

THE OLIVE PRESS

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 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

Bridge Pastor:

Pastor Donna

Herzfeldt-Kamprath

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

Happy New Year, friends and members of Gethsemane!

I am glad to be joining you and introducing myself as Advent unfolds – the beginning of the new church year. Even though this is the darkest time of the year, our Advent invitation is to “walk in the light of the Lord.” (Isaiah 2:5) Together we anticipate the light of Christ being born and shining into the world.

My role as “bridge pastor” is to walk with you for a time as you prepare. First, with all the Christian church, we will prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. Second, as your Call Committee does its work of reviewing and interviewing candidates, we will prepare for you to consider and call your next pastor. It is an honor for me to share in your preparations.

For me, this congregational process is the heartbeat of the Christian church. A congregation that is in a



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healthy relationship with pastor and staff, caring relationships with each other, and active relationship with the community around them is the prime witness to the Good News that God loves the world with grace and compassion. I have had the privilege of serving congregations in Camrose, Alberta, Canada; Klamath Falls, Oregon; Tulelake, California; and West Linn. In each of them I was a co-pastor with my husband, Pastor Tim. He will join me when he can, and also will preach twice while I am with you.

We also are parents together of four children and grandparents of four (soon to be five) grandchildren ages 10 months to 3 years old. Our daughter Elizabeth lives here in Portland; Joshua and family are in Lynnwood, Washington; Rachel and family are in Rockville, Maryland; Mark and family are in Knoxville, Tennessee. It was timely for us to retire in 2021 to be able to make a country-wide circuit several times to visit everyone!

Our retirement also has brought more time to travel with our trailer and e-bikes to amazing natural wonders like the Grand Canyon, the Oregon coast, and the Potomac River. Other activities I enjoy include reading, creating photo books, hiking, golfing, and visiting with friends.



My “bridge” position is part-time through January and will focus on worship and preaching, pastoral care, and accompanying the staff and leaders as they continue guiding the work and ministry of Gethsemane. To contact me, use pastor@glcportland.org and 971-770-2610 for calls or texts.

Let us walk in the light of Christ together!

From the Council President

November 11th, 2022

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have been encouraged as we continue to transition. This past two weeks we were blessed to have Don Voeks as a visiting supply pastor. I thought he had a lot of positive energy and a good sense of humor. He reminded us that we should be bold in our responses in church services. He did a great job of delivering his sermons and asked us to respond to questions that he had as he stood up in front of us. Thank you, Pastor Don for stepping up and responding to our needs. We have also been blessed by the work Pastor Melissa has done for us in finding pastors who are willing to come and lead us during our Sunday services. I also want to thank our in-house SALM speakers who give of their time to lead worship services: Richard Bemrose and Mary Karter. It inspires me to see all of the wonderful people who step up and do the work of God to make our Christian experience that much more fulfilling.

Starting November 13th, we again will have new pastors (bridge pastors) Donna Herzfeldt-Kamprath and her husband, Pastor Tim. They will be with

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Congregational Meeting



Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held **Sunday, December 4 after worship**. Please plan to attend, as we will be voting in new council members and nominating committee chairs, and approving the 2023 budget. We welcome your help in guiding GLC into the future!

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us until the early to middle part of January. A huge thanks goes out to them for responding to our needs. I can already tell she is very organized and well spoken. I look forward to working with them and worshipping as they lead us.

We are currently working to bring on new council members who will fill their new spots at the start of the new year. I myself will stay on the council but will move to another spot. Please prayerfully consider answering the call to join us as new council members. I know that when you do God's work with other members of our congregation it brings you closer as a group. I have truly tried to encourage new council members to bring their talents and share them with all of us. It makes me proud to encourage them as they encourage me, that we are all working to make our church a great place to be a part of.

Thanks to our great staff and all that they do for our church. They have been more than understanding as we continue to transition. I'm sure they look forward to a regular pastor who will be around for a good chunk of time. They have had to adjust constantly for pastors who have come and gone. I know that we will have a new pastor at some point in the new year and hopefully, as that happens, they will be grateful for some stability.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to our call committee for the work that they doing. They have more work to do, but they are a great group of people and they are willing to serve to bring our next regular pastor to us. Please put them in prayer as they continue their call.

I'm going to apologize to Jasmine ahead of time, but we could use another Sunday School Teacher to help occasionally when she is gone or busy doing other churchwork. I fill in when I'm not being a cantor or usher, but

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there are times when I'm also out of town visiting our daughter and her family, when we could use another person. It's not a long period of time when you are leading Sunday School and it won't be that often that you will be needed to fill in. Please let Jasmine know if you think you could help out.

