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# ◆ The Olive Press ◆

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2012

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**CHURCH COUNCIL**

**President:**

Laura Britzius

**Vice President:**

Lyle Johnson

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

Bill Herbert

**Properties:**

Joe Rapp

**Lutheran Liaison:**

Tom Lewis

**Evangelism:**

open

**Worship:**

Liz Blohm

**Education:**

Vanessa Lindstrom

**Community Action:**

Hal Hingst

**Stewardship:**

Dick Bemrose

**Fellowship:**

Kim Stoffregen

**Children & Families:**

Christina Riehl

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor:**

Tom Hiller

**Child/Fam Min:**

Maureen Hagen

**Preschool Dir.:**

Katie Strobel

**Finance Mgr.:**

Cathy 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;

For many the season of Christmas and the marking of the New Year are bittersweet. We celebrate the Birth of Jesus and the hope of the New Year to come. At the same time we may feel the absence of loved ones due to death or distance, or we may be experiencing family difficulties, or we may be fearful about the coming New Year.

It is that very Jesus who also experienced the bittersweet, in his own death and resurrection. Knowing that Jesus walks with us during our times of celebration and joy, and sorrow and fear, gives us strength, peace, and hope.

Personal thanks to all of you for your expressions of love and good cheer, the cards, and the gifts. Final thanks go to God for all the Merry Christmases we celebrate.

May you have a healthy, prosperous, and blessed New Year. May you be daily reminded that Jesus is with you, that the Father watches over you, and that the Spirit is empowering you.

Pastor Tom

***Annual Meeting***

The annual meeting of our congregation will take place after the second service on Sunday, January 22, 2012. A light lunch will be provided.

**Who is eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting?**

According to our constitution, "Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year." Our constitution also states, "Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted." If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Pastor Tom.

***Oregon Synod Assembly***

Along with Pastor Tom, we are allowed one male and one female person to serve as voting members at the Synod Assembly, which will take place April 27 through 29 in Sunriver. Our voting members will be chosen at the Annual Meeting. If you would like to be chosen please contact Pastor Tom.

***Pastor Tom at Conferences in January***

From Monday, January 16 through Wednesday, January 18, Pastor Tom will be at the Bishop's Convocation in Cannon Beach and from Monday, January 30 through Wednesday, February 1, at the Byberg Homiletical Conference in Issaquah, WA.

## ***Children, Youth & Families Update*** by Maureen Hagen

The waiting is almost over as we prepare for Emmanuel! It is a time of great joy and often we see that joy best manifested in the faces of our children who live in the present. What might our children be teaching us?

### ***Children, Youth, and Families***



The kids have been doing a lot of fun and significant things this past month. They contributed a lot to the congregation, baking six pies for the Thanksgiving service (and six pies for Shepherd's Door), lighting the Advent wreath, dramatizing the story of Jesus' birth at the pageant, decorating the narthex for Christmas, and putting together worship packets and making treats to welcome guests for Christmas Eve.

I have already thanked others in the Gazette, but I want to give thanks to three people who do so much: Pastor Tom who is extremely supportive of our families; Jude Rykken who graciously helps me with so many things, and often on very short notice; and Dale Van Horn who manages to keep an even keel after our kids have not been the tidiest. All three are wonderful assets to our families and though their work is not always visible, I never lose sight of how valuable they are.

**Education:** Normal classes have been a bit disrupted during the Advent season, but the kids learned a lot by preparing for the pageant. Didn't they do great? We also went over the story the following week at the Happy Birthday, Jesus! party. We will resume Sunday School on January 8 with a lesson on Baptism. During the service that day, we hope to have six of the children baptized last year come to reaffirm their vows with their sponsors. Parents will be handing their children a Bible (both those who have recently been baptized and those who have never received one). Please continue to pray for our children, youth, and families.

### ***Thank You!!***

*This has been a banner year, and I want to thank all who generously contributed their time, talent, and treasure to make these opportunities possible by carpooling, chaperoning, teaching, supervising baking, setting up and cleaning up, making pancakes, praying, encouraging, writing letters and cards, donating money, helping sheep get in character, teaching children to sing, decorating their cars, etc. The list is long and I am filled with gratitude.*

*If you have not yet been able to help, consider making a pledge of five hours this coming year to the children and youth of Gethsemane. Sometimes all we need is an extra set of eyes to make sure the kids are safe. Do you think you might be able to do that? Our children, youth, and families would be most grateful. Plus, you'll probably have a blast and want to do more!*

### ***Coming up:***

31 December: **New Year's Eve youth overnight – We need volunteers!!**

1 January: New Year's Day (no Sunday School)

8 January: **Remembrance of Baptism event**

**Rockin' New Year's Eve!!** We are planning a **Youth Overnight**. Last year's NYE event was a big hit and we hope to have a repeat. ***We need some adults to help in order for this to happen.*** Youth will be released at 10 a.m. on New Year's Day.



