



The Olive Tree



July/August 2017

GLC Highlights

Summer Worship Hours

Sundays

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Beginning June 4th

Ending September 3rd

Calumet Camping Weekend

Aug 11-13

Rally Sunday September 10th

God's Work Our Hands

End Hunger Event
Sunday, October 22

Holiday Fair! November 11, 2017



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

OPERATION ARCTIC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017 SO COOL!!!



OPERATION ARCTIC

Another Vacation Bible School has come and gone. The beauty and majesty of the Arctic is behind us and we were all sad to leave. We learned so much about the Bible, visiting with Moses, King David, the Prophet Elijah and Paul with Pastor Peter. The Arctifacts crafts were a hoot: we made owls and log cabins and bonfires and the Northern Lights. It was fun learning about blubber and making ice cream, and we got to know a lot more about the animals that inhabit the Arctic. The JJJ Band played as we sang and danced. We even got to pet (and hug) some sled dogs. That was awesome. Snacks were plentiful and really tasty. A big thanks to Allison Krones and JoAnn Wegman for putting this all together for us, and thank you to all of the volunteers who helped us throughout the evenings. They helped us with the things we were doing and got us to places on time. We reconnected with old friends and made lots of new ones. It was by far the **COOLEST** VBS on record. Thank you all! From the Arctic Explorers.



All 600 photos from VBS can be found on our website.



Pastor's Page



Visual Arts and Worship

One of the things you may have noticed during worship in the last couple of weeks is the way visual arts have been used to bring out the rich tradition of Holy Baptism and the life-giving water given to us by Jesus Christ. This is the second time this year the baptismal font has been used to teach us something about the Gospel. The display that is currently set up focuses on how the sparkling waters of baptism bring growth to our lives, and the life of the world.

Lutherans have a wonderful musical tradition, and anyone who has ever worshipped with us knows that nobody can sing like “those Lutherans.” However, we have not generally paid as much attention to the visual arts, or other ways for people to experience God breaking into their lives in our worship spaces. Yet, there are opportunities throughout the year to express visually the grace of God. Baptismal water refreshes and grows, the middle and end of summer can be a time to visually celebrate the abundance with which God blesses us, and Autumn may be a time to celebrate the harvest, and here in New England, the beauty of God’s creation prior to the Winter’s onset.

With the 500th anniversary of the Reformation upon us, and the constant need to explore the diverse ways people come to and celebrate their faith, we have many opportunities to create a worship environment that is beautiful while telling the story of God’s constant care for us and all creation. What shall we do next?

What's with Pastor's Facebook Page?

The report from the Listening Team asked that I explain what happened on my Facebook page, and why you can no longer see my Facebook page.

The simple explanation is that a parishioner objected to the political and historical posts that I put on my private page. When the objections were brought to a Congregational Council meeting, I realized it would be wise to bring my page into compliance with the recently released recommendations of the New England Synod professional boundaries trainer. The recommendation included removing any Facebook friends from my private page that were acquainted with me because of my profession. Thus, all church members had to be removed.

Sometime in the future I may launch a professional Facebook page that is strictly for church related communications. In the meantime, I will post relevant information on the Gethsemane Facebook page.



Council Notes

The Congregational Council met on June 20th for its regular monthly meeting. Seven members were present along with the pastor. The agenda for the evening was presented and adopted. Pastor Boehringer led the group with evening devotion and prayer. In order to better serve the congregation a review of Robert's Rules was presented. It was believed that this would facilitate communications among the members and better serve the community. Approval of May's minutes followed with some minor changes needed. The council then went into executive session. Once out of executive session the pastor's report showed the pastor to have had a busy month. The report was discussed. The president's report was then presented. The possibility of suing the previous insurance company and the insurance broker was discussed. Utica has failed to provide coverage for recent damage to the kitchen and parts of the building. The formation of an audit committee was discussed as well. Further consideration centered around communication. The first ten minutes of the council's monthly meeting will be an open forum for members of the congregation to engage with the council. It was suggested that it would be helpful if those who wish to speak would let the office know if at all possible. The treasurer's report showed the ongoing difficulties with income versus expensive. The meeting ended with adjournment and prayer.

Council Meetings

Council's monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month beginning at 7 PM. Starting with the July 18th meeting, the opening 10 minutes will be an open forum for any member of the congregation to attend and have a discussion with the Council. We would appreciate it if you would let the office know in advance that you will be there, just to help us plan the timing and room arrangements.

