

◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2022

COUNCIL

President:

Ernie Butenschoen

Vice President:

Dick Bemrose

Sec/Treasurer:

Laura Britzius

Properties:

Philip Dochow

Lutheran Liaison:

Mary Karter

Evangelism:

Rachel Coughlin

CYFF Formation:

Edwina Krubo

Community Action:

Gabriel Sprague

Stewardship: TBD

Fellowship: TBD

Worship: TBD

STAFF

Interim Pastor:

Rev. Robert Neubert

CYFM:

Jasmine Anderson

Church Admin.:

Anna Lewis

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale & Ann Van

Horn

A/V Engineer: TBD

Nursery Attendant:

Maeson Dochow

From the Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As most of you know our family recently relocated from Wisconsin and rather than trying to buy a home while living 2000 miles away we decided to rent a home that we had only seen online. Ever since moving into this home it has been a constant source of our daily complaints due to its obvious cheap construction and its sometimes baffling use of space. Some of our favorite complaints are: 1. it has almost no built in lighting around the house despite the fact that it was built in the early 2000s, resulting in our need to buy numerous lamps. 2. It boasts a GIANT master bathroom, with nothing in it other than a very cheap bath/shower combo way in the corner and a toilet way on the other side of the room. 3. There is a giant master closet that is mostly unusable, and a loft area that is both too big and too little to do anything with. Yet as I complain about my annoying house I drive past various homeless camps all across the Portland area and I feel a little ashamed because: 1. I got a house, 2. It has heating and air conditioning, and it has space to store all my junk. Sure, it may not be my ideal place to live, but it is still a place my family and I can call home and that is something that we can truly be thankful for.

We have so many things in our lives to be thankful for, most of which we take for granted, choosing to instead focus on the negative things, no matter how mundane. One of my favorite things to complain about is my internet connection. I get frustrated if it's going too slow, which is silly because essentially I am saying that this amazing technology that allows me to have any information I want in

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gratitude
TURNS WHAT WE
have
INTO
enough

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the palm of my hand is going too slow. Twenty five years ago there was no internet, people had to use this strange thing known as a library which required people actually leave their home to look something up. I often find myself complaining about the hot water in my house or the various clogs that develop in our pipes around the house. In the midst of these complaints it is helpful to remember the “bathrooms” that we had while in Mexico were nothing more than a hole in the ground out behind someone’s home. It is also helpful to remember that this is not just a problem outside the United States, but that over 1.6 million Americans live without plumbing in their home.

There is one thing that I definitely give thanks for every day, besides God, family and friends, and that is my refrigerator. For the vast majority of us alive today it is hard to imagine, but the household refrigerators are a relatively new invention, they were first made available to the general public in the 1930s with freezers coming along in the 1940s. It is also helpful to remember that air travel is also relatively new. Back in the 19th century if you lived on the East Coast and wanted to go to Oregon, it could take up a year or more to get there, you would most likely lose a family member or two, and maybe even gain a family member or two before arriving.

These are all things that we take for granted, and if we learn one thing from these past two years living in the midst of a pandemic, it is that there is so much in this world that we should be thankful for. God has blessed each of us richly and while none of our lives are perfect there is so much around us that is worthy of giving thanks for. Specifically I think we can give thanks for this community in Christ that we share. Gethsemane has been through a lot but we have so much to be thankful for and so much more to share with our community.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:4-8))

Peace,
Pastor Robert

Tuesday Morning Bible Study



Join us for Bible Study on **Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am!** In person in the Conference Room and on Zoom at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83076176257> Meeting ID: 830 7617 6257. We’re currently studying the Gospel of Mark.

From the Council President

Greetings to my sisters and brothers in Christ:

The message that I share with you is from John 14:23-29. You can see an example of how one person has responded to this specific reading from John in your "The Word In Season" (Sunday May 22nd, 2022). We all can relate to this reading in a number of different ways. I, for many years, have been wondering which one of the three has been poking me with something they want me to do or not do. I have usually always thought it was God or Jesus that was the source of this messaging to me. It changed a little bit this past year when I asked someone about it and they told me it



