
◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

GETHEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2015

COUNCIL

President:

Dick Bemrose

Vice President:

Jonathan Herbert

Sec/Treas: Bill

Herbert

Properties: Ernie

Butenschoen

Lutheran Liaison:

Roseann Libonati

Evangelism:

Rachel Coughlin

CYFF Formation:

Brandee Liebrand

Community

Action: Patty

Olson

Stewardship:

Shar Giard

Fellowship:

Todd Sloan

Worship: Gloria

Kelsay

STAFF

Pastor:

Tom Hiller

CYM Coordinator:

Jennilee Porch

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

Finance Mgr.:

Cathey Myers

Parish Admin.:

Judith Rykken

Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale & Ann Van

Horn

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you, thank you, thank you. My experience at Gethsemane as your Pastor has been nothing short of wonderful. You have been loving, receptive, caring, and tolerant with me. I know that I have my own set of failings, weaknesses, short-comings, and sins but, nevertheless, you have accepted and forgiven me over these last eight years. I thank God for the gift that you are to me.

Hopefully the Interim Pastor will begin work on August 1, or soon thereafter. The Congregation Council will elect a Call Committee consisting of at least six members of the congregation. This committee will work with the Interim Pastor. Their job together is to look at the past experience of Gethsemane, to examine GLC's current state of affairs, and to think and dream about the future.

They will be asking you to help them in this work. This process has already started with the recent event that was held called "Let's talk about the future". Eventually the committee will turn over its findings to the Oregon Synod. On the basis of those findings, the Synod will give a list of candidates to the committee to be interviewed. After the interviews the committee may ask for more names or recommend a candidate to the congregation for call. Then the congregation will decide to call the recommended candidate. If a candidate is called, she or he will then decide whether to accept or decline the call.

I encourage you to embrace the up-coming interim period. I know that at times you will feel anxious about the process. Sometimes it will seem that things are going too slowly. You may want to short cut the process by wanting the Interim Pastor to become the called Pastor. Interim Pastors are specifically trained for their work and are not available for a regular call except under extreme circumstances. Remember that you are working at establishing a new relationship with a new Pastor. This should not be rushed. Allow the Interim Pastor, the Call Committee, and the Synod the space and time that they need to do their work properly. I know what kind of people you are. I know and trust that you will do what needs to be done in the coming months for the sake of God's mission at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

Lisa and I are looking forward to the retirement party that is coming up on July 25th. We'll have a great time together.

Trusting in the Peace of Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit,

Pastor Tom

NOTES:

- ◆ **Like Us on FACEBOOK.**
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** Pr. Tom's retirement party is July 25, 2015 and you're invited!
- ◆ **CELEBRATE!** The family of Bob Law would like you to help us celebrate the Bobert's 90th birthday. On Sunday, July 12, (his natal day!) we'll serve cake and beverages between and after worship services in honor of his seniorness. Please join us to greet the birthday Bob.
- ◆ **Recommendations and Volunteers for the Call Committee** Soon, the council will be electing at least seven members to serve as our Call Committee. Therefore, now is the time to turn in your recommendations to the church office. You may also volunteer your own name. The goal will be to find a balance between young and old, new and long time members, and women and men. Dick Bemrose, President.

- ◆ **Many Thanks** for the prayers, thoughts, cards, and meals provided while I have recuperated from my hip surgery. Rod and I have appreciated the support we have received from our Gethsemane family and friends. I am doing well and hope to be back at church soon. Karla Hills
- ◆ **July 26 Schedule Change:** There will be **one service only at 9:30 a.m. on July 26** (Pastor Tom's last Sunday) so that the whole Gethsemane family can come together to worship as one body and give thanks for Pastor Tom's time of ministry with us. *This schedule change is for July 26 only! All other Sundays will be on regular schedule. Please mark your calendar and join us for this special service!*
- ◆ **Gethsemane Work Group at SnowCap:** A group from GLC meets at SnowCap Community Charities, 17805 SE Stark St., to work on projects from **6 to 8 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month.** This activity is open to anyone but we need to know who is coming each month as SnowCap plans the activities for the evening based on how many are coming. If you would like to participate in this service project, please contact Diane Liefeld.
- ◆ **Register for Preschool Now.** If you have a 3 or 4 year old (by Sept 1, 2015) come by and visit our program. We would love to show you around on a school day. Tell family and friends about our great program. View our website at www.glcportland.org/preschool or see us on Facebook.

