

# ◆ THE OLIVE PRESS ◆

GETHESEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 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:**

Kevin Williams

### **Nursery Attend:**

TBD

From the Pastor

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the year 1999, I was a pretty lost 23 year old who spent the bulk of my time was pretending that I was a college student, while sling-ing drinks at a bar in the evenings. Sure I was having fun getting invited to all the "cool" parties and often scoring free tickets to local shows, unfortunately my life had very little focus. Then on one fall evening while eating dinner at my parent's house, they told me that their church was organizing a mission trip for the next summer, and since they could not go themselves, they wanted to sponsor me. So after a little cajoling, I reluctantly gave in.

That week in Tijuana in the summer of 2000 had a pro-found effect on my life, and it would forever alter how I viewed the world around me. While some of the memories regarding the work site have blended in

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with the memories from subsequent years, there are still several things that stick out from that initial trip. The first thing I remember is the shock of seeing the slums that surround Tijuana. Here we are, less than an hour drive south of the California/Mexico border, and the vast majority of people were living in shacks, many of which had no plumbing and were cobbled together with scrap pieces of material left over around the neighborhoods. The next thing I remember was the sense of community. Maybe it is because they had almost nothing and were thus forced to rely upon each other, or maybe it was just the culture, and poverty had nothing to do with it, but the families we interacted with both within the program and outside it were constantly helping each other and lifting each other up. There was no social safety net and these people knew that they needed each other to get by. It was on this trip that the concept of “love your neighbor as yourself” took on a whole new meaning for me.

Immediately following this initial trip to Tijuana, I had committed to going to the Burning Man festival in northern Nevada, and while I honored that commitment my heart wasn't in it. While my friends were running around, having a good time reveling in debauchery and enjoying all the creative art displays, I spent most of that week either in my tent or wandering aimlessly, reflecting upon the week I just had in Mexico. I didn't quite realize it yet, but my life had changed and things like Burning Man no longer seemed as fun as they might have been just a few weeks earlier.

It still took me some time to realize where the Holy Spirit was calling me, and in the meantime I went back to Tijuana the following year. I was once again blessed by Tijuana when I met a young woman named Patrice, and we would then share this experience for the next four years. We seldom know, or fully understand how experiences will ultimately shape us.

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It is only in hindsight that I am truly able to appreciate just how profound this experience was in my life: not only did I meet my future wife, but it changed the way I viewed the world and what I believed to be my calling in this world. We recently experienced (and in many ways are still experiencing) a global pandemic that will forever change us on a social and personal level. What that change will ultimately look like, we don't know, but one day we will look back and begin to understand. Here at Gethsemane, that global event, along with the resignation of the previous pastor has deeply affected this community. As you continue moving forward, I urge you to continue thinking about where God is pushing you personally and as a community. How can you use the experiencing in your personal life and in the life of this community at Gethsemane to create positive change in this community surrounding us while honoring God and the many blessings that have been bestowed?

Amen

### **Community Covenant**

In recognition of God's greatest commandment, we will love God with all our heart, mind, and soul, and love our neighbor as ourselves. In that same spirit, we make this covenant:

- We will welcome all people with our hearts, actions, and words.
- We will talk with each other, not at each other.
- We will listen to each other, not for fault but for understanding.
- We will express our concerns and issues directly with those involved, rather than with others.
- We will support our pastor and staff and honor their efforts among us.
- We will seek to discover what is best for our Church as a whole, not what may be best for us individually or as a small group.
- We will pray with each other and for each other

From the Council President

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ,



Once again, I start my letter to you by honoring the passing of another amazing woman from our congregation that has passed recently. Marion Burgess an angel sent from God, was so full of happiness whenever we would meet at church on Sundays or other occasions. Her smile radiated brightly from a heart of gold. She had the ability to bring out our best smile or laugh and after conversing with her we always felt so much better. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

I want to thank the Transition Team for all their hard work and preparation for getting us through the congregational meeting on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Sara and Pastor Robert did an amazing job of keeping us on track and pushing us to create and finish our site profile, a new mission statement and a covenant that we will engage together as we move forward in faith and come together as a congregation. I'm very excited about what's going at Gethsemane and where it points us to in the future.

