

# THE OLIVE PRESS

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2021

## **COUNCIL**

### **President:**

Ernie Butenschoen

### **Vice President:**

Dick Bemrose

### **Sec/Treas:**

Shar Giard

### **Properties:**

Philip Dochow

### **Lutheran Liaison:**

Rachel Coughlin

### **Evangelism:**

Rachel Coughlin

### **CYFF Formation:**

Edwina Krubo

### **Community:**

Mary Karter

### **Stewardship:**

Mary Starmont

### **Fellowship:**

Paulette Kelley

### **Worship:**

Brandee Liebrand

## **STAFF**

### **Pastor:**

TBD

### **Choir Director:**

Ben Schumacher

### **Custodians:**

Dale & Ann Van

Hom

### **CYFM:**

Jasmine Anderson

### **Nursery Attend:**

Maeson Dochow

### **Organist:**

Brooke Benfield

### **Church Admin.:**

Anna Lewis

## From the Pastor

Greetings, church!

This is the time of year when we reflect on what has been, and anticipate what is to come. For several years we have adopted a motto to add focus and flavor to our worship and service. Our first one was "Do Good Better," an encouragement and invitation to find opportunity to deepen, enrich, enhance, explore add to, and broaden our life and mission as people of Gethsemane.

Then came "Thanks for That!" –a call to see and acknowledge the many gifts around us, from God and from one another, and to be intentional about speaking our gratitude and appreciation.

In 2020, we had no idea how important "It Matters" would become. It began as a way of celebrating all kinds of talents and treasures: teach Sunday School, because It Matters. Bake bread for Holy Communion because It Matters. Read your daily devotion because It Matters. Toss the coins in the bottom of your purse into the Change for Good jar because It Matters. Come to church on Sunday because It Matters. Save your egg cartons for SnowCap because It Matters. Then came Covid-19, and so much changed. But you all revealed how much your faith, your church, and your hope in its future mattered. You mailed in your offerings because It Matters. You watched video sermon messages because It Matters. You called and check in with one another because It Matters. You still made quilts and donated egg cartons because It Matters. You technology-bumbled your way into Zoom meetings because It Matters.

It Matters has served us well in 2020, in these together/apart days. And now a new year approaches, and for as much as we anticipate that some time in 2021, Gethsemane will be able to return to in-person gatherings, it's just not going to happen overnight. And when those gatherings finally happen, you'll have a different pastor. 2021 will be a mix of more of the same and transitions. What words might help keep and guide you in these days to come?

I propose "What's New?" First, it is a reminder that God makes all things new, and

we are made new in our baptism every day. You can start every day by asking, "What's new?" and answering, "I am! Thanks be to God!" Second, it is a way to invite and encourage you to look around you, to see what is new and different, in your surroundings. We've been home for months now...what is different, what has changed outside that window? Every day the sky is different, the cars that pass by are different, the leaves on the trees and bushes are different. In the same surroundings, what do you experience as new each day?

There will be much that is new this year. "What's New?" is a way of anticipating new ways of worship, new voices leading and inspiring you, new opportunities for you to stay connected. "What's New?" is a way of checking in with each other. "What's New?" is a way of thinking about Gethsemane and the kind of pastor you want to call. "What's New?" is a way for council and leadership to keep you informed about how the process is going. May you be surprised, delighted, and grateful for all that is new in 2021.

With joy and thanksgiving, Pastor Suellen

***I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43.19***

## **January Lectionary**

### **Sun. Jan. 3 — 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12  
Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom 10:15-21  
Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:[1-9] 10-18

### **Sun. Jan. 10 — Baptism of Our Lord**

Genesis 1:1-5  
Psalm 29 (3)  
Acts 19:1-7  
Mark 1:4-11

### **Sun. Jan. 17 — 2nd Sunday After Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (1)  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
John 1:43-51

### **Sun. Jan. 24 — 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 62:5-12 (6)  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### **Sun. Jan. 31 — 4th Sunday after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20  
Psalm 111 (10)  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28

## Council President

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I know we are all looking forward to it, so first let me just say, Happy New Year!

To Pastor Suellen and Bill Bahleda, I wish all the best in your new adventure. The time we've had with you was way too short.

The Council has been in contact with Pr. Melissa Reed of the Oregon Synod to discuss the coming interim period, and the Synod has requested a meeting with the congregation to let us know what to expect. We are looking to conduct that online meeting on a Saturday in January, and sometime following the next Council meeting on January 19. Council will provide further details once the meeting with the Synod has been scheduled.

Until an interim pastor has been assigned by the Synod, we will be posting sermons conducted by lay ministers participating in the Synodically Authorized Lay Minister (SALM) program. Brandee Liebrand, who is also one of the SALM students, will be coordinating this effort with Synod leadership.

I also wanted to tell everyone the highlights of our Annual Congregational meeting on December 13, as I know that a lot of you were unable to attend.

First of all, we ended the year with a balanced budget! Many thanks to everyone who faithfully contributed your offerings over the course of the past year.

