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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2012

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## COUNCIL

### **President:**

Laura Britzius

### **Vice President:**

Lyle Johnson

### **Sec/Treas:**

Carl Perkins

### **Properties:**

Ernie Butenschoen

### **Lutheran Liaison:**

Tom Lewis

### **Evangelism:**

Shar Giard

### **Worship:**

Liz Blohm

### **CYFF Formation:**

Karla Hills

### **CYFF Formation:**

Christina Riehl

### **Community Ac-**

**tion:** Hal Hingst

### **Stewardship:**

Dick Bemrose

### **Fellowship:**

Kim Stoffregen

## STAFF

### **Pastor:**

Tom Hiller

### **Child/Fam Min:**

Maureen Hagen

### **Preschool Dir.:**

Katie Strobel

### **Finance Mgr.:**

Cathey 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,

This time of year our thoughts and actions return once again to education, whether in the church or in the schools. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see information about our own educational efforts in Sunday School. You will also be noticing an emphasis on equipping parents and families in their role as Christian educators of their children.

Recently, Pastor Joel Ley wrote an article that applies to our efforts. His article is reproduced below. Pr. Ley is the pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Walla Walla, where I served as interim pastor in 2004-2005. Thank you, Pr. Ley.

In the Mutual Ministry of Jesus Christ, Pastor Tom

It may come as a surprise to you, but Sunday School is a relatively modern phenomenon in the Christian church. It got started in England at the end of the 18th century. The industrial revolution had resulted in many children working six days a week in factories and missing out on a basic education. In order to save them from a life of illiteracy, Christians set up classes on Sundays to teach them reading, writing, arithmetic, and a basic knowledge of the Bible. With the eventual enactment of child labor laws and compulsory education, the focus of Sunday Schools became almost exclusively religious education. That is how we arrived at the form of Sunday School that is such an important part of almost every congregation today.

There was a downside to the formation of Sunday Schools though. As Christian education for children became the domain of local churches, it started to be neglected in homes. There was a shift toward thinking that the faith could be "taught" to children by relative strangers, and away from the idea that passing on the Christian faith was the primary responsibility of parents. We started to undervalue the importance of kids "catching" the faith at home.

In recent years, as the church has started to bemoan poor attendance in Sunday Schools and the decline in the number of young people who grow up to be mature, practicing Christians, there has been renewed interest in faith formation in the home. In fact, a fairly recent and reputable study found that the one factor that correlated most highly to children maturing in faith was faith practices in the home.

That does not mean every parent needs a degree in theology. Rather, it means that families that do things like say grace before meals or bedtime prayers, or who remember baptisms at bath time, or who read bible stories before naps, or who worship together, or who sing hymns in the car, or who talk around the dinner table about how Christians respond to others' needs—kids who grow up in homes like that are more likely to grow into adults with a mature

faith. A friend's father used to make the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of his children after tucking them in at night. Pretty simple, right? But it had a profound impact on my friend.

Luther put the responsibility for raising children in the faith squarely on the backs of parents. (Read Luther's explanation to the Fourth Commandment in his Large Catechism if you don't believe me! Prepare to squirm!) Fortunately, in addition to developing traditional Sunday School material, the church is starting to offer more resources intended to help parents fulfill their responsibility in the home. As they become increasingly available, I will try to bring them to your attention and make them available. I hope that you will make use of them for the sake of the kids that we love and the kids that God loves even more.

Pastor Joel Ley *(Note from Pr. Tom – Be watching for the materials we will be making available at Gethsemane)*

**Pr. Tom is on vacation from Thursday, August 30 through Sunday, September 2.  
He will return to the office on Tuesday, September 4, after Labor Day.**

## AUGUST COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

A funny thing happens when something you have is now gone, even if only temporarily. You need it!

