
◆ The Olive Press ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2011

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Children & Families:

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Tom Hiller

Child/Fam Min:

Maureen Hagen

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

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Parish Admin.:

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Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

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Brooke Benfield

Custodians:

Dale/Anne Van Horn

Pastor Tom's Letter Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, the subject of the death penalty has been raised again in Oregon. I oppose the death penalty and I would like to explain why.

My opposition is based on a social statement originally approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 1991. A copy of this statement can be found on the internet at <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Death-Penalty.aspx> or I can e-mail it to you or you can get a hard copy from the counter in the narthex of the church. The statement includes a fuller explanation of its opposition and also references to pertinent material in the Bible and Lutheran tradition.

We live in a violent world. Often, we do not know exactly how to respond to those who work deeds of violence in our society. Christians and Jews have struggled with these same realities for centuries. In the church, including the ELCA, there are differences of opinion concerning the death penalty as a response to violent crimes. Nevertheless, the ELCA has spoken out against the death penalty.

As Lutheran Christians we believe that God orders society and promotes justice and involves governmental structures in that process. The state has a responsibility to God in promoting justice under God's final judgment.

We also believe that as the Church of Christ we are called to proclaim God's love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, what we call the Gospel or the Good News. Part of that proclamation is our work in restoring people and communities who have suffered from violence.

The death penalty might serve the idea of retribution or vengeance but it does little to restore victims and communities. We can protect society through the use of prisons and other institutions, which also hold out the possibility of conversion and restoration. The death penalty does not heal.

Instead of limiting violence, the death penalty ends up being part of the cycle of violence. It cannot be proved that it has a deterrent effect on criminals. In fact, it harms the very society that we wish to protect. A graph published in a recent Christian Century magazine shows that from 1990 until the present, the murder rate in states without the death penalty is lower than the murder rate in states with the death penalty. The death penalty does not work.

The practical application of the death penalty tends to be wrongly influenced by racial and economic factors. Furthermore, sometimes the wrong person is convicted and there is no way of reversing an execution. It is important to remember that Jesus himself was wrongly convicted and executed by the Roman government. The death penalty is not fair.

As a church we are called to offer the peace and reconciliation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Christian citizens we are called to support our government in rightly doing justice and protecting the weak. I urge you to discuss this with me and others, to study the social statement, and to contact your state representatives and senators to voice your opinion about the death penalty.

In the Peace of Christ, Pastor Tom

Council Synopsis

Giving thanks! I'd like to start by giving thanks to all of you who participated in the congregation listening sessions to discuss the community hall and its future. We heard your comments, ideas, and concerns and we are blessed with that space. It is apparent you want to keep it, in what size or shape has yet to be determined. For council notes, please see the draft of the minutes in the narthex. At this time I would like to share with you the feedback from the listening sessions on the community hall. Please note that in Number 5, the word "minimally" has been replaced with "essential" when speaking about repairs.

Yours in Christ, Laura Britzius, Congregation President

Time for Listening, the Results

Several meetings were held during the last week of September with the congregation and the community in an effort to define the Community Hall — its uses, its future, and the way to proceed. Because the Community Hall needs some very necessary repairing and revamping, the meetings were a way to gauge the wishes and visions of the people who use this space. This feedback from "Time for Listening" is encapsulated in the brief report below, as follows:

1. The Community Hall suggests to the community: (a) a centrally-located gathering place; (b) outreach; (c) minimal cost and more space available for community events; (d) an accessible space on one level with easy parking.
2. The Community Hall suggests to the congregation: (a) a place for special events; (b) something good for the community; (c) an opportunity to combine our members in different ways; (d) a place to engage in fellowship.
3. The best use of our Community Hall in our ministry to the community around us is (a) as an after-school drop-in center for kids, or as an adult, homeless warming center; (b) use as a school emergency space; (c) increasing publicity and communication about the space; (d) for the use of Daybreak Shelter.
4. The best use of our Community Hall in our life together as a congregation is as (a) a space for receptions, family events, funerals, etc.; (b) a useful space which would preclude members and newcomers from having to seek other off-site locations for their events; (c) a flexible space in terms of size and use.
5. When discussing whether to do just the essential repairs, to remodel, or to completely rebuild the Community Hall, the result was (a) a major rebuild (need to see costs) is essential; (b) the wood dance floor is of historical value and should be saved; (c) kitchen, bathrooms and plumbing need to be updated; (d) Community Hall and its uses should be continued.

