

# ◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 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,

"God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars." – Martin Luther

Martin Luther was a dedicated biblical scholar spending the majority of his career as a pastor translating various biblical texts and teaching university students about the importance of reading and studying the bible yet even he realized that the bible is not the only place one can find God. Often people mistakenly believe that the only place that they can find God is within the walls of a Church. That somehow Christians have managed to capture God and placed God upon their altars so that the only way people can experience God's presence in their life is by coming to church on Sunday mornings. Some Christians believe that the only way people can know God is through reading the scriptures thus, everything you need to know about God and God's presence in your life is contained within the pages of the Old and New Testaments.

A person is able to experience God's presence within a church building, a person is able to experience God's presence while reading the Holy Scriptures, and a person is able to experience God's presence when they step out outside and take time to enjoy this wonderful world that God has provided for us. God is all around us, God's presence is in all things for all things are creations of God. There is a piece of God in everything we touch, smell, taste or hear, God's presence permeates all of creation. So how can we honor God's creation and give thanks for the many gifts that creation has given us? The obvious answer is that we should always make responsible choices regarding the environment in our daily lives, aka recycle, use reusable plastics, buy local when possible, and generally cut



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down on our own carbon footprint. Yet what is less obvious and equally important is the need for balance. Everything in creation works within a delicate balance and when that balance is disrupted, then things begin to break down. One famous example of this concerns Yellowstone National Park. Decades ago, wolves were hunted and killed in Yellowstone because people feared them. Once they were gone, the entire environmental system was thrown out of whack. Deer and rodent populations grew out of control, grasses and rivers suffered, and nobody understood why until wolves were reintroduced...and all of a sudden, the environment righted itself in less than a decade. God created all things for a reason, and it is our responsibility as both stewards of creation and as part of that creation to seek understanding why things exist and how they affect the balance in the world around us. This goes the same for the created world within us, we too need balance if we are to serve God and the world God created for us.

So go out and enjoy God's glorious creation and see if you can find that sense of peace and balance that so many have been missing!

As you ponder this here is a different kind of Christmas story (yes, I know it is June):

Heavily dressed for the two feet of snow covering the hillside, a small group of people stood quietly around what looked like a perfect, if rather large, Christmas tree. These were Native American Christians from a variety of tribes and members of a Native American congregation, who were engaging in an act of prayer, speaking prayers on behalf of the tree in preparation to cutting it and taking it with them back to their church. It could have been most any annual congregational outing to harvest a Christmas tree for their church except that these prayers were a thorough mixture of Christian prayers and traditional Native American tribal prayers. The two Native American ministers held tobacco in their hands, ready to offer it back to the Creator, to offer it for the life of this tree, to offer it to the four directions, above and below, to offer it in order to maintain the harmony and balance of Creation even in this imminent perpetration of an act of violence. Someone wrapped a string of colorful tobacco tie offerings around the trunk. As four men sang traditional prayer songs around a drum, the people came one by one up to the tree to touch it and say their prayers, actually speaking to the tree, speaking consoling words of apology, gratitude, purpose and promise. They promised the tree that its life would be used in a positive way, a sacred way, to empower their prayers during the times of Advent and Christmas, and they asked its permission to take its life for this purpose. – George "Tink" Tinker

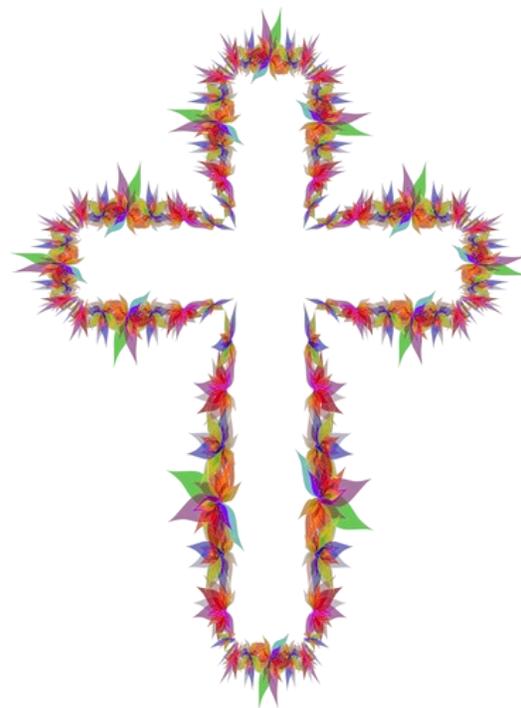
To learn more about wolves in Yellowstone, please check out this short video on YouTube.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysa5OBhXz-Q>

## From the Council President

May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

Greetings to my sisters and brothers in Christ:

I want you to know that if you have someone in your family who is recovering from injuries or illness, or is near the end of their life, we are praying for you and please know that you are thought of always. We are a family at Gethsemane and we want to reach out when we can and support you through difficult times. I know through my own tough situations in the past, my church family has always been there for Kim and I and it is a comfort to know that we have a church family that is always there for each other.



