



Olive Tree Newsletter

September 2023

**Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.**

**O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

**“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”,
Cesáreo Gabaráin**

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Minister's Musings



Thomas Fedorka, LLM

Labor Day.

September is already here and with it comes Labor Day, the traditional end of summer. Students and teachers return to school, the days get shorter, temperatures start to drop, and we stop wearing white. Some people will use the holiday as an excuse to have a BBQ, a pool party, or a day playing in the water. But there is real meaning behind Labor Day.

Labor Day was created by members of the labor movement, who organized strikes and rallies to fight for better working conditions amid the Industrial Revolution and became a US Federal holiday in 1894.

Labor Day celebrates the people who campaigned tirelessly for worker's rights in the 19th century. Their efforts won many of the rights we enjoy today. Some of these rights we've enjoyed for so long we might take them for granted. Rights such as, safe working conditions, paid time off, and sick leave. These people knew that true freedom needed to include economic freedom for the working class.

The Labor Day holiday celebrates and honors the source of our nation's strength.

So why can't I wear white after Labor Day? One thought is people who spent August at the seashore wore white because it was cooler. After wearing white all August, people would start September wearing color. Another thought is that the end of summer meant a return to work life and white clothes were not appropriate for work.

The truth is we really don't have any such rules about wearing white anymore. So enjoy Labor Day, enjoy your worker's rights, and wear whatever color you want..

God's Work. Our Hands.



SAVE THE DATE

WHAT: SEPTEMBER 10th is God's Work. Our Hands. 10th Anniversary Edition!

WHEN: September 10th

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran in Amherst, NH

WHO: Gethsemane Lutheran Church will be partnering with Christ the King Lutheran Church, Messiah Lutheran Church, the Turkish Cultural Center, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace

More details coming soon but save the date!

Click [here](#) to order these 10th Anniversary God's Work. Our Hands T-Shirts! (multiple colors, styles, and proceeds go to Sleep in Heavenly Peace to enable more beds to be built in Hillsborough County!)



Luther on Music, Submitted by Theo Groh



Carl F. Schalk

One of the things that attracted our family to Gethsemane was the music. Holly and I both love to sing, and we enjoyed the richness of the music and the degree to which music is a core part of the liturgy. I happened to see a short volume titled *Luther on Music* by Carl F. Schalk offered through Concordia Publishing House, and I bought one on an impulse. What an interesting and enjoyable read! Learning about Martin Luther's views on music and its role within the liturgy helped me understand the theological and historical reasons why ELCA worship is the way it is. Unlike other reformers such as Zwingli (who abolished music in worship completely) or Jean Calvin (who very much limited the role of music in worship), Luther understood music to be one of the most important and effective ways of proclaiming the Word of God. Luther also believed that congregational participation in the singing of hymns and of the liturgical music was an important consequence of the doctrine of the royal priesthood of all believers. If we are all priests, we need to all participate in the creation of the music of the service, not solely passively witness clergy or trained musicians performing music. Luther "placed the people of God, the congregation assembled at a specific place, at the center of the liturgical and musical activity." This author argues that Luther believed that "all were encouraged- whatever the level of individual level of musical ability might be- to join the common praise. "He [God] wants to hear the throngs and not me or you alone, or a single isolated Pharisee. Therefore sing with the congregation and you will sing well. Even if your singing is not melodious, it will be swallowed up by the crowd. But if you sing alone you will have your critics." As Luther believed that the congregation joined together in song was "confessing and proclaiming to the world the Good News of God in Christ." I came away from reading this short booklet inspired, through having a deeper understanding of why we do what we do. I also feel like I have a better understanding of the relationship of other protestant Churches to music depending on their origin in Lutheran or Calvinist/Reformed thought. This short and easy to read booklet is available to purchase through Concordia Publishing, and I am also very happy to lend my copy to anyone who is interested.

[-Do you have a book, religious or not, that you enjoyed reading recently? Write a review for the Olive Tree!](#)

What's Your Why?

Submitted by Theo Groh

Our hope is that this will become a series, and folks will contribute short pieces describing an aspect of Church that they find meaningful and keeps them coming back.

