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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2016

COUNCIL

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Vice President:

Jonathan Herbert

Sec/Treas: Bill Herbert

Properties: Scott Blohm

Lutheran Liaison:

Roseann Libonati

Evangelism:

Rachel Coughlin

CYFF Formation:

Brandee Liebrand

Community

Action: Patty Olson

Olson

Stewardship:

Shar Giard

Fellowship:

Lyle Johnson

Worship: Gloria Kelsay

Kelsay

STAFF

Interim Pastor:

Pr. Shelley Willem

CYM Coordinator:

Brandee Liebrand

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

Finance Mgr.:

Cathey Myers

Parish Admin.:

Judith Rykken

Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale & Ann Van Horn

FROM THE PASTOR

My trip to Romania in March 2000 was to celebrate the baptism of Alexa. She is the daughter of the Romanian construction company owner that our team from Longview worked with to do projects at an orphanage. Some of our team members had been over five or six times. It was my first trip to Eastern Europe, my first mission trip, and my first experience of an Orthodox Christian worship service, let alone baptism. It was all fascinating, inspiring, and informative. I would love an excuse to talk about it, so if you are interested just ask.

One of the things that sticks with me from that baptism is how they help me remember I was there and that I made promises to Alexa and that I am still responsible to those promises. You know the part at the end of the rite where the congregation says, "We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share. Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world"? Well, at the equivalent part at Alexa's baptism, all of us in attendance were handed pressed tin crosses with a pink ribbon on a straight pin that we were invited to pin on our clothing. We each got a simple keepsake to remind us of our new sister in Christ that we said we'd welcome into our life with Christ.

I had written a paper on the practice of baptism at seminary and had already spent some time thinking about the role the community has in welcoming the newly baptized. Given that she and I live on opposite ends of our continents with an ocean between us, I knew I would not be an active part of her Christian community. So that day, I promised her I would pray for her, throughout her life, asking God to remind her of how loved she is and how gifted she is by the Holy Spirit. When I see the pink ribbon and cross in my jewelry box, I remember to pray for Alexa. And then I remember to pray for everyone else whose baptism I attended and promised to welcome as a new brother or sister in Christ (including, but not limited to, Maslin, Jonna, Kjetil, Lotherial, Paige, Elle, Micah, Hunter, Clara and soon Brennan and Kenna). On good days, this practice ends with giving thanks that the same love and gifts of the Spirit were given to me back in August 1962.

Do you have a practice which helps you remember your baptismal identity and those you have welcomed into Christ's family? I would love to hear about it.

We welcome our newest brothers and sisters in Christ: Micah Morton, Hunter Wakeman, Clara Liebrand, Brennan Cumming and Kenna Cumming.

Pastor Shelley

YOUTH & VBS NEWS

VBS: Vacation Bible School is almost here. Mark your calendars for the week of July 25-29 and get ready for a fun-filled week on a Deep Sea Discovery! We are looking for volunteers for the following: Games Station Leader and Assistant, Class Guides for all ages, Kitchen Helpers, Registration Assistants, a Photographer, Skit Actors and a couple of Floaters to help where needed. We will also need Helpers for the Friday BBQ: Food, set-up/tear-down, and games. Please contact Brandee Liebrand with any questions and to reserve your spot! glcyouth@aceweb.com

Graduation: On Sunday, June 12, we will be honoring this year's high school graduate, Christine Wong, at the 8 a.m. service. At both services, we will be thanking this year's Sunday School Teachers. Please join us to show your appreciation and support!

Mark Your Calendars! The Church Picnic will be Sunday, June 12, at Blue Lake Park, in Chinook Shelter B. We will have BBQ, fellowship, and games with prizes for kids and adults. It's going to be some good ol' fun! Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share! Any questions? Email Brandee Leibrand at youth@glcportland.com.