ANNUAL SPRING INGATHERING

Lutheran World Relief's Spring Ingathering The need continues and the list is long for the kits so we are going to suggest a couple of items in each month that you may consider giving for the project. We will bear in mind which items might be on sale during that time. For September we suggest **CRAYONS (16 count)** and **SPIRAL NOTEBOOKS (70 count)**. Place in the box in the narthex marked Lutheran World Relief. Thanks for helping us!

Have you considered helping quilt on Thursday mornings at 9:30? Lots to do, and not all of it sewing: Cutting material, tying quilts, sewing blocks together, assembling quilts, etc. A great group of ladies share the time together, committed to the task of preparing quilts to distribute where needed.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

In June, we appreciated all those who poured time and energy into our church education program. We cannot thank you enough for your service!

Sunday School (Children's): Mary Baxter, Dick Bemrose, Marion Burgess (Cradle Roll), Ernie Butenschoen, Kim Butenschoen, Carolyn Graf, Karla Hills, Roseann Libonati, Carl Perkins, Jennilee Porch, Melissa Solberg, and Katie Strobel.

Sunday School Music: Christine Wong and Laurel Strobel.

Adult Education: Carol and Harvey Steele and Pastor Tom.

Thank you!

We also celebrated the High School graduation of Laurel Strobel. Special thanks goes to the Quilters for providing our new graduate with a beautiful quilt.

Congratulations Laurel!

At Pr. Tom's Farewell Bowling Party on Saturday, June 20, many youth and families came to spend time with Pr. Tom while having fun and eating tasty pizza. Thank you, Pr. Tom for allowing the youth to have a special time with you. You will truly be missed!

Please keep the ELCA's National Youth Gathering in your prayers. This Gathering happens July 15-19 in Detroit, MI. Three from Gethsemane (Kali Herbert, Annie Strobel, and Jennilee Porch) will be attending. Pray for our group and the city of Detroit, and that all those attending the Gathering will be encouraged in their faith and mission while we serve the city of Detroit. Also, a big thank you to all those who have financially contributed toward the trip costs. By the time we leave, we will have raised the entire amount.

Thank you!

Upcoming in July

- ◆ **Saturday, July 11 - 10:00am-2:00pm, Drop-In VBS Decoration Work Day** Drop-in anytime Saturday July 11th (from 10-2pm) to help with VBS decorations. Lots of things to create, but you'll be directed in what to do when you show up.

JULY Birthdays

- 1 Brandon Schie
- 2 Gavin Hills
- 5 Karen Arendt
Shar Giard
- 6 Clara Shortt
Shannon Kelsay
- 8 Elaine Kahler
Penny Thoreen
Scott Blohm
- 11 Opal Ballard-Beach
- 12 Bob Law
Katie Crouse
Braden Kelley
- 13 Kevin Blohm
- 14 Anna Dinsmore
- 15 Vern Hopp
Jack Hurlman
- 17 Bea Jarvie
- 19 Marian Aleckson
- 20 Melissa Solberg

- 21 Joyce Woods
- 22 Pr. Tom Hiller
- 28 Dan Griffith
- 31 Larry Stoffregen
Mikayla Williamson

JULY Anniversaries

- 7 Melissa/Ray Natasia
(8th)
- 19 Rod/Karla Hills
(35th)
- 22 Tom/Darlene Lewis
(37th)
- 30 Melissa/Russ
Solberg (9th)

