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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2013

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## COUNCIL

### **President:**

Dick Bemrose

### **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**

**Action:** Patty Olson

### **Stewardship:**

Harvey Steele

### **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

## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you may have heard the 2013 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Churchwide Assembly — the highest legislative authority of this church) met Aug 12-17 in Pittsburgh. Here is a short recap of actions taken by the 952 voting members of the assembly:

### **Elizabeth Eaton elected ELCA presiding bishop**

Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Ohio Synod, was elected ELCA presiding bishop. Out of the 889 votes cast, 445 were needed for election. Bishop Eaton received 600 votes and the incumbent, Mark A. Hanson, received 287. Bishop Eaton is the first woman to be a presiding bishop of the ELCA.

### **Approval of the social statement on criminal justice**

Voting members adopted “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries,” a social statement on criminal justice, and they approved a series of implementing recommendations. Among the recommendations, this church is called to: “encourage ELCA congregations to consider becoming sites of ministry and action for the incarcerated and their families.” Also among the recommendations was a call to: “encourage ELCA congregations to work with victims, victim advocates and victim support organizations to grow in sensitivity and response to the harm caused by crime and to grow in awareness to restorative justice practices.”

### **Holy Communion, immigration among proposal topics considered**

The assembly approved a proposal designed to invite this church, its congregations, synods and the churchwide organization into conversation and study regarding the “Use of the Means of Grace” — a statement on the practice of word and sacrament.

Separately, voting members moved to call on ELCA members to advocate for the adoption of comprehensive immigration reform consistent with an ELCA message of immigration and with guidance from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services based in Baltimore.

### **Approval of the ELCA’s first major fundraising campaign**

Voting members approved a proposal for this church’s first major fundraising campaign to begin in 2014. The five-year campaign is designed to increase this church’s capacity to renew and start new congregations, educate and develop its leaders, bolster its global mission efforts and expand the impact of its relief and development work. In its consideration of the proposal, voting members approved two more campaign initiatives — encouraging and forming lay youth and young adult leaders and support for disability ministry.

The ELCA has now been in existence for 25 years. We thank God for all the blessings the ELCA has received over those years and we pray that the ELCA will continue to respond to God’s mission in the coming years.

Peace be with you. Pastor Tom Hiller

### **Camp Lutherwood is fun!**

Pastor Tom, Dick Bemrose, and our confirmands, Brandon Schie, Kali Crume, Hailey Long, and Annie Strobel went to Camp Lutherwood recently. Together we learned about the Bible, made crafts, swam, sang songs, hiked, participated in group trust and leadership activities, and slept in tents. Thanks to everyone who financially supported our trip to Camp Lutherwood.

### **Have you ever thought of visiting the Holy Land?**

You have a unique opportunity to travel with other Oregon Synod Lutherans, walk where Jesus walked, see with new eyes, practice accompaniment, and live out Jesus' mission. **You are invited to consider 14 days of Holy Land travel in late May 2014, or perhaps you can help someone in your congregation or cluster participate in this accompaniment pilgrimage.** Whether on the ground or in the pew, every member of the Oregon Synod can participate in this mission.

The trip, authorized by Synod Assembly 2013, will be organized by Group Travel Directors and led by Pastor Nick Doversberger. Travel expenses will be covered by the traveler, congregation, or cluster. Contact Pastor Tom for an overview of the schedule and costs.

Accompaniment travel in the Holy Land is for most a transformative encounter with people and places which touch the mind, heart, and spirit in unforgettable ways.

### **What will you encounter?**

- Places known through Bible stories and the ministry of Jesus – the Roman city Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Galilean cities Nazareth and Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee associated with the beloved Sermon on the Mount, the feeding of the multitudes, and walking on the water
- Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives, the hillside Garden of Gethsemane, the Way of the Cross through the Old City, Golgotha, Church of the Resurrection, the Western/Wailing Wall, the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa mosques on Temple Mount
- Bethlehem, Jericho, Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, Masada where ancient Jews chose death over surrender, and the Dead Sea

### **Whom will you encounter?**

- Jews, Muslims, and Christians practicing their faiths
- Ordinary people living with daunting hard-to-imagine challenges such as The Separation Wall and life in a refugee camp
- Ministries of fellow Lutherans which serve the whole community, bringing people of all backgrounds together to eat, talk, work, learn, share stories, build relationships to transform the future
- A Palestinian Lutheran family hosting all comers at Tent of Nations, a retreat center for practicing creative, engaging love in response to violence and bureaucratic obstacles
- Those who serve through Lutheran World Federation projects such as Augusta Victoria Hospital, the only medical facility available to most West Bank Palestinians and refugees
- Your sisters and brothers in faith, the members of Redeemer Lutheran Church (Jerusalem), Christmas Lutheran (Bethlehem), and Hope Lutheran (Ramallah) in worship and witness
- Producers and staff of Canaan Fair Trade olive oil cooperative
- Ecumenical Accompaniers, women and men who live with and stand beside those in danger of being driven from their homes and farms

You cannot meet the "living stones" of the Holy Land – spirit-filled people of faith, hope, and love – without being changed forever and for good. You will want to share your stories and your insights.

