
◆ The Olive Press ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2012

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Laura Britzius

Vice President:

Lyle Johnson

Secretary/Treasurer:

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

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 Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Here are some stories related to the effects of our struggling economy on the people of our community.

A man comes by the church asking for gas money. He's got his mother and wife in his pick-up truck. They've just moved up from Texas, and they are looking for work. He hands me a list of things that he can do as a handyman along with his telephone number. I grab some money from my "weddings and funerals fund" and lead him over to the gas station. He promises to bring his mother to church.

A young mother with two daughters, 18 months and 5th grade, comes by asking for rent money. I always ask people in similar situations where they live. If it is outside of our immediate neighborhood, I decline to help since we have limited funds. In this case, her husband just got a job and she has found an affordable apartment just north of Stark. I get her name and phone # and the name and phone # of her landlord. She calls later and we arrange to meet the next morning with the landlord so that I can give him some money. The apartment complex turns out to be a group of single story duplexes that appear to date from the post World War II era. We meet the landlord and go into the apartment. It has one bedroom, a bathroom with a shower stall, a kitchen, and a living room. It's very small and will be a squeeze for a family of four. But it's clean, and the lady is happy. The landlord seems nice and helpful. I give him some money from my "weddings and funerals fund" and he gives me a receipt.

As many of you know, I am on the board of SnowCap. We have decided to expand our building. A fundraising campaign has begun to pay for the building remodel and expansion. This sounds familiar. More and more people need food, and it doesn't look like the demand is going to let up anytime soon. In the meantime, not enough food is available for hungry people. So, we recently surveyed our clients to find out which they would prefer: more visits allowed to the food bank but less food for each visit, or fewer visits allowed and more food at each visit.

A man comes by the church. He says that a couple of years ago he and his family stayed in the Daybreak shelter and I helped him with gas money (from my "weddings and funerals fund"). He tells me that things are going better now and he thanks me. I have trouble remembering him.

Maybe you're wondering about my "weddings and funerals fund." Often, after a wedding or a funeral, people give me money. I explain to them that I am already paid for the work that I do as a pastor by the congregation, but I will gladly use the money to help those in need. *(continued)*

Sometimes I wonder how things have worked out for some of the people that have asked for help. Sometimes I have to turn down people who live outside the area, or who appear to be abusing our generosity. Sometimes I remind myself to work harder as a pastor and a citizen on the systemic problems of our economy and society so that fewer people will be unemployed, homeless, or hungry. Sometimes people come by and say "thank you."

Thank you for supporting a church that helps people in emergencies, that gives to benevolence, that is improving our building so that Daybreak can continue. Thank you for your work as a citizen, and thank you for your prayers.

In the Mutual Ministry of Jesus Christ, Pastor Tom

Pastor Tom will be on vacation from Monday, July 2 through Sunday, July 15.

Pastor Tom will be at Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwood from the afternoon of Sunday, July 29, through Friday, August 3.

JUNE COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June's council meeting was shorter than most which gave us time to enjoy our long anticipated warm summer evening. In continuing business we discussed the capital improvement project and capital campaign, which is the main (and only) topic of the congregational meeting July 1 at 10 a.m. The council hopes to answer your questions about who the general contractor for the project will be and what it's going to take to finish up the organ, replace the boilers, and update the kitchen.

Under continuing business, the council accepted two new members (Victoria Hiller and Eric Letmate) and scheduled the Rummage Sale for May 3 and 4, 2013. There are more new faces in our family so please take the time to say "hello" and to wear your name tag! Start saving your rummage NOW for next spring's sale!

Al and Ethel Marsh will help us document our building improvement through the lens of his camera. If you're in the area and see exciting things happening, take a few photos to share and to document our history here at 117th and Market! (The draft of the minutes is in the narthex.)

Yours in Christ, Laura Britzius, GLC President

MEET OUR NEWCOMERS

Tracey and Eric Letmate with sons Spencer and Parker live in the neighborhood and, when they started looking for a church, they found Gethsemane to their liking. Tracey has greatly enjoyed Pastor Tom's class based on "Baptized We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life" by Daniel Erlander. Tracey grew up Methodist and Eric, Lutheran. They bring a broad geographical experience base. She was born in Texas and moved a lot, but mostly grew up in North Carolina; Eric is from Maryland and has also moved a lot. They met at the University of Phoenix in 1999 where she was working on her MBA and he was getting a BS in Business. They moved to Portland in 2000.

Tracey is now the Training and Development Officer for the City of Portland, writing and teaching all of the city's computer training classes. Eric is the Finance Director for the American Red Cross, Western Region, and is able to work from home. Their active boys are a joy -- Spencer, 6, will be starting first grade at Portland Christian School this fall, and Parker, 3, will be starting preschool there in the fall. The family enjoys reading and games, and Eric is a devoted Baltimore Ravens fan.

Kelly and Scott Morency and son Andrew were drawn to Gethsemane by their friendship with Jay Rector, whose late husband was Superintendent of Schools for the Centennial District. Kelly is a member of the school board (as are other Gethsemane members Shar Giard and Ernie Butenschoen). "We were looking for a church," explained Scot. "We liked Pastor Tom and we liked the traditional aspects of the liturgy combined with the progressive view that we experienced here," explained Scot, who grew up Episcopalian.

The two of them met at a McDonald's restaurant when Andrew, an active and appealing two-year-old, accidentally spilled Kelly's iced tea. Scot, at a nearby table, rushed in to help wipe up the drink. They got to talking, eventually dating and the rest is history. Kelly is from Peewaukie (a suburb of Milwaukie, WI) and Scot has lived in Massachusetts and Southern California. She attended the University of Wisconsin for a time, he went to junior college in Southern California. They discovered Portland as a good place to live ("not as hot as Southern California, not as cold as Massachusetts") after visiting Scot's father here. Kelly is now a Branch Manager for Chase Bank. Scot is an estimator in commercial construction, with R & H Construction for ten years. Andrew, who is 14, will soon be baptized. They are pleased to be joining Gethsemane.

CYFF NEWS

The CYFF committee sponsored an All Church Picnic on June 10 at Blue Lake Park. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather. About 70 people came and had great food and lotsa fun (hula hoops and "magic" tricks were part of it). The youth especially enjoyed breaking open a piñata and the sack races. It was a nice time for people to connect and have fellowship. If you missed it, look for the picnic again next year. It was a hit.

Also on June 10 we had Teacher Recognition as part of our Sunday worship service. Teachers throughout the year included Harvey Steele, Hal Hingst, Pastor Tom, Ernie and Kim Butenschoen, Dick Bemrose, Amy Deetz, Roseann Libonati, Vanessa Lindstrom, Roseanna Foster-Mikhail, Maureen Hagen, and Karla Hills. Their work with our education program of youth and adults is so appreciated.

The week of June 18 our older youth participated in a mission trip to Seashore Literacy Center in Waldport. Please keep the youth and the chaperones in your prayers. There will be more news in the next Olive Press.

We are wrapping up our flamingo fundraiser. Be on the lookout as they may still land in a few yards. We even had one flock land in the wrong yard for a week (oops)! Thanks to all for your participation in this. Many people had fun flocking other friends and congregational members. The funds help support our youth program.

Gethsemane Day Camp is the week of July 16. Thanks for the responses to help out with volunteering to host staffers, guiding students during the day, providing and preparing food, and registering students. **We still need helpers.** Please call Maureen Hagen (971-219-8219) or email her at maureenhagen@gmail.com.

OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH MAY 2012

INCOME NEEDED	RECEIVED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
\$148,610	\$153,526		
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:	2012: 141	2011: 141	CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

July Birthdays

- 1 Brandon Schie
- 2 Sue Gillen
Gavin Hills
- 5 Karen Arendt
Shar Giard
- 6 Clara Shortt
Shannon Kelsay
- 8 Elaine Kahler
Penny Thoreen
Scott Blohm
- 12 Robert Law
Kathryn Crouse
Braden Kelley
- 13 Kevin Blohm
- 14 Anna Dinsmore
- 15 Vern Hopp

- 17 Bea Jarvie
- 19 Marion Aleckson
- 20 Melissa Solberg
- 22 Pastor Tom Hiller
- 31 Larry Stoffregen
Mikayla Williamson

July Anniversaries

- 7 Bud/Kay Qualheim (#66)
- 7 Melissa/Ray Natasia (#5)
- 16 Jerry/Helen Tilkens (#63)
- 18 Stan/Alfhild Anderson
(#59)
- 19 Rod/Karla Hills (#32)
- 22 Tom/Darlene Lewis (#34)
- 30 Melissa/Russ Solberg (#6)

Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Scott Blohm's friend Pr. Doug Brushell; Stan Johnson; Roland Haacke; Wynn & Jim Stafford and their daughter-in-law Jennifer; Joan Ward; Marian Aleckson; Karen Stenberg; Maureen Hagen's friend Beth; Jo Nelson's relative, Heather; Alfhild Anderson; Jerry Tilkens; Bea Jarvie; George Willett; Cathey Myers' friend Beth; Tiffany Herbert; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Kim Stoffregen's nephew Rick; Penny Thoreen; Scott Morency; Linda Babcock and her grandson Justin; Vera Koosman; Dick Boro; and Katherine Eshleman.

Urgent: *Those who are ill:* Julianne Quigley's friend Mandy; Ralph Nelson and his great niece Amelia; Beth Deters; Kayda Carpenter; Michelle McGilvray; Aiden Lindstrom; Norm Thoreson; Rita Nesbit's son John; Carol Steele; Kent Cumming; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; the Butenschoen's friends Rebecca and Norm; Darlene Lewis' mother Margie; the Bemrose's friend Todd; Cathey Myers' friend Max; Sharon Lee's niece, Terri; the Giard's granddaughter Madeline; Audrey Magnuson; George Fogg; Nettie Ubrick's nephew Troy and her friend Tim; and Randy Treanor.

Those who are grieving: The family and friends of Alice Burnette.

Homebound Brothers & Sisters

Lucille Langseth Pacific Gardens, 17309 NE Glisan St., #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

Norm Thoreson, Fairlawn Village, 1280 NE Kane Dr, Apt. 34,
Gresham 97030, 503/912-1973



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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
1 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a- EdHour	2 7p-Band 6:30p- Finance Mtg. <i>Pr. Tom on vacation July 2 thru July 15</i>	3 8a-Men's Breakfast NO Bible Study	4 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon. <i>Office Closed 4th of July Holiday</i>	5	6 <i>Office Closed</i>	7 12:30p- RecovInc.
8 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a- EdHour	9 7p-Band 10a-B-Team 1p-Stephen Supervision	10 8a-Men's Breakfast NO Bible Study 5p-Mutual Min.Bd. 7:30p-Band	11 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon.	12	13 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	14 12:30p- RecovInc. <i>1-6p-Piano Recital here</i>
15 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a- EdHour <i>Daybreak Shelter</i>	16 7p-Band <i>VBS aka Day Camp July 16-20 9a to 3p</i>	17 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study	18 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon. 7p-Church Council 3p-Steward- ship Mtg.	19	20 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	21 12:30p- RecovInc.
22 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a- EdHour Daybreak Ends	23 7p-Band	24 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	25 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon.	26	27 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	28 12:30p- RecovInc.
29 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a- EdHour Confirma- tion Camp @ Luther- wood	30 7p-Band <i>Pr. Tom gone</i>	31 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study	August 1	August 2	August 3 <i>Office Closed</i>	August 4 12:30p- RecovInc.



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