

---

---

# ◆ The Olive Press ◆

---

---

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2012

---

---

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### President:

Laura Britzius

### Vice President:

Lyle Johnson

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Carl Perkins

### Properties:

Ernie Butenschoen

### Lutheran Liaison:

Tom Lewis

### Evangelism:

Shar Giard

### Worship:

Liz Blohm

### CYFF Formation:

Karla Hills

### CYFF Formation:

Christina Riehl

### Community Action:

Hal Hingst

### Stewardship:

Dick Bemrose

### Fellowship:

Kim Stoffregen

## CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor:

Tom Hiller

### Child/Fam Min:

Maureen Hagen

### Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

### Finance Mgr.:

Cathey Myers

### Parish Admin.:

Judith Rykken

### Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

### Organist:

Brooke Benfield

### Custodians:

Dale/Anne Van Horn

## Pastor Tom's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

There are a lot of different theories about the origin of April Fool's Day, but it's hard to say which one is right. It is kind of a fun day to pull pranks on others, something that I like to do!

Several year's ago, April Fool's Day occurred on a Sunday. I decided to pull some pranks on my congregation. I shaved my beard for the first time since I had been pastor at that church. Many did not recognize me. Our worship bulletin was blank that day. Somehow, everything went well. During coffee hour, the kids put a plate full of shaving cream into my face. I'm not sure whether I'll try to pull any pranks at Gethsemane this year. We'll see.

In a way, I'd rather have April Fool's Day occur on Good Friday or Easter. Satan had tried to trick Jesus during the temptation in the wilderness. I imagine that when Jesus was hanging on the cross, the Devil must have thought he had finally defeated Jesus. But once Jesus was raised from the dead, Satan realized that the joke was on him. He had been tricked, and it all started on the cross! God had turned defeat into victory over sin, death, and the devil. Now Jesus was alive and offering resurrected life to all!

On Easter, then, we can let "Holy Hilarity" begin. God has tricked the Devil. We have been given the gift of new life.

So, pull a prank. Make a joke. Have some fun. Enjoy Easter and your new life.

In the Risen Christ, Pastor Tom

## APRIL WORSHIP PLANS - You're Invited!

**April 1, PALM & PASSION SUNDAY** - 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - A procession of palms and the Story of the Passion of Christ in both services.

**April 5, MAUNDY THURSDAY** - 7:15 p.m. - A service of absolution and communion.

**April 6, GOOD FRIDAY** - Noon - Stations of the Cross; 7:15 p.m. - A service of Light and Darkness

**April 7, EASTER VIGIL** - 7:15 p.m. - A service of Darkness, Light, Scripture readings, Renewal of Baptism, and Communion.

**April 8, EASTER** - 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. - A celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

The **Oregon Synod Assembly** takes place in Sun River from April 27 through April 29. This year the voting members from our church are Lyle Johnson, Priscilla Nelson, and Pastor Tom. Pray for the Oregon Synod!

## **Council Highlights for January** by Laura Britzius

The council retreat in March was a nice change from the routine of meeting at church. The Columbia River at Cascade Locks in all its beauty was very refreshing. We took care of routine business quickly and spent the remainder of the retreat discussing the future of Gethsemane: The immediate future of our building as a safe and welcoming place for us and for future generations, the ministry we hope to share with each other, and the joyous celebration with our community.

In January at the congregational meeting we voted unanimously by written ballot to continue the process of remodeling the Community Hall and **also to approve an amount up to, but not to exceed, \$400,000** for the improvements: Hall roof and footings; eight (8) new furnaces for the entire building; the completion of the organ renovation; and kitchen updates. We are in process right now. Meetings with the city of Portland continue as we determine what we can do and what type of building permits we will need for the repairs. We've met with the architect to develop building plans that will make our hall safe to use. A team of folks are working with MIF (Mission Investment Funds) at the ELCA in Chicago to secure the improvement loan of \$400,000. Others are working with Pastor Michael Keys from the Oregon Synod on a plan to pay off the \$400,000 loan. Still others are working on finding a new home for the puppet stage, clearing the kitchen of extraneous items, cleaning out the storage areas, and reorganizing the activity room and classrooms to prepare for the coming construction job.

