
◆ The Olive Press ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2012

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Tom Hiller

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Maureen Hagen

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

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Cathey 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:

It is the fate of most individuals to be assimilated to a collective past. Gradually, if not all at once, the generations pass away.

We're not happy about this slow dissolve. The anxiety to prevent it creates scrapbooks, photo albums, diaries and, these days, Facebook. We want to remember names and faces, likes and dislikes, pets, politics and passing moods. But even with all the technology at our disposal, how can we be sure that the memories worth saving will be safely kept?

We try our best to remember and even record our childhood memories, but they so easily fade away or decay.

The children of Israel are repeatedly urged to keep their memories: "Remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness" and "Take heed lest . . . when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses and live in them . . . you forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt . . . led you through the great and terrible wilderness . . . brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna" (Deut. 8:2, 11–16, RSV).

Even so, it seems unfair that the saints and heroes who are most alive to us are the ones whose portraits or diaries or works happen to survive. We feel we know Martin Luther or Dietrich Bonhoeffer, but all of the other saints and their work are lost to memory.

But perhaps that's the plan. To remember Jesus is to know him as fully alive. The "sweet memory" of Jesus is not confined to backward glances but calls us into his presence, which is sweeter still. In the Eucharist we "do it in remembrance" of Jesus, but we also receive his body and blood, right now.

Happily, we don't have to worry about the permanence of our records; just when it seems that everything is dissolving, the thought returns: God is the God of the living, and our memories are safe with him. God remembers all of us. That is what is important.

In the Memory of God, Pastor Tom

P.S. – This letter is based on the "Faith Matters" column in the February 22, 2012, edition of The Christian Century magazine.

MARCH 7, 14, 21, AND 28 – 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

Council Highlights for January

by Laura Britzius

We had our first council meeting with the new council members. It was a time to review individual committee director's responsibilities as well as the council's responsibilities to the congregation. *(continued)*

We discussed a few building use requests from folks for events throughout the year, for instance, the Holiday Store held by Human Solutions. We then reminded ourselves that the community hall is a very integral part of our ability to serve our community. We're thankful you have blessed us with the approval to move forward with our dreams to continue our ministry and make our space a safe and accessible for generations to come. We'll more specific information available as we have it.

It was a time of reflection as we mentioned family, friends, and members that have left us to be with Christ, and we rejoiced at the thought of new brothers and sisters. We are truly blessed.

Our next meeting will be a retreat on Saturday, March 10, in Cascade Locks. Please see a draft of the minutes for additional information.

Blessings to you all, Laura Britzius – GLC President

CYF² Update by Maureen Hagen

We have entered the season of Lent, 40 days (plus six Sundays) of time set apart. Lent is a time for self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial: and reading and meditating on God's holy Word. How do you observe Lent?

Lent was the one practice I took with me after my family left church when I was ten. It kept me connected during those three decades when I was otherwise disengaged. As a child, I saw Lent as a time for me to be more mindful of my actions. I did not eat certain sweets. I strove to be more considerate of others. At 19, when I picked up the Bible for the first time, I would read through the New Testament every Lent. All these were spiritual practices that helped form me as a Christian.

What are your spiritual practices? How are you passing them on to your children and grandchildren? It's in the home where children learn what it means to follow Jesus.

In early February, while I was in New Orleans for a Christian Educators Conference (where I attended workshops on Tween Ministry, Youth and Young Adult Formation, and Intergenerational Celebration), Gethsemane hosted Lutheran students from all over the area for an overnight. The overnight included an innovative liturgy and a 12:30 a.m. trip to the Rose Bowl. Many thanks to **Christina Riehl, Michelle Schie, Erika Fairchild, and Tom Hiller** for being the adult leadership.

Later, we had an intergenerational Celebration of God's Love where we made valentines and care packages for our college students and homebound parishioners. I hand-delivered some of those valentines and people were very appreciative of the children of Gethsemane. On Presidents' Day, we took a day trip to **OMSI**, where we saw the Body Works exhibit which highlighted how wonderfully our bodies are made.

