thanksgiving and memory of Thor



ϕ *If you would like to add someone or something to the prayer list, please contact Orion or Pastor Susan.* ϕ

AIDS Walk San Francisco 2016

The final tallies are now in:
Team First United raised

$1825

to combat the worldwide scourge of AIDS.
THANKS to all contributors, walkers, and team leaders!

EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES October 6, 2016

by Amalia Vagts
ELM Executive Director

I saw a Facebook post last week related to what some are calling a "clergy gap."

The post was in response to a **recent article in the Living Lutheran magazine** examining a growing number of open ELCA calls.

I couldn't help but comment, "What clergy gap? What decreasing seminary enrollment?"

It is true that overall, far fewer people are entering the ministry than in the past. **Butfrom the viewpoint of the LGBTQ community, it's a much different story.** *(continued next page)*

Proclaim leaders following the call

(continued from p. 3)
There are currently 68 members of the **Proclaim community** who are enrolled in seminary, preparing to be Lutheran pastors and deacons.

Overall, there are about 735 people enrolled in ELCA seminarians, **according to the most recent statistics.**

That means **at least 9% of all current ELCA seminarians publicly identify as LGBTQ.**

There are 16 Proclaim members seeking a call. I couldn't locate statistics about how many people overall are seeking calls right now - or how many calls are open. But I do know **too many stories about congregations who have said no to talented candidates, simply because they are LGBTQ**.

This isn't just about diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. The report also shows that since 2012, enrollment of persons of color and those whose language is other than English is about 7%. These candidates and pastors face similar challenges (and even more so for those who are LGBTQ persons of color).

We have an "imagination gap."

Since 2009, Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries has been urging ELCA bishops, synod staff, candidacy committees, and congregations to open their imaginations to consider who God might be calling to serve as ministry leaders. After a few years of accepting that some "just aren't ready" for LGBTQ leaders, we've realized it's time to say, **"Let us help you get ready."**
Diverse leaders are ready to serve. In fact, one of the growing congregations mentioned in the Living Lutheran article is led by Proclaim member **Rev. Steve Renner.**

It can take some work to "get ready." It's not enough to merely tolerate increasingly diverse leaders. Rather, **we are living in a time of great possibility to be a churchwhere difference is seen as a gift, where variety is a virtue, where a plethora of perspectives is encouraged**. While this may be challenging at first, the possibility of transformation makes it well worth the effort.

LGBTQ people aren't going to seminary only because the rules now allow it. We are going because **our experiences as LGBTQ people lead us to want to serve God** and the church. We are going because we want to **proclaim the Gospel now** in a world that needs it.

Some see a church in decline. **Others of us see a church in hopeful transformation.**

And maybe it won't be so hard once we start. As the late, wondrous Gene Wilder sang in the song "Pure Imagination,"

If you want to view paradise
Simply look around and view it
Anything you want to, do it
Want to change the world?
There's nothing to it.

***Amalia Vagts** spent parts of the past five days with a former Lutheran who kinda wants to take his kids to church, an atheist who likes how Nadia Bolz-Weber thinks, a bunch of Evanston, IL Lutherans who performed cabaret songs for each other to raise money for homeless youth, the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and the fabulously queer and brilliant "full-time friends" (i.e. staff) of ELM. Incidentally, she has many scenes from the 1971 film **Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory** memorized, and had a pretty big crush on Gene Wilder during high school.*

An invitation to the First United Community from Sophia in Trinity

3RD CENTURY FRESCO OF PRISCILLA, AN EARLY WOMAN PRIEST, PRESIDING IN LITURGY

MARY ALICE NOLAN

ORDAINED

ROMAN CATHOLIC WOMAN PRIEST

SATURDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2016 AT 2 O'CLOCK

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT CYPRIAN

2097 TURK STREET AT LYON

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

Our Community

Looking for Something Really Simple (and Free!) You Can Do to Help Animals?

Freekibble was launched in 2008, as the vision of then 11-year-old Mimi Ausland. Since then, they've donated over 16 million meals to homeless dogs and cats in shelters and food banks across the country! All you have to do is go to www.freekibble.com and click just once a day to provide food for cats and dogs.