Items that we left in cabinets for safe storage are missed and looked for, or how about the riding lawn mower now stored behind a chain link fence and not easily accessible. It also seems that as soon as the fencing went up around the community hall construction zone the office received more requests for building use by outside groups. One group wanted to use the kitchen prior to the holidays, others want space for gathering. Some requests were put on a "wait and see" status and others we hope to accommodate in other areas of the building. All we can do is laugh for now and then pray that the project goes well. You can watch it happen. However you might not see too much right away. The ceilings and walls will be opened up. Remember that the footings need to be repaired and additional ones put into place. Then the shear walls in the community hall need to be strengthened to stop the building from shifting. Next will be the roof, and that's when we will finally get to see something happening. Then comes the wiring and other items that need to be done before everything is buttoned up and finished. If I haven't mentioned it before, the completion target date is November 30. That is, of course, if everything goes well! In the meantime, we are all making adjustments to less space. Sunday school starts soon and will be held in areas other than the usual classrooms. The preschool is working out where to hold activities.

Other notes: Lyle Johnson and Brooke Benfield continue to work on the organ. New parts are in hand. The council approved more new members; we officially welcome them on September 30. The capital campaign is continues to receive pledge cards, so if you haven't had the opportunity to share your plans to gift toward this project, we look forward to hearing from you soon. We are so blessed by your support. God is great!

You can see a draft of the minutes in the narthex for more details of the August council meeting.

Yours in Christ,

Laura Britzius, GLC Congregation President

<b>Offering, Income &amp; Budget Report through JULY 2012</b>			
<b>Income Needed</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>Difference</b>
\$208,054	\$200,575	\$184,179	\$16,396
<b>Weekly Attendance:</b>	2012: <b>130</b>	2011: <b>139</b>	CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

## PRESCHOOL

A new preschool year is upon us. In only a few weeks we will welcome children and their families to our community. This year, we are adding a PreK Monday to our program, which means an optional additional day for 4 year-olds who want a little more kindergarten readiness before they move on from preschool.

**We are hiring!** We have an opening for a preschool aide this year, an excellent position for the right person. The hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, September to June. Please see Katie if you are interested or know someone who is.

**Entertainment Books 2013** are here and are selling for **\$30** this year. This fundraiser helps us purchase new educational toys and play equipment. Please let your family, friends, and neighbors know. The more books we sell the higher the percentage of profits we earn. Please see Katie to purchase a book, or ask at the church office.

Our annual **Trike-a-Thon** is set for Thursday, Sept 27, at 6 p.m. We need help with registration, running the event, and passing out ice cream treats. Regardless, please join us, because we also need a cheering section as the preschoolers zoom by on their trikes doing laps around the parking lot! *Please talk to Katie, 503-256-1835, if you can help with this event. Thank you.*

As of this writing our classes are nearly full, though each class has a few openings. Do you know a family with a child 3 or 4 years of age (by Sept. 1), toilet-trained, and looking for an excellent preschool program? Please tell them about our terrific program. They may call Katie at 503-256-1835 for more information and to schedule a visit.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Katie Strobel, Preschool Director

## THE THINGS LUTHERANS DO

1. **Help us celebrate Legacy Emanuel Medical Center's 100th anniversary.** In honor of this milestone, Emanuel will be featured in a six-month exhibit at the [Oregon History Museum at the Oregon Historical Society](#). Since its opening in 1912 as "Emanuel Hospital," Legacy Emanuel Medical Center has been the site of medical advancements in neuro-surgery, burn treatment, critical care and maternal-fetal medicine.

Emanuel Hospital was established by Lutherans here in Portland. It's founder, Pr. Carl Renhard, was also the first pastor at Colton Lutheran Church, one of Pr. Tom's former churches. Now part of the Legacy Hospital system, Emmanuel continues to serve the community well in the tradition of service to the poor and care for all in need.

2. **Saint Mark Lutheran Church Visiting Theologian** program welcomes Dr. Mark Allen Powell for a weekend of discussion and learning. Event Information:

WHEN:

September 28th, 29th, & 30th, 2012

COST:

All events are free and open to the public.