Council minutes will once again be posted on the bulletin board outside of the office. They will be put up as soon as possible after the monthly meeting, along with a synopsis in the Olive Tree.

Contacting Pastor

We posted this in the last bulletin, but the Council, Communications Team and Pastor felt it was important to repeat this often...

Pastor Boehringer is available via his cell phone (603-325-1745) 24/7. Please, no call is too small or unimportant. He would rather have 10 calls telling him someone is in the hospital, or something else, rather than not know. Don't assume that someone else has already informed him, CALL! If a call comes in to the office over the weekend, we don't hear it until Monday and sometimes that is too late to be of help.

This happened with the passing of Shirley Mason. The office received a call from the family on Saturday night. Apparently, some members of the congregation knew about her passing but didn't let Pastor know during worship on Sunday. When the office opened on Monday, Shelley received the message and immediately let Pastor Boehringer know. If a call had been made to his cell phone by anyone, or someone had let Pastor know on Sunday, we would have been able to be in touch with the family and say prayers on Sunday, and abide by the family's wishes.

So...please CALL!

Gethsemane Congregation Council

Synopsis of the Report of the Listening Team

June 22, 2017

A special meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday June 18 to hear the report of the Listening Team's findings. Reverend Bill Petersen and Reverend Pat Harris previously interviewed thirty-five members and staff of Gethsemane Lutheran Church selected by the council to reflect the diversity of the membership. Each council member provided a list of at least twenty members. Those names that appeared most often were selected for the interviews. The interview questions centered around three areas: joys, hopes and concerns

The overall impressions of the listening team was that there is systemic embedded secrecy and lack of trust. There is a lack of communication and transparency among Council, Pastor, and Congregation. While the congregation considers itself to be a family there is a contrast between the outward appearance of a warm and caring family and the sabotage that goes on behind the scenes. The effort by some members to encourage withholding of contributions as a way of influencing decisions is devastating to the congregation and threatens the very survival of the church.

Specific **hopes** that were identified in the interview included the financial stability and the survival of the church. Attracting new members, addressing conflict resolution, improved community outreach and visibility and the pastor's continued presence were also some of the joys expressed by the interviewees.

The **joys** expressed in the interviews suggested that there are great people and a family atmosphere in the church. The presence of the pastor was also cited as a major joy. Worship and music, children's activities, outreach and service to the community, and the church building were also mentioned as specific joys.

Concerns expressed by the interviewees included losing people, a repeat or the continuation of the conflicts that resulted in Pastor Hoyer's and the split in the congregation, factions in the congregation that continue to challenge decisions even after formal decision making processes are completed. Twelve people identified by name the individuals who are acting in a disruptive manner. Names are not being made public, but council will be addressing the situation. The recent loss of lay leaders, the Pastor's health and the possibility of burnout and his previous face book presence were also concerns.

Pastor Harris went on to inform the congregation that in addition to the interviews that council was aware that there have been clandestine meetings behind closed doors which has been an attempt to influence council members and to encourage parishioners to withhold or reduce their offerings. Allowing these individuals to persist in this matter will result in the demise of the congregation.

Reverend Petersen and Reverend Harris recommend the following actions: Plan a congregational training session dealing with healthy ways of dealing with conflict; develop a plan for better communication between council and congregation; develop a specific plan for dealing with the overt sabotage that is going on.

Pastor Harris concluded the presentation by saying that the lay leadership, and the entire congregation must develop and strong intolerance of disruptive behavior, and attempts to influence decision making that are not consistent with the church's constitution. She ended by say that the survival of the church is at stake.

Treasurer's Report - May 2017

Summary for May 2017

Monthly Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures (includes C4G)

Monthly Contributions	\$21,377
Monthly Spending	\$23,196
Difference	(\$ 1,819)

YTD Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures (includes C4G)

YTD Contributions	\$110,213
YTD Spending	\$121,217
Difference	(\$11,004)

Monthly Operating Income vs. Monthly Operating Expenses

Monthly Operating Income	\$19,866
Monthly Operating Spending	\$20,859
Difference	(\$ 993)

YTD Operating Income vs. YTD Operating Expenses

YTD Operating Income	\$ 98,220
YTD Operating Spending	\$113,269
Difference	(\$15,050)

All giving and spending includes C4G

Thrivent Investments

	Month	YTD
Total Account Value beginning of month	\$84,632.24	
Securities Transfers	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Additions and Withdrawals	\$ 0.00	(\$10,000.00)
Income	\$ 268.97	\$ 1,674.12
Taxes, Fees and Expenses		(\$ 640.04)
Change in Investment Value	\$ 785.88	\$ 4,169.45
End of Month Money Market Cash on hand		\$3,385.64
Total End of Month Account Value	\$85,687.09	



While you are away on vacation please remember us!



