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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2015

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FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our theme for Lent this year has been "The Tree of Life". This symbol, so important to many world religions, is also important to the Christian Church. We recalled the Genesis story which reminds us that our life comes from God, and yet our sin seeks to cut us off from that same life. We sometimes think that our individual or national or church power is like a mighty tree that will withstand all threats only to be chopped down. And yet, a new tree grows from the stump. Jesus turned the image of the tree of life on its head by comparing the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed plant, which, like a dandelion, starts from a small seed, but then spreads so much it almost seems like an invasive species. The tree of life can also stand for our own individual Christian life. Through the work of the Spirit the fruit of good works is produced through us and love is extended to the people and world around us. Finally, we shared a vision of the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem as described in the Book of Revelation. It is a tree that grows on both sides of the river and offers food for the hungry and leaves for healing.

We can see the image of the Tree of Life in the events of Holy Week also. On Palm Sunday we hold branches from that tree. On Maundy Thursday we are nourished and healed by Christ who is our life. On Good Friday, we see Jesus lifted up on to the cross, certainly a tree of death. Yet it becomes a tree of life for us because it is the means of our reconciliation with God. In the resurrection of Jesus on Easter we see a new tree springing up from the barren stump. So it is with our lives both now and after the grave.

I pray that you will receive much fruit from the Tree of Life during this coming Holy Week.

In the Risen Christ, Pastor Tom

Worship Plans for April – You are invited!

March 29 – Palm Sunday – 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. – A procession of Palms and Holy Eucharist

April 2 – Maundy Thursday – 7:15 p.m. – A service of absolution and communion

April 3 – Good Friday – Noon – Stations of the Cross; **7:15 p.m.** – Service of Light and Darkness

April 4 – Easter Vigil – 7:15 p.m. – Service of Darkness, Light, Scripture readings, Baptism Renewal

April 5 – Easter – 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. – A celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Every Sunday – April 12 through May 17

The Easter Season continues at **8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** with the Word and Holy Eucharist

CANT THOSE PEOPLE GET JOBS? (part 2) -- by Pastor Roger Fuchs

"I have mental illness. I know that, I get that. But what am I supposed to DO?" --Greg, 2010
"Most days, it's all I can do to not revert to the same things that sent me to prison." --Brian, 2012

Names are changed, but the quotes and lives are real. "Greg" wondered aloud how to pass the time, how to not feel worthless and invisible. "Brian" struggled daily not to haul off and bust somebody. On parole, he couldn't get a job; but without work he couldn't afford housing. Yet police constantly evicted him from campsites for the crime of "trespassing" on the earth while trying to sleep. Greg wanted work that would fit his lucidity swings. Brian wanted to work,

continue his education, and help other people. Both men of faith and prayer were unable to reach the first rung of the ladder to climb out of their holes. Both were discouraged. I listened, and we prayed.

Greg and Brian weigh on my heart to this day. They are just two of the millions around us who yearn for meaningful existence and self-sufficiency. Some have never, ever known those things. Some have burned out and given up. A few succeed. As Christians, we are not called to judge. We are commanded to love, but we can only love those whom we know. When 5K families were hungry one day, the disciples wanted to give 'em the boot. Jesus told the twelve not to get tough but to get involved. That's when the 5K families stopped being "those people" and became real. "Them" became "us". That's the first step.

Except for four years in the U.S. Air Force, I've never had a government job. Everything else has been in small business. Even as a pastor, my small one-man aviation business must support both me and my ministry. Each day I rely on people who trust me to give me work. It's a two-way street. Work and ministry are inseparable. I'm blessed to have skills and time to sell.

In January I gathered with 17 pastors at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. We discussed being the church in the West, living lives of faith outside the church. A majority of these pastors are second career people who bring great skills and experience to their work. Our ministries and contexts are as different as one garden from the next, one farm from the next, one household from the next. Church renewal programs from headquarters rarely fit here. To be church anywhere means being church where we are. That means knowing the people. That means "speaking" with open eyes and ears before we use our voices. That's new but also very old.

I wouldn't have a job if people didn't know me. If we want people around us to have jobs, the answer is most likely not in Washington, DC or Salem or City Hall. The answer is "us" and how we spend every hour and every dollar, with whom and what for.

Next month, I'll write more specifically about work. For now, two things to ponder:

- ◆ Of unhoused but sheltered adults, over 38% have some form of disability
- ◆ A study several years ago found 44% of homeless people had worked for pay in the past month. Many more hadn't worked but were looking for work.

