

THE OLIVE PRESS

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2021

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Anna Lewis

From the Pastor

Hello GLC!

I'm delighted to serve you for the interim season as we journey together through this time in the life of Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Surviving a global pandemic has been no easy task. We miss communion. We miss each other. We miss the comfort of just physically being in the church.

My heart is heavy with yours for the losses of the past year. My heart is hopeful with yours for the coming Spring and our eventual return to services in person.

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We are on our way...we are not there yet. This season of slow re-opening is like the interim time itself. We know where we long to be: back in the sanctuary, with a permanent pastor, greeting each other! But we are not there yet. We are still here in the wilderness, in a time of transition, uncertainty and separation. Yet even here, there are so many reasons to hope.

Jesus is Risen! He is Risen indeed! We will celebrate Easter together online on April 4th. If you need help connecting online, please reach out to the church office.

We are invited to celebrate Holy Communion together online. This is a practice that has been approved by our Bishop, given the extraordinary length of our pandemic separation. See my instructions in this packet for details and participate as you feel comfortable.

We will continue in prayer together. The Prayer Tree is active. Please pray for our church, our leadership council, and our staff. As some businesses re-open and children return part-time to school, unemployment and food insecurity remains a reality for many. Please hold each other and our wider community in your prayers.



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We will plan for a safe re-opening. While our building remains closed, church leadership will be developing plans for satisfying all of the many public health and synod requirements that will allow us to eventually gather again in person. We will follow Bishop Laurie's exhortation to plan for the most vulnerable among us. Re-opening will not be a return to the usual, but will require new practices, extra patience and abundant grace!

We will begin our interim work together. I will reach out in the coming weeks to meet each of you. My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm, and Saturday morning by appointment. Please note that we are still currently required to wear face coverings and maintain distance when meeting in person. I look forward to hearing your stories and holding your prayers as I serve as your interim pastor. Email me at pastor@glcportland.org.

Now, here is a little bit about me:

I am a feisty, joyful, Protestant (emphasis on "protest") pastor who finds herself pleasantly surprised to serve a Lutheran congregation. Baptized German Lutheran as a child, I have spent most of my life/career in other denominations: Baptist, Episcopalian, and Congregationalist. Educated at Willamette University (BA, Politics, '96) and Marylhurst University (MDiv, '13), I am ordained in the United Church of Christ. I served First Congregational Church in downtown Portland for many years, and have held interim and supply positions throughout the Metro area.

Public faith advocacy work with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice led me to develop relationships with my ELCA colleagues. I am currently accompanying the Oregon Synod cohort in a "Reckoning with Racism" project led by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. My ministerial standing is recognized by the ELCA, and I'm excited to return to my early Lutheran heritage.

My deep, personal faith in Jesus has sustained me as I have followed my call. My wife Sadie and I have lived in the Parkrose neighborhood for 15 years. We are moms to two amazing children: Ellie (8) and Naomie (4). I serve on the Parkrose School Board of Education and the MESD Regional School Board Equity team. Before the pandemic, you could usually find me in the science fiction section at Midland Library or in the pool at East Portland Community Center.

As I'm writing this at the church office, busy construction on the sidewalk along Market Street continues. We are, as a church and as a community, under construction in these times. Although it can seem endless, I am reminded of the words in Paul's letter to the Philippians, chapter 1, verse 6:

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Praise be to God!

In confidence,
Pastor Elizabeth

From the Council President

March 22, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Today I share with you a prayer that is found in the latest "Christ in Our Home" magazine that is covering the months of April, May and June. It is found in the inside behind the cover page and reads as follows. I love this morning prayer because it speaks to a lot of important key points that we should think about often.

Your boundless love rises fresh with each new dawn, O Lord. Speak peace to our hearts as you spoke to the disciples. Enfold us in your love and fill us with joy, that we may share your healing grace with every soul we meet. Amen.