## *Preschool Update* by Katie Strobel, Preschool Director

The time from Thanksgiving to Christmas always goes so quickly. The preschool celebrated the season of Advent with a Giving Project for SnowCap. We learned about the Baby Jesus in class and talked about what babies need. Then we asked families to bring in baby supplies to put under our tree. The preschool brought in over 100 pounds of baby food, diapers, wipes and clothes. Thank you to Dick and Diane Bemrose for taking it over to SnowCap for us.

We also had our annual Christmas program. We sang songs, watched a video of our year so far and ate cookies. It was a fun night and a good way to start Christmas Vacation. Thank you to Kim Butenschoen, Carol Steele, Karla Hills, Lyle Johnson, Dale VanHorn and Dick and Diane Bemrose for all their help making the event a success.

When we return in the new year we will begin to plan for our Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction, Feb. 26. Please bring by any donations you may have for the event. We will be putting together theme baskets to auction off at the dinner. We will also be collecting gift cards and other donations for the event. All funds raised will be used to run our preschool.

## *Tommy the Snake Returns for a Surprise Visit*

If you were at church on Sunday, November 20, you witnessed the return of Pastor Tom's alter-ego, Tommy the Snake. Sporting dark shades and with a cigarette dangling precariously from his mouth, Tommy arrived unannounced to share with us his unconventional wisdom regarding the gospel lesson from Matthew 25:14-28 in which a master, going on a journey, entrusts his property to his servants. To one he gives five talents, to another two talents and to another one talent. The first two servants put the money to work, doubling the original amounts. But the one who is given one talent buries it, afraid to risk losing it. When the master comes back, he is proud of the first two servants' accomplishments, but he is angry at the third for what he has done (or failed to do). The master has that servant thrown outside into the darkness and gives his talent to the one who has ten.

We know the story well. However, Tommy, with his no-frills approach, presented us with a new interpretation to this familiar parable. His message? Take a risk with what we have been given, even at the risk of failure. So take a moment to think about how YOU can take a risk. Can you welcome a visitor, volunteer with Daybreak, participate in a youth activity, sing in the choir, sew a quilt, reach out to someone who is sick or hurting? Tommy certainly left us with food for thought, didn't he?

Be sure to keep watch—you never know when Tommy the Snake may return!

## **Short Notes:**

- \* **Project Believe: A Pub Talk** for 20-30 somethings with Rob Kugler, Professor of Christian Studies at Lewis and Clark, 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, at the Lucky Labrador, 915 SE Hawthorne. What good is the Bible, anymore? Christians, let alone non-believers, read it less and less, and they increasingly find it irrelevant to their lives today. Indeed, for all of the talk in public about the Bible, surveys show that there is far less reading of it in private. Read more at <http://soulcafe.org/discussion/pub-talk-rob-kugler>.
- \* **Lutheran Choral Association's Post-Christmas Concert** is Sunday, January 8, at 3 p.m., at Peace Lutheran Church, 2201 N. Rosa Parks Way. Hal Hingst, Dick Bemrose, Denise Johnson, Patty Olson, and Gloria Kelsay all sing in this choir.
- \* **Coming Up Soon:** The Epiphany Choir Fest is Sunday, January 8, at 5 p.m. at Parkrose United Methodist Church. All are welcome to this benefit for Human Solutions/Daybreak Shelter.

- \* **To the Folks at Gethsemane:** Thank you for your gift to the ministry of Good Spirit. (We) feel a closeness to you, especially since I have been able to be with you through worship and at other times. This isn't really "our" ministry, it is the Creator's and we rely on our God and on Jesus. Thank you for praying for us. Chuck Hunt.
- \* **Many Thanks** to all for your kind thoughts and prayers in the recent past. Joe Libonati.

***Church Council Notes for December***

Happy New Year and warm wishes to you all!

The December council meeting was our chance to review the current year in preparation for next year. We reviewed the 2011 budget and worked on the new budget which you will have a chance to discuss at a budget forum scheduled for January 15. We vote on it at the Congregational Meeting January 22. Please mark your calendars.

We also reviewed the Children, Youth, & Family and Education programs. They work so closely together that it made sense to combine them and have co-chairs instead of two separate groups. Adult education will continue to fall under this group.

The community hall group presented council with an update on the hall development. In January they hope to have more information that they can share with the congregation at the annual meeting. Your ideas were heard and the time has come to put them together in a plan that will allow us to continue to grow in our ministry to our neighbors. This is the more difficult part of the process but it is coming along.

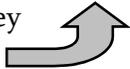
We had a special presentation from Gloria Kelsay on the sign board for the new brick wall in our front yard. She presented a few proposals and we discussed our thoughts and ideas. Gloria would like a few folks to join her in selecting the final print fonts, letter size, letter color and what have you. If you would like to be part of this special project, you can let the church office know or contact Gloria directly. New and exciting things are always happening at Gethsemane.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Congregational Meeting on January 22, 2012.

