

◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2021

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From the Pastor

Jeremiah 29:11: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

As the trees turn colors, I celebrate that another season is turning over.

Fall has always been

one of my favorite seasons. The leaves are so colorful, vibrant and shamelessly messy. Last Sunday afternoon, my children and I visited the first-ever Mill Park Pumpkin Patch at GLC, and as we oohed and ahed over the fascinating birds (thank you, Jasmine!), a very strong storm came up and lifted up the roof of the tent, nearly blowing it away. Ack! While the adults scrambled to protect the supplies, our youngest kids laughed out loud and danced in the drenching rain. They jumped in the puddles and shouted with joy while we ran for cover.

I thought immediately of the apostle Peter in the storm on the sea of Galilee. We read this passage recently in our Tuesday morning bible study, and marveled at Peter's audacity to step out onto the water in the midst of a storm. **As long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he stayed above the waves.** "But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him." (Matthew 14:30-31).

In this world, there will always be storms and reasons to despair. But can we keep our eyes on Jesus? **"Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow....blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!"** The words of that old hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness," remind us that in Christ we have all we need for today...both the strength to stay afloat and the faith to walk towards Jesus, and keep walking, until we see him face to face.



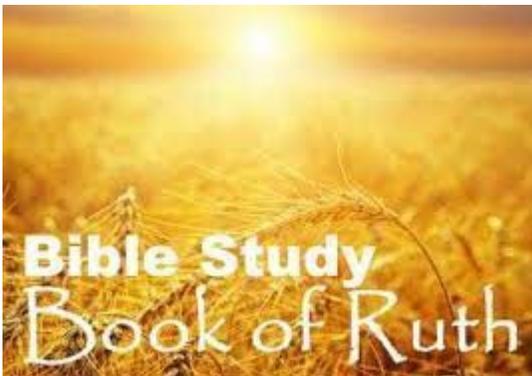
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Beloved, I'm keeping my eyes on Jesus. I'm trusting the promises of scripture: that there is a future with hope for Gethsemane Lutheran Church. There are small peeks - sacred glimpses - of possible futures emerging in conversations among the Transition Team, the GLC Leaven Land/Housing Cohort, at Council, during bible study, in staff meetings, after worship. A future with hope for GLC might include...housing ministry ("Daybreak 2.0")...a community garden...a labyrinth...kids theater...a partnership with local schools...liturgical experiments...interfaith connections...**who knows what might happen if we get out of the boat? What might we do if we weren't afraid?**

One thing is certain: if we keep our eyes on Jesus, we can rise above the waves. Our Savior will catch us and carry us through. So let's be bold, Gethsemane! **Let us give thanks** for all the ways God continues to sustain and support our ministry together. And let our gratitude inspire us to dream big as we gather on Sunday, November 14th to envision a future with hope.

In faith,
Pr. Elizabeth



During the Advent season, Pr. Elizabeth will offer a **bible study on Ruth**, the great-grandmother of King David, and one of five women mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus found in the Gospel of Matthew. Join us on **Tuesdays at 10am** in the conference room (masks, please) or on Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87038575330>). All are welcome!

From the Council President

Ernie's page will be back next month.

Give a big thanks to Lyle, Denise, Dale and Todd for installing the new lights in the sanctuary. It is so nice to see the new lights in person—what a difference it makes.

Special thanks to Jasmine and Gabe for their hard work for the hay rides and activities they have organized for Halloween.

YOU'RE INVITED...

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALL *Future-ing*

November 14th

**ALL-CHURCH BRAINSTORM PARTY
HOSTED BY THE TRANSITION TEAM**

.....
immediately after worship - in person & online
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81476436505>
.....