I also want to thank Laura Britzius and Mary Curtis for their hard work and diligence in re-organizing our financial accounts. This creates a clearer and more understandable picture of our current financial outlook.

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Our Church Staff is doing a great job as always. They put in a lot of effort each and every day to make our church function and move in a very positive direction.

A huge THANKS goes out to Philip for the work he has contributed towards the repairs of our flat roofs and our drainage systems. He has worked with the contractors and followed up on the progress of their work. He has also made sure all paper work/documents were taken care of. So far, Philip has indicated that the work we contracted has gone smoothly and will be finished soon.

This month I'm giving you all a break and cutting my report short for once. Don't expect this to be norm going forward.

God Bless,  
Ernie

**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!



A reminder that we still need Ushers, Communion Assistants, Readers, and Altar Guild volunteers every month. With Jasmine's support and encouragement, our youth are going to be taking on some of these roles the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. If you sign up as a Reader or Communion Assistant, please leave the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays for the Youth to fill. You can

sign up through December with the link below or call Gloria Kelsay if you aren't able to sign up online. <https://signup.com/go/bDYAHDh>

## Worship Assistants for September

Date	Cantor	Reader	Usher/s	Communion Assistant
<b>Sep. 4</b>	Dick Bemrose	Gloria Kelsay	Ernie Butenschoen	Gloria Kelsay
<b>Sep. 11</b>	GWOH	GWOH	GWOH	GWOH
<b>Sep. 18</b>	Joni Pokorny	Youth		Youth
<b>Sep. 25</b>	Ernie Butenschoen		Mary Karter	Mary Curtis

**Worship on September 11 will be at 10:00 am at Mill Park Elementary across the street in the basketball shelter!**

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.

## Synod Disaster Prep and Response Team

Some tips from the Synod Team:

- Inaction is a huge challenge in getting people to realize that disasters can happen to THEM.
- Do preparation for your pet(s).
- Habitat for Humanity has a suggested evacuation plan. Go to “Habitat for Humanity Evacuation Plan.”
- The air filter system shown in last year’s Olive Press is still a good idea to filter out smoke. You may need extra filters as they get full. (It does NOT filter out Covid.)
- Be aware of updates for evacuation levels and routes.
- They strongly suggested have phone trees!! They ask that each of us reach out to five people to check up on them. We also want to know who they would have us contact in an emergency.



**KEEP SAFE!**

## Gethsemane Youth Happenings

***“Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.” ~ 1 Timothy 4:11-12***

Looking forward at Gethsemane, we are unsettled in the unknown.



*Will we be without a pastor again? Will we get another interim? Does Pastor Robert continue extending his contract? Will we have SALMs every Sunday?*

To settle some of this unknown, and to allow our #GethsemaneYouth space inside worship, third Sundays will be youth Sundays again! Our Gethsemane Youth will have the opportunity to sign up to be ushers, readers, acolytes, altar guild assistants, communion assistants and cantors. *(Those kids interested in cantoring will spend some time with Ernie learning the how-tos. This may also include the congregation singing all the way through to encourage the youth!)* With our youth leading worship we ask for a little extra grace. Youth get nervous, they forget, they get too excited, and they change their minds last minute. This may look like skipped lines during readings, some confusion about what (or who) is next, missed words, and forgotten tasks. Although this does create some breaks in the liturgical rhythm, it is important to keep space for our kids.

Too often (e.g. every time I attend an event with members of a different church) I am asked “how do we get people your age to church?”.

1. What age do we have to reach before people don't ask “your age”?
2. Saving space for kids to be kids and allowing accidents and mistakes goes a long way.

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3. Lots and lots of praise for those youth coming in and up at Gethsemane.
4. Ridiculous amounts of praise for the youth - all of them! Regardless of their ability to volunteer to be an acolyte in any way.
5. Supporting youth and family activities - show up! Even if you're not youth aged or youth affiliated. We're all family here at Gethsemane.

