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# ◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2012

## COUNCIL

### **President:**

Laura Britzius

### **Vice President:**

Lyle Johnson

### **Sec/Treas:**

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

## 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

## Pastor Tom's Letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This time of year I notice how it gets dark so early in the evening and that it is lighter in the morning than a few weeks ago. Of course this has to do not only with seasonal changes but also changes between daylight savings and standard time.

I think all of us enjoy the way in which all of the Christmas lights help to dispel the extra darkness of winter. Lights on houses and trees help us to feel more cheerful than we might have felt otherwise.

Of course, there's lots of symbolism attached to light and darkness during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons. We think of the star over Bethlehem for instance. St. John tells us in the first chapter of his Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." In the darkness of our sin and pain Christ brings us himself, the light of the world.

But then I wonder, is this awareness of light and dark different in the southern hemisphere of the world. Do people in Argentina and South Africa and Australia have an experience with these seasons that is quite different from ours because of their geography? Other than traveling to those climes I guess the closest I can come to experiencing it would be to have Advent in June, Christmas on June 24 and 25, and the Epiphany season in July.

Yes, it would seem odd, for awhile. But then I'd get used to it. The symbolism would still be there. I would still know what it is like to be in the darkness of my own sin and pain. I would still know what it is like to have the light of Jesus' forgiveness, love, joy, and healing shine in my life. No matter where we are this time of year, the reality of our situation and the gift of Christ doesn't change.

I hope and pray that you will also experience the light of Christ as we move through the darkness of winter. I pray that you and your loved ones will be blessed richly with the wonderful things of God's creation, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and with the gift of our brother, Jesus Christ.

May your Advent help you to prepare. May your Christmas be a celebration of light.

In the Mutual Ministry of Jesus Christ, Pastor Tom

  
**Advent Services**  
Wednesday Evenings  
Dec 5, 12, & 19 @ 7:15pm

  
**"Lessons & Carols"**  
at both the 8 & 10:30 a.m. services  
on Sunday, Dec 16.  
You won't want To miss it!

# November Council Highlights

This council meeting was a catch up meeting because we lacked a quorum in October. A neighboring school, Fir Ridge, is using our building Thursday afternoons, a great community partnership. We discussed buying an AED (Automatic Electric Defibrillator), but more information is being gathered before one is purchased. Please watch for a red fire lane to be painted in the parking lot on the Market Street side of the church for emergency vehicles. Pledges continue to come in for the capital improvement projects. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity. We've received 64 pledges totaling \$243,385. As the work continues we should prepare for clean up and moving items back into the building. If you are able to help, please let Dale or Ernie know so you can be contacted when the time comes. Pastor presented an updated job description for the Lay Minister CYFF position. If you'd like a copy, please check with the office. The council approved a ten-week sabbatical for Pastor Tom in April, May, and part of June 2013. Pastor Dennis Marttala will be our supply pastor. For more information, please refer to the minutes draft in the narthex.

I'd like to take this opportunity to share some experiences I had while traveling in the Holy Land a few weeks ago with Dick Bemrose, Jay Rector, Mary Curtis and 18 other Christians. The second half of the trip, we arrived back in Bethlehem for a five-night stay at the Lutheran Guesthouse. We saw the Church of the Nativity where it is believed Mary gave birth to Jesus, as well as other sites in Jerusalem. Our trip was not just seeing sites, or re-learning history through the Bible or archeological discoveries. We also visited the headquarters of the ELC in Jordan and the Holy Land and met with representatives there. We visited a moving memorial to the Holocaust. On top of the Mt. of Olives is Augusta Victoria Hospital where we met with Rev. Mark Brown to learn of the healing work of the Lutheran World Federation. A representative of the Deheishe Palestinian refugee camp gave us a tour and told us about the difficulties of the peoples living there.

One of the most touching moments for me was at a Sunday morning church service at Christmas Lutheran Church, the ELCA church attached to the Lutheran Guesthouse. The service was led by Rev. Mitri Raheb, director of the Diyar Consortium (including the Guesthouse) and pastor of the church. The opening hymn, "How Great Thou Art," is beautiful and moving on its own, but to hear it in a church full of people singing loudly in Arabic and English was very touching. I believe it was Dick who said this must have been what Pentecost sounded like! The leader of our tour, Pastor Nick Doversberger from Zoar Lutheran, gave the opening prayer, and another visiting pastor did the first reading. The psalm and the gospel readings were in Arabic. Rev. Mitri's sermon, based on Job 14, was delivered in Arabic. After a 15-minute sermon he followed with a short summary in English – Job suffered, and we don't know why. Jesus suffered, and we know why: By his suffering we are all saved. Amen. I was truly enriched by this experience. The mission statement for this church: Continuing Christ's ministry of preaching teaching and healing in His birthplace. Thank you all for allowing me to share this with you.