RAFFLE BINGO! FUN
SNACKS FELLOWSHIP

Worship Committee

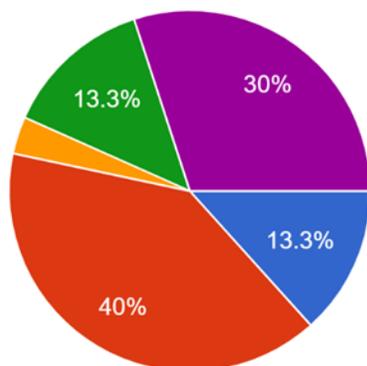
Greetings from Worship Committee! Advent is almost upon us and we have some exciting things coming up:

- **Advent Season 2 Worship Services Trial Run:** During the Season of Advent, we will be doing a trial run of returning to two worship services. We recently sent out a survey to see what interest there was around the two worship times and you can see the results in the pie chart below. In order for this to work, we will need a lot of extra help doing all of the volunteer tasks that make our worship services run: Ushers/Greeters, Readers, Altar Guild, and Cantors. You can visit <https://signup.com/Group/1125944192029/> to sign up or contact Brandee Leibrand via email at bplmbld@gmail.com. If you have problems with Internet, please call the Office. **We will hold 8 AM and 10:30 AM services on Nov. 28th, Dec. 5th, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19th ONLY. The 10:30 AM service will be livestreamed and recorded for posting after. We will return to one 9:30 AM service on Dec. 26th.** After this trial period, we will be releasing a follow-up survey to see how things went and make a plan moving forward based on our experience.



How will you participate in worship at GLC?

30 responses



- I will attend an 8AM worship service in person.
- I will attend a 10:30AM worship service in person.
- I will attend a 10:30AM worship service on Zoom or Facebook.
- I will watch the worship service later. (Recording)
- I will attend a worship service in person, regardless of the time it is offered.

- Due to Covid, we will **NOT** be having our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service. We will lift up Thanksgiving and gather a special offering on **Sunday, Nov. 21st** instead.
- **Help us decorate the church for Christmas! On Saturday, Dec. 11th**, we will gather in the Sanctuary at 10 AM to decorate for Christmas. We also need some able-bodied volunteers to help load the Christmas trees for transport from the field to the church. If you can help with that, please contact Gloria Kelsay. All other decorators: show up at the church and we will find a job for you!
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** will be held at **10 PM ONLY** this year.
- **Worship Volunteer Position Descriptions:** These are available online on the sign up pages located at <https://signup.com/Group/1125944192029/>, are posted in the Narthex, or can be requested from Anna in the Office.

Gethsemane Youth Happenings

Advent always seems to sneak up on me. It's suddenly October and Reformation - A Mighty Fortress, Martin Luther, runaway nuns, **the** protest to shake up religion as it was known (big C/little c), eating worms (no, not really but every year at least one kid asks)... "Here I Stand" - and then BAM! Advent.

We have become professionals at making space over these last two years though, haven't we? Make space in the grocery store lines. Make space at school. Make space at church. It seems like we've been practicing Advent for almost two years! The unfortunate part of that space is the loneliness it has fostered for many of us, especially our most vulnerable; our youth and our elders.



We hosted a Pumpkin Patch this year for the first time and it was so much fun to see the community members come out and enjoy our space in a way that was new and encouraged playfulness and joy! We had exotic birds, too! Some people stopped just for picture opportunities, some stopped just to play, some stopped to shop pumpkins and others still stopped because they were unsure of what exactly was going on out there in the yard with all of those pumpkins! We made space on our land for the community with no expectations for making a profit or expecting people to show up, and still they did and from that space and that time spent we fostered community relationships that will carry for many years into the future.

A fifth grade class visited us from Mill Park Elementary and we were able to play a "Pumpkin Walk" - the kids had never participated in a cake walk before! They returned to school excited enough that they (unfortunately?) disrupted other classrooms the last ten minutes of the day with loud,

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palpable energy the Principal reported. Each student received a pumpkin, and will forever remember that our church provided them with that experience.

