

◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2021

COUNCIL

President:

Ernie Butenschoen

Vice President:

Dick Bemrose

Sec/Treasurer:

Shar Giard

Properties:

Philip Dochow

Lutheran Liaison:

Rachel Coughlin

CYFF Formation:

Edwina Krubo

Community:

Mary Karter

Stewardship:

Mary Starmont

Fellowship:

Paulette Kelley

Worship:

Brandee Liebrand

STAFF

Interim Pastor:

Elizabeth Durant

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

Come Holy Spirit! What overflowing joy to gather together recently for in-person worship outdoors for Pentecost! Not only did we share communion, we also stayed connected with those who couldn't join in person and communed on livestream. It was a good day to experience the diverse ways that the Holy Spirit connects us as people of Gethsemane.



June is the perfect month to celebrate all the wild and wonderful ways that God's Spirit is at work among us. **We celebrate Pride** and the radiant presence of our LGBTQ selves, siblings, children, and friends in our lives. **We celebrate fathers, grandfathers,** and all those special men whose nurture, guidance and humor sustains us. This month **we also celebrate Juneteenth**, the ending of slavery in America. I will join ELCA and ecumenical colleagues at the installation of a [special historical marker](#) at the site of the 1906 lynching of Alonzo Tucker in Coos Bay on June 19. This public statement is just one way that we boldly testify to the saving work of Jesus Christ within us and the Pentecost promise that the Holy Spirit is for ALL people.

As our children finish out the school year and we make summer vacation plans, our work to reopen Gethsemane continues. The Covid team, in communication with the Worship team and council, is planning for a **return to in-person worship beginning on Sunday, June 27 at 9:30am in the sanctuary**. As you can see from the **survey results in this newsletter**, there is a wide diversity of opinion within our congregation about when and how we feel safe to gather. It will be important for us to follow a **shared set of rules** about how we worship together...please stay tuned for those instructions from our Council President.

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While we say farewell to Ben Schumacher and his family this coming Sunday (June 6), we are also in the process of **interviewing for a short-term, temporary Sound Engineer contract position** to support and improve our livestream capabilities. Our ongoing livestream broadcast means that you can still join us for church while you are traveling this summer (hooray!) and is an emerging out-reach ministry via social media on Facebook and YouTube.

I am pleased to share that **our Transition Team is currently forming**, with commitments already from Sharon Magnuson, Dick Bemrose, and Gloria Kelsay. (A few more members will be joining us to carry this work forward.) Our Gethsemane Church Council members are **currently reviewing council role descriptions** that were written in 2009 and revising them as needed to make sure we are fulfilling the congregation's responsibilities. We are in the early stages of revising and expanding our church personnel policies to provide clarity and support for Gethsemane staff.

All of these celebrations, projects and plans are opportunities to deepen our relationship with God and with each other as we trust the leading of the Holy Spirit. This pandemic year, like the interim time itself, is a chance to try new things (small groups!), revive old dreams, and imagine new ministries. I am honored to journey with you and overjoyed to finally see you in person. My door is open and my heart is full of hope for the work ahead of us.

Come Holy Spirit! Trouble us, transform us, take us to new heights and through changing ways as your church!

In faith,
Pr. Elizabeth



May the God of hope fill you with
all joy and peace in believing, so
that you may abound in hope by the
power of God's Spirit.



ROMANS 15:13 (NRSV)

From the Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The readings for this date are as follows; First Reading comes from Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20. The Second Reading comes from Romans 8:1-8, and the last reading comes from the 29th Psalm. Today I have taken thoughts from the 2nd, 5th and 6th verses of Romans chapter 8. I will be using notes provided by the commentary that is found in the Application Study Bible (NIV).

Verse 2 "because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death". Sub notes: This Spirit of life is the Holy Spirit. He was present at the creation of the world (Genesis 1:2), and he is the power behind the rebirth of every Christian. He gives us the power we need to live the Christian life. I can't tell you how many times the Holy Spirit has prompted me to act in my Christian Life. We all have felt it and know to trust the guidance that the Holy Spirit provides us. I'm here to tell you that trust is built on faith and I have never been steered wrong on this guidance that comes from the Holy Spirit and Jesus.



Verse 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. Sub notes: Paul divides people into two categories—those who are dominated by their sinful nature, and those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit. All of us would be in the first category if Jesus hadn't offered us a way out. Once we have said yes to Jesus, we want to continue to follow him, because his way brings life and peace. Daily we must consciously center our lives on God.