*Next month: **Can't Those People Get Jobs?** (part 3) Reprinted with permission by Pr. Roger Fuchs*

NOTES:

- ◆ **Like Us on FACEBOOK.**
- ◆ **Rummage Sale 2015 News:** Dates have been set for Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2. I know many of you are cleaning, organizing closets, garages, etc., so save all those good, used treasures for the sale! We can only store things at church for two weeks beforehand. We need workers! Set up begins April 26, so plan your vacations for after May 2, please! It's confirmed that Goodwill will again furnish racks, hangers, etc. but save bags for us to use. If you have questions, please ask in the office or Clara.
- ◆ **Calling All Pinochle Players: Second Sunday Pinochle** is April 12 at 2 p.m. Questions? Ask Todd at 503.253.9420.
- ◆ **Thursday Morning Bible Study** continues at 7:30 a.m. at Portland Adventist Cafeteria. We begin by looking at *Women of the Bible: The good, the bad, and the little known*. Questions? Talk to Dick Bemrose.
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** Pr. Tom's retirement party is July 25, 2015 and you're invited!
- ◆ **Oregon Synod Assembly:** Pastor Tom and our voting members will be at the Oregon Synod Assembly, April 24 through 26, in Sunriver.
- ◆ **PLU Concert Participants** need places to stay for a night when they sing April 16. Please talk to Dave Qualheim or Bill Herbert if you can help.
- ◆ **A Little Peanut** is on the way. Help Nicole Poole celebrate and join us for a shower to welcome baby Simone on May 9 at 1 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Please RSVP to Debbie Poole 503.453.7824 so we know to expect you! Nicole and baby are registered at Target and Babies "R" Us."

April Birthdays

2 Amy Deetz
4 Diane Bemrose
5 Wynn Stafford
11 Carl Perkins
12 Jan Brown
14 Andrew Morency
17 Virginia Irby
19 Dave Qualheim
 Kyle Qualheim
23 Sonia Blohm
 Aiden Lindstrom
25 Roland Haacke

27 Kay Qualheim
28 Matthew Burk
30 Doug Glenn
 Cameron Herbert

*Unless otherwise requested, people named in the prayers will stay on the Urgent list for 30 days.***Prayer Concerns—Ongoing:**
Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers: Carol Steele and her cousin Arlan Scott; Dwaine Estes; Linda Babcock and her grandson Josiah; Katherine Eshleman; Pr. Randy Shutt; Aiden Lindstrom; Rita Nesbitt and her son John; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail’s mother Rose; Madison Goldbacher’s friend Breanna; Jennifer Peck; Tyler Riehl; Lillian Huston; Nicole Poole; Randy Treanor; Lucille Langseth; Bud Qualheim; Dan Walter; Sharon Lee’s niece Terri; Connie Smith’s friend Joe; Roland & Virginia Haacke; Ida Olson; Joe Rapp; Dorothy Shouse’s daughter Robin; Tiffany Herbert; Wynn & Jim Stafford; Jo Nelson’s friend Greg; Ginny Barton’s friend Golda; Marian Aleckson; Dick Burgess; and Paulette Kelley’s brother Randy.

Homebound Brothers and Sisters:

Lucille Langseth, Marian Aleckson, Katherine Eshleman, Dick Burgess, Jenn Peck, Rita Nesbitt, Dorothy Shouse, Bev Sperling, Ida Olson, Wynn Stafford, Bud Qualheim, and Dorothy Hansen.
(Refer to your directory or call the church office for contact info.)

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Darlene Kuehmichel; Tiffany Herbert’s friend’s father Ernest; Roseanne Foster-Mikhail; Bonnie Aplin; Jude Rykken; Jo Nelson’s daughter’s friend Scott; Patty Olson; Shar Giard’s friend John; Todd Sloan; Joyce Woods’ son Mike; Nettie Ubrick’s brother Frank Bergland; and Marilee and Ken Hansen’s daughter Beth.

April 2015
The Olive Press



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

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

APRIL 2015 — GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

(See the website (glcportland.org) for updates on the calendar.)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group 6p-SnowCapVol	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p-Orches. 1:20p-Girls' Grp. 7:15p-Maundy Thursday Service	3 GOOD FRIDAY <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex Noon and 7:15p- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES <i>(Dale to wax floors Fri/Sat)</i>	4 EASTER VIGIL 7:15p-Easter Vigil Service Breakfast Set-Up
5 EASTER 8 & 10:30a- Worship Easter Breakfast b/w services; Egg Hunt at 10a	6 9:30a-MHCC 7p-Band	7 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 6:30p-CYF Mtg. 7p-SwgBand	8 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group	9 <i>NoPreschool</i> 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p-Orchestra 1:20p-Girls' Grp.	10 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex Noon-SetUp for Dress for Freedom	11 <i>OLYO in Salem April 11-12</i> Dress for Freedom in ComminityHall
12 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool Panda Express Fundraiser (122& Halsey)Noon-9p 2p-Pinochle/ Bridge	13 9:30a-MHCC 10:30a-B-Team 6:30p-Finance Meeting 7p-Band	14 8a-MensBkft 9a-PreschoolBd. 10-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand 6-8p-Parenting Class	15 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group 1:30p-Mutual Ministry Mtg.	16 7:30a-BibleStudy 10a-Women's BibleStudy 12:30p-Orches. 1:20p-Girls' Grp. 7p-PLU Choir	17 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	18
19 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool	20 9:30a-MHCC 7p-Band	21 8a-MensBkfst 10a-Bible Study 7p-SwingBand 7p-Church Council 6-8p-Parenting Class	22 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group	23 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	24 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex. 6-8p-Cross+Gen Oregon Synod Assembly thru April 26	25
26 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool 9:30a-Noon-CarWashFundrais <i>Healing Service after each service</i> Rummage Sale Set-Up Begins	27 9:30a-MHCC 7p-NOBand	28 8a-MensBkfst 10a-Bible Study 6:30p-MillPark Neighborhood Meeting? 7p-NOSwngBand	29 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group	30 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-NOQuilting 12:30p-NOOrch 7p-Choir	MAY 1 9:30a-MHCC RUMMAGE SALE 8 TO 4	MAY 2 RUMMAGE SALE 8 TO 4