The more we can make space for others in our space the more we can provide experiences that will be impactful and life-changing for other human beings, children of God, even if they seem really simple and unnecessary to some who frequent our space and our services. I know that we at my house need frequent reminders of just how blessed, fortunate, lucky and called we are and that there are so many others who are not.



As we round out this month and find ourselves approaching Advent, please take a moment to consider how you can prepare your heart for #WhatsNext. We will hear - Jesus is coming! Prepare the way! But, how can we prepare our hearts, minds, and spaces for the work of preparing a place for Jesus the baby and His mess?

Sometimes - loud, pumpkin carrying, disruptive ten year olds is what we need to make space for. And that's okay.



If you'd like to volunteer with the kids, please reach out. We are considering a spaced out - masked up - vaccinated Advent program that is very simple (like: very little rehearsing - just doing!).

-Jasmine
CYFM@GLCPDX

Thoughts from the Oregon Synod Disaster Preparation and Response Team

HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN

Step 1: Talk with your household.

- Can you answer these questions?
- How will I receive alerts/warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation plan?
- What is my family/household communication plan
- Do I need to update my emergency preparation kit?

Step 2: Consider specific needs of the household.

- Different ages of members of the household
- Responsibilities
- Locations frequented
- Medical needs
- Access and functional needs, including equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Needs of pets and service animals

Step 3: Fill out a family emergency plan to collect information

- School, childcare, caregiver and workplace emergency plans
- Out-of-state contact
- Emergency meeting place for unification
- Make sure everyone has this information

Step 4: Practice your plan

- Gather at the designated meeting place
- Contact out-of-state contact
- Make sure all members of the household can remember and execute the plan





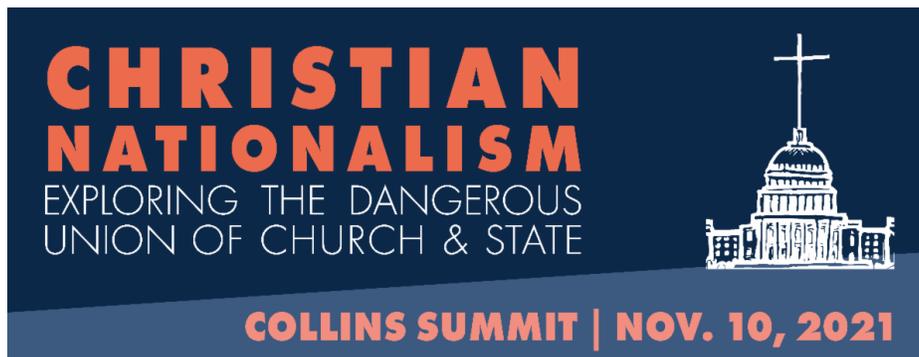
Prayer for Veterans Day

Lord of all, you long for a time when all nations will be ruled with justice and a world where everyone lives in safety and harmony. Until that time when swords are beaten into plowshares and the wolf and the lamb eat together, we give thanks for veterans who have served their country with honor and courage.

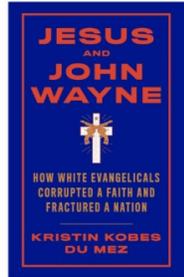
We remember the sacrifices made by members of the military and their families. We know that they endured long seasons apart from loved ones, the disruption of moves and deployments, the stress of being sent to regions engulfed by violence, the repercussions of physical, spiritual and moral injuries.

Where the pain of those injuries persists, bring healing. Where the memories of that trauma are harrowing, grant relief. Where the grief of those losses threaten to overwhelm, grant hope.

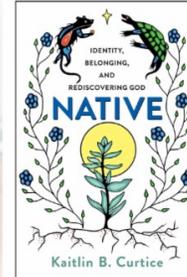
We pray, gracious God, for an end to war and for the new earth where there will be no need for military might. But now, we ask your blessing upon our veterans and those closest to them that they may know the gift of your presence and the peace that passes understanding. Amen.



