
◆ The Olive Press ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 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.:

Cathey 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,

Some random thoughts concerning our life together in the world, our nation, and our synod:

1) We grieve with the people of Norway as they confront the reality of so many people killed so ruthlessly by someone with a political agenda. One knee jerk reaction to the news was to assign it to some sort of Middle Eastern Islamist terrorist. What a shock it has been to many that the alleged perpetrator is a good looking, blond, Norwegian young man. Yet, the reality of evil is that it can be found in anyone, in various forms. That's why our ultimate hope lies in God's remedy for our situation.

2) With the news dominated by the massacre in Norway, the debt ceiling in the United States, and the tragic death of Amy Winehouse, it's easy to overlook the fact that tens of thousands of Somalis have died from hunger in the last few months. There are fears that the drought and hunger will spread further into the area known as the "Horn of Africa." It's comforting to know that our own Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Disaster Response is one of the best agencies in the world for fighting this kind of disaster. As good as that agency is, the problems continue as long as war, greed, and the reluctance of nations to address the underlying problems continue.

3) Some in the ELCA and the Oregon Synod have said that now that our church has spoken on the issue of ordination of gay people in committed relationships and the welcoming of gay people to our congregations that we can now leave that subject behind and move on to other things. But as long as gay people continue to face unequal treatment in marriage laws, housing, jobs, and public safety, we, as the church, still need to speak and act. We need to denounce inequality. We need to announce God's embrace of all people, including homosexual people. We need to work for fair laws in our life as citizens of our state and nation.

4) Admittedly, I find the subject of the debt ceiling, national budgets, taxes, and the economy beyond confusing. I have little to offer as to the best course of action. However, I do believe that one of the considerations on the top of the list needs to be the effect of our decisions on the most vulnerable, the seniors, the children, the poor, the sick, and the unemployed. I think that there can be honest differences of opinion between caring people about the best course of action. But when we fail to put the vulnerable first and concentrate more on political or selfish economic advantage, we are sinning. As a nation we need to repent from striving for selfish gain in the government and in the economy and renew our efforts to build a nation that protects and encourages the vulnerable.

That's enough of my random thoughts. What are your thoughts, random or otherwise? I pray that your summer will be filled with fun, recreation, work, rest, and thoughts.

In Jesus' Name, Pastor Tom Hiller

Pastor Tom, Dick Bemrose, and the Confirmation Class will be at Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwood Sunday afternoon, July 31 through Friday, August 5.

Children, Youth & Families Update

The past two months have been *so* full – very little slowing down for the summer! We continue to reach out to families. Many of the seeds planted in the past year landed on very good soil and bear witness to the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

Children, Youth, and Families. Gethsemane had a great **Celebration of Children and Youth** on June 26. Our kids greeted people, handed out bulletins, did the readings, helped with the offering, and acolyted. **Brandon, Christine, Logan, Mandie, and Tyler** were commissioned as acolytes, wearing new robes and cinctures. Each received a special pectoral cross. We're now ready to start training new acolytes (5th grade and older).

The **Mission Trip** to Waldport was a wonderful experience. We had 15 participants: 11 youth (Aaron, Alec, Brandon, Christine, Jasmine, Logan, Mandie, Nicole, Ryan, Sierra, Tyler) and four adults (Christina, Mark, Maureen, and Michelle). We worked with the Seashore Literacy Center, cleaning, sorting, organizing, moving, playing, and encouraging. Most of our time was spent with the younger children who were there on a 12-week summer program. We learned about the unique challenges of poverty on the Oregon Coast. **The Rev. Deacon Senitila McKinley** who founded the Center inspired all of us with her compassion and her passion. Apart from service work, the kids made the group dinners and did a lot of cleaning. We ended the week at the Oregon Coast Aquarium. The consensus is that we should do this again.

Our **fundraising** has been successful, raising about \$3,000 so far, which covers the cost of the mission trip and part of the camp costs. We still need a bit more for our continuing activities, but we are confident that will happen.

Over the summer we're making a few excursions to the Oregon Zoo, OMSI (the Narnia exhibit), and Children's Museum. The Youth will have an overnighter and a trip to Oaks Park in August to celebrate the end of summer.

Education: We honored our children's primary teachers this year: **Roseanna Foster-Mikhail, Karla Hills, Lyle Johnson, Roseann Libonati, Vanessa Lindstrom, Christina Riehl, and Michelle Schie.**

Many churches suspend Sunday School in the summer in order to give teachers a much-needed respite, but many families stop coming so we decided to see what would happen if we offered classes for kids. **Roseanna Foster-Mikhail** and I have been teaching the younger kids and **Dick Bemrose** and **Roseann Libonati** the older kids. We usually have about 10 kids on Sunday, which is good. We would love to have more people assist in the classroom.

VBS (July 11-15) was quite a success. **Christina Riehl, Jacque Williamson, and Vanessa Lindstrom** did all the planning and they were assisted by about three dozen volunteers. About 55 kids attended. The painted windows will be with us for a few weeks so we can remember the joy this event produced.

Challenges: We still need adult volunteers for our activities (about an hour or two a month).