This year's **Shrove Tuesday** pancake supper was a great success, with at least 55 people of all ages attending. Almost a dozen people helped out in the kitchen; it could not have happened without them. We closed the evening with a special liturgy of "Putting Away the Alleluias" – the banner will be unveiled on Easter.

In March and April we are going to focus on **fundraising** for our youth activities, including the Mission Trip and confirmation camp. We will reveal the details in good time (think pink!). Plan on being at Gethsemane on April 14th for a Bunco night. Our mission trip will take us to Waldport where we will work with an amazing community of people.

Upcoming Activities

| | |
|----------|---|
| March | Flamingo Fundraising Event |
| 1 April | Experiential Holy Week for children and youth (during the service) |
| 8 April | Easter Celebration! (Brunch between services; Easter egg hunt) |
| 14 April | Bunco night |
| 28 April | Sauce-Off (at St. Luke's in Gresham) |

Please continue to hold the children, youth, and families of Gethsemane in your prayers.
Yours in Christ, Maureen Hagen

Preschool Update by Katie Strobel

February has been a busy month. Thank you all so much for your help with my first Spaghetti Dinner and Auction. What a wonderful community we are a part of at Gethsemane. Thrivent and Saylor's Country Kitchen made very generous donations and our event promises to be a huge success. I'll let you know in the Gazette just how successful the spaghetti dinner was.

In the classrooms this month we have been learning about God's Helpers. We had visitors from the Portland Police Department and the Portland Fire Department, as well as a nursing student and an art student. We set up a restaurant, post office and grocery store in the classrooms and the kids have been pretending to work in those settings. Our amazing teachers have great ideas and the classroom is constantly changing to keep things exciting. We have a Facebook page that you can "like" if you want to see pictures of day-to-day happenings in the classroom.

In chapel this month we talked about Jesus as a friend, helper and healer. Pastor Tom came in on Ash Wednesday to begin the season of Lent. He told us the story of Jonah and how ash was a way for the people of Nineva to ask forgiveness of God. He then told the kids that the ash is a way to tell God you are sorry. Pastor Tom put ash on each child's forehead (only those who wanted it) and let a preschooler put ash on his forehead.

Registration has begun for the 2012-2013 school year. There are registration packets on the table by the nursery. We will continue to have our three day a week program for 3 and 4 year olds. We will also offer a fourth day for 4 year olds who want more time at school and a more academic day added to their week. Our "PreK Mondays" will focus on literacy, math and science in a more intensive way to really engage our 4's and get them ready for kindergarten. If you know of a child who will be 3 or 4 by September 1 please refer them to our program. They can call Katie Strobel at 503.256.1835. We are always happy to show them around and answer any questions.

Short Notes:

- **Consecration Sunday, Living, Giving, Thanksgiving is March 4.** This is the day when everyone is encouraged to complete a financial intent card and a Belief in Action form as statements of how they desire to support mission and ministry at Gethsemane in 2012. We will be serving lunch immediately following the second service. It will be a time of fellowship and celebration as we thank God for all his gifts to us. Pastor Michael Keys will bring the message to us at both worship services and join us for our celebration. I hope all of you will be able to join in the fun.
- **Daybreak Starts March 11** — We still need several dinner hosts. Please sign up in the narthex.
- **Rummage Sale News @ GLC** Spring cleaning? Save your "stuff" for the big sale! Things to bring: Just about anything, except large appliances, mattresses. Please have things clean as possible-- workers will appreciate that, & of course they will sell easier. April 22nd is the beginning of accepting things at the church, but if you have things to be picked up, that happens on Monday, April 29th. We also need lots of helpers! Signups will begin in April. Check for that in Narthex. Goodwill is furnishing racks & hangers, so don't save those, but plastic bags would be nice. Proceeds will go toward various mission projects, decided by your council. If you have questions, call the church office or Clara Shortt (503.252.0568).
- **FAIR TRADE FAIR A SUCCESS** -- The Fair Trade-Handmade Gift Fair held last November was such a success that it will be repeated next November. ***The Gethsemane Quilters and Friends have set Saturday, Nov. 3 and Sunday, Nov. 4 for the 2012 event***, so start thinking about your handmade projects now. The goal of the fair is to raise funds to help alleviate world hunger and to help artisans from the third world market their work. The fair also includes donated gifts by local crafts people and bakers. As a result of the first Gift Fair, we sent \$1,662.25 to World Hunger and \$680.85 to SERV last year. The response from the congregation and area friends was wonderful! Let's make the 2012 Fair Trade-Handmade Gift Fair event better!!
- **DURING MARCH A CHURCH PHOTO ALBUM** is being put together by Al and Ethel Marsh. If you haven't already done so, please talk to one of them to make an appointment to get your picture taken during the month of March. Their number is 503.408.5872.