Temptation is the Devil's tool. He is relentless and continually tries to break us down. Stand strong and always keep God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit close to your heart.

Verse 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. Sub notes: Use the Bible to discover God's guidelines, and then follow them consistently. In every perplexing situation ask yourself "What would Jesus want me to do?" When the Holy Spirit points out what is right, do it eagerly. I have encountered situations where people think they should do something that you know is not coming from the Spirit—I have talked with them and told them that they're listening to the wrong voice. These are situations where they are troubled and are thinking of doing bad things. This is a great opportunity to show compassion and converse with them to lead them back in the right direction. Speak boldly and talk about Jesus and the Holy Spirit and from what

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you know from your own experiences. Remember that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are right there with you. You can make a big difference with someone that is troubled. This could be a path for them to reach out to Jesus and the Holy Spirit for help. In the best of situations, you could pray with them and maybe lead them to opening the door to Christ.

I wanted to let you know how nice it was to see everyone at the outdoor service on Pentecost. It was a bit cold at times but being together was a big uplift for many as we were able to worship together. We are moving closer to getting back to church in the sanctuary. The Covid Team is working hard on plans to make it happen. Thanks to all of the people who put that service together and Laura who worked especially hard weeding and sprucing up the area around where we held the service. Thanks also to Pastor Elizabeth who has been working super hard. Please put to prayer that Pastor Elizabeth can recruit a Transition Team that will lead us forward to forming a Call Committee to call our next fulltime pastor. With God's grace and love we are moving forward—keep praying and stay healthy and happy.

God Bless You All,
Ernie

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

To watch on a computer: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95638970351>

- * 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!



Financial Update

Here is a quick look at our giving this year compared to last year. Thank you for your faithful support of Gethsemane through pledges and gifts of time and service. To give online, go to

www.glcportland.org/give.

April 2021 YTD: \$17,176.00

April 2020 YTD: \$22,068.00

From the Properties Chair

1. I completed a site inspection with a roofing company. McDonald Wetle completed a new roof over the part of the building with the offices, conference room, library, and classrooms seven years ago when the major roof replacement was done. This roof has three years remaining on its warranty. I received a copy of the warranty. McDonald Wetle also completed part of the roof over the old dancehall. Significantly, this company was hired at the time to only complete patchwork around roof drains on the portions of roof we are having leaks in: the corridor from the west entrance, the narthex and the covered walkway. They also did patchwork on the roof over the choir room, crying room and restrooms to the south of the sanctuary. I've received a bid from them to replace all of these roofs of \$46,000. McDonald Wetle is a very good roofer. We would not go wrong with them if they were to be hired.
2. There is also leaking during heavy wind-driven rainstorms along the end of the big roof beam right next to the door to the sanctuary from the crying room that appears related to flaws in the sheet metal flashing along a ridge in that area. McDonald Wetle did not replace that roof. If we can find the name of the company and maybe a copy of the warranty I can follow up on that repair.
3. Next step: further investigation of the storm drain system. The focus of the first company I studied the problem with - Sewer Repair Specialists - was limited to the roof drains where we knew were having problems. I want somebody to look at the system more comprehensively with cameras. Depending upon results there is probably some rooting or line jetting that will have to be done.
4. Third step: additional bids on repair of the storm drains with known problems. Sewer Repair Specialists gave me a rough estimate of \$25,000 to install two new drywells and replace the storm drains from the roof to feed into the new drywells.
5. Fourth step: once I have a budget developed I will seek refinancing of our remaining loan principal balance with the Mission Investment Fund and, hopefully, find an affordable way to finance the necessary repairs.
6. Head Start has a contractor to install new heating-air conditioning units to serve the three classrooms. I am scheduling a walkthrough with Head Start, their contractor and the roofer - to ensure we preserve our remaining warranty - in early June.
7. I have a bid for \$1,700 to trim out the storm damage to the two big sweet gum maples near the south entrance to the narthex. There are also "hangers" - broken limbs in danger of falling - in two or three of the big Douglas firs in the west parking lot. Cost to remove the hangers and trim the firs would be done hourly at \$360/hour. These companies are very busy and can probably charge whatever they want to right now. I am going to seek another bid and will report back to the Executive Committee.
8. Lots of things I don't have time for these days, like paying attention to the building grounds. I am very grateful for Laura Britzius and other volunteers right now.