	<u>Month Actual</u>	<u>Month Budget</u>	<u>2017 YTD Actual</u>	<u>2017 YTD Budget</u>	<u>2017 Annual Budget</u>
<u>BUDGET INCOME</u>					
Giving Income	\$18,884	\$21,296	\$94,189	\$102,304	\$255,553
Operating Income	\$982	\$566	\$4,030	\$2,719	\$6,791
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$19,866	\$21,862	\$98,220	\$105,022	\$262,344
<u>NON-BUDGET INCOME</u>					
Thrivent Withdraw	\$0	\$526	\$10,000	\$2,526	\$6,309
Withdraw from TD Bank Money Market	\$0	\$0	\$1,750	\$0	
Giving to Off-Budget Programs	\$566	\$0	\$5,752	\$0	
Giving to Capital Campaign	\$945		\$6,242		
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,377	\$22,388	\$121,963	\$107,548	\$268,653
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES	\$20,859	\$21,568	\$113,269	\$107,098	\$268,653
<u>NON-BUDGET EXPENDITURES</u>					
Reimburse Investment Account Principal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures on Off-Budget Programs	\$1,320	\$0	\$4,041	\$0	
Capital Campaign Spending	\$1,017		\$3,907		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$23,196	\$21,568	\$121,217	\$107,098	\$268,653

Community Outreach

Walk Against Hunger Final Update!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church took top honors in the non-profit category for the New Horizons Walk Against Hunger. You raised \$5,040 for the event with \$175 coming from Facebook friends. Congratulations! The Walk raised over \$127,00 which will go far in helping feed and support the homeless and hungry in the area. Charlie Sherman will be joining us (date to be determined) to present a plaque to Gethsemane. We will let you know the date as soon as we have it. More photos can be found at Newhorizonsfornh.org.



"God's Work. Our hands"

"God's Work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Let's all join in to help make our community a better place!

October 22nd is the date Gethsemane has chosen to do "God's work. Our hands". We will be hosting a meal packaging event in conjunction with EndHunger NE. Once again, all the meals we package will be donated to New Horizons for their food pantry.

The ELCA is making available bright yellow/gold t-shirts for "GWOH" events customizable with our church's name. The cost is \$7.25 per t-shirt and sizes are Youth: small, medium, large; Adult: small, medium, large, X-large, 2XL (extra \$2), 3XL (extra \$3). If you are interested in purchasing one and wearing it that day, please see the signup sheet on the Café bulletin board. We need all orders by Friday, August 11th. It would be awesome to be able to take a photo of everyone in their t-shirt and hair net and send it to the ELCA and local news organizations.

So...let's start raising the money needed to package 10,000, maybe even 15,000 meals.; that's \$2500 to \$3750. We can do it, as you proved with the Walk Against Hunger.



Calumet Camping Weekend

August 11-13 2017

Members and friends of Gethsemane have been attending a weekend together at Calumet for about 30 years. It is a relaxing time without a strict schedule. Calumet is the New England Synod Camp so there are people visiting from all of New England and beyond.

FRIDAY EVENING: Bring your dinner, eat on the drive up, or arrive in time for dinner in the conference center (5:45 - 6:00). There is an ice cream social on Friday evening and afterwards there is usually an evening music program in the conference center after dinner. You may prefer to relax around a campfire. **BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR!**

SATURDAY: A buffet breakfast is served in the Conference Center dining room from 7:30-8:45 a.m.. The Sunday schedule is the same. You may prefer to eat at your campsite.

Activities for the day: Canoeing or kayaking (sign up early at the Lifeguard Chair at the family beach). Also, swimming, hiking, shopping at near-by North Conway, antiquing, relaxing on the beach with friends or a book, playing horseshoes, or bring a game to play. Pontoon boat cruises take place in the afternoon. Sign up early in the morning at the Lifeguard chair at the beach.

From 12 -1:30, a Beach BBQ is served daily for approximately \$5