You can find more free click opportunities at http://www.thenonprofits.com

Oct. 12
*Margie Jang**

Oct. 16
John Reidhaar-Olson

Oct. 17
Pastor Susan Strouse

Oct. 24
Michael Barrow
Shirley

Nov. 1
Orion

**deceased*

On the Schedule

Sunday, October 9
Refreshments: Many volunteers

Sunday, October 16
Refreshments: Jacob & Tamara

Sunday, October 23
Refreshments: Pam Hargraves

Sunday, October 30
Refreshments: Orion

Sunday, November 6
House Church—Steve Johnson

Sunday, November 13
Refreshments: Barrows

This Fragile Earth: October 22 at Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Join us at CDSP for a day of theological reflection, discussion and worship as we explore the church's response to the crisis of climate change. Speakers will include former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori, who is the current St. Margaret's Visiting Professor of Women in Ministry; Bishop Marc Andrus of California, CDSP President and Dean W. Mark Richardson, and Professor Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, professor of theological and social ethics at CDSP and Pacific Lutheran Seminary of California Lutheran University.

Jefferts Schori will deliver the keynote address, titled "Creation and the Effective Word: Holy Storytelling, Creation, and God's Mission," and Moe-Lobeda will give an address titled "Truth-telling, Inequity, and Christian Action."
The day will culminate with a liturgy to bless CDSP's new installation of solar panels led by Bishops Jefferts Schori and Andrus. The panels, installed on Easton, Parsons, and Shires Halls earlier in 2016, make up the largest solar installation of any theological seminary in the United States.

"This Fragile Earth" is designed for both laypeople and clergy who are active in environmental ministry and want to explore new opportunities for reflection and Christian action on behalf of our planet. Registration is $35, which includes lunch. For more information and to register, go to http://cdsp.edu/news/this-fragile-earth-october-22-conference-at-cdsp/

2016

. . . we need to move beyond interfaith "dialogue," which tends to remain verbal and cerebral, and move toward the physical activities of religious practices, including pilgrimage. We don't merely need to talk together; we also need interfaith activities, interfaith eating, interfaith art exhibitions, and interfaith walking.—S. Brent Plate

It's Not Too Early to Plan for NAIN Connect 2017

Would you like to be a presenter? Submit your name at http://powayinterfaithteam.com/nain

The next NainConnect, the annual convening of the **North American Interfaith Network**, will take place on the University of California, San Diego campus in La Jolla, CA, August 6-10, 2017. With the theme *HARMONY: Journey to One Heart*, the program will include workshops and keynote speakers every morning and bus trips to faith locations every afternoon. The goal is to highlight programs which are working to bring harmony in your community for replication by others throughout North America. From the Sunday night opening to the closing event there will be numerous celebrations and opportunities for you to connect with interfaith people of all ages. The Poway Interfaith Team are sponsoring; see more information at their website: http://powayinterfaithteam.com/nain/

JOIN ENVIROFAITH ON FACEBOOK

We are sharing environment-friendly faith stories... share your bit and add to the information, inspiration and diversity. Faith and science coexist as well as greatly compliment each other. All sacred texts reveal that protecting the Earth is our duty. *Envirofaith* wants to hear your thoughts on how your faith/value system has influenced you to make this world more sustainable, protect the environment or live eco-friendly. We encourage everyone to participate (whether you doing the bare minimum to practice your faith or you are a religious scholar), we believe that every small action is worth sharing . . . you never know who you are inspiring!

The Reunited States of America
by Mark Gerzon

Didn't Get to Participate in the Charter for Compassion's Global Read on September 17?

Listen to the discussion here: https://soundcloud.com/charterforcompassion/mark-gerzons-reunited-states-of-america
Read the transcript here: http://www.charterforcompassion.org/index.php/global-read-mark-gerzon-the-reunited-states-of-america

Next Global Read conversation will be Saturday, October 22nd at 9 a.m. PST and will discuss *Great Tide Rising: Towards Clarity and Moral Courage in a time of Planetary Change* with the author, Kathleen Dean Moore. Register for that call at
http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/LUYTU8MU5464LC27

