

The Olive Tree

February 2016

GLC Highlights

Concordia College
Concert
&
EndHungerNE
February 24, 2016

Youth Sunday
March 6, 2016

Easter Sunday
March 27, 2016

Fisher Cats Game
Friday, June 10, 2016

Women's Retreat
June 10-12, 2016

Vacation Bible School
June 21-23, 2016

Church Office Hours
Monday-Friday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Service + Song is Our Common Language!

Join us in **Service**
Donate to the
Harvard, Harmony, Ending Hunger
packaging event

Join us in **Song**
Hear the Concordia College Choir
and celebrate the EndHunger event

ENDHUNGERNE

Harvard, Harmony, Ending Hunger

Mark your calendars for Harvard. Harmony. End Hunger event! Thank you Gethsemane for agreeing to be one of the six sponsor churches for this exciting event being held Wednesday, Feb 24th, 2016 at Harvard Memorial Chapel Cambridge MA. On this special day, 70 members of the Concordia Choir and volunteers from area sponsoring churches will come together to make 20,000 (or more!) meals for the hungry. The packaging will take place at University Lutheran Church just one block from Harvard Square that afternoon.

At 7:30 that evening, the Choir will perform a special Lenten concert. The Concordia Choir comes on tour from Concordia College in Morehead Minnesota, a 4 year liberal arts college of the ELCA, and is among the most highly regarded collegiate a cappella choirs in the country.

As a sponsor of the event, Gethsemane has committed to raising at least \$2500 which will go towards the cost of making 20,000 meals or more. The money that Gethsemane raises will go to package meals that will then be delivered to New Horizons in Manchester. This event will mark our winter hunger appeal and we ask your support to make it another resounding success. Donations can be put in the offering envelopes marked End Hunger Event in the pews. Please make your check payable to Gethsemane and put "EndHunger" in the memo area.

The concert will begin at 7:30 and will be held in the Harvard University Memorial Chapel. The chapel (just 2 blocks off of Harvard Square) is beautiful with amazing acoustics, and the concert is sure to be a very special experience we hope you can all join us. Tickets can be purchased through Gethsemane along with bus transportation to and from the concert. Adult tickets are \$25 for the concert and an additional \$15 (total \$40 per person) for the roundtrip bus ride. Children 10 and under are \$10 for the concert tickets and \$10 for the bus (total \$20). Please sign up on the Narthex board or call the office. Checks should be made payable to Gethsemane and the note in the memo area should read "Concert" or "Concert and bus". Please do not combine this check with a donation one for the packaging event. The bus will leave Gethsemane promptly at 4:30, allowing you time in Cambridge to get something to eat and possibly take a stroll before the concert.

Contact Gretchen or Bryan Lord with any questions.
Thank you.



Lent and Holy Week Schedule

LENT

Ash Wednesday, February 10th

Imposition of the Ashes 12:00 noon

Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 PM

Mid-Week Lenten Supper and Service

Wednesdays (2/17, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16)

(there will not be a service on 2/24)

Light Supper: 6:00 PM

Worship Service (Holden Evening Prayer) 6:45 PM

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 20th

JJJ 8:30 AM

Traditional 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday, March 24th

Seder Supper for First Communicants

Worship Service 7:00 PM

Good Friday, March 25th

Worship Service 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday, March 27th

Worship Services

JJJ 8:30 AM

Traditional 10:30 AM

Easter Breakfast 9:15 AM



Pastor Peter's Page

I am not sure that tucked away in this northern corner of Manchester, NH, we understand the seismic shift that has taken place in our society, and as a result, in the life of the church. The church is no longer a destination. Our society is no longer either invested or encouraging of people belonging to local churches. We have moved from the center of community life to the edge, and there is no immediate hope of getting back. So we have to learn to be the church differently. When I was in seminary, my education was performance based. People in the pews expected the pastor to do the liturgy tolerably well, preach a good sermon, and perform the faith as if on stage. It had worked for centuries, and in the early 1980's there was no reason to think it wouldn't continue, even though in some areas we were seeing modest decline. Today, seminaries are moving in new directions to meet the needs of an age in which change occurs rapidly. Seminary education has moved away from performance to a model in which pastors are trained and given the tools to build community in congregations that will be much more participatory. The pastor today must tell the gospel, but must also teach others to tell the gospel. "Church" as we have known and practiced it is disappearing. The criteria for choosing churches have changed. Denominational loyalty has largely disappeared and people look for communities that meet their needs and the deep yearning they have for spiritual connection and service. Most of us have felt, at some time or other, the anxiety these changes have brought. We lament, regret, and even get angry when we are asked to change to be the church to a new generation. We don't like change, but ask yourself whether the way we have practiced the faith works for your children and grandchildren. I can't count the number of conversations I have had with grieving parents and grandparents who have watched their children and grandchildren drift away. Clearly, what once worked, works no longer, and congregations that cannot afford themselves the opportunity to change will not exist in 10 or 15 years. I know that sounds ominous, but there is also opportunity and promise.

