Happy New Year!*

Happy New Year! Peace onto you!

It is always exciting to start a new year. We prepare for new possibilities. We have a chance to live our lives with renewed intentionality. In our church we switch from green to blue, from the Gospel according to Luke to Matthew’s account.

In this season of Advent, do we carve out time to contemplate with joy the Incarnation? Or do we get caught up with all the pre-Christmas frenzy, rushing so much that we barely notice the glory of the 12 Days of Christmas (which begin - not end - on 12/25)?

Advent is a time of reflection, preparation, and anticipation. Because it is the beginning of our year, we are asked to reflect on the past year: Has our relationship with God grown deeper, or have we found ourselves too busy? (Remember we are asked to reflect, not beat ourselves up about it.) Amid the busyness of this season, I find it helpful to look for pockets of peace, times which allow me to focus more deeply on God.

We are asked to prepare. The Jewish people waited for centuries for the Anointed One, the Messiah. The Prophets told them the best way to prepare was to live in right relationship with God. How might we live in right relationship? One idea might be to start with prayer or Scripture. This coming Sunday we are making Advent wreaths and other items to help us mark the days of Advent.

We are asked to anticipate. Advent is a season complete unto itself, but we know where it is leading: Christmas. We have a God who became a child in order that we may believe and return to right relationship. That is an amazing gift we have received. Knowing we fully understand in our hearts and minds the enormity of God’s love for us, we begin to recognize we have already received the armor of light. All we need do is put it on and God’s grace will protect us from the works of darkness.

May you find your pockets of peace as you embark on your Advent journey.

Yours in Christ,
Maureen Hagen
Minister of Children and Families

*Pastor Tom is on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, returning soon.
Children & Families Update – December 2010

This past Sunday (Christ the King), it felt like the entire Gethsemane congregation was with us in the kitchen making pies. We received donations from two dozen members which were greatly appreciated. Then we had 14 kids ages 3 to 11, ably assisted by six adults, making 11 pies (four varieties). Everyone had a blast and the pies turned out great. The confirmation class combined pie-making with a lesson on community service. Later that afternoon I took seven pies over to Shepherd’s Door, a local shelter for women and families. The remainder were donated to GLC for the Thanksgiving Eve celebration.

The **Halloween party** was a also great success. Many thanks to all of the GLC members who helped make it so. They had as much fun as the kids during “Trunk or Treat.” See you next year!

**Coming up:**

What’s an **Advent E-vent**? It’s a time to get together as a community and begin our Advent journey. We will be making Advent wreaths and crafts. There will be stories and games and other activities. A light lunch will be available. It begins Sunday, November 28, after the 10:30 service and lasts until 1:00. We hope to see you there.

**Katie Myers** has been getting the kids ready for the **pageant on December 5 (10:30 service)**. Two rehearsals remain: 11/28 (9:30) and 12/4 (9:00-1:00). We’d love to have your kids involved. We also need some help getting sets ready on Dec 4.

**Special December Sunday School events:**

- **December 12:** Caroling at a local seniors’ home during Sunday School
- **December 19:** A Happy Birthday Jesus! party
- **December 26:** No Sunday School

**Rockin’ New Year’s Eve!!** Our Family Fun Night falls on New Year’s Eve. Children of all ages (and their families) are invited to have dinner and play games (bring your favorite!): **6:00-8:00**. A **Middle School Lock-in** follows. We had a great time in August and are looking forward to doing it again. Youth will be released at 8:00 am New Year’s Day.

Expect to see GLC kids more active in community service. They are slated to provide the first meal to our Daybreak families every time they visit, beginning January 2. They will also include a service component for each Lock-In.

**Challenges:** **We need you** (or people you know) to help out. There are so many ways to help. I am here to help you find the perfect fit. You will receive the opportunity to enrich the lives of our youth and get a chance to become an important part of their lives.

Please hold our children, youth, and families in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen

maureenhagen@gmail.com

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| Offering, Income & Budget Report through September 2010 |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| **INCOME NEEDED** | **RECEIVED** | **ACTUAL EXPENSES** | **DIFFERENCE** |
| $244,780 | $206,928 | $206,161 | ($37,851) |

**WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:** 2010: 122  2009: 102

Urgent—Those who are ill: George Willett, Cathey Myers’ friend Beth, Roland Haacke, Nettie Ubrick’s friend Jean, Dorothy Urbach, Kim Stoffregen’s mother Phyllis, Dick Boro, Theresa Qualheim’s cousin’s daughter Alena, Evelyn Kimpton’s granddaughter Terri, Ralph Nelson, Norm Thorsen, Matthew Burk, Jerry & Helen Tilkens, Gloria Miller.

