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GETHEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2015

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FROM THE PASTOR

Can't Those People Get Jobs? (part 1) -- by Pastor Roger Fuchs

Have mercy, cried the blacksmith, how you gonna replace human hands?

Found guilty, said the judge, for not being in demand. --J.R. Robertson & The Band, 1972

Can't those people get jobs? My mother asked that question when she was 103. It's the only question my extended family has ever asked about the ministry I do. Mom and Dad raised me on a working family farm with livestock. There was always something to do, a reason to do it well. It was not a job. It was a way of life, all my Mom ever knew.

The twentieth century decimated millions of farm families and thousands of rural communities across America. Industrial grain and vegetable operations and livestock "factories" have almost totally replaced true agriculture today. Yes, there are some farm jobs but few real farmers. Left unanswered was what to do with all the labor we "saved" when farm machines got bigger and automated machines replaced industrial workers in cities. Our "information economy" exports entire industries even as we now import the products we once made here. Yet nobody I know sits down at the table to enjoy a heaping plate of "information." We still need food—and a way of life. *Everybody* needs a way of living that provides sustenance, place and meaning.

Entire segments of our population no longer have a way of life—even if they have a job now or had a job once. Ironically, employers today struggle to find capable workers even as competition pushes them to cut labor costs. So here's the 64-dollar question: **Whom would you hire?**

- ◆ A person with a car—or one who relies on the bus?
- ◆ A person with an address—or a person with no place to cook, shower or sleep?
- ◆ A person with mental illness—or none?
- ◆ A person who's done time and stayed clean—or a person with no record?
- ◆ A person who needs health insurance—or a person you can pay under the table?

If we wish homeless and poor folks would get a job, we might ask ourselves three questions:

- ◆ Doing what for whom?
- ◆ When have I given anyone a job?
- ◆ Whom would Jesus hire?

I know two men of faith who can answer those questions with names, dates and paychecks. George owns a construction business and small farm in Vancouver. Scott owns a small aviation business in Troutdale. Both have opened their doors and taken risks because the people involved were more important than the money. Their faith carried them past judgment to justice.

Speaking of justice, take a look at <http://www.empowermentplan.org/> Watch the short video and note when Veronika Scott's coat factory in Detroit moved beyond charity to justice. Note who gave her that insight. Is this a God thing, or what? **Amen!**

Next month: Can't Those People Get Jobs? (part 2) Reprinted with permission by Pr. Roger Fuchs

NOTES:

- ◆ **Like Us on FACEBOOK.**
- ◆ **Rummage Sale 2015 News:** Dates have been set for Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2. I know many of you are cleaning, organizing closets, garages, etc., so save all those good, used treasures for the sale! We can only store things at church for two weeks beforehand. We need workers! Set up begins April 26, so plan your vacations for after May 2, please! It's confirmed that Goodwill will again furnish racks, hangers, etc. but save bags for us to use. If you have questions, please ask in the office or Clara.
- ◆ **Calling All Pinochle Players: Second Sunday Pinochle** is March 8 at 2 p.m. Questions? Ask Todd at 503.253.9420.
- ◆ **Thursday Morning Bible Study** continues at 7:30 a.m. at Portland Adventist Cafeteria. We begin by looking at *Women of the Bible: The good, the bad, and the little known*. Questions? Talk to Dick Bemrose.
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** Pr. Tom's retirement party is July 25, 2015 and you're invited!
- ◆ **Order Easter Lilies Now!** To order an Easter Lily to grace our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, use an order envelope available on the poster display near the Sanctuary doors. Just fill out the information, place cash or check in the envelope, seal it and place it in the offering plate or turn it in to the office. Cost: \$8 each. The last day to order lilies is **Sunday, March 15**. Questions? Ask Gloria or Jay.
- ◆ **Oregon Synod Assembly:** Pastor Tom and our voting members will be at the Oregon Synod Assembly, April 24 through 26, in Sunriver.

GETHSEMANE PRESCHOOL NEWS

If you haven't heard by now, the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on February 22 was a huge success. We made over \$4000 to go toward operating expenses for the preschool. Thank you again to everyone who donated items for the auction and raffle, and those who donated their time and labor. We could not have done this without you all. What a blessing the community of Gethsemane Lutheran Church is to the preschool ministry. We were thrilled at the turnout and grateful that so many preschool families were able to come and meet some of our church families.