Thanks to all of you that do things for the church: your efforts are greatly appreciated. You make a difference and I'm glad that you are helping the Gethsemane Family.

God Bless,
Ernie



We remember with gratitude the life of long-time member and dear friend **Carol Steele**. Carol passed away on November 22, 2022. The family is planning a memorial service to be held December 17th; please watch email or call the church office for the time. Please keep Carol's sons Chris and Jonathan, and family in your prayers.

"O God of grace and glory, we remember before you our sister, Carol. We thank you for giving her to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord, Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call, we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord." — Amen



Mark your calendars now because there are so many events coming our way this month!

Our **Midweek Advent Services** will be at noon in partnership with our cluster churches. This is a great opportunity to visit and worship with our cluster churches.

The schedule is:

November 30- 12 noon- Trinity Lutheran, Gresham

December 7- 12 noon- Resurrection Lutheran, Portland

December 14- 12 noon- Gethsemane Lutheran (Pastor Yukio Hamada from St. Timothy's Lutheran presiding)

December 21- 7:00 P.M.- Covenant Presbyterian (longest night service for Winter Solstice) There may possibly be an additional noon service that day. More information to come.

December 10 at 10 A.M. we will be meeting at the church to put up the Christmas trees and decorate the Sanctuary. Many hands make light work, so we would love to have a good crew that day to make quick work of the job. Contact Jay Rector if you can help with this. Poinsettias will also be arriving that day.

December 11 will be a return of the choir to share an anthem for Advent.

December 18 will be our Youth service with special music from several of our youth. You won't want to miss this!

December 24- 4 P.M. and 10 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services- We will be livestreaming the 4 P.M. service for those who wish to watch on Zoom or Facebook. Both services will be the same format.

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December 25- Christmas Day ** There will be NO Worship service that day to allow families to spend time together at home. Watch the bulletin announcements for information about cluster churches that are holding service that day, should you wish to attend a worship service.

January 1- Regular Worship at 9:30 A.M. The theme of that Sunday will be the **Naming of Jesus.**

Finally, a HUGE thank you to everyone who donated, prepared, served food or cleaned up for the Thanksgiving Eve Community Dinner at Pilgrim Lutheran. You are truly living our vision and mission to "serve both the physical and spiritual needs of all people in our changing society."

Gloria Kelsay- outgoing Worship Chair

Worship Assistants for December

Date	Cantor	Reader	Usher/s	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild
12/4	Denise Johnson	Gloria Kelsay	Todd Sloan	Gloria Kelsay	
12/11	Gloria Kelsay	Mary Curtis	Laura Britzius	Mary Curtis	
12/18	Ernie Butenschoen	Youth		Youth	
12/24 4:00P					
12/24 10:00P					

Yellow means we need your help!
If you need help signing up, contact Gloria.

Gethsemane Youth Happenings

"Every nature, every modeled form, every creature, exists in and with each other." Mary 2:2

As we move into Advent and Christmas and Epiphany, life gets busy. We are all concerned with our lists: meal planning lists, Christmas gift lists, honey-do lists...they come to the front of our minds and live there until mid-January.

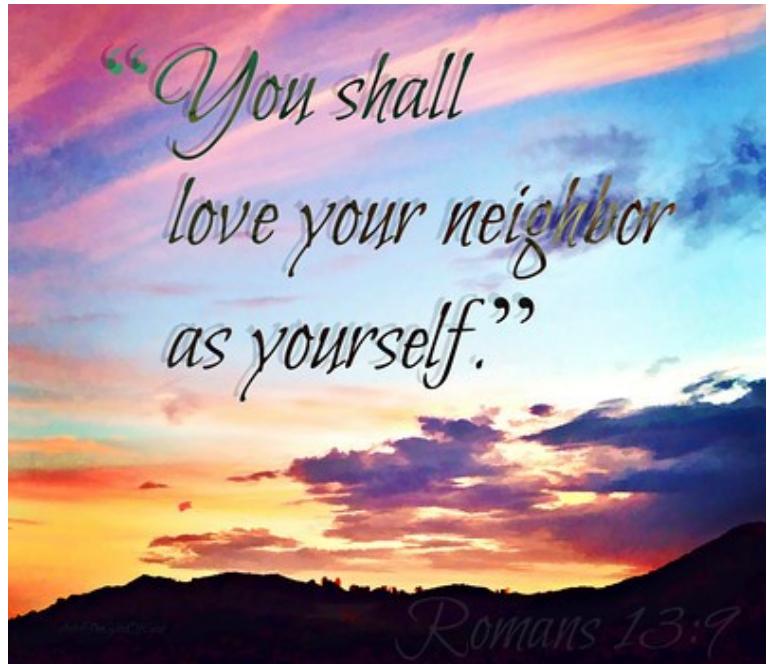


Photo credit: Sharon Tate Soberson
via <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/>