Those who are grieving: Family and friends of Herb Sperling (his memorial service is here on Saturday, Dec 4, at 1:30 p.m.); and family and friends of Ruth Wilson (her memorial service is here on Thursday, Dec 2, at 1 p.m.).

December Birthdays
2 Dorothy Thoreson
5 Rita Nesbitt
6 Ida Olson
17 Gloria Kelsay
19 Jo Nelson
21 Becky Keiper
22 Christine Hurlman
25 Audrey Magnuson
   Carol Steele
27 Pat Edwards
29 Irene Tangen
30 Natalie Schaffner-Yeremenko
31 Carol Law
   Sharon Magnuson

Anniversaries
7th-Galven/Virginia Irby
16th-Hal Hingst/Priscilla Nelson
27th-Kent/Jan Cumming
27th-Paul/Diane Kovach
28th-Shirley Treanor/George Willett

HOMEBOUND Brothers and Sisters
* Lucille Langseth  Pacific Gardens, 17309 NE Glisan St., #402 Portland 97230 (503)256-0553
* Dorothy Urbach  Glisan Care Center, 9750 NE Glisan St., Portland 97220 (503)256-3920
* Lois Jensen, 4001 S.E. 182, Portland 97030 (503)665-2496.
* Dorothy Olson, 4001 SE 182, Portland 97030
* Mae Lepsley, 16930 SE Kelly, Portland 97236
* Warren/Karen Stenberg, 15521 SE Meadowlark Ln. Milwaukie 97267
November Council Notes

In this council meeting we dove into the nuts and bolts of the 2011 proposed church budget. Line item by line item we reviewed, discussed, and made recommendations. There is still much work to be done before it is presented to the congregation in January but I truly believe we are making good progress towards creating a budget that we can live with (or within) for next year. Discussions we have had on major capital improvements have been put on hold at this time due to a shortfall in 2010 and a 2009 shortfall we carried forward. We are still reviewing possible improvements; however we are not scheduling any at this time.

Also reviewed was the Long-Range Plan. One of the goals in the plan is to review it annually and to discuss each goal for completion or to see if it needs more effort. We didn’t give ourselves a final grade but we did identify many items we can check off as in progress or completed. There are a few items that need a little attention and we may be asking for your help with these. Watch for more to come on this topic.

The nomination committee has been busy talking with folks that are possible candidates for vacant spots on council. Please consider serving GLC as a council member. There are a few more spots available. If you are interested, talk with Dave Qualheim, Jan Cumming, Diane Bemrose, Judy Haas, or Pastor Tom.

Laura Britzius, Congregation President

Preschool News December 2010

"The mission of Gethsemane Lutheran Church Preschool is to serve preschool age children and their families in our community by nurturing the development of the whole child, spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically, creatively, and physically, centered in God's love for us and for all creation in Jesus Christ."

This is a long mission statement, but with such key elements that not one part can be overlooked in our preschool ministry. This statement was recommended by our Preschool Board and approved by our Church Council at its October 2010 meeting.

As we approach fifty years of preschool ministry at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, I tried to estimate how many children and families we have served through the years. The size of our program has varied from 30 to 70 students. Usually our threes move into our fours. I estimate that we have had approximately 2000 students in the history of Gethsemane Preschool. It is amazing to realize the number of children and families our preschool has served through the years!

As we focus on the budget, as we always do this time of year, I think its appropriate to remind all of us that, though tuition is assessed, we try to keep tuition affordable for families in our community. The expenses of operating the preschool exceed the income from tuition. Our congregation and its friends see the preschool as a mission and support it via use of the facilities, staff support, materials, volunteer help, and financial support. The preschool program could not have survived through the years without this support.

Outreach ministry is always an important part of Gethsemane. As such, the preschool exemplifies our outreach mentality. Through our preschool, we reach into our community and spread the love of Christ. Our preschool is one of the many ministries at Gethsemane that continues to serve and witness to so many families in the vicinity of 117th and Market.