There will be an **Orientation Meeting** for our congregation on **Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** for all who are interested in this trip or in the Holy Land in general. **Two or three sessions** will follow on the subsequent Sundays. These meetings will take place in the conference room during the education hour between first and second service. These meetings will be our Adult Forums until they conclude in mid-October. **See Pastor Tom for details.**

## FIFTH SUNDAYS: MINGLE WITH THE "OTHER" SERVICE

What's special about a 5th Sunday? Something new at Gethsemane! **Join us from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, September 29, for coffee and goodies in the narthex for people from both worship services.** Either stay after the early service or come early before the 10:30 service. Enjoy fellowship with all of our congregational members, friends, and visitors. We encourage you to use this time to acquaint yourself with others!

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Education class on fifth Sundays. We will gather on each fifth Sunday through the year. This month the Christian Youth Family Formation Committee is sponsoring the gathering. **Please feel free to bring any treats you would like to share! See you on the 29th!**

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

A new preschool year is here, and in a few weeks we will welcome children and their families to our community. We continue to grow our program by keeping "PreK Monday" in our schedule, an additional day for 4 year olds who want a little more kindergarten readiness when they move on from preschool.

We are happy to have most of our staff returning this year! Sherry Budge will begin teaching our Senior class and we will be hiring a new assistant. What a blessing consistent staff are to the preschool. We are thankful for Tammy Gover, Christina Woods and Sherry Budge and ask for you to keep them in prayer as we begin our new school year. Our thanks and best wishes to Margie Fletcher, who is leaving us to spend more time with her family.

The annual **Trike a Thon** will be Thursday, Sept 26, at 6 p.m., when registration starts. We need help this evening for registration, running the event, and passing out ice cream treats. Whether you are available to help or not, I encourage you to join us this evening. You will be delighted watching our preschoolers doing laps around our parking lot on their tricycles! *Please see or call Katie, 503-256-1835, if you can help! Thank you.*

As of this writing our classes are nearly full but each class has a few openings. If 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

## FAITHWORKS: MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES

September is here! For those of us who follow an academic calendar, it feels like the beginning of the year – a beginning where everything is possible. A time to return to familiar ways, but also a time where change occurs. While much will look the same, we look forward to many changes. Our goal – as always – is to ensure the highest quality formation for our children, youth, and families.

### **Looking Back:**

We had a very successful summer – over 100 Gethsemane adults and kids participated in **Day Camp & Preschool VBS**. Keeping the momentum going, we continued our post-VBS excursions and invited all Gethsemane and VBS kids. The first week we went to the **Oregon Zoo**, an always-popular outing. We then went **swimming at East Portland Community Center**. In August, we went to **Bonneville Fish Hatchery** where **Burke Strobel** answered all our questions and we all learned a lot. We later headed to **Blue Lake** for swimming and play and later had an end-of-summer celebration at **Gresham Main City Park**. All of these events were well attended and were made possible by many amazing volunteers, including **Colleen Barnett, Dick & Diane Bemrose, Kim Butenschoen, Roseanna Foster-Mikhail, Karla Hills, Christie Riehl, Katie & Burke Strobel, and Jacque Williamson**.

### **Looking Forward:**

#### **"Rally Sunday" – Blessing of the Backpacks/Briefcases; Commissioning**

Most kids here attend David Douglas or Gresham-Barlow schools, which start Sept 9, so the Blessing of the Backpacks or Briefcases is Sept 8 during both services. If you're a student, teacher, administrator, or school volunteer, please join us. We will also be commissioning the Sunday School Formation Team and the Preschool Teachers & Board that day. Last, but not least, it is **Grandparents Day**, so if you're a grandparent, we hope you will be there. There will be some special activities associated with the beginning of the program year.

Several families came to picnic in late August to spend some unpressured time together and talk about what they'd like to happen in the areas of Christian formation for their children and themselves at Gethsemane.

