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# ◆ The Olive Press ◆

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2011

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## Church Council

### President:

Laura Britzius

### Vice Pres.:

Sec./Treasurer: Bill

Herbert

### Properties:

Joe Rapp

### Luth. Liaison:

Tom Lewis

### Evangelism:

open

### Worship:

Liz Blohm

### Education:

Vanessa Lindstrom

### Community Action:

### Stewardship:

open

### Fellowship:

Kim Stoffregen

## Church Staff

### Pastor:

Tom Hiller

### Lay Minister Children & Families:

Maureen Hagen

### Preschool Dir.:

Karla Hills

### Finance Mgr.:

Cathy Myers

### Parish Admin.:

Judith Rykken

### Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

### Organist:

Brooke Benfield

### Custodians:

Dale/Anne Van Horn

## Pastor Tom's Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

That we are all more environmentally conscious these days is apparent. We as individuals and as a congregation recycle and reuse materials, reduce waste, and compost. We are using our cars less, buying hybrid cars, and shopping for organic food.

We are doing these things because we want the Earth to be cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable. We are doing these things because of the Covenant of Noah. In this covenant, God has promised all people, past, present, and future, all living things, and the Earth itself to maintain Creation now and into the future. Our part of this covenant is to be good stewards of creation, caring for it, loving it, and refraining from abusing or misusing it.

How we go about caring for Creation is a matter of debate. As Christians, citizens, and Earthlings, we at times disagree over issues like energy use, resource use, climate change, and cooperating with other nations and world communities. Sometimes we succumb to despair thinking that it's too late and that we can't stop the processes that have begun to threaten the very existence of life on Earth. Sometimes we also succumb to indifference to the care of the Earth, and go about our lives with little regard for the impact that we make on the Earth and other people.

We need to be warned that there are consequences for breaking the Covenant of Noah, of which we are a part. Maybe we are experiencing some of those consequences right now.

We also need to be reminded that, precisely because of God's faithfulness to the Covenant of Noah, and because of the New Covenant in Jesus Christ, that there is hope for us and for God's Creation. God renews us, just as God renews Creation.

Let us encourage each other in our "Noah Covenant" work. Let us continue to imagine and work on ways in which we can care for God's Creation as a congregation. Specifically, we can explore new possibilities like a community garden on our grounds, or solar panels on our roof.

Let us thank God for God's faithfulness to us and to Creation.  
Pastor Tom

**Have you seen Pr. Tom's Israel pictures yet?** Pastor Tom will be showing pictures from his trip to Israel and Egypt after both services in two installments on Sundays, February 6 and 13, in the Community Hall. *Come and See!*

- **Pastor's Class is Beginning** If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith and Lutheran teachings, or you would just like to have a refresher course, you are invited to Pastor Tom's class on Sundays, February 20 and 27 and March 6, 13, 20, and 27, during the education hour between services in the church library.
- **Pastor Tom at Bishop's Convocation in February** From Monday, February 7 through Wednesday, February 9, Pastor Tom will be at the Bishop's Convocation in Silverton.
- **Pastor Tom Will be the Guest Speaker** at the Evening Jazz Vespers at St. James Lutheran Church, 1315 S.W. Park, in Portland, on Sunday, February 13 at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

## Children & Families Update

New Year's Blessings to all! We had a host of family-friendly activities over the Christmas break, including a *Happy Birthday, Jesus!* party; an Advent Day Camp; a child-involved Christmas Eve service (where all children participated and **Christine Wong** narrated and helped with communion); and a Family Fun Night on New Year's Eve. Sixteen middle schoolers spent the night at Gethsemane on New Year's Eve. In addition to the Gethsemane youth and their friends, we had six kids from St. Luke's and All Saints' Episcopal churches.



January got off to a great start with the baptism of **Owen Russell Solberg**. Baptism is the foundation on which all Christian Formation rests. As we tell the kids, it is the biggest day of their lives, so it is important that we celebrate each baptism in style. On Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, there was a special lesson on Baptism and each child made gifts for Owen. We had a small procession and watched this wondrous event. A favorite point was when five-year-old **Madison** turned with an excited look and said: "It's a real baby!" She is hooked. We pray that we have several baptisms in the months and years ahead.

To accommodate our growing Sunday School, we now have two sections. The Middle School group (grades 5-8) uses Morehouse's *Living the Good News* (ELCA), taught by **Roseann Libonati, Christina Riehl, and Michelle Schie**. The younger children will use Augsburg's *Spark* program, taught by **Roseanna Foster-Mikhail, Vanessa Lindstrom, and Karla Hills**. (IMAureen will teach each group about once a month as needed.) Both sections use a lectionary approach, so they will be exposed to the Gospel of the day. *Spark* is the newest entry for Augsburg and is very popular in ELCA churches. It also has a wonderful *Spark Story Bible* which is geared for this age group. We bought some *Spark NRSV* bibles for the children in grades 3-5. While the text is virtually identical to the adult version, it has explanations geared toward a younger age group. This will make it easier for them when they enter confirmation classes in sixth grade.

