

THE OLIVE PRESS

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2021

COUNCIL

President:

Ernie Butenschoen

Vice President:

Dick Bemrose

Sec/Treasurer:

Shar Giard

Properties:

Phillip Dochow

Lutheran Liaison:

Evangelism:

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

"Change is orchestrated by God. It is inevitable." -
Warren Schulz

"The LORD is my strength and song, and He has
become my salvation." – Psalm 118:14

All around us, Spring is blooming, flowers are
opening and showing their colors. Here on the
church grounds, the rhodies are showing off their

shades of pink, and the stately one outside my window is full of bright, white blossoms. The process of blooming is slow and steady work. Although it might seem to us like color happens overnight, all year long the plants do the hard work of growth needed to produce such vibrant, beautiful flowers.

That hard work to bloom is happening here at Gethsemane. We recently formed a new ad-hoc team to manage the slow process of safely re-opening our doors. Deep gratitude to Ernie Butenschoen, Dick Bemrose, Kelley Garrett, Mary Karter, and Roseann Libonati for serving on this team...pray for them as they do the hard work of meeting Oregon Health Authority guidelines, following synod recommendations, and balancing the needs of our congregation, staff and community. While our guidelines currently reflect our county's increased risk status, we are deeply encouraged by the vaccinations, and look forward to being able to worship in person again soon.

While we continue to worship together each week, we also are beginning the interim process. I have enjoyed connecting with many of you during Zoom meetings, passing the peace in worship, and via phone calls. I will be continuing to reach out until I have connected with everyone. Many thanks to Brandee Liebrand and Lyle and Denise Johnson for their volunteer support as I learn to preside in Lutheran ways!



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I know it can be challenging to connect with a pastor who is temporary. I encourage you to call up on me with your prayer concerns, personal and family needs. We can meet on Zoom, in person at the church office with masks, or talk on the phone. I am in the office on Tuesdays and Thursday from 9am until 1pm and can meet on Saturdays by appointment. My email is pastor@glcportland.org. As part of my interim contract, I am off on fifth Sundays.

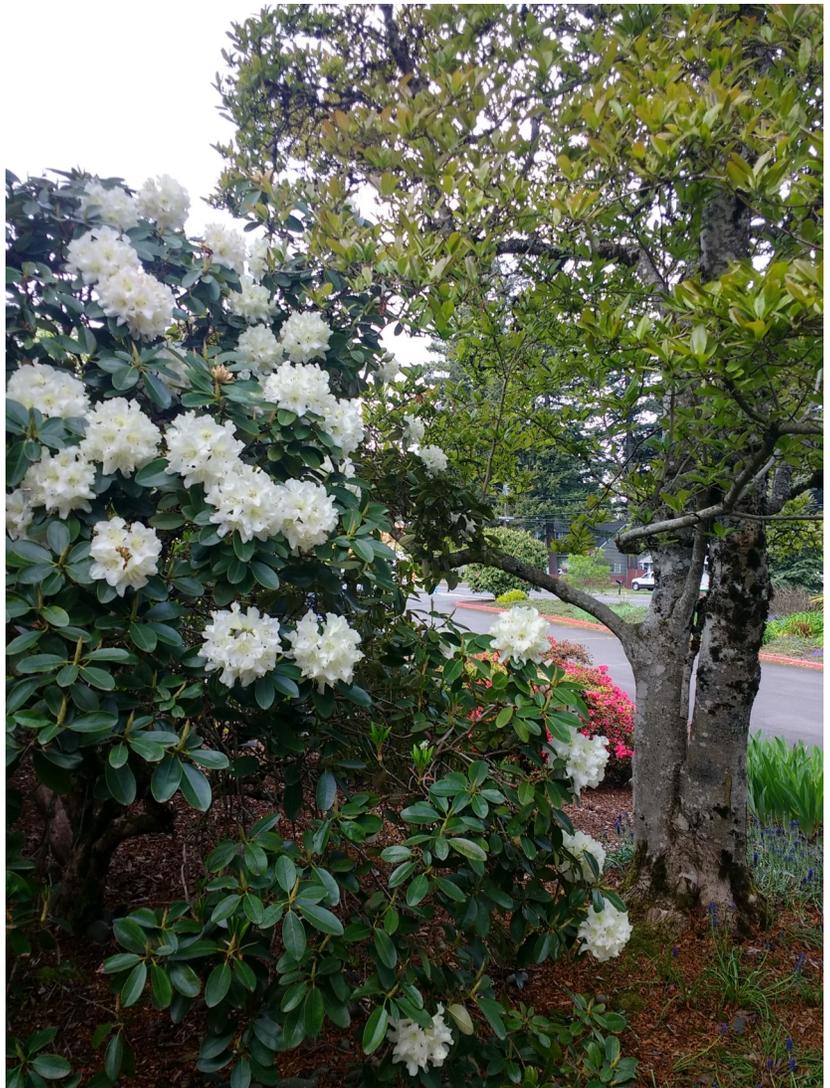
Our interim work centers on the questions: Who are we? Who are our neighbors? Who is God calling us to do and to be? As we explore those questions together, we engage in a period of congregational self-study and reflection that will enable us to complete our Gethsemane "Ministry Site Profile" (MSP). The MSP will allow us to solicit and then interview candidates for our settled pastor position.