KRISTIN KOBE DU MEZ



KAITLIN CURTICE



On Jan. 6, 2021, the world was shocked by images of protestors storming the U.S. Capitol Building. Many held a flag in one hand and a Bible in the other. Some carried crosses, while others prayed for God to restore the United States as a Christian nation.

For 54 years, the annual **Collins Summit** has bravely taken on subjects at the center of current events. This year is no exception. At the **2021 Collins Summit**, we will explore the challenging topic of Christian Nationalism—the belief that the United States is defined by Christianity, and that the government should work to keep it that way.

Join us at 7 p.m. on Nov. 10 for "Christian Nationalism: Exploring the dangerous union of church and state." Registrants have a choice to attend in person at Imago Dei Community (masks required), 1400 SE Ankeny St., Portland, or watch online on your computer, phone, tablet or smart TV. \$20, scholarships are available.

FEATURING

- ★ **Kristin Kobe Du Mez**, professor of History and Gender Studies at Calvin University and bestselling author of "Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation."
- ★ **Kaitlin Curtice** (Potawatomi Nation), author of "Native: Identity, Belonging and Rediscovering God."
- ★ **Panel of Oregon leaders**: The Rev. Andrea Cano, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon; The Rev. Ernestine Flemister, St. Luke's Episcopal, Grants Pass; Rick McKinley, Imago Dei Community; and Sylvester "Sal" Sahme, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

To register, visit <https://emoregon.org/event/2021-collins/>

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WINTER

COAT DRIVE

October through November

GLC's mission is to serve our community.

The Coats for Kids coat drive helps fulfill that mission by providing winter coats to primary and elementary schools in our area.

We deliver warm coats to all 10 grade schools in David Douglas school district as well as 4 grade schools in Centennial and 1 in Reynolds school district.

This year we are including 4 grade schools in Parkrose.

This cannot happen without your generosity!

Please contact me at patiomygosh@aol.com for details if you would like to help keep a child warm and toasty this winter season.

or you can contact the church office
at 503-256-1835.



To donate to the GLC coat drive via Thrivent, visit this link:
<https://thrivent.cotribute.co/events/554810/detail>

You are also welcome to drop off coats or monetary donations at the office.
Mark checks for "coat drive" and envelopes "attention Patty Olson"
so the funds get allocated accordingly.



A Thanksgiving Prayer in Time of Pandemic

On this Thanksgiving Day like no other,
even now, O God, your name is worthy to be
praised.

For in your mercy and kindness
no thought of ours is left unguarded,
no tear unheeded, and no joy unnoticed.

For the blessings we have known
and for those we have yet to recognize,
to you we give our grateful thanks.

For life that reminds us how fragile we are
and also how strong we can be: We thank you,
O God.

For sheltering that urges us
to rediscover what truly matters: We thank you,
O God.

For communication that allows us
to connect in ways new and old: We thank you,
O God.

And for mindfulness that shows us
how much we rely on one another: We thank
you, O God.

Watch over your family, Lord, gathered here
and at tables separated by miles,
and bless those who work tirelessly to keep us all
safe.

Though we may be kept apart
on this day that calls us together,
we know your Spirit draws us close.

Lord, we ask you to ease the pain of empty
chairs

that bring to mind our beloved dead.

Let our grieving find its rest in your Son, Jesus,
in whose Resurrection is our hope.

Grant your Spirit to be present here
that this meal may become a foretaste of your
heavenly table

where every tear shall be wiped away, every hun-
ger fed,

and no distance can separate us from your love
in Christ,

from whom all good things come.

Amen.

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This Day*.

