
◆ The Olive Press ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2011

CHURCH COUNCIL

President:

Laura Britzius

VP: Lyle Johnson

Sec/Treas: Bill Herbert

Properties:

Joe Rapp

Luth. Liaison:

Tom Lewis

Evangelism:

open

Worship:

Liz Blohm

Education:

Vanessa Lindstrom

Community Action:

Hal Hingst

Stewardship:

Dick Bemrose

Fellowship:

Kim Stoffregen

Child/Fam: Christina

Riehl

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Tom Hiller

Child/Fam Min:

Maureen Hagen

Preschool Dir.:

Karla Hills

Finance Mgr.:

Cathey Myers

Parish Admin.:

Judith Rykken

Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale/Anne Van Horn

Pastor Tom's Letter

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently I read an interesting and thought provoking article entitled "Superstitious Prayers" in a magazine called The Christian Century. Below is my attempt to summarize it for you. If you would like to read the whole article, you may borrow my copy of the magazine or go to www.christiancentury.org/article/2011-02/superstitiousprayers.

Superstition is something we find everywhere in life, in our everyday lives, in the world of professional sports, and even in the field of medicine. One person who is suffering from arthritis in one of her knees resorted to putting a bar of soap in a sock, then sleeping with the socked soap next to her knee, confident that this lessened the pain in her leg.

Of course, we need to define "superstition." One person's superstition may be another person's religion. But for the sake of discussion, let's say that superstition is characterized by techniques and expectations that are not scientifically provable (or falsifiable) and apt to be regarded by many as irrational. Let's add that a superstition is a human attempt to control the uncontrollable, to manipulate chaos and produce a favorable outcome.

As Christians, we are not at all immune to superstition. Sometimes we find ourselves wondering if we might get better if we ask more people to pray for us, or maybe if we ask the right person to pray for us. In other words, if we get the ritual just so, we'll be healed, the chaos will be tamed, the unpredictability – and our suffering – will end.

Which prompts a bigger question: Is prayer always and simply superstitious? Or is there a difference between faithful prayer and a ritualistic attempt to manipulate God?

Prayer is like superstition in admitting that there are powers bigger than us, powers over which we exercise little or no control. A world totally under human control would be a world without superstition, and it would probably be a world without prayer.

But faithful prayer differs from superstition in that it does not presume control. It petitions God, the power at the center of all that is, while it does not presume on God's "answer" or response. Faithful prayer is habitual prayer, prayer that does not occur only in crisis and does not end when a crisis is resolved. Faithful prayer is part and parcel of an ongoing relationship, a lifelong conversation, a prolonged attempt not to control God but to discern God's presence and activity in all that befalls us –

the good and the bad, the desired and the undesirable. So there may be no atheists in foxholes, but prayers offered only in foxholes are superstitious prayers.

My prayers are too small if they focus on me. Secondarily, though importantly, prayer is about our personal, individual needs and desires. If this is so, faithful prayer certainly may ask for healing, but it does not ask only for healing. It seeks wisdom to see how Christ is reflected in circumstances – and not just a triumphant Christ but a suffering Christ, a Christ who underwent pain and want before he attained glory. Faithful prayer, then, asks not merely for healing but for patience and discernment and continuing faithfulness.

By comparison, a superstitious act is easy and instantaneous. It doesn't take a lot of effort to toss salt over a shoulder or nail a horseshoe above a door. And we succumb or submit ourselves to superstitious behavior only when and so long as we think it will get us what we want, sooner or later, and preferably sooner. Sometimes, when healing is a long time in coming, at the least we have the chance to learn more about patience and humility, as well as our very human vulnerability. Faithful prayer is work and not always immediately satisfying. God give me – God give us – the strength not to submit to superstition but to continue in the work of true prayer, the very work for which we were made.

May your Lent, your Holy Week, and your Easter Season be a time of faithful prayer.
In Christ, Pastor Tom



Worship Plans for April You Are Invited!