- This month, the **confirmation class** hosted their first meal for Daybreak Shelter, as part of their commitment to oversee the first night's dinner every time Daybreak stays at GLC. Eventually, we expect the youth to take full responsibility for organizing this meal. (In March, since they will be in Eugene for the first night, they will be doing a Shrove Tuesday meal (see photo at right).)
- On January 15, we launched the "**Calgon Group**," a women's spirituality group. We especially invite all women in their 20s through 40s. In March, we will move to twice-monthly meetings.



## February Birthdays

- 3 Priscilla Nelson  
7 Lyle Johnson  
12 Diane Kovach  
16 Lois Boro  
19 Sander/Miel Nelson  
20 Ethel Jabs (98th)  
    Kim Stoffregen  
25 Nikko Barlow  
26 Denise Johnson  
29 Kathryn Eschleman

## Anniversaries

- 4 Roger/Roberta Vidlund  
11 Jack/Nancy Lumber  
24 Brian/Paulette Kelley

**Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:** Virginia Irby, John Skuzeski and son Tom, Vera Koosman, Liz Blohm's niece Betty, Wynn and Jim Stafford and their daughter-in-law Jennifer, Linda Babcock, Karen Arendt, Dorothy and Gerald Shouse, Karen and Warren Stenberg, Mae Lapsley, Pat Edwards, Alfhild Anderson, Jerry Tilkens and his sister LaVonna, Dorothy Olson, Bea Jarvie, Norm Thoreson, Ralph Nelson, George Willett, Cathey Myers' friends Beth and Tom, Shouse's daughter Gloria Miller.

**Urgent—Those who are ill:** Randy Treanor, Roland Haacke, Dorothy Urbach, Bob Edwards, Kim Stoffregen's mother Phyllis, Steve Olson, Dick Boro, Katherine Eschleman, Galvin Irby and Irby's friend Sylvan Long, Theresa Qualheim's cousin's daughter Alena, the Larson's friend Jan, Evelyn Kimp-ton's granddaughter Terri, and Dorothy Thoreson's sister Helen Loomis.

## 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
- \* **Dorothy Olson**, 4001 SE 182, Portland 97030
- \* **Mae Lepsley**, 16930 SE Kelly, Portland 97236
- \* **Warren/Karen Stenberg**, 15521 SE Meadowlark Ln. Milwaukie 97267



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

Pastor Tom Hiller  
(503)256-1835  
glchurch@acweb.com  
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### ***Coming up:***

JANUARY 28	FAMILY FUN NIGHT (6-8) PIZZA AND GAMES FOR ALL. EVERYONE IS INVITED.
FEBRUARY 13	SUNDAY FUN TIME: BOWLING! MEET AT GLC AT 12:45.
FEBRUARY 19	CALGON GROUP AT 10:00 IN LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 25	FAMILY FUN NIGHT
MARCH 5-6	SYNOD GATHERING FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN EUGENE
MARCH 8	SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER

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

**Shrove Tuesday!!** Our **Confirmation Class** invites **everyone** to a traditional Shrove Tuesday dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8. We will have pancakes and all the fixings. There will be a special program for children and youth involving art and liturgy. Come and see! We need lots of help and donations. More details to follow. For more information, contact Maureen at [maureenhagen@gmail.com](mailto:maureenhagen@gmail.com).

### **Council Notes**

This meeting, although it was very busy putting things in place for the annual congregational meeting, was a little sad for me. Every year at this time we say goodbye to council members who have completed their two years (sometimes four years) of service on the council. This year we said so long to Judy Haas as the Community Action Chairperson and Dave Qualheim as the Vice President. Please know that these two folks represented our congregation well and will be missed on council.

In December, Bill Herbert presented a near final review of the proposed 2011 budget. There are always a few changes before it's printed for the annual meeting but we think we're ready. Keep your fingers crossed.

Dick Bemrose shared the 2011 Camp Lutherwood brochure (it looks great!) which includes the schedule of cleanup and work parties needed at the camp. Please let potential campers and volunteer helpers know there is something for all ages!

I am sure you've noticed a few new faces at services. We have some new members, so please help them to get acquainted by wearing your name tag. The new member count is eight with more incoming transfers possible. We welcome everyone with a warm handshake and bright smile.

Per our Long-Range Plan we have opened our doors to more community groups to use our facility. Please refer to the calendar for specifics.