### Sunday School

Learning from these discussions, we are going to try a few new things:

- The Sunday School hour for ages 3 through grade 5 will take place from 10 to 11 a.m. Children will enter the service at The Peace.
- We'll have a Parents Gathering Spot between 10 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.
- Twice a month, middle school and high school kids will gather from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch, faith discussion, and community building.
- We will have one activity for younger kids/families and youth every month, including service projects.

We need adults to help with all aspects of our program and we hope to see you from time to time.

**All parents should receive an information packet by Sept 1 about the coming year.**



### LOVE & LOGIC

Last January's Love & Logic, a parenting course based on increasing children's competence to make good choices, was very successful. Due to its popularity and the quality of presenter Esther Prelog, we will offer Love & Logic in October (1, 8, 15, 22). Esther will stress different topics (specific ideas about how to handle your child's difficult behaviors, such as bed time, talking back, messy rooms, homework battles, bad grades, tantrums, and sibling rivalry; natural consequences, following through, consistency and reliability; better ways of communicating without warnings, anger or lectures).

The cost is \$55 for four weeks (\$49 Early Bird Discount by September 15th). We will provide childcare for \$5/child or \$8/family/night. (If cost is an issue, please see Maureen.) Registration forms available at church or [glcportland.org](http://glcportland.org).

#### Upcoming Activities:

9/8 Rally Sunday!

9/29 Fifth Sunday Event

9/29 Youth Service Project!

10/1, 8, 15, 22 Love & Logic

10/6 First Sunday Gathering

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

*Yours in Christ, Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen*

### NOTES

- **In October 2014 Gethsemane Lutheran Church will be 50 years old!** Therefore, what I need is a task group of 3-5 people to begin planning an event worthy of a golden anniversary. The most important thing to establish right now is the celebration date. Let me know if you are interested. Leave me a note in my council box in the office, e-mail me at [dnrbemrose@comcast.net](mailto:dnrbemrose@comcast.net), or call me at 503-667-0480. Dick Bemrose.
- **IN GOOD COMPANY** -- The ELCA Women's Bible Study starts on **Thursday, Sept 19 at 10 a.m.** in the Conference Room. The study features stories of Biblical Women of the Old and New Testament, and is entitled "In Good Company." The study for each month can be found **gather**, the magazine of the Women of the ELCA. All women of the church are invited. We'll meet the third Thursday each month at 10 a.m. It promises to be an interesting study, written by Kay Ward, a Moravian pastor who served as the first woman bishop in the church's 550 year history. Put it on your calendar; plan to come. You'll be "in good company." Questions? Contact Carol Law.

**SEPTEMBER 2013 — 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 9:15a-EdHour <i>60th Anniv. Ken/Marilee Hansen</i>	2 7p-Band <b>LABOR DAY</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	3 8a-MenBrkt 10a-BibStudy 7p-NO Swing Band <b>6p-MA Harrison Benefit Concert</b>	4 5:30p- Clutterers	5 7:30a-Brkft BibStdyBegin 9:30a- Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir Begins	6 <i>Office Closed</i>	7 12:30p- RecovInc. 2-7p-Comm. Hall in use
8 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour <i>ELCA 25th Anniversary</i>	9 10a-B-Team 7p-Band	10 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-BibStudy 11a-Stephen Ministry 7p-SwBand	11 5:30p- Clutterers	12 7:30a- BkfstBibStdy 9:30a- Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	13 <i>Office Closed</i>	14 12:30p- RecovInc.
15 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour	16 9a-SnowCap Mtg. 6:30p- Finance Mtg. 7p-Band	17 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7p-SwBand	18 3p-Steward- ship Mtg. 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers <b>7p-Church Council</b>	19 7:30a- BkfstBibStdy 10a-Women's Bible Study 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir 7p-CH in use Companion	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 12:30p- RecovInc.
22 8&10:30a- Worship 9:15a-EdHour	23 7p-Band	24 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 2p-Mutual Ministry 7p-SwBand	25 5:30-7:30p- Clutterers	26 7:30a- BkfstBibStdy 9:30a- Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 12:30p- RecovInc.
29 8 & 10:30a- Worship <i>9:15a-Fifth SundayMingle (Healing services after each service.) Daybreak Here</i>	30 7p-NO Band (Jude on vacation to Oct 8)	<b>October 1</b> 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7p-NO SwBand	2 5:30p- Clutterers	3 7:30a- BkfstBibStdy 9:30a- Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	4 <i>Office Closed</i>	5 12:30p- RecovInc.

