

◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

GETHESEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2022

COUNCIL

President:

Ernie Butenschoen

Vice President:

Dick Bemrose

Sec/Treas: 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:

Gloria Kelsay

STAFF

Interim Pastor:

Robert Neubert

CYFM:

Jasmine Anderson

Church Admin.:

Anna Lewis

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale & Ann Van Horn

A/V Engineer:

TBD

Nursery Attend:

Maeson Dochow

From the Pastor

Brothers and
Sisters in Christ,

"Now before faith
came, we were
imprisoned and

guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." (Galatians 3:23-29)

There is an "us versus them" mentality that plagues pretty much everyone in one shape or another. Everyone pretty much has a "them" or "those people". "They" could be men, women, gay, straight, trans-gender, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, educated,

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**EQUALITY KNOWLEDGE
TOLERANCE CARING
LOVE DIVERSITY
LIBERTY UNBIASED
KINDNESS COMPASSION**

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uneducated, rich, poor, republican, democrat, Norwegian, German, Somali-an, Iranian, Beaver fan, Duck fan, etc...Yet how do we quit focusing on what divides us, and begin focusing more on those things that unite us. Unfortunately, this is not very easy since socially we have been conditioned to focus on our differences. Whenever we walk into a room, whether it is conscious or not, we immediately begin to place people into the proper categories that we have been taught throughout our lives as we discern who would be the best person to speak to or avoid depending upon what we want addressed and what we might consider a threat. In some ways this can be a good thing. When you walk into a hospital you can pretty readily tell who the receptionist is, who the nurses are, and who the doctors are. This conditioning can also prompt us to pass judgement on people in particular situations as well when the individual has done little or nothing to deserve whatever judgement that we have made.

TV news, reality programs, sitcoms, serial dramas, movies, etc... each one consciously and/or unconsciously instill and reinforce stereotypes regarding the varied types of people in the world. This is so prevalent that when a television program or movie subverts an accepted stereotype then we are usually quite shocked, and it becomes its own news story. Whether we mean to or not, we then carry these stereotypes with us in the back of our mind shaping how we characterize, categorize, and utilize the different types of people we meet. All of this has another side effect, it causes us to dehumanize those around us.

Here in our own communities we gravitate toward those people and groups that we have determined are most like us and that is good. Unfortunately what also seems to happen is that we use labels that we have learned to push away and dehumanize those who are not like us. We then

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use these labels to reinforce why we dislike someone, or as a reason why we should avoid them, yet what if I was to tell you that the person you dislike, the one that annoys, infuriates, and/or disgusts you is your brother or your sister, that each of us has a calling not to push them away but instead to embrace and move forward together. Of course, there are times when this is impossible, when damage has been done between two people that is nearly insurmountable, but the vast majority of the things that usually separate us are relatively small and petty. Sure each of us make mistakes and act in ways that cause pain to others but each of us must also learn to forgive and move forward with the understanding that the person you have wronged or has wronged or annoyed you is a fellow child of God, (or if you prefer cohabitant on this great planet) and therefore you are both part of one body.

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Robert

To worship with us at 9:30 Sunday mornings on Zoom:

- * **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 distance 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. Hope you join us!

From the Council President

June 26, 2022

Greetings to my sisters and brothers in Christ:

I would like to start my message to you by telling you how much I appreciate and love all of you for be-

ing faithful and willing to serve our God, Lord and the Holy Spirit. Many of you are taking on positions that serve our church family in a variety of ways. The church council and church staff that I'm a part of is outstanding. This council and church staff has worked extremely hard over the past two years. Let me tell you how they have supported me as president. Most of you know that almost two years ago I fell off a ladder. I was hurt pretty bad but the Lord saw that I did not break any bones even though I fell from just above gutter level. When I woke up at OHSU, the doctor asked me if I knew why I was there. I was very sore and had a neck brace tightly secured in place, but I didn't remember what had happened to me. The doctor told me that I would never remember the fall and he was right. After falling, I don't know how long I stayed on the ground before I got up and walked around to the front of our house and tried talking to Kim. I was repeating myself and then when the medics arrived, I talked to them as well. I don't remember any of that. The doctor said that when you have a brain injury you have to be patient and rest. The doctor also told me that you will have moments where you can't remember simple things and not to get upset with yourself because of that. I tell you all of this because the council and staff have been wonderful and supportive through all of my ups and downs.