The time is coming near. Can you feel the excitement? I can. The place is buzzing with organizing and planning. How can you help? Pray for strength and guidance for those working to make our building safe and welcoming. Pray for yourself, that you can share the gifts God has given you, whether it be a word of encouragement, a helping hand, or a financial gift. Pray for our church family and community that together we continue to grow in Christ and live the gospel.

If you have concerns or questions as we move forward, please feel free to give me a call or talk with me. I'd love to hear what's on your mind and in your heart.

Yours in Chris, Laura Britzius, Congregation President

## **Preschool Update** by Katie Strobel

If you haven't heard by now, the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Feb 26 was a huge success. We made \$4600 toward operating expenses for the preschool. Thank you again to everyone who donated items for the auction and raffle and to all who donated their time and labor for this successful event. We could not have done this without you. What a blessing the community of Gethsemane is to the preschool ministry.

We were thrilled to have so many people come and grateful that so many preschool families were able to be there and meet some of our church families. It was our biggest turnout yet.

March has been a busy month at preschool. We use Godly Play curriculum for our Lenten chapels, which is a great way to teach preschoolers the lessons of the season and how much Jesus loves them. We also are talking about God's world in the springtime and making some wonderful crafts to go along with this theme.

Thursday, Mar 15, is our first annual Dad and Me event. Dads, Grandpas and Uncles are invited to come with their preschoolers for a night of cardboard box and duct tape building. This should be a fun night for everyone.

Please remember we are enrolling for **Fall 2012**. We'll continue to have our 3 day per week program for 3 and 4 year olds. We also hope to have a 4 day a week program for 4 year olds. All the information is on the website, [www.glcportland.org/preschool](http://www.glcportland.org/preschool) or in the office. Spread the word!

## Short Notes:

- **Rummage Sale Volunteer Sign Ups** begin in late March in the narthex. Everyone can be involved: Do you have rummage items, can you donate a baked item for the sale, and/or sign up to work? We can't do it without YOU! Please continue to save large paper and plastic grocery bags. No hangers needed. We accept most everything, except large appliances, pianos and mattresses. One never knows what shoppers are looking for, so save GOOD, clean items for the sale. May will be here very soon. If you need pick-up, men and trucks will be available the Monday of sale week. Proceeds will go to various missions. Questions? Call the office or Clara Shortt (503)252-0568.
- **Fair Trade Fair a Success** -- The Fair Trade-Handmade Gift Fair held last November was such a success that it will be repeated next November. ***The Gethsemane Quilters and Friends have set Saturday, Nov. 3 and Sunday, Nov. 4 for the 2012 event***, so start thinking about your handmade projects now. The goal of the fair is to raise funds to help alleviate world hunger and to help artisans from the third world market their work. The fair also includes donated gifts by local crafts people and bakers. As a result of the first Gift Fair, we sent \$1,662.25 to World Hunger and \$680.85 to SERV last year. The response from the congregation and area friends was wonderful! Let's make the 2012 Fair Trade-Handmade Gift Fair event better!!
- **CYF<sup>2</sup> Update — Coming Up This Month:** A **youth Bunko fundraiser April 14 from 2 to 5 p.m.** to which you are invited; an **Easter Egg Hunt April 8 from 9-10 a.m.**; and a **Sauce Off** at St. Luke's Episcopal (essentially a competition for best spaghetti sauce) on **April 28, time TBA.**
- **Thank You to All Our Gethsemane** sisters and brothers. WOW! God has touched our lives many times over these last few weeks. Thanks also to Pr. Tom for his visits and spiritual support. Numerous yummy meals have come our way as well as many fun and uplifting cards and the much needed and appreciated transportation. My health is gradually being restored since my surgery, so I should be back in the middle of things soon. God bless you for all your prayers too! Marilee Hansen
- **To All at Gethsemane:** The family of Evelyn Kimpton would like to express their thanks to all of you for your cards, visits, prayers, support and friendship which was so very heart warming. Mom was so happy to see Pr. Tom who came so often. The strength he gave to all of us was awesome. Thanks also for your memorial gifts. We were told by several guests at the luncheon that the food was wonderful. We know we have lots of great cooks and servers and we thank all of you. Judith was also a great help to us. God has blessed us over and over. Sharon Lee and the family of Evelyn Kimpton.
- **We're On the Way!** We have \$50 in our green piggy bank account for the year. Keep up the good work. D/D Bemrose
- **At the Last Few Mealtimes at Gethsemane,** I have noticed a wonderful problem. We need more highchairs!! The blue and white one is at least 20 years old, as we donated it after we were through with it for grandchildren. I think that one of the wooden ones has been there longer. Do any of you have a safe highchair you could donate? Or do we want to get new ones? We really need a few more before Easter, when traditionally we have lots of small children visiting Grandma and Grandpa for the day. It would be cool to start with all new ones for our newly remodeled kitchen, but this need must be addressed before Easter. Thank you! Diane Bemrose
- **Pacific Lutheran University** would like to identify someone in each congregation to serve as a contact. This person would be a link between the congregation and PLU and would help get the word out to his/her congregation about such things as PLU Sunday and the Christmas Concert each year. This would not be a very demanding task. Please contact the church office if you are interested, or email Sandy Anderson.(sandyal4@msn.com)