Our Gethsemane youth are working on handbells again this year for an Advent program. Their lists look different than their grown-ups: Christmas wish lists, things to finish for school, which kids are friendly and which are not, and chore lists their grown-ups have given them, but still they have lists too. We ask them to learn hymns on handbells or lines for a skit and pile that on top of their already formed and regular every day lists. Bags to pack for sports, Boys Scouts, after-school programs, daycare, and remembering which day each thing occurs.

During Advent season we are asked to slow down - to **wait** - to enjoy the anticipation of Emmanuel. Even so, Sunday School asks for more; more remembering, more learning and more participation. I wonder how many of us do this to ourselves and our own loved ones. What if instead of asking for more, we all asked each other to slow down and wait for us. Maybe we all need a reminder that it's okay to be late sometimes; to school, to work, to church, to after-school events. Life happens, and as Lutherans we believe in grace - we shout and sing and pray about grace. Are we giving grace to our loved ones and our neighbors when they need to slow down and to

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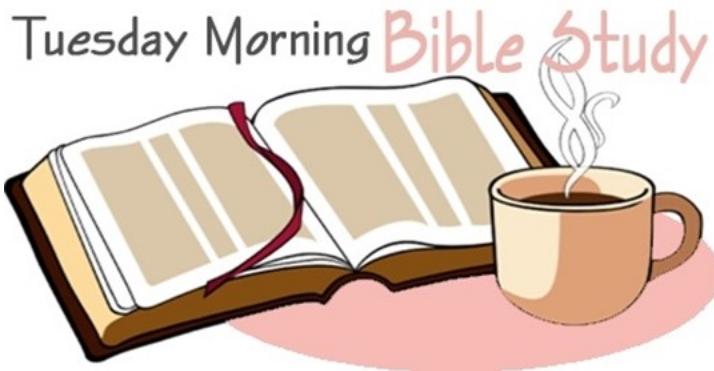
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rest? If the coffee doesn't get made, if the pie doesn't get baked, if the kids miss a practice, if the newsletter article comes in really late (and maybe not at all) - will Jesus cease to be born at the end of Advent?

As we navigate Advent this year, I hope we are all able to see ourselves within each other. Both in feat and in fault. We're tired, we're busy, we don't say no when we should, we forget, we are human. All of us, regardless of age or family status. Our youth may not be able to express these feelings correctly every time, and still we know they are humans too and feel them. Do we allow them the space to say "wait for me!" or "I need a break!"?

My hope this Advent Season is for each of us to listen for those moments needing a break, and take them. Take 15 minutes. Call a loved one, go for a walk, play a board game...just rest, and take comfort knowing we are all each other.

Love your neighbors.



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.

The Thunder, Perfect Mind

(excerpt)

This mysterious poem, discovered among the gnostic manuscripts at Nag Hammadi, is narrated by a female divine revealer.

Translated by George W. MacRae

I was sent forth from the power,
and I have come to those who reflect
upon me,
and I have been found among those who
seek after me.
Look upon me, you who reflect upon me,
and you hearers, hear me.
You who are waiting for me, take me to
yourselves.
And do not banish me from your sight.
And do not make your voice hate me, nor
your hearing.
Do not be ignorant of me anywhere or
anytime. Be on your guard!
Do not be ignorant of me.
For I am the first and the last.
I am the honored one and the scorned one.
I am the whore and the holy one.
I am the wife and the virgin.
I am <the mother> and the daughter.
I am the members of my mother.
I am the barren one
and many are her sons.
I am she whose wedding is great,
and I have not taken a husband.
I am the midwife and she who does not
bear.
I am the solace of my labor pains.

I am the silence that is incomprehensible
and the idea whose remembrance is
frequent.

I am the voice whose sound is manifold
and the word whose appearance is
multiple.
I am the utterance of my name.
Why, you who hate me, do you love me,
and hate those who love me?
You who deny me, confess me,
and you who confess me, deny me.
You who tell the truth about me, lie about
me,
and you who have lied about me, tell the
truth about me.
You who know me, be ignorant of me,
and those who have not known me, let
them know me.

For I am knowledge and ignorance.
I am shame and boldness.
I am shameless; I am ashamed.