This prayer will be my morning prayer for the rest of the year. I think about the Easter season and immediately I can see what Jesus has done for me and what he has done for all of you. He always folds us in his love even when he is walking to the cross. I have to say that I tear up when I think about what he was about to do to save us all. He knew what was at stake and as a human was struggling with the idea that he was going to leave that life. What it did, was to make a greater life for all of us. His journey was hard but he did what God willed and that's why the Easter story is by far my favorite and most dear to my heart. I think about the events leading up to the cross and it makes me swell up with love that he had to endure so much with such little support (His betrayal, the night in the garden, the flogging and brutal punishment to his body, his walk carrying his cross, the placement on the cross and yet he was still able to show his capacity to love with all his being to save one of the two men that hung next to him as he was in the process of dying). Looking at the conclusion of the prayer is what is most important for us to do going forward. We need to shine with the love he has shined on us and share that with others, along with the healing grace he has given freely to us. Enjoy this Easter season for what God and Jesus have given us. We are truly loved and blessed. Thanks be to God and Jesus!

There is much going on at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. We have our new interim pastor, and her name is Elizabeth Durant. She is a lovely person, and she will be sharing more about herself very soon. Her first sermon will be on Easter Sunday. Please join us on Sundays through Zoom and check out YouTube and Facebook for replays and a look at our new website. Jasmine has been working hard on the site and has been helped by Rod Hills on any technical problems. I have already heard positive things from members who have seen the new site.

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To check out those Sunday morning worship services on Zoom, here is the invite information:

- * **To watch on a computer:** click on the link highlighted or put in the following numbers – Meeting ID 956 3897 0351, then wait in the waiting room until Jasmine lets you in.
- * **Using a telephone:** call 1 253 215 8782 (no long distant charges will be charged) then put in the meeting ID 956 3897 0351. After you have done that, you might get a prompt to hit the pound button. If you have any issues signing in, call me at 503-760-5824 Hope you join us!

Brandee, Jasmine, Mary Karter, Dick Bemrose, Tom Martin, Lyle, Ben and Brooke have all been working hard to put these worship services together so we can worship virtually.

Thanks so much for your continued offerings!!!

I hope all of you are doing well.

God Bless, and Happy Easter!

Ernie

The word "Rejoice!" is written in a highly decorative, calligraphic font. Each letter is filled with a vibrant, multi-colored gradient, transitioning through shades of yellow, orange, red, purple, and blue. The letters are thick and have a slightly textured, hand-painted appearance. The exclamation point at the end is also stylized, with a blue and purple gradient. The overall effect is one of joy and celebration.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION in LIVE ONLINE WORSHIP

These are extraordinary times. For many of us this will be longest we have gone without worshipping in a church building; perhaps the longest we have gone without receiving Holy Communion. With this in mind, and acknowledging that there currently is no safe way for us all to gather for the meal, we are inviting you to join us for Online Holy Communion on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar has approved this practice for churches in the Oregon Synod. Given that these are extraordinary times, our Lutheran theology offers the “emergency rubric” to allow us to share in Holy Communion in a way that is safe. Martin Luther believed that just as education in the faith could be supplemented at home, moving the Sacrament of the Eucharist into the home when the church found itself in the midst of dire circumstance could also be done.

However, this is not a new normal. When it again becomes safe for us to worship face-to-face, we will return to our normal practice of celebrating Holy Communion in the context of worship at Gethsemane Lutheran.

Holy Communion is not a private event. We believe that as we eat and drink together, Christ is present with us in a uniquely powerful way. The Spirit unites us with the Communion of Saints — those who have been followers of Christ throughout the ages — forgiving us, restoring us, and strengthening us. We will only celebrate when live on a Zoom call together, where we can see each other and follow Pastor Elizabeth presiding in the moment.

We realize that not everyone will want to partake in Holy Communion from their tables at home, which is perfectly fine. We will invite you to use the moment in the service as a time to reflect on God’s presence with you in the Word and through the Holy Spirit. Please respect and support each person’s decision about participating. Remember that God’s grace binds us together as a community.

