

Legacy of Caring...December, 2018

Support Presbyterian Chaplaincy at LAC+USC Medical Center

Pray Lift up this ministry in prayer

- Your prayers for patients, families, staff and chaplains support and sustain this important work of caring
- Add Presbyterian Chaplaincy to your prayer list

Give Continue the legacy

- Your donations and financial partnership make this ministry possible
- Contact Amy at the Presbytery of the Pacific (310) 670-5076 to find out more about one-time and sustaining contributions

Share Quilts for patients of all ages

- The Tuesday before Christmas, blankets are given to each patient in the hospital
- You can also join the crew of volunteers that help distribute the blankets
- Blankets can be knit, crocheted, sewn or quilted, 36" x 36"/48"
- Contact Martin in the Department of Spiritual Care at (323) 409-4715 or egibbszehnder@dhs.lacounty.gov

Gather Hygiene Kits for homeless patients

- These are shared with homeless patients from the chaplain's office, Angel Interfaith Network and the LAC+USC Emergency Department
- A gallon zip lock bag filled with a washcloth, bar of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, comb, tissue, body lotion, razor, hand sanitizer & socks.
- Contact Raquel at Angel Interfaith Network at (323) 409-6923 or office@angelinterfaith.net

Thanks!

To find out more about how you can be a part of this important ministry, please contact Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder, Chaplain at Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com

1467

Service for the Unclaimed Dead of Los Angeles County

1467 is the number of people who were laid to rest in the county cemetery on December 5, 2018 - The unclaimed remains of 1467 people who had died in Los Angeles County in 2015.

How can it be that so many bodies go unclaimed in Los Angeles County? There are many reasons - Some people die alone in nursing homes and hospitals. Some were homeless and died on the street. Others were babies who died at birth. Some people die and their families can't afford to "claim" them.

Once a year, the LA County Board of Supervisors sponsors a multi-faith burial service and we lay them to rest - offering our songs, prayers and blessings. As author Heather King noted, the word "claim" comes from the Latin "clamare" (to call out). Thus did Lazarus, covered with sores, cry out at the gate of the rich man. Claim me. Love me. Look me - just for a moment - in the face.

So last week, at the cold, windswept cemetery, we looked them in the face - babies, teenagers, parents - homeless people - immigrants and native born - and we claimed them. We claimed their suffering, their joy, their life among us. May they rest in peace.

- Rev. Elizabeth Gibbs Zehnder serves as Presbyterian staff chaplain at LAC+USC Medical Center. The Presbyterian Chaplaincy is made possible through the Consortium funded by the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, the Presbyteries of the Los Ranchos, Pacific, San Fernando and San Gabriel. To find out more about this ministry and how you can be involved, please contact her at Elizabeth.GibbsZehnder@gmail.com.

