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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2013

COUNCIL

President:

Dick Bemrose

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: Patty Olson

Stewardship:

Harvey Steele

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

& Anne Van Horn

Pastor Tom's Letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: Now it's time for Lent. Here is this year's schedule:

Worship Plans for February and March – You are invited!

February 10 – Transfiguration Sunday – Bring your palms from last Palm Sunday. They will be used to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

February 13 – Ash Wednesday

* Noon – Worship Service with imposition of ashes;

* 7:15 p.m. – Worship Service with imposition of ashes.

February 20, 27, March 6, 13, and 20 – Lenten Gatherings

* Noon – Soup and bread lunch with worship in the Community Hall.

* 6:30 p.m. – Soup and bread meal in the Community Hall.

* 7:15 p.m. – Worship in the Activity Room.

Our theme for the Lenten Mid-Week services this year is **Journey Into Lent 2013**. We will be using materials from Oregon Synod Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke. A letter of introduction from the Bishop and a Journey Into Lent 2013 flyer may be found elsewhere in this printed newsletter. Online copies of the *Olive Press* will refer you to the website at Soul Cafe.

As the letter and the flyer indicate you can also participate in this Lenten series online at Soul Cafe. I encourage you to participate in our mid-week worship and in the series on Soul Cafe. The online series will give you the chance to interact with people from other congregations around the Synod. You will find links to Soulcafe in the letter and on the flyer.

I hope you will join us on the Journey Into Lent 2013.

In the Peace of Christ, Pastor Tom Hiller

November Council Highlights

Review was the focus of the council meeting:

- * A budget review as we finalized the 2013 budget to go before the congregation for approval at the annual meeting.
- * A review of the Long-Range Plan as presented by VP Lyle Johnson. His review and recommendations are in writing and part of the annual report which you'll all receive.
- * A review of the status of the building project and, as it wraps up, the clean-up and moving back into our beautiful space. I won't go into details here other than to add a special thanks to Al Marsh for documenting this process. He has put together a binder of photos with added commentary that is usually located in the narthex for all to enjoy.

Lyle updated a few more staff contracts, and Brooke and Lyle are working hard to get the new organ ready. As the community hall project nears the completion, committees are making plans for the re-dedication of our community hall. Many folks will be asked to lend a hand in what is expected to be a large community gathering celebrating our efforts to share our gifts with our family and friends, neighbors and community. We can be very proud. Please watch for a date for this event.

I am truly honored to have served as your president these last four years. Thank you for all your support, without which **we** couldn't have accomplished great things.

Peace, Laura Britzius, GLC President

FaithWorks: Ministry with Children, Youth, and Families

After a very full Advent, we are now in the season of Epiphany – a green season, where we are called to be the light of the world. We know that Gethsemane has been blessed abundantly; how might we be a blessing to the world? Soon, we will be entering the season of Lent – a time marked “by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and mediating on God’s holy Word.”

Looking Back:

After an Advent full of activities, January was been a time of regrouping. For the third year in a row, we had a Remembrance of Baptism where those who were baptized during the past year participate in a special rite and the rest of the congregation reaffirms its baptism. We also began a **four-week Love & Logic class**, a parenting class which we offered at an affordable rate so our parents and neighbors could attend. The first night we had 17 kids in daycare! It was quite a handful.

In February:

The most exciting news is that we are in the process of reclaiming our three rooms in the community hall! Our kids have been very flexible and we are grateful to the preschool for letting us use their classrooms on Sunday. **On February 10**, we will have a return of the *God is Love* Valentine celebration. We will send out valentine care packages to college students, homebound students, and others who cannot be with us.

Then **on February 12**, we will have the Third-Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Last year we had about 60 people and it was loads of fun. There are great pancakes, eggs, and bacon, plus mask-making and a putting-away of the Alleluias for the kids. This event is FOR everyone!