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GETTING READY

Here are a few things to think about and/or prepare before the service:

- * *What table will you use?* You can simply pull up a coffee table or gather at your kitchen/dining room table. You may want to prepare your table by placing a white cloth on it or finding a cross in your house to place on it. If you have children, you could invite them to color placemats on large paper to put on the table. While ordinary dishes work fine, so would using dishes cherished by your family to show this is a special meal.
- * *What bread will you use?* Any bread – homemade or store bought – or cracker will work for communion. Place the bread/crackers on a plate on the table.
- * *What juice/wine will you use?* Wine or grape juice are ideal. If you have neither on hand, then water can be used as well. Pour a little into a small glass for as many people as are worshiping in your house.

CELEBRATING THE MEAL

At the time of Holy Communion, Pastor Elizabeth will preside over Holy Communion from the altar at church. We encourage you to follow along with Pastor Elizabeth as she presides. (Choose one person to do this for your family). As Pastor Elizabeth recites the Words of Institution, speak the words along with her. As she lifts up the bread and wine, you may lift up the bread, and one of the glasses of juice or wine, along with her.

Following the Lord's Prayer, you are invited to share bread and wine with one another. You may gather in a circle, and pass the bread from one person to another, saying "The body of Christ, given for you." And then the wine, saying, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Or you may invite one person to commune all the others. If you are alone, take the sacrament as Pastor Elizabeth leads you.

It is our practice to welcome any who want to join us to receive the bread and wine. If there are those among you who choose not to participate, you may offer them a blessing instead. Place your hands on their heads and speak words of blessing. You might consider saying, "Remember that God loves you always." Or "May God bless you this day and every day."

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AFTER WORSHIP

Traditionally, leftover communion elements — the bread, the wine, and the juice — are either eaten or returned to the earth. If you do not consume them, please take them outside and place them in your garden or on your lawn. It is not appropriate to put them in the trash or down the drain.

If you have questions about this practice, please contact Pastor Elizabeth...

Have you applied for a Thrivent action grant? Every Lutheran with a Thrivent account is eligible to apply for up to \$500 a year (two \$250 grants) to be used for community service projects, Lutheran ministries, fundraisers, and so much more! If you've been feeling moved to help out in a particular area but just don't have the funds to do it, Thrivent may be a great help, and the process is simple!

- * Go to www.thrivent.com/actionteam
- * Set up a new user account if you don't already have one (if you have one but forgot how to log in, you can reset your password there too)
- * Follow the prompts to set up your grant request, including the date, title, and summary of your project, how many volunteers will be involved, and whether the grant will benefit a school, church, or individual. The process only takes five to ten minutes.
- * Choose any of Thrivent's promotional materials that might help with your grant (optional).
- * Submit your application. If your request is approved, you should hear within a week, but sometimes as quickly as two or three days. Most requests are approved.
- * When your grant arrives it might be in a large envelope or a box, with a Visa gift card included. There will be instructions on how to use the grant and account for your expenses. Once your application is accepted, you have up to three months to use your grant funds. You'll need to send in a report after your project is complete, but the process is quick, and photos are encouraged!

Notes

- * **Colleen Barnett is looking for a couple of books she loaned out.** If you have the titles "God is Disappointed in You" and "Apocrypha Now", please give her a call or call/email Anna at the church office.
- * **SnowCap's winter needs** include the following food items: canned fruit, hearty soups/chili/stew; canned tuna, peanut butter, ground coffee, can openers. They are also collecting stocking/gift bag items for children, including hot chocolate packets, art supplies, socks, and card games. The donation drive-through is open Monday-Friday between 9 am - 3 pm at 17788 SE Pine Street. **Please do not bring used clothing for Snowcap.** Due to Covid, they cannot accept them at this time. Thanks, Dick Bemrose
- * **If you come into the church for any reason, please remember to wear a mask and sign in on the contact-tracing sheet!**

Hey everyone! Could you please take a moment to **update your email addresses?** Either go to the website at **www.GLCPortland.org** and go to the contact page to drop us a note, or call Jasmine's desk (**503-256-1835x103**), or mail it into the church?