As we look forward and have events like God's Work, Our Hands on the books, please take a moment to ask yourself how *you* may be able to assist with youth activities - including Youth Sundays for worship!

We're not alone, Gethsemane. We are not - never were - and will never be - left without leaders and prophetic voices within our congregation....some of them are not yet 15 years old. Allow them space, too!

If you have questions, comments or concerns with Youth Sundays please don't hesitate to reach out.

**We'll see you September 18th for Youth Sunday and Backpack Blessings!**

-Jasmine  
CYFM@GLCPDX



# “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



**Sept. 11**  
**2022**

**Combined Worship outdoors at 10:00 am in the basketball shelter at  
Mill Park Elementary Elementary School,**  
located across the street at 1900 SE 117th Ave.

Potluck will follow worship!  
Chicken will be provided; please bring a dish to share!

The offering will be donated again this year  
to a charity of the pastors’ choosing.

Pilgrim Lutheran

Gethsemane Lutheran

St. Timothy Lutheran

Resurrection Lutheran

Trinity Lutheran

Covenant Presbyterian

## Stewardship Message from Pastor Robert

September is upon us: students young and old are making their way back into their classrooms, the weather is cooling down (hopefully), indoor related activities are ramping back up, and soon a large chunk of the population (typically men) will disappear into tackily decorated basements where they will plant their

rear ends upon a cushy lazy boy recliner or couch for the duration of the weekend in front of a giant TV where people are depicted running back and forth and tackling each other while passing around an oddly shaped ball ...oh, and I forgot: pumpkin flavored everything. Yes, these are the signs of the fall that precede the annual changing of the leaves.

Fall is a special time of year for families as they begin to settle down into their "regular" routine, even as they are continuing to try and figure out exactly what that "regular" routine is going to look like this year. So as we sign up for various programs, volunteer opportunities, and classes, we need to be good stewards of our time and make sure that we do not put ourselves on a fast track to burn-out.

The key to being a good steward of your time is to remember that it is okay to say no. We can't do everything. There are many things that we want to do, things we have to do, and a few things we should do, and it is up to us to prioritize and get rid of those things that are not necessary.



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Here in the church we often talk about Stewardship in regards to money, but that is just one piece of what stewardship is really about. Stewardship is about how we live our lives in a way that takes care of ourselves and others. Here within the church and elsewhere, many people will ask you to do many different things...and if you are able to do them, great! Because hopefully your efforts will help others in some small or big way, but if you're not able to help, that is okay as well.

Ask yourself; who can you help if you are burned out both physically and mentally? Remember, only you know what your limits are; and remember that God is with you always, and that before agreeing to something or discarding something, bring that decision to God. God has a way of showing us what truly is important and what can be put aside, at least temporarily.

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."- 1 Peter 4:10-11

Peace and blessings,  
Pastor Robert

### **Gethsemane Vision and Mission**

We are forgiven and called by God to proclaim the Good News of Christ. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our mission is to serve both the physical and spiritual needs of all people in our changing society. We welcome all races, abilities, genders, and sexual orientations.



# LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

## **Many Thanks for Supporting Lutheran World Relief**

Thank you to the many people who donated school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. I kept checking the donation tub in the narthex to find it was full of school supplies to be used in the school kits we send out at the end of October, in combination with the quilts created with the loving hands of our quilters.

We have had enough supplies donated to complete 50 school kits. The Mission Endowment Committee has given us a generous gift to purchase supplies to complete another 150 school kits. We have 200 plus drawstring bags sewn, ready to be threaded with cording, and then filled with these supplies. I would love to see the faces of these children in other countries as they are handed a backpack with new supplies for their schooling.

We were working on purchasing the supplies over the summer to make the best use of back-to-school sales. If you have already purchased some supplies for this project or would still like to, they can always be used, if not needed immediately in a school kit...perhaps for a school requesting assistance in our community. There is such an overwhelming need. Lists of requested supplies for the LWR school kits and personal care kits (we do these in the spring) are copied off for your use and are available in the narthex by the donation bin.