could also be the Holy Spirit. So, I started to believe that it could be any of the three. Since I moved to Vancouver with Kim, I drive on McGillivray Blvd to head east or west from our house. Less than ½ mile from our house lives an elderly woman who rarely comes out of her home. Her yard is very badly overgrown and needs a lot of tender loving care. I have talked to her neighbor and she has communicated with her for me. I now believe the Advocate for her is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a great teacher and an Advocate for us when something needs to be done for the greater good. It also gives us the chance to share our time and talent with a stranger or neighbor if the opportunity presents itself. We then, might also get the opportunity to share our faith and love for God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. If given the chance, I will share my story with this woman as to what led me to her house. I plan to start on her yard in May and I hope to be finished by the end of the month. Two verses from John 14: verses 26 and 27 are building blocks for our lives as well. I challenge you to listen to these prompts from God, Christ and the Holy Spirit and act on them to make a difference in someone's life. It will change you as well, when you help others. I'm proud of our Gethsemane family for all that we do for people in our community. Thank You for all that you do. Now that Covid has calmed down for the time being, I'm excited for all the new possibilities that will present themselves to us.

I want to thank all of you that came to the meeting that was led by Pastor Sara and Pastor Robert and the Transition Team at the end of March. I was happy to see that it was attended so well. This work is very important to our church and is needed so that we will not have these issues in the future. Please continue to participate and make our church stronger and a more welcoming church for all in our community. The Transition Team is meeting with both pastors so that we can plan our next steps that will get us closer to calling our next pastor through the call committee.

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I want to thank the Exec Council and Council for all that they do, week after week. I feel so blessed to work with them and watch what they/we can accomplish every time we get together. There will be a time when we will reach out to add some of you that will carry this work forward with us or as some of our council members reach the end of their terms and will need to be replaced.

The Worship Team has been working super hard to cover all the spots that make it possible to have a church service fully covered. Gloria and others have carried the load lately and they are doing a super job. Thanks for all you faithful servants that have stepped forward to fill these spots.

Thanks goes out to our staff that are on a salary schedule. They have been awesome working under Covid restrictions and now they can see the building getting back to normal and it reopening to groups that utilize our space, which allows our church to add some revenue through them using the space. Our staff is awesome and are settling in to a more normal job environment.

Thanks to the Covid Team for leading us through some tough decisions. We have finally gotten to a choice of not having to mask at church. This will only change if things get worse again on the Covid front. Kelley Irby is now taking on the responsibility to lead this group. Mary Karter is doing so many things and does an incredible job, but Kelley will lead this group going forward.

The Rummage Sale will start the 13th and 14th of May. Please sign up in the narthex to help us fill the slots that are needed to run this sale successfully this year. A huge THANKS goes out to Kim and Paulette for organizing the sale. We have had members helping them each week, back in the sale area (back of the church). They have been sorting, organizing and pricing all of the items—thank you all so much. Please help if you can. Contact Kim or Paulette if you can help.

Quilters: thanks so much for your work efforts. The quilts you make and distribute are a huge gift to those that receive them.

Thanks to all of you that work inside/outside of our church and in our community. I know we have people helping with finance items, (counters, people helping with crunching the numbers and putting them in the rights spots in our financial reports).

Pastor Robert, you are awesome! Pastor Robert and the Exec Council are working to update our Constitution and the Employee Handbook. There are some items that need some slight adjustments. We will then present them to the council to look at. I believe all final changes will need to be approved at a congregational meeting in the near future.

I hope I haven't *not* thanked someone. If I have, please realize I appreciate what you are doing to help our church family/community.

God Bless all of you! ~ Ernie

A NEW Rummage Sale Update!

It's coming up fast. **Sale is scheduled for May 13-14th.** We need a lot more help on those days to make this work! Hours are 8-4 both days.

We will start **setting up on Friday, May 6** and can use help that day and every day after that (except Sunday) to get things on the tables and finish pricing.

You can bring in things for the sale now, and any time through Wednesday, May 11th. We will not take anything after Wednesday! If bringing before the 6th, put in room six or along the walls of the community hall. We will also be working on pricing on April 27-28 and May 4-5 from 9:30 to noon if you want to help or drop stuff off.

Sign up for the bake sale! You can make things ahead and put them in the freezer at church in the big kitchen or bring them on Thursday or Friday the week of the sale.