## ELCA Global Links

At [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) there are numerous articles about ways the ELCA is being a positive presence around the world. Some examples: **New Orleans: 100 Wells Challenge at ELCA Youth Gathering in July:** Just \$2500 could build a well that provides clean water for up to 500 families. See [www.elca.org/ELCA/Youth-Gathering/Planning-for-the-Gathering/Gathering-Offerings/100-Wells.aspx](http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Youth-Gathering/Planning-for-the-Gathering/Gathering-Offerings/100-Wells.aspx). **Observe World Malaria Day on April 29** The ELCA has committed to raise \$15 million to join hands with 11 African companion churches in the global effort to prevent, treat and contain malaria by 2015. [www.elca.org/resources](http://www.elca.org/resources) and click the ELCA Malaria Campaign tab on the left. **South Sudan: Coordinating a response in the midst of disaster:** See <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/intl-region-africa/south-sudan/south-sudan-coordinating-a-response-in-the-midst-of-disaster-27>. **Asia: Growing leaders to love the land** Looking for specialty coffee? Try some fair trade organic coffee from an Indonesian cooperative organized by the first female superintendent (bishop) in the Protestant Christian Batak Church. A self-confessed "city girl," she learned her agricultural skills at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan. **Malaria grants given – and still available!** Three ELCA colleges and two ELCA campus ministries have received grants to be used as seed money for ELCA Malaria Campaign educational activities and related fundraising among their students. Funding is still available until the new deadline of May 1, 2012. See <http://blogs.elca.org/malaria/post/congratulations-to-our-grant-recipients-02>. **"Suffering and Salvation in Ciudad Juárez"** Since 1993 more than 600 girls and women have been brutally slain in Ciudad Juárez in internationally condemned violence for which no one has been arrested. This new volume from Fortress Press offers a powerful reflection on this destructive violence and the yearning for release, justice and healing. See <http://store.fortresspress.com/store/product/4824/Suffering-and-Salvation-in-Ciudad-Ju-rez>. **Pray that all people around the world have easy access to clean water.** Global Links shares highlights from ELCA.org, LivingLutheran.com and other churchwide websites of ELCA ministry and connections in other countries.