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Our quilters can help with threading the drawstring bags, quite a time-consuming task with 200 bags. This will also be a project offered at the service day (Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>) of God's Work Our Hands. It is appreciated that we will have many hands to help accomplish this part of the project.

Again, many thanks to all for your support—whether it be in donating supplies, creating quilts, sewing bags, threading the bags, filling them, driving donations to the depot, financially, and in other ways. Also, many thanks to our Mission Endowment Committee in helping us serve that many more school children around the world.

God's Blessings,  
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 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](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 Lutheran Choral Association Returns with a Limited Concert Season



Lutheran Choral is a multi-denominational choir performing old and new sacred music in a variety of styles.

**Director:** Sue Thompson Armentrout

**Accompanist:** Karl Jurisons

**September 18, 2022 - 4 pm**  
*St. Stephen Lutheran Church*  
290 W. Gloucester Street  
Gladstone, OR 97027

**October 2, 2022 - 4 pm**  
*Peace Lutheran Church*  
2201 N Rosa Parks Way  
Portland, Oregon 97217

**September 25, 2022 - 4 pm**  
*Forest Grove United Church of Christ*  
2032 College Way  
Forest Grove, Oregon 97116

**January 8, 2023 - 4 pm**  
*Peace Lutheran Church*  
2201 N Rosa Parks Way  
Portland, Oregon 97217

No Charge—Offering Taken



## September Lectionary

### **Sun. Sep. 4 — 13th Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Psalm 1 (3)  
Philemon 1-21  
Luke 14:25-33

### **Sun. Sep. 11 — 14th Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 32:7-14  
Psalm 51:1-10 (1)  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10

### **Sun. Sep. 18 — 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 8:4-7  
Psalm 113 (7)  
1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Luke 16:1-13

### **Sun. Sep. 25 — 16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 6:1a, 4-7  
Psalm 146 (7)  
1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Luke 16:19-31

## 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



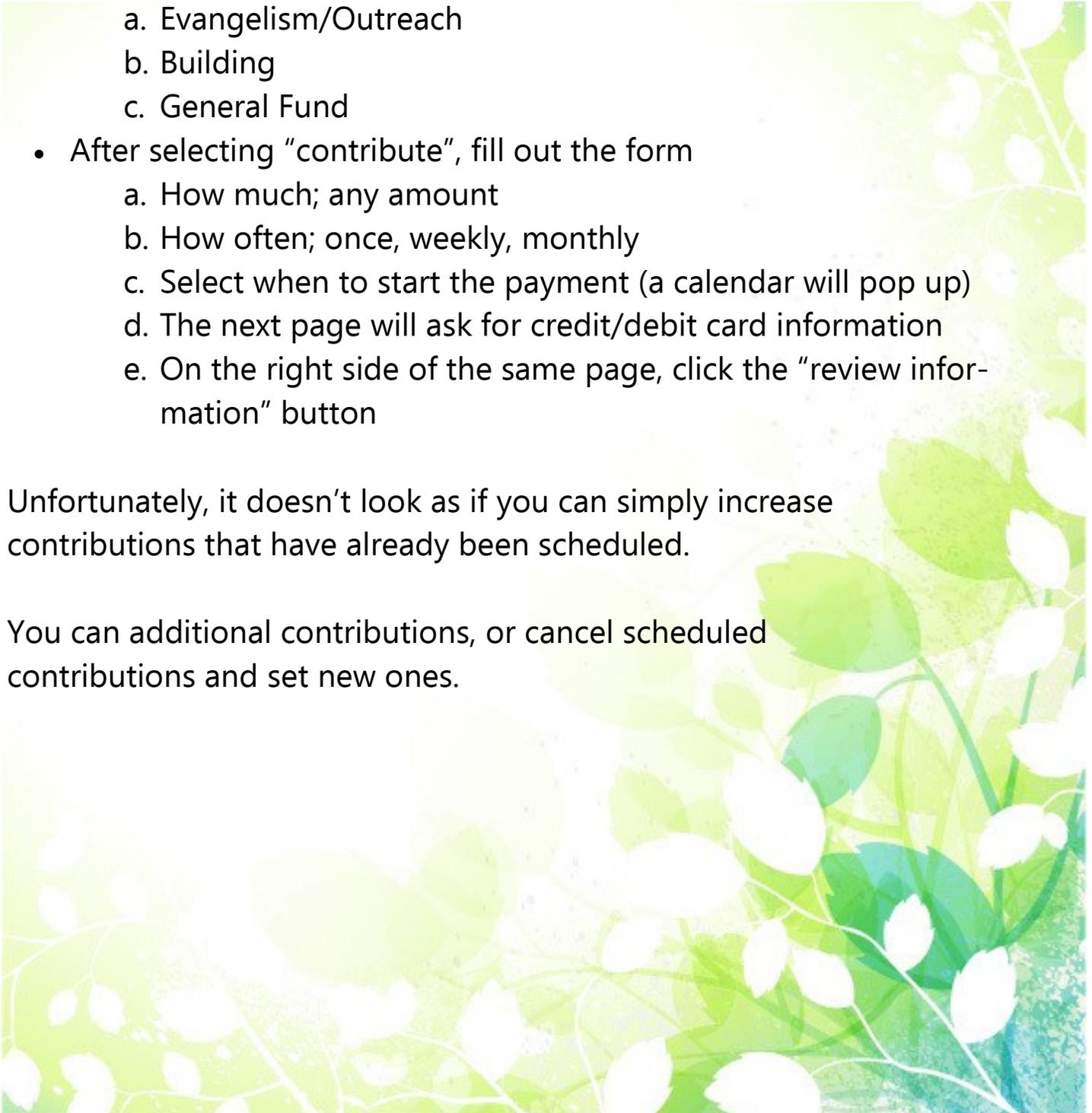
## Vanco Contributions Procedure Option Two