March will be a busy month at preschool as we talk about God's world in the springtime and make some wonderful crafts. Godly Play during chapel will contribute to learning about the season of Lent and how much Jesus loves us.

Thursday, March 12, is our fourth annual Construction Night at preschool. We invite dads, grandpas, uncles and friends to come with their preschooler for a fun night of building with cardboard boxes and duct tape.

Please remember **we are enrolling for our 2015 school year**. We will continue to have our 3 day-per-week program for 3 and 4 year-olds. We will also have our 4 day-a-week PreK Monday for 4 year-olds. All the information is on the website, www.glcportland.org/preschool or in the office. Spread the word! We plan to have a four-week Summer Program for 3 and 4 year-olds, so look for information on that too.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

The *Cross+Gen* Gathering kicked off in January and was attended by almost 20 people from all age groups. Special thanks goes to Alina Schelzke for leading the prayers, Kim Butenschoen for leading music, Cathey Meyers for leading our 1-to-1 introductions, and Karla and Rod Hills for organizing food. We engaged in table discussions on questions related to Epiphany whilst we tied six fleece blankets that were later donated to SnowCap. **The Next Cross+Gen Gathering is Wednesday, March 25th** (in combination with Lent evening services).

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday with pancakes prepared by Todd Sloan and the Fellowship crew (thank you so much!). Crafts for kids included masks, noise makers, and decorating the Alleluia Banner. There were also a number of games. At the end of the night kids hid the Alleluia Banner for the duration of Lent.

Looking ahead, our next fundraiser for the teens traveling to Detroit this summer to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering is at **Burgerville (Stark & 122nd) on Sunday, March 15, from 1 to 4 p.m.** You can watch their fundraising progress on the display in the Narthex. Teens and their families will be serving you and 10% of sales during that time go toward the trip. Also, be on the lookout for more upcoming restaurant partnerships and car wash events.

In April, we'll offer a **Parent Class** reviewing the DVD *How to Discipline Your Kids Without Losing their Love & Respect* (from Love&Logic). The class is free, but requires preregistration. Childcare will be provided for a freewill offering.

Last, it's never too early to start planning for VBS. We will have **VBS on August 3-7, from 9 to 11:45 a.m.** If you can help in any way, before or during that week, please contact Jennilee Porch (jennileeporch@gmail.com). Thank you!

March Birthdays

5 Alec Eason
Josephine Crouse
7 John Skuzeski
John Hurlman
Spencer Letmate
9 Joan Ward
10 RJ Treanor
13 Michelle Schie
14 Bobbie Griffith
15 James Liefeld
19 Henry Juilfs
20 Doris Hansen

21 Randi Bateman
Parker Letmate
22 Bob Magnuson
23 Tyler Riehl
27 Ken Hansen
Dick Burgess
29 Carter Poole
30 Roseann Libonati

March Anniversaries

24th Steve and Christina
Riehl (8th)
24th Gavin and Rachel
Hills (3rd)

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:* Marian Aleckson; Doris Hansen; Elmer Schmidt; Dick Burgess; Paulette Kelley’s brother Randy; Carol Steele and her cousin Arlan Scott; Dwaine Estes; Linda Babcock and her grandson Josiah; Katherine Eshleman; Pr. Randy Shutt; Aiden Lindstrom; Rita Nesbitt and her son John; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail’s mother Rose; Madison Goldbacher’s friend Breanna; Jennifer Peck; Tyler Riehl; Lillian Huston; Nicole Poole; Randy Treanor; Lucille Langseth; Bud Qualheim; Dan Walter; Sharon Lee’s niece Terri; Connie Smith’s friend Joe; Roland & Virginia Haacke; Ida Olson; Joe Rapp; Dorothy Shouse’s daughter Robin; Tiffany Herbert; Wynn & Jim Stafford; Jo Nelson’s friend Greg; and Ginny Barton’s friend Golda.

Homebound Brothers and Sisters:

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

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Shar Giard’s friend John; Vanessa Lindstrom; Todd Sloan; Marilee and Ken Hansen’s daughter Beth; Darlene Kuehmichel; Tiffany Herbert’s friend’s father Ernest; and Bonnie Aplin.

Those who are grieving: The family and friends of Mickey Dochow.

