

THE OLIVE PRESS

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2021

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Brandee Liebrand

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From the Council President

February 24, 2021

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ:

This time of the Church Year is my favorite by far. It's the Greatest Love Story of all time. God/Jesus loves us so much that God was setting the stage to sacrifice his son so that later on, if we believed with our whole heart in Jesus as OUR SAVIOR, and asked him into our lives, we would inherit eternal life in Heaven with them. This is the classic story of unconditional love. I have told my kids many times that Kim and I love them so much, but I tell them God and Jesus love you a million times more. We all know the story well.

My parents, brothers, Kim, Sunday School teachers at Gethsemane, pastors, bible studies, relatives and dear friends have all cemented my love of Christ and the act of accepting him as my savior. I loved the days when we walked to Gethsemane as a family since we lived so close to the church. Easter was my favorite time at the church and at home. You start out as a child with coloring eggs then the Easter egg hunts and the candy. Dressing up in your best clothes to go to church. Easter breakfast at the church, and seeing so many people attending services. Hearing the choir belt out the Easter classics. To me, the music and singing is the most soulful, where you can feel the Love of Christ well up in your body. Listening to the stone roll and stop during Good Friday services is always a touching moment. Then the final act: the tomb is found open and Jesus has risen. I get emotional every time I walk through the Easter Season, because it's a time where we can stand and worship together and accept the Love of Christ as a church family. It won't be much longer when that will happen again—stay safe and be patient just a bit longer.

I'd like to thank Brandee for her willingness to livestream services for us to see and hear. Thank you, Mary Karter for your messages that you have shared with us. You can see these presentations on YouTube or check out the information that Jasmine shares on emails with links to some of these happenings.

This month I looked over two sources: Christ in Our Home and Year B 2020/2021: Lent. They share a church year calendar, liturgical propers and daily lectionary. It uses the Revised Common Lectionary as it appears in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006).

I started with Sunday, February 21st: First Sunday in Lent (Key Reading is Mark

1:9-15) Additional readings: Genesis 9:8-17: Psalm 25:1-10 and 1 Peter 3:18-22. As you read these, you will read about pivotal events and life-changing gifts like baptism. The prayer of the day went as follows: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Wednesday, February 24th (Christ in Our Life) (Key Reading is Matthew 4:1-11) Additional readings; Psalm 77 and Proverbs 30:1-9. Matthew talks about Satan tempting him in the wilderness. Key verse (10) Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.

Sunday, February 28th: Second Sunday in Lent (Key Reading is Mark 8:31-38) Additional Readings: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 (27) and Romans 4:13-25. Romans centers on Jesus predicting his death for the first time. Peter gets rebuked by Jesus. The Gospel Acclamation reads as follows: May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord! Jesus Christ, *by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. (Gal. 6:14)

Wednesday, March 3rd: (Christ in OUR Life) (Key Reading is Jeremiah 39:12-22) Additional Readings; Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 and John 12:36-43. Key Verse (17) For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, says the Lord. Prayer for this section goes as follows; Healing Lord, thank you for walking alongside us in our pain. Amen.

Thursday, March 4th: (Christ in Our Life) (Key Reading is Exodus 19:1-9a) Additional Readings: Psalm 19 and 1 Peter 2:4-10. Key Verse (8) Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do. This reading hits home will all of us at times. God gave simple instructions "Obey my voice and keep my covenant". We know what happens next and has gone on since (other stuff takes us off course). Prayer for this section goes as follows; Forgiving God, thank you for continuing to love us, even when we fail to follow. Amen.

Sunday, March 7th: Third Sunday in Lent (Key reading is John 2:13-22) Additional Readings; Exodus 20-1-17, Psalm 19 (8) and 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Verse 19: Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body. Jesus was very upset when he came to the temple courts and saw what was going on. He got his point across quickly through his actions. The prayer of the day read as follows; Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sunday, March 14th: Fourth Sunday in Lent (Key reading is John 3:14-21) Additional Readings: Numbers 21:4-9. Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (19) and Ephesians 2:1-10. This reading of John is one of my favorites. It is amazing, especially verse 16. Wow is all I can say. The Gospel Acclamation v 16 reads as follows: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. AMEN to that!

I can't think of a better place to stop than that. We are so blessed to know God and Jesus. Let's be determined to share that part of our lives with others. God will be there with us when we do; let's be faithful and determined to invite friends, family and others to worship with us on Zoom, and eventually in our sanctuary so that they might find the joy of sharing God and Jesus with us.

