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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2016

COUNCIL

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Jonathan Herbert

Sec/Treas:

Bill Herbert

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Lutheran Liaison:

Roseann Libonati

Evangelism:

Rachel Coughlin

CYFF Formation:

Brandee Liebrand

Community

Action:

Patty Olson

Stewardship:

Shar Giard

Fellowship:

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Worship:

Gloria Kelsay

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CYM Coordinator:

Brandee Liebrand

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

Finance Mgr.:

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Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale & Ann Van Horn

FROM THE PASTOR

I am a liturgical nerd so I love the festival season of the church year. I like the different modes from Advent through Pentecost expressed in the colors, the music, the texts, and the sense of movement. We just ended that part of the church year. And what a way to go out.

The Feast of Pentecost is the festival when we are reminded that we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit and that means we have all we need to navigate this life. At your baptism and confirmation, hands were laid on you with the prayer “Sustain/Stir up in (*your name*) the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. Amen.” When this prayer was prayed over Daniel, Brennan, and Kenna this last Sunday (and Clara, Hunter, and Micah weeks earlier) I was reminded that those gifts have been given to me as well and I hoped that you all remembered they have been given to you also. I cannot imagine a situation in life that cannot be made better when I stop and ask God, “Which of the gifts you gave me do I need to rely on for this? Please make it obvious enough for me to understand and make me strong enough to do it your way.”

As we enter into the season of Ordinary Time, the long green season, the counting of the Sundays after Pentecost, I pray that we all remind each other that God has given us what we need to meet these days and all the days ahead.

Pastor Shelley

REFLECTIONS ON 2016 SYNOD ASSEMBLY by Brandee Liebrand

Back to the Future was the theme of this year’s Synod Assembly. Tables were decorated with handmade flux capacitors and they showed the film on Friday night - with popcorn. But what does it have to do with the Church? Why do we say “back” to the future? How do we help our Church move into the future?

In many ways, our church is playing catch-up. And I don’t just mean Gethsemane, but the church as a whole. We are stuck in the past. That old saying, “That’s the way we’ve always done it!” continues to hold us in place while the rest of the world moves forward. The lack of youth/young families is a prime example of the shift. So how do we bring ourselves back from the past into this new, worldly future? This question was explored throughout the weekend. Five resolutions were offered on Saturday, each shining a light on a way to go back toward the future.

Each resolution presented a hard look at our past with the goal of driving ourselves into the future. There was great debate among us as our varied pasts clamored to be heard, adding color and shape to our communal future. All five resolutions passed. The important thing for us as a congregation to remember is that these resolutions are not handed to us as commands, but rather as doorways for us to discuss entering. Or not entering as the case may be.

Resolution A addressed the future of our planet. Presented by Peace Lutheran Church in Burns, this resolution asks the Church to not only be more environmentally responsible, but to “...compassionately divest from funds that support production of fossil fuels and invest in funds that support clean energy..” and to “...influence legislators to adopt more stringent measures for protection of our environment.” This resolution’s debate went on for awhile, with amendments

and amendments to amendments. The major concern of those against it was the financial impact on communities whose livelihood depends on the use and production of fossil fuels, thus the phrase “compassionately divest.” The greater future concern is our children and grandchildren having a planet left to call home.

Resolution B highlighted the fact that ours is a past of exclusion rather than inclusion. Over the years, we have worked to right that wrong. This resolution is another step in the process that allows us to intentionally listen to the voices of a group that has historically been marginalized and ostracized: the LGBTQIA community. For some of you, as it was for me, the “IA” is a newer addition and stands for “Intersexual” and “Asexual.” The resolution is simple: Congregations may send a voting representative from the LGBTQIA community to Synod Assemblies, joining voting members of persons of color whose primary language is other than English, and a Youth.

Resolution C concerns future individual health via Universal Healthcare. As you can imagine, this was also greatly debated! The resolution asks that congregations “learn about and support current efforts and legislation...to bring a universal, publicly-funded health care system to Oregon” and that we consider joining Health Care for All Oregon. This was presented by a group from Augustana in Portland, members of said organization.