I'm so proud of all of you that helped make the rummage sale a huge success. Kim and Paulette were absolute rock stars. They led the way and the rest of us followed their leadership through a very tough 8 days or so. The part I liked the best was working amongst friends and being able to talk with many of the customers who visited the sale. I was able to talk with at least two great friends that I attended elementary school with back in the 60's at Mill Park, located on 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue very close to our church. Yes, I did say the 60s. We all finally had the chance to see the community around us since Covid started, and it gave us a chance to help many of them find things they needed and allowed us to get some of our classrooms cleaned out and back to normal. Thanks again for working so hard and hanging in there even though it was exhausting.

Our Transition team is working with Pastor Robert and Pastor Sara to get us ready to call a new pastor. We are currently working on our church profile and going through scenarios that will make us more accountable to ourselves and our congregation. I truly believe we are going to have a stronger foundation through making changes to our staff handbook and constitution that needs to be updated. We will still need our church members to be engaged when we have future meetings so that your voice can be heard.

We have announced at our last Sunday service (May 22<sup>nd</sup>) that we will have a congregational meeting after our church service on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The business that we will discuss and need you to vote on will be about a few changes to our constitution and asking you to support a new budget/new loan that will help us take care of some long overdue repairs to our church building. Philip Dochow, Properties Director, will walk us through the process of obtaining our loan and what that money will be used for. He has worked hard on setting up a new loan which will pay down some more of our old loan and allows us to make repairs obtained through a Mission Investment Fund (MIF). Please make this very important congregational meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> after the church service. We need your input and your vote.

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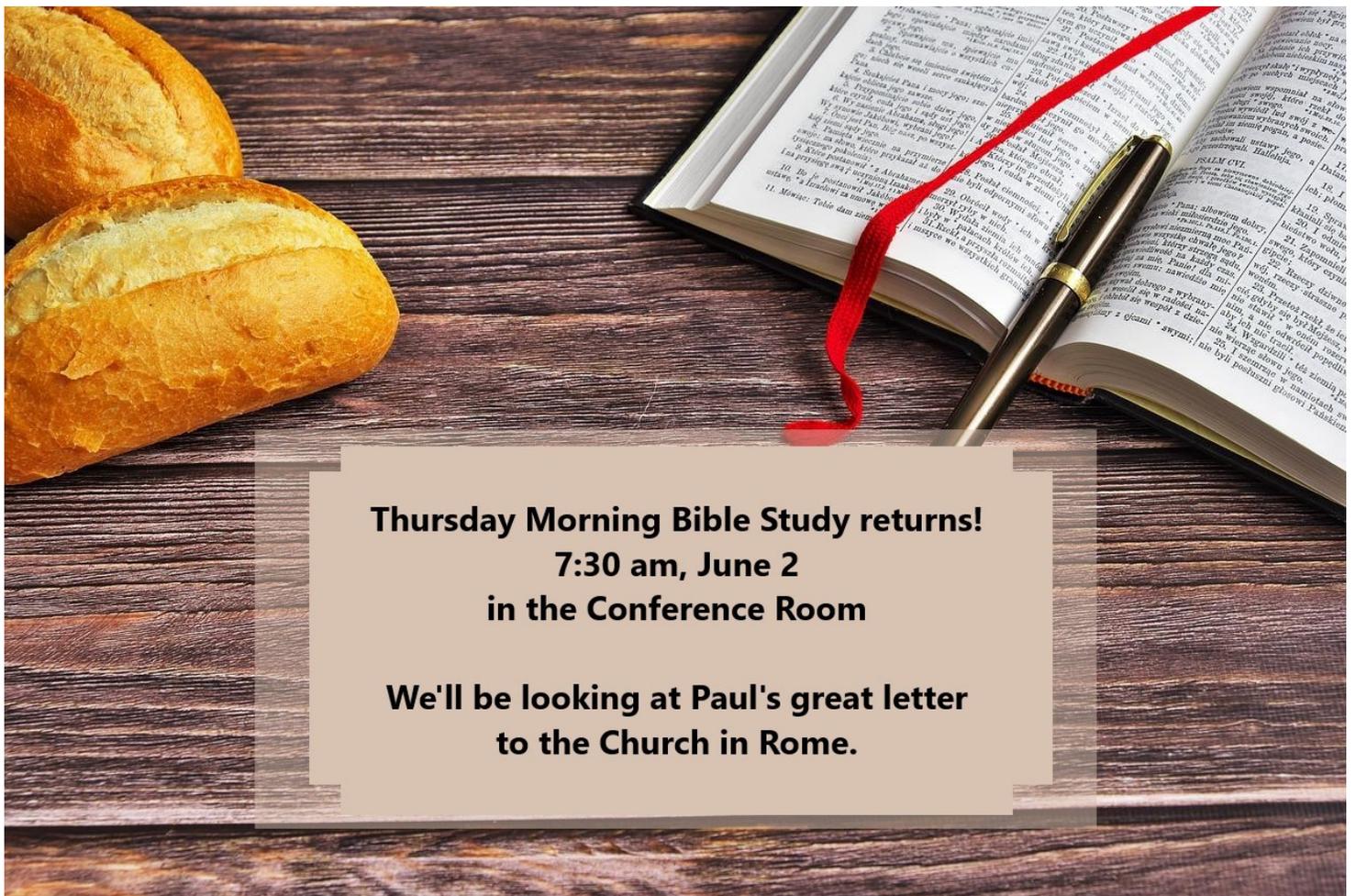
Thanks again to all of you who do volunteer work in and outside of our church. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Thanks also goes out to our staff, Pastor Robert and Pastor Sara. They are working hard and it shows.