Meet Our Newcomers

Katie & Burke Strobel, Laurel and Annie -- Katie started as director of the Gethsemane Preschool on June 1, 2011 with a promise to attend Gethsemane worship services once a month. However, the Strobels felt so welcomed as a family that they decided to join the congregation and the girls got involved, even sharing the role of Mary in last December's Christmas program. Laurel, 14, a freshman at Gresham High School, sings periodically in Gethsemane's choir; Annie, 11, attends Clear Creek Middle School. Katie grew up in Southeast Portland, the youngest of four girls, taught Special Ed. children at Serendipity Center and was head teacher at another preschool before taking over our program. She and Burke met as students at Oregon State. He's from Boise, Idaho, the seventh of eight boys; five of his brothers now live in the Portland area. Burke works for the City of Portland in Stream Restoration, functioning in the city office from October - March and out in the field of the Bull Run Watershed the rest of the year. They are happy to be part of the Gethsemane congregation.

Carol Blodgett -- A native Portlander, Carol has been a near neighbor of Gethsemane for years. Her children, Jill (who now lives in Chicago) and Tim, (a Portlander) went to preschool and Sunday School here. Carol worked 31 years at the phone company in several different sections, from operator to office support. She and husband Gary have been married 53 years and are avidly involved in car clubs, showing vintage and special interest cars and travelling to many national car events around the United States. Currently they have '40 and '41 Ford sedans for show. Gary has worked in Ford car sales most of his career. Carol loves to read and exercise and ski; she speaks with enthusiasm about a yearly ski vacation with her daughter and family in Deer Valley, Utah.

Judy Rust -- Swedish is the word to describe Judy, who really identifies with her ethnic heritage. Born and raised in North Dakota on a large family farm, Judy explained that her father was the only one of his family who came to the U.S. from Sweden. In her early 20's Judy worked and traveled in Sweden for a few years, getting to know her father's family. In 1964 she visited her sister in Portland and decided to settle here. She married, had a daughter, eventually divorced and raised her daughter on her own. After working 12 years at Parry Center for Children in various positions, she went to work for Miller Nash law firm where she stayed for 25 years. In her spare time, she taught Scandinavian dance groups for 32 years and is active in the Swedish Vasa Lodge. "I have two wonderful grandchildren and my daughter lives close to Gethsemane," she explained, adding that she was looking for a friendly church and has found it here. "I have felt so welcomed by Pastor Tom and the people here."

Shirley Dedlow -- As a youngster, Shirley lived in Iowa, but moved with her family to Milwaukie, OR, eventually graduating from Milwaukie High School. She says she became a Lutheran when she was 20 because she went back to Iowa to attend her sister's wedding. Her sister married a Swedish man in a Lutheran church, and Shirley was so moved by the liturgy and music ("It just felt right to me!") that she eventually joined Milwaukie Lutheran Church in Oregon. All four of her children (three sons and a daughter) were raised in that church and all graduated from Milwaukie High School. She moved to Portland after a divorce, bought a condo and eventually attended St. Mark's Lutheran. She worked in the window covering business until she retired. All of her children live in the greater Portland area, and she now has four grandchildren. One of her grandsons worked his way through the University of Oregon, then took a job with Universal Studios in Los Angeles where he met and became engaged to a girl from India. Shirley speaks with pride and joy about going with family members to a week-long wedding celebration in New Delhi, India. Recently, she visited Gethsemane and decided to join. "This is a very friendly church," she says with enthusiasm.