There are typically five focus areas in this time of reflection, not necessarily completed in order but revisited as needed. The five focus areas are: heritage (coming to terms with history), leadership (how we organize ourselves), mission (discovering/claiming our identity today), connections (links to Synod and Mill Park neighborhood), and future (committing to God's leading). While we will be forming a Transition Team of 6-8 people to guide this work, it is important that all voices are heard in the development of our church profile.

I know the interim process, like all growth, can be overwhelming. Our energy is low because we haven't been able to worship in person. We aren't getting that Vitamin D boost of social-spiritual sunshine that we would from hugs at coffee hour and Holy Communion. It might be tempting to just leave this work up to a few folks and say "call me when it's over!" And it is true that saying goodbye to our last settled pastor, welcoming an interim, and then looking for a new settled pastor ...all during a global pandemic...is **HARD WORK!**

But remember the stories of our faith. We read in the scriptures of the ways that God relentlessly loves His people and

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leads them through struggle and enslavement, wandering in the wilderness, war and exile, rebuilding and collapse, healing and discipleship, betrayal and death, resurrection, and evangelism. Our God is not a stationary, fixed, idol but a living, moving, breathing, transforming Holy Spirit.

Like the seasons, our lives are always about this cycle of growth...from times of hunkering down in grief to expanding out in hope and new life. We are Gethsemane...people of the garden...hard pressed (like olives!) at times, but also full of resiliency and strength. Lean on God, lean on one another, lean on me as your interim pastor, and we will journey through to bloom again together.

In faith,
Pr. Elizabeth



Join a Short-term Small Group for Spiritual Connection



How's your spiritual life? Are you feeling a bit thirsty? Join a small group for spiritual nurture, sharing and connection. Groups will meet once a week on Zoom for six weeks from Pentecost to the end of June. Pr. Elizabeth will provide a scriptural grounding, reflection questions to consider, and a short prayer for each week's gathering. Every group will be gently facilitated by the pastor or a lay leader. This is a chance to strengthen our relationships as a church and "abide on the vine" as followers of Jesus.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/iw32H81y167L5mky8>.
Questions? Email pastor@glcportland.org.

From the Council President

April 26th, 2021

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ:

I was looking through my book intitled "Bible Promises For Life". I found two passages/verses that caught my eye that are pertinent for my message to share with you today. The first comes from PSALM 71:14 NIV. "As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more". This verse reminds me that even in the worst of times I still give God thanks and praise. I started doing this daily some time ago. I have been blessed in so many ways that I try hard not to look at the cup half full, but to always be thankful for what I have. In other words, I prefer to say that my cup runneth over. I want for all of you to look at what is going on today and stay focused on what God continues to do for you. Stay the course, keep your faith and hope and trust in him. I believe that what COVID-19 has brought to us is a way to reinvent ourselves by staying resilient, patient and determined, with God as our focus and to lead us eventually to become stronger and more determined to get back together at church and see the blessings it will create when we as a family worship together once again. (Now, take a deep breath after that long run on sentence—my teachers always marked my papers down for doing that!)