Photo by [Levi Guzman](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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I am strength and I am fear.
I am war and peace.
Give heed to me.
I am the one who is disgraced and the great one.
Give heed to my poverty and my wealth.
Do not be arrogant to me when I am cast out upon the earth,
and you will find me in those that are to come.

James M. Robinson, ed., The Nag Hammadi Library, revised edition. HarperCollins, San Francisco, 1990.



Photo by [Austin Schmid](#) on [Unsplash](#)



GIVING TREE FOR BOXES OF *Love*

Boxes of Love is a local non profit organization that provides boxes full of new clothing and other comfort items to babies and children entering foster care.

HOW IT WORKS

CHOOSE A TAG(S)
FROM THE TREE.

SHOP FOR
YOUR ITEM.

RETURN YOUR ITEM
(UNWRAPPED) TO
THE TREE.



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!

Visit boxesofloveproject.org to learn more.

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.

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

[Join our 9:30 Sunday morning worship services on Zoom!](#)



- **On a computer:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81476436505> Click on the link or enter the following numbers – Meeting ID 814 7643 6505, then wait in the waiting room until Jasmine lets you in.
- * **On a phone:** call 1 253 215 8782 (no long distance charges will apply) and enter the meeting ID 814 7643 6505. You might get a prompt to hit the pound button.
- * Find our **livestream on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/gethsemaneportland>

Notes

- * Please check that the exterior doors are **closed and latched** before you leave.
- * 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 winter needs** include the following: sugar, hearty canned soup/chili/stews, canned fruit & vegetables, quart-size zip-top bags, dessert mixes (Jello/cakes/brownies), cooking oil & butter, pet food. Full-size items for care packages: toothpaste/brushes, deodorant, shaving cream/razors, body wash/soap, shampoo/conditioner, baby wipes, lotion, laundry detergent, hats, gloves, handwarmers. Stocking stuffer items for kids (especially teens): card games/small toys, journal/pens, small art supplies, notepads/planners, activity books (age 10 to adult), teen hygiene/grooming/bath kits (especially for young men), hot chocolate packets/wrapped candy, \$10 gift cards for coffee or fast food (please put in separate labeled envelope and hand to a SnowCap team member so it doesn't get lost). **Please drop off before December 9 so we can distribute before the holidays.** Go to www.snowcap.org/donate for more information or to send a contribution to be used to bulk-purchase goods. The donation drive-through is open Monday-Friday between 9 am - 3 pm at 17788 SE Pine Street.
- * **Please remember to sign in on the contact-tracing sheet.**



December Lectionary

Sunday Dec 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (7)

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

Saturday Dec 24 – Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96 (11)

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Sunday Dec 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10 (8) or Luke 1:46b-55 (47)

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

Sunday Dec 25 – Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97 (11)

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

Sunday Dec 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (7)

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

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

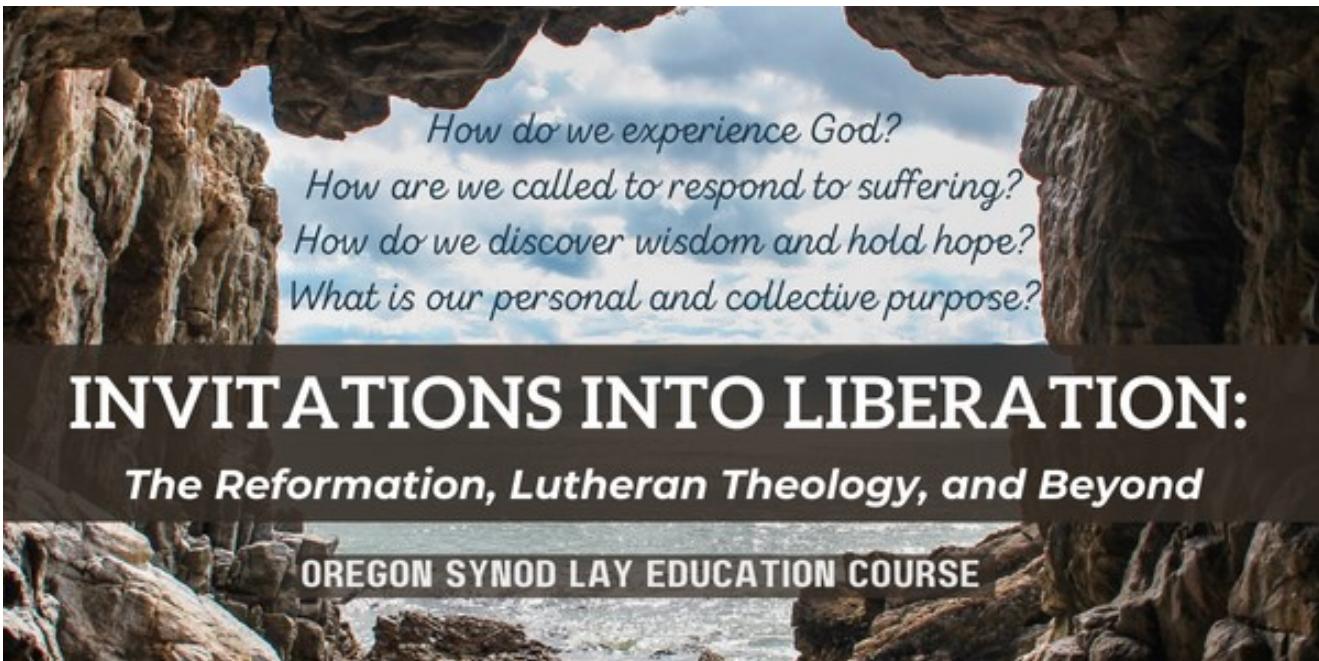
Unfortunately, it doesn't look as if you can simply increase contributions that have already been scheduled.