Respectfully submitted,
Philip Dochow

Notes

- * **VBS needs your help for some fun kid crafts!** Empty pill bottles (labels off if possible), 4-5" clay pots and trays/saucers to fit, old baking sheets with rims (jelly roll pans). Contact Jasmine or bring them to the office Tues-Thurs mornings. Thanks!
- * **Please drop your offerings in Jan's inbox**, not the finance manager's.
- * **SnowCap's spring needs** include the following food items: canned veggies and fruit, canned tuna, peanut butter, plastic/paper/reusable grocery bags, can openers, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrushes, cloth masks, children's picture/coloring/activity books, chapter books for school-aged kids, gently-used clothing & shoes for all ages (shoes labeled with size on the toe helps so much!), bottles and cans with deposits. 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 and sign in on the contact-tracing sheet!**
- * If you'd like to **run a message or announcement about a church event in the Olive Press**, please email Anna at alewis@glcportland.org or mail it in to the office for formatting. Requests must be received in writing no later than mid-month for the next month's issue.

June Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

LOE, Flodine 06/12
KELSAY, Gloria 06/15
LIEFELD, Jim & Diane 06/18
MARSH, Al & Ethel 06/19
PERKINS, Carl & Janice 06/20
LIBONATI, Roseann 06/22
STOFFREGEN, Larry & Kim 06/22
HILLS, Jacob & Kaitlyn 06/24
ARENDR, Karen 06/25
BRITZIUS, Laura & Mary Curtis 06/25
REAGAN, Karen 06/29
HEATER, Ginger & Ray 06/30

Birthdays

BAXTER, Mary 06/03
BRITZIUS, Laura 06/03
BURGESS, Marion 06/06
PERKINS, Janice 06/09
TEW, Larry 06/10
CUMMING, Jan 06/11
BLODGETT, Gary, 06/14
KELLEY, Brian 06/15
OLSON, Patty 06/15
CROUSE, Alma 06/16
HANSEN, Marilee 06/17
HEATER, Ray 06/28
POSTLEWAIT, Deb 06/29
SMITH, Holden 06/30

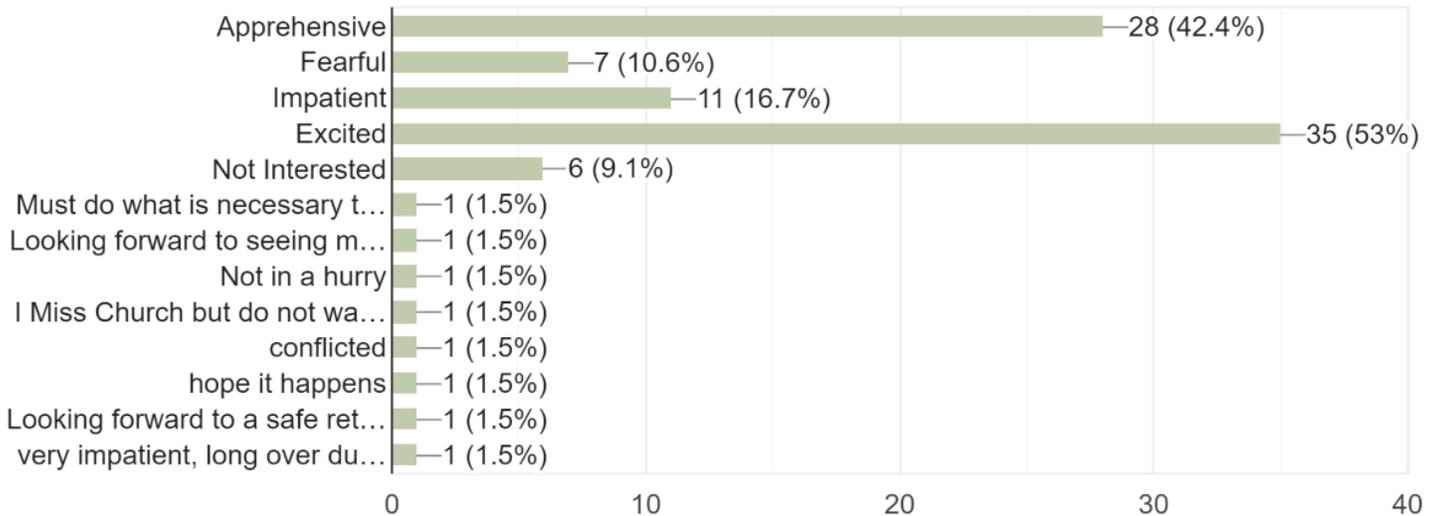


COVID Questionnaire Results

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent Reopening Survey. The Covid Team reviewed your feedback and is sharing results here so you can see how others in our community responded.