GLC Women

Even though we have not been able to gather the past year, many GLC ministries have continued.

Our quilters donated 18 quilts to the Gospel Union Mission and 13 quilts to the Portland Sunshine Division at the end of December.

The depot to send off Lutheran World Relief kits was cancelled last year, but will be starting up again this year. We would like to be able to send off both personal care and school kits in the fall. We have a lot of supplies already for personal care kits. I will be taking inventory soon of school supplies and hopefully, we can take advantage of the school supply sales this summer. We are looking forward to making a good donation of both types of kits come fall, in addition to the quilts. Please watch the Olive Press as summer nears for those school supplies we especially need to complete our kits.

Many thanks to our quilters and all those who assist in this important ministry.

Karla Hills

Gethsemane Youth Happenings

Easter is always my favorite time of year! It has been for about as long as I can remember. Maybe I say that about a lot of times of the year – but really for reals Easter is THE TIME! Not necessarily for Spring – my allergies really make me want to claw my own eyeballs out, the roof of my mouth feels like a beehive, and especially the last two years everyone gives you a side-eye when you sneeze or sniffle (I *promise* it's just allergies!). It does seem like everyone is in a better mood at Easter time though! The sun is shining more often, bulbs are showing themselves, trees are budding, flowers are teasing us with colors we haven't seen in many months.

Even this year after being hit with news of a novel Coronavirus and told to go home for two weeks, which turned into 52, everyone seems to be lifted out of their COVID funk just a little bit with news of a vaccine distribution plan that is ahead of schedule and will hopefully have us back together soon! That word 'soon' is hard to hear after the year we've had. We've fallen prey to it too many times, and as they say "once bitten...".

Easter though! I remember last year when we were told Lenten services would not be held in our church building- and we thought ***Gethsemane would not overcome!*** And yet, somehow we did! We held out for Holy Week and Easter last year expecting that surely we would be back in our building by then and when those days came and went we thought ***Gethsemane would not overcome!*** And yet, we persevered! Every year at Easter we listen to the same stories, we read the same readings, we teach the same lessons – and when called to live these experiences we call out ***we cannot overcome.***

Gethsemane friends, family, visitors who also belong – remember when you tell the story that you also are the story. We are being made new and made whole all the time, and while we may read the stories of the many examples of human people in the Bible and think "why didn't they just listen? Why didn't they just trust God?" know that we are also guilty.

Gethsemane will overcome! We will all be back together-again. Like Easters of years past – we'll all get dressed for church on Sunday, excitement for new life and new stories to share, joy joy JOY, and an electricity in the sanctuary that only comes after the long winter and the death. Just like the story we tell each other – every year – at least once.

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Until then enjoy these Easter season activities for yourself or share them with the whole family;

- * Play in the rain (remember your baptism!)
- * Go puddle jumping! (Baptism...again!)
- * Watch a movie snuggled up in a blanket on a rainy day! (More baptisms!!)
- * Visit a nearby farm...are there new babies?!
- * Decorate Easter eggs. (Easter eggs symbolize fertility and new life!)
- * Go Easter egg hunting. (Practice your liturgical colors!)
- * Enjoy the cherry blossoms...go for a short walk!
- * Do some gardening..even if it's an indoor plant!
- * Blow bubbles!
- * Have a picnic in the park...how many bunnies did you see? (Even pictures of bunnies...more fertility!)
- * Make a kite...or fly a kite...or fly a kite you make!
- * Read a book in the sunshine. (Or inside on a rainy day.)

Christ
is
Risen!