Many thanks also to everyone who dedicated their time and efforts to Church Council. I take it as a good sign that most everyone is staying on for the coming year, though we are making some changes to who fills which seat. Ernie Butenschoen was nominated and accepted the position of Church President for the coming two years. Thank you, Ernie!

Dick Bemrose and I will be staying on Council for another two-year term. Dick will be serving as Vice President, and I will take the position of Building and Grounds committee chair.

Shar Giard will be joining us in the position of Secretary-Treasurer. We welcome Shar back into our midst, and thank her for stepping up into this important leadership role.

I want to thank Jay Rector for serving as the head of the Worship Committee, as well as all of the time she has dedicated to enriching our lives through liturgy and music. I'm really happy to report that Brandee Liebrand will be filling this position as Jay is leaving. I'm looking forward to Brandee's leadership and contributions to our services.

Edwina Krubo will also be joining us as the chair of the Children Youth and Family Ministry commit-

tee as Liz Smith completes her term on Council. Welcome Edwina!

Mary Starmont, Mary Karter and Rachel Coughlin will remain with Council to finish out the remainder of their two-year terms.

These have certainly been difficult times. I know we are all quite fatigued by the isolation and worry for the health of our loved ones. But I have hopes that as the Covid-19 vaccine becomes more widely distributed and our most vulnerable community members are immunized that we will be seeing one another in person before too many more months pass by.

Please take care of yourselves, your families and your neighbors.

Peace!

Philip Dochow

## Notes

- ⇒ We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Shirley Treanor** earlier in December. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.
- ⇒ **Carol Steele** has informed us that **Harvey** has contracted Covid and is now hospitalized, and that the dementia has gotten worse, so please keep them both in your prayers.
- ⇒ Jan Brown reports that Elizabeth is in remission now and thanks everyone for their prayers.
- ⇒ **The quilters took 59 quilts to SnowCap**, making for a warm and merry Christmas for many!
- ⇒ **As for the Rummage Sale**, we really don't know how or when that's going to happen. If you have donations, please keep them stored at home for a while yet!
- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **If you come into the church for any reason, please remember to wear a mask!**

Hey everyone! Could you please take a moment to **update your email addresses?** Either go to the website at **[www.GLCPortland.org](http://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?

### January Anniversaries

David & Theresa Qualheim, 1/2

Sharon Lee, 1/15

Daniel Wong, 1/15

Gary Urbach, 1/16

Jack Bateman, 1/23

Thomas Crouse, 1/23

Brennan Cumming, 1/25

### January Birthdays

Diane Liefeld, 1/3

Paulette Kelley, 1/17

Alexandria Liebrand, 1/17

Michael Bahleda, 1/26

Kathlyn Carpenter, 1/4

Flodine Loe, 1/17

Tonia Lindquist, 1/30

Kim Butenschoen 1/12

Alexandra Riehl, 1/17

## GLC Community Action

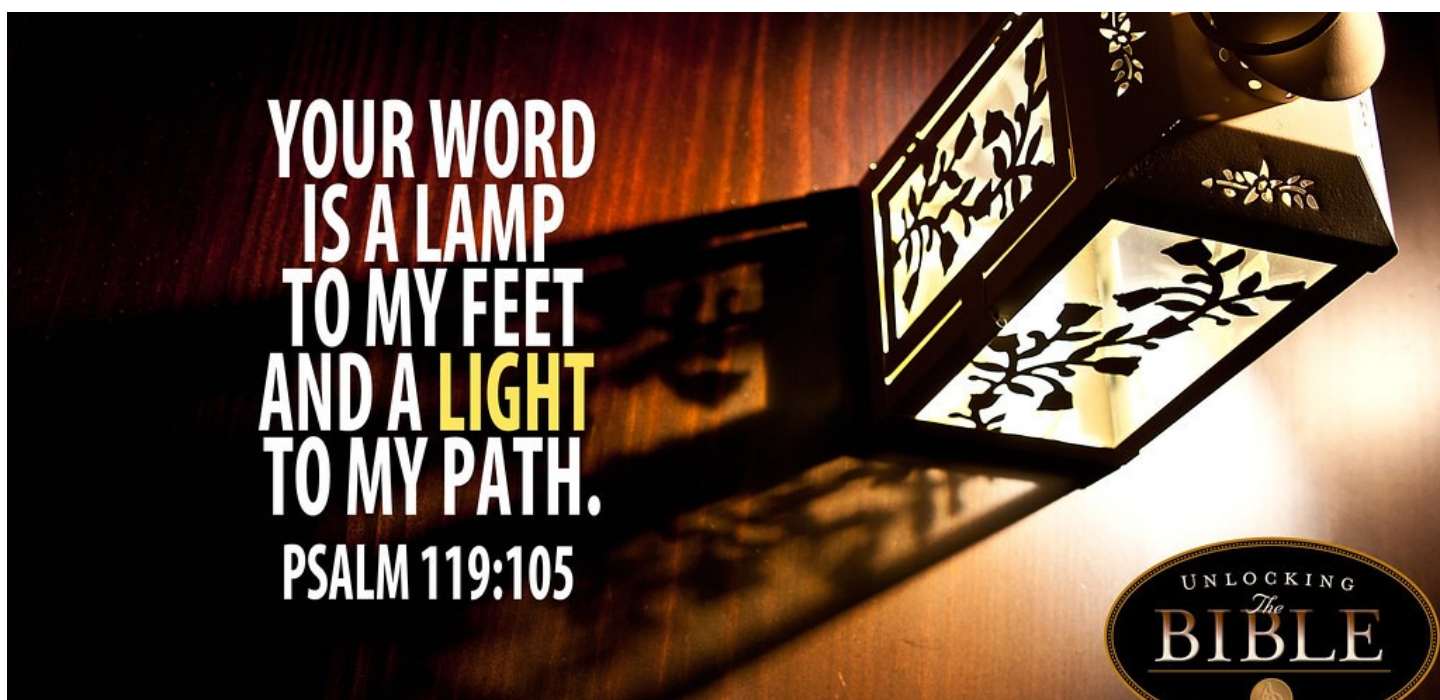
Are you ready to add Disaster Preparedness to your New Year's Resolutions? YES!!