The second verse I would like to share with you is from Psalm 119:114 NLT. "You are my refuge and my shield; your word is my source of hope". We have seen and read this many times over the years. God is constant and is with us through thick and thin. His word is so powerful, and recently it has led me during COVID times to read my Bible, day in and day out. I have really enjoyed reading in depth what God has given us. In times like this that we are experiencing, I find that my reading has calmed me and made me happier and stronger to take on what comes my way. I have a stronger hope for the future and confidence that God will prevail and we will look back at this and find it has made us stronger as a congregation. We know what we have been missing and we can get through this together. I love God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit more than ever, and that is my shield and refuge that I can rely on.

I want to thank all of you for continuing to support our church. Many good things are happening and we are committed to doing the things that keep you informed and involved in the workings of the church. Pastor Elizabeth is heading a COVID-19 committee that will move us forward in getting us safely back to church. This committee has come up with a questionnaire that we need you to respond to. Your collective answers will help steer this committee forward and be part of the plan that we will submit to the Oregon Synod.

We are also working on the processes of the church. We are taking the responsibilities of each council position and reworking them to better align with what is happening today. In other words, we are taking the old descriptions (last revision 2009 and updating them). This will take some time, but it's a process that needs to be done.

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Thanks to the Worship Committee for working so hard on the zoom events that they have put together. It takes a team to get these services ready and shared online and it's getting better and better as they present them. Thanks also to all of you who give of your time and talents—office support, cleaning, coat drive, quilters, repairs inside the church and yard mowing and weeding outside. Visiting members who need assistance, callers who reach out to members, sharing musical talents, volunteers who help put together and send out packets. Special thanks to committee members, prayer chain leaders, office staff, council and our interim pastor Elizabeth. I'm so grateful to all of you! I love my church family and wish you peace and good health.

God Bless You,
Ernie

P.S.: Sorry if I forgot anybody who is doing something that I left out: you are important in making our church better. Thank You!

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!



Greetings from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & Preschool of Vancouver, WA!

We have a position opening. We believe great people know great people, and we are asking for your help. Will you please consider running this blurb in your weekly announcement/bulletins/newsletters as space allows, starting now through June 15, if possible? Please find the blurb below.

Additionally, please pray with us that God send just the right person to fill this need.

Thank you so much for considering this opportunity to help us spread the word.

In Christ,

Krista Moore

Preschool Director

Preschool office: 360.567.3636

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA currently seeks a part-time

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR for the 2021-2022 school year to lead a Christ-centered educational environment for learning and nurturing young children through Jesus' love

Start date: Summer 2021

For more information and a complete job description, please contact:

Krista Moore at preschool@vanflock.org and Lisa Hergert at lhergert0324@gmail.com

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!



Farewell to Ben Schumacher! While we celebrate a new adventure for Ben and his family, we are also sad to say another farewell. Ben and Libby have accepted new teaching positions in Omaha, Nebraska and will be relocating to the Midwest in mid-June. Ben's last Sunday with us will be Sunday, June 6th. We are so grateful for all the ways that Ben has served Gethsemane Lutheran Church, not only as Choir and Handbell Director, but also in using his sound/audio technical skills to make livestream worship possible. We were deeply blessed by the Good Friday Stations of the Cross service that Ben organized. Please keep Ben, Libby and Bridget in your prayers as they do all the work of packing and moving...may God bless them and keep them on this new adventure!

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?

In Loving Memory

We give thanks for the many ways our lives were blessed by Gethsemane members Jack Bateman, Martha McMinn, and James Stafford, all of whom passed this Spring. Our compassionate God comforts us as we mourn. Our Risen Lord gives us the hope of resurrection, for we know we will one day be reunited with those saints who have gone before. Because Jesus lives we shall live also, and neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God. Please keep the family and friends of these beloved saints in our prayers.