### 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 Schaffner  
    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  
    (60th)

4 Po/Rachel Peterson  
    (3rd)

20 Carrie/Aaron Berg  
    (11th)

27 Eric/Tracey Letmate  
    (12th)

**Prayer Concerns—Ongoing:** *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; the Butenschoen's friends Rebecca & Norm; Nettie Ubrick's nephew Troy, her friend Tim, and her friend Ruby; Randy Treanor; Rita Nesbitt and her son John; Roland & Virginia Haacke; the Sloan's friend Francis; Wynn & Jim Stafford; Joan Ward; Marian Aleckson; Madge Buss; Mickey Dochow; Karen Stenberg; George & Louise Fogg; Dick Burgess; Darlene Kuehmichel; Becky Keiper's sister Barbara; Paulette Kelley's brother Randy; Bill Herbert's sister Judy; Tiffany Herbert; Carol Steele's cousin Arlan Scott; Dorothy Shouse; Jerry Tilkens; Aiden Lindstrom; Bea Jarvie; Joe Rapp; George Willett; Linda Babcock; Michelle McGilvray; Vera Koosman; Dick Boro; Katherine Eschleman; Stan Johnson.

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Shar Giard's friend John; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Sharon Lee's daughter Karen; Carl Perkins & the Perkins' daughter-in-law Valerie; Joni Pokorny's daughter's friend Marissa; Jo Nelson's friends Greg & Carol; Mary Baxter's sister Joan; Kim Butenschoen's friend DeeAnn; Kent Cumming; Ginny Barton's friend Golda; Jennifer Peck; and Rachel Hills' aunt Kathleen.

*Those who are grieving:* The family (especially wife Lesley and daughter Alina) and friends of Ralf Schelzke; the family and friends of Bob and Joann Larson's dad Virgil Gellatly.

### Homebound Brothers & Sisters

**Lucille Langseth, Karen Stenberg, Vera Koosman, Marian Aleckson, Madge Buss, Mickey Dochow** (Please refer to your directory or call the church office for contact information.)

## SEPTEMBER 2013 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

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT HELP NEEDED AT SNOWCAP

We are seeing a need to serve the many people who have returned to work, but at a low wage, no benefits job. Though working hours vary, there is still a sizeable chunk of folks who work 9-5. These people are trying hard to make ends meet, but they often find there is more month than money.

SnowCap would like to open from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday nights. Parkrose Community UCC is starting us off by taking the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning in September. Is there anyone out there that would consider taking the first, second, or third Wednesday?

SnowCap would be stocked and ready. There would always be a staff person on site. We need a minimum of six volunteers to operate the basics. Seven people would not be too many. There should be a team leader that we can coordinate with.

If you have six people who would like to work together on a Wednesday evening, 6-8 p.m., working people would have a steady, reliable place to go when they need food assistance. Please let me know if this is something you would like to talk about.

We thank you for your support and helping us succeed in our mission.

Judy Alley, Ex. Dir.

SnowCap Community Charities

[judy@snowcap.org](mailto:judy@snowcap.org)

## SAVE THE DATE: HUMAN SOLUTIONS FUNDRAISER

The Annual **"It's On the House Fundraiser"** invites you to join Human Solutions in Gresham for Breakfast on Wednesday, Oct 16 from 7 to 8:30 a.m. at the Persimmon Country Club OR in Portland for lunch on Thursday, Oct 17, from 11:30 to 1 at The Benson (309 SW Broadway). Please RSVP to Sara Fisher at 503.548.0283 or [sfisher@humansolutions.org](mailto:sfisher@humansolutions.org).

## BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY STARTS UP

The Thursday morning Bible study resumes on Thursday, Sept 5, at a new time (7:30 a.m.) at the cafeteria at Adventist Medical Center. Hal Hingst leads the study titled "Earth and All Stars." Everyone is welcome!

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER: GIVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR IRA OWNERS

Haven't taken your RMD for 2013? Don't need all of the income that is required to be withdrawn from your IRA? Why not consider using all or a portion as a charitable gift?

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA) re-instated the IRA Charitable Rollover for 2013. This allows individuals over 70 ½ who receive a Required Minimum Distribution in 2013 to give all or a portion to a charity, which includes religious organizations. These funds can be used to satisfy your 2013 annual giving commitment, your pledge to the campaign and/or to the Mission Endowment Fund. If you are interested in making use of this provision please see Tonia Lindquist.

— Gethsemane Lutheran Church —			
<u>Income &amp; Expense Budget Report through July 2013</u>			
<u>Budgeted Expenses</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Actual Difference</u>
\$222,796	\$200,935	\$223,926	(\$22,991)
Average Weekly Attendance for July:	2013: 130	2012: 130	Cathey Myers, Fin.