## Welcoming the Stranger

Multicultural Community Services (MCS), a program of Lutheran Community Services NW, serves over 400 newly arrived refugees each year from all over the world. These refugees suffer unspeakable loss as they flee their homelands due to war, famine, political or religious persecution. Most come with nothing and know no one, but demonstrate amazing resiliency as they seek to rebuild their lives in Portland. The services provided by MCS help refugees achieve self-sufficiency, though the initial transition is very difficult. We rely heavily on donated furniture and household items to help refugees get settled and begin the rebuilding process. The items of greatest need are:

Kitchen tables and chairs	Sofas	Family room chairs
Coffee and end tables	Dressers	Lamps
Towels	Baby items	Toiletries
Kitchen utensils (pots and pans, cutlery, silverware, etc.)		
Bedding (linens, blankets, pillows)		

**We provide pick up at your home!** To arrange, call Steffani at (503)231-7480.

In addition, there are a variety of volunteer opportunities to help refugee families settle in and rebuild their lives in Portland: Providing transportation, enrolling kids in school, tutoring, and offering companionship is a profoundly rewarding volunteer experience.

In the spirit of "Welcoming the Stranger" we deeply appreciate your generosity and support. Let the mission begin here at home, serving those whose homes have been lost forever.

### April Birthdays

2 Amy Deetz  
3 Casey Morton  
4 Diane Bemrose  
5 Wynn Stafford  
11 Carl Perkins  
12 Jan Brown  
13 Norm Thoreson (95th)  
17 Virginia Irby  
Randy Treanor  
18 Vera Koosman  
19 Dave Qualheim  
Kyle Qualheim  
23 Sonia Blohm  
Aiden Lindstrom

25 Roland Haacke  
27 Kay Qualheim  
28 Matthew Burk  
30 Doug Glenn  
Cameron Herbert

### April Anniversaries

4 Randy/Kim Treanor  
(25th)



**Prayer Concerns—Ongoing:** *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Jo Nelson's relative Heather; Alfhild Anderson; Jerry Tilkens; Bea Jarvie; George Willett; Cathey Myers' friend Beth; Kim Stoffregen's nephew Rick; Shelly Prem Wati's son Jitendra; Penny Thoreen; Debbie Olson's friend Paloma; Linda Babcock and her grandson Justin; Vera Koosman; Dick Boro; Katherine Eshleman; Lillian Huston; Scott Blohm's friend Pr. Doug Brushell; Stan Johnson; Roland Haacke; Wynn & Jim Stafford and their daughter-in-law Jennifer; Joan Ward; Marian Aleckson; Gerald Shouse; Warren & Karen Stenberg, Maureen Hagen's friend Beth.

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill:* Bev Sperling's brother Ron; Kim Butenschoen's mother Flo; Randy Treanor; Verla Langbecker; Ralph Nelson; Beth Deters; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Norm & Dorothy Thoreson; Christina Wood's sister-in-law Patty; Marilee Hansen; Tiffany Herbert; Ida Olson; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Scott Morency, Alice Burnett, Russ Solberg's sister Dani; and Bud & Kay Qualheim's neighbor Aliah.

### Homebound Brothers & Sisters

**Lucille Langseth** Pacific Gardens, 17309 NE Glisan St., #402 Portland 97230 503/256-0553

**Warren/Karen Stenberg**, 15521 SE Meadowlark Ln. Milwaukie 97267

**Vera Koosman**, 1280 NE Kane Dr. #211, Gresham, 97030, 503/661-0538

**Norm/Dorothy Thoreson**, Fairlawn Village, 1280 NE Kane Dr, Apt. 34, Gresham 97030, 503/912-1973

APRIL 2012  
The Olive Press



Gethsemane Lutheran  
Church Newsletter  
11560 SE Market  
Portland, OR 97216  
Pastor Tom Hiller  
(503)256-1835  
glchurch@acweb.com  
www.glcportland.org  
Church Office Hours:  
Mon-Thurs. 8a to 3p