Stewart Dedlow -- Since his mother Shirley does not drive, Stewart has been bringing her to church and decided to take the Pastor's class based on Dan Erlander's book "Baptized We Live" about what Lutherans believe. He really enjoyed the class and has happily joined the congregation. Currently, Stewart is unemployed due to a disability caused by a back injury, but would like to find some part-time work. He was a manager and then co-owner of a bar and restaurant for 22 years -- Thorps on Burnside and Grand. He also co-owned a residential cleaning service for 20 years and has worked with American Messenger Service, serving banks and financial institutions. He is mourning the recent loss of a partner of 10 years due to cancer. He says he is glad to have found a church home at Gethsemane. *(continued)*

March Birthdays

3 John Skuzeski
5 Josephine Crouse
7 John Hurlman
9 Joan Ward
10 RJ Treanor
12 Alfhild Anderson
13 Michelle Schie
19 Henry Juilkfs
21 Randi Bateman
22 Robert Magnuson
23 Ralph Nelson
Tyler Riehl
27 Ken Hansen
Dick Burgess
30 Roseann Libonati

March Anniversaries

24 Steve & Christina Riehl



Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Warren & Karen Stenberg; Maureen Hagen's friend Beth; Jo Nelson's relative Heather; Alfhild Anderson; Jerry Tilken; Bea Jarvie; George Willett; Cathey Myer's friend Beth; Kim Stoffregen's nephew Rick; Premwati Shelly's son Jitendra; Penny Thoreen; Debbie Olson's friend Paloma; Linda Babcock's grandson Justin; Vera Koosman; Dick Boro; Katherine Eshleman; Lillian Huston; Scott Blohm's friend Pr. Doug Brushell; Stan Johnson; Roland Haacke; Wynn & Jim Stafford and their daughter-in-law Jennifer; Joan Ward; Marian Alleckson; Linda Babcock; and Gerald Shouse.

Urgent: *Those who are ill:* Scott Morency; Russ Solberg's sister Dani; Bev Sperling's brother Ron; Kim Butenschoen's mother Flo; Randy Treanor; Verla Langbecker; Ralph Nelson; Beth Deters; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Norm & Dorothy Thoreson; Mary Curtis; Christina Wood's sister in law Patty; Marilee Hansen; Tiffany Herbert; Ida Olson; Nettie Ubrick's friend; and Galvin & Virginia Irby.

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

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

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Gethsemane Lutheran
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www.glcportland.org
Church Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs. 8a to 3p