Our council is outstanding and I'm very proud to work with them to make Gethsemane a special place. Thanks to all of you who hold a position and remain faithful to your workload.

Thanks to my wife who allows me to be passionate about my responsibilities and supports me through the ups and downs of being Council President. Our Gethsemane Family is special and we need to support one another. God is in control and he is faithful in watching over us.

God Bless You All,

Ernie



**Thursday Morning Bible Study returns!**  
**7:30 am, June 2**  
**in the Conference Room**

**We'll be looking at Paul's great letter  
to the Church in Rome.**



## A Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Saturday, June 11, 2022  
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Led by Rev. Terry Allen Moe  
Lutheran Pastor, Community Organizer, Spiritual Director  
Portland, OR

### Outline for the Day

- *Session One: Bonhoeffer's Life and Times* 1906–1945
- *Session Two: America: Union Seminary/Abyssinian Baptist* 1930
- *Session Three: Finkenwald Seminary/Life Together* 1935–1937
- *Session Four: Conspiracy and Imprisonment* 1940–1945
- *Session Five: Bonhoeffer for our Times* 1922–

This is a short overview of Bonhoeffer's life and thought through short passages from some of his key writings at various turning points in his life. It is for our prayer and reflection how these events and writings might invite us to deepen our love of God and the world at the same time.

#### Goals:

1. To dwell on a few of Bonhoeffer's writings at various points in his life;
2. To deepen appreciation for his thought and action in extraordinary times;
3. To consider his spirituality for ourselves in our times;

#### About Rev. Terry Allen Moe

Terry Moe is a Lutheran pastor, community organizer, and spiritual director based in Portland, OR. He served a mixed race congregation, Redeemer Lutheran, in NE Portland from 1981–2013. During this time he deepened his engagement in both spirituality and organizing in the IAF tradition. His recent memoir, *The Bush Still Burns: How Spirituality and Organizing Transformed a Pastor and Congregation* (Fortress Press: 2021), tells the story.

Rev. Moe graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA, and was ordained in 1976. He took Spiritual Direction training from Br. Steve Coffey from 1984–1986 coinciding with his first steps into community organizing. He has long been a friend of the Benedictine Sisters at Mount Angel. For over twenty years he has been a student of Dietrich Bonhoeffer most especially under the tutelage of Rev. Dr. Mark Brocker, St. Andrew Lutheran, Beaverton, OR.