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Today at church, Laura Britzius gave a very important talk about some of the work that we have completed so that we could get ready to form a call committee. Many of you have wanted to know when that was going to happen. We are looking to you as church members to prayerfully consider this committee (six church members are needed) so that we can move forward to call our next pastor. She gave a wonderful announcement that was to the point and let you know that if you are willing to serve as a call committee member, to let her know, or the pastor, so that we can get this group underway. I have seen our leaders in action, doing great things, and they are helping me to lead our church forward. Pastor Elizabeth worked super hard to get us moving during her time with us. Pastor Robert and Pastor Sara have continued to keep us moving along by helping the Transition Team finish the Ministry Site Profile (many pages of documentation about our church), a Mission Statement and a Covenant that the Council has approved for use in the future. I really appreciate the work and effort our interim pastors have given us. Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Robert have worked hard by having us look within ourselves as members of Gethsemane and to consider changes to make us better as a congregation. They saw that there were things that we needed in place that we hadn't worked on in a while: updated staff handbook, staff supervision, finance cleanup/documents, plus the items that we have just completed above. A special shout-out to Mary Curtis (Finance) and Gloria (Worship Chair) for all that they have done. I want to thank the Exec Council, Church Council, staff and many of our members that volunteer their time in and around our church. I also want to thank all of our members for being patient and understanding through all that you have had to work through (Covid, budget, and meetings) to get where we are at this point in time. You are amazing. Keep your eyes looking forward and let's finish this work together as a congregation working faithfully as one body guided by God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

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Special note: I wasn't a great student (English) through my years at school (run-on sentences, punctuation, sometimes spelling) but I tried really hard and the teachers were patient. Thanks for overlooking that.

God bless,
Ernie

OREGON FIRE SEASON: Let's not panic – but let's be prepared!

Notes from the June 13, 2022 Synod Disaster Prep and Recovery Team Meeting:

The rain in the Portland Area has been very helpful for our plants. It may appear that we're safe from fire danger. However, the rain – and sun – have helped everything grow beautifully. What may not be apparent is that this lush growth also provides fuel for fires.

The fire season could hit us hard for the following reasons:

- * High temperatures are expected for all of Oregon. It doesn't take long for plants to dry out and become very flammable.
- * The national shortage of diesel fuel means less fuel for the planes dropping fire retardant.
- * 25% of jobs for fire fighters are unfilled.
- * Power companies have permission to shut off power temporarily to prevent fires. They will give frequent notifications if this happens.

Some things we can do:

- * Go to oralert.com to get alerts about fires near you.
- * Change your furnace filters to help filter any smoke that may come your way from the fires.

Note: The first emergency manager was Noah.



Thanks to generous members who donate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Gethsemane Lutheran, we were able to purchase **two touchless hand sanitizer units**, placed on either side of the center aisle, for cleaning hands prior to taking communion.

Worship Assistants for July

Worship Assistants are always needed!

To sign up, go to <https://signup.com/go/bDYAHDh> or talk to Gloria.

Date	Cantor	Reader	Usher/s	Communion Assistant
July 3	Ernie Butenschoen	Mary Karter	Roseann Libonati	Liz Blohm
July 10		Mary Curtis	Laura Britzius	Mary Curtis
July 17	Ernie Butenschoen	Gloria Kelsay	Mary Karter	Gloria Kelsay
July 24	Gloria Kelsay	Roseann Libonati	Ernie Butenschoen Roseann Libonati	Priscilla Nelson
July 31	Joni Pokorny	Roseann Libonati	Mary Karter	

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.



Being Good Stewards

July 18-22

9am-1pm

Food
Music
Service Projects
Fun!



We can still use your stuff!