I grew up in a family that was religious but not churched. Gethsemane is the first church I have ever attended regularly. One of the first things that stood out to me when we first visited and that has kept me coming back ever since is the confession and absolution part of our liturgy. I love it because it captures so much of Lutheran theology and I resonate strongly with that theology. Built into our liturgical confession is the theology that confession is necessary as we are all sinful (in fact captive to sin) and are in need of forgiveness, the theology that confession both general and to God, and before each other (instead of before and through a priest), and that absolution is freely given Grace from God, not deserved, earned, or mediated through the clergy. So, other than resonating with the Theology, why do I personally love it? I love it because it does in miniature what my entire Christian faith does. It is a ritual that allows me weekly to confront that I have failed, help me focus on where and how, and then remind me that through Grace I have been saved, providing the opportunity to start again, and the challenge to do better. It contains both the hard Truth and the loving Mercy and the interplay between them that is the core of our faith. It echoes our private praying of the Lord's Prayer, but extends our understanding of what God's expectation is. Yes, forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, but don't forget, what counts as trespass includes not loving your God with your whole heart, and loving your neighbor as yourself. It encompasses what we have done and then includes what we have left undone. And finally, it doesn't just ask God to forgive us, but to "forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the Glory of your holy name."

On the best of days, when I say the confession with my whole heart and soul, I walk away refreshed, renewed, and challenged for living of the week ahead. That's what I come to church for. What's your "why?" I look forward to reading them in the months ahead.

Bible Study Update

Submitted by Janine Danzi

Both the Old and New Testaments tell the stories of such interesting women. It's been great to continue our study of the women of the Bible over the summer. I could list them all but that wouldn't capture your attention for very long. So I decided to make it different maybe you can name some of these women by a description of them:

- Who are the two women of the Old Testament that were raped?
- Who circumcised her husband and threw at his feet I ordered to save him?
- What are the names of the daughters of Zelophehad? And what amazing thing that they asked for
- What woman does Paul work closely with?
- What was important about Samson's mother?
- Who was the last advocate for Jesus before his crucifixion?

(Answers to come next time.)

These are not pretty topics, however it is important to realize the importance of these women in scripture. Even some nameless women were important.

ReachOut Updates

Submitted by Crystal Bluto

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Thank you to everyone who contributed school supplies, funds, and/or volunteer time to our annual school supplies drive as part of God's Work. Our Hands. We helped over 120 students prepare for the school year! Thank you for supporting the children of our community.

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 Program



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.

A special thank you to Lopa and Oishek Chakraborty who joined us to cook for our August meal!



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|----------------------|---|---|
| 27  Jeanne Manseau - Closer 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am School Supplies Drive | 28 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS | 29 7:00pm AA WB2B | 30 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE | 31 | 1 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE | 2 10:00am AA NO NAME |
| 3 Altar Guild - Janine 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE | 4 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS 7:30pm COMMUNICATIONS | 5 7:00pm AA WB2B | 6 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE | 7 | 8  GLC Calumet Camping Weekend 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE | 9  GLC Calumet Camping Weekend 10:00am AA NO NAME |
| 10  Altar Guild - Bonnie GLC Calumet Camping Weekend 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE | 11 12:00pm MARY MARTHA 5:00pm AA HHE 6:30pm REACHOUT 7:00pm AA MNWS | 12 7:00pm AA WB2B 7:00pm FINANCE | 13 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE | 14 | 15 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE | 16  9:00am GLC YARD SALE 10:00am AA NO NAME |
| 17  Altar Guild - Sue 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 3:00pm COMMUNITY MEAL | 18 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS | 19 7:00pm AA WB2B | 20 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE | 21 7:00pm COUNCIL | 22 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE | 23 10:00am AA NO NAME |
| 24 Altar Guild - Janine 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE | 25 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS | 26 7:00pm AA WB2B | 27 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE | 28 | 29 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE | 30 10:00am AA NO NAME |

The Olive Tree is Published by:

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The background of the poster is decorated with various watercolor illustrations of autumn-themed elements. At the top left, there are several large, vibrant leaves in shades of orange, red, and yellow. To their right, a branch with small yellow leaves and two acorns is shown. Further right, a cluster of small orange berries is depicted. On the right side, a single large leaf with orange and red hues is visible. Below that, a cluster of orange mushrooms is shown. At the bottom right, a large, detailed orange leaf is present. At the bottom center, there are several small mushrooms. At the bottom left, there are more autumn leaves and a branch with small purple berries. The text is centered on the page, with the church name at the top, the main event title in large orange letters, and the date and location details below.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

THIRD SUNDAY OF
EVERY MONTH

Next Meal Sunday,
September 17
3-4 PM

60 PENACOOK ST.
(603) 623-3451

WWW.GLCMANCHESTER.ORG

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL YARD SALE

Saturday September 16, 2023
9AM to 1 PM
60 Pennacook Street
Manchester, NH
(603) 623-3451