Gethsemane Youth Happenings

As we are looking forward to getting back together, we can sit in the excitement of what has been accomplished. We have been livestreaming for more than a month, we have assembled our COVID team, and we have introduced digital communion.

Individual accomplishments include:

- ◆ Barbie Tew was selected for Mill Park Project Advisory Committee
- ◆ Brandee Leibrand announced her candidacy for Word and Service minister
- ◆ Kay Qualheim turned 98!
- ◆ Ernie and Kim Butenschoen welcomed a new grandbaby!
- ◆ Casey entered double digits (he turned 10)!
- ◆ Varbah had a birthday! (and got her nails done!)
- ◆ Andy had a birthday!
- ◆ Grace drew a GREAT picture for what 'creation' meant to her. —>



What have you accomplished this month? What do you have coming up? The (hopeful) plan is to do Vacation Bible School outside this year—July 12-16—and get some kids together, still socially distanced and masked. That would be an accomplishment, and so fun for the kiddos! They've all missed each other, and these days they are loving the little differences.

Shake your days up! Encourage the silly—encourage the weird—encourage the different. I stopped dressing my kiddos as soon as they could dress themselves (there are the occasional weddings, dinners, etc.) because it's a lot of work to argue over silly things like "that shirt doesn't match those pants".

When Casey wanted blue hair I told him he just had to take care of his own body to earn it: he learned pretty quickly how to clean his body in the shower. Funny how that worked. Now that he's ten, I've maybe heard him talk about wanting his hair a funny color once or twice but nothing like he used to – but, I'd let him do it again. It's his hair, and I can't lie: I see those rainbow hair commercials and consider it, but it's a LOT of work to care for it.

We encourage 'weird' and 'different' here because those accomplishments lead to big ones like taking the leap to candidacy and working with city commissioners on park advisory committees! If you can't wear pink unicorn pajamas and cat leggings or blue hair when you're five and seven and ten comfortably, it only gets harder to.

Be weird. Be loud. Celebrate your accomplishments. You rock!

"Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God." Matthew 5:8

May Lectionary

Sun. May 2 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31 (27)

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Sun. May 9 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98 (4)

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Thu. May 13 — Ascension of Our Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 (5) or Psalm 93 (2)

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Sun. May 16 — Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1 (6)

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Sun. May 23 — Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (30)

Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Who IS That Person on the Phone at Church, Anyway?

Hi GLC! I've hardly met any of you yet—and I guarantee I won't recognize most of you whom I *have* met, since I've only ever seen you from the nose up—but Pastor said I should put a thing in here by way of introduction. It's been so fantastic joining GLC, and you are a wonderful vibrant little church; it's only been six months but already feels like home.

My husband and I are native Oregonians; we live just south of Glendoveer with three chickens, three pythons (sshh, don't tell Pastor), and a very sweet huge Greater Swiss Mountain Dog named Hugo. Sadly, we just lost his sister Rosie suddenly on April 30, two weeks shy of their seventh birthday. I have weird hobbies: I weave chainmail and have dabbled in leatherwork and falconry: the photo is me with my last red-tailed hawk, Nikkei, shortly after I caught her several years ago. I started writing dark historical fantasy (pirate novels) while she was up for the molt the next summer and realized I couldn't research a novel and fly her at the same time, so I let her go.

Looking forward to seeing you all (again, for the first time) as soon as things get back to the new normal! Stay safe and well...

~Anna, your friendly neighborhood church admin



***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, Lyle Johnson

Those who are grieving: Family and friends of Jack Bateman

May Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

John & Christina Hurlman 5/15
Carol & Gary Blodgett 5/23

Birthdays

Cory Cumming 5/3
Theresa Qualheim 5/7
Dick Bemrose 5/12
Virginia Haacke 5/13

Austin Huggett 5/16
Rebecca Tew 5/17
Pewee Johnson 5/20
Barbie Tew 5/20
Linda Fletcher 5/23
C.J. Butenschoen 5/24
Philip Dochow 5/27
Ernie Butenschoen 5/30
Laurel Strobel 5/31

May 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