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

GLC Calendar for December

- **Sunday, Dec. 4th: Worship, 9:30am**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 6th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 7th: Advent Worship, 12:00 pm at Resurrection**
- **Saturday, Dec. 10: Sanctuary Decorating, 10:00 am**
- **Sunday, Dec. 11th: Worship, 9:30 am**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 13th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 14th: Advent Worship, 12:00 pm here at GLC**
- **Sunday, Dec. 18th: Youth Sunday! Worship, 9:30 am**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 20th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 20th: Church Council, 7:00 pm**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 21st: Advent Longest Night Service, 7:00 pm at Covenant Presbyterian**
- **Saturday, Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Worship, 4:30 (livestreamed) & 10:30 pm. No Sunday services.**
- **Monday, Dec. 26th: Office CLOSED**
- **Tuesday, Dec. 27th: Bible Study, 10:00 am**





**Invitations Into Liberation:
The Reformation, Lutheran Theology, and Beyond**
an Oregon Synod lay education course.

Gather with others from around the synod as we "do theology" together, seeking inspiration from Lutheran theologians, our communities, and beyond. Guest instructors will join us each week to share a theological nugget: a lens through which we will be invited to see, practice, and reflect as we go about our daily lives. Then we'll come back together to share, wonder, and explore meaning-making as beloved children of God.

This online course will meet on **seven Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm beginning January 5** and then on **one Tuesday evening, February 21**. The course is designed with a Lutheran lens and inclusive heart; all are welcome. Course participants and/or their congregations are encouraged to donate as they are able, on a sliding scale between \$20 to \$160, but donations are not required to participate. [Register here](#).

Questions? Contact our Lay Education Coordinator, Christie Bernklau Halvor at learningtogether@oregonsynod.org.



December Birthdays

Arloa Hurt	12/1	Christine Hurlman	12/22
Grace Johnson	12/2	Peggy Sloan	12/27
Gloria Kelsay	12/17	Carol Blodgett	12/30
Melissa Natasia	12/17	Micah Morton	12/30
Jo Nelson	12/19	Carol Law	12/31
Becky Keiper	12/21	Sharon Magnuson	12/31

Image by FreePik



The Nominations Committee is looking for people to serve with the Council. Check with Ernie if you would like to get involved. We have lots of openings with something for everybody!

Financial Update

venmo



November 2021 contributions: \$20,698.34

November 2022 contributions: \$14,592.26 (through 11/22)

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.



Photo by [Yang Shuo](#) on [Unsplash](#)



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 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.

Homebound

Virginia Haacke, 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; Karen Arendt; Rachel Coughlin's neighbor's daughter Ashley; Sharon Lee's niece Terri; Doug Glenn; Rod Hills's mother Betty; Becky Keiper's friend Gary; Sharon Lee's sister in law Judy Fleming; Rachel Coughlin's friends Jodi Cofer and Jodi Schultz; Kim & Ernie Butenschoen's sister-in-law's mother Shirley; Shirla Rapp's cousin Mike; Russ & Melissa Solberg's dad Dan Solberg; Ginny Barton; Todd & Peggy Sloan's grandnephew Hunter; Kim Butenschoen's friend Bre; the family of Carol Steele; Sharon Lee's brother-in-law Larry Heaston

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

December 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