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|--------------|---|
| April 6 & 13 | Lenten Gatherings @ Noon – <i>Soup/bread with worship in the Community Hall.</i>
@ 6:30 p.m. – <i>Soup/bread in the Community Hall.</i>
@ 7:15 p.m. – <i>Worship in the Activity Room.</i> |
| April 17 | Palm and Passion Sunday @ 8 and 10:30 a.m. – <i>A procession of palms and the Story of the Passion of Christ in both services.</i> |
| April 21 | Maundy Thursday Agape Meal @ 6:30 p.m.
<i>Worship, communion, and a meal combined.</i> |
| April 22 | Good Friday @ Noon – <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
@ 7:15 p.m. – <i>A service of Light and Darkness</i> |
| April 23 | Easter Vigil @ 7:15 p.m. – <i>A service of Darkness, Light, Scripture readings, Baptism, and Communion.</i> |
| April 24 | Easter Day Worship @ 8 and 10:30 a.m.
<i>A celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.</i>
From ~ 9 to 10 a.m. – <i>Easter Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt</i> |



The Pastor's Class continues on Sundays during the education hour at 9:15 a.m. for those who want to learn more about being a Lutheran and a Christian.

The Gateway Center, a multi-service center for victims of domestic violence at 10305 East Burnside, 97216, is in need of boy's clothing. If you can help, please call 503/988-6400.

Council Highlights

As I write this, it's almost springtime and I can already feel the excitement of new things to come. I hear talk of progress and ideas for the future. As the flowers push up to find light, we shake off the darkness of winter, each of us seeking something greater. May God guide us all in our struggle to find his warmth and light.

In March the council met before the Lenten service, so it was a very short meeting. Our discussion of the community hall roof repair continued. We are still waiting for a final report from the engineers on the structural footings. The first ballpark figure from a general contractor on the remodel project put us somewhere between \$140,000 and \$175,000. We will continue on our path of learning about what needs to be done and then determine what we are willing to do. It's in our best interest to keep the community of Gethsemane safe and dry. With lots of preliminary work yet to be done, it is still possible this project could take place as soon as 2012.

We had an uplifting and positive report from Christina Riehl, Children/Family Chair, about the latest outings, including OLYO (Oregon Lutheran Youth Organization) held at Emmaus/Eugene. The youth had a great experience. C&F has lots of plans that you can help with. Watch the narthex bulletin board and the Gazette for more information. Also, Vanessa Lindstrom, Ed. Chair, said VBS is in the planning stages. Learn how you can help serve our community by lending a hand with this great program, scheduled for the week of July 11.

The Preschool Board recommended a candidate to fill the position of preschool director. It was MSC to accept the recommendation of the board to hire Katie Strobel, who will replace Karla Hills, resigning July 1. Kim Butenschoen has accepted a three year preschool board position, replacing Audrey Magnuson. Thank you to the board and to those involved in the preschool director selection committee.

God be with you all. Have a blessed Easter,
Laura Britzius, Congregation President

***Register Now for the 2011-2012 Preschool Year!** Gethsemane Preschool operates Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9 to 11:30 a.m., with lunch bunch optional from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children need to be 3 or 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2011 and toilet trained. Tuition is \$140/month; lunch bunch is \$6/day; the registration fee is \$50 until June 1, 2011 (\$60 after June 1).*

Minister for Children, Youth, and Families Update

As we begin our Lenten Journey, we walk together as a community, mindful of where we have been, all the while keeping our eyes fixed on Jerusalem. This is a time of self-reflection as we ask ourselves where God is calling us in search of mission.

Children, Youth, and Families:

Many fun events this past month, including **skating at Lloyd Center** and a **Friday Fun Night** where we came close to running out of food. At each event we had about 15 participants, which seems to be a solid average turn-out. Michelle Schie and I had a great time with ten girls for our first **Girls Overnight**. Games, pizza, *A Walk to Remember*, manicures, and talking made it fun for all. Kudos to Mandie Schie for inviting four girls. Seven of us went to the **Middle School Rally** at Emmaus Lutheran in Eugene. The kids had a blast and the adults made a lot of connections and did a lot of program planning.