LOCATION:

Saint Mark Lutheran Church

790 Marion Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

## FAITHWORKS: CHILD, YOUTH, & FAMILY FORMATION

**Summer Wrap-Up:** What a full summer we've had! Eleven middle/high schoolers went on a mission trip to Waldport in June. In July, we hosted a VBS/Day Camp which went fairly well, despite the inevitable first-year glitches; and Pr. Tom and Dick Bemrose took three kids to confirmation camp. During August, we had a series of Dog Days = Fun Days. For older kids, we had a pool party in NE Portland and an evening at Oaks Park. For kids of all ages, we had Traveling Tuesdays which included forays to the Children's Museum, Oregon Zoo, OMSI, and East Side Community Center. In addition to providing our kids with fun activities, we are encouraging growing relationships among kids and adults.

**Gathering of Families:** On August 19, Karla Hills, Christie Riehl, and I met with many of the families following an ice-cream social. We talked with families about their hopes and dreams for their children and asked how we could best support them in their role as the primary source of faith formation in their children's lives. Within GLC, we can help them best by providing a nurturing and safe nursery, quality teaching, children's chapel, increased child-friendliness in worship, and opportunities to serve in the life of the community. Many suggested it would be good to gather together one evening a month, preferably on a weekend. Each family received a music CD and a copy of Luther's Small Catechism.

**The Coming Year:** With the construction underway, our programming needs to be flexible for the next few months.

**Rally Sunday is September 9!!**

- § Sunday School will start with a special segment from 9:15-9:30, which will include a time for prayers and birthdays, and music!! Sunday School will take place between 9:30-10:20.
- § We will continue with Spark program, with classrooms for preK/K and Grades 1-5. We need 8 teachers, plus assistants. Parents can also access Spark online.
- § Starting in September, we may be starting a children's chapel which will take place immediately after the Pastor's message to the children, and then return to the sanctuary at The Peace.
- § Once a month, an afternoon FunDay SunDay event will be offered. On 9/9, we'll have the events list.
- § For our youth, we are seeking feedback from the youth and parents and considering alternatives to the traditional Sunday School hour. Four kids will be confirmed in October.
- § Once a month, we will do a youth event (a mixture of service and fun).

**The Nursery:** We are so pleased to welcome Katie Crouse and Erika Rasmussen as our new nursery attendants. Both attend Gethsemane and consider the nursery to be an important ministry of the church. They will be working to make this area more welcoming. The nursery is for children four and under.

## WEEKLY FAITH CHALLENGE

Have you noticed the WFC in the Gazette? The CYF<sup>2</sup> Committee invites everyone to participate in a weekly faith challenge designed to encourage daily spiritual practices. The first four challenges focus on prayer:

1. Pray with your children before bed.
2. Say grace before meals.
3. Give thanks to God for something every day.
4. Pray for a friend.

If you missed them the first time, they will come around again in September. After you try out a practice, take time to reflect on it. Was it helpful? Did it help make you/your family more mindful about God's presence in your lives?

Please continue to pray for our children, youth, and families.

Yours in Christ,

Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen, Minister of Child, Youth, and Family Formation

**September Birthdays**

4 Ron Stafford  
 6 Ginny Barton  
 7 Jim Stafford  
 9 Darlene Lewis  
   Cathey Myers  
 12 Tom Lewis  
 14 Karen Reagan  
   Eric Qualheim  
   Tamara Schanner  
   Bailey Williamson  
 17 Joann Weaver  
 18 Jenece Butenschoen  
 19 Vanessa Lindstrom  
 21 Mary Curtis  
 23 Hal Hingst