Children, Youth & Families Update by Maureen Hagen

As our program year advances, it is crucial that we expand our base of people willing to commit to our children, youth, and families. Often people say they are too busy or lack the skills for working with younger people. However, this labor-intensive ministry relies on bodies to help out in the classroom, to be an extra eye to monitor activities, to help with set-up and clean-up, and to show our kids that they are loved by our congregation.

Our specific needs are for (1) **Two more teachers** for the Middlers (kids in grades 2-5). They need a lot of TLC – and they return it!; (2) **Teacher assistants** for the Explorers to help the teachers with our littlest ones; (3) **A snack overseer** to get snacks ready for the dozen or so kids who come; (4) **Adult leaders/drivers** for our off-site events; (5) People to **help with the overnights**, with set up, sleep over, clean up. After being awake for 26 hours, it would be a blessing to have some help. Our next overnight is New Year's Eve; (6) People to **help with special events**. On Nov 20 we have our famous pie-making extravaganza between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. On Nov 27, we are having our Advent E-vent. Can you make some soup? Demonstrate a craft? Help set up or clean up?

Special thanks to Michelle Schie and Burke Strobel for being overnight hosts, Rod and Karla Hills for several hours of prep work, and Erika Rasmussen for setting up and cleaning up at the last Overnight (10/14-15). Also, Liz and Scott Blohm who provided rides and adult leadership on our trip to Leipold Farms; and our teachers for their wonderful ministry: Dick Bemrose, Ernie Butenschoen, Kim Butenschoen, Amy Deetz, Roseanna Foster-Mikhail, Pr. Tom, Karla Hills, Roseann Libonati, and Michelle Schie.

I am a firm believer in the importance of failing on occasion. It demonstrates that we have pushed the limits a bit too much and the time is not ripe. We inaugurated the Xs & Ys in September. This is a group bringing together Millennials and Gen-Xers in a social setting. It seemed like a good idea and I tried it because several had asked for such an event. On the scheduled night, three people came – all Boomers. I thought this indicated there really was no interest, but it turns out that people did approach me and wanted to do it but there had not been enough notice. So we are trying again on Nov 17.

More successfully, we went to Leipold Farms. A beautiful day combined with great kids (and adults) meant a very fun time for all. Later that evening, we had our October Overnight and 16 kids attended! Because we encourage kids to bring friends, we had kids from five or six school districts ranging from 6th to 10th grade. They had a lot of fun and managed to get in at least 90 minutes of sleeping! It was fun reading their comments on Facebook the next day. They have really developed a network.

Our education curricula has been well received by kids and teachers. We have wide fluctuations in attendance, normal in most churches. Our highest attendance was over 20 and our lowest was four. As I tell our teachers, we are concerned less with numbers than with those children who are before us that morning. Fortunately, our curricula is flexible enough so that students who attend less regularly can still fully participate. At the Education Meeting, the program director for Lutherwood Day Camp told us about a popular alternative to packaged VBS programs. We've tentatively agreed to go forward with Day Camp for 2012.

Tom Lewis Receives Award

The 2011 annual *Spirit of Portland Awards* on October 27 honored Tom Lewis, Chairperson of Centennial Community Association, and overall terrific citizen and neighbor, with a special award from Commissioner Fish. This is a big honor for Tom, and a well deserved one, too! A few weeks ago, he was asked who might be invited on his behalf and, in typical Tom fashion, he said it wasn't about him, but about the community. He said he wanted anyone who is invested in East Portland and/or the Centennial Community to be there to show their support and excitement for East Portland. Our congratulations to Tom! Add your congratulations via email to gamodato@aol.com.

Preschool Update by Katie Strobel, Preschool Director

October ended with preschoolers being very busy. Our overall theme was how special we all are to God. We compared ourselves to pumpkins and learned how God loves every person and every pumpkin no matter how s/he looks. We learned how cleaning out a pumpkin to make a jack-o-lantern with a glowing smile is just like what Jesus wants us to do: Clean out the "gunk" inside of us so that we can let our lights shine.