## GLC Calendar for June

- **Thursday, June 2nd: Bible Study, 7:30 am**
- **Sunday, June 5th: Worship, 9:30am**
- **Tuesday, June 7th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Thursday, June 9th: Bible Study, 7:30 am**
- **Sunday, June 12th: Worship, 9:30am**
- **Monday, June 13th: Region 1 Emergency Prep Network, 6:00 pm**
- **Tuesday, June 14th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Thursday, June 16th: Bible Study, 7:30 am**
- **Sunday, June 19th: Worship, 9:30 am**
- **Monday, June 20th: Office closed for Juneteenth**
- **Tuesday, June 21st: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Thursday, June 23rd: Bible Study, 7:30 am**
- **Tuesday, June 21st: Church Council, 7:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, June 22nd: GLC Land/Housing Cohort, 6:30pm, Zoom**
- **Sunday, June 26th: Worship, 9:30am**
- **Tuesday, June 28th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Thursday, June 30th: Bible Study, 7:30 am**



## Leaven Land Cohort Update

Some have wondered what the Leaven Land Cohort is up to, and some have some questions still about what it is.

The Gethsemane Lutheran Cohort was invited to participate in a County wide direct action at city hall, more than 50 Leaven Land representatives showed up, **in red**, to show support for wrap-around resources and sustainable housing for unhoused neighbors and peoples in Portland - reportedly more than 5,000 currently.

To follow up with this action, and for future actions, we are faithfully and intentionally watching as others push back and continue to push for criminalizing shelter refusals and thereby criminalizing houselessness. For more information on the Leaven Land Coalition or Gethsemane's involvement you can find them on our Ministry Now page on the website! ([www.glcportland.org/ministry-now](http://www.glcportland.org/ministry-now))

The Leaven Land Gethsemane Cohort has also attended monthly Multnomah Cohort meetings, East County Cohort House Meetings (thank you Barbie and Mary for hosting!) and dived deep into our own land story to discover and discern; what story does Gethsemane's land tell?

In doing this work we have learned just how fortunate we are to have so many people attending Gethsemane who can say they were here when Hope and Mt. Olivet merged, and when the new part of the building was added on to Tiny Dumont's and the old sanctuary. Those events happened decades ago - many multiple decades ago.

Digging in we can find music played by bands and artists including;

- Roger Crandall and the Barn Dance Boys
- Texas Jim Lewis
- Willie Nelson
- Buck Owens
- Susan Raye
- Gene Vincent
- Tiny and His Wranglers

It's noted time and time again that many others played at Tiny Dumont's, and the venue was open in the 1940's, through the 1950's and into the 1960's until the church merger. That is a lot of Friday and Saturday nights for live music and dancing! There are quite a few websites with people reminiscing on their weekends at Tiny Dumont's.

Pacific Lutheran has an archived version of our merger which states "Gethsemane was formed as a merger between Hope and Mt. Olivet congregations in 1964. Hope had been started by the Missions Board of the ALC in 1950, and property had been purchased at 122nd and SE Mill." I have not had much luck tracking down this piece of property or whatever came to be of this.

What **GLC Leaven Land** has been working on:

The land we are gathered on today is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Clackamas, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, and Cowlitz peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, more than 30 Tribes, including

Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes (Territories) Nehalem (Territories)

Chinook (Territories)

Qwû'lh-hwai-pûm (Klickitat) (Territories)

Kalapuya (Territories)

Älsé (Alsea) (Territories)

Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw (Territories)

Miluk Coos (Territories)

Hanis Coos (Territories)

Cow Creek Umpqua (Territories)

Quuiich (Lower Umpqua) (Territories)

Tututni (Territories)

Chit-dee-ni (Chetco) (Territories)

Tolowa Dee-ni' (Territories)

Shasta (Territories)

Molalla (Territories)

Tillamook (Territories)

Siuslaw (Territories)

Takelma (Territories)



## Gethsemane Youth Happenings

***Do to others as you would have them do to you.***

***“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because YHWH is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Abba is merciful.***

***-Luke 6:31-36***

Our #GethsemaneYouth are getting ready to finish up their school year and move up into the next grade - a year older, and as adults we often expect a little more grown up and some wiser. Over the summer months we will host **Vacation Bible School** and focus on *Being Good Stewards*.

What does it mean to be a “good steward”? How can we be “good stewards” if we are only 13? Nine? Six?! What does **steward** even mean??