God Bless You,
Ernie

Notes

- ⇒ **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 Community Action & Outreach

Things are still going on during this Covid Time. The Oregon Synod has a team meeting monthly to share information and ideas. Our GLC team will be meeting electronically again in March.

FYI

- * Our neighbors at Trinity (Gresham) and Resurrection have been doing drive-throughs to give out disaster preparation information. We're planning one for this spring.
- * The Synod has a library with lots of information. Go to www.Region1BePrepared.org/library . You may be interested in what the Red Cross has to offer – as well as other contacts listed in the library.
- * Don't forget to use the information in last month's Olive Press. It has ways to make your house safer.

GLC Disaster Preparedness

So you are probably personally familiar with the recent disasters including the pandemic, the forest fires and the snow storm cutting off electricity. On a brief disaster-preparedness segment on MSNBC recently, the consultants recommended that each family be prepared with 72 hours' worth of water, food and first aid supplies. They further recommend we connect and assure neighborhood planning, city-wide planning, state planning and federal planning for disaster preparedness. No matter where we live in the United States, disasters can occur, and being prepared can assure our families' survival. Stay tuned, because our committee will continue to be developing planning for disaster preparedness.

Gethsemane Youth Happenings

351 days.

When you read that it doesn't seem extremely significant. 351 days isn't quite a year, but almost. 351 days is not an 'even' number of days for months or someone counting sober days or even one of those silly "my baby is 48 months old" kind of things. As I sit here writing this, 351 days is exactly how many days it has been since the last day Casey went to school – in a school building. That would be more than **five** extra days before spring break last year. 351 days + 2 more days since we have been able to worship together inside our sanctuary safely.

Yet, we persist! We find ourselves on our second Lenten journey together-apart. We managed to livestream an (in my opinion) extremely successful Ash Wednesday service, complete with ashes. We've discovered some bugs (not living ones – thankfully!) with packets and mailers that we may have never known needed cleaning otherwise, we have found a rhythm with ourselves and for ourselves with Pastor Suellen taking another call that has encouraged many of **you** to stand up and say "can we do this?!" and of course **you** can!!!

Even quarantined, locked down, shut in, stuck at home, together-apart you can, and we have. Packets continue to go out, council has changed leadership, Anna has worked wonders in the shuttered office, tithes and gifts continue to come in and be counted and deposited, the church property continues to be maintained, the building continues to be cleaned, baptismal birthday cards/anniversary cards continue to hit mailboxes for our congregants, quilts are still being sewn, mask making is still full force, the phone tree prayer chain is being resurrected, sermons are delivered to your email weekly, and we've managed a handful of church wide Zoom meetings! Phew!! That's just some of what **you** have all accomplished in 351 days. Less than one year!

351 is extremely significant after all; the momentum is infectious. I look forward to these next days, weeks, and months. Whatever they may bring. Together—apart—with all of you!

God of growth and transformation, you promise us abundant new life. Teach us to welcome the *discomfort of growth* as an invitation to picking up our cross to follow you. Help us to carry our share of the world's collective burden so others may know your liberating love.

Amen.

Jasmine
CYFM@GLCPDX
503-896-8682

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 with prayer requests

Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:*

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Virginia Haacke, Lyle Johnson

Those who are grieving:

March Anniversaries

Larry & Barbie Tew, 3/19

Gavin & Raechel Hills, 3/24

Steve & Christina Riehl, 3/24

March Birthdays

Bridget Schumacher-McKinnon 3/1

Josephine Crouse, 3/5

Jacqueline Hills, 3/5

John Hurlman, 3/7

Joan Ward, 3/9

James Liefeld, 3/15

Randi Bateman, 3/21

Robert Magnuson, 3/22

Tyler Riehl, 3/23

Richard Burgess, 3/27

Kenneth Hansen 3/27

Roseann Libonati, 3/30

March Lectionary

Sun. Mar. 7 — Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17 Psalm 19 (8) I Corinthians 1:18-25 John 2:13-22

Sun. Mar. 14 — Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (19) Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21

Sun. Mar. 21 — Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 51:1-12 (10) or Psalm 119:9-16 (11) Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33

Sun. Mar. 28 — Sunday of the Passion/ Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 (5) Philippians 2:5-11 Mark 14:1 — 15:47 or Mark 15:1-39[40-47]

March Olive Press



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