On a field trip to Bushue's Farm we picked pumpkins and made "dirt babies." If you see a preschooler ask how long their "dirt baby's" hair is. There was a fun hay maze, lots of animals to see (the overly-friendly pigs liked to nibble on fingers and toes), and a tractor ride.

At our Halloween Party the kids came in costume and decorated pumpkins with their families. We had a cookie walk and made jack-o-lantern necklaces that said "Shine with the light of Jesus." November will bring more fun as we teach our preschoolers what it means to be thankful to God.

- ***The Sound of Music*** is presented by the Gresham High School Performing Arts Dept. November 10-20. Evening performances are at 7 p.m. and matinees are at 2 p.m. Laurel Strobel has a part as a nun. To reserve seats, please call 503.674.5516. Tickets are \$12/adults and \$10/students and seniors. Or go to ghsdrama.yolasite.com.
- ***Do You Have Good News?*** Would you like to celebrate and thank God for something good that has happened in your life? In someone else's life? Would you like to thank someone in the church for something they did for you or for the church? If you have Good News to share, please let us know in the office. and we'll let others know about it also in the Gazette or the Olive Press.
- ***Help is Needed*** SnowCap serves almost 10,000 people each month and is running close to empty. Often, the people who come to food banks are disabled, ill or otherwise in a weakened condition. Therefore we especially need wholesome food that promotes health. The ability to bounce back depends on many things, but good food is essential. Our recession-ravaged neighbors need our help.
Please help fill the SnowCap barrel in the narthex!

Protecting "The Least of These"

Many Oregonians are hungry. In June of this year, almost 777,000 people were using food stamps, an increase of 64% in the last five years. About a third of all children in Oregon are not sure when their next meal will be. That "food insecurity" is worse in Oregon than in any other state.

Faith leaders have joined together to keep programs that protect the poor. They have formed a "Circle of Protection" around programs that meet the essential needs of hungry and poor people here and around the world. "We believe the moral measure of the debate is how the most poor and vulnerable people fare. We look at every budget proposal from the bottom up - how it treats 'the least of these.' Budgets are moral documents and how we reduce future deficits are historical and defining moral choices." Next steps:

- Call, mail, or email your federal legislator to maintain the programs that protect the poor and vulnerable.
- Visit Bread for the World's website to read about "Hunger and the U.S. Budget."
- Attend the November OFRAH (Oregon Faith Roundtable Against Hunger) meeting (go to their website at ofrah.net for more information).
- Pray

(Excerpted & revised from Church Women United Newsletter/jwr)

Thanks to You. . .

- "Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$400 in support of Habitat for Humanity's Thrivent Builds! With your donation, you are partnering with local congregation members to make it possible for a hard-working family in our community to afford a simple, decent home of their own." *Habitat for Humanity*
- "Loaves & Fishes Cherry Blossom Center would like to thank you for the \$895 gift. Our mission is to keep seniors healthy and happy, and in their own homes." *Loaves & Fishes*
- "Deep appreciation for your recent donation of \$250 to the Daybreak Shelter (which) supports and empowers the least fortunate among us." *Human Solutions*
- "Gift to Campus Ministry office of \$150.00. 2011 giving to date: \$500." *Pacific Lutheran University*

(Compiled by Hal Hingst, Community Outreach Chair)

Come to the FAIR TRADE & HANDMADE FAIR!

We encourage all of you to get involved in our new fall event on **Saturday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** and on **Sunday, November 20, between and after worship services.** We need many hands and many customers to make this a success. Truly, *it's God's work . . . our hands.* So what is the concept?

The **FAIR TRADE** part will present a large consignment of items for sale, made by native craftspeople from around the world who receive fair wages for their work. All proceeds from their sale will go to Lutheran World Relief to help continue support of these workers.

The **HANDMADE** part will present items made by our own people, carefully hand-crafted for sale, with all proceeds going to support the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Also included in this segment will be a bake sale with a variety of treats available for your holiday festivities.