***We are still collecting items for VBS: rope, paints, wood, silverware, newspaper, metal bottle caps, canned food cans, resin, pop cans (always!) and Thrivent Grants! If you have any questions about recycled goods collection please contact me or call the office.***

These items will be used for crafts and decorations for VBS curriculum this year—in teaching good stewardship, Gethsemane will also be good stewards of our resources and this earth. Please help us with this goal and save up as many of these goods as possible! Vacation Bible School curriculum will also include community service projects this year—encompassing the idea that loving our neighbors is *being good stewards*.

As our #GethsemaneYouth complete this year of school, I wonder what it could look like at #GLCPDX if we could all practice *being good stewards* - of our time, our space, our actions—with and for each other, at church, at home, and in all spaces we encounter God’s creation.

#GrowWithGethsemane #GLCPDX #GethsemaneYouth #BeingGoodStewards #GLCVBS



## From the Treasurer

There have been a few questions, rumors, or even conspiracies regarding some GLC finances in the amount of \$15,000. I'm hoping I can shed some light. Over the last several decades when GLC was having cash-flow troubles (like during the summers when Sunday offerings seem to dip as people take vacations), we would temporarily borrow the money from ourselves instead of from the bank. The account we borrowed from is the memorial funds and this has been an approved practice. After the pandemic hit, we ended up borrowing \$15,000 from ourselves to cover the expenses we continued to have. By the end of 2021 our bank account had enough funds to repay that amount, but due to a combination of factors, including turnover of staff and pandemic issues, the amount was not sent back to the memorial fund until 2022. During that time there were two rumors that I'm aware of, and likely more, that concerned either a "missing" \$15,000 or a sabbatical fund that disappeared. To the best of my knowledge and after getting help to review the last 2-1/2 years of GLC financial records I can say with confidence that there never was a missing chunk of church funds and we have not discovered any misappropriation of funds. Also, the funds set aside for an anticipated sabbatical (currently just under \$4000) are still waiting in reserve, which can be used for our next pastor. This use is at the discretion of the council. If you continue to have concerns regarding this matter, please bring them to me directly so I can look into them. I will try my best to satisfy your concerns.

One of the fun facts about rumors is that at least part of the rumor is based in fact which makes people more likely to believe the rest.

## **RUMMAGE SALE \$\$\$**

There have been a few questions regarding the Rummage Sale and the distribution of the proceeds. Years ago, the policy for fundraisers at GLC was changed to allow the proceeds of a fundraiser to be placed into the general fund account and used where the need was the greatest at the discretion of the council, and a portion set for benevolence. This year's sale proceeds will be distributed in the following manner: 85% to go into the general fund to be used towards our outstanding loan; 10% to go to the synod as benevolence; and the remaining 5% to go to other benevolences chosen by the committee.

Our current loan balance is approximately \$100,000 from the original \$430,000 borrowed for the community hall/roof project. We are currently working with Mission Investment to secure an additional loan of up to \$150,000 for repairs to the narthex and entryway roofs and the dry wells they drain off to. Our Properties Director, Philip Dochow, has been working for months to get bids for these needed repairs in hopes that the work can be completed before next winter's rainy season. With the congregation's approval of the expenditures for this repair (a congregational meeting pending), our new loan amount could jump to \$250,000. Hopefully and prayerfully we can support this loan with your generous gifts and through the support of future rummage sales. Thank you all for supporting the Rummage Sale with your time, talents, and gifts of sale items.

Laura Britzius – Treasurer GLC

It's a wrap (mostly)! The 2022 Rummage Sale was a HUGE success. We don't have a final tally yet, but it looks to be a bit over \$17,000, a new record!

We could not have done it without so many people stepping up to help in so many ways. We had a great crew working ahead since January marking and sorting. We had another crew who came in a week ahead and set up tables and moved furniture. We had a fantastic crew putting out, organizing, and continuing to mark items. We had enough people stepping up to work as cashiers, baggers, roomers, and door helpers to handle our big crowds. We had a great crew who came in on the Monday after to box up leftovers, put tables, etc., away, sweep and vacuum so it was ready for the band practice that night. We had folks help figure out what to do with the leftovers (an ongoing task). We are all exhausted but feel good about what we accomplished working together.



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The neighborhood was so appreciative of us doing this. We got so many nice comments and thank you's. We ended the sale with a Free Sale time where neighborhood folks came in and helped themselves to whatever they wanted. That was a fun event!

We had a great time just being together and reconnecting with our church family, and getting to know new folks and many friends who came to help. It was such a positive experience.

We gave two carloads of things to Snow Cap. Two Restore (Habitat for Humanity) trucks came and loaded up what they wanted for their stores. We are working to get stuff to the Veterans. Gabe is taking clothes and other items to the homeless.