Peace to you all, Laura Britzius, GLC President

OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH NOVEMBER 2011			
INCOME NEEDED	RECEIVED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
\$276,155	\$240,466	\$242,905	\$35,688
<b>WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:</b>	2011: 139		
	2010: 139		
			CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

**January Birthdays**

- 1 Raelyn Berry
- 3 Lilli Schulz  
Robert Schmorl
- 4 Kayda Carpenter  
Andrew Gillen
- 9 Stan Johnson  
Sentney Lindstrom
- 10 Adam Dinsmore
- 11 Helen Tilkens
- 12 Kim Butenschoen
- 15 Sharon Lee  
Daniel Wong
- 16 Gary Urbach
- 17 Flodine Loe  
Paulette Kelley  
Lexi Riehl 

- 19 Verla Langbecker
- 21 Rachel Peterson
- 22 Brian Kovach
- 23 Jack Bateman  
Thomas Crouse
- 30 Tonia Lindquist

**January Anniversaries**

- 1 Robert/Carole Schmorl
- 1 Dick/Lois Boro
- 1 Bruce/Alanna  
Wakeman (5th)
- 2 Dave/Theresa Qualheim
- 9 Ralph/Jo Nelson (40th)

**Prayer Concerns—Ongoing:** *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Kim Stoffregen’s mother Phyllis; Dick Boro; Katherine Eshleman; Lillian Huston; Evelyn Kimpton’s granddaughter Terri; Nettie Ubrick’s grandson Michael; Stan Johnson; Roland Haacke, Wynn & Jim Stafford and their daughter-in-law Jennifer, Linda Babcock and her grandson Justin, Dorothy & Gerald Shouse and their daughter Gloria Miller, Warren & Karen Stenberg, Maureen Hagen’s friend Beth; Jo Nelson’s relative Heather; Alfhild Anderson, Jerry Tilkens, Norm & Dorothy Thoreson, Bea Jarvie, George Willett, Doug Glenn, Cathey Myer’s friend Beth, Kim Stoffregen’s nephew Rick, Premwati Shelly’s son Jitendra, Penny Thoreen, Debbie Olson’s friend Paloma, Vera Koosman, Doug McDowell, and Joe Rapp’s sister Nancy.

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill:* Kim Butenschoen’s brother Gary, Randy Treanor, Scott Blohm’s friend Pr. Doug Brushell, Ralph Nelson, Beth Deters, Deb Postlewait’s friend Kay, Jackie Rispler, Roberta Vidlund’s friend Terry, Evelyn Kimpton, Karen Reagan’s grandson Killian, Lexie Riehl, Joe Libonati, Galvin Irby, Shar Giard’s friend Scott, Kim Butenschoen’s mom Flo Bowne, and Russ Solberg’s sister Dani.

**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



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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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a- EdHour; Adult Forum	2 <i>OFFICE CLOSED New Year's Holiday</i>	3 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 6p-CYF Mtg. 7p-Educ. Mtg. 7:30p-Band	4	5 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	6 <i>OfficeClosed 7-9p-BAND Make-Up Ses- sion</i>	7 12:30p- RecovInc.
8 8 & 10:30a- Worship/Bap- tism Renewal 9:30a-EdHour Adult Forum 5:30 p.m.- Confirmation 5p-Epiphany Concert DAYBREAK	9 7p- <b>NO</b> Band          <i>HERE</i>	10 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p- <b>NO</b> Band	11 11A-SPEAKER NOON-SENIOR POTLUCK	12 7:45A-BREAK- FAST BIBLE STUDY RESUMES (JOB) 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	13 <i>OfficeClosed  In-Betweeners to Sunriver thru Jan 16</i>	14 12:30p- RecovInc.
15 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-Ed Hour; <b>Budget Forum</b>	16 7p-Band 10a-B-Team <i>Office Closd</i> 6:30p-Finance Mtg. <i>Pastor @ Bishop's Con- vocation thru Jan 18</i>	17 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a- <b>NO</b> Bible Study 7:30p-Band	18 6p-Com- munity Hall Committee <b>7p-Church Council</b> 3p-Steward- ship Mtg.	19 7:45A-BREAK- FAST BIBLEST 10a-Women's Bible Study 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	20 <i>OfficeClosed  6-8 pm- X's&amp;Y's</i>	21 12:30p- RecovInc.
22 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour <b>Noon- ANNUAL MEETING</b> 5:30p- Confirmation	23 7p-Band	24 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	25	26 7:45A-BREAK- FAST BIBLEST 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	27 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	28 12:30p- RecovInc. <i>Morning- Friends of Trees</i>
29 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a- EdHour; Adult Forum	30 7p-Band          <i>Pastor @ By- berg Confer- ence thru Feb 1</i>	31 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	February 1			
<p><b>JANUARY 2012</b> GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH</p>						