- **HERE'S the Big Change:** We are going to try something new this year in an effort to make things less hectic. **We are going to save the bag sale for Sunday afternoon!**
- After the Bag Sale, we will have a giveaway time. We are hoping that different charities will come pick things up that they can use for their clients, like Snow Cap getting clothes, or refugee agencies getting furniture or household items. **Do you have a contact at a charity that might be interested?** We will open it up for the public to come and get the rest of the stuff for free. We have never tried this but we hope it works!
- We will do clean up on Monday.
- Flyers are available NOW to hand out or post to advertise the sale.
- We're still looking for a couple of people to hang signs the week of the sale.

Questions? Call Kim at 503-351-1913 or Paulette at 503-810-9559.



Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the Sanctuary and make it a joyful space for Easter Sunday!

Thank you to Pastor and the Worship Team: Gloria, Brenna, Jay, and Kim for all their hard work during Easter week; the Spragues for their help with the AV support, and Brooke for the music.

Thank you as well to everyone who assisted with worship by reading, canting, ushering, and helping with communion.

Gethsemane Youth Happenings

"As generous distributors of God's manifest grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure you have received. The one who speaks should deliver God's message. The one who serves should do so with the strength provided by God, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, who has been given all glory and dominion throughout the ages. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10-11)

Summer is fast approaching, and leadership at Gethsemane continues to find ways to bring back events and gatherings that have been put on hold throughout the pandemic. Last year's Vacation Bible School was fashioned in a way to ensure we were outside, socially distanced and not sharing water bottles or eating together and, with many thanks, we completed an entire week of VBS (with a combined group of participants and volunteers totaling almost 50) and had zero reports of a positive COVID test!

With that success and the continued devotion to maintaining safe, reasonable and comprehensible guidelines for #GLC by our COVID team we are moving forward with VBS planning this year too! This year's theme is: **Being Good Stewards**. We will spend the week playing with recycling, discussing the importance of being good stewards to this earth and how we are called by God to do so, and we will put our hands and our feet to work in the community and at home (at church) completing service projects and see what utilizing our time and talents looks like.

We need your help, Gethsemane friends! To ensure we have enough recycling for all of the youth to play with, I am asking you all to save up your recycling beginning now! Please bring it into the church with you on Sundays and we'll store it.

- Pill Bottles
- Water Bottles
- Pop Cans (this is an always need!)
- Clear Plastic Cups
- Metal Bottle Caps
- Old CDs
- Toilet Paper Rolls
- Metal Cans (Canned Food Cans)
- Mason Jars
- Tires
- Wood
- Dryer Lint
- Newspaper
- Rope

If you have other items that you come across and think might make a great addition to an upcycling craft, please reach out. I will collect items through the end of June which allows time to put together crafts before VBS which is scheduled for July 18-22nd. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please let me know or contact the office.

#GrowWithGethsemane #GLCPDX #GethsemaneYouth #BeingGoodStewards #GLCVBS



Community Action & Outreach Committee

Greetings to all!

I am very excited to announce in the Olive Press this month, our new community partnership with Cultivate Initiatives! They bring a multitude of resources into our community primarily for

the unhoused neighbors. How will Gethsemane be an active participant in this partnership you may ask? Great question! The Community Action and Outreach committee has approval for the far west side of the parking lot to be used by Cultivate Initiatives for the Mobile Shower Trailer every Sunday from 10:30am-2:30pm. We are excited to build up this partnership to continue to be good stewards to our community that bring resources to those in need.

As we progress through the year, we will need your help continuing to build relationships with our community. Please keep a look out for dates as we announce community resource fairs, community walk-about, and fundraisers that will help keep our community ALIVE!!!

Peace,
Gabriel, Community Action & Outreach Chair

GLC Calendar for May

- **Sunday, May 1st, Worship, 9:30am**
- **Tuesday, May 3rd, Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Sunday, April 8th, Worship, 9:30am**
- **Tuesday, May 10th, Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Saturday/Sunday, May 14-15: Synod Assembly**
- **Sunday, May 15th, Worship, 9:30 am**
- **Tuesday, May 17th, Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Tuesday, May 17th, Church Council, 7:00 pm**
- **Sunday, May 22nd, Worship, 9:30am**
- **Tuesday, May 24th, Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Wednesday, May 25th, GLC Land/Housing Cohort, 6:30pm, Zoom**
- **Monday, May 30, Memorial Day: Office Closed**





Programs and resources to amplify your generosity

How to apply for a Thrivent Action Team

Your passion and excitement for your community are sure to make your Thrivent Action Team a success. Follow these steps to apply—and don't forget to share the results of your project with us.