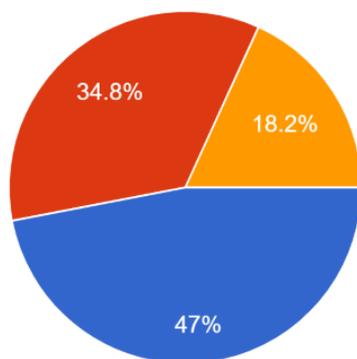
How do you feel right now about returning to in-person services? (Mark all that apply)

66 responses



If in-person worship services were held at GLC and DID NOT include congregational singing, refreshments, fellowship in the narthex, or any for...try, select the statement that most applies to you:

66 responses



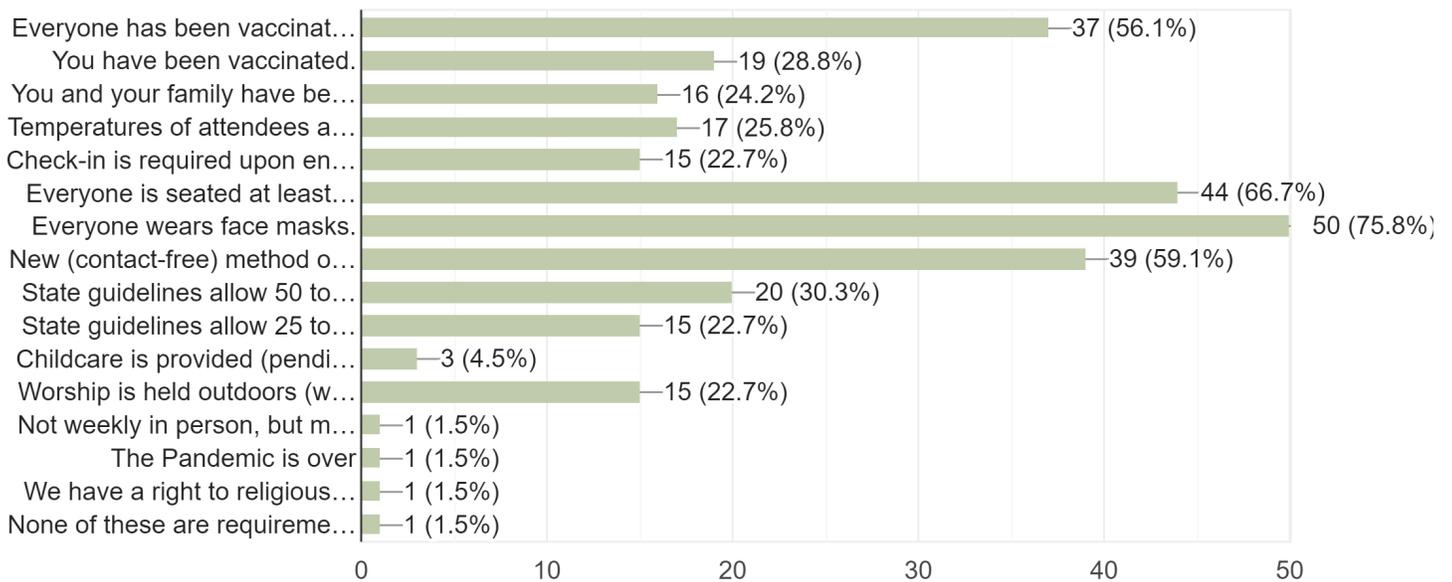
- I will immediately return to worship with complete understanding and full cooperation.
- I will wait for further easing of restrictions and continue to worship virtually online.
- I will wait to see what the experience of others is like and then decide.

