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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2016

COUNCIL

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CYM Coordinator:

Brandee Leibrand

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

Finance Mgr.:

Cathy Myers

Parish Admin.:

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Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale & Ann Van

Horn

FROM THE NEW PASTOR

By the Grace of God and the Call of the Holy Spirit, I will be entering into a new call at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Portland, OR. I will be with the loving and lively people of Resurrection through July 18. God's blessing and peace to all! Pr. Suellen Bahleda

FROM PASTOR SHELLEY

Congratulations Gethsemane, Call Committee and Pastor Suellen!

It is a delight for this Interim Pastor that the process has resulted in a call everyone is enthusiastic about. Thanks to the Call Committee for the hours of work they have put in. Thanks to the congregation for the prayers and support throughout this journey. Thanks to the Oregon Synod Office for their guidance and outstanding slate of candidates. Thanks to Pastor Suellen and her family for their willingness to go where the Holy Spirit is calling them. And finally, thanks to God for pulling all the pieces together in such a satisfying way. Blessings to you all as you begin your ministry together.

My end date at Gethsemane is not set yet but I know I will be here through VBS and Sunday, July 31. As I look at the status of various projects, the Vitality Survey is the one that hasn't gone as far as I would have liked. The Council and Pastor Suellen may still pursue working with the results we got back in April but here is a bit of feedback I want to make sure you all have before I go. Pastor Michael Keys, synod Director for Evangelical Mission, wrote this summary after analyzing our results:

Gethsemane is a stable ministry in the midst of a call process. There are **many strengths** and a **very high capacity to act** due to trust in the organization and personal vesting in the congregation. There would seem to be room for new ideas and ministries to emerge though there may be some reluctance to do so. The future is in the hands of the congregation as they seek a pastor to move beyond "maintenance" into the challenges of doing ministry in this new societal culture of unchurched and those done with church. Blessings!

The bolded italics are mine. I want to make sure you recognize that this congregation has "many strengths" and "a very high capacity to act." And I would encourage you to take a look at the Vitality Survey results. There are some interesting snippets of information and broader points of view which may surprise you (or not).

As Gethsemane moves forward, I wish you all of God's richest blessings, Pr. Shelley.

PRESCHOOL CHANGES

Changes are coming in the preschool hallway. As you know, our program has been struggling with enrollment. Numbers have declined for several years. The preschool board and I have spent more than two years discussing and researching options for using our space in the best possible way while reducing our deficit at the same time. I have also been in communication with church council about information we have learned during this process and council has advised how to proceed.

Beginning September 2016 we will only have one classroom at Gethsemane Lutheran Preschool. We will continue to offer the same play-based Christian program we've offered for over 50 years. Our hours will be the same and our PreK and music programs will still be in place.

Our program will now be structured as a multi-age classroom staffed by Sherry Budge and Mary Baxter. We will focus on individual students and their needs while still using play as our main vehicle for learning. Multi-age programs have many strengths, including modeling and mentoring, child-centered learning, and less competition. We hope to see all of these benefits.

This is a sad transition for our program especially as we say goodbye to some wonderful teachers. Tammy Gover has been with the preschool the longest but chose to leave. She is hoping to grow her “drop in” ministry at Bethel Lutheran. We will miss her energy, smiles, and chapel lessons. Rebecca Lueck will also not return in the fall. She will be home with her kids and will sub for us as we need her. We will miss her kind heart and spirit with our children.

As we move on to a new school year I am hopeful about the potential for our program and that educating children will continue at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in some form. I ask for continued prayers as our program goes through struggles and changes.

Please refer any preschoolers you know to our program. I would love to give them a tour this summer. Or invite them to attend our summer program and get a small taste of what it is like during the school year.

In addition to this big change in our own program there is more! MHCC Head Start will begin leasing our vacant classroom in July. They continue to need more space for the families they serve and are a natural tenant for our preschool hallway.

I am excited about this opportunity for our congregation. Once again we will have over 30 families in our building each day. This is a great challenge for our congregation to see how we can reach out to these families and include them in the Gethsemane community.

This is a big season of change for our congregation and our preschool and I hope we can see the changes in the preschool as an opportunity to feel hopeful rather than discouraged.