May God bless you with love and peace this holy season, Laura Britzius

## Meet Our Newcomers

**Julianne & Alicia Quigley** visited often before joining Gethsemane this fall. As active members of Bethlehem Lutheran, which went through a process of visiting a variety of churches before the congregation officially disbanded, they realized that Gethsemane would be a good fit for them.

Julianne is a high school science teacher who teaches in the Portland Public School District. She teaches biology to freshmen and sophomores at Wilson High School part-time and also teaches one night a week at Benson, helping at-risk students to qualify for graduation. "I just love teaching," she explained. Alicia was trained as a phlebotomist and works as phlebotomy supervisor at Adventist Medical Center, overseeing all labs and blood samples for the system. In her supervisory role she works varying shifts.

The two of them met when both worked at the Providence Medical Center lab. Eventually Alicia went on to consult in her field all over the United States and Julieanne got a Masters Degree in Education at Portland State University. They have been together for ten years and were married at Bethlehem in 2004 by Pastor Joan Beck, becoming the first lesbian couple to be married in the Oregon Synod. They have three children -- Anna, 6, who was born with a birth defect that resulted in 21 surgeries but is doing well now; Emmett, almost 4, who loves gym and playing trucks, and Zane, a little curly-haired blond of 20 months. Julieanne is a lifelong Lutheran who has always lived in this area while Alicia grew up Catholic and is from North Pole, Alaska. They feel warmly received by Pastor Tom and the people at Gethsemane and are a welcome addition to the congregation.

**Suzie Rector** moved to Portland on August 5, coming here to be near her sister-in-law Jay Rector. Her late brother Steve was Jay's husband, who came to the area as superintendent of the Centennial School District and died of a very fast-moving brain cancer toward the end of his first year in the position. Steve was the oldest of Suzie's three brothers. They all grew up in South Sioux City, Nebraska -- across the Missouri River from Sioux City, Iowa. Suzie worked in Information Technology for the South Sioux City Public Schools, in the same building as her older brother who was the superintendent. She missed him terribly and accepted Jay's offer of a change of scene by coming to Portland. Suzie has three grown daughters, who all live in South Sioux City -- Ashley, 27, married with three children; Saralynn, 23, engaged with one child, and Courtney, 21, who is engaged. While still seeking work here in the Portland area, Suzie is living with Jay until she finds a job and housing. Just recently, she returned to her home area to be with her father who was in a severe accident as he delivered feed grain to customers. He had to be removed from his badly damaged truck with the jaws of life and had a broken pelvis as well as many broken bones in his leg. He was taken to Minneapolis for life-saving surgery and is now back home and in recovery. Suzie is glad to be part of the Gethsemane family along with Jay, as she gets acquainted with the Portland area.

## **FaithWorks: Ministry with Children, Youth, and Families**

As Advent draws near, we are invited to model a countercultural presence. Instead of hurrying and consumerism, we slow down in joyful anticipation of God's breaking into the world through the Incarnation. Ideally, instead of frenzied activities we opt for more reflection, more time with God, more time with those whom we love, more time with those who are not often included. Instead of consumerism gone amuck, we remember that where our treasure is, there too shall be our heart. Many choose simpler gifts and remember to designate more to those on the margins. Please join us in the Advent Conspiracy and live this season with intentionality. [Check out [www.AdventConspiracy.org](http://www.AdventConspiracy.org) for ideas.]

### **Looking Back**

- All agreed that **Reformation Sunday** was very special this year. Our confirmands – Tyler Riehl, Logan Schie, Mandie Schie, and Christine Wong – did a great job and their accomplishment was well-celebrated. Our younger kids learned more about Martin Luther and delivered their “theses” to the Church. Thanks to the Fellowship Committee for making this such a special day and to **Jay Rector** for making such beautiful stoles.
- The **Halloween Party** was well attended. Between the Preschool and Gethsemane parties, around 50 people attended. Pizza was appreciated by everyone, as were the games, contests, and crafts. The highlight of the event was **Trunk-or-Treat** where nine cars competed to be the best destination.
- Though the main kitchen is still being renovated, our kids continued the **Pie Making Extravaganza** tradition. While some pies were set aside for our Thanksgiving service, three pies and two beautiful quilted blankets were dropped off at Shepherd's Door – where they will provide warmth and comfort to women and children.