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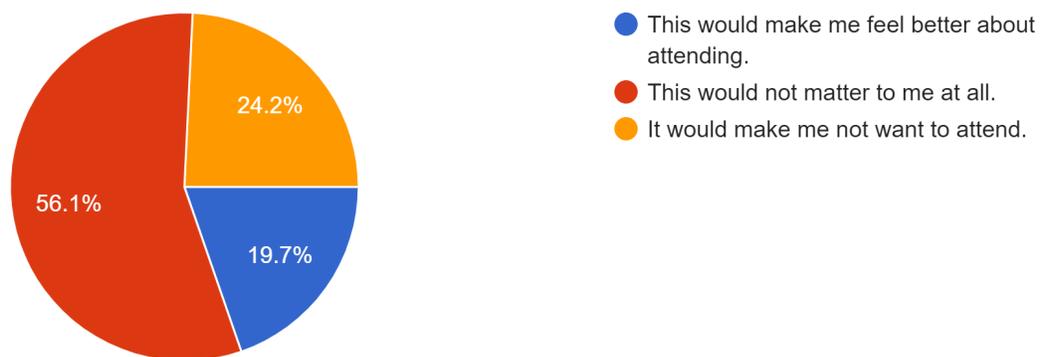
What would make you feel the most comfortable about returning to in-person services? (Note that masks and social distancing are currently mandator....) Please mark the most important issues for you.

66 responses



In order to be physically distanced, how would you feel about having to make a reservation for the service you will attend?

66 responses





HARBOR
OF HOPE

Shower Schedule

SPRING

Monday 11:30 AM - 2 PM: Trinity Episcopal Church parking lot 147 NW 19th Portland, OR 97209

Tuesday 11:30 AM - 2 PM: East Portland Community Center 740 SE 106th Portland, OR 97216 (off I-205)

Wednesday 11:30 AM - 2 PM: Blanchet House (Shower only) 310 NW Glisan Portland, OR 97209

Thursday 11:30 AM - 2 PM: Shower only 624 SE Halsey Street Troutdale, OR 97060

In collaboration with MCSO Hope team

Friday 12 PM - 2 PM: JOIN 1435 NE 81st Ave #100, Portland, OR 97213

Saturday 11:30 AM - 2 PM: All Saints Episcopal 4033 SE Woodstock Portland, OR 97202

Our circle of influence reaches near and far. Sometimes it's our next door neighbor. Sometimes it's our coworker who lives in the next town over. The **Community Outreach Committee** continues to pool resources from around the community in many forms. Please be on the lookout around the church for ways we can get involved with our community!

We need YOUR help to spread the resources far and wide!

Gethsemane Youth Happenings

This year has been tough! To encourage our children, I have discussed baptismal promises with the Sunday School kids more times than I can count. Anytime there is an opportunity to throw the words **baptismal promise** out there I do. We dedicated an entire month to discussing the promises in depth – *because they are that important* – and setting a foundation of what is it to live among God's faithful people? and in what ways can we serve all people following Jesus' example?

My favorite baptismal promise is to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. A dear friend of mine bought me a couple of books titled "Crazy Book". A few weeks ago you heard a Children's Moment about sanctification, and the definition came from one of these Crazy Books. I'd be underestimating if I said I only used them once a week for Sunday school.

"Justice: a condition that most people desire for themselves, claim never to get, and have no interest in granting to their neighbors."

The kids in Sunday school love when we read out of the Crazy Books, and their faces are usually pretty priceless; confusion, delight, excitement, bewilderment. Whatever their initial reactions though, these definitions lead to great conversation.

Because our children are watching everything we do. Not only are they wearing masks; they are making sure others do, too! Our children know about the protests and have questions for me: why did George Floyd die? How come no one helped him? Why are people of color treated differently?

And so we talk about justice. Justice is not fairness. Often in life we equate these metrics – as if one is the other in all things. Sometimes if something is fair, it is just; but often if something is just – it is not 'fair'. This is a hard concept for humans, and we falter often.



God wants everyone to live well, thrive, and together among each other. We are all God's people; "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:17) This means that even though some of us don't study as hard, work as hard, try as hard or tithe as hard – God wants society to be merciful, and as merciful as possible. ***Strive for justice and peace in all the earth.***

Justice is about creating a social order where all of God's creation can survive. "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and

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crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!"But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 4:1, 5:24)

As we prepare to be together again, as we continue to watch calls for justice and peace across the country, and as we work to prepare a format for #WhatsNext at Gethsemane please continue to seek justice and peace in all the world. We're beginning to live #OnTheVine, and continuing to #GrowWithGethsemane.

Jasmine
CYFM@GLCPDX



June Lectionary

Sun. June 6 — 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 3:8-15
Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Sun. June 13 — 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15 (12)
2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

Sun. June 20 — 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11
Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32 (29)
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Sun. June 27 — 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33 or Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Psalm 30 (1)
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43



***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:* Colleen Barnett's friend Liz and niece Tami, Lois Boro's nephew Jason, Becky Keiper's friend Monica, Dan Rust & Savannah, Sharon's sister Connie and niece Terri

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



June Olive Press



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