April Lectionary

Apr. 1 — Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Apr. 2 — Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Psalms 22 (1)

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1—19:42

Apr. 3 — Resurrection of Our Lord, Vigil of Easter

Creation; First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

Response: Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (1)

Flood, Second Reading: Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18,
8:6-18, 9:8-13

Response: Psalm 46 (7)

Testing of Abraham, Third Reading:

Genesis 22:1-18

Response: Psalm 16 (11)

Deliverance at the Red Sea, Fourth Reading:

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

Response: Exodus 15:1b-13, 17-18 (1)

Salvation Freely Offered to All, Fifth Reading:

Isaiah 55:1-11

Response: Isaiah 12:2-6 (3)

The Wisdom of God, Sixth Reading: Proverbs
8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 or Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4

Response: Psalm 19 (8)

A New Heart and a New Spirit, Seventh

Reading: Ezekiel 36:24-28

Response: Psalms 42 and 43 (42:2)

Valley of the Dry Bones, Eighth Reading:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Response: Psalm 143 (11)

Gathering of God's People, Ninth Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Response: Psalm 98 (4)

Call of Jonah, Tenth Reading: Jonah 1:1—2:1

Apr. 4 — Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43

Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

Apr. 11 — Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

Psalms 133 (1)

1 John 1:1—2:2

John 20:19-31

Apr. 18 — Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19

Psalms 4 (3)

1 John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

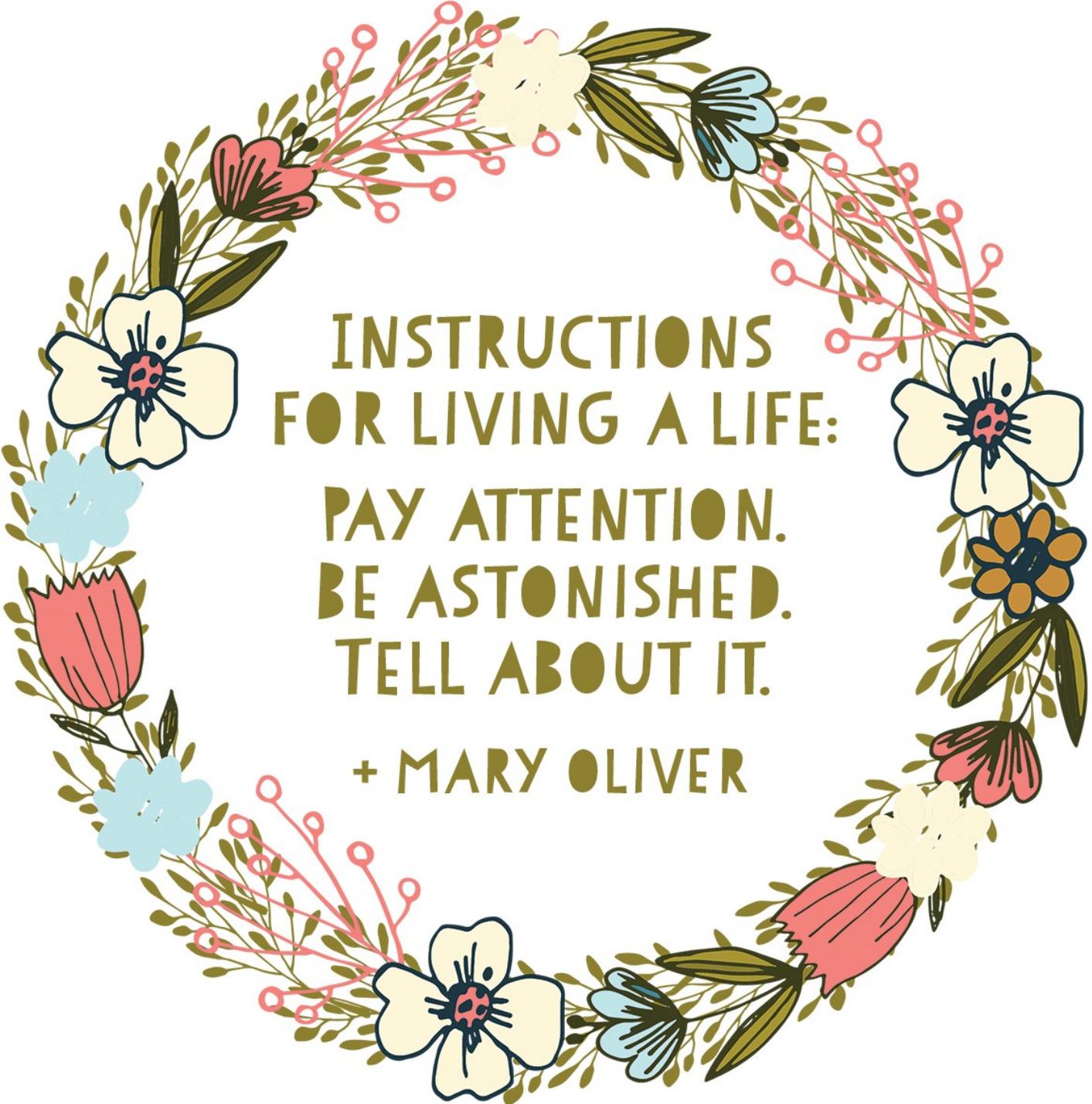
Apr. 25 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23 (1)