Looking Forward:

- 2/5 Child, Youth, and Family Formation meeting at McMenamin’s
- 2/10 God is Love Valentine Celebration (11:45-1:00)
- 2/20 Swimming at East Portland Community Center
- 3/24 Palm Sunday – Journey Through Holy Week
- 3/31 EASTER
- 7/14-19 Lutherwood Day Camp

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

Weekly Faith Challenge

Have you noticed the WFC in your Gazette? The CYF² Committee invites everyone to participate in a weekly faith challenge designed to encourage people to try out spiritual practices. Our February WFCs focus on love:

Week 1: *God has blessed you with many gifts/talents/strengths. Use your gifts to show your love for God.*

Week 2: *God has blessed you with special people in your life. What might you do to show them you how much you love them?*

Week 3: *God has blessed us with Creation. What might you do to show your love for God’s creation?*

Week 4: *God has blessed us with loving people in our community. What might you do to share God’s love with others in the world?*

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



GOD IS LOVE/VALENTINE Celebration!!

at Gethsemane on Sunday, February 10, 11:45-1:00 pm.

We’ll be making Valentines, baking & decorating valentine cookies, preparing valentine care packages, playing Valentine games, and more! Lunch too...

All ages are most welcome!

maurenhagen@gmail.com (971.219.8219)

Journey Into Lent

If you're reading this online, please go to <http://www.soulcafe.org> to read about the upcoming Lenten series.

February Notes:

- * **Important Information for Thrivent Members--** If you have insurance or annuity products through Thrivent Financial, you have Choice Dollars to designate to a variety of non-profit organizations. Gethsemane Lutheran Church is one of those choices as is Gethsemane Lutheran Preschool. Previous choice dollars designated to Gethsemane Lutheran have funded several church projects, including the new signs and new carpeting for the Activity Room. Just a reminder that you must designate your choice dollars by **MARCH 31** or they will be lost. You can do this by going online at www.thrivent.com or by calling 800-THRIVENT (847-4836) and saying "Thrivent Choice" when prompted. Please note--if you were previously enrolled in automatic recurring allocation, this option is no longer available, and you will need to designate your dollars each time. If you have any questions, please ask one of your Congregational Advocates, Marion Burgess or Gloria Kelsay, or call Thrivent directly.
- * **What's a "Souper Bowl Sunday" and where did I learn to spell?** Souper Bowl Sunday is a National, Inter-Denominational campaign to collect food, especially soup, for the hungry. In our case, the food goes to Snowcap. Our congregation has been very generous in the past, and I know you will once again rise to the cause. We will have a display and special tub in the narthex the next three weeks, maybe four. Please be generous. We will put a soup pot out also, if you would prefer to donate cash. Dick/Diane Bemrose
- * **The Snowcap Banquet is February 9.** The silent auction begins at 5 p.m. and the dinner and live auction will be at 7 p.m. Cost per person is \$65. A paddle raise at the end is for energy assistance, usually matched by PGE and PP&L. We have always enjoyed ourselves, and it's for a great cause. Even if you buy nothing at the silent auction, the energy assistance drive is a great deal. D/D Bemrose
- * **The Rummage Sale** will be coming May 3 and 4 this year. It's not too soon for you to be saving your things to donate. Ask your neighbors, friends, and relatives to save "stuff" for you. We won't have room to store things at the church until April sometime. People ask me if we'll have as much as last year..."maybe"...just let's get the word out that we NEED recyclables and it should happen! Questions? Ask Clara Shortt or at the office.



SHROVE TUESDAY Celebration!!

at Gethsemane on Tuesday, February 12, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

We'll be making masks, setting up/decorating,
eating pancakes, putting away the Alleluias.

Everyone is welcome!