27 Betty Hahn  
   Virginia McCormick  
   Jacob Hills  
 29 Galven Irby  
 30 Nicole Poole

**September Anniversaries**

4 Ken/Marilee Hansen #59  
 20 Carrie/Aaron Berg #10  
 27 Tracey/Eric Letmate #11

**Prayer Concerns – Ongoing:** *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Maureen Hagen's friend Beth; Alfhild Anderson; Jerry Tilkens; Bea Jarvie; George Willett; Cathey Myers' friend Beth; Tiffany Herbert; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Penny Thoreen; Scott Morency; Linda Babcock and her grandson Justin; Vera Koosman; Dick Boro; Katherine Eshleman; Stan Johnson; Ralph Nelson's great niece Amelia; Norm Thoreson; Rita Nesbit's son John; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; Butenschoen's friends Rebecca & Norm; Darlene Lewis' mother Margie; Bemrose's friend Todd; Sharon Lee's niece Terri; ; Nettie Ubrick's nephew Troy & her friend Tim; Randy Treanor; Karen Arendt; Roland Haacke; Michelle McGilvray; Carol Steele; Wynn & Jim Stafford; Joan Ward; Marian Aleckson; Cathey Myers' friends Max, & JR & his wife; and Karen Stenberg.

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill:* George & Louise Fogg; Virginia Haacke; Julianne & Alicia Quigley's friend Mandy and their son Zane; Colleen Barnett's friend Camille; Joni Pokorny's father in law George; Beth Deters; Kayda Carpenter; Ralph Nelson; Penny Thoreen's brother Bud; Jo Nelson's friend Carol; Aiden Lindstrom; Roseann Libonati; Nettie Ubrick's friend Ruby; Kent Cumming; Pr. Laurie Larson-Caesar of the Oregon Synod; and the Hansen's grandson Rory and his wife Kelly.

*Those who are grieving: The family and friends of the Sloan's relative Jim.*

**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, #34, Gresham 97030, 503/912-1973



SAVE A TREE! SAVE A STAMP!  
 PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL IF  
 WE DON'T ALREADY HAVE IT.

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
AUGUST 26 8 & 10:30A- WORSHIP 9:30A-EdHour Healing Service after both ser- vices				PASTOR TOM ON VACATION THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3RD. →		1 12:30P- RECOVINC.
2 8 & 10:30A- WORSHIP 9:30A-EdHour	3 LABOR DAY OFFICECLOSED	4 8A-MEN'S BREAKFAST 10A-BIBLE STUDY	5 5:30-7:30P- CLUTTERANON. 8:45A-TEXT STUDY	6	7 OFFICECLOSED	8 12:30P- RECOVINC.
9 8&10:30A- WORSHIP 9:30A- EdHour; YouthEd begins <b>Youth Rally            Day</b> Blessing of Back- packs	10 10A-B-TEAM 1P-STEPHEN SUPERVISON 6:30P-FINANCE MTG.	11 8A-MEN'S BREAKFAST 10A-BIBLE STUDY 5P-MUTUAL MINISTRY	12 5:30-7:30P- CLUTTERANON. 8:45A-TEXT STUDY <b>7p-Church            Council</b>	13	14 OFFICECLOSED	15 12:30P- RECOVINC.
16 8 & 10:30A- WORSHIP 9:30A-EdHour 5:30P- CONFIRMATION	17	18 8A-MEN'S BREAKFAST 10A-BIBLE STUDY 7P-SWING BAND	19 5:30- 7:30:30P- CLUTTERANON. 8:45A-TEXT STUDY	20	21 OFFICECLOSED	22 12:30P- RECOVINC.
23 8 & 10:30A- WORSHIP 9:30A-EdHour Hunger Temple Talk	24	25 8A-MEN'S BREAKFAST 10A-BIBLE STUDY	26 5:30-7:30P- CLUTTERANON. 8:45A-TEXT STUDY	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 12:30P- RECOVINC.
30 8 & 10:30A- WORSHIP 9:30A-EdHour Healing Service after both ser- vices	<b>HUNGER TEMPLE TALK ON SEPTEMBER 23</b> — THE DIRECTOR OF ELCA WORLD HUNGER, PASTOR DAN RIFT, WILL BE IN PORTLAND FOR THE ELCA GLOCAL GATHERING AT AUGUSTANA ON SEPTEMBER 21-22. THERE WILL ALSO BE A CROP WALK ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22. HE WILL BE SPEAKING AT GETHSEMANE ON SEPTEMBER 23 AT BOTH SERVICES. PLEASE WELCOME HIM.					