- * Round dowels (1 1/2" or larger)
- * Glue (super glue, gorilla glue, wood glue)
- * Paint
- * Large nuts and bolts
- * Aluminum foil
- * Charcoal briquets
- * Wire coat hangers/malleable wire

Could we please borrow (or would you be willing to donate?):

- * Shovels
- * Rakes
- * Clippers (large ones!!)
- * Buckets
- * Wheelbarrows
- * Blowers
- * Large brooms
- * Garbage bags

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:6-8

This is my July newsletter. Gethsemane hosts Vacation Bible School for our female youth. Gethsemane has committees planning community resource fairs with neighboring non-profits and programs who do wonderful work in the community to empower young women and families to build up their community and personal power. Gethsemane had to wrestle with the maternity leave question on her Ministry Site Profile.

This is my July newsletter and I worry about Gethsemane's response to the Supreme court overturning Roe v. Wade. I worry because we heard people cringe when I asked for tampon donations. I grieve knowing people have concerns about calling a woman pastor. I worry because we are unable to state we will afford a pastor paid time off to care for a growing family, and yet I know that there are some of us celebrating this decision without taking into consideration personal stories like mine and Micah's. There are people who don't wonder if mine and Micah's story will happen to young mothers today and not turn out okay, and how many will lose babies and

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how many will lose lives and how many will lose both and at what cost and to what end and in whose name?

Micah had his name chosen the same as Casey (who has now chosen KC). Their names were chosen during my pregnancy struggle. Their names are my story. Their being was not a choice (KC), was not a guarantee (Micah), and neither one was easy. Sarah, Rachel, Rebekah, and Hannah all struggle with being pregnant in the Bible and only seemingly with God's direct intervention do they conceive. Gethsemane friends, I wonder how we can be more like Elkanah who loved and supported the people in his life the way *they* saw fit.

This is my July newsletter. Gethsemane: what can we do to walk humbly with our neighbors who are hurting? What can we do to be kind to the communities harmed by this decision? What can we do to be sure we are seeking justice and peace for our Gethsemane youth? These are the things I want to be doing with our youth in all months, and especially this month, to plant good seeds. I know Gethsemane can do better. This community surrounds itself with wonderful, supportive, and loving people.

-Jasmine



The *Community Outreach Committee* will host a **Community Resource Fair** during the August 21st Sunday Parkways event. This event draws thousands of cyclists, and this year is the first year the city has planned a route in our part of Southeast Portland!

If you would like to host a table for your ministry, or if you have a community resource or partner you would like to see attend, please reach out to Sharon Magnuson, Mary Karter or Gabriel Sprague for more information!

Jasmine Anderson-Sprague (she/her)
CYFM@GLCPDX 503-256-1835 x103

Join your
neighbors and
celebrate 2022
Sunday Parkways
live events!



June 26

Northeast Cully

August 21

East Portland



Oregon Synod presents JERUSALEM WEEK 2022

With Pastors Meghan and Gabi Alaebouni!



Curious about the situation in Jerusalem & the Holy Land?

Meet Pastors Meghan and Gabi Aelabouni, visiting Oregon for a short time from their home in Jerusalem! Rev. Dr. Meghan Aelabouni is the ELCA Theologian in Residence for the Middle East, North Africa and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Rev. Gabi Aelabouni is director for the Middle East & North Africa Desk, ELCA.

All events are free!

Tuesday July 12 from 7-8 pm, online Bible Study with Theologian in Residence with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Rev. Dr. Meghan Aelabouni. [Register here for Zoom link](#).

Wednesday July 13 from 10 am to 12 noon. Jerusalem Week main event! Conversation with Christian Palestinian siblings on the ground in Jerusalem. Hybrid event. In person at [Spirit of Grace, Beaverton](#), or join virtually: [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 852 0453 9893 | Passcode: 228455

Wednesday July 13 at 7 pm, Evening Vespers with Pr. Gabi and Meghan Aelabouni at [Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA](#). In person only.

Sunday July 17 10:00 am, worship with the Aelabounis at [Spirit of Grace, Beaverton](#), with adult forum Q and A to follow. [Zoom link](#) | Meeting ID: 170 623 163 | Password: 2gether | Call in phone #: +1 669 900 9128 | Phone password: 770972



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief-Time for Back to School Sales

School may just be over, but now is the time to start watching those Back-to-School sales. We hope to be able to donate 200 school kits in the fall. To get the most "bang for the buck", now is the time to purchase school supplies for these school kits. What do we particularly need?

