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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2013

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## COUNCIL

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Dick Bemrose

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Lyle Johnson

**Sec/Treas:** Bill

Herbert

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**CYFF Formation:**

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**Preschool Dir.:**

Katie Strobel

**Finance Mgr.:**

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**Parish Admin.:**

Judith Rykken

**Choir Director:**

Cameron

Herbert

**Organist:**

Brooke Benfield

**Custodians:** Dale &

Anne Van Horn

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we look ahead to December, undoubtedly the events that are foremost are those related to Christmas: Advent, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the 12 days of Christmas. The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1, and ends on Christmas Eve.

I've learned recently that there is another ancient tradition concerning Advent. The one I described above is the "Western" version, which is used in the Lutheran Church, the Roman Catholic Church, and others. Another version is called "Celtic" Advent by many, since it was practiced by Christians in the Celtic areas of Europe, including Ireland and Scotland, beginning in the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

The Celtic Christians celebrated Advent during the 40 days before Christmas, as a mirror to the period of Lent before Easter. In this age of blurring of holy-days and consumerism, the idea of starting Advent earlier appeals to many. Celtic Advent then begins on November 15 and includes Thanksgiving. This longer season of Advent can feature a more intentional preparation for Christ's coming. That preparation can include the practices of Lent like repentance of sins, fasting, prayer, and works of love. The focus would be much the same as the more familiar version of Advent, when we reflect on the "Advent" or coming of Christ into our world so long ago, into our lives and the world of the present, and into the world of the future.

If you would like to use a calendar that includes daily activities for Celtic Advent, Christmas, and the 12 days of Christmas, you can download a PDF file at <http://contemplativecottage.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Celtic-Advent-Calendar-2013.pdf>. I gathered my information about Celtic Advent at the Contemplative Cottage website.

So, whether you want to observe Celtic or Western Advent, may your Advent and Christmas seasons be blessed by the Christ Child.

Pastor Tom

### Worship Calendar for December:

*Dec. 1 – First Sunday of Advent*

*Dec. 4 – Advent worship at 7:15 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer*

*Dec. 8 – Second Sunday of Advent. Christmas Pageant in both services*

*All ages are encouraged to participate.*

*Dec. 11 – Advent worship at 7:15 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer*

*Dec. 15 – Third Sunday of Advent. Communion liturgy of Lessons and Carols in both services.*

*Dec. 18 – Advent worship at 7:15 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer*

*Dec. 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve. Communion liturgy at 4 and 10 p.m.*

*Dec. 29 – First Sunday after Christmas*

## GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN MISSION ENDOWMENT

Gratitude and thankfulness are words that come to mind at this time of year. At least, that is true for me and I think for many people I know, whether they are religious or not. As Lutherans we believe that all we have comes from God, as noted in the third article of the Apostle's Creed. And we want to thank and praise God for these gifts, which include the mission and ministry of Gethsemane Lutheran. Gethsemane touches us all in many ways. Out of thankfulness and gratefulness we respond by sharing our gifts.

Did you know you can support the mission and ministry of Gethsemane with gifts of appreciated stock or your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA, in addition to cash gifts? The general fund, your pledge to the campaign, and the Mission Endowment Fund can all receive these gifts. If you are interested in making use of stock gifts or the IRA Charitable Rollover for 2013 please contact the church office.

Tonia Lindquist

## NOVEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- **A Budget Forum** is scheduled for Jan 12, 2014.
- **MSC** to choose the Comcast WiFi option at \$115/month for 50 MBPS. Church emails will be changing in the near future as well.
- **Roof Repair: MSC** to accept Bliss Roofing's bid for the repair of the sanctuary roof (cost: \$3,350) unless the original roofing company's warranty is still in effect.
- **MSC to accept Maureen Hagen's resignation** as Children, Youth, and Family Faith Formation leader, effective December 8, 2013.
- **MSC** to accept into membership Jim and Diane Liefeld. Welcome!

## NOTES:

- **The Dicken's Carolers Concert** is December 1 at 3 p.m. at Temple Baptist in the Lloyd Center area. Come early; it fills up fast!
- **Our Annual Trip to Mt. Angel for Vespers** (and dinner) is Dec 14. We carpool from church at 3 p.m. (call if you need to be picked up). After Vespers we go to a local pub for dinner and return about 9 p.m. Let Diane Bemrose or Laura Britzius know if you're coming.
- **PLU's Christmas Concert with Choir of the West** will be Tuesday, Dec 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. General admission is \$25; \$20 for seniors (\$55+) and alumni; groups of 10+ are \$15/person. Fees apply. Buy tickets online at [pcpa.com](http://pcpa.com).
- **Needed:** A few people willing to teach Sunday School to our fabulous middle school/high school youth. We have three great teachers already, but due to prior choir commitments, we have a few Sundays each month we need you! Please see Christina Riehl or Karla Hills if you can help. Thanks!