As soon as we came back from Eugene, our youth helped to put on the **Shrove Tuesday** dinner. We served pancakes, eggs, and bacon to about 50 people, including seven from Daybreak. The Daybreak families also participated in creating masks and a liturgy for "*putting-away-the-alleluias.*" (continued)

Education:

During Lent we'll go online with our Spark curriculum, which has won a lot of favor with teachers and students alike. We also are using Spark worship bulletins in church. Wouldn't it be great if we were to have some Spark Bibles in the pews on Sunday?

We are still trying to finalize our decision about the VBS program for the summer. We want a curriculum that focuses on mission and is welcoming to all.

Challenges:

Reviewing our budget for the coming year, we know we have to do some serious fund-raising. **Thrivent** generously granted us \$300 to offset donations we make in Waldport but we will need more to make these programs a success. In Eugene, Christina, Michelle, and I spoke with a lot of youth leaders and learned many different ways to go about earning money. We will also be working with the kids at St. Luke's to make sure kids from both churches can participate.

Maureen Hagen, Children & Families Minister



Events since the last Council meeting:

- 16 February Spark Rotation Webinar/Council Meeting
- 21 February Field trip to Lloyd Center - Skating
- 25 February Friday Fun Night (6:00-8:00)
- 25-26 February Girls Night Out - Middle School (8 p.m. to 9 a.m.)
- 26 February Children's Day at the Cathedral
- 5-6 March Middle School Synod Event in Eugene
- 8 March Shrove Tuesday
- 12 March Calgon Group
- 15 March Children and Families/Education Board Meetings

Upcoming (until next Council meeting):

- 17-22 March Annual Meeting of Association for Episcopal Deacons, New Orleans
- 18-27 March Spring Break (No Friday Fun Night)
- 1-2 April **April Fools Middle School Lock-In** (8 p.m. to 9 a.m.)
- 3 April **Gethsemane @ OMSI**
- 8-10 April Bishop's Ball at Trinity (MEH on staff)
- 9 April Calgon Group
- 10 April **Sunday Fun: Growing @ Gethsemane**
- 13 April Lenten Soup & Bread by Education and CYF

Long-Range

- 17 April Experiential Stations of the Cross
- 27 June-1 July Mission Trip to Waldport
- 11-15 July Vacation Bible School

SHORT NOTES:

GETHSEMANE'S ANNUAL RETREAT – On Saturday, February 26, we spent time at Collins Retreat Center. Our leader was Professor Dan Brunner, who led some sessions on Spirituality. We thoroughly enjoyed our day and learned much. The "kingdom of God" is right here on earth, and that helped us understand that we can grow into what God created us to be. We also were challenged to take a day of Sabbath for ourselves. God created the earth and rested on the seventh day. We were asked to pick a day of rest for ourselves, not a day off to do chores, but to set aside time for us to be rejuvenated. All who attended were given much food for thought, and also time to reflect on it all. It was a great day!

LUTHERWOOD NEWS:

- ◇ **Work Days:** Spring Work Days are planned for April 16 and May 7. We will be assembling Adirondack chairs (12 new ones), working on the camp grounds, kitchen repair, completing Cascara (all the inside finish work and possible outside patio). Other projects may include: building benches, assembling or building picnic tables, planting flowers, preparing the garden and completing the gathering area in front of the Lodge. The days begin at 9 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Lunch and snacks are served. RSVP to office@lutherwood.org.
- ◇ **Save the Date:** Rev. Paul Hill, Executive Director of Vibrant Faith Ministries, will be the speaker at the Lutherwood Spring Celebration Dinners. There are two dinners planned: May 14, Trinity Lutheran Church, Oregon City and May 15 at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Eugene.
- ◇ **Mattress Update:** We can hardly wait to host you at Camp Lutherwood this summer. Brand new mattresses, the really nice ones, will be arriving the end of May. We are still collecting gifts for the mattress fund and appreciate continued support. Thanks to all who supported our mattress drive and the ministry at Camp Lutherwood. Sweet dreams are in order!
- ◇ **Confirmation Camp:** Please let the camp office know which week you are planning on bringing a group to Confirmation Camp (June 19-24, July 17-22, or July 31-August 5). We don't want to overbook any of these weeks. We appreciate knowing your estimated number of campers and leaders. Just send your email to office@lutherwood.org to reserve your spots. They are not officially reserved until deposits are received for each camper. Contact us if you need additional information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT – Four of our middle school youth (Crystal Hoffee, Tyler Riehl, Logan Schie and Mandie Schie) went to Eugene to stay at Emmaus Lutheran Church, joined by other middle school students from Lutheran congregations around Oregon. In all, about 60 participated. Oregon Lutheran Youth Organization (OLYO) put on and staffed the event (all high school students). Our kids had a lot of fun, shared faith stories with each other and created new bonds that we hope will continue to grow. The adults that went had a great opportunity to network with other churches in the area and share great ideas. This was the first OLYO event in which Gethsemane has participated in quite some time. The kids also created a banner to present to the congregation. Each of the four wonderful youths from Gethsemane would like to participate again next year! *A special thanks to Michelle Schie and Maureen Hagen for driving!*