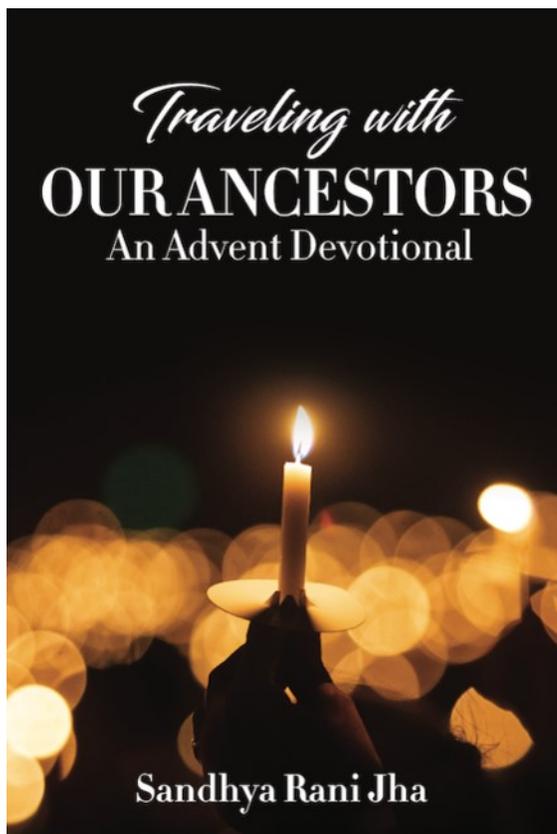
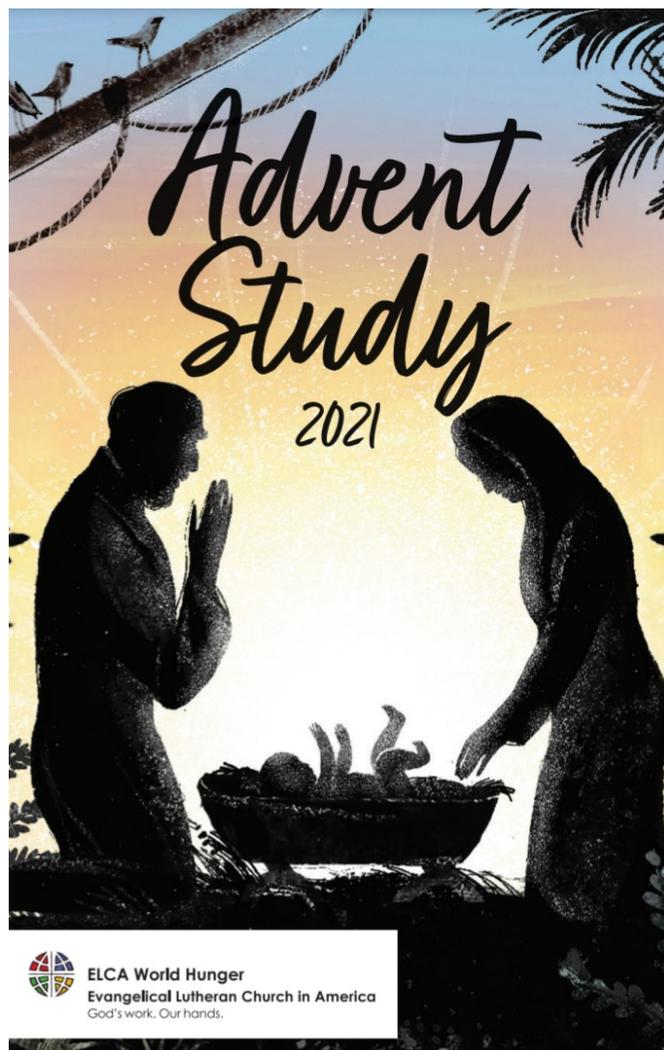


Advent Devotionals And Weekly Spiritual Practice

We have two options for Advent devotionals this year!

First, the weekly Advent Study from ELCA World Hunger brings us four stories, reflection questions, and a short prayer to deepen our awareness of the needs of ourselves and our neighbors here at home and across the globe.