Upcoming:

3 AUGUST	KIDS NITE OUT
9 AUGUST	TUESDAY TRAVELIN' TRIP TO OMSI (NARNIA)
10 AUGUST	KIDS NITE OUT
14 AUGUST	BAPTISM!
17 AUGUST	KIDS NITE OUT
18 AUGUST	YOUTH OVERNIGHT
24 AUGUST	KIDS NITE OUT
27 AUGUST	OAKS PARK (GRADE 6+)
31 AUGUST	KIDS NITE OUT

Please hold our children, youth, and families in your prayers. Maureen-Elizabeth Hagen

Coming Up at Gethsemane: We Need You!

- Can you help out by teaching or assisting once a month? We have the materials and they're great! We offer training to all who want it.
- Are you someone who likes to have fun and would like to be one of the adult leaders on our Tuesday excursions? (For example, trips to OMSI and the Children's Museum.)
- Would you like to watch kids as they have fun on Wednesday nights?

All of these are fun. All of them require adult leaders. *Come and see how great our kids are!* Contact Maureen for more information.

Council Meeting Highlights for July

The July council meeting was in the middle of Daybreak week and during Kid's Night Out. It's wonderful to see the building and grounds being utilized by our community.

We welcomed Katie Strobel to her first council meeting and learned about current enrollment status and her efforts to let the community know about our preschool openings this fall.

With a light agenda, discussions centered on the community hall and reports from the group meetings that are taking place to help us in our efforts to preserve and/or restructure and grow our ministry in and around Gethsemane. The community hall committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. In June, we looked at a sample guideline to facilitate the development of the project and keep us on track. It's being modified to fit our idea of a development target date. The committee is developing a questionnaire to help us understand what others need/want/envision of the community hall. We plan to meet with the congregation and community groups that use our facility and ask them to fill out the questionnaire. Many people and committees are involved: Stewardship, Worship, and Community Action to name a few. I hope you'll get in on the discussion! Pray that the spirit guides each and every one of us in this endeavor that we may continue to provide for our community as Christ would have us do.

Bless you all, Laura Britzius, GLC President

Welcome Some of Our Newer Members

- **Darcy and Mike Harding** affirmed their baptism and joined Gethsemane at the same time their granddaughter **Raelyn Berry** was baptized on Father's Day. Darcy Harding was living in North Pole, Alaska (on Santa Claus Lane!) when she met Mike, who had come there to visit his sister. He convinced her to come to the "lower 48" in 1985, and they were married in Olympia, WA. Mike worked in the printing industry in the Seattle area where his family lives, and Darcy also held various positions in printing, ending up in accounting. In 2000 they moved to Portland to be near Mike's sister who was in poor health. They love Portland but have had a hard time in a difficult economy, with periods of unemployment and difficult family problems. Their daughter and two grandchildren recently moved in with them after her fiance died suddenly. "We have really appreciated the warm welcome we've received from Pastor Tom and the members of Gethsemane. It has been a grounding experience. We have found peace and strength and acceptance here," said Darcy. Mike has found employment again and Darcy does childcare for family and friends. Hopefully, things are looking up for them.
- **Ethel and Al Marsh** joined Gethsemane on Mother's Day and are devotees of the 8 a.m. worship service. They have lived in Portland for six years and previously attended Resurrection Lutheran. They spent their working life in Iowa City, Iowa where Al was with the University of Iowa and Ethel worked for Proctor and Gamble. They retired to Minnesota 13 years ago and settled in Malmo, a small town on Lake Mille Lacs, to be near relatives. During their Minnesota retirement they spent winters in Texas and often did computer consulting and taught classes on computer use to seniors. With one son living in Minneapolis, they made frequent trips there to see him and their grandchildren. With those kids now grown, Ethel and Al decided to move to Portland to be near their other son and grandchildren as they were growing up. Ethel enjoys walking and reading, Al enjoys photography and they like living at Summer Place.

- **Yung Cheng and Su Ling Wong** and their children **Christine and Daniel** have been at Gethsemane for a while now and are enjoying being part of the congregation. They both were born and grew up in Taiwan and Yung Cheng (known as Y.C.) came to the U.S. when he was 23, after his parents had settled here. Later he returned to Taiwan to marry Su Ling and brought her to Portland. He studied at community college, learned English and now works for Intel in wafer fabrication as a Manufacturing Tech. Her family still lives in Taiwan so they return for visits when they can, the last time about two years ago. Y.C.'s family lives near Gethsemane; their children went to the preschool here while they worshiped at the Chinese Free Methodist Church. As the children grew older, they felt it was important that the children study the Bible in English instead of Chinese, so they joined Gethsemane. Christine, 13, is at Floyd Light Middle School and Daniel, 7, attends Cherry Park School. Su Ling is an at-home mother. Christine is an acolyte now and has given several solo classical piano performances at the church, as well as flying the "spirit dove" on Pentecost Sunday.

SHORT NOTES:

Evelyn Kimpton is at home (11555 SE Salmon, Portland, 97216). Please call first if you plan to visit (503.254.4192).