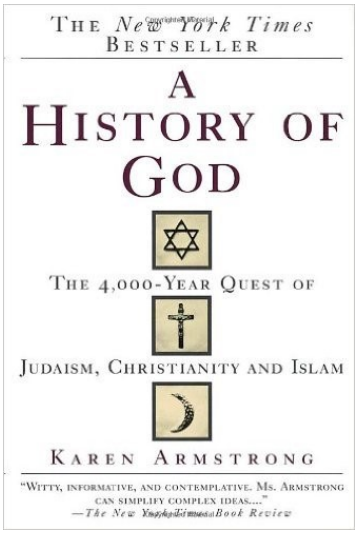
Church & State

Thursday, October 20, 2016, 6:30 pm- 9:30 pm Free event
First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street
Americans United Executive Director Barry Lynn has decades of experience opposing powerful groups are trying to undermine freedom of and from religion for all and to use government power to promote their own religious views. Join us for an evening of conversation about the foundations of this critical principle and the most pressing church-state issues that the organization is battling today.
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm: Social Hour (Hors d'oeuvres & Soft Drinks)
7:30 pm to 9:30 pm: Presentation & Discussion
(Parking available at Sutter St. Garage) Seating is limited, so please let us know if you plan to attend: 415-624-3238 or king94107@me.com

United Religions Initiative Begins #TangibleHope Campaign

What are you and your community doing that gives you hope for the future? All too often those acts of compassion, service, and gratitude that give us hope are hidden away and don't get the attention they deserve. That's why URI is inviting you (whether you are affiliated with the URI or not) to share written or audiovisual stories about what is happening in your part of the world and to use the hashtag **#TangibleHope**. Wherever you may be in social media, be it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and beyond, using the tag #TangibleHope will help get the word out and make all our efforts more visible. Gratitude for what we see around us, Awareness of hopeful actions in our communities, and an inspiration for yet more Action — that's what #TangibleHope enables.

To find out more, go to http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=43698ec5e3e616001752ea0f7&id=a6e0c2c5d4&e=cc76201d4d



MUSLIM/CHRISTIAN BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Next gathering: Wednesday, October 5 at 7:00 pm at the Interfaith Center at the Presidio
We are reading *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong. For next time: chapters 4 & 5

From Fatih Ates, director of the Pacifica Institute: some articles about the aftermath of the failed coup in Turkey and implications for the *Hizmet* movement here and around the world:
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/04/opinion/turkeys-new-anti-americanism.html?_r=0
https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/07/turkey-independent-monitors-must-be-allowed-to-access-detainees-amid-torture-allegations/
http://www.fethullahgulen.com/en/press/columns/50752-fethullah-gulen-i-call-for-an-international-investigation-into-the-failed-putsch-in-turkey

MULTIFAITH RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES 2016

InterFaith Calendar

OCTOBER

1-10	Navaratri ** - **Hindu**
2	Muharram - New Year * - **Islam**
3-4	Rosh Hashanah * - **Jewish**
4	St Francis Day - **Catholic Christian**
	Blessing of the Animals - **Christian**
10	Thanksgiving - Canada - **Interfaith**
11	Dasara ** - **Hindu**
12	Ashura * - **Islam**
	Yom Kippur * - **Jewish**
17-23	Sukkot * - **Jewish**
18	St. Luke, Apostle & Evangelist - **Christian**
20	Birth of the Báb * - **Baha'i**
	Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth - **Sikh**
24	Shemini Atzeret * - **Jewish**
25	Simchat Torah * - **Jewish**
30	Diwali - Deepavali ** - **Hindu - Sikh - Jain**
31	All Hallows Eve - **Christian**
	Reformation Day ** - **Protestant Christian**
	New Year ** - **Jain**

For Interfaith News Roundup, the Religious Calendar, and much more, go to
http://theinterfaithobserver.org

San Francisco Interfaith Council
Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions
Bringing people together to build understanding
Serving our community
MICHAEL G. PAPPAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • MGPAPPAS@SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG
P.O. BOX 29055 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129 • 415.474.1321
WWW.SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG

WinterFaith Shelter Walk 2016

Open for Registration!

Register and/or Donate at: Walk 2016

When: Sunday, October 30, 2016

Time: 1:30 pm

Where: Parking Circle at Lake Merced
(Intersection of Sunset Blvd. and Lake Merced Blvd.)
San Francisco

Funds raised will benefit the
San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter

Become a sponsor and have your congregation/organization logo on the walk tee-shirt and walk website!

Please visit:

Walk Sponsorship

Click here for Walk Sponsorship.

San Francisco Interfaith Council

Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions
Bringing people together to build understanding
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SAVE THE DATE!