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

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 and in chapel we talked about being thankful to God for his love and all his many blessings.

We had a Thanksgiving feast the day before Thanksgiving. The preschoolers were able to try traditional foods and have a morning of games, songs, and crafts. Families came, as they were able, to share in the morning with us. Thank you to Gloria Kelsay for making our pumpkin pies and to everyone who helped get things ready.

As we look to December we're again planning our Giving Project, where we bring our gifts for babies and place them under the tree in the entry. Before Christmas, the baby gifts will be taken to SnowCap.

Our Christmas program is December 17 at 6:30, so families will be able to come. The preschoolers will sing songs they've been preparing for weeks now, and we'll share holiday cookies afterwards. You are, as always, invited to come too!

The holidays are always such a fun and busy time for preschoolers. It's exciting for us to share in their joy. The story of the birth of Jesus will be told and, for many, it may be the first time they realize this is the real meaning of Christmas. What a gift that is for us to offer the children we teach.

Have a very Merry Christmas, Katie Strobel

## FAITHWORKS: CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Advent is my favorite liturgical season. We spend four weeks in watchful anticipation, hoping that the One for Whom we long will be with us soon. We believe, we trust, we yearn, but do we fully know for Whom we wait? If we did, how might that change how we wait? I wonder if we might live differently, knowing the Promise had been fulfilled.

### Looking Back:

Fall signals familiar rituals. Visits to the pumpkins patch, Reformation Sunday (where our kids posted their theses and Annie, Brandon, and Laurel were confirmed), Halloween fun, preparing for Thanksgiving festivities. We have done all of that. This year we also introduced a Youth Service Day, on Veterans Day. Hailey Long, Brandon Schie, Logan Schie, Annie Strobel, Jasmine Yuen, and Ryan Yuen weeded the preschool playground and cleaned, sanitized, and organized the nursery, with wonderful oversight provided by Gloria Kelsay and Burke Strobel. We all headed to the food carts on 102nd for an international celebration after the work was done.

Yours in Christ, Maureen Elizabeth Hagen

### On the Youth Calendar this Month

- **On December 1 at 11:45**, we would love everyone to participate in the **Advent E-vent**. We will have a light meal, make Advent wreaths, and do seasonal crafts. If you can bring greens, these would be appreciated!
- **November 24 is Our Pie-& Quilt-Making Extravaganza**. After late service, we will have a light meal and make pies and more pies! Join us for this fun Gethsemane tradition. We also have quilts to make! The pies will be eaten after Gethsemane's Thanksgiving Eve Service and be given to Shepherd's Door.
- **SAVE THE DATE! December 8** This year, we're trying something new for our Christmas pageant. It's a no-fuss, no-stress event. Have you always wanted to be Mary? a sheep? This is your opportunity! Come a few minutes early and you can have any role you want. It's something different and should be fun. This is open to everyone at both services on December 8. **We also need donations of cookies, breads, etc. to be served after each service.**
- **A Potluck on Thursday, December 19, at 6 p.m.** will precede a trip to the Grotto at 7. Centennial High School will be performing that evening at 8; Gresham High School, with our own **Laurel Strobel**, will sing at 9. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$4 for ages 4-12.
- **Birthday Party for Jesus:** On Sunday, December 22, the Sunday School will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a birthday party. All youth are invited to join us at 10 a.m.
- **FUNDRAISERS:** Please sign up in the narthex for See's Candies (youth receive 25% of proceeds) and/or Inspirational Calendars (\$7 each). Thank you for your support!
- **Also Needed:** Snacks and beverages for 15 people, to be served at Sunday School. Please leave snacks in the Parish Hall kitchen, marked for SunSchool.

**Lastly, heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Maureen Hagen**, who has resigned effective December 8. For the last three years she has been the guiding force in our Children, Youth and Family Faith Formation. Maureen felt she needed more time to focus on her PhD dissertation and a couple of other "part-time" jobs. Godspeed (*from Middle English, meaning may God prosper you*), Maureen. You'll be missed.

— GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH —			
<b>Income &amp; Expense Budget Report through October 2013</b>			
Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference
\$318,280	\$278,643	\$308,823	(\$30,180)
Average Weekly Attendance for October:		2013: 133	2012: 158
			Cathey Myers, Fin.Man.

