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# ◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2015

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## COUNCIL

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Herbert

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### **CYFF Formation:**

Brandee Liebrand

### **Community**

### **Action:** Patty

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### **Stewardship:**

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### **Fellowship:**

Todd Sloan

### **Worship:** Gloria

Kelsay

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### **Pastor:**

Tom Hiller

### **CYM Coordinator:**

Jennilee Porch

### **Preschool Dir.:**

Katie Strobel

### **Finance Mgr.:**

Cathy 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,

As you may remember, I announced last November that I will be retiring at the end of July of 2015. Our time since then has been filled with the work and activities that are associated with the Annual Meeting, the Season of Lent, and Holy Week.

Some activities have also taken place “behind the scenes” to facilitate our congregation’s transition into the interim period before a new pastor arrives. The Finance Committee is assessing our congregation’s financial health. Jude and I have updated our membership records. I also have begun to prepare the “Pastor’s computer” so that the Interim Pastor will be able to have useful computer files available. I have also been going through paper files, books, and other useful materials to see that they are ready for “the one who comes after”.

Another important development is the work that the Mutual Ministry Team has taken on as a Transition Team. Together we have planned the above activities and also our upcoming “Let’s Talk about the Future” event. This is a congregational event which will take place after the second service on Sunday, May 17. After a light lunch, we will break down into small groups to talk about our thoughts and dreams concerning Gethsemane’s mission in the future.

We feel that it is important to emphasize that this has to do with the congregation’s future mission, which includes the mutual ministry with the new Pastor. In other words, this event is not about “What kind of new Pastor do we want to have?” but “What kind of new mission and ministry do we want to share with the new Pastor?” The kinds of qualities and skills that the congregation might desire in the new Pastor will be determined as part of the work of the Call Committee, the Interim Pastor, and you, during the interim period.

In the meantime, please pray to the Holy Spirit asking for discernment as we think and dream. Thanks to Transition Team, also known as the Mutual Ministry Team. Its members are Bill Herbert, David Qualheim, Jay Rector, Kim Stoffregen, Roseann Libonati, Todd Sloan, and Pastor Tom. Feel free to ask any questions, and share any ideas and comments you might have about the transition or interim periods with any of us,

In the Risen Christ and in the Gift-giving Holy Spirit, Pastor Tom

### **Pentecost Sunday is also Confirmation Day!**

We will be celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Christian Church on Sunday, May 24. We will also be celebrating God’s gifts to Aiden Lindstrom as he becomes a confirmed member of our church on that day. Come and celebrate!

## **CANT THOSE PEOPLE GET JOBS?** (part 3) -- by Pastor Roger Fuchs

***“I was a professional wrestler and a server. I could no longer do the first job, and the second job ended. Before I knew it, I was on the streets.” --Raoul, 2015***

“Raoul” had never been unemployed before. Suddenly he was. It was a total shock to be jobless, then to not have shelter, a place to sleep, a place to keep his things. “I had been raised to the standard of respect,” Raoul told me, “to do respectable things.” To him, being houseless and jobless were off limits, inconceivable—until he was both.

The streets changed Raoul from the inside out. "I had a heart before," he told me, "but being homeless gave me a depth of heart I had never known." Unable to provide for himself, Raoul depended on the kindness of strangers. He began to see the depth of heart in folks around him who looked after one another by sharing the meager gifts that came their way. Incredibly, the less people had, the more generous they seemed to be. Raoul began to learn compassion.

Today, Raoul is back indoors; but he has not forgotten. He pours his passion and energy into organizations that helped him when he was in need. He has hope again, dreams again. And he is acting on them.

Anna Griffin's recent series in *The Oregonian* <http://topics.oregonlive.com/tag/homeless-in-portland/posts.html> highlighted the high cost of housing vs. people's ability to work and stay indoors. A single person today must earn \$31 per hour to afford average rent, utilities, food, health care and transportation. That means working 24 hours per day at three minimum wage jobs. No one can do that, of course—which means assistance of some sort and making do with less of everything, including sleep.

To put things into perspective, try this. Pick a low-rent apartment near SE 181<sup>st</sup> and Stark. Pretend it's where you live. Now pick a random location at least three miles from the MAX line in Beaverton. Pretend that's where your minimum wage job is. Now travel there and back by MAX and the bus. See how long it takes and what it costs. Now imagine doing that while working evening shifts and weekends with a sick child at home, no sick days yourself. How long could you do that without getting fired?

