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GETHESEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2017

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FROM THE PASTOR

Lent is upon us. But what does Lent actually mean? As a season of the church, it has bound up in it a whole bunch of meanings...it is a season that feels heavy, somber...it is a time of self-discipline, six weeks of denying ourselves...or feeling guilty that we SHOULD give up something, but well...that seems connected to a time gone past...even Catholics don't require eating fish on Fridays any more...right?

So, maybe instead of letting go of something, we try to add something...more prayer, more volunteering...and sometimes that works out okay, sometimes it begins as a good intention but doesn't really go anywhere, and then we feel guilty about that, too.

In early Christian days, Lent was a season of penitence and preparation...it was an intense period of instruction for people who wanted to become a baptized member of the body of Christ, a time to study and ponder the stories of the Bible, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the meaning of the commitment of baptism, of discipleship. This time of learning was fulfilled in their baptism on Easter Vigil, the Saturday night before Easter.

These expressions of Lent...penitence, self-discipline, being formed by baptism for discipleship...are all faithful ways of *living* Lent...but what does Lent *mean*?

"Lent" comes from an Anglo-Saxon word, *lente*, which means...spring. It literally comes from the idea of 'lengthen'...the lengthening of daylight hours. And so, Lent means moving from darkness to light, from death to life...a time when all things are created new...old bulbs push through the earth so that flowers may burst forth, brown and grey tree limbs bud out in green, even the dirt smells different, ready, wanting...mirrors of our winter souls drawn to the light of Christ...ready, wanting...to bud, to burst, to live!

So much of our church year is about growing, those green Sundays that call us to grow in our understanding of God's creative work in and through us, for the sake of the kingdom. May these days of Lent stir our hearts and souls to *new growth*, which may come by making time for God, rather than a daily latte, or chocolate, or gossip, or television, or some other idol that holds us; *new life* by studying and pondering our baptismal gift through prayers and creeds; *new hope* through turning to God, like flowers to the light; *new mission* in celebrating our connection to the whole body of Christ, especially those who are waiting for light to transform their darkness---the frightened, the suffering, the hungry.

Lent. Spring. Life. Thanks be to God!

With joy, *Pastor Suellen*

ASH WEDNESDAY is March 1 with services at noon and 7:15 p.m. On March 8, at 7:30 p.m. (following our 6:30 Lenten soup and bread), Lyle's friend, Christina Kobb, will offer an evening of meticulously selected romantic piano pieces in a concert she calls "Keys to Romance". Admission will be free, however a freewill offering will be taken to offset some of her expenses and as a way of thanking her for this gift. We sincerely hope you can join us for this amazing evening.

NOTES

- ♣ **Remember the Joys of VBS?** Bible learning, plus snacks and games and crafts? Why should kids have all the fun?! Our series of **Grown-UP VBS sessions will focus on Martin Luther's Small Catechism.** "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." *Martin Luther*
- ♣ **On Behalf of the Boxes of Love Project** for foster kids, we'd like to thank you all for your generous gifts of the 'coats and more' drive held in December and January. We were able to donate over 175 items, mostly jackets and coats, which will be given to children leaving area hospitals and going into foster care. Since most of these placements happen with little notice, the foster parents don't have time to really prepare, so this gives them a start. The items are all new, an attempt to send the message that these very vulnerable children are important and worthy. If the child has to change homes, the items go with them. A box of items goes with each child so they have new things for an entire year. This is a local, grassroots project started by a pediatric RN who saw many kids leave the hospital with nothing more than the hospital gown or the clothes they came in with. If you would like more information about this project, ask Kim Stoffregen or visit Boxes of Love Facebook page.
- ♣ **Join Us to Learn About Daybreak** on Sunday, March 5, between services. We'll meet in the community hall to learn about Daybreak and how we can help. We'd love to have you join us!
- ♣ **Recent Change for Good Purchases:** Two energy efficient cookstoves, 10 chicks, a rooster, and a mosquito net.
- ♣ **On March 12 at 3:00,** Trinity Lutheran Church in Gresham will install their new pastor, the Reverend Tim Carnahan, and all are invited to attend.
- ♣ **On March 19, Pastor Suellen will offer a Holy Communion Class** for Sunday School participants, at 9:30 a.m., between services.

CHILDREN, YOUTH FAMILIES

Sunday School Time Change: Sunday, March 5, Sunday School will begin at 9:15 a.m. in the Sunday School Classroom.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering--This Changes Everything--In Houston, June 27-July 1, 2018: This tri-annual event is open to all Youth who are in 8th-12th Grade at the time of registration, which will be this coming September. We will be fundraising the costs associated with attending this event. There will be more detailed information to follow. If your child is interested in attending, or you are interested in being an Adult Leader, please let Brandee Leibrand know: brandee@glcportland.org or leave a note in her folder or office mail box.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

If you haven't heard already, the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction was a huge success. It was held February 19; we made close to \$4000, which will go toward operating expenses for the preschool. Thank you again to everyone who donated items for the auction and raffle. Also thanks to those who donated their time and labor for the success of this event. We could not have done this without you all. What a blessing the community of Gethsemane Lutheran Church is to the preschool ministry. We were thrilled by the turnout and are grateful that so many preschool families were able to come and meet some of our church families.