Save a tree! Save a stamp!  
Please send us your email if  
we don't already have it.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 5:30p- <i>Confirmation</i>	2 7p-Band	3 8a-MnsBrfst 10a-BibStudy <b>9a-3p-Synod Retreat</b> 7:30p-Band <b>7p-CYF<sup>2</sup> Mtg.</b> @ McMenamins @ Mall 205	4	5 7:45a-BBS 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra  <b>7:15p-Maundy Thursday Service</b>	6 Office Closed  <b>Noon-Good Friday Service</b> <b>7:15p-Good Friday Service</b>	7 12:30p- RecovInc.  <b>7:15p-Easter Vigil</b>
8 <b>EASTER</b> 8 & 10:30a- Worship <b>9a-Breakfast</b> <b>9:45a-Easter Egg Hunt</b>	9 7p-Band <b>10:30 a.m. Preschool Bd.</b> <b>6:30p-Finance Mtg.</b> 10a-B-Team 1p-Stephen Supervision	10 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study <b>5p-Mutual Min.Bd.</b> 7:30p-Band	11 11a-Speaker Rachel Peterson Noon-Sr. Potluck	12 7:45a-BBS 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	13 Office Closed	14 12:30p- RecovInc.  <b>2-5p-Youth/Bunco Fundraiser</b>
15 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 5:30p- <i>Confirmation</i>	16 7p-Band	17 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	18  <b>7p-Church Council</b>	19 7:45a-BBS 10a-Women's Bible Study 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	20 OfficeClosed	21 12:30p- RecovInc.
22 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour  <b>Rummage Sale Collec- tion Begins</b>	23 7p-Band	24 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	25	26 7:45a-BBS 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	27 OfficeClosed  <b>Oregon Synod Assembly thru April 29</b>	28 12:30p- RecovInc.  <b>Sauce-Off @ St. Luke's</b>
29 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum	30 7p-Band	May 1 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	May 2	May 3  	May 4 <b>RUMMAGE SALE</b>	May 5 <b>RUMMAGE SALE</b>
←						→
APRIL 2012 GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH						

## Meet Our Newcomers

**Don & Shar Giard** have lived in East County for over 30 years. They have five children and seven grandchildren. Don, now retired, enjoys fishing, hunting, traveling, gardening and being in charge of their two terriers, Sophie and Maggie. He still maintains his real estate license to help Shar with her business. Shar is a Realtor with REMAX Equity Group and has been licensed for 27 years. She is a principal broker and past Realtor of the Year. She volunteers in the Centennial School District as a school board member and is currently the board chair. When there is free time, Shar enjoys reading, Angry Birds, traveling, and volunteering in the community.

**Todd and Peggy Sloan** -- Todd and Peggy moved to Portland in 1970 and raised two boys, Chris and Brent. They were introduced to Resurrection Lutheran during the 1970's and remained members there until they transferred to their new church home, Gethsemane Lutheran. However, their first connection with Gethsemane occurred in the late 1970's when the boys participated in Gethsemane's preschool. The boys now have families of their own and reside here in the Northwest. The Sloan family has been blessed with a wonderful grandson. Todd and Peggy are both retired. They enjoy the outdoors, travel and spending time with family and friends. Todd spends entirely too much time chasing salmon and fly fishing for steelhead. Certainly more time fishing than catching!

**Lee and Clara Shortt** -- They have been married 51 years. Their son lives in The Dalles and is a lieutenant in the Oregon State Police. He's married to a special education teacher and has two sons. Their daughter lives in Texas, is married to a banker and has two sons. Lee is a Portlander who has lived his whole life in East Multnomah County. Now retired, he was a chemical engineer working in water management services for cities and industrial plants. Clara grew up in Illinois, moved to Portland 54 years ago and spent her working life as a nurse. She is a "cradle Lutheran" with two brothers and other family members who are pastors, while Lee has a much more ecumenical Christian background. They came to Gethsemane from Resurrection Lutheran. Both have become active here, with Clara organizing a rummage sale set for later this spring. Lee is interested in Military History and is an avid reader with a collection of over 1,000 books.

### OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH FEBRUARY 2012

INCOME NEEDED	RECEIVED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
\$59,444	\$56,240	\$51,538	\$4,702
<b>WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:</b>	<b>2012: 148</b>	<b>2011: 131</b>	CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT GLOBAL MISSIONS** -- New member Rachel Peterson will be the featured speaker at the **Wednesday, April 11 Senior Luncheon**. She has lived and worked in Thailand and Nicaragua with ELCA Global Missions and will share many of her experiences with us. Her presentation will be a 11 a.m. with a potluck lunch to follow. Come and bring a friend for an interesting program!