Clearly, not all jobs support life. But what is our job as the church? Next month, I'll focus on that question. For now, several easy things to do:

- Find someone who sells the Street Roots newspaper. Buy a paper from that person every week and get to know him or her. Learn their story and their hopes for life.
- Volunteer at any ministry or organization that helps people unlike yourself. Make getting to know the people the most important focus.
- Volunteer at any area elementary school or after-school program. Help kids learn to read and solve conflicts. Ask how you could support teachers and parents both.
- Pray for the kind of community that God created us to be.

*Next month: Can't Those People Get Jobs? (part 4)*

## NOTES:

- ◆ **Like Us on FACEBOOK.**
- ◆ **Calling All Pinochle Players: Second Sunday Pinochle** is May 10 at 2 p.m. Questions? Ask Todd at 503.253.9420.
- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** Pr. Tom's retirement party is July 25, 2015 and you're invited!
- ◆ **Oregon Synod Assembly:** Pastor Tom and our voting members will be at the Oregon Synod Assembly, April 24 through 26, in Sunriver.
- ◆ **Let's Talk About the Future** You are invited to a congregational event which will take place after the second service on Sunday, May 17. After a light lunch, we will break down into small groups to talk about our thoughts and dreams concerning Gethsemane's mission in the future. In the meantime, please pray to the Holy Spirit asking for discernment as we think and dream. This event is being sponsored by the Transition Team, also known as the Mutual Ministry Team. Its members are Bill Herbert, David Qualheim, Jay Rector, Kim Stoffregen, Roseann Libonati, Todd Sloan, and Pastor Tom.
- ◆ **Gethsemane Work Group at SnowCap:** Since January, a group has been meeting at SnowCap Community Charities, 17805 SE Stark St., to work on projects from 6 to 8 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month. We have had a great response and usually have 12-15 people come each month. We are usually packaging fruits or vegetables in plastic bags or putting together packets for soup or oatmeal. 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 have not been part of the existing group and are interested in participating in this service project, please contact Diane Liefeld.

**MAY Birthdays**

- 3 Linda Babcock  
Cory Cumming
- 5 Albert Peterson
- 6 Tori Hiller
- 7 Theresa Qualheim
- 10 Bill Herbert
- 12 Dick Bemrose
- 13 Virginia Haacke
- 23 Linda Fletcher  
Brianna Kelley  
Jack Rasmussen
- 24 CJ Butenschoen
- 28 Jennilee Porch

- 30 Ernie Butenschoen
- 31 Laurel Strobel

**MAY Anniversaries**

May 8th — Roland and Virginia Haacke (#66)



**Homebound Brothers and Sisters:**

Lucille Langseth, Marian Aleckson, 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.)*

*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: Aiden Lindstrom; Rita Nesbitt and her son John; Galvin Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail’s mother Rose; Madison Goldbacher’s friend Breanna; Jennifer Peck; Tyler Riehl; Nicole Poole; Randy Treanor; Lucille Langseth; 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; Ginny Barton’s friend Golda; Marian Aleckson; Dick Burgess; Paulette Kelley’s brother Randy; Marilee and Ken Hansen’s daughter Beth; Kay Qualheim; Carol Steele and her cousin Arlan Scott; Dwain Estes; Linda Babcock and her grandson Josiah; and Pr. Randy Shutt.*

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Lillian Huston; Darlene Kuehmichel; Tiffany Herbert’s mother Nancy; Bonnie Aplin; Harvey Steele’s cousin, Jim Anderson; Shar Giard’s friend John; Joanne Weaver; and Todd Sloan.

*Those who are grieving:* the family and friends of Dean Johnson, Dan Walter, Virginia Irby, Kathryn Eshleman, and Bud Qualheim.