We are not promising that this will happen next year. Time will tell. But we are glad we did it this year. These funds will help us keep our church going so we can continue to serve our neighbors in so many ways.

Kim Stoffregen & Paulette Kelley

## 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.



A big thank you to everyone who has given so generously of their time to serve as Worship Assistants. As more people return to in-person worship and we resume regular Communion, the need for Worship Assistants is even greater. If you have not served before, I encourage you to volunteer to serve as an Usher, Reader, Cantor, Communion Assistant, or Special Music provider. Support, training and guidance are available, so don't feel you have to know what to do in order to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Kelsay. Sign-ups are available online at <https://signup.com/go/bDYAHDh>

or, if you don't have internet access, ask Gloria for help signing up. If you are willing to serve on Altar Guild, please contact Kim Stoffregen. Again, training and support are always available.

**A special thanks to Gabriel Sprague and Rod Hills** for their ongoing time commitment to volunteer as our AV technicians, which has allowed us to continue to offer online Worship each week while we search for a permanent replacement for Ethan Carleton, our former staff person in this position. Thank you both for your willingness to serve!

Finally, please mark your calendars and plan to join us in honoring all our amazing volunteers at our **Thank You Strawberry Social on Sunday, June 12**, immediately following Worship and the Congregational Meeting.

### June Worship Assistants

Date	Cantor	Reader	Usher/s	Communion Assistant
June 5	Ernie Butenschoen	Mary Karter	Mary Karter	Laura Britzius
June 12	Gloria Kelsay	Dick Bemrose	Mary Karter	Roseann Libonati
June 19	Dick Bemrose	Mary Curtis	Laura Britzius	Mary Curtis
June 26		Gloria Kelsay	Mary Karter	Gloria Kelsay



Sons of Norway Grieg Lodge

**VELKOMMEN! WELCOME!**



**2ND SUNDAY**

## **VIKING PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

*Next Breakfast:*

**JUNE 12**

### **All-You-Can-Eat Pancakes**



Served with eggs, sausage, fresh fruit,  
compote, orange juice, tea or coffee—  
and Norwegian hospitality!

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**8:30 AM TO NOON**

ADULTS — \$ 8

CHILDREN 3-10 — \$ 4

UNDER 3 — FREE

- 
- Landhandel Nordic Boutique Open in the Lobby Upstairs
- 



**NORSE HALL**

111 NE 11th @ Couch St., Portland, OR



# Oregon Synod

Walking Together Toward Courageous Love

## 2022 Bishop's Report

Dear Partners in Courageous Love,

I've been your bishop for less than three years and I find myself needing to say it again: we've had another year of polarization, loss, exhaustion, and more. For many of us, the demands have been unrelenting, the unanswerable questions abundant and the moments of joy, few. Thankfully, we are on the Way of Christ together.

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans reminds us that moments of suffering are not wasted,

*Because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance produces character, and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

I am, despite it all, full of hope. I've seen so much compassion and flexibility in you this year. You have faced the unknown and the uncertain, and responded with tremendous grace: loving the neighbor through masks, worshiping creatively online, leaning into learnings and actions on racism in our state and nation and world, opening your hearts to those displaced by fires and war, offering the sweet kindness of phone calls or letters to those most isolated, continuing in generosity through creative acts of giving, deepened connections with ecumenical and interfaith neighbors, and so much more.

# Thank you!!

As a synod, we are blessed, and we are blessing. The pandemic has been overwhelming AND a catalyst for change. Faithful pastors and deacons, though exhausted, continue to love and lead. Creative experiments, long-delayed pruning, freedom to fail—many of your congregations and communities are finding possibility in the moment. The cracking open of a hard shell of habits is about as likely as a stone rolling away from a tomb, but here we are! We are an Easter people! We are also 118 congregations, campus ministries and mission starts of the synod, weaving our lives together in the unlikely proposition that in us, God can do more than we dare dream or imagine. As our synod Horizon Statement tells us:

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Moved by the  
Mystery of Love,  
we are, and are becoming, a  
wild web of relationship,  
a communion of communities,  
cultures and diverse faith  
experiences walking into life  
as we seek the life of the world  
together, trusting in the  
liberating Spirit Jesus brings.



Our core values as the Oregon Synod are mutual accompaniment, agency and dignity of all, wisdom from the edges, integrity and honesty and humility. As we seek to walk the Way of Jesus, we will ground our mission and vision in these values.