In the last year, Oregon and areas of our ELCA congregations have experienced harmful and devastating flooding and wildfires. We know there will be very strong earthquakes in the future, too. Are we ready? No, but we can be!

Wonderfully, the ELCA is organizing across the Pacific Northwest and the Oregon Synod and wants to help prepare members and congregations for disasters. By learning and planning, we will take care of families and also be a resource to our neighbors and greater communities.

Gethsemane is now part of the Oregon Synod Disaster Response Network. Mary Karter, our Community Action Chair, also serves on the Synod Core Team. There are many websites and materials we will share and act on in the months ahead. Please join us in making Disaster Preparedness an important action in 2021!

If you have ideas and interests, contact us: Mary Karter, Carolyn Graf, Gabriel Sprague, Sharon Magnuson, Rod Hills, Sharon Lee and Jay Rector.



## Gethsemane Youth Happenings

January brings a breath of fresh air for many of us. We often hear “new year, new you” or some variation being thrown around either facetiously or by way of marketing a new product you must have for the new year version of your same old self. New calendar years do not change us overnight, we do not wake up one January 1<sup>st</sup> with a new appetite for healthier food or a desire to run marathons and if we do wake up on day with a motivation for these things, they don’t come from a number printed on the calendar.

I often ask the Sunday School kids if they have their listening ears but after spending the last month working on magnifying all of their senses I may need to expand that into asking if they have their seeing eyes and their projecting voices! All of these things help us become the ‘new us’ every day, and it is an all day, every day, every year for the rest of their lives project. There may be days, weeks, even months where parts of the project are put on hold: haircuts are not as important, getting to the gym just doesn’t fit into the schedule, that chocolate cake must be eaten for dinner or it’s going to be wasted (but chocolate is good for the heart...so?). While the hair is being put on hold more time can be put toward the school part of your project. While you’re not getting to the gym, put more time into reading and refreshing the imagination part of your project. While you’re healthy eating part of your project is on hold for the day; get back into a long walk for some exercise for keeping up on your project.

Every day is an opportunity to make you new again. Every day is an opportunity to remember our baptismal promises and work on feeding our Holy Spirit, our Advocate. The Sunday School kids (they really need a fun name...we’re working on it!) really like the “Advocate” name, they like to imagine the helper we have, and they like to imagine feeding that helper when you carry out **Baptismal Promises**. Quarantine carrying out promises look like Sunday School, dinner with your family, being nice during school, eating salad, giving houseless people LifePax, and cleaning up garbage outside.

We’ll spend January discussing New Year: Same Baptism. Jesus’ baptism, our baptism, and take a quick look forward to what is and why confirmation. There are a few in our group from Trinity who will be that age in the fall.

As always, if you are interested in Sunday School Zoom please send me an email or find the contact us page on our website.

Happy New You!

Jasmine

CYFM@GLCPDX

## Homebound

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

**Concerns—Ongoing:** Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers: Wynn Stafford; Ginny Barton's friend Golda; Linda Babcock's grandson Josiah; Aiden Lindstrom; Sharon Lee's relatives Connie and Terri; Matthew Green; Virginia Haacke, Randy Treanor.

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Peter Kruegler, Harvey Steele, Colleen Barnett and her niece Linda; Shirla Rapp's cousin Julie; Kim Butenschoen's sister-in-law Rita and friend Randy; Virginia McCormick's son Gary and relative Veronica; Becky Keiper and her daughter-in-law Becky; Michelle McBride; Kim Stoffregen's niece Lona; Marion Burgess' daughter Vo; Carol Law; Jo Nelson's friend's son, Jeff; Jack Bateman; Jan Brown's daughter Elizabeth; Kim and Ernie's relatives Glen and Sherry Butenschoen who lost their house in the fires; and Roberta Vidlund's friends Jim and Sue.

*Those who are grieving:* Friends and family of Shirley Treanor.

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**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**, 11560 SE Market, Portland, OR 97216  
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Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8a-3p