



Olive Tree Newsletter

August 2023



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Minister's Musings



Prayer is a central part of our faith. Prayer is miraculous, powerful, refreshing, and beautiful. Prayer can also be disappointing, difficult, confusing, and frustrating. People often ask and wonder if prayer works. Before we can answer that vital question, we need to consider what prayer is and is not. Prayer is your personal relationship with God. Prayer is our public expression of faith when we gather in Christ's name. Prayer is quiet reflection.

Prayer is not a vending machine where we go to get our desires fulfilled. Prayer is not bribing or manipulating God.

When I pray for others, I ask God to be with them so that they will feel God's presence and know God's peace.

When I pray for myself, I ask that God be with me and give me the strength to accept God's will and to go where the Spirit leads me. I ask that God mold me and reform me to be the person that God intends me to be.

Sometimes I don't know what to pray, so I just sit quietly and listen. During these quiet times I rarely hear the voice of God, but I often encounter God. I've found my quiet reflections are always followed with a sense of calm and contentment.

This is how I know that prayer works.

We should pray every day or even multiple times a day. Prayers can be as formal as saying the Lord's Prayer or as simple as just saying "Help."

I encourage you to pray. If this is a new practice for you, start out slowly. Prayer has a tendency to change those that pray more than it changes those for whom we pray.

Prayer works – in us.

BOOM CHICKA BOOM

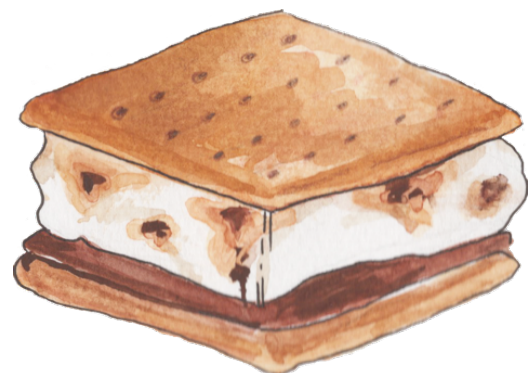
Gethsemane's Calumet weekend is right around the corner - join us for fun and fellowship from September 8th through the 10th! Join us for the whole weekend or drive up for the day on Saturday. For those spending the weekend there are many different lodging options available - unheated cabins, heated cabins, a campsite or the conference center. There is also a weekend meal package available. Prices are available at the church office or by talking with Cindy Kaufmann. Please contact Julie directly at Calumet (603-539-4773) to reserve your lodging and meal package.

My family has participated in the Calumet weekend for the past two years and have loved every minute of it. The first year we stayed in an unheated cabin which had an amazing view of Lake Ossipee. We were able to hear the loons and enjoyed being close to the beach. Last year we stayed in the Conference Center and while we did not have the amazing view of the lake we enjoyed having a bathroom attached to our room and the common area where we were able to visit with our friends. Each year we have played bingo, made tie-dyed shirts and kitchen towels, swam in the water, played corn hole, enjoyed camp fires, s'mores and had outdoor services on Sunday. Calumet has amazing food and they have done a great job with the many food allergies that our family has. Last year we added playing pool and ping pong in the game room and made bottle rockets on Saturday. We have enjoyed hikes, walks, kayaking, spending time on the beach and riding in the pontoon boat to the sandbar. Most of our group leaves after lunch on Sunday. We like to spend the remainder of the day on the beach and then have a leisurely ride home late Sunday. A perfect weekend away! We look forward to returning each year.

Cindy Kaufmann is organizing this year's weekend so please reach out to her to let her know that you will be joining us. When you contact Cindy you will be included in all communications about the fun. We hope to see more Gethsemane faces at Calumet this year. Karl and I are happy to share our experience and answer any questions that you have. Please join us, come for the weekend or stay for the day - you will not regret it!

BOOM CHICKA BOOM

-submitted by Mary Franck





ReachOut Events



School Supply Drive

God's work.
Our hands.

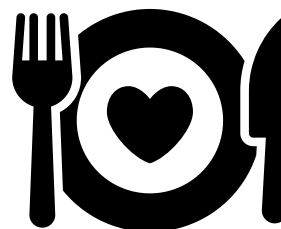
As part of the God's Work, Our Hands initiative, ReachOut will be providing school supplies to local students on Saturday, August 19 from 12 PM to 2 PM and Sunday, August 27 from 11 AM to 1 PM. We are in need of volunteers to help at these events, as well as donations of school supplies or money with which to purchase supplies. Thank you for your continued support of this annual ministry.