SENIOR LUNCHEON – The Senior Luncheon, usually held the second Wednesday each month, will be enfolded into the mid-day soup and bread Lenten devotional for April. Seniors are encouraged to come to this weekly noon devotional throughout Lent. Also, mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 11. Gethsemane Seniors have been invited by Judy Haas, who manages the Loaves and Fishes meals at IRCO, to have the monthly meeting at this refugee center for the minimal cost of \$3 each. More details will follow.

OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH FEBRUARY 2011			
INCOME NEEDED	RECEIVED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
\$50,210	\$40,435	\$44,327	(\$9,775)
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:	2011: 131	2010: 115	CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

Preschool News

Our sixth annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser was a success! The dinner was held Sunday, Feb 27. We had a delicious spaghetti dinner, an adult and children's raffle for various gift certificates, and a silent auction for gift baskets. The preschoolers sang a few of their favorite songs.

What made this event a success? If you call such an event a "fundraiser," the obvious goal is to raise funds for the preschool. Yes, we were very successful in this goal by raising over \$4100! However, I also see some other positive outcomes from this dinner. Many congregational members and friends do not see our preschool "in action" as the preschool operates Tuesdays through Thursdays. Also, the majority of our preschool families have other church homes. This event connects our church and preschool families, and reminds our church family that preschool is one of many outreach ministries at Gethsemane.

In acknowledging people for this fundraiser, I hesitate to start listing "thank you's" to individuals as so many people were involved that I could easily miss someone. On behalf of the preschool, I would like to thank the Fellowship Opportunities Committee for organizing and serving the meal, the people who donated gift certificates or items for the raffle/auction or who donated towards the meal, the 33 gift baskets given for our silent auction, and all who purchased items or gave cash donations. I would also like to acknowledge Saylor's Old Country Kitchen, 10519 SE Stark, who donated the meat for our spaghetti sauce; The Dickens Carolers who donated 30 minutes of their time during the holiday season as part of our silent auction; and Thrivent Financial, which donated \$700 to the preschool (included in the \$4100) as well as seed money for our raffle. Thanks for everything, everyone!



March started with a celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday. We especially enjoyed our green eggs and ham for snack and hearing the story, "Green Eggs and Ham." It was fun to make our *Cat in the Hat* art projects. March's theme is "God's World in the Springtime." We have been busy with springtime crafts and learning how March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. We are looking forward to the weather changing and hopefully the month will end with warmer weather. Chapel lessons have included stories about Jesus' ministry, such as Jesus feeding the 5000. Our science lessons are about how plants grow and about animals as they come out of hibernation.

We are registering for the 2011-2012 school year. Please refer our preschool to family, friends, and neighbors with preschool age children (3 or 4 years of age by Sept. 1, 2011). Please have them contact Karla Hills in the church office, 503-256-1835, email to gethsemanepreschool@hotmail.com, or go online to glcportland.org for more information.