# MAY 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

# MAY 2015 — GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> <b>RUMMAGE SALE</b> <b>8 - 4</b>	<b>2</b> <b>RUMMAGE SALE</b> <b>8 - 4</b>
3 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool	4 9:30a-MHCC 7p-Band	5 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 6:30p-CYF Mtg. 7p-SwgBand	6 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers <i>6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group</i>	7 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Girls' Grp.	8 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	9 1p-Baby Shower
10 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool 2p-Pinochle/ Bridge	11 9:30a-MHCC 7p-Band	12 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 6:30p-CYF Mtg. 7p-SwgBand <b>1:30p-Mutual Ministry Mtg.</b>	13 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers <i>6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group</i> 6p-SnowCapVol	14 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 1:20p-Girls' Grp.	15 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex  <b>6p-YOUTH FOUNDRISER DINNER</b>	16
17 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool <b>Noon- Gethsemane's Future</b>	18 9:30a-MHCC 10:30a-B-Team 6:30p-Finance Meeting 7p-Band	19 8a-MensBkfst 9a-PreschoolBd. 10-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand <b>7p-Church Council</b>	20 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers <i>6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group</i>	21 7:30a-BibleStudy 10a-Women's BibleStudy <b>10aPreschool Graduation</b> 12:30p-Orches. 1:20p-Girls' Grp.	22 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:30a-MHCC Ex	23
24 <b>PENTECOST</b> 8 & 10:30a- Worship/ Confirmation 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool  <b>DAYBREAK HERE</b>	25 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  7p-NOBand	26 8a-MensBkfst 10a-Bible Study 7p-NOSwngBand 6:30p-Mill Park Neighborhood	27 9:30a-MHCC 5:30p-Clutterers <i>6-7:30p-Way to Live Teen Group</i>	28 7:30a-BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 7p-Choir	29 <i>Office Closed</i> <b>8 to 4:</b> <b>Grandparents Raising Grandchildren</b> 9:30a-MHCC Ex. <b>6-8p-Cross+Gen</b>	30
31 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHr/ SunSchool <i>Healing Service after each service</i>	JUNE 1					

— GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH —			
<b>Income &amp; Expense Budget Report through MARCH 2015</b>			
<u>Budgeted Expenses</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Actual Difference</u>
\$93,161	\$83,941	\$89,056	(\$5,114)
Average Weekly Attendance: 2014: 122 2015: 124			
Cathey Myers, Fin.Man.			

- ◆ **Rummage Sale Update:** On April 26 we will set up tables and empty Room 6 of all boxes. WE NEED 10-12 PEOPLE or more TO DO THIS, BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY AFTER LATE SERVICE! Someone will be here until 4 p.m. to accept donations of furniture and larger items. **Monday, April 27**, is the scheduled pick up day. If you can bring things yourself, it would be helpful. Sign-ups look good for the actual sale days on Friday and Saturday, but there are openings for working Monday through Thursday! It's lots of work, so please sign up to help! Also, if you have not signed up for a **baked item** to donate, you'll likely be getting a phone call this week. Everyone loves to buy baked things, but we've been known to accept other things too: Jams, coffee, etc. **Knife sharpening** is available both days. Keep Dwain busy and bring your knives for a sharp edge! Brunch is offered both sale days from 10a to 1p. Some volunteers are visitors. It's amazing how word-of-mouth news spreads. Pick up some **flyers** in the Narthex to hand out. Need a **piano**? We have two to sell. Have you been **dividing plants** in the garden? Great! We'll have **formals** to sell again this year. They were a hit last year. Come and be a part of the action! Questions? Please ask Clara.
- ◆ **A Baby Shower** for Nicole Poole is being held May 9 at 1 p.m. at Gethsemane. Please RSVP to Debbie at 503.453.7824 if you plan to come!
- ◆ **A DVD is Available** in the narthex, a documentary of sorts, with scenes of orchestra rehearsals and some information about the origins of our church and community hall. You're welcome to take it and view it.

## GETHSEMANE PRESCHOOL NEWS

In April our theme was "God's World in the Springtime". We had a special visitor from Talk About Trees who spent a morning teaching us all about trees. It was terrific. Our students have been learning about April showers and the changes of spring. We also heard the story of Easter using Godly Play, with an egg hunt the Thursday before Easter. Our preschoolers had a wonderful morning celebrating.

It's hard to believe the end of the year is coming so quickly. May will be busy. On May 7 we'll have a Craft Night for preschoolers and their moms, grandmas, aunts and other special adult women. This should be a fun event with crafts and treats. End of the year festivities include graduation for our Senior Bees and promotion for our Junior Bugs. It's amazing to see the progress these little children make while in our program. We have wonderful teachers.

May gives us the chance to acknowledge our teachers on Teacher Appreciation Day. If you are at the church and see a teacher, please thank her for her hard work. They really are amazing ladies and do fantastic work with our little ones. Thank you so much Mrs. Tammy, Mrs. Sherry, Mrs. Christina, Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Rebecca! Gethsemane Lutheran Preschool and its families are blessed because of you.