One of the reasons for our children and grandchildren not coming to worship is that in many of our congregations (including Gethsemane) people must make a weekly cultural journey in order to participate in worship. They are part of our societal culture six days out of seven, but on the seventh day, in order to participate in worship, we require that they not only leave behind the culture with which they are familiar and embrace a culture with which they have little experience and whose values are very different, but we also ask them to step back in time to the style of worship their grandparents enjoyed. We speak a different language and use words like Narthex, Chancel, Vestibule, Chalice, Paten, Liturgy, Hymnody and Scripture. Words with which most people are not familiar. Many people are unwilling and even unable to make that weekly cultural journey, so the question for us as evangelists (another one of those words) or bringers of the good news of Jesus, is to figure out how to be the church for these people; how to make the cultural journey shorter, and how to communicate the Gospel in a way they will understand.

The patterns of worship we have enjoyed for generations and that worked so well for us, are not meeting the needs of as many people as we would like. So, alongside the established patterns, we strive to develop new patterns. Fortunately, as Lutherans, we have a history of making changes to worship in order to encourage greater participation. The German Mass was Luther's first attempt at bridging the cultural divide in his own day. We may not consider it radical, but things like reading Scripture in German (instead of Latin) and singing in the vernacular were extreme.

As with so many pastors and congregations who are experimenting, I don't know exactly what will work for us. Our community is unique, as is our congregation. If I had all the answers, I would be a wealthy consultant going around the country telling others how to make it happen. What I know is that we are all in this together, and we are called by the Gospel to break down the barriers that keep people from being part of the faith community. We have Jesus' promise to be with us on the journey...and that is more than enough.

Peace,

Pastor Peter

Treasurer's Report - December 2015

Summary for December 2015

Monthly Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures

Monthly Contributions	\$65,601
Monthly Spending	\$29,439
Difference	\$36,162

YTD Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures

YTD Contributions	\$357,115
YTD Spending	\$377,108
Difference	(\$19,993)

Monthly Operating Income vs. Monthly Operating Expenses

Monthly Operating Income	\$45,654
Monthly Operating Spending	\$23,345
Difference	\$22,309

YTD Operating Income vs. YTD Operating Expenses

YTD Operating Income	\$250,669
YTD Operating Spending	\$274,101
Difference	(\$23,432)

Thrivent Investments		Month	YTD
Total Account Value beginning of month	\$110,583.55		
Securities Transfers		\$0	\$123,598.57
Additions and Withdrawals		(\$30,000)	(\$33,423.13)
Income		\$1,074.09	\$4,314.29
Taxes, Fees and Expenses		\$0.00	(\$1,180.55)
Change in Investment Value		(\$1,915.25)	(\$13,566.79)
End of Month Money Market Cash on hand		\$3,224.22	
Total End of Month Account Value	\$79,742.39		



	<u>Month</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Month</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2015 YTD</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2015 YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2015</u> <u>Annual Budget</u>
BUDGET INCOME					
Giving Income	\$44,892	\$30,715	\$239,142	\$257,000	\$257,000
Operating Income	\$762	\$1,222	\$11,526	\$10,224	\$10,224
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$45,654	\$31,937	\$250,669	\$267,224	\$267,224
NON-BUDGET INCOME					
Thrivent Withdraw	\$0	\$1,445	\$4,000	\$12,094	\$12,094
Withdraw from TD Bank Money Market	\$0	\$0	\$18,100	\$0	\$9,900
Giving to Off-Budget Programs	\$2,360	\$2,390	\$24,022	\$20,000	\$20,000
Giving to Capital Campaign	\$17,587		\$82,425		
TOTAL INCOME	\$65,601	\$35,773	\$379,215	\$299,318	\$309,218
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES	\$23,345	\$23,791	\$274,101	\$293,188	\$291,062
NON-BUDGET EXPENDITURES					
Reimburse Investment Account Principal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures on Off-Budget Programs	\$280	\$1,815	\$13,145	\$20,000	\$20,000
Capital Campaign Spending	\$5,813		\$89,862		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$29,439	\$25,605	\$377,108	\$313,188	\$311,062

GLC Young Peoples Happenings

The Youth at Gethsemane is busy, busy, busy...