Enjoy Spring!
Karla Hills, Preschool Director

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		April 2011 Gethsemane Lutheran Church			1 OFFICECLOSED 8p Friday to 9a Saturday-April Fool Lock-In	2 12:30p- Recovery Inc.
3 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 9:15a-Pastor's Class 12:30p-Youth to OMSI 5:30p-Confirm.	4 7p-Band	5 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	6 <i>Noon-Soup/ Bread with Lenten Devotion</i> 6:30P-SOUP/BRD 7:15P-LENTEN SERVICE 8p-Choir	7 7:45a-Bible Class 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra	8 OFFICECLOSED	9 12:30p- RecovInc. 10a-Calgon Group <i>Middle School Bishop's Ball @ Trinity Cathed- ral</i>
10 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 9:15a-Pastor's Class 12:45p-Sunday <i>Fun/Planting</i>	11 8:30a-Preschool Staff Mtg. 10a-B-Team 1p-StephenMin 7p-Band	12 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	13 <i>Noon-Soup/ Bread with Lenten Devotion</i> 6:30P-SOUP/BRD 7:15P-LENTEN SERVICE 8p-Choir	14 7:45a-Bible Class 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra	15 OFFICECLOSED	16 12:30p- Recovery Inc.
17 PALM SUNDAY 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 9:15a-Pastor's Class <i>10a-Stations of the Cross</i> 5:30p-Confirm.	18 7p-Band	19 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	20 7p-Church Council	21 7:45a-Bible Class 10a-Dorcas Cir 1p-Orchestra 8:15p-Choir <i>6:30p- <u>Maundy Thursday</u> Agape Meal & Service</i>	22 OFFICECLOSED <i>Noon & 7:15p- <u>Good Friday</u> Services</i>	23 12:30p- Recovery Inc. <i>7:15p- <u>Easter Vigil</u> Service</i>
24 EASTER 8 & 10:30a- Worship ~9-10a-Egg Hunt, Break- fast	25 7p-Band	26 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	27	28 7:45a-Bible Class 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra NO Choir	29 OFFICECLOSED 6-8p-Family Fun Night	30 12:30p- Recovery Inc.

April Birthdays

2 Amy Deetz
4 Diane Bemrose
5 Wynn Stafford
11 Carl Perkins
13 Norm Thoreson
17 Virginia Irby
Randy Treanor
18 Vera Koosma
19 Dave Qualheim
Kyle Qualheim
23 Sonia Blohm
Aiden Lindstrom
25 Roland Haacke
27 Kay Qualheim
28 Matt Burk
30 Doug Glenn
Cameron Herbert

Anniversaries

4 Randy and Kim Treanor

Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Karen and Warren Stenberg, Alfhild Anderson, Jerry Tilkens and his sister LaVonna, Bea Jarvie, Norm and Dorothy Thoreson, George Willett, Cathey Myers' friends Beth and Tom, Steve Olson, John Skuzeski and his son Tom, Vera Koosman, Liz Blohm's niece Betty, Kim Stoffregen's mother Phyllis, Dick Boro, Katherine Eschleman, the Irby's friend Sylvan Long, Theresa Qualheim's cousin's daughter Alena, the Larson's friend Jan, Evelyn Kimpton's granddaughter Terri, Dorothy Thoreson's sister Helen Loomis, the Shouse's daughter Gloria Miller, Nettie Ubrick's grandson Michael, the Thoreson's grandson Jacob, Mae Lapsley, Randy Treanor, Stan Johnson, Roland Haacke, Ralph and Jo Nelson, Wynn and Jim Stafford and their daughter-in-law Jennifer, Galvin Irby, Dorothy Urbach, Linda Babcock, Karen Arendt, and Dorothy and Gerald Shouse.

Urgent: *Those who are ill:* Bob Edwards, Steve Rector, Vern Hopp's brother Ernest, and the Hansen's daughter Beth. *The grieving:* the family and friends of Dorothy Olson.

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
- * **Mae Lepsley**, 1280 NE Kane Dr. Fairlawn Care Ctr, Gresham, OR 97030
- * **Warren/Karen Stenberg**, 15521 SE Meadowlark Ln. Milwaukie 97267



Gethsemane Lutheran
Church Newsletter

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