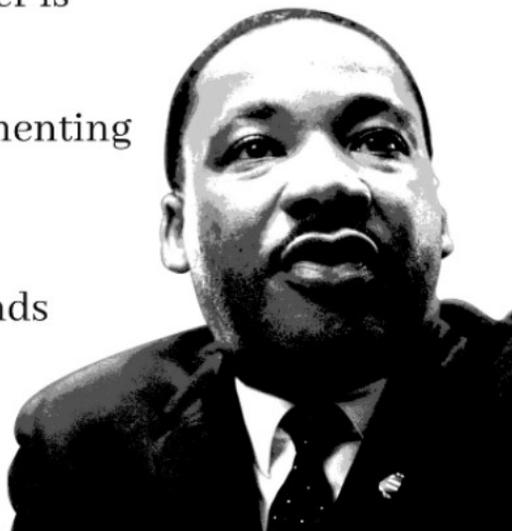
- We will walk beside one another and the world, not above, serving with a spirit of superiority or condescension, or below from a sense of paralysis or shame.
- We will mean what we say and say what we mean.
- We will listen with special care to the voices silenced by White Supremacy and Patriarchy in our culture.
- We will not over-function and do for others what they can do for themselves.
- We will own our mistakes and failures and learn from them.
- We will build community, pray continually, listen deeply, act courageously, live humbly and try new things for the sake of living and sharing the radical grace of Jesus Christ.
- We will seek to embody the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's challenge to use our power in the service of love and justice:

Power without love is reckless and  
abusive, and love without power is  
sentimental and anemic.

Power at its best is love implementing  
the demands of justice.

And justice at its best is power  
correcting everything that stands  
against love.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



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We are also identifying **marks of vital congregations** and nurturing their growth in all corners of our state. Cohorts of pastors, deacons and lay leaders from all over Oregon are supporting and learning from each other practices of faith, leadership and walking the Way of Jesus with vitality. You might ask yourself how your congregation does on the vitality markers rising up from our shared exploration:

### ***Seven markers of congregational vitality***

1. A culture of authenticity, trust and capacity for hard conversations
2. Energy and skills for discerning collective vocation (or “mission”)
3. Room for new voices and active engagement of young adults
4. Strategic collective risk-taking and a learning culture which values experiments and mistakes for the sake of growth
5. Blurred lines between members and neighbors and many mutual connections with the larger world
6. Many leaders, many decision tables and many natural avenues for new leadership development
7. Spirit-filled worship in which ritual shapes life and life shapes ritual

Other work continues. As a synod, clusters and congregations we have engaged in brand new and often difficult conversations around the history of racism and land in Oregon, questions of sustainability and possibilities for Leaving a Legacy, climate change and its relationship to wildfire and pandemics, unfolding ecumenical and interfaith partnership opportunities, disaster preparedness and how it connects to congregational vitality and so much more.

Because of you and your engaged embodiment of Christ’s Way, the Oregon Synod has welcomed ten pastors or soon-to-be pastors and a deacon to new calls in the months since our last Assembly. The vocation of each of these new leaders grew through years of faithful nurture and discipling in congregations like yours. In the past six months, despite the pandemic, the synod has continued supporting its 23 active candidates and discerners as they prepare to serve as rostered ministers in the ELCA.

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***Thank you for your generosity!***

This past year, despite the challenges and heartache of an ongoing pandemic which reconfigured how we gather, worship, pray, study and accompany God's beloved world, our financial support from you and congregations like yours continued with faithfulness and generosity. In 2021, thanks to your faithful generosity, synod mission support from congregations and gifts from individuals giving was up almost \$130,000. In a pandemic! That means we did not need to cut staff or lose any capacity to walk with you and were in fact able to continue supporting our mission starts, and to journey with our global companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Poland - a voice of sanity, love and resistance in a nation facing extreme polarization and war on their borders.

As we turn to the future in this year ahead, I pray that we too can see and hear the ways our Holy One is inviting us to let go of all that does not serve, and to step into the unimaginable: what new structures, new creative worship and fearless future leadership lie in store for US? Do we dare listen fully to God's call? The larger context of faith communities in the U.S. is changing rapidly, as you all know, hastened by the pandemic. Statistically fewer people are finding their way to institutional religion of any kind. Yet, I find myself wondering, when has community and hope been more important?