You may get tired just reading what they up

are to!

Youth Sunday

Youth Led Sunday is March 6th at the 10:30 service. There will be a rehearsal on the 5th from 9-12. Let Gretchen Lord or Diane Destrempe know if you want to participate ASAP!



Sunday School "Centurions" from their lesson "A Roman Officer meets Jesus" Matthew 8:5-13

Shining the Light on Jesus for Valentine's Day

The Sunday School kids will be making valentines for the kids at the New Life Women's Shelter. **We would like to send some "goodies" along with the cards.** If you would like to donate something for these special care packages (there are 19 kids at the shelter), please bring it in by February 14th. We will deliver that day!

College Bound Board

We are going to be setting up the bulletin board in the Mary Martha hallway to showcase Lutheran colleges and what they offer. We have a good number of youth that will soon be in the beginning stages of thinking about colleges and we thought this might be a good project to revisit. We will put up info we receive from the schools on the board and there will be contact information there as well. If you would like to help in this project, please contact the church office.



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First Communion

Three of Gethsemane's grade school kids will be celebrating their First Communion on March 24th, Maundy Thursday. They will participate in a Seder Supper before the service that evening. Anyone who would like to help out with the supper, please see (you guessed it) Gretchen Lord. Watch for the March issue of the Olive Tree as we will have a bio of each of the kids, written by themselves.

Are you tired yet!?

Vacation Bible School
Sneak Preview!

We're going to Egypt!!

Join Joseph as he swats away scorpions in a dark prison cell...stroll through the golden splendor of Pharaoh's palace... experience exotic sights and smells in an Egyptian bazaar...be carried away by music wafting through enticing desert air.



Sunday School Weekend at Calumet

April 15-17 is the weekend for "Sunday Schoolers" grades 1-7 at Calumet. We have always had a real cool time at this and hope to get a good group for this year. The cost is \$60 per student (if cost is an issue see Pastor or Gretchen). For more info, see...who else...Gretchen!



Confirmation Class

Three of our young adults have been going through Confirmation Class. They are studying the Old and New Testaments with Pastor Peter in a less structured environment than in past years. The young people have so much going on that the Christian Ed team felt that they needed to have an open time for the young people to bring in their assignments and discuss them with Pastor Boehringer rather than a strict schedule of classes. It is a come and go but make sure you have the assignments done and are ready to discuss them.

The young people will also be heading to Calumet for Confirmation Camp, April 1-3. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 15th.

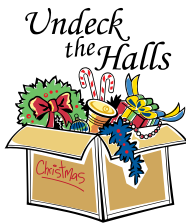
Of This and Of That

Bring a Valentine

February 14th, Valentine's Day is a Sunday! So, we are asking everyone to bring a Valentine card to exchange with that day. We will put all the Valentines in a basket and each person will draw one out, find the person that brought that card and spend some time talking with them. Find something new that you didn't know about someone here at Gethsemane.



Friday, February 19, 2016 is the deadline for articles for the March 2016 newsletter. If you would like to contribute, please email your news to the church office at glcmanchester@comcast.net.



A very big thank you to all who helped with the "un-decking" of the halls after the Christmas season.

Tubing at Hit!

The tubing party at McIntyre was a huge success on January 23rd. Over 30 people joined in the fun and all said they would love to do it again! Pictures are just coming in so watch the website and Facebook for them.



Maggie Noon is ready to rock!

The Olive Tree

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The Congregation Council

Marcia Ressmeyer-Sink (2/2016)	President
Bryan Lord (1/2016)	Vice President
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David Reinke (1/2018)	
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Geoff Sloane (1/2018)	
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Stephen Stanley (1/2018)	

(Dates indicate end of "1" first or "2" second term of service)



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