NOTES:

- ◆ **Like Us on FACEBOOK.**
- ◆ **The Word “Sanctuary”** comes, in part, from the Latin word *sanctorum*, meaning “a room or other place where one can seek refuge from everyday concerns; a haven.” Our sanctuary is just that. However, lately it has also become a place where our everyday joys and concerns are shared with others in the form of joyous conversation. We pride ourselves on being a friendly church and certainly want that to continue, however, in consideration of those who use our sanctuary as a refuge and haven from their everyday concerns, please be respectful of them as they prepare for worship prior to the service. Joyous conversation should be held in the narthex prior to, or after, the worship service.
- ◆ **Bread for the World Letter Writing Campaign on Sunday, May 15.** Bread for the World is a national ecumenical faith organization which lobbies Congress regarding issues of poverty and justice. Christians are invited to model Christ’s perfect love to transform and reconcile all things. When we use our influence and urge our nation’s leaders to transform social structures and protect society’s most vulnerable people, we love God and our neighbors. This year’s Offering of Letters is focusing on improved nutrition and health for mothers and children in developing countries. We are asking Congress to support at least \$230 million for international maternal and child nutrition programs in the Department of State appropriation bill’s foreign operation global health account. Writing a personal letter tells your member of Congress that you are so concerned about the issue that you’ve taken time to write to him or her about it. **Please join us in the Offering of Letters after church on Sunday May 15.**
- ◆ **Gethsemane Work Group at SnowCap:** A GLC group meets at SnowCap Community Charities, 17805 SE Stark St., to work on projects from **6 to 8 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month.** Contact Diane Liefeld to help.
- ◆ **The Call Committee** met with Pastor Susan Kintner from the SYNOD on April 4 and we were blessed with five candidate profiles. Our task now is to review, pray, discuss, and interview with the candidates over the next few weeks. Please keep us in mindful prayer as we continue our work with the Holy Spirit to learn more about each candidate and how they might fit into our mission here at GLC.

PRESCHOOL EVENTS

In April our theme was “God’s World in the Springtime”. A special visitor came to Talk About Trees, and spent a morning with us. 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. We had an egg hunt the Thursday before Easter and our preschoolers had a wonderful morning celebrating.

It’s hard to believe that the end of the school year is almost here. May will be a busy month as we celebrate on May 5 with 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. We will also have our end-of-the-year festivities. Graduation for our Senior Bees and promotion for our Junior Bugs is coming right up and they’re getting very excited. It’s amazing to see the progress these little children make in their time in our program.

We have wonderful teachers and in May we have the chance to acknowledge them on Teacher Appreciation Day. If you are at the church and see a teacher please thank them for their hard work. They really are amazing ladies and do fantastic work with our little ones. Thank you so much Mrs. Tammy, Mrs. Sherry, Ms. Laurel, 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 September 1, 2016 and toilet trained. If they would like to visit our preschool, encourage them to come in prior to May 26 so they can meet the teachers. Katie Strobel can be contacted in the church office, 503-256-1835 or gethsemanepreschool@hotmail.com. Registration information is also online at www.glcportland.org/welcome.

We also have a new Summer Program that is accepting registration for preschoolers. This 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/welcome.

Katie Storbelt

ECUADOR EARTHQUAKE

The Situation:

A powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the northern coast of Ecuador on April 16. While assessment of damage is still taking place, more than 250 deaths have been confirmed, thousands have been injured and massive damage to and destruction of buildings and homes have been reported. The quake is the worst the region has experienced in more than 35 years.

Our Response:

Working with our trusted partners, Lutheran Disaster Response will help those in need, especially those living in smaller cities and regions that are vulnerable and in need of immediate assistance. Lutheran Disaster Response is continuing to gather information from affected areas and has started to establish coordination with the government and other relief agencies. We anticipate relief will be provided in the form of food, water, medical supplies, shelter and psycho-social support.

What Can You Do?

Pray:

Continue to pray for the people affected by the earthquake, may God's healing presence comfort them in their time of need.

Give:

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response, International will be used to assist those directly impacted by the earthquake until the response is complete. (Select Lutheran Disaster Response, International from the Designation drop-down list.)