The Family of Ken and Marilee Hansen appreciate the support of Pastor Tom and members of the congregation at the time of Ken's sister, Alice Hansen's, death. The prayers, cards and food were very helpful during this stressful time. Blessings to all! Ken and Marilee.

We Want to Thank All of You for your prayers, words of encouragement, and cards before and after the death of my mom, Mae Sasseen Lapsley. We felt your thoughts and prayers. We're grateful that she is in a better place now, and pain free. Diane Bemrose and family.

Thank You for the prayers, cards, and gifts given in memory of my mother, Dorothy. The family and I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness and support. Gary Urbach

Transportation for Those Unable to Drive: If you are able and willing to help out by driving others, either to church and its activities, or to appointments, grocery shopping, etc. please call the church office or talk to Roseann Libonati.

Our Thanks to Cross Pest Control, Ryan Lindstrom's company, for coming out and quickly and efficiently taking care of our recent pest problem at church.

The Beautiful New Brick wall and planter that grace the outside corner of the sanctuary were made possible with a very generous donation by Ida Olson and money from Thrivent Choice Dollars designated to Gethsemane by our Thrivent members. Thank you, Ida and Thrivent, for making this wonderful addition possible, and thanks to Ida's nephew, Dean Hanson of Hanson Masonry, who did the brickwork. (New signs for the wall will be part of an upcoming project!) Another big thank you goes to Dale Van Horn who hauled and shoveled an entire pickup load of planting soil into the planter. I couldn't have accomplished that task without his assistance. Thank you so much, Dale, for volunteering your help. I hope everyone will enjoy the flowers this summer. Gloria Kelsay (*And thank you, Gloria! Ed.*)

The Service on Sunday, August 7, will be a Hymn Sing with Communion — Come prepared with favorite hymns in mind that you'd like to sing.

Daybreak Was Great in July — it was a complete success, but it had its challenges. However, we overcame those challenges and learned a few things in the process. Thanks to all who participated.

You're Invited to a *House Blessing* at Colleen Barnett's new home on August 21 at 2 p.m. Her address is 4246 NE 125 Place, between Shaver and Sandy. All are welcome.

OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH JUNE 2011			
INCOME NEEDED	RECEIVED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
\$150,630	\$127,442	\$138,178	(\$23,188)
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:	2011: 140	2010: 108	CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Confirmation Camp through August 5	1 7p-Band	2 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	3 6-8p-Kids Nite Out	4	5 OFFICECLOSED	6 12:30p- Recovery Inc.
7 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum 6p-Newcomer's Dinner	8 7p-Band 10a-B-Team	9 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 10a-3p-OMSI, Narnia	10 6-8p-Kids Nite Out	11 9:30a-Quilting	12 OFFICECLOSED	13 12:30p- RecovInc. 10a-Calgon Group
14 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum	15 7p-Band	16 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 6P-CHILDREN/ FAMILYMTG. 7P-EDUCMTG.	17 3P-STEWARDSHIP MTG. 4:30p-Endow- ment Bd. 6-8p-Kids Nite Out 7p-Church Council	18 12:30P-PRE- SCHOOL Bd MTG. 9:30a-Quilting 8p-9a-Middle School Lock-In	19 OFFICECLOSED	20 12:30p- Recovery Inc.
21 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum	22 7p-Band	23 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 7P-COMMUNITY HALL GROUP 5P-MUTUAL MIN- ISTRY 10a-3p-Child- ren's Museum	24 6-8p-Kids Nite Out	25 9:30a-Quilting	26 OFFICECLOSED	27 12:30p- Recovery Inc. 5-10p-Oaks Park (MidSch)
28 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum	29 7p-Band	30 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	31 6-8p-Kids Nite Out	AUGUST 2011 GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH		

August Birthdays

2 Bev Sperling
 7 Gerald Shouse (97)
 8 Rian Kelsay
 Grace Hurlman
 14 Earl DeHaven
 15 Roger Vidlund
 Carrie Berg
 16 Ethel Marsh
 Laura Kahler
 19 Jill Olson
 20 Adam Johnson
 22 Rob Cumming
 29 Don Shiard

August Anniversaries

2 Joe/Shirla Rapp
 8 Kraig/Linda Fletcher
 14 Bob/Carol Law
 14 Bob/Pat Edwards
 15 Harvey/Carol Steele
 15 Kim/Ernie Buten-
 schoen (30th)
 27 Dale/Ann VanHorn
 (35th)

Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Nettie Ubrick's grandson Michael; Randy Treanor; Stan Johnson; 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 Tilken; 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; David McKinley; Kim Stoffregen's mother Phyllis; Dick Boro; Marion Burgess' sister-in-law Darlene; Katherine Eshleman; the Larson's friend Jan; Lillian Huston, and Evelyn Kimpton's granddaughter Terri.

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

Urgent: *Those who are ill:* Bob & Patsy Edwards, Evelyn Kimpton, Kim Stoffregen's nephew Rick, Ralph Nelson, Cathey Myers, and Kent Cumming.



Gethsemane Lutheran
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