Resolution D was arguably the hottest topic of debate. It looked at the futures of some of our neighbors who are oppressed, hiding, living in fear, escaping. It asks that “...the Oregon Synod declare itself one of the first Sanctuary Synods in the ELCA while encouraging all congregations to become Sanctuary churches ready to protect refugees and undocumented sisters and brothers from arrest and deportation...” and that we ask the ELCA as a whole at Churchwide this year to declare itself the first “...Sanctuary denomination, encouraging all 10,500 Lutheran churches to become Sanctuary congregations.” Many had strong emotional, political, and moral reactions to this resolution. Remember, this resolution only opens the door for discussion, it is not a commandment.

Resolution E is basically an experiment on the future structure of Oregon Synod Assemblies. Ours is a large Synod, encompassing the whole state. There are congregations for whom it is difficult and expensive to attend Assembly. 2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, so no changes in schedule were proposed. 2019 is a Bishop election year, so the 3-day format will remain. But in 2018, we will be trying a one day, business-only format for Assembly with various regional gatherings throughout the year. The Synod Council will then look at statistical data to learn if it is a better course of action in the future.

The workshop I attended Saturday was on Transformational Ministry via Adaptive Leadership, titled: *‘Moving Through’ – Finding the Future*. This is a continually evolving and growing mission. Our Church is, as Bishop Dave put it, in the “Cloud of Unknowing.” The environment has changed and therefore Church as we’ve been doing it needs to change, too--Adaptation. The points of focus in Adaptive Leadership are: mobilizing people; change that enables the capacity to thrive; building on the past; experimenting organizationally. It takes time and cannot be done alone; it relies on diversity; it disorients and causes resistance. The tools: Prayer, Adaptive Work, Organizing Work, Biblical Work, Relational Work, and Accountability. I hope to attend the next class held in our area.

On Sunday, the speaker, who had done some mission work in Peru, said there is a saying that roughly translates to “your past is before you.” I’m not in the habit of taking notes during a sermon, but I wish I had because I’m afraid I won’t remember exact words. Like that saying. In any case, the gist of the message is that our futures are helped, guided and shaped by our past, and the past of those we encounter. Our past is what makes us who we are, and by interacting with others, we are in turn made into something new. Another way of travelling Back to the Future. *The Future is in the Past and our Pasts are in our Futures. Diversity. Change. Adaptation. Community. The Church.*

NOTES

- ♦ **Rummage Sale 2016 is History!** On Sunday, May 1, we “operated like a colony of ants on a mission.” We emptied three packed Sunday School rooms in less than two hours. More stuff came during the week. We received a record amount of quality furniture. Ask Dale Van Horn, because he arranged it. A touching moment was a visit from a VFW who donated \$25 collected in honor of Doug Glenn, who is still in rehab and will miss the sale. Plenty of laughter and “what is this?” happened. Neighbors came to help and donate. Teams with two trucks picked up items from 10+ homes. Thirty signs went up in 90 degree temperatures! A huge thank you to each of you involved in big and small ways. Kim Stoffregen was co-chair this year and helped so much. Rummage Sale amounts ended up just a bit over \$15,000. Thank you everyone for your part in making this such an exceptional community event and fundraiser for all these worthy causes.

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Sunday, JUNE 12:** We honor all our graduates and thank profusely all who have taught throughout the year. It is also the day of the church picnic, which is planned for noon at Blue Lake Park, Chinook Shelter B. More coming on what's provided and what to bring.

PRESCHOOL EVENTS

May was a wonderful time of celebration at preschool, with a Craft Night just before Mother's Day where preschoolers had a special evening with their moms, grandmas, aunts and others. Many thanks to Home Depot for donating the kits our kids used to build with their moms.

Very fun themes in May included camping and water week. Our children loved the tents and pretend campfire as well as painting the fence with water. We also had a birthday party for all of the Summer Birthday children who don't have a day to celebrate during the school year. The year finished with graduation, a special promotion ceremony, and a "finger food" potluck to celebrate.

I can't believe the school year is ended, and we say goodbye to some of our preschoolers and their families. It is always a bittersweet time. Some students are going on to kindergarten and other programs. We wish the best for them and their families as they leave us. We will pray for their growth as they go on to the next step. Most of our juniors will be back in the fall and we can't wait to continue watching them grow.