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

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|---|
|  | MARCH 2012 GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH | | | 1 7:45a-BBS 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra | 2 <i>OfficeClosed</i> | 3 12:30p- RecovInc. |
| 4 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour <i>Consecration Sunday with Lunch @ noon</i> 5:30p- Confirmation | 5 7p-Band | 6 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 6p-CYF ² Mtg. @ McMenamins at Mall 205 | 7 11A-SPEAKER NOON-SENIOR POTLUCK <i>Noon-Worship, Soup/Bread</i> 6:30p-Soup <i>Supper; 7:15p- Lenten Service</i> 8p-Choir | 8 7:45A-BBS 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra | 9 <i>OfficeClosed</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Call Al/Ethel Marsh at 503.408.5872 if you'd like to schedule a time for your picture to be taken. </div> | 10 <i>9a to Noon-Church Council Re- treat/CasLks</i> 12:30p- RecovInc. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Church Pictures in Library </div> |
| 11 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour <i>Daybreak here this week</i> | 12 7p-Band 10a-B-Team 1p-Stephen Supervision NO PreBd. 6:30p-Finance Meeting | 13 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 5p-Mutual MinistryTeam | 14 <i>Noon- Worship, Soup/ Bread</i> 6:30p-Soup <i>Supper; 7:15p- Lenten Service</i> 8p-Choir | 15 7:45A-BBS 10a-Women's Bible Study 1p-Orchestra 6:30p-Dad/Me <i>Pre. Event</i> | 16 <i>OfficeClosed</i> <i>Middle School OLYO Event thru Saturday</i> | 17 12:30p- RecovInc. |
| 18 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 5:30p- Confirmation | 19 7p-Band | 20 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band | 21 <i>Noon-Worship, Soup/Bread</i> 6:30p-Soup <i>Supper; 7:15p- Lenten Service</i> 8p-Choir | 22 7:45A-BBS 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra | 23 <i>OfficeClosed</i> <i>Community Hall in use</i> | 24 12:30p- RecovInc. |
| 25 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a- EdHour; Adult Forum <i>6p-New- comersDinner</i> | 26 7p-Band | 27 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band | 28 <i>Noon- Worship, Soup/ Bread</i> 6:30p-Soup <i>Supper; 7:15p- Lenten Service</i> 8p-Choir Youth Bowl- ing | 29 7:45A-BBS 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra | 30 <i>OfficeClosed</i> | 31 12:30p- RecovInc. <i>10a-4p-Camp Lutherwood Mtg. in Con- ference Room</i> |

Arloa Hurt -- If you see an SUV in our parking lot with a license plate marked "ARLOA" you'll know Arloa's in church. She lives nearby on 117th between Stark and Burnside and after 25 years at St. Paul Lutheran (SE 39th near Powell) she has retired and joined a church closer to home. Born and raised in Ellensburg, WA, she moved to California and eventually to Portland where she married and started raising a family. She has three daughters and one son and, after a divorce, was a single parent holding down two jobs for several years. She tended bar for 30 years at the Original Taco House on 35th and Powell. In addition, she worked at Centennial School District for seven years, including four years at Lynch View School as assistant manager of the cafeteria. With five grandchildren and almost two great-grandchildren (birth due any-time now), she keeps busy baby-sitting at least three days a week. Although she has some back problems, she is enjoying retirement. She looks forward to getting acquainted at Gethsemane.

| OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH DECEMBER 2011 | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| INCOME NEEDED | RECEIVED | ACTUAL EXPENSES | DIFFERENCE |
| \$29,722 | \$27,831 | \$29,535 | \$(1,703) |
| WEEKLY ATTENDANCE: | 2012: 140 | 2011: 124 | CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN. |

ELCA World Hunger/An Inspiring Story

From Costa Rica, Meet Flor

Most people in El Jardin, Costa Rica, work in the banana and pineapple plantations that surround the village. The work is hard, the wages are low, and over the generations, the villagers have lost their knowledge about growing other crops.

Recognizing the need for more food, income and sources of employment, the Lutheran church in El Jardin, supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger, uses its land for an ecological agriculture program. Flor and her neighbors learn about soil fertility, crop rotation and plants. They're growing vegetables to eat and also plants that can be turned into products like shampoo and insect repellent.



Flor says she didn't know anything about rose hips when they started; now she grows them and uses them to make drinks and jam. "It's nice not to have to buy so many things now, and to be able to make them instead," Flor smiles. She has also become treasurer of the group. Eventually, they hope to sell their products in shops beyond their own village.

Flor's new skills and knowledge have made her very hopeful about the future. But Nehemias, the program's manager, says the changes are much bigger than that. With so many in the village involved — including the children — there is a new sense of community, pride and mutual support that will bring benefits for years to come.

Your gifts to ELCA World Hunger support programs and projects that help change lives in more than 60 countries around the world. Will you help with your gift today?