Join the San Francisco Interfaith Council at the
19th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

"The Soul of the City: Faith and Social Justice in San Francisco"

Honoring

Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer

for their faith-based leadership in social justice

and

San Francisco Congregations

for their tireless efforts in realizing a more just society

Tuesday, November 22, 2016
7:00 am - 9:00 am

Hotel Kabuki
1625 Post Street (at Laguna)
San Francisco

For additional information please contact Cynthia Zamboukos at:
415-474-1321 or cynthiaz@sfinterfaithcouncil.org

**** Tickets will be available for purchase online soon! ****

Readings for Sunday, October 9, 2016

First Reading—Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

In a letter to the exiles in Babylon, Jeremiah sent a message from God that they were to make their homes in that foreign land. They were to seek the welfare of Babylon. In doing so they would advance their own welfare. This advice countered the traditional view that only in Jerusalem's temple in their own homeland could the exiles worship and serve God. It conveys a message for our time as we struggle with the implications of a global threat to peace and reconciliation among people of many religious and cultural traditions.

It is written . . .

Jeremiah sent a letter from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles, to the priests, the prophets, and all the people Nebuchadnezzar had deported. It said:
Thus says YHWH Omnipotent, the God of Israel, to all the exiles I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses to live in. Plant gardens and eat what they grow. Marry and raise daughters and sons. Find wives for your sons and husbands for your daughters, that they may bear daughters and sons. Multiply while you are there. Do not decrease. Rather seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have exiled you. Pray to YHWH for it, for if it prospers, you will prosper.

Second Reading—"You Learn"

(by Jorge Luis Borges; from the memorial service for Margie Jang on November 21, 2015)

After a while you learn
The subtle difference
Between holding a hand
And chaining a soul.
And you learn
That love doesn't mean leaning
And company doesn't mean security.
And you begin to learn
That kisses aren't compromises
And presents aren't promises.
And you begin to accept your defeats
With your head up and your eyes ahead
With the grace of a woman or man
Not the grief of a child.
And you learn to build all your loads on today
Because tomorrow's ground is too uncertain for plans
And futures have a way of falling down in midflight.

After a while you learn
That even sunshine burns if you ask too much.
So you plant your own garden
And decorate your own soul
Instead of waiting for someone to buy you flowers.
And you learn
That you really can endure
That you really are strong
And you really do have worth.
And you learn.
And you learn.
With every failure you learn.

Gospel—Luke 17:11-19

Why was the Samaritan allowed to be part of the group, when Samaritans themselves were outcast by the Jewish community? Could it be that barriers between us fall when we are united in sickness or tragedy?

It is written . . .

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten people with leprosy approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Rabbi, have pity on us!"
When Jesus saw them, he responded, "Go and show yourselves to the priests."
As they were going, they were healed. One of them, realizing what had happened, came back, praising God in a loud voice, then fell down at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. This individual was a Samaritan.
Then Jesus asked, "Weren't all ten made whole? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return and give thanks except this foreigner?"
Then Jesus said to the Samaritan, "Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you."

THE BACK PAGES . . .

Coming Events (this week and beyond):

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 5:00 PM
21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AND 1-YEAR OBSERVANCE: REMEMBRANCE OF THE LIFE OF MARGIE JANG
at St. Cyprian's

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 6:30 PM (AFTER WORSHIP AND COFFEE HOUR)
LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING AND DINNER
at St. Cyprian's downstairs

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
FULC MUSICIANS' REHEARSAL
at the Man Cave

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2:00 PM
ORDINATION OF MARY ALICE NOLAN, ROMAN CATHOLIC WOMAN PRIEST
at St. Cyprian's

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 5:00 PM
23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WORSHIP
at St. Cyprian's

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6:00-7:00 PM
VINYASA FLOW YOGA
at St. Cyprian's downstairs

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6:30-9:30 PM
CHURCH & STATE SEMINAR
at First Unitarian Universalist, 1187 Franklin St., SF

FOR FULL DETAILS
on all events, go to www.fulc.com, & click on Calendar

Sunday Worship
5:00 p.m. at
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church
2097 Turk Street @ Lyon

Church Offices at
2097 Turk Street @ Lyon

Mailing Address:
1388 Haight St., #180
San Francisco, CA 94117
Phone: (415) 359-1025

For information visit our website:
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Anders Peterson,
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Kate Drefke,
Teaching Parish Ministry

Orion Pitts
Music Director &
Office Administator
orion@fulc.com

NOTE:

Deadline for submission of all information or items in *Keeping in Touch* is **Wednesday at 12 noon** of the week of publication. Items submitted after this time

Assistance Policy

First United's policy is to help people by finding services when possible, and will provide gift cards for specific financial needs. All requests for help must go to Pastor Susan. Please do not ask members for money,