Capital Improvements - Community Hall Roof. On January 17 Bill Herbert and I met with Hamid Afghan from AAI, a structural engineer. Our goal is to find out exactly what we can and cannot do about the Community Hall roof. We know we'll need a new roof soon and, to replace the shingles and put new ones on, we first need to lay plywood on the trusses. The question now becomes, are the old (193?) 2 x 4 trusses adequate to support the weight? They *might* be strong enough but they probably *won't* meet current building codes. The AAI report will tell us what we need to know to make an educated and informed decision on how to proceed. Phase I is the evaluation. Phase II is construction drawings after approval by the council and/or the congregation. We'll keep you informed of the progress.

Phase I is not free. It comes with a \$2400 price tag. Gethsemane received a \$10,000 gift to get this project rolling. Your prayers and gifts are needed to keep this project alive. If you would like to give towards the engineer evaluation or towards this project, please indicate that on your gift (i.e. community hall roof or capital improvements).

God Bless you all, Laura Britzius, Congregation President

## Short Notes:

- **It is that time again! SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY** is just around the corner. On Feb 6 we will be collecting food and/or cash donations for SnowCap. Watch for the Souper Bowl display in the narthex. We will continue to collect items through the end of February! Let's give this our usual rousing support!
- **Please join us for our annual retreat at Collins Retreat Center on Saturday, February 26** from 9:00 to 2:30. Our presenter is Prof. Dan Brunner, continuing our journey of spirituality he began for us last spring. Everyone is welcome, and I'm sure you'll be glad you came. The cost is \$20 per person, but scholarships are available. Reservation forms are available on the counter in the narthex and in the church office. You may give them to Jude in the office, Roseann Libonati or Dick Bemrose. We need them returned by February 9 per the request from the retreat center. Hope to see you there!
- **VALENTINE MEMORIES** -- You've heard that "Love makes the world go 'round." Come to the **Senior Luncheon on Wednesday, February 9** to go 'round with some special "Valentine Memories." We'll have songs, sentiment and savory treats. Bring three things: 1) a "historic" picture of you and a sweetheart from your early dating or marriage days, 2) a dish to share, and 3) your loving good humor. Meet at 11 a.m. in the Community Room; lunch follows at 12 noon. Questions? Contact Audrey Magnuson or Carol Law.
- **Our Stewardship Emphasis** this year is using the theme "Belief in Action." On Sunday, January 23 we distributed this year's Belief in Action form. We will collect the completed forms at the Annual Meeting on January 30. The form is your way to let us know how God is calling you to use your gifts of time and talent to support and grow our work here at Gethsemane. In other words, we are asking you to tell us how you plan to demonstrate your "Belief in Action." We take seriously your investment of time and talent and want to be sure we use your gifts. So, if you are not contacted about an area you marked on your form, it is most likely "human" error in transferring your information to the "Belief in Action" matrix. If that happens, let the church office know right away so that the Stewardship Committee can make the correction!

### The Rewards of Daybreak Shelter


As a Daybreak Homeless Shelter volunteer, it is a privilege to visit with some of our guests and hear their comments. Because Gethsemane Church does such a fine job of caring for those who are temporarily homeless, it seems important that you hear some of those comments.

One of the families finally got an apartment of their own. It will cost them at least \$650/month, but as they said, "It includes water, sewer, and trash pickup, which has been a difficult expense." As they unloaded their earthly belongings from the shelter bus to their new apartment, their nine-year-old son gleefully skipped down the stairs singing out: "O boy, my own home!"

The father of another family asked permission to take a shower before leaving for the day. He commented that, "This is such a nice place to stay and its very clean. We also have plenty of space as well as the privacy of our own room which is very good!" One mother said to thank the people church "for their kindness and making everything so nice for us." Hal Hingst