- * Spiral Notebooks: 70-sheet, 8" by 10 ½", either college or wide ruled
- * Rulers: 30-centimeter, or rulers with centimeter on one side, inches on the other
- * Pencil Sharpeners: hand-held
- * Pencils: unsharpened #2, with erasers
- * Scissors: blunt (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- * Pens: black or blue ballpoint (no gel ink)
- * Erasers: 2½"

There is a donation tub for Lutheran World Relief in the church narthex for donated supplies.

Many thanks for helping our neighbors in need across the world!

Karla Hills



This heart graphic returned to Gethsemane with your Oregon Synod Assembly Representatives. It comes to us from **Trinity Lutheran Church in Brookings, Oregon.**

Please remove this page from your Olive Press and keep this heart somewhere you will be reminded to keep this church and their prayers written on this heart close to your heart for the remainder of this year, until next Synod Assembly. We will return as a whole church, our representatives will be in communion with our sister church from Brookings once again, and we may receive another community we are able to hold in prayer the following year.

What a beautiful way to be church together, across our large synod, in these difficult times.

Jasmine Anderson-Sprague (she/her)
CYFM@GLCPDX 503-256-1835 x103

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 summer needs** include the following: baby formula, hearty canned soup / chili / stews, gallon zip-top bags, canned fruits & vegetables, canned tuna, children's pants in kids sizes 6x-14, new socks (all sizes), new underwear (all sizes), gently-used shoes labeled with size on the toe with tape (this helps so much!), cans & bottles with deposit (rinsed please!) 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.



July Lectionary

Sun. July 3 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sun. July 10 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-10

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Sun. July 17 – Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Sun. July 28 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Luke 11:1-13

Sun. July 31 — Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

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



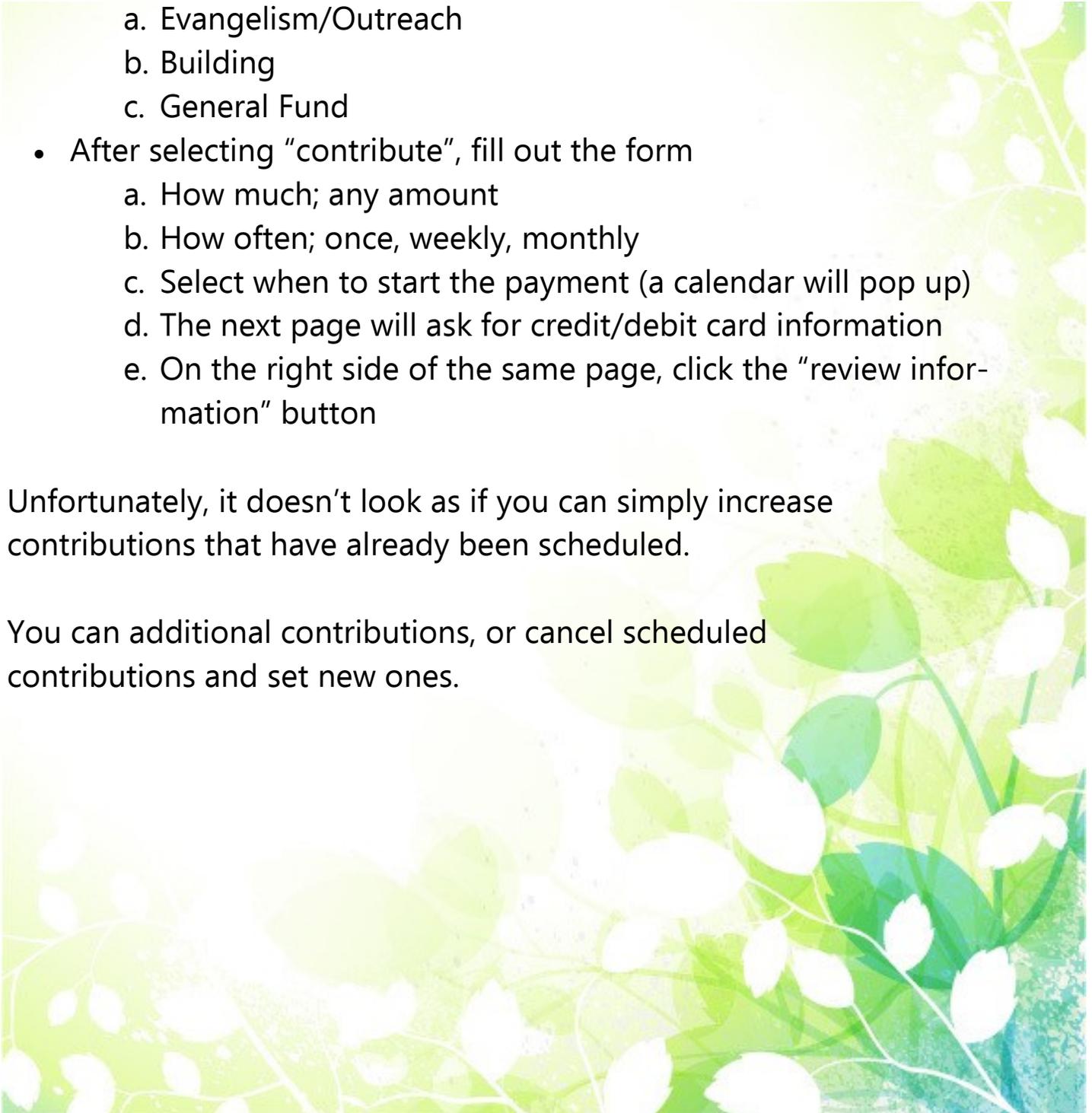
Vanco Contributions Procedure Option Two