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*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

MARCH 2015 — GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool HabitatHumanity HousingAllWeek	2 9:30a-MHCC 7p-Band	3 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 6:30p-CYF Mtg. 7p-SwgBand	4 9:30a-MHCC Noon&6:30p- Soup & Lenten Services 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group 8p-Choir	5 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Girls' Grp.	6 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	7
8 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool 2p-Pinochle	9 9:30a-MHCC 10:30a-BTeam 6:30p-Finance Meeting 7p-Band	10 8a-MensBkfst 9a-PreschBd. 10a-BibleStudy 1:30p-Mutual Ministry Mtg. 7p-SwgBand	11 9:30a-MHCC Noon&6:30p- Soup & Lenten Services 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group 8p-Choir	12 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Girls' Grp.	13 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	14
15 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool DAYBREAK here this week	16 9:30a-MHCC 7p-Band	17 8a-MensBkfst 10- NOBibleStudy 7p-SwgBand 7p-Church Council	18 9:30a-MHCC Noon&6:30p- Soup & Lenten Services 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group 8p-Choir	19 7:30a-BibleStudy 10a-BibleStudy 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Girls' Grp.	20 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	21 <i>PT Vacation thru March 28</i> →
22 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool	23 FILM CAMP Monday thru Friday,days SPRING BREAK 7p-Band	24 8a-MensBkfst NO Bible Study 6:30p-Mill Park Neighborhood 7p-SwingBand	25 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p- Cross+Gen Noon&6:30p- Soup & Lenten Services 8p-Choir	26 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 7p-BashMtg.@ Lyle/Denise Johnon's house	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 →
29 PALM SUNDAY 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool/ 5thSundayMingle <i>Healing Service after each service</i>	30 9:30a-MHCC 7p-Band	31 8a-MensBkfst 10a-Bible Study 7p-SwingBand	April 1 5:30p-Clutterers 6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group	April 2 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:15p	April 3 Good Friday Services at Noon and 7:15p	April 4 Easter Vigil Service at 7:15p Breakfast Set-Up

MARCH THOUGHTS TO LIVE BY

1. **Respect**—All people have been created in the image of God. Genesis 1:27
2. **Compassion**—Jesus taught and healed with compassion for all. Matthew 4:24
3. **Justice**—This is what the Lord requires of you: Act with justice, love with kindness, and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8
4. **Excellence**—Much will be expected of those who are entrusted with much. Luke 12:48
5. **Stewardship**—The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. Psalm 24:1

— GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH —			
Income & Expense Budget Report through January 2015			
Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference
\$31,053	\$23,997	\$30,195	(\$6,198)
Average Weekly Attendance: 2014: 124 2015: 125			
Cathey Myers, Fin.Man.			

LISTENING SESSION THEMES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I am writing to update you on the Council decision on same gender marriages at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. At our February 17 meeting, we reviewed and discussed all the comments recorded at the Listening Sessions. The comment sheets, without facilitator or participant names or session dates are displayed on the walls of the conference room. They are posted there so you can review at your leisure.

The Council feels that the Listening Session process was successful. It provided opportunities for anyone who wished to express their opinion in a safe, non-threatening environment. Speaking was not required; attending simply to listen was also encouraged. Comments and concerns were captured on the sheets posted in the conference room.

Several themes emerged from the Listening Sessions. First, “we need to continue to be inclusive rather than exclusive.” Second, “even if some do not support same gender marriage, some will agree to disagree and continue to be part of our Gethsemane family.” Finally, “let us build on grace and forgiveness rather than law.”

Also a part of our discussion was the silent majority, those who for whatever reason did not attend a Listening Session. Perhaps some individuals could not fit a Listening Session into their schedule. Some may have simply felt uncomfortable expressing themselves in a public forum. Some may feel that we already know their position on same gender marriage. Or, perhaps, individuals simply trust the leadership to make a well thought through decision. So, what does it all mean? We voted unanimously to change Gethsemane’s wedding policy to include same gender marriage with pastoral discussion and counseling. This is the same process currently used for non-gay/lesbian couples. This policy change does not force the pastor to perform same gender marriages or any marriage.

Peace and blessings to all,

Dick Bemrose, Council President

PR. TOM ON VACATION

Pr. Tom will be on vacation March 21 through March 28, making the acquaintance of his new granddaughter.