*Unless otherwise requested, people named in the prayers will stay on the Urgent list for 30 days. **Prayer Concerns—Ongoing:** Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers: Randy Treanor; Lucille Langseth; Sharon Lee's niece Terri; Connie Smith's friend Joe; Virginia Haacke; Ida Olson; Joe Rapp; Dorothy Shouse's daughter Robin; Tiffany Herbert; Wynn & Jim Stafford; Jo Nelson's friend Greg; Ginny Barton's friend Golda; Marian Aleckson; Dick Burgess; Paulette Kelley's brother Randy; Kay Qualheim; Carol Steele and her cousin Arlan Scott; Dwaine Estes; Linda Babcock's grandson Josiah; Pr. Randy Shutt; Aiden Lindstrom; Rita Nesbitt and her son John; Galvin Irby; John Skuzeski; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; Jennifer Peck; and Tyler Riehl.*

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Todd Sloan; Linda Babcock; Mary Curtis' father, Gil; Lillian Huston; Evelyn DeHaven; Marilee and Ken Hansen's daughter Beth; Karla Hills; Roland Haacke; Jeff Deetz; Becky Keiper's brother-in-law Vern and sister-in-law Judy; Darlene Kuehmichel; and Bonnie Aplin.

Those who are grieving: Family and friends of Shar Giard's friend, Lola Jonathon; and Penny Thoreen's friend Ernie.

Homebound Brothers and Sisters:

Lucille Langseth, Marian Aleckson, Dick Burgess, Jenn Peck, Rita Nesbitt, Dorothy Shouse, Bev Sperling, Ida Olson, and Wynn Stafford. *(Refer to your directory or call the church office for contact info.)*

July 2015 The Olive Press



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

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

JULY 2015 — GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers 6p-SnowCapVol	2 9:30a-Quilting	3 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	4 4th of July 
		<i>Pr. Tom on vacation thru July 6.</i>	9-11:30a Summer Preschool	9-11:30a Summer Preschool		
5 8 & 10:30a-Worship	6 9:30a-MHCC 9:30a-Piano Tuner 12:45p-TaiChi for Seniors	7 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand	8 9:30a-MHCC 12:45p-TaiChi for Seniors 5:30p-Clutterers	9 9:30a-Quilting	10 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	11 10a-VBSDecorating 6p-Kids Game Night
12 8 & 10:30a-Worship 9:15a-CYF MTG. 9:15a-Law90th Cake/Coffee	13 <i>9:30a-MHCC Ex</i> 12:45p-TaiChi for Seniors	14 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 7p-NOSwgBand	15 <i>9:30a-MHCC Ex</i> 5:30p-Clutterers 12:45p-TaiChi for Seniors <u>Youth Leave for Detroit Trip</u>	16 9:30a-Quilting	17 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	18
Daybreak here this week →		9-11:30a Summer Preschool	9-11:30a Summer Preschool	9-11:30a Summer Preschool		
19 8 & 10:30a-Worship <u>Youth Return From Detroit</u>	20 <i>9:30a-MHCC Ex</i> 12:45p-TaiChi for Seniors 6:30p-Finance Meeting Last Day to register for VBS	21 8a-MensBkft 10a-LAST BibleStudy 11:30a-Mutual Ministry 7p-SwgBand 7p-Church Council	22 <i>9:30a-MHCC Ex</i> 5:30p-Clutterers 12:45p-TaiChi for Seniors	23 9:30a-Quilting	24 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex Set Up for Party	25 5p-Pr. Tom's Retirement Party/Dinner
← Daybreak						
26 9:30a-One Service, Today Only, Pr. Tom's Last Sunday <i>Healing Service after service</i>	27 <i>9:30a-MHCC Ex</i> 12:45p-TaiChi for Seniors	28 8a-MensBkft 6:30p-MPNAMtg 7p-SwgBand	29 <i>9:30a-MHCC Ex</i> 5:30p-Clutterers 12:45p-TaiChi for Seniors	30 9:30a-Quilting	31 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	

— GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH —			
Income & Expense Budget Report through MAY 2015			
Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference
\$155,268	\$139,729	\$146,167	(\$6,437)
Average Weekly Attendance: 2014: 124 2015: 115			
Cathey Myers, Fin.Man.			