1. Visit thrivent.com/actionteam for resources to help you brainstorm ideas and prepare for your project.
2. Once you have your project idea, get ready to apply. Here's what you'll need to have handy when you fill out the application:
 - Your User ID and password.
 - Your estimated project date. (Allow 14 days for your Thrivent Action Kit to arrive.)
 - A short description of your project and how your volunteer team will be involved.
 - The church or other nonprofit organization that will benefit from the project, if applicable.
 - How you'll use the Community Impact Card.
 - Number of volunteers on your team and T-shirt sizes.
3. Now that you have everything you need, visit thrivent.com/actionteam and click **Apply Now** to begin the application process. Applying for a Thrivent Action Team takes less than 15 minutes.
4. If it is your first time logging in, you will need your Thrivent ID. If you don't know your Thrivent ID, please contact your Thrivent financial advisor or call 800-847-4836 for assistance.

After you've completed the application, watch your email inbox to see if your project was approved. You should receive an email within 24 hours of submitting your application.

After your project

Go to thrivent.com/actionteam and share your story. Reporting on your project takes less than 10 minutes. Make sure you have the following handy:

- Your User ID and password.
- What your team accomplished.
- Number of:
 - Volunteers on your team (and their names).
 - Hours to plan the event and length of event.
 - Hours (on average) each person volunteered.
 - Total participants.
- The amount raised if you hosted a food drive or fundraiser.

Questions? We're here for you.
Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Action Teams."

Membership benefits are not guaranteed contractual benefits. The interpretation of the provisions of these benefits is at the sole discretion of Thrivent. These benefits are reviewed and evaluated regularly. Thrivent reserves the right to change, modify, discontinue or refuse to provide any of the membership benefits or any part of them at any time.

Vanco Contributions Procedure

Option One:

Go to www.glcportland.org. On the homepage, there is a button that says "Online Giving". That button will take you to the Vanco website. On the Vanco homepage...

- Login in the top right corner.
- Select "contribute" under one of the categories:
 - a. Evangelism/Outreach
 - b. Building
 - c. General Fund
- After selecting "contribute", fill out the form
 - a. How much; any amount
 - b. How often; once, weekly, monthly
 - c. Select when to start the payment (a calendar will pop up)
 - d. The next page will ask for credit/debit card information
 - e. On the right side of the same page, click the "review information" button

Option Two:

Go to <https://secure.myvancom.com/L-YRFX/home> on the Vanco homepage:

- Login in the top right corner.
- Select "contribute" under one of the categories:
 - a. Evangelism/Outreach
 - b. Building
 - c. General Fund
- After selecting "contribute", fill out the form
 - a. How much; any amount
 - b. How often; once, weekly, monthly
 - c. Select when to start the payment (a calendar will pop up)
 - d. The next page will ask for credit/debit card information
 - e. On the right side of the same page, click the "review information" button

Unfortunately, it doesn't look as if you can simply increase already-scheduled contributions. You can additional contributions, or cancel scheduled contributions and set new ones.





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Helping Our Global Neighbors in Need Through Lutheran World Relief

Our shipment of **37 quilts and 161 personal care kits** are assembled and packed, ready for shipment to Lutheran World Relief. Due to Covid, we have not sent out any personal care kits since May 2019.

On April 21st, we had a group gathered (pictured) to assemble the kits and pack them, along with the completed quilts. The shipment will be delivered to the Lutheran World Relief depot at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on May 6th. Due to the timing with Easter, we were not able to display the quilts and kits on the altar as usual. However, Pastor Robert came back to the Parish Hall and blessed our quilts and kits on April 21st.

Thankful to so many people who make this donation possible. We have had quilters who faithfully continue to use fabric donations to sew quilts that will keep people warm and comfortable. We have people who volunteer to drive the packed boxes to the depot twice a year. Putting together that many kits and packing the boxes could be a daunting task, but our crew did it within a few hours! The items for the kits, in addition to the fabric donations for quilts, are only possible through the many donations of church members and friends. I had people coming to me and saying what do you still need and what can I do? What an awesome response to help our global neighbors! Each box we ship out has a tracking bar code. Our shipment of quilts from last fall went to Burkina Faso, a country in West Africa. The fall shipment of school kits went to Peru. It will be interesting to follow where our current shipment is headed.