### Food and Clothing Donations for Snow Cap

Gethsemane collected a total of 1500 pounds for Snowcap. That includes food, clothing, school supplies and other contributions. Some highlights include 100 pounds from the choir's Christmas get-together. We were also lucky to get a grant from Thrivent for \$500 to purchase children's underwear and sox. That was 46 pounds of weight right there. Even more important, it was 176 pairs of girls panties, 125 pair of girls sox, 62 pair of infants sox, 93 pair of boys underwear and 187 pair of boys sox! The Snowcap barrel and boxes are in the narthex, and we try to clean it out on a regular basis. If you have more than you can carry to contribute, contact the Bemroses to arrange a pick up at your home. **An early heads-up: The Snowcap annual dinner & auction will be held on February 12, 2011.** We'd love to see more of you there.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>February 2011 Gethsemane Lutheran Church</b></p>		<p>1 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Swing Band</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 7:45a-Bible Class 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir</p>	<p>4 OFFICECLOSED</p>	<p>5 12:30p- Recovery Inc.</p>
<p>6 8&amp;10:30a- Worship (Council In- stalled; New Members Rcd.) 9:30a-EdHour Noon-Israel SlideShow <b>5:30p- Confirmation</b></p>	<p>7 Pr. Tom @ Bishop's Con- vocation thru Feb 9</p>	<p>8 8a-Men's Breakfast <b>10a-NO Bible Study</b> 7:30p-Band</p>	<p>9 11a-Speaker Noon-Sr. Potluck</p>	<p>10 7:45a-Bible Class 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir</p>	<p>11 OFFICECLOSED</p>	<p>12 12:30p- RecovInc.</p>
<p>13 8&amp;10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour Noon-Israel SlideShow</p>	<p>14 VALENTINE'S DAY 10a-B-Team 1p-StephenMin 7p-Band</p>	<p>15 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 6p-Parent/ Teacher Preschool Con- ferences</p>	<p>16 <b>No Church Council</b> <i>6-8:30p-Growing Gardens</i></p>	<p>17 7:45a-Bible Class 8:30a-Preschool 10a-Dorcas Circle 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir</p>	<p>18 OFFICECLOSED</p>	<p>19 12:30p- Recovery Inc.  9 to Noon-East County Neigh- borhood As- soc.??</p>
<p>20 8&amp;10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour <b>5:30p-Confir- mation</b></p>	<p>21 OFFICE CLOSED PRESIDENT'S DAY 7p-Band</p>	<p>22 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 7:45a-Bible Class 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir</p>	<p>25 OFFICECLOSED  <i>Family Fun Night</i></p>	<p>26 12:30p- Recovery Inc. <i>9a-3p-Church Retreat @ Collins Ctr.</i> 9 to Noon-East County Neigh- borhood As- soc.??</p>
<p>27 8&amp;10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour <i>Noon-Pre-school Spaghetti Fundraiser</i></p>	<p>28 7p-Band</p>					

## Annual Preschool Fundraiser in February

January is the beginning of a new year and also the time when preschoolers learn about other countries and cultures. This year, we're learning about the Arctic region, Canada, Holland, Africa, and the Hawaiian Islands. The children learn just a little: The climate (hot or cold), some of the animals unique to the area, some of the food or native crops, and how the people live. Overall, the children learn that God made all of us and loves each of us, no matter where we live. We have a lot of fun as we learn about our "neighbors" around the world. I think what I enjoyed most was the eruption of our model volcano and singing/dancing to Jimmy Buffett's "Volcano" song. The preschool staff was definitely having as much fun (if not more) than our preschoolers.

In February we have our annual **Spaghetti Fundraiser** to benefit the preschool. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, February 27, at noon, in the Community Hall**. We will have a silent auction for baskets and, of course, a spaghetti dinner served by our Fellowship Opportunities Committee. Donations are needed for the meal and for the baskets. This is always an enjoyable event. Please join us!

If you would like to donate a basket for this event, please let Karla know. We are asking for **completed baskets** and it is helpful if we have them by Sunday, Feb 21, so that we have time to prepare for the silent auction.

Also, we like to raffle gift certificates so if you have a connection with an organization or business that would like to donate a gift certificate, please let me know. The businesses will be recognized in our letters on the tables that day. Also, I will send a letter of appreciation to the business. Thank you in advance for making this event a success for our preschool.

**Hungry for pizza?** We still offer the **Papa Murphy Peel-a-Deal Cards for \$5**. The preschool receives \$4 profit from the sale of each card and you can save money on the cost of pizza. Please see Karla or Jude in the church office if you wish to purchase a card.

We have been filled to capacity until now. However, we currently have one opening in our Juniors class (children that were 3 years old by Sept 1, 2010). If you know of a family looking for an excellent preschool program for their child, please have them contact Karla Hills in the church office, 503/256-1835. We still have four months left this school year and it would be a great lead-in to the four year -old program for next year.

It's time to begin thinking about the next school year. **Registration for the 2011-2012 school year will begin for current and alumni preschool families on Tuesday, Feb 15. Registration for families new to our preschool will be accepted starting Tuesday, March 1.** Preschool will again be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m., with lunch bunch available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by Sept 1, 2011 and toilet trained. Tuition next year will be \$140/month; lunch bunch will be \$6/day; and the registration fee is \$50 until June 1, 2011 (\$60 after June 1).

Finally, I have mentioned I am resigning from my position as preschool director effective July 1, 2011. I would like the emphasis for the remainder of the school year to be on the children and families this current school year. However, please note that there is a job posting for the Preschool Director in this newsletter and in our Gazette. Please keep our preschool ministry in your prayers as we begin our search for a new Preschool Director.

Blessings,  
Karla Hills, Preschool Director