### **Looking Forward**

- Because Advent comes late this year, our **Advent E-vent** will not conflict with Thanksgiving weekend. We hope Gethsemane families of all ages will come to make Advent wreaths and other crafts to help mark this most wonderful season. A light lunch will be available. ***It would be great to have some gifts of greens and for people to bring wire cutters.***
- There will be an **Advent pageant** on December 9 during the 10:30 service (with 30 children!!) and a **special family-friendly service at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve**. At each of the 10:30 services, families will light the Advent wreath. Later that week – on December 27, we will gather for a potluck at Gethsemane, and then head over to the **Grotto's Festival of Lights**.

## In Brief

- 12/2 Advent E-vent (after the second service)
- 12/9 Nativity Pageant (10:30 service)
- 12/23 Happy Birthday, Jesus! party (10:00)
- 12/24 Christmas Eve service at 4:00 (child-friendly)
- 12/27 Family Potluck at Gethsemane (6:00), followed by **Trip to the Grotto**
- 1/8,15,22,29 Love & Logic (6:00-8:00)
- What's an **Advent E-vent**? It's a time to get together as a community and begin our Advent journey. We will be making Advent wreaths, crafts. There will be stories and games and other activities. A light lunch will be available. It will start Sunday, December 2, after the 10:30 service and last until 1 p.m. **Open to EVERYone!**
- What would Advent be without a **pageant**? Come be part of the excitement by joining the cast or helping behind the scenes. Rehearsals are at 9:15 on 11/25, 12/2, and 12/9, with the debut **on December 9 at 10:30. Who would like to make some post-production treats?**

## Weekly Faith Challenge

Have you noticed the WFC in your Gazette? The CYF<sup>2</sup> Committee invites everyone to participate in a weekly faith challenge designed to encourage people to try out spiritual practices. Our December WFCs focus on giving:

**Week 1:** *God has blessed you with many gifts/talents/strengths. How can you share them?*

**Week 2:** *God has blessed you with special people in your life. What can you share with them?*

**Week 3:** *God has blessed us with Creation. What gift can you share with creation?*

**Week 4:** *God has blessed us with loving people in our community. How can you share God's love with them?*

*After you try out a practice, take time to reflect on it. Was it helpful? Did it help make you/your family more mindful about God's presence in your lives?*

Please continue to pray for children, youth, and families. Yours in Christ, Maureen

### Love & Logic: Raising Responsible Kids

Coming in January (Jan 8, 15, 22, 29) 6-8 p.m. Childcare provided

## Preschool Notes

A big thank you to everyone who helped with Trunk or Treat. Our preschool families had nothing but nice things to say about the event. As a staff we were so grateful for being welcomed into the fun. Our Junior Bugs and Senior Bees have been learning about thankfulness in November. Each class made a display of the things they are thankful for. In chapel we talked about being thankful to God for his love and the blessings. As a program we are thankful for our playground while we wait for our new M & M room. We celebrated every sunny day!

A Thanksgiving feast the day before Thanksgiving gave preschoolers the opportunity to try traditional foods and have a morning of games, songs, and crafts. Families came to share in the morning with us. In December we plan to participate in a Giving Project for SnowCap. This year, gifts for babies will be asked for and placed under the tree in the entry. You're invited to give too!

Our Christmas program is Dec 20 at 6:30 p.m. Families are invited to celebrate the Christmas season by listening to their children sing and to share Christmas cookies. The holidays are a fun and busy time for preschoolers and we get to share the joy with them. As we tell the story of the birth of Jesus it will be, for many, their first understanding that this is the real meaning of Christmas. What a gift that is for us!

Please remember Entertainment Books are for sale for \$30 and available from Katie or in the church office. Have a very Merry Christmas, Katie Strobel

# Short Notes:

- **Vespers at Mt. Angel:** Our annual trip to Mt. Angel for Vespers is December 8. Meet at church at 3:15, carpool down, attend Vespers, have dinner at the pub in town. If you're not able to drive, we can pick you up and take you home. Please RSVP to Diane Bemrose or Laura Britzius.
- **Annual Sunriver GLCers Trip is Coming Fast!!** It's a great weekend, full of fun, shopping, eating, movies, fellowship, etc. If you've never been and are interested, talk to Lyle or Denise Johnson. A deposit of \$100/person is required by December 2. The trip is MLK weekend, January 18-21, 2013.
- **The Epiphany Choir Concert** is January 6 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 NE Alameda St. All are welcome to this benefit for Daybreak Shelter.
- **Pacific Lutheran Christmas Concert "A Child is Born"** is in Portland December 4 at 7:30 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.
- **Holiday Concert** of the East County Community Orchestra is Dec 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the David Douglas Performing Arts Center. All are welcome.
- **I Want to Thank** the church members for their kind words, cards, and prayers on the death of my wife, Alfhild Anderson. My thanks also for the meaningful funeral service, for the members who could attend, for the nice lunch afterwards, and for the wonderful music by Lyle and Denise Johnson. I appreciated the services of Pastor Hiller, who drove 200 miles so Alfhild could be buried at the Sunrise Cemetery in Wasco, OR. Stanley Anderson and family
- **I Want to Thank You** for all the support you've given me during my hip surgery and continuing recovery. Also, I am most apprecitive of the prayers, care, and support you offered when I lost my husband, Joe. You are indeed a caring community, and I don't know how people carry on without God in their lives and the support of their sisters and brothers in Christ. Roseann Libonati.
- **Thank You Seems Hardly Adequate** to express our appreciation to all of you who were involved in the Fair Trade & Handmade Gift Fair at Gethsemane Nov 3-4. A check for **\$553.52** was sent to Lutheran World Relief (SERRV) for consignment items of artisans all over the world. In addition, **\$1,837.43** was sent to ELCA World Hunger. You all helped to make a difference! So many people helped promote the Fair with publicity, designing and printing posters and other material, giving generously, donating baked goods, and purchasing great gift items. Blessings to all! The Gethsemane Quilters.
- **Yard Sale This Weekend (Nov 30 and Dec 1) at Clara & Lee Shortt's** — Kid's clothing, gifts, decor — Friday and Saturday, from 9 to 3 each day, 10608 NE Tillamook. All proceeds go the Gethsemane's Building Fund.
- **Save the Date: Saturday, December 8, 2012, 9:30am to 2pm** — **Neighborhood Greening Exchange:** A half-day forum on community-driven greenspace projects at Ventura Elementary School, 145 SE 117th Ave. Portland.
- **Greetings of Peace!** You're invited to an interfaith event at the first and oldest Portland Rizwan Mosque as it celebrates its 25th anniversary on Sunday, December 2. We celebrate 25 years of friendship; please come and invite your friends and/or community to join us in this communion of various faiths. The event will be held at the Portland Rizwan Mosque, 9925 SW 35th Drive, Portland, 1:30pm.

*If you are on "Facebook" "like"  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church.*

<b>Budget Report October 2012</b>			
<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Difference</b>
\$297,220	\$279,647	\$259,738	\$19,909
<b>Average Weekly Attendance:</b>		2012: 158	2011: 143
Cathey Myers, Financial Mgr.			

**Birthdays**

1 Elaine Walter  
Arloa Hurt  
5 Rita Nesbitt  
6 Ida Olson  
14 Harold Hansen  
17 Gloria Kelsay  
Melissa Natasia  
19 Jo Nelson  
21 Becky Keiper  
22 Christine Hurlman  
25 Audrey Magnuson  
Carol Steele  
27 Pat Edwards  
Peggy Sloan  
30 Natalie Schaffner-  
Yeremenko  
31 Carol Law  
Sharon Magnuson

**Anniversaries**

7 Galven&Virginia Irby  
#55  
16 Hal Hingst&Priscilla  
Nelson #23  
27 Kent&Jan Cum ming  
#37  
27 Paul&Diane  
Kovach #32  
28 Shirley Treanor&  
George Willett #9

**Prayer Concerns—Ongoing:** *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Katherine Eshleman; Stan Johnson; Rita Nesbit's son John; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; the Butenschoen's friends Rebecca & Norm; Sharon Lee's niece Terri; Nettie Ubrick's nephew Troy & her friend Tim; Randy Treanor; Roland and Virginia Haacke; Michelle McGilvray; Wynn & Jim Stafford; Joan Ward; Marian Aleckson; Cathey Myers' friends Max and JR & his wife; Karen Stenberg; George & Louise Fogg; Jerry Tilkens; Scott Blohm; Aiden Lindstrom; Roseann Libonati; Bea Jarvie; Joni Pokorny's father—in-law George; the Hansen's grandson Rory and his wife Kelly; George Willett; Scott Morency; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Lillian Huston's sister Sylvia and her son Jim; Penny Thoreen's brother Bud; Nettie Ubrick's friend Ruby; Linda Babcock and her grandson Justin; Vera Koosman; and Dick Boro.