GETHSEMANE PRESCHOOL NEWS

In March we had our Dad and Me Construction Night at preschool where preschoolers came with dad or another adult, and built with cardboard boxes and duct tape. It is amazing what families build together: Space ships, robots, castles, jewelry boxes, racecars and a bird feeder.

We have also been using the Godly Play curriculum for our Lenten chapels, a wonderful way for children to learn about the Easter story.

In the classroom we learned about God's creatures, big and small: Dinosaurs, snakes, lions, and lambs were featured in this month's themes. Spring break is March 23-26 for the preschool. When we return we will get ready for Easter and for the changes of spring.

Please remember **registration is open for the 2015-2016 school year**. If you know a 3 or 4 year old please consider our program for their preschool years. We are available for tours if you would like to come and visit us on a school day. Call Katie at the preschool for any questions you might have.

We also are having a preschool summer program for four weeks this summer. If you are interested in registering for that please call 503.256.1835 and ask to speak to Katie Strobel.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

- ◇ **VBS (Aug 3-7th) preparations have already begun.** Please consider volunteering during our biggest children's ministry event of the year. You will find the sign-up display in the Narthex, or you can contact Jennilee. There are lots of ways to be a part of this ministry: Volunteering, donating supplies/food/craft items, decorating, helping at the Friday BBQ, getting the word out, prayer support, etc. **We are in special need of actors for the morning Assembly skits.** Do you know of a teen or adult who likes to act?
- ◇ Last month, we had a couple of **energy packed middle school overnights**. First, one of our youth attended the **OLYO Middle School Rally** hosted at Resurrection. The night's message was titled "Justified" and helped kids see how Jesus impacts lives today. We also engaged in service projects at SnowCap and card making for a family in Palestine (learn more here: <http://www.tentofnations.org/>).
- ◇ The following weekend we attended the **Middle School Lock-in** hosted by Trinity Lutheran in Vancouver. This was another night of games, service, and fellowship among the ELCA middle schoolers in this area.
- ◇ This month, 8th-12th graders are meeting in Salem for the **OLYO Convo**. Here Lutheran teens will learn their Myers Briggs type and how it impacts their study habits, communication style, leadership, and life in general.
- ◇ **Our group going to Detroit** this summer is making progress on our fundraising efforts. **Thank you to everyone who came out to Burgerville on the 15th**, especially on such a windy day! This month we are partnering with **Panda Express** (at 122 and Halsey). Present one of the fundraiser flyers at Panda Express between Noon and 9pm on **Sunday, April 12** to participate in this fundraising event. We will also have another Car Wash on Sunday, April 26. We have to raise \$1500/person attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Right now, our goal is \$3000 to cover our two teens. Any extra money raised will go toward Jennilee's expense as the accompanying leader, so it doesn't have to come out of the church budget.



CYFM April Dates:

- ◇ **Easter Egg Hunt:** Sun, April 5th after the Easter Breakfast
- ◇ **CYFM Committee Meeting:** Tues, April 7th (6:30pm)
- ◇ **OLYO Convo:** Sat, April 11-12th (Salem)
- ◇ **Panda Express Detroit Fundraiser:** Sun, April 12 (Noon-9pm) at 122 and Halsey. *Present your fundraiser flyer at Panda Express between noon-9pm*
- ◇ **Parent Class:** Tues, April 14th & 21st from 6-8pm (RSVP by Sun, 12th)
- ◇ **Car Wash Detroit Fundraiser:** Sun, April 26th (9:30am & Noon)

— GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH —			
Income & Expense Budget Report through February 2015			
Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference
\$62,107	\$52,244	\$57,969	(\$5,725)
Average Weekly Attendance: 2014: 123 2015: 124			
Cathey Myers, Fin.Man.			