Please talk to me if you have any questions about the changes or ideas about how we can continue to plant the seeds of God’s love in our families and the Head Start families’ lives.

Thank you for your continued support and prayer, Katie Strobel

NOTES

- ◆ **Like Us on FACEBOOK.**
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **As Usual, During the Summer Months** we see a dip in giving. Please remember Gethsemane, amid all good things summer has to offer. Also, if you are able, remember our 13th-month giving pledge.
- ◆ **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 Friday, so please contact Brandee Leibrand with questions (youth@glcportland.org) or to volunteer. Registration forms are on the church website, which is glcportland.org. **Register Now!!**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Income and Expense Budget Reort through May 2016			
Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference
\$153,296	\$133,621	\$137,865	\$4,243
Cathey Myers, Financial Manager		Attendance 2015: 115	2016: 114

<p>July Birthdays 1 Brandon Schie 2 Gavin Hills 5 Karen Arendt Shar Giard 6 Clara Shortt Shannon Kelsay 8 Elaine Kahler Penny Thoreen Scott Blohm 11 Opal Ballard-Beach 12 Bob Law Katie Crouse Braden Kelley 13 Shelley Willem Kevin Blohm 14 Anna Dinsmore 15 Vern Hopp Jack Hurlman 17 Bea Jarvie 19 Marian Aleckson (98th)</p>	<p>20 Melissa Solberg 21 Joyce Woods 26 Betty Walklate 28 Dan Griffith 31 Larry Stoffregen Mikayla Williamson</p> <p>July Anniversaries 7 Ray&Melissa Nastasia (9th) 19 Rod&Karla Hills (36th) 22 Tom&Darlene Lewis (38th) 30 Russ&Melissa Solberg (10th)</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 sister Alice; 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 Brenna; Dorothy Shouse; Betty Walklate's husband Lionel and daughter Valerie; JoAnn Larson's mother Mel; Joyce Woods; Virginia and Roland Haacke; Kay Qualheim's niece Sherry; Penny Thoreen's daughter, April; Liz Blohm's sister-in-law Pearl; Roy Roberson III; Ginger Heater; Wynn Stafford.</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; Colleen Barnett's friends Ryan and Laree; Darlene Kuehmichel's friend, Debbie; Kay Qualheim's niece Sue and her husband John; Brandee Leibrand's friend Albert and uncle Ray; Karen Arendt's son's mother-in-law Judy; Doug Glenn; Jo Nelson's niece Betsy; Bill Herbert's friend Phil; Cathey Myers; and Linda Babcock.</p>
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Homebound Brothers and Sisters: Lucille Langseth, Marian Aleckson, Dick Burgess, Jenn Peck, Dorothy Shouse, Ida Olson, and Wynn Stafford. (Refer to your directory or call the church for contact info.)

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Please send us your email if
we don't already have it.*

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
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glchurch@aceweb.com
www.glcportland.org
Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8a-3p

JULY 2016 — GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2
3 8 & 10:30a- Worship	4 <i>4th of July/ Office Closed</i>	5 8a-MensBkft 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand 6:30p-CYF Mtg.	6 2p-PastoralCare 5:30p-Clutterers 6p-Work@ SnowCap	7 9a-Quilting 6p-Handbells	8 <i>Office Closed</i>	9
		Summer	Preschool	Week		
10 8 & 10:30a- Worship	11 6:30p-Finance Mtg.	12 8a-MensBkft 9a-PreschoolBd. 10a-Bible Study 7p-SwgBand	13 5:30p-Clutterers	14 9a-Mutual Ministry 9:30a-Quilting 6p-Handbells	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16
17 8 & 10:30a- Worship	18	19 8a-MensBkft 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand 7p-Church Council	20 5:30p-Clutterers	21 9:30a-Quilting 6p-Handbells	22 <i>Office Closed</i>	23
		Summer	Preschool	Week		
24 8 & 10:30a- Worship	25 6p-Mill Park NA Mtg. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL this week 9-11:45 a.m.	26 8a-MensBkft 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand	27 5:30p-Clutterers	28 9:30a-Quilting 6p-Handbells	29	30
31 8 & 10:30a- Worship 5th Sunday Mingle @ 9:30a Healing services	July 31 thru August 7 DAYBREAK					