Thanks from Campaign Core Team

Thanks so much to all of you who thought carefully, cared deeply and made a S T R E T C H three-year pledge toward our major facility renovation. At present, an incredible total of \$261,335 has been pledged by 72 people or families – a wonderful response! What a joy to have that great and enthusiastic gathering at our annual meeting in the restored community hall. (And, if you are still thinking about your pledge, it's still not too late; every bit helps.) Thanks to all of those who worked on this effort and special appreciation to Pastor Tom who was part of every campaign meeting, every personal visit and a total support at all times.

The Campaign Core Team – Carol Law, Dick Bemrose, Shar Giard and Mary Curtis

Budget Report December 2012			
Budgeted	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Difference
\$356,664	\$341,214	\$315,586	\$25,627
Average Weekly Attendance:		2012: 167	2011: 157
Cathey Myers, Financial Mgr.			

Preschool Notes

Our January theme was "It's a Small World." We talked about the arctic and tropical areas of the world and had a special speaker who told us about living in Alaska. We learned just a little about several countries. We've also been given the green light to go back in the Community Hall and it's wonderful to have our M & M room back with space for our children to run. Thank you for making this space available to us. It is a great benefit to our preschool to have an indoor play space.

It's February and time for our annual **Spaghetti Fundraiser** to benefit the preschool. You're invited on **Sunday, February 17, at noon, in our Community Hall** for a silent auction for baskets, a raffle of gift cards and, of course, a spaghetti dinner served by our Fellowship Opportunities Committee. Our thanks to Saylor's Country Kitchen for donating the meat for the sauce. Please let me know if you'd like to donate a basket. Completed baskets need to be here by Sunday, Feb 10. Having them the week before will give me time to ready the baskets for auction. In addition to the auction we need some raffle items. If you have gift certificates for services or products, time share/vacation time, or anything else you would like to donate please give these things to me.

Registration for the 2013-2014 school year will begin for current and alumni preschool families on Monday, Feb 4. Registration for families new to our preschool will be accepted starting Monday, March 4.

Our preschool will again be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m., with lunch bunch available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by Sept 1, 2012 and toilet-trained.

We continue to offer a PreK Monday to our 4 year old class, which gives families the option of a 4 day week for their 4 year old. There will be no lunch bunch on Mondays. We will have a more academic day that day and really focus on some kindergarten skills.

Monthly tuition next year will be \$140 per month for 3 days/week. Adding the Monday will make tuition \$190/month. Lunch bunch will be \$6 per day. Registration is \$50 until June 1 and \$60 after June 1.

Katie Strobel, Preschool Director

Stewards of a New Creation

Jesus told us in Matthew 6:21: "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." In keeping with God's command to us to give back our first fruits, we are asking you to make a commitment to give a percentage of your income each month to the church before you do anything else. We realize this isn't always easy, but it is always gratifying to know we are doing the right thing and helping our church stay strong. As the new community hall has shown, somehow God provides for us and our hearts truly are in our congregation. With God's help, we are becoming stewards of a new creation.

Stewardship is not some new idea that our church just invented to raise money. Stewardship is a concept that is as old as sacred Scripture. Throughout the Old and New Testament, God clearly asks us to live as stewards, giving back to God a grateful portion of all He has given us. In the next two months, culminating in Consecration Sunday on March 17, you will receive charts of giving levels and a time and talent opportunity form, plus reminders and Temple Talks to define what the new creation requires.

We've always known that stewardship has something to do with money, but the heart of stewardship really has to do with how we share ourselves as disciples of Jesus. How good a caretaker are we of God's many gifts? How will we use our time and talents to make God's kingdom a living reality now? With the new community hall to help us, we can take care of ourselves, our neighbors, our world, and our resources. It is done in thankfulness because we recognize it as God's gift to us.