Second, the daily devotional "Traveling with Our Ancestors" by Sandhya Rani Jha brings us a new approach to Advent by focusing on our ancestors. Each day in Advent recalls a spiritual ancestor...from the time of Jesus, the Early Church, the Hebrew Bible, the Desert Mothers & Fathers, the United States and across the world. These ancestors remind us that **whatever we are going through now, however unprecedented and overwhelming and unbearable it sometimes seems, our faith can see us through**...for God carries us, just as he has, so many times, in so many ways, for those who went before us.



Copies of both devotionals will be available beginning November 28th in the Narthex...if you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Instead of an evening Advent church service this year, Pr. Elizabeth will host an online devotional lunch hour on Wednesdays at NOON. Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87225860404>. Come take a sacred pause in the middle of the busy holidays to re-center yourself on the spiritual heart of the season.

NEW: If you don't have a computer at home, you can connect to the online gathering via the church conference room. Contact Anna at alewis@glcportland.org or talk to Pastor for details!

Notes

- * **SnowCap's Fall needs** include the following food box items: canned veggies and fruit; hearty soups/chili/stews; canned tuna; peanut butter; dessert mixes (Jello/cake/brownie, etc), returnable cans/bottles, ground coffee, can openers, hot chocolate packets. Full size toiletries and items for care packages include TP/paper towels, deodorant, shaving cream/razors, soap/body wash, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/brushes, hand sanitizer/wipes, dish soap/dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent, hats/gloves, handwarmers, face masks for kids and adults. Stocking stuffer items for kids/teens: card games, small toys, journals, small art supplies, activity books, teen hygiene kits, bath/grooming supplies, wrapped candy. The donation drive-through is open Monday-Friday between 9 am - 3 pm at 17788 SE Pine Street. You can also visit SnowCap.org to send a contribution that will be used to bulk-purchase goods.
- * If you'd like to donate to resupply our **Life Pax** stash, please either drop it in the collection plate or hand it to Jasmine and she'll leave it in the office.
- * **If you come into the church for any reason, please remember to sign in on the contact-tracing sheet. Multnomah County is asking that everyone wear masks indoors, even if you are vaccinated.**
- * 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.



Church Office Hours

The GLC Church Office is open on Tuesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. **Please remember to sign in when you come to the church office.** Due to the increase in COVID cases in our county, **masks are again required** when visiting the church office. Disposable masks are available on the counter. Due to her part-time schedule, Anna works from home on Mondays and is off on Fridays. Pastor Elizabeth's office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm and Saturdays by appointment. Her direct line is 503-465-4113. She is fully vaccinated and available for pastoral visits at church and at home. If you reach voicemail during office hours Tuesday to Thursday, we are likely in a meeting. Please leave a message and we will return your call promptly!



November Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries

Don & Shar Giard	11/9
Sharon Lee & Bob Ashley	11/12
Lyle & Denise Johnson	11/27



Birthdays

Owen Solberg	11/3
Ryan Gilsoul	11/4
Karla Hills	11/4
Judith Rust	11/7
Stephen Huggett	11/10
Collette Gill	11/16
Gretchen Goodall	11/18
Paul Liebrand	11/21
Clara Liebrand	11/29

November Lectionary

Sun. Nov. 7 — All Saints Day (observed)

Isaiah 25:6-9
 Psalm 24 (5)
 Revelation 21:1-6a
 John 11:32-44

Sun. Nov. 14 — 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3
 Psalm 16 (9)
 Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25
 Mark 13:1-8

Sun. Nov. 21 — Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
 Psalm 93 (2)
 Revelation 1:4b-8
 John 18:33-37

Thu. Nov. 25 — Day of Thanksgiving (USA)

Joel 2:21-27
 Psalm 126 (3)
 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Matthew 6:25-33

Sun. Nov. 28 — First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16
 Psalm 25:1-10 (1)
 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Luke 21:25-36

