

You are invited to attend the Nineteenth Annual

Service of Remembrance



*In memory of our brothers and sisters
who have suffered violent deaths
through murder or suicide
due to their sexual orientation,
gender identity
or gender expression*

Sunday, October 29, 2017

4:00 pm

*St. John's Lutheran Church
1701 L Street, Sacramento*

*Please join us as we remember their lives with love,
bear witness to the atrocity of their deaths and
affirm together that hatred and violence must end.*

For more information, contact:

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*Let us honor the memories of those who died
because they were (or were perceived to be)
lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.*

Service of Remembrance

While the shocking murder of Matthew Shepard placed a spotlight on the horrific magnitude of hatred directed toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and those who care about them, Matthew is only one name on a lengthy roll call of people who have died at the hands of ignorance and bigotry.

The nineteenth annual Service of Remembrance will be held on October 29, 2017, at 4:00 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento. The service is offered in memory of all who have died violently through murder or suicide because they were (or were perceived to be) lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

This interfaith service embraces a variety of spiritual expressions including those of the Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu and Native American faith traditions. Featured during the service is a period of time during which we honor the List of Lost Lives - over 800 names (and countless others whose names are not known to us) who died as a result of fear, hatred and intolerance toward their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. The service provides the opportunity to remember their lives with love, bear witness to the atrocity of their deaths and affirm together that hatred and violence must end. It is not a coincidence that the service is held each year in October. National Coming Out Day falls each year in October and we are reminded that coming out is very dangerous for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their families. By coming out, LGBT people risk their homes, their jobs, their friendships, their faith community memberships, their family relationships and even their lives. In addition, October is designated as Gay and Lesbian History Month. Thus, this service reminds us that the history of LGBT people has been fraught with injustice, hatred and violence. Finally, October marks the anniversary of the horrifying torture and murder of Matthew Shepard.

Sacramento PFLAG organized the first Service of Remembrance in 1999 and has continued to take a leadership role in the event each year. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, their families and friends through support – to cope with an adverse society; education – to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy – to end discrimination and to secure civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity as it acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Faith communities from throughout the Sacramento area committed to sharing God's love for the world in the world, affirming the dignity and worth of all people, celebrating human diversity and welcoming all – no exceptions – will be participating in this important memorial service. We invite all good people of conscience to attend and take this opportunity to stand in solidarity with the LGBT community and its allies.

For more information, please contact

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