We are sharing God's love through this ministry! Many thanks to all! ~ Karla Hills



Notes

- * If you use the tables in the Community Hall, please wipe them off when you're done so they're clean for the next folks.
- * Do you know someone in need of food pantry resources? **Oregon Food Bank's "Food Finder"** (foodfinder.oregonfoodbank.org) can help! Enter an address to find all the free local pantries within 15 miles, including open days and hours.
- * **SnowCap's needs** include the following food box items: canned veggies and fruit; hearty soups/chili/stews; canned tuna; peanut butter; gallon zip-top bags, plastic/paper/reusable grocery bags, clean returnable bottles and cans, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/brushes, baby wipes, hats/gloves, gently-used cookbooks. 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 come into the church for any reason, please remember to 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.
- * **Participation in Thrivent Choice® & Thrivent Action Teams makes a difference!** Thrivent clients with membership have unique opportunities to help support Vacation Bible School and the ministry of planting seeds of faith! Consider making a [personal donation](#), leading a [Thrivent Action Team](#), or [directing Thrivent Choice Dollars®](#). Go to Thrivent.com/generosity to learn more.



The GLC Church Office is open on **Monday** 1:00 to 4:00 pm, **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.** Disposable masks are available on the counter. Due to her part-time schedule, Anna works from home Monday mornings and Tuesday afternoons (reach her by email), and is off on Fridays.

Pastor Robert's office hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Evening appointments may also be available on Monday and Thursday. He will be setting up a sign-up sheet for one-on-one appointments.



May Anniversaries & Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

BIRTHDAYS

Cory Cumming 5/3

Kathy Lowe 5/24

Theresa Qualheim 5/7

Philip Dochow 5/27

Dick Bemrose 5/12

Ernie Butenschoen 5/30

Virginia Haacke 5/13

Laurel Strobel 5/31

May Lectionary

Sun. May 1 — Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
 Psalm 30 (11)
 Revelation 5:11-14
 John 21:1-19

Sun. May 22 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:9-15
 Psalm 67 (4)
 Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
 John 14:23-29

Sun. May 8 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43
 Psalm 23 (1)
 Revelation 7:9-17
 John 10:22-30

Sun. May 29 — Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34
 Psalm 97 (12)
 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
 John 17:20-26

Sun. May 15 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18
 Psalm 148 (13)
 Revelation 21:1-6
 John 13:31-35

Financial Update

April 2021 contributions YTD: 19,296.04

April 2022 contributions YTD: 17,786.56 (through April 24)

venmo



Thank you for your faithful support of Gethsemane through pledges and gifts of time and service. Contributions can be mailed, handed to Anna during office hours, or dropped off in the locked mailbox (checked often). Many credit unions and banks will automatically mail checks at your request. To give online, go to www.glcportland.org/give or scan our Venmo code.

Worship Assistants for May

Date	Cantor	Reader	Usher/s	Communion Assistant
May 1	Ernie Butenschoen	Mary Curtis	Roseann Libonati	Gloria Kelsay
May 8	Gloria Kelsay	Jay Rector	Ernie Butenschoen	Jay Rector
May 15	Joni Pokorny	Ernie Butenschoen	Kim Butenschoen	Kim Stoffregen
May 22	Ernie Butenschoen	Mary Curtis	Laura Britzius	Priscilla Nelson
May 29	Dick Bemrose	Ernie Butenschoen	Ernie Butenschoen	Gloria Kelsay

To check out those 9:30 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>

Homebound

Virginia Haacke, 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 friend Shane, niece Tami, and neighbor Mary who has cancer; Hilary Hietpas's granddaughter Aliyah; Kay Qualheim; Marilee & Ken Hansen; family and friends of Wyn Stafford; Arloa Hurt; Becky Keiper's friend Monica who has cancer again; Karen Arendt; Bob Magnusson

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Virginia Haacke; Coral Falk and her family; everyone who's ill with Covid; Sharon Lee's sister Connie and their family

May Olive Press



Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 11560 SE Market, Portland, OR 97216

(503) 256-1835 www.glcportland.org pastor@glcportland.org

Church Office Hours: Mon. 1:00-4:00, Tues. 9:00-1:00; Wed. & Thur. 9:00-4:00

Pastor Office Hours: Tues., Wed., Thur. 9:00-2:00; Mon. & Thur. evenings by appointment