Financial Update

October 2020 YTD: 170,867.64

October 2021 YTD: 195,211.95

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 or scan our Venmo code —>

venmo



**Reminder to set your clocks back ONE HOUR
on Sunday, November 7th.**

A Prayer for the Interim Time

God of love, in this interim time, we pray for our church family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, imaginative about our future, and daring in our faith. As we continue in this transition time with anxiety and hope, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. Thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. Thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. All this we pray, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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/81476436505>

- * Click on the link highlighted or put in the following numbers – Meeting ID 814 7643 6505 , then wait in the waiting room until Jasmine lets you in.
- * **Using a telephone:** call 1 253 215 8782 (no long distance charges will apply) then put in the meeting ID 814 7643 6505 . After you have done that, you might get a prompt to hit the pound button.
- * You can also find our livestream on **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/gethsemaneportland>



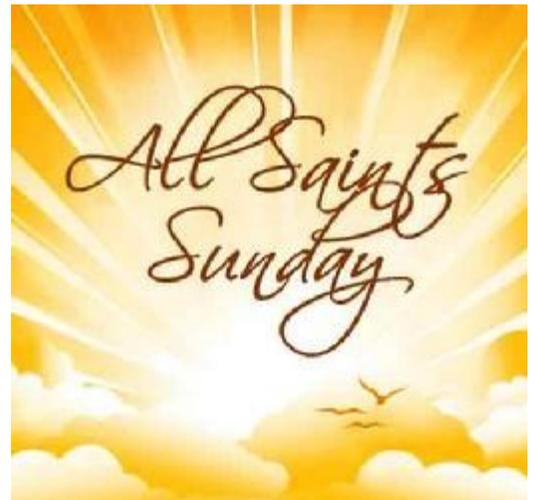
GLC Calendar for November

- Tuesday November 2nd, Bible Study (Peter), 10am
- Sunday November 7th, Worship 9:30am: All Saints Day
- Tuesday November 9th, Bible Study (Peter), 10am
- Sunday November 14th, Worship 9:30am: Congregational Party!
- Tuesday November 16th, Bible Study (Dolly Parton!), 10am
- Tuesday November 16th, Council @ church (in person!), 7pm
- Sunday, November 21st, Worship 9:30am: Gratitude Sunday
- *Note no bible study on Tuesday November 23
- Sunday November 28th, Worship 8am & 10:30am: First Advent
- Tuesday November 30th, Bible Study (Ruth), 10am



We have no date set for the **Rummage Sale**, but we do have lots of rummage! Kim Stoffregen (503-351-1913) and Paulette Kelley (503-810-9559) are meeting every Wednesday morning from 10 to 12 to work on pricing, so when the time comes we'll be ahead of the game. We'd love for any help we can get. Give us a call or stop by!

All Saints Sunday is Sunday, November 7th. We will lift up our prayers in gratitude for the lives of all those saints who have passed during the previous year. To make sure we don't miss anyone, please email any names you want to celebrate to Pr. Elizabeth at pastor@glcportland.org. Thank you!



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 or changes

Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Colleen Barnett's friends Liz and Shane and niece Tami, Lois Boro's nephew Jason, Dan Rust & Savanna, Sharon's sister Connie and niece Terri; Jim & Diane Liefeld; Hilary Hietpas's granddaughter Aliyah, Ginger Heater, Cathey Myers' neighbor Gary & his wife Jan; Jenece Scheer (Butenschoen)'s coworker Kathy; Marilee Hansen, Bob Magnuson; Jan Perkins; Pastor Elizabeth's mother-in-law, Susan; Kim Stoffregen's sister-in-law, Debbie Johnson; prayers for Kay Brainard's daughter Kim, as she navigates cancer treatment; Rachel Coughlin's friend Renee

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Virginia Haacke; everyone who's ill with Covid

November Olive Press



Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 11560 SE Market, Portland, OR 97216
(503) 256-1835 www.glcportland.org pastor@glcportland.org
Church Office Hours: Tues. 9:00-1:00; Wed. & Thur. 9:00-4:00
Pastor Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 9:00-1:00