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 September

- **Sunday, Sept. 4th: Worship, 9:30am**
- **Monday, Sept. 5th: Labor Day, office closed**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 6th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Saturday, Sept. 10th: God's Work, Our Hands!**
- **Sunday, Sept. 11th: GWOH Worship @ Mill Park Elem, 10:00 am**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 13th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Sunday, Sept. 18th: Youth Sunday! Worship, 9:30 am**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 20th: Bible study, 10:00 am**
- **Tuesday, Sept. 20th: Church Council, 7:00 pm**
- **Sunday, Sept. 25th: 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!



## September Anniversaries

Kenneth & Marilee Hansen 9/4

## September Birthdays

Ginger Heater	9/2
Ronald Stafford	9/4
Brody Natasia	9/5
Virginia Barton	9/6
Cathey Myers	9/9
Theodore Goodall	9/14
Karen Reagan	9/14
Bailey Williamson	9/17
Joann Weaver	9/17
Mary Curtis	9/21
Jacob Hills	9/27
Virginia McCormick	9/27



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Sons of Norway Grieg Lodge

**VELKOMMEN! WELCOME!**



**2ND SUNDAY**

**VIKING PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Next Breakfast: **SEPTEMBER 11**

**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 — \$ 10  
CHILDREN 3-10 — \$ 6  
UNDER 3 — FREE

- 
- Landhandel Nordic Boutique Open in the Lobby Upstairs
- 



**NORSE HALL**

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

## Financial Update

August 2021 contributions YTD: \$20,481.13

August 2022 contributions YTD: \$10,965.76 (as of 8/27)

**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.



**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](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 and niece Tami; Ken Hansen; Becky Keiper's friend Monica who has cancer again; Karen Arendt; Connie & Mike Lelinski and Connie's sister Candee; Rachel Coughlin's neighbor's daughter Ashley; Sharon Lee's niece Terri; Sharon Lee's sister Connie and their family; family of Marion Burgess; Kim Butenschoen's friends Bev and Joyce; Hilary Hietpas and family; Doug Glenn; Rod Hills's mother Betty

**Urgent:** *Those who are ill or in need of other prayers:* Virginia Haacke; everyone who's ill with Covid; Todd & Peggy Sloan's grandnephew Hunter

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

Mon. & Thur. evenings by appointment