Harvey Steele, Stewardship Committee

Birthdays

- 1 Kelly Rasmussen
- 2 Christine Wong
- 3 Priscilla Nelson
- 7 Lyle Johnson
- 12 Diane Kovach
- 16 Lois Maki
- 19 Eric Letmate
- 20 Kim Stoffregen
- 26 Denise Johnson
- 29 Kathryn Eschleman

Anniversaries

- 4 Roger/Roberta Vidlund (46th)
- 7 Kelly/Mrs. Irby (26th)
- 11 Jack/Nancy Lumber (13th)
- 15 Jack/Randi Bateman (38th)
- 24 Brian/Paulette Kelley (34th)



Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* 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 Tilken; Scott Blohm; Aiden Lindstrom; Bea Jarvie; Joni Pokorny's father in law George; George Willett; Scott Morency; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Lillian Huston's sister Sylvia and her son Jim; Linda Babcock; Vera Koosman; Dick Boro; Suzie Rector's father Keith; Katherine Eshleman; Stan Johnson; Kent Cumming; Rita Nesbitt's son John; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; the Butenschoen's friends Rebecca & Norm; Sharon Lee's niece Terri; Jo Nelson's friend Carol; Nettie Ubrick's nephew Troy, her friend Tim, and her friend Ruby; and Randy Treanor.

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Alicia Quigley's mother Isabel; Sharon Lee's brother in law George; Anya Dinsmore; Pr. Laurie Larson Caesar; Colleen Barnett's friend Diane; June and Allen Kalkhoven's friends Sam and Danielle; Kayda Carpenter; Bill Herbert's sister Judy; the Sloan's friend Francis; Joni Pokorny's son Luke and her daughter's friend Rachel; Roberta Vidlund; Paulette Kelley's brothers Larry and Randy; Rita Nesbitt; Tiffany Herbert; Darlene Lewis' mom, Margie; Cooper Rasmussen; Shar Giard's friend John and her relative, Heather; Pr. Paul Teyler; Vanessa Lindstrom; and Anna Quigley.

Those who are grieving: The family and friends Pastor Tom's mother, Ruth Hiller.

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

February 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 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
 <p>February 2013 Gethsemane Lutheran Church</p>						
					1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2 12:30p- RecovInc. Groundhog Day
3 8&10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour	4 7p-Band	5 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 9a-FirRidge Video Group 7p-SwBand	6 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers	7 7:45a-Bible Study 1:30-2:30p- FirRidge 7p-Choir 12:30p- Orchestra	8 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	9 12:30p- RecovInc.
10 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour <i>1:30p-Confir- mation</i>	11 7p-Band 10a-B-Team 6:30p- Finance Mtg.	12 8a-Men's Breakfast 9a-FirRidge Video Group 10a-Bible Study 10-1p-SelfDe- fenseClass 5:30-7p- ShroveTues- dayPancake Supper 7p-SwBand	13 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers Ash Wednes- day Services at noon and at 7:15p (NO Soup)	14 7:45a-Bible Study 10a-Wom- en's BibleSt. 1:30-2:30p- FirRidge 7p-Choir 12:30p- Orchestra	15 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	16 12:30p- RecovInc.
17 8&10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour Noon- Preschool Spaghetti Dinner	18 7p-Band President's Day/Office Closed	19 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 9a-FirRidge Video Group 7p-SwBand	20 3p- <i>StewardMtg.</i> 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers 6p-Church Council LentServices Noon (with soup) and at 7:15p (6:30- Soup)	21 7:45a- BibleStudy 1:30-2:30p- FirRidge 7p-Choir 12:30p- Orchestra	22 <i>Office Closed</i>	23 12:30p- RecovInc.
24 8 & 10:30a- Worship <i>Temple Talks</i> 9:15a-EdHour Healing Service after each service <i>1:30p-Confir- mation</i>	25 7p-Band	26 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 9a-FirRidge Video Group 7p-SwBand	27 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers LentServices Noon (with soup) 7:15p (soup@ 6:30)	28 7:45a-Bible Study 1:30-2:30p- FirRidge 7p-Choir 12:30p- Orchestra	<i>March 1 Office Closed</i>	<i>Feb 2 12:30p- Recov.Inc.</i>