## December 2013 — Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 1 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour <b>11:45a-                      Advent E-vent</b> 1p-Confirmation <b>Daybreak here                      this week</b>	2 Band	3 8a-MenBrkt 10a-BibStudy 1:30p-SnowCap 6:30p-CYFF Mtg. 7p-Swing Band	4 5:30p-Clutterers <b>7:15p-Advent                      Service</b>	5 7:30a-Brkft BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30pOrchestra 1:30p-GirlGrp 7p-Choir	6 <i>Office Closed</i>	7 12:30p- RecovInc.
8 8 & 10:30a- Worship/ <b>Christ-                      mas Pageant</b> 9:15a-EdHour 10a-SunSchool	9 7p-Band	10 8a-Men's Breakfast 9a-Preschool Bd. 10a-BibStudy 7p-SwBand	11 5:30p-Clutterers <b>7:15p-Advent                      Service</b>	12 7:30a- BkfstBibStdy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30pOrchestra 1:30p-GirlGrp 7p-Choir <i>(FirRidge using                      parking lot.)</i>	13 <i>Office Closed</i>	14 12:30p- RecovInc.
15 8 & 10:30a- Worship/ <b>Lessons                      &amp; Carols</b> 9:15a-EdHour 1p-Confirmation <i>1p-Norwegian                      Christmas Service</i>	16 10a-B-Team 6:30p-Finance Mtg. 7p-Band	17 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 1:45pMutualMin <b>6:30p-Preschool                      Christmas                      Program</b> 7p-SwBand	18 3p-Steward- shipMtg. ? 5:30-Clutterers 6p-Council Mtg. <b>7:15p-Advent                      Service</b>	19 7:30a- BkfstBibStdy 10a-Women's Bible Study 12:30pOrchestra <b>6p-Potluck, Trip                      to Grotto</b>	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 12:30p- RecovInc. <i>Noon to 6p-                      Herbert/                      Webber/                      Scherzinger                      Family Event</i>
22 8 & 10:30a- Worship — 9:15a-EdHour <b>10a-Happy                      Birthday Jesus in                      Sunday School</b>	23 7p-Band	24 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-BbleStdy 7p-SwBand <b>4 and 10p-                      Christmas Eve                      Services</b>	25 <b>CHRISTMAS                      DAY</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	26	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 12:30p- RecovInc.
29 8 & 10:30a- Worship — <b>9:15a-5th Sunday                      Mingle</b> <i>(Healing services                      after services.)</i>	30 7p-Band	31 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7p-SwBand <b>New Year's Eve</b>	Jan 1 <b>NEW YEAR'S                      DAY</b> <i>Office Closed</i>			

### December Birthdays

- 1 Elaine Walter  
Arloa Hurt
- 5 Rita Nesbitt
- 6 Ida Olson
- 13 Mickey Dochow
- 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

### December Anniversaries

- 7 Galven/Virginia Irby, 56th
- 16 Hal Hingst/Priscilla Nelson, 24th
- 27 Kent/Jan Cumming, 38th
- 27 Diane/Paul Kovach, 33rd
- 28 Shirley Treanor/Geo. Willett, 10th

### Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:*

Dick Burgess; Becky Keiper's sister Barbara; Paulette Kelley's brother Randy; Bill Herbert's sister Judy; Tiffany Herbert; Carol Steele's cousin Arlan Scott; Dorothy Shouse; Jerry Tilkens; Aiden Lindstrom; Bea Jarvie; Joe Rapp; Linda Babcock; Dick Boro; Katherine Eshleman; Stan Johnson; Rita Nesbitt and her son John; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; the Butenschoen's friends Rebecca, DeeAnn, & Norm; Nettie Ubrick's nephew Troy, and friends Tim and Ruby; Randy Treanor; Roland & Virginia Haacke; Joe Rapp; the Sloan's friend Francis; Wynn & Jim Stafford; Shar Giard's friend John; Kent Cumming; Ginny Barton's friend Golda, and her son, Mark; Mary Baxter's sister Joan; Sharon Lee and her daughter Karen, her niece, Terry and her great niece Stephanie; Marilee Hansen; Marian Aleckson; Mickey Dochow; Harold and Doris Hansen; Lillian Huston's sister Sylvia Overland; Elmer Schmidt; and George & Louise Fogg.

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Jo Nelson's friend Greg; Joni Pokorny's daughter's friend Marissa; Ida Olson; Christina Woods' husband Sam; Karen Arendt's friends Myrnie and Ed; Jennifer Peck; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's friends Jeannie and Patricia; Lillian Huston's son Jim; Karen Stenberg; Carl Perkins.

*Those who are grieving:* The family and friends of Madge Buss.

### Homebound Sisters

**Lucille Langseth, Karen Stenberg, Marian Aleckson, Mickey Dochow** (Please refer to your directory or call the church office for contact information.)

## DECEMBER 2013 THE OLIVE PRESS



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

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
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"Celebrating 50 years of mission in Jesus Christ"

Gethsemane Lutheran Church - October 2014