- ◆ **Saturday, July 11 - 6:00pm-8:00pm, **Game Night** at the Church** Group games will kick off at 6pm on the east lawn. We'll play SPUD, Blob tag, Minefield, and more; PLUS indoor games like giant tic-tac-toe, balloon volleyball, and a scavenger hunt. We'll combine classic games from last year with new games. Come have fun with your friends!
- ◆ **Sunday, July 12 - 9:15-10:30am, CYFM Committee Meeting** Our July CYFM Committee meeting is on a Sunday to accommodate summer schedules. The meeting will be shortened to fit between the early and late services. Please meet in the conference room by 9:15am.
- ◆ **Wednesday thru Sunday - July 15 -19, ELCA Tiennial National Youth Gathering in Detroit** Please keep our group and the Gathering in your prayers as we learn, serve, and grow in faith. We will partner with what God is already doing in Detroit and come alongside the story of resurrection happening in that city.
- ◆ **Monday, July 20, VBS Registration Deadline** Please make sure you and your friends have turned in your VBS registration by July 20th. Students will be accepted after this date only as we have room.

Upcoming in August

- ◆ **Saturday, Aug 1 - 10-2, VBS Set Up #1:** Station room decorating, halls/boards, classrooms, activity room, first aid stations, etc. **Sunday, Aug 2 - After Second Service, VBS Set Up #2.** Registration tables, signage, sanctuary stage set up, etc.
- ◆ **Vacation Bible School, Monday thru Friday, August 3 - 7, from 9am to 11:45 a.m.** featuring **SonRise National Park** Children will learn that true treasure is found in Jesus through music, crafts, games, bible stories, and more. [Register now](#) to participate or talk to Jennilee about volunteering.
- ◆ **Tuesday, Aug 11, Trip to the Zoo.** More info coming soon.

ELCA NEWS

The Rev. Kirsten Fryer serves as pastor at St. Andrew's United Congregation in Cairo and is also pastoral associate for St. Andrew's Refugee Service, which works with South Sudanese refugees. During Lent, Kirsten is writing daily meditations on various words. This one, from March 17, is on "hunger."

It's lunch time at St. Andrew's Refugee Service (StARS).

About a half an hour ago, I walked down through the courtyard to see children lined up waiting to walk through the lunch line. A little later, students ranging from 3 to 18 were sitting around the courtyard, eating lunch, talking and laughing. Often, they will combine the beans into one dish and eat communally, as they do at home.

One of the important services StARS provides is breakfast and lunch to all of the children who are present every day of the school year. This includes the Montessori preschool, Children's Education Program, Unaccompanied Youth Bridging Program, and any child who is here for an appointment with Psycho-social or the Refugee Legal Aid Program. When money is tight, and it is among most refugee families, hunger is a huge problem. In some cases, this is the only opportunity the children have to eat a nutritious, hot meal.

On most days, over 200 children eat lunch at StARS. The cook is a master at cooking beans in the gigantic pot. She uses fresh ingredients and is assisted by a few older students who receive modest stipends for their work. Without that stipend, they may be forced to drop out of school to find work. This allows them to learn important skills, stay in school, and earn a little bit of money.

One of my favorite parts of the program is watching as students gather around tables, sit along the garden ledge, and wherever else they might find a clear spot. Earlier today, I saw two of the Unaccompanied Youth Bridging Program students sitting under the basketball hoops, enjoying good conversation and a healthy lunch. Across the courtyard, a line of 8- to 10-year-old girls sat, one next to the other, eating, talking and giggling.

The program feeds more than hungry bellies. It also allows children to be kids. They eat lunch, and then they play – football, jump rope, Hula Hoop, chalk. They sit and talk and giggle. The older students return to class after a time. The younger ones often wait for their older siblings to finish class so they can all go home together. They know they are safe. They know they have a place here.

I'm proud that ELCA World Hunger helps support this program. In most cases, when you send your check to ELCA World Hunger, or Presbyterian World Mission, or Church World Service, or whatever organizations you support, you don't get to see the other side. But I see it every day of the school year when hungry bellies are fed and kids get to be kids. On behalf of the children who are eating lunch outside right now, thank you.