Registrations are being accepted now for the coming school year. If you know of someone interested in a preschool program, please tell them about Gethsemane Preschool. Students need to be 3 or 4 years of age by Sept 1, 2015 and toilet trained. If they would like to visit our preschool encourage them to come in prior to May 21 so they can meet the teachers. Katie Strobel can be contacted in the church office, 503-256-1835, or [gethsemanepreschool@hotmail.com](mailto:gethsemanepreschool@hotmail.com). Registration information is also online at [www.glcportland.org/preschool](http://www.glcportland.org/preschool).

We also have a new Summer Program that is accepting registration for preschoolers. It is a four-week program that will be open on a week by week basis for students who have been in preschool but have not had any Kindergarten. Registration information is also online at [www.glcportland.org/preschool](http://www.glcportland.org/preschool).

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY



**Vacation Bible School is August 3-7 from 9 to 11:45 a.m.** Please consider volunteering during our biggest children's ministry event of the year. You will find the sign-up display in the Narthex, or you can contact Jennilee. There are lots of ways to be a part of this ministry: Volunteering, donating supplies/food/craft items, decorating, helping at the Friday BBQ, getting the word out, prayer support, etc. **We are in special need of actors for the morning Assembly skits.** Do you know of a teen or adult who likes to act?

During April, two teens attended the **OLYO Convo** to learn about their Myers-Briggs type and how their personality affects study habits, communication styles, leadership skills, and life. We also had three parents attend our Parent Class which involved viewing *How to Discipline Your*

*Children Without Losing Their Love and Respect.* We then spent time sharing stories, questions, and concerns. We were able to connect over the struggles and the joys while we discussed the principles set forth in the video.

**\*\*THANK YOU\*\*** to all who have been participating in our fundraisers for Detroit. Though I have been calling the Youth Assembly the “Detroit Trip” I have since learned much more about why we are going there and what this gathering is all about. Is Detroit the most amazing place for a youth event? Definitely not, but this is not merely a giant youth event. Detroit has called us to come and participate in service projects, projects whose leaders have invited us to come. We are going to serve, to walk alongside others and help with what God is already doing in Detroit. We are going to be a part of God’s transformative work in the world and to be transformed, even a little bit more, into Christ’s presence on earth. During the Lasagna and Bunco Night (May 15 @ 6) you will learn about the mission in Detroit and the ELCA’s heart for bringing our youth to this city. Please join us on May 15 for good food and fun games, and to learn more about the Youth Gathering.

- ◆ **Next Car Wash:** Sunday, April 26 with the freewill offering going to the Detroit Trip. Last time we raised \$295! Thank you!
- ◆ **Sunday School Mother’s Day Flowers:** On Sunday, May 10, at 9:30 a.m. the kids will get to decorate pots and plant flowers for their mothers. Special thanks to Dick and Diane Bemrose for creating this wonderful experience for the kids to show appreciation to their Moms.
- ◆ **Lasagna and Bunco Night** on May 15 at 6 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Gathering. You will learn about why the ELCA chose Detroit and what God is doing in this city and through our youth. It’ll be a fun evening!
- ◆ **Next Cross+Gen is Friday, May 29.**
- ◆ **June Church-Wide Picnic is Sunday, June 14, at Noon.**

## EARTHQUAKE IN NEPAL

Friends,

An extremely powerful 7.9 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal. We’ve been in touch with our local staff, and they have informed us that hospitals are overwhelmed with injured patients, and initial reports say hundreds (now thousands) of people are known to have died. The number is expected to rise. Houses have been flattened and huge craters and cracks on roads in the capital city Kathmandu sent people out of their offices and homes.

Our Technical Advisor for Emergency Capacity Building, Subhashis Roy, said this morning, “I just talked to one [staff] member in Nepal. Everyone is safe. There is massive damage in Nepal and some parts of Bihar — including casualties.”

Rescue workers search for loved ones as a stretcher is kept ready after an earthquake hit, in Kathmandu, Nepal April 25, 2015. LWR staff are safe and are currently on the ground and assessing this dire situation. We are working with our local partners and the international relief community to plan our early emergency response and will continue to communicate as our plans take shape.

**WILL YOU HELP** Lutheran World Relief respond?

With gratitude,

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (rt.)

President and CEO

Lutheran World Relief

*“Almighty God, we pray to you for the people of Nepal and India during this time of disaster. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Comfort those who mourn, heal the injured, and deliver those in danger or in need. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we ask for your mercy. Amen.”*