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 contributions that have already been scheduled.

You can add additional contributions, or cancel scheduled contributions and set new ones.



GLC Calendar for July

- **Sunday, July 3rd: Worship, 9:30am**
- **Monday, July 4th, Office CLOSED**
- **Tuesday, July 5th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Sunday, July 10th: Worship, 9:30am**
- **Tuesday, July 12th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Sunday, July 17th: Worship, 9:30 am**
- **Monday-Friday, July 18-22: Vacation Bible School**
- **Tuesday, July 19th: NO Bible Study due to VBS**
- **Tuesday, July 19th: Church Council, 7:00 pm**
- **Sunday, July 24th: Worship, 9:30am**
- **Tuesday, July 26th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Sunday, July 31st: Worship, 9:30am**



Need some summer reading? Pick up a **Word in Season devotional** or a copy of **Living Lutheran** or the **Lutheran Journal** in the office or narthex!



July Anniversaries

Melissa & Ray Natasia 7/7
Rod & Karla Hills 7/19
Melissa & Russ Solberg 7/30



July Birthdays

Gavin Hills 7/2
Karen Arendt 7/5
Kathryn Crouse 7/12
Jack Hurlman 7/15
Melissa Solberg 7/20
Trevor Smith 7/27
Larry Stoffregen 7/31
Mikayla Williamson 7/31

Financial Update

June 2021 contributions YTD: \$16,247.38

June 2022 contributions YTD: \$14,704.80

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.



The GLC Church Office hours are

Monday 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Tuesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday - Thursday 9:00 - 4:00

Please sign in when you come to the church office. Disposable masks are available on the counter. Anna works from home Monday mornings and Tuesday afternoons (reach her by email), and is off on Fridays.

Pastor Robert's office hours are roughly 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Evening appointments may also be available on Monday and Thursday. Sign up for one-on-one appointments with him on the sign-in sheet in the narthex.

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 and niece Tami; Ken Hansen; Becky Keiper's friend Monica who has cancer again; Karen Arendt; Connie & Mike Lelinski; the family of Kay Qualheim; Rachel Coughlin's neighbor's daughter Ashley; Sharon Lee's niece Terri

Urgent: *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Virginia Haacke; everyone who's ill with Covid; Sharon Lee's sister Connie and their family; Todd & Peggy Sloan's grandnephew Hunter; Shirley Dedlow and Stewart as he helps his mom on hospice

July 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: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00-2:00 pm

Mon. & Thur. evenings by appointment