A few additional items:

- Entertainment Books 2011 must be sold no later than December 8th. If you would still like to purchase one, please see either Karla or Jude in the church office. Cost is $25, with checks payable to GLC. These make great gifts! (continued)
• **Papa Murphy Peel a Deal Cards** are available for $5. There is no expiration date and eight coupons per card. These are available from Karla.

• **The Preschool Christmas Program** is Thursday, Dec. 16, 7 p.m., in the church sanctuary. The children will be singing seasonal songs they are learning and there will be a Power Point presentation featuring our preschoolers in action. You are welcome to join us!

• **The Christmas tree in the preschool hallway is our annual Giving Tree.** We encourage preschool families to give items for Snow Cap. Please feel free to add any donations that you might like to give.

• A reminder that the annual **Preschool Spaghetti Dinner is Sunday, Feb. 27**, following the second service. **We will be requesting theme baskets for the silent auction.**

• **The church’s website link to the preschool is now up and operating.** Want to check it out? Go to [www.glchurch.org](http://www.glchurch.org) and click on the preschool. We are excited to have this opportunity to show our preschool to the world and as a tool to communicate with our preschool families, current and prospective.

The Gethsemane Preschool Staff and Children wish you a Blessed Christmas!

Karla Hills, Preschool Director

♦ **Thanks For All Your Help!** You know who you are and we thank you profusely for all your help during the recent Daybreak Shelter stay. Dale Van Horn and Tom Lewis are most appreciative, and the food was, as usual, delicious.

♦ **Fundraising Opportunity for Daybreak:** A Michael Allen Harrison concert is coming up on Friday, December 10, at 7 p.m. at Michael’s Studio, 2406 NE Sandy (Old Timberline Dodge showroom). This is a free concert, but the suggested donation is $25 to $50.

♦ **Did You Know** we’re in a contest with the youth of the congregation? They have also been collecting money for bed nets...and they are beating the rest of us. Please look for the green piggy and fill it to the brim.

♦ **A Christmas Event for Seniors**—On Wednesday, December 15, at noon, there will be a catered lunch ($14.50) with music and a sing-a-long led by Lyle and Denise Johnson. Reservations with payment are needed by Dec 1. Contacts: Karen Arendt, Carol Law or Audrey Magnuson.

♦ **Christmas Poinsettias** may be ordered by signing up on the sheet on the counter in the narthex. Pay either Liz Blohm or Denise Johnson. (All checks should be made payable to GLC.)

♦ **All Are Invited to Join Us for Vespers at Mt. Angel** on Dec 11. Meet at church at 3 to carpool. As tradition dictates, we will stop for dinner before returning to church around 8 p.m.

♦ **SAVE THE DATE -- Saturday, February 26th --** Gethsemane’s Annual Retreat at Collins Retreat Center. The topic is “Spirituality” led by Professor Dan Brunner, who introduced the topic earlier this year at our Adult Sunday School. Hope to see you there! Details to follow.

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**Advent Services - Holden Evening Prayer**

*Dec 1,8,15 @ 7:15 p.m.*

*Please join us!*
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<td>8&amp;10:30a-Worship/Sunday School XmasPlay 9:15a-EdHour</td>
<td>HolidayStore 8:30a-Preschool Staff Mtg. 4p-Executive Bd 5p-Preschool Bd Mtg. 7p-Band</td>
<td>HolidayStore 8a-Men’s Breakfast 7:30p-Orchestra 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band</td>
<td>7:15p-Advent Service/Holden Evening Prayer</td>
<td>9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 1p-Wilson MemService</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>9-1-SS Xmas Play Practice 12:30p-Recovery Inc. 1:30p-Sperling MemService</td>
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<td>8&amp;10:30a-Worship 9:15a-EdHour 2p-Cameron Herbert, CD Release @ Augustana</td>
<td>10a-B-Team 1p-StephenMin 7p-Band</td>
<td>Men’s Breakfast 7:30p-Orchestra 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band</td>
<td>Noon-Sr.Xmas Lunch 7:15p-Advent Service/Holden Evening Prayer 6p-Church Council</td>
<td>10a-Dorcas Circle 1p-Orchestra 7p-Preschool Xmas Program</td>
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<td>9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra</td>
<td>New Year’s Eve 6-8p-Family FunNite 8p-8a-Middle School LockIn</td>
<td>New Years Day 12:30p-Recovery Inc</td>
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