| Gethsemane Lutheran Church Income and Expense Budget Reort through March 2016 | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Budgeted Expenses | Actual Income | Actual Expenses | Actual Difference |
| \$91,978 | \$83,965 | \$81,744 | \$2,221 |
| Cathey Myers, Financial Manager | | Attendance 2015: 124 | 2016: 145 |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p><u>MAY Birthdays</u> 3 Linda Babcock Cory Cumming 7 Theresa Qualheim 10 Bill Herbert 12 Dick Bemrose 13 Virginia Haacke 23 Linda Fletcher Brianna Kelley Jack Rasmussen 24 CJ Butenschoen 27 Philip Dochow 30 Ernie Butenschoen 31 Laurel Strobel</p> | <p><u>MAY Anniversaries</u> May 8 - Roland and Virginia Haacke, #67 May 15 - John and Christine Hurlman, #22 May 27 - Dan and Bobbie Griffith, #38</p> | <p><i>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: Roseann Libonati's relative, Dawn; Darlene Kuehmichel; Becky Keiper's sister Barbara; Virginia McCormick's relatives Ivan and Marlene; Lori Howell Bond; Ida Olson; Dorothy Shouse's daughter Robin; Jo Nelson's friend Greg; Ginny Barton's friend Golda; Marian Aleckson; Dick Burgess; Carol Steele and her cousin Arlan Scott; Dwain Estes; Linda Babcock's grandson Josiah; Aiden Lindstrom; Galven Irby; John Skuzeski; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; Jennifer Peck; Tyler Riehl; Randy Treanor; Lucille Langseth; Sharon Lee's niece Terri and friend Nancy; Dorothy Shouse; Betty Walklate's husband Lionel, and daughter Valerie; Bill Herbert's friend Phil; Brandee Leibrand's uncle Ray; Virginia and Roland Haacke.</i></p> <p>Urgent: <i>Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:</i> Rachel Coughlin's friends Carrie, Cathy and Edith and her friend's daughters Angela and Dawn; Mary Curtis' friend Vanessa; Karen Reagan's cousin Sherry; Colleen Barnett's friends Ryan and Laree; Darlene Kuehmichel's friend, Debbie; Jo Nelson's great-grandson Zachary, nieces Cathy and Betsy, and sister Alice; Liz Blohm's niece Claudette; Roy Roberson III; JoAnn Larson's mother Mel; Wynn Stafford, Martha McMinn; Penny Thoreen's daughter, April; Kay Qualheim's nieces Sherry and Sue; Ray and Ginger Heater; Joyce Woods; Brandee Leibrand's friends Ella and Albert and uncle Ray, Karen Arendt and her son's mother-in-law Judy, Doug Glenn, Louise Fogg, Audrey Magnuson, Ginny Barton.</p> |
| <p><u>Homebound Brothers and Sisters:</u> Lucille Langseth, Marian Aleckson, Dick Burgess, Jenn Peck, Dorothy Shouse, Ida Olson, and Wynn Stafford. <i>(Refer to your directory or call the church for contact info.)</i></p> | | |

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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
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(503)256-1835
glchurch@aceweb.com
www.glcportland.org
Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8a-3p

MAY 2016 — 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-EducHr. RUMMAGE SALE | 2 1:30-TaiChi 7p-NO Band | 3 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 6:30p-CYFMtg. 7p-NO SwgBand | 4 1:30-TaiChi 5:30p-Clutterers 6p-SnowCap | 5 7:30a-BibleClass 9:30a-NO Quilting 1p-NO Orchestra 1:30p-Chrysallis 6p-Handbells | 6 <i>Office Closed</i> RUMMAGE SALE <i>8a to 4p</i> | 7 RUMMAGE SALE <i>8a to 4p</i> |
| | | | | | | |
| 8 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EducHour 7p-Sanctuary in Use | 9 1:30-TaiChi 6:30p- FinanceMtg. 7p-Band | 10 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 9a-PreschoolBd 7p-SwgBand | 11 1:30-TaiChi 5:30p-Clutterers | 12 7:30a-BibleClass 9a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 1:30p-Chrysallis 6p-Handbells | 13 <i>Office Closed</i> | 14 |
| 15 8 & 10:30a- Worship/ 9:30a-EducHr. Bread for the World Letters 3p-Sanctuary in Use 5-7p-Cluster Youth Event | 16 1:30-TaiChi 7p-Band | 17 8a-MensBkfst 10a-Bible Study 7p-SwgBand 7p-Church Council | 18 1:30-TaiChi 5:30p-Clutterers | 19 7:30a-BibleClass 9:30a-Quilting 1:30p-Chrysalis 1p-Orchestra 6p-Handbells | 20 <i>Office Closed</i> | 21 |
| 22 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-Educ.Hr. | 23 1:30-TaiChi 7p-Band 6p-Mill Park Neighborhood Assoc. | 24 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand | 25 1:30-LAST TaiChi 5:30p-Clutterers | 26 7:30a-BibleClass 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 6p-Handbells | 27 <i>Office Closed</i> | 28 |
| 29 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EducHour <i>Healing services</i> | 30 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 7p-Band | 31 8a-MensBkfst 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand | | | | |