
◆ The Olive Press ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2011

CHURCH COUNCIL

President:

Laura Britzius

Vice President:

Lyle Johnson

Secretary/Treasurer:

Bill Herbert

Properties:

Joe Rapp

Lutheran Liaison:

Tom Lewis

Evangelism:

open

Worship:

Liz Blohm

Education:

Vanessa Lindstrom

Community Action:

Hal Hingst

Stewardship:

Dick Bemrose

Fellowship:

Kim Stoffregen

Children & Families:

Christina Riehl

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Tom Hiller

Child/Fam Min:

Maureen Hagen

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

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,

Last year at this time I listed several things that were happening at Gethsemane. Here is an update on those things and some new ones!

- ⇒ **Ministry to Children, Youth, and Families:** Maureen Hagen, our Minister of Children, Youth, and Families has been working hard with the Children, Youth, and Family Committee and the Education Committee for over a year now. You've probably seen the increased presence of children and families among us and a corresponding increase in activities for them. Dick Bemrose, Jacque Williamson, Vanessa Lindstrom, Cathy Myers, Katrina Myers, Christina Riehl, and Michelle Schie are among those who are on the two committees. Christina represents the Children, Youth and Families Committee on the Congregation Council and Vanessa represents the Education Committee. Thanks to all of these people for their work.
- ⇒ **Website:** Julie Mankin renovated our website. She also trained Jude Rykken to maintain and update the site. It's great to see a good-looking site that is keeping pace with our activities. In addition, the Oregon Synod has initiated a site called *Soul Café*, which promises to be a great place for people and congregations to share challenges and ideas for ministry.
- ⇒ **Confirmation Class:** We completed our first year with four students and now we will begin our second year with the same four and a new student beginning his first year. The student's parents also meet with the class. We will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Sunday evening of the month, beginning September 18. Please pray for these young people as they grow in Christ!
- ⇒ **Ushers, Greeters, Communion Assistants, and Acolytes:** New folks have been added to the ranks of our ushers, greeters, and communion assistants, and now several acolytes are also joining the group. If you would like to be among these helpers, please speak with me or Liz Blohm.
- ⇒ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** We meet faithfully every Tuesday morning, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. We are now studying the book of Hosea. You are welcome to join us.
- ⇒ **Welcoming Team:** This group was formed to welcome the newcomers and new members among us. The group includes Audrey Magnuson, Carol Law, Dale Van Horn, and Roseann Libonati. Several of you have agreed to help by being mentors. If you would like to participate in this happy work, please contact me.

Elsewhere in this newsletter are mentioned other things happening among us, like the Community Hall Task Force, the Thursday Morning Bible Study, and the Calgon Group.

I hope you will be able to be part of one or more of these opportunities. I thank you for your prayers, encouragement, involvement, suggestions, and financial support for these various ministries. May the Holy Spirit bless us with power, vision, and life.

Peace in Christ Pastor Tom

Children, Youth & Families Update

I love September! Returning to school, building relationships, learning. While the first few days can be a bit hectic, soon we get used to the new routine and find comfort in the familiar. We will say good-bye to our Tuesday Trips, Kids Nite Out, and Spark Rotation until next summer. We think what we are offering will find a receptive audience.

Children, Youth, and Families: Our Tuesday Trips were a great success. Both kids and adults enjoyed visiting the Zoo, OMSI, and the Children's Museum. We saw a whole different group for Kids Nite Out which allowed us to take full advantage of the beautiful summer evenings. Our older kids had two special activities just for them: An Overnight and an evening at Oaks Park. We are grateful to **Jennifer Belmont, Dick and Diane Bemrose, Liz Blohm, Jennifer Creswell, Mark Ebberts, Roseanna Foster-Mikhail, Jay and Suzie Rector, Michelle Schie, and Shawna Swanson** for their help to make these events possible

Education: We have had a lot of fun with kids on Sundays when we have learned about Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Joseph and the Pharaoh, and Moses. Our teaching crew includes **Roseanna, Dick, and Roseann Libonati**.

We have decided to break the kids into three classes in the fall. Younger (preK-grade 2), Middlers (grade 3-5), and Older (MS and HS). We'll use Spark Lectionary for Younger and Middler and perhaps Faith Lens for Older. We're recruiting teachers and helpers right now.

On September 4, we will do backpack blessings for students and teachers and on September 11, we kick off our new program year. To mark the homecoming, we will have a potluck picnic where hot dogs and ice cream sundaes will be served. Please bring a side dish. And then Confirmation resumes on Sept 18. Confirmation is open to those who are sixth grade or above. (Please see Pastor Tom.)

Challenges: We welcome adults who care about our kids. You will be amazed at how gratifying this experience can be.

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

UPCOMING



4 September ***BACKPACK SUNDAY*** "Backpack Blessings" If you are a student or work in a school, please bring your backpack (or briefcase) to GLC for a special blessing on Sunday, Sept 4, at the 8 or the 10:30 service.



11 September ***GATHERING SUNDAY & PICNIC***
A "Homecoming Picnic" on Sunday, Sept 11, at noon.
Hot dogs and sundaes provided. Please bring a side dish to share.

11 September Youth serving at Daybreak

18 September Confirmation classes begin

*Yours in Christ,
Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen*

Council Meeting Highlights for August

The Community Hall group continues to meet monthly as it develops a plan of action with regard to the repair of the hall's aging roof. If you'd like to be a part of this dream, please speak with Shar Giard or Ernie Butenschoen. Now is the time to make your wishes heard!

Jude attended a workshop for "Servant Keeper" a church software program. Our current program is fine, however newer programs offer so much more in interfacing and reporting that a change might be in order soon.

The council voted to accept four new members into the congregation pending administrative details.

A rummage sale is in our future: Council approved a proposal from Clara Shortt & Friends to hold a rummage sale next May. Helpers wanted! Rummage wanted!

You may have noticed a lemonade stand at the corner of the church. Carrie Lusch and daughter Kylie are raising money, part of which will go to the American Cancer Society. They asked permission to put their stand on our corner. We offered them our support.

It's that time of year when the nominating committee gathers to find willing candidates for various positions, to be voted upon at the January annual meeting. Please consider serving. If the nominating committee doesn't contact you, feel free to talk to one of them (Marilee Hansen, Diane Bemrose, or Carol Law) if you are interested.**

God blesses us each and every day! God is great! Laura Britzius, GLC President

****Nominees Needed for Church Council (in January 2012):**

There are openings in Evangelism, Finance, Lutheran Liaison, and Properties.

The following positions are populated by people who are eligible to be re-elected to another two-year term: Education, Fellowship Opportunities, and Endowment Board member (a three-year term).

SHORTER NOTES:

The First Concert of the Season for Lutheran Chorale is August 28, 2011, at 7 p.m. at Savage Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1740 SE 139 in Portland. Dick Bemrose, Hal Hingst, Denise Johnson and Gloria Kelsay all sing in the chorale. The schedule for the year follows:

- **Sept 11**, 7 p.m. at **Milwaukie Lutheran Church**, 3810 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie.
- **Sept 18**, 7 p.m. at **Portland Mennonite Church**, 1312 SE 35th Ave, Portland.
- **Sept 25**, 7 p.m. at **Hillsboro Presbyterian Church**, 172 NE 32nd Ave, Hillsboro.
- **Oct 2**, 7 p.m. at **Peace Lutheran Church**, 2201 N. Rosa Parks Way, Portland.
- **Christmas Concert is January 8**, 2012 at 3 p.m. at **Peace Lutheran Church**, 2201 N. Rosa Parks Way, Portland.

Take Your Brain Back to School with Roger Anunsen, who has taught a brain wellness course at Gethsemane here in recent years. Roger will present a new program on brain wellness at **11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept 14**. A stimulating lecturer, Roger keeps our brains in full operation, so plan to attend and ask a friend to join you. A potluck meal will follow at noon. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy this event. (*Of note: Roger has been appointed by Gov. Kitzhaber to serve on a statewide Alzheimer Task Force.*)

To Follow and To Serve is the theme of the 2011-12 women's Bible study which takes us through the Gospel of Mark. During our study we'll explore *"Who is Jesus?, What is discipleship?, What is meant by the Kingdom of God?"* and other subjects as we travel together through Mark. The study is featured in **Gather for Faith and Action**, the magazine of the Women of the ELCA. It is also available on the internet at gathermagazine.org.

Our first session in "To Follow & To Serve" will be **Thursday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m.** in the Conference Room. All the women of Gethsemane are invited to participate. This Bible study will meet on the third Thursday of each month. We'll read the Gospel of Mark, learn about the life and culture in Jesus' time, and explore our faith. It promises to be an interesting series, so come and bring a friend. Carol Law

⇒ **Lutheran World Relief School Kits** will be assembled and shipped in the spring, but the school supply sales are NOW so please help as you are able. These school kits are a tremendous help to children around the world. A few changes in the items they need: Ball point pens, crayolas (16-24), 70 sheet spiral notebooks, rulers, blunt scissors and 2.5 inch erasers. Thanks so much for your help!

Leave a Legacy for Ministry

As you may recall, several years ago we established a Mission Endowment Fund and it has been collecting gifts and making distributions for several years now. Lots of good things have happened as a result.

The Mission Endowment Board wants to lift up Leaving a Legacy for Ministry and continue the focus on the third leg of the stewardship stool, which is legacy gifting. These final four months of the year are a good time to review your legacy gifting plans at the same time you review your commitments for the upcoming year.

If you are doing some year-end tax planning and need to make additional gifts, you have the choice of the general budget and/or the Mission Endowment Fund. If you are over 70 ½ and are in a position to make additional gifts, one option is to give all or a portion of the required minimum distribution from your IRA. Those funds can be given directly to charity and both the general fund and the Mission Endowment Fund can accept those gifts.

If you have any questions please contact a Board Member: Rod Hills, Scott Blohm, Gloria Kelsey, Marion Burgess and Tonia Lindquist.

Camp Lutherwood is Fun!



Pastor Tom, Dick Bemrose, and our confirmands, Tyler Riehl, Christine Wong, Mandy Schie, and Logan Schie had a great time at Camp Lutherwood. Together we learned about the Bible, made crafts, swam, sang songs, hiked, climbed walls, participated in group trust and leadership activities, and slept in tents. Thanks to everyone who financially supported our trip to Camp Lutherwood.



OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH JULY 2011

INCOME NEEDED	RECEIVED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
\$150,630	\$153,916	\$160,614	\$21,818
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:	2011: 139	2010: 99	CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	SEPTEMBER 2011 GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH					3 12:30p- RecovInc.
4 8 & 10:30a- Worship <i>(Blessing of the Backpacks)</i> 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum	5 LABOR DAY/ OFFICE CLOSED	6 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-NO Band 9A-PRESCHOOL BEGINS	7	8 9:30a-Quilting 7p-Choir Begins	9 OFFICECLOSED	10 12:30p- RecovInc. 10a-Calgon Group
11 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum <i>NOON-PICNIC/ POTLUCK DAYBREAK WEEK</i> ←	12 7p-Band 10a-B-Team 1p-StephenMtg. 6:30p-Finance Mtg.	13 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-NO Band <i>5p-MutMINMtg</i> 6p-Children/ FamilyMtg. 7p-EducatMtg.	14 11a-Speaker <i>(Brain Wellness with Roger An- nunsen)</i> Noon-SrPotluck	15 10a-Dorcas Cir- cle/1st session <i>"To Follow & To Serve"</i> 7p-Choir	16 OFFICECLOSED	17 12:30p- RecovInc.
18 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum 5:30p- Confirmation	19 7p-Band Jude on vaca- tion Sept 19-22 →	20 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	21 3p-Stewardship Meeting 7p-Church Council	22 9:30a-Quilting 7p-Choir	23 OFFICECLOSED	24 12:30p- RecovInc.
25 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum	26 7p-Band Pastor Tom @ Cont. Educa- tion thru 27th →	27 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	28 Jude on vaca- tion Sept 28/29 →	29 9:30a-Quilting 6p-Trike-a-thon 7p-Choir	30 OFFICECLOSED	

September Birthdays

4 Ron Stafford
 6 Virginia Barton
 7 Jim Stafford
 9 Darlene Lewis
 Cathey Myers
 12 Tom Lewis
 14 Karen Reagan
 Eric Qualheim
 Tamara Schaffner
 Bailey Willimason
 17 Joann Weaver
 18 Jenece Butenschoen
 19 Vanessa Lindstrom

21 Mary Curtis
 23 Hal Hingst
 27 Betty Hahn
 Virginia McCormick
 Jacob Hills
 29 Galven irby

September Anniversaries

4 Ken & Marilee Hansen
 18 Norm & Dorothy
 Thoreson
 20 Carrie & Aaron Berg

Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Roland Haacke; Wynn & Jim Stafford, and their daughter-in-law Jennifer; Galvin Irby; Linda Babcock; Karen Arendt; Dorothy & Gerald Shouse and their daughter Gloria Miller; Karen & Warren Stenberg; Alfhild Anderson; Jerry Tilkens; Bea Jarvie; Norm & Dorothy Thoreson; George Willett; Cathey Myer's friend Beth; John Skuzeski & his son Tom; Penny Thoreen; Vera Koosman; Doug McDowell; Liz Blohm's niece Betty; Joe Rapp's sister Nancy; Kim Stoffregen's mother Phyllis; Dick Boro; Marion Burgess' sister-in-law Darlene; Katherine Eshleman; Lillian Huston, Evelyn Kimpton's granddaughter Terri, Nettie Ubrick's grandson Michael, & Stan Johnson.

Urgent: *Those who are ill:* Kim Stoffregen's nephew Rick, Ralph Nelson, Randy Treanor, Maureen Hagen's friend David McKinley, Bob Edwards, Karen Arendt's sister-in-law Lois; and Evelyn Kimpton.

Those who are grieving: The family and friends of Helen Heil; of the Larson's friend Jan Christiansen; of Kim Stoffregen's father, Richard Johnson; and of Darlene Kuehmichel's friend Shirley.

Homebound Brothers & Sisters

Lucille Langseth Pacific Gardens, 17309 NE Glisan St., #402 Portland 97230 (503)256-0553

Warren/Karen Stenberg, 15521 SE Meadowlark Ln. Milwaukie 97267



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