Thank you for being partners in living God's grace. Thanks also to the Oregon Synod staff who labor in the gospel with you with all of their heart, mind and spirit: Bishop's Associate Pr. Melissa Reed, Bishop's Associate Juan Carlos La Puente, Synod Administrator Jemae McCanna, Synod Candidacy Coordinator Pr. Matta Ghaly, Synod Communications Specialist Sarah Strausbaugh, SALM and Lay Education Coordinator Dr. Christie Bernklau-Halvor, and DEM Grants Coordinator Jack Mandeville. I am blessed to work with this team and blessed to call myself your bishop.

Yours in God's service,



Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar, Oregon Synod, ELCA



# Vanco Contributions Procedure

## Option One:

Go to [www.glcportland.org](http://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

## Watch those Back to School Sales

The 2021/2022 school year is just wrapping up. But that means the Back to School Sales will be starting in stores for the coming school year.

At Gethsemane, we donate Lutheran World Relief school kits, in addition to quilts, every fall. That enables us to take advantage of those good retail sales in the summertime for back-to-school supplies.

**We have set a goal of doing 200 kits**, as that is how many drawstring bags we have sewn and ready to go (thanks to Jan Perkins). Here are the items that go in each school kit:

- (4) 70 Sheet spiral notebooks, wide or college ruled, 8" by 10 ½"
- (1) 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeter on one side, inches on the other
- (1) pencil sharpener
- (1) pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- (5) black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- (1) box or 16 or 24 count crayons
- (1) 2 ½" eraser

There is a donation tub for Lutheran World Relief in the church narthex. I will be checking it periodically through the summer and storing the donated items for shipment in the fall.

As a wrap-up to our recent shipment to Lutheran World Relief, **37 quilts and 161 personal care kits** were transported (thanks to Dale Van Horn and Todd Sloan) to the depot at St. Andrew's Lutheran (Beaverton) in May. The depot includes donations from churches in Oregon, SW Idaho, SW Washington, and Northern California. I have received the final tally from this shipment. There was a total of 2974 quilts and 918 personal care kits donated at the depot, in addition to blankets (other than quilts), soap, school, fabric, and baby care kits. A piece of trivia: Gethsemane had the most personal care kits at this depot of any of the churches in this region! In addition, we have had such a dedicated group of people sewing quilts for many years!! What a giving and compassionate congregation we have helping others in need across the globe!

Thanks to so many for helping this ministry!

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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. 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.



## June Anniversaries & Birthdays

### ANNIVERSARIES

Flodine Loe	6/12
Gloria Kelsay	6/15
Marion Burgess	6/16
Jim & Diane Liefeld	6/18
Al & Ethel Marsh	6/19
Janice Perkins	6/20
Roseann Libonati	6/22
Larry & Kim Stoffregen	6/22
Karen Arendt	6/25
Laura Britzius & Mary Curtis	6/25
Karen Reagan	6/29
Ginger Heater	6/30

### BIRTHDAYS

Mary Baxter	6/3
Laura Britzius	6/3
Marion Burgess	6/6
Jan Perkins	6/9
Larry Tew	6/10
Jan Cumming	6/11
Brian Kelley	6/15
Patty Olson	6/15
Alma Crouse	6/16
Marilee Hansen	6/17
Deb Postlewait	6/29

## June Lectionary

### Sun. June 5 — Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21  
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (30)  
 Romans 8:14-17  
 John 14:8-17 [25-27]

### Sun. June 19 — 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:1-9  
 Psalm 22:19-28 (22)  
 Galatians 3:23-29  
 Luke 8:26-39

### Sun. June 12 — Holy Trinity/1st Sunday after Pentecost

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31  
 Psalm 8 (2)  
 Romans 5:1-5  
 John 16:12-15

### Sun. June 26 — 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21  
 Psalm 16 (8)  
 Galatians 5:1, 13-25  
 Luke 9:51-62

## Financial Update

May 2021 contributions YTD: 21,115.11  
May 2022 contributions YTD: 14,003.53 (through May 22)

**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](http://www.glcportland.org/give) or scan our Venmo code.



**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](mailto: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; Ken Hansen; Arloa Hurt; Becky Keiper's friend Monica who has cancer again; Karen Arendt; Bob Magnusson; Randi Bateman

**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; Todd & Peggy Sloan's grand-nephew Hunter

# June Olive Press



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

(503) 256-1835      [www.glcportland.org](http://www.glcportland.org)      [pastor@glcportland.org](mailto: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