We've had a great school year and our preschoolers have learned and experienced so many things. Our weekly chapel lessons consistently stressed the message that God loves and cares for them. The music program, run by Ms. Laurel, was a time to learn songs and move to music; a favorite part of the preschooler's day. Mrs. Sherry and Mrs. Tammy taught our curriculum, practicing shapes, colors, counting, number recognition, sequencing, patterning, letter recognition and sounds. They all learned how to write and recognize their name.

The dedication of our staff, including our assistants Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Rebecca, is what makes our program remarkable. Their energy and patience are truly a blessing to our program and the children and families we serve. I cannot thank them enough for their devotion to our program.

I have also had a wonderful board that supported me this year: Thank you to Pastor Shelley, Kim Butenschoen, Gloria Kelsay, Jay Rector, Jan Cumming, and Diane Bemrose for their commitment to the preschool. The willingness of people to serve Gethsemane's preschool is terrific. I appreciate the value placed on the preschool.

As we move to a new school year I am excited about the potential to grow our program and offer the love of Christ to families in our community. I am hopeful that educating children will continue at Gethsemane in some form, and I ask for continued prayers as our program goes through struggles and changes.

Please refer any preschoolers you know to our program. I'd 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.

Happy summer! Katie Strobel

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Income and Expense Budget Reort through April 2016			
Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference
\$91,978	\$108,433	\$110,910	\$2,476
Cathey Myers, Financial Manager		Attendance 2015: 163	2016: 109

OREGON LUTHERANS A SANCTUARY CHURCH

In May, official representatives of the Oregon Synod of the ELCA voted to make this the first "Sanctuary Synod" in the nation. This action encourages each of the 115 ELCA congregations and ministries throughout the state to "become Sanctuary churches ready to protect refugees and undocumented sisters and brothers from arrest and deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers."

"The Lutheran Church has been active in refugee resettlement nationally for over 75 years through the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services," said Oregon Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke. "Just this week we are welcoming the first Syrian refugees to our state through a partnership between Lutheran Community Services Northwest and a local congregation, St. Luke Lutheran, in Portland."

After World War II one in six Lutherans in the world were refugees or displaced persons. At that time Lutherans and the Lutheran Church in this country resettled 57,000 refugees in the United States. After the fall of Saigon in 1975 U.S. Lutheran congregations sponsored over 50,000 refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

"To designate ourselves as a Sanctuary Synod means our moral compass is straight and true," stated Bishop Brauer-Rieke. "It means we are thankful for the welcome this country has given us as European immigrants and refugees and that we honor the highest values of our nation as a place of safety for the poor, the tired, and all who yearn to breathe free. Most of our work around Refugee resettlement is done in harmony with government agencies and social services. The call to sanctuary recognizes that sometimes we have to ask more difficult questions."

Augustana Lutheran Church in Portland was in the news September and December of 2014 as they offered physical sanctuary to Francisco Aguirre and family, being threatened with deportation to El Salvador after 20 years in the U.S. as an undocumented worker. Augustana Lutheran Pastor Mark Knutson says, "As a congregation we just want to know what's going on, and that it meets the values of the community, the common values of ending wars, striving for equity, serving the hungry and the vulnerable, lifting up children and the elderly."

"Offering sanctuary to the Aguirre family had the single goal of giving our community and legal system time and space to consider its actions," said Bishop Brauer-Rieke. "Given this time an injustice that might have occurred was, thankfully, avoided. I commend Augustana Lutheran for their compassion and care."

"Not every Lutheran congregation in Oregon is likely to offer physical sanctuary the way Augustana has because of our action this past weekend," Bishop Brauer-Rieke went on to say. "We recognize all together that issues of immigration and documentation are extremely complicated and complex. Nonetheless we all know people come first. Children come first. Safety and well-being comes first. Each of us in our own way is offering food, assistance, welcome and hope to those in need as we are able."

This August the ELCA in America meets in national assembly in New Orleans. At that time the Oregon Synod will be petitioning their church to become the first "Sanctuary Denomination" in the U.S.