During class in February, we talked about community helpers and had several visitors come to our classroom: We met a nurse, police officers, and fire fighters. It is always exciting for preschoolers to see these people and their gear.

March will be a busy month at preschool. We will talk about God's world in the springtime and make some wonderful crafts to go along with this theme. We will also begin celebrating the season of Lent and will use Godly Play during chapel to learn about how much Jesus loves them.

Wednesday, March 8, is our sixth annual Construction Night at preschool. We will invite our Dads, Grandpas, Uncles and friends to come with their preschoolers for a night of cardboard box and duct tape building. This should be a fun night for everyone.

Please remember we are enrolling for our 2017 school year. We will continue to have our 3 day-per-week program for 3 and 4 year-olds. We will also have our 4 day-a-week PreK Mondays for 4 year-olds. All the information is on the website, www.glcportland.org/preschool, or in the office. Spread the word!

March Birthdays

5 Alec Eason
Josephine Crouse
Jacqueline Hills
7 John Skuzeski
John Hurlman
9 Joan Ward
10 RJ Treanor
13 Michelle Schie
15 Jim Liefeld
19 Henry Juilfs
21 Randi Bateman
22 Robert Magnuson
23 Tyler Riehl
27 Ken Hansen

29 Carter Poole
30 Roseann Libonati

March Anniversaries

21 Elaine Kahler
24 Steve & Christina Riehl
(10th)
24 Gavin & Raechel Hills (5th)

*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; Ginny Barton’s friend 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 friends Lynne, Joan, and Sandy; JoAnn Larson’s mother Mel; Virginia Haacke; Kay Qualheim’s niece Sherry; Wynn Stafford; Diane Bemrose; Don and Shar Giard’s friends Heather and Betty.

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; Doug Glenn; Linda Babcock; Nettie Ubrick’s great-grandson Jacob; Jo Nelson’s niece Nancy; Shirla Rapp’s cousin Julie; Colleen Barnett’s relatives Linda and Ken; Barbara Keyes; Clara Shortt; Cathey Myers’ friend Brenda; Jay Rector’s granddaughter Karsen, Ken Hansen.

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

MARCH 2017
The Olive Press



*Save a tree! Save a stamp!
Please send us your email if
we don't already have it.*

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www.glcportland.org

MARCH 2017 — GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:30p-Clutterers 6p-Work@ SnowCap? ASH WEDNESDAY, Services @ Noon&7:15p 8p-Choir	2 7:30a- BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 10aMutualMin 12:30p- Orchestra 1:30p-Chrysalis	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4
5 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a-Ed.Hr. 9:30a-Daybreak InformationMtg CommunityHall	6 7p-Band	7 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwingBand 6:30p-CYFMtg.	8 5:30p- Clutterers Noon&6:30p-Soup/Bread, Lenten Service at noon only 7:30p-Piano Concert 8p-Choir? <i>6:30p-Preschool Construction Night</i>	9 7:30a- BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 10a- MutualMin. 12:30p- Orchestra 1:30p-Chrysalis 6p-Bells	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11
12 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a-Ed.Hr. <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> DAYBREAK this week <i>3pPrTimCarnahan installed@ Trinity/Gresham</i>	13 7p-NOBand 6:30p-Finance Meeting	14 9:30a- PreschoolBd 10a-BibleStudy 7p-NOBand	15 5:30p- Clutterers Noon&6:30p-Soup/Bread Lenten Service 8p-CHOIR	16 7:30a- BibleStudy 10a-Women's BibleStudy 12:30p- Orchestra 1:30p-Chrysalis 6p-Bells	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18
19 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a-Ed.Hr. 9:30a-Holy Communion Class with Pr. Suellen	20 7p-Band	21 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwingBand 7p-CHURCH COUNCIL	22 5:30p- Clutterers Noon&6:30p-Soup/Bread Lenten Service 8p-CHOIR <i>1-3p-DressFor SuccessMtg.</i>	23 7:30a- BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 1:30p-Chrysalis 6p-Bells	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25
26 8&10:30a- Worship <i>Healing Services</i> 9:30a-Ed.Hr. <i>5thSundayMingle?</i>	27 7p-Band 6:30p-Mill Park Neighborhood Assoc. SPRING BREAK FILM CAMP thru Thursday	28 10a-BibleStudy 7p-SwingBand	29 5:30p- Clutterers Noon&6:30p-Soup/Bread Lenten Service 8p-CHOIR	30 7:30a- BibleStudy 9:30a-Quilting 12:30p- Orchestra 6p-Bells	31 <i>Office Closed</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">DRESS FOR SUCCESS</div>	April 1

Gethsemane Lutheran Church — Income and Expense Budget Report — through January 2017

Budgeted Expenses	Actual Income	Actual Expenses	Actual Difference	Attendance '15: 101	2016: 88
\$29,111	\$25,927	\$25,438	\$489	Cathey Myers, Financial Manager	(Snow/Ice)