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Colleen Barnett's friends Bruce and Diane; Kayda Carpenter; Joni Pokorny's son Luke and her daughter's friend Rachel; Rita Nesbit; Tiffany & Kali Herbert; Karen Arendt's granddaughter Michelle; Jo Nelson's friend Carol; the Perkin's granddaughter Madeline; Becky Keiper's relatives Dick and Helen; Shar Giard's friend John; Anna Quigley; Alicia Quigley's mother Isabel; Suzie Rector's father Keith; Sharon Lee's brother-in-law George; Kent Cumming; and Pr. Laurie Larson Caesar. *Those who are grieving:* The family and friends of Beth Deters.

**Homebound Brothers & Sisters**

**Lucille Langseth**, Pacific Gardens, 17309 NE Glisan, #402, Portland, 97230, 503/256-0553  
**Karen Stenberg**, 15521 SE Meadowlark Ln. Milwaukie 97267  
**Vera Koosman**, 1280 NE Kane Dr. #211, Gresham, 97030, 503/661-0538



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Please send us your email if  
we don't already have it.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>December 2012</b> <b>Gethsemane Lutheran Church</b>					1 12:30p- RecovInc.
2 8&10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour <b>11:45A-ADVENT</b> <b>E-VENT</b> <i>1p-Confir- mation</i>	3	4 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study	5 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers <b>NOON-ADVENT</b> <b>SERVICE</b> <b>7:15P-ADVENT</b> <b>SERVICE</b>	6 7:45a-Bible Study 1:30-2:30p- FirRidge 7p-Choir	7 <i>OfficeClosed</i> 7:30-EAST COUNTY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA @ DDHS	8 12:30p- RecovInc. 2p-Pageant Practice 3p-Mt.Angel Vespers
9 8 & 10:30a- Worship <b>CHILDREN'S</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>PAGEANT AT</b> <b>10:30 SERVICE</b> 9:15a-EdHr	10 10a-B-Team 6:30p-Finance Mtg.	11 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 5p-Mutual Ministry 6:30p-CYFF Mtg. @ McM.	12 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers <b>6p-Church</b> <b>Council</b> <b>NOON-ADVENT</b> <b>SERVICE</b> <b>7:15P-ADVENT</b> <b>SERVICE</b>	13 7:45a-Bible Study 1:30-2:30p- FirRidge 7p-Choir	14 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	15 12:30p- RecovInc.
16 <b>8 &amp; 10:30A-</b> <b>LESSONS &amp;</b> <b>CAROLS</b> 9:15a-EdHr <b>NOON-90TH</b> <b>BD/KEIPER</b> <i>1p-Confir- mation</i>	17 7p-Band?	18 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7P-SWINGBAND	19 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers 3p-Steward- ship Mtg. <b>NOON-ADVENT</b> <b>SERVICE</b> <b>7:15P-ADVENT</b> <b>SERVICE</b>	20 7:45a- BibleStudy 10a-Wom- en's BibleSt. <b>6:30P-</b> <b>PRESCHOOL</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>PROGRAM</b> 7p-Choir	21 <i>Office Closed</i>	22 12:30p- RecovInc.
<b>23</b> 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour <b>9:30A-HAPPY</b> <b>BIRTHDAY</b> <b>JESUS PARTY!</b>	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>SERVICES AT</b> <b>4 AND 10 P.M.</b>	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS</b> <b>DAY!</b>  <i>Office Closed</i>	26 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers	27 7:45a-Bible Study <b>6P-POTLUCK &amp;</b> <b>GROTTO TRIP</b> 7p-Choir	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 12:30p- RecovInc.
30 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour <i>HEALING</i> <i>SERVICE AFTER</i> <i>BOTH SERVICES</i>	31 <b>NEW YEAR'S</b> <b>EVE</b>	January 1 <b>NEW YEAR'S</b> <b>DAY</b>  <i>Office Closed</i>				