
◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2016

COUNCIL

President:

Dick Bemrose

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

Stewardship:

Shar Giard

Fellowship:

Lyle Johnson

Worship: Gloria

Kelsay

STAFF

Pastor:

Suellen Bahleda

CYM Coordinator:

Brandee Leibrand

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

Finance Mgr.:

Cathy Myers

Parish Admin.:

Judith Rykken

Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale & Ann Van

Horn

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus is coming, coming, coming!

As a child, I refused to wait for the surprise of Christmas presents...there was no hiding place I couldn't find, no method of wrapping I couldn't crack...it took me several years of snooping to realize that the sense of letdown I felt Christmas morning was of my own doing....I already knew what everything was...my moments of discovery and delight had been done, secretly, privately, alone...and when the time to share came, I had nothing. No spontaneous rolling of the eyes at the tacky necklace Grandma sent...I had seen it weeks before. No thrill in getting the record of the song I'd soon be playing over and over...I knew it was going to land in my stocking. There was no sparkle, no fun...it was....empty.

We already know what God's gift to us is this Christmas. Life, love, and salvation as God comes to live among us. How do we wait for that? How do we wait for what we already know? How can we be surprised when we're given the same thing every year?

Jesus is coming, coming, coming!

This waiting has been described as "abiding astonishment:" *abiding*...living, staying, on-going, present + *astonishment*...wonder, awe, beyond expectation...

...it doesn't matter how many times you poke into the nooks and crannies where faith is tucked away...go ahead, snoop around...see what God wants to give you...Christ Jesus. And it's always a surprise! Look what God gave you today! Oh! Salvation! Just what I always wanted! Life! It's a perfect fit! Mercy! I can never have enough!

Jesus is coming, coming, coming!

With joy, *Pastor Suellen*

NOTES

- **Like Us on FACEBOOK.**
- **Pr. Suellen's Email (please make a note):** sbahleda144@gmail.com.
- ◆ **ADVENT MEDITATION** -- The December Women's Bible Study will be an individual one based on Advent. Please see your December issue of *Gather* magazine for the study and try to do it early in Advent as a personal in-depth meditation. The study group will meet again in January, the third Thursday.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our preschoolers have been learning about thankfulness in November. At chapel we talked about being thankful to God for all our blessings. We had a Thanksgiving feast the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, my favorite day of our school year. All the preschoolers were able to try traditional foods and have a morning of games, songs, and crafts. Families shared the morning with us. Thank you to Jan Cumming, Mikayla Williamson, and Annie Strobel for helping prepare and serve food and to everyone who helped get things ready.

In December we plan to have our Giving Project for Boxes of Love, which are gifts to babies. They will be placed under the tree in the narthex. Our program is Dec 14 at 6:30. Families come and celebrate the Christmas season by listening to their children sing songs and share holiday cookies. Some may stay for our Advent Service.

The holidays are always such a fun, busy time for preschoolers, and we are always excited to share in the joy with them. We will share the story of the birth of Jesus; for many it will be the first realization that this is the real meaning of Christmas. What a gift that is for us to offer the children we teach.

I am grateful for the extra contributions members of the congregation give our program. Each bit helps. As the year ends please remember us in prayer and financially. Also remember shopping online using AmazonSmile and using your Fred Meyer Rewards card both earn the preschool money.

Have a very Merry Christmas! Katie Strobel

CHILDREN, YOUTH FAMILIES

Advent Event: Saturday, Dec 3, 4-6 p.m. in the Community Hall. Come join us, along with Trinity and Resurrection Lutheran churches, as we celebrate the beginning of the Season of Advent! We will be making Advent Chains to help us count down to Christmas and Life Pax to help others in our communities, sharing cookies, cider and cocoa, and singing hymns to celebrate the season. We look forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Pageant: Our Christmas Pageant this year will be on Sunday, 12/11, during the 10:30 service. There are still a few parts to be filled and all ages are welcome! Contact Brandee Leibrand at brandee@glcportland.org for more information, or she can be reached in the church office in the afternoon on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 503-256-1835. There will be two rehearsals: Sunday 12/4 and Sunday 12/11 at 9:15 in the Activity Room.

Sunday School update: There will be NO Sunday school on the following Sundays: 12/4 (Pageant rehearsal), 12/11 (Pageant rehearsal), 12/25 (Christmas Day), and 1/1 (New Year's Day).

Happy Birthday Jesus Party: During our Sunday School time on 12/18, we will be celebrating Jesus' Birthday with cookies, story time and gifts for babies in need. Please bring a baby item to donate: ie, diapers, wipes, formula, pacifiers etc. Items will be donated to SnoCap. Please contact Brandee with any questions.

Baby Item Drive: The Youth will be collecting Baby items to donate to SnoCap in honor of Jesus' Birthday. Please bring baby items such as diapers, wipes, formula, pacifiers, etc, to church through Sunday, 12/18, and leave them in or near the Manger in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Brandee Leibrand at brandee@glcportland.org.