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18



INSTRUCTIONS
FOR LIVING A LIFE:
PAY ATTENTION.
BE ASTONISHED.
TELL ABOUT IT.
+ MARY OLIVER

***I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers,
and intercession and thanksgiving
be made for everyone.”
1 Timothy 2:1 NIV***

God has told us to pray for one another. Gethsemane Lutheran Church's prayer chain is a group linked together by either phone or email, to take the responsibility to pray, in their own time and place, for certain persons or concerns made known to them.

If you have something you would like to be prayed for, please call Anna, our Parish Administrator, in the church office. Please be specific in your prayer request and be sure that whoever is placed on the prayer request has given their permission to have this information shared and prayers lifted up.

If you would like to be added to the email prayer chain, please let Anna know. We will continue to send out e-mail prayer requests for those who have access to e-mail and would like to lift up prayers. If your e-mail address has changed since the last directory, please inform Anna.

If you would like to be added to the phone part of our prayer chain, please call Anna. Include the phone number you would like used. For those people on the phone prayer chain, we would request that once you are called with a prayer request, you call the next person on the phone tree to share the request. We will be compiling a phone tree with names/phone numbers and mailing those out to the participants.

Thank you for your help in lifting up those in need and for those times we need to celebrate!
Sharon Lee and Karla Hills

Contact Information:

Call Anna in the church office at **503-256-1835**. Office hours are Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 am to 12:00, but if she can't catch the phone or you call outside those hours, please leave a voicemail. Messages will be checked and forwarded Mondays through Thursdays. You can also email Anna at **alewis@glcportland.org**.

Homebound

Wynn Stafford, Virginia Haacke, Harvey/Carol Steele, Carol Law, Jo Nelson.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date:
email Anna at alewis@glcportland.org or call 503-256-1835 with prayer requests

Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Sharon's sister Connie, Sharon's niece Terri

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Virginia Haacke, Lyle Johnson
Those who are grieving: Family and friends of Jack Bateman

April Birthdays

Amy Deetz 4/2
Casey Morton 4/3
Diane Bemrose 4/4
Wynell Stafford 4/5
Kenna Cumming 4/8
Carl Perkins 4/11
Jan Brown 4/12

David Qualheim 4/19
Kyle Qualheim 4/19
Varbah Johnson 4/20
Rachel Coughlin 4/21
Sonia Blohm 4/23
Roland Haacke 4/25
Kathryn Irene Qualheim 4/27
Doug Glenn 4/30

April Olive Press



Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 11560 SE Market, Portland, OR 97216
(503) 256-1835 www.glcportland.org www.glcportland.org
Church Office Hours: Wed. & Thur. 9:00-12:00
Pastor Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 9:00-12:00