Annual Yard Sale



Our annual yard sale is coming up on Saturday, September 16 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Tables will be available to rent, and volunteers are needed for this event. For more information, please see a member of the ReachOut committee.

Community Meal



We continue to host a free community meal the third Sunday of each month. our hours have changed; we now serve from 3-4 PM. We serve local individuals who come to the church, as well as delivering meals to church members and unsheltered individuals around Manchester. On alternate Sundays, we will also be delivering bags of shelf-stable snacks to the unsheltered. Please let Crystal know if you would like to help with this. In addition, ReachOut is in need of donations of granola bars, meat sticks, crackers, toaster pastries, bottled water, quart-size ziplock bags, and brown paper bags.

Collaborative Events

August 6 Worship Service

On Sunday, August 6, Gethsemane Lutheran Church will host members of Christ the King Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Church for a collaborative worship service.

In addition to worship, we will have a small service project and a baking contest.

Our Service Project will be filling quart size zip lock bags with bottled water, fruit cups, protein crackers (e.g. cheese or peanut butter), breakfast bars (granola or other), wet naps, meat/cheese sticks, and other small (single serve) shelf stable snack items. GLC distribute these to the Manchester unsheltered population.

The Baking Contest will have three categories: cupcakes, cookies, brownies/bars. Bakers are asked to share if their recipe includes any of the common food allergies: dairy, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, gluten, soy, or fish.

Upon arrival, each person will receive three tickets to use for voting on their favorite baked good(s). Service will begin at 9:30am in our Mary Martha room downstairs.

Worshippers, if able, are asked to bring some of the items needed for the snack packs. Additionally, we also hand out travel sized hygiene products (soap, shampoo, toothbrush/paste, feminine hygiene products, etc) if you'd like to bring any of those items as well or instead.

September 10 Service Project



God's work.
Our hands.

Members of Gethsemane Lutheran Church and Christ the King Lutheran Church are invited to assist in Messiah Lutheran Church's "God's Work, Our Hands" project of building bunk beds for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace program. The Turksih Cultural Center of Bedford will host. More details will be shared as they become available.

Mary Martha News

On June 12, we had our annual "Happy Birthday to Us" meeting, where we celebrate all members' birthdays. Denise Merrill made the two delicious cakes. One was dark chocolate and chocolate frosting and the other was lemon with buttercream frosting. They tasted amazingly delicious. Thank you Denise, these words and photos cannot do them justice. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Our two summer meetings are road trips. On July 17th Sara Kjendal hosted in Deerfield. In August Denise will be hosting us at her home in Meredith.



Vacation Pictures

Thomas and Suzanne have been enjoying time in England and Scotland. Below are pictures in front of the Tower of London and at high tea.

Please send your vacation pictures to glcommunications002@gmail.com to share with us!



Pictures from Collaborative Worship at Messiah

courtesy of Barb Scholz, Messiah member





Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Free Community Meal

**Third Sunday of
each month
3-4 PM**

**NEXT MEAL SUNDAY,
AUGUST 20**

**60 Penacook Street
(603) 623-3451
www.glcmanchester.org**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE	31 9:30pm AA HHC 7:00pm AA MEALS	1 7:00pm AA WISD	2 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY 9:00pm AA HHC	3	4 12:30pm AA WISD 9:00pm AA HHC	5 10:30am AA No Name
6 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE	7 9:30pm AA HHC 7:00pm AA MEALS 7:30pm COMMUNICATIONS	8 7:00pm AA WISD 7:00pm PRAYERS	9 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY 9:00pm AA HHC	10	11 12:30pm AA WISD 9:00pm AA HHC	12 10:30am AA No Name
13 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE	14 12:30pm MARY MAGDAL 9:30pm AA HHC 6:30pm RECHECKOUT 7:00pm AA MEALS	15 7:00pm AA WISD	16 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY 9:00pm AA HHC	17 7:00pm COUNCIL	18 12:30pm AA WISD 9:00pm AA HHC	19  10:30am AA No Name 12:00pm School Supplies Drive
20  9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00am COMMUNITY MEAL	21 9:30pm AA HHC 7:00pm AA MEALS	22 7:00pm AA WISD	23 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY 9:00pm AA HHC	24	25 12:30pm AA WISD 9:00pm AA HHC	26 10:30am AA No Name
27  9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am School Supplies Drive	28 9:30pm AA HHC 7:00pm AA MEALS	29 7:00pm AA WISD	30 12:30pm BIBLE STUDY 9:00pm AA HHC	31	1 12:30pm AA WISD 9:00pm AA HHC	2 10:30am AA No Name

The Olive Tree

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