Brandee Leibrand, *Interim Youth Coordinator*

Gethsemane Lutheran Church — Income and Expense Budget Reort — through October 2016

Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference	Attendance '15: 118	2016: 113
\$306,593	\$260,974	\$273,584	<\$12,610>	Cathy Myers, Financial Manager	

VESPERS AT MT. ANGEL

Vespers at Mt. Angel is set for Saturday, December 3. This event has become an annual trek for many of us. Please join us for vespers at the abbey followed by dinner in Mt. Angel. If you'd like to come, please let Diane Bemrose or Laura Britzius know. We will meet at church at 3:15 to carpool or we can make arrangements to pick you up! Vespers bells sound at 5:15 with dinner at 6ish. We are back at the church around 8!

THINK ABOUT IT

The congregation council is always being made new, with people transitioning in and out. There are several positions coming available. Will you serve? The work of the council, for the sake of the congregation, is mighty work that matters. Meetings are lively and faithful, and sometimes there are cookies! Pray, and speak to Pastor Suellen if you are willing to serve.

December Birthdays

- 1 Elaine Walter
Arloa Hurt
- 6 Ida Olson
- 17 Gloria Kelsay
Melissa Nastasia
- 19 Jo Nelson
- 21 Becky Keiper
- 22 Christine Hurlman
- 25 Audrey Magnuson
Carol Steele
- 27 Pat Edwards
Peggy Sloan

- 31 Carol Law
Sharon Magnuson

December Anniversaries

- 16 Hal Hingst/Priscilla
Nelson (27th)
- 27 Paul/Diane Kovach
(36th)
- 28 Shirley Treanor/George
Willett (13th)

*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; Virginia McCormick's relative Ivan; Ida Olson; Dorothy Shouse and her daughter Robin; Ginny Barton's friends Jean and Golda; Marian Aleckson; Dwain Estes; Linda Babcock's grandson Josiah; Aiden Lindstrom; Galven Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; Jennifer Peck; Lucille Langseth; Sharon Lee's relative Terri and friend Sandy; JoAnn Larson's mother Mel; Virginia and Roland Haacke; Kay Qualheim's niece Sherry; Penny Thoreen's daughter, April; Wynn Stafford.*

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Rachel Coughlin's friends Carrie, Cathy, Edith, Angela, and Dawn; Kay Qualheim's niece Sue and her husband John; Karen Arendt's son's mother-in-law Judy; Doug Glenn; Linda Babcock; Ginny Barton's friend Margie; Patty Olson; Nettie Ubrick's brother Buster; Jo Nelson's niece Nancy; Don and Shar Giard's friends Heather, Renae, and Betty; Shirla Rapp's cousin Julie; Colleen Barnett's relatives Linda and Ken; Gary Bowne, Barbara Keyes; Lisa Keiper.

Those who are grieving: The family and friends of Dick Burgess.

Homebound Brothers and Sisters: Lucille Langseth, Marian Aleckson, Dorothy Shouse, Wynn Stafford, and Ida Olson. *(Refer to your directory or call the church for contact info.)*

December 2016 The Olive Press



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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www.glcportland.org

DECEMBER 2016 — GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p style="text-align: center;">Office Hours for Pastor Suellen</p> <p>Sunday <i>Worship Services</i></p> <p>Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday <i>9 to Noon</i></p> <p>Tuesday <i>9 to 11:30; Noon Text Study;</i> <i>1-5p Reading</i></p> <p>Friday <i>Day Off</i></p>				1 Quilting, 9:30a Orchestra, 12:30p Chrysalis, 1:30p? Bells, 6p Choir, 7p	2 ChrysalisSelf- Defense, 10a-1p DickBurgess' Memorial,11a	3
4 Worship, 8 &10:30 a.m. Ed.Hr, 9:30 a.m.	5 Band, 7p	6 BibleStudy,10a SwingBand,7p CYFMtg,6:30p	7 Clutterers,5:30p SnowCap,6p AdventWorship @ Noon & 7:15p	8 Quilting, 9:30a Orchestra, 12:30p Chrysalis, 1:30p Bells, 6p Choir, 7p	9 <i>Office Closed</i>	10
11 Kid'sChristmas Program Worship, 8 &10:30 a.m. Ed.Hr, 9:30 a.m. <i>JuleSongFest,1-6p</i>	12 Band, 7p BusyBeees,10a FinanceMtg, 6:30p	13 BibleStudy,10a SwingBand,7p PreschoolBd,9a	14 Clutterers,5:30p AdventWorship @ Noon & 7:15p	15 Quilting, 9:30a Orchestra, 12:30p Chrysalis, 1:30p Bells, 6p Choir, 7p	16 <i>Office Closed</i>	17 <i>Scherzinger</i> <i>Family Event in</i> <i>the afternoon in</i> <i>community hall.</i>
18 Lessons&Carols Worship, 8 &10:30 a.m. Ed.Hr, 9:30 a.m.	19 Band, 7p	20 BibleStudy,10a SwingBand,7p CHURCH COUNCIL,7p	21 Clutterers,5:30p AdventWorship @ Noon & 7:15p	22 Quilting, 9:30a Orchestra, 12:30p Bells, 6p Choir, 7p	23 <i>Office Closed</i>	24 Christmas Eve Worship Services at 4 and at 10 p.m.
25 Christmas Day ***** One Worship Service at 9 a.m. <i>(Healing Service)</i>	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>