If you have a special handmade item that you could donate for sale, if you have a food speciality for the bake sale, if you can help during the event, we need you! Contact Audrey Magnuson or the church office to volunteer. Sign-up sheets will be available.

Save these dates! Bring your family and friends to do some holiday shopping. It's a great opportunity for fun and festivity while helping others.

— *Sponsored by The Gethsemane Quilters*

OFFERING, INCOME & BUDGET REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2011

INCOME NEEDED	RECEIVED	ACTUAL EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE
\$225,945	\$192,866	\$202,851	\$33,078

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE: 2011: 125
2010: 116

CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 6p-Children/ Family Mtg. 7p-Education Mtg.	2	3 7:45a- BEAKFAST BIBLEST 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	4 OFFICECLOSED	5 12:30p- RecovInc.
6 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum 5:30 p.m.- Confirmation	7 7p-Band	8 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band 5p-Mutual Min- istry Mtg. 7p-Community Hall Group	9 11a-SPEAKER NOON- SRPOTLUCK 4:30p- Endowment Board Mtg.	10 7:45A- BEAKFAST BIBLEST 9:30a-Quilting 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir	11 OFFICECLOSED	12 12:30p- RecovInc. 10a-Calgon Group
13 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum <i>DAYBREAK HERE THIS WEEK</i> ←	14 7p-NO Band 10a-B-Team 10:30a-Pre- school Bd. Mtg. 1p-StephenMtg. 6:30p-Finance Committee	15 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-NO Band	16 7p-Church Council 3p-Stewardship Mtg.	17 7:45A- BEAKFAST BIBLEST 10a-Women's Bible Study 1p-Orchestra 7p-Choir 6 to 8p-XY Din- ner (Potluck)	18 OFFICECLOSED	19 12:30p- RecovInc. Nov 19-20- HANDMADE & FAIRTRADE FAIR
						→
20 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum <i>5:30 p.m.- Confirmation</i> 9:30-3p-Pie Ex- travaganza 3-6p-Leach Botanical Gar- dens	21 7p-Band	22 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	23 7:15p- Thanksgiving Eve Service	24 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED	25 OFFICECLOSED	26 12:30p- RecovInc. <i>Afternoon- Community Hall in use (Butenschoens)</i>
27 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour; Adult Forum <i>Advent E-vent</i>	28 7p-Band	29 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 7:30p-Band	30 7:15p-Advent Service			
<p>NOVEMBER 2011 GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH</p>						

November Birthdays

3 Owen Solberg
4 Karla Hills
Ryan Gilsoul
12 Stephanie Schie
14 Kent Cumming
16 Collette Gill
19 Lillian Huston
Shirley Treanor
Carol Schroeder
21 Lucille Langseth
22 Jack Lumber
23 Katinia Myers

November Anniversaries

9th
Don/Shar Giard
12th
Sharon Lee/Robert Ashley
20th
Bob/Audrey Magnuson
27th
Lyle/Denise Johnson (30th)

Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* George Willett; Cathey Myer’s friend Beth; John Skuzeski & his son Tom; Penny Thoreen; Vera Koosman; Doug McDowell; 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; Roland Haacke, Wynn & Jim Stafford, and their daughter-in-law Jennifer, Galvin Irby, Linda Babcock, Dorothy & Gerald Shouse and their daughter Gloria Miller, Warren & Karen Stenberg, Maureen Hagen’s friend Beth; Jo Nelson’s relative Heather; Alfild Anderson, Jerry Tilkens, Norm & Dorothy Thoreson.

Urgent: *Those who are ill:* Randy Treanor, Deb Postlewait’s friend Kay, Ethel Jabs, Premwati Shelly’s son Jitendra, Evelyn Kimpton, Marion Burgess’s nephew Brent, Debbie Olson’s friend Paloma, Bea Jarvie, Joe Libonati, Russ Solberg’s sister Dani, Becky Keiper’s son Paul, Kim Stoffregen’s nephew Rick, Kim Stoffregen’s brother Gary, Doug Glenn, Scott Blohm’s friend Pr. Doug Brushell, and Ralph Nelson.

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



Save a tree! Save a stamp!
Please send us your email if
we don't already have it.

Gethsemane Lutheran
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Mon-Thurs. 8a to 3p