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Alaura Kinnear is graduating from PLU on May 28. She will receive her nursing pin in the morning and her degree in the afternoon. Many of you know her as our blonde curly-headed granddaughter. Although she's lived in Tacoma, she took her confirmation here, and helped many years at VBS. Dick and Diane Bemrose.

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GLC HAS SOME POLICIES!

Over the years issues have arisen that, once they were sorted, resulted in policies being written down to govern future actions. Policies are voted on by the congregation before they go into effect. Here is the list of GLC Policies and the date they went into effect. If you have any questions about any of them, please contact the office for a copy and then talk to a Council member.

- Baptism and Communion Policy – Feb 2013
- Building and Facility Use – March 2009
- Fund Raising Policy – May 2010
- Reimbursement Procedure Policy – June 2015
- Continuing Resolutions – thru June 2015

<p>June Birthdays</p> <p>1 Elmer Schmidt 2 Simone Poole 3 Mary Baxter Laura Britzius Leslie Johnson 6 Marion Burgess 9 Jan Perkins 11 Jan Cumming 15 Brian Kelley Patty Olson Katie Strobel Sydney Rasmussen 16 Alma Crouse 17 Marilee Hansen 18 Cooper Rasmussen 26 Jonathan Herbert 28 Ray Heater 29 Deb Postlewait 30 Steve Olson</p>	<p>June Anniversaries</p> <p>16 Dick/Marion Burgess, #59 18 Jim/Diane Liefeld, #50 19 Al/Ethel Marsh, #61 20 Carl/Jan Perkins, #58 22 Larry/Kim Stoffregen, #42 24 Jacob/Kaitlyn Hills, #4 25 Laura Britzius/Mary Curtis, #35 27 Wayne/Frances Rippon, #24 29 Pat/Karen Reagan, #53 29 Bill/Cameron Herbert, #42 30 Ray/Ginger Heater, #55</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; JoAnn Larson's mother Mel; Martha McMinn; Joyce Woods; Karen Arendt; 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; 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; Wynn Stafford; Penny Thoreen's daughter, April; Kay Qualheim's nieces Sherry and Sue; Ray and Ginger Heater; Brandee Leibrand's friend Albert and uncle Ray; Karen Arendt's son's mother-in-law Judy; Doug Glenn; Louise Fogg; Audrey Magnuson; Ginny Barton; Judith Rykken.</p> <p><i>Those who are grieving:</i> Friends and family of Vanessa, Mary Curtis' friend; friends and family of McKenzie Brown.</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.)

**JUNE 2016
THE OLIVE PRESS**



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www.glcportland.org
Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8a-3p

JUNE 2016 — GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<i>Memorial Day Office Closed May 30</i>		1 5:30p-Clutterers 6p-SnowCap 2p-Pastoral Care Committee	2 7:30a-BibleClass 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 6p-Handbells	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4
5 8 & 10:30a- Worship 11:30a-Special Congregational Meeting DAYBREAK here this week	6 7p-NO Band	7 8a-MensBkft 10a-BibleStudy 9a-PreschoolBd 7p-NO SwgBand	8 5:30p-Clutterers	9 7:30a-BibleClass 9a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 6p-Handbells	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11
12 8 & 10:30a- Worship/ <i>Honoring Teachers and Graduates Church Picnic @ Blue Lake Park @ noon, Chinook B</i>	13 7p-Band 6:30p-Finance Mtg. <i>Pr. Shelley gone thru June 19, CYF Brandee gone this week</i>	14 8a-MensBkft 10a-Bible Study 7p-SwgBand	15 5:30p-Clutterers	16 7:30a-BibleClass 9:30a-Quilting 1p0Orchestra 6p-Handbells	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18
19 8 & 10:30a- Worship Noon-Band Concert	20 7p-Band	21 8a-MensBkft 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand 7p-Church Council	22 5:30p-Clutterers	23 7:30a-BibleClass 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 6p-Handbells	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25
26 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-5thSunday Mingle <i>Healing services</i>	27 7p-Band 6p-Mill Park Neighborhood Mtg.	28 8a-MensBkft 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwgBand	29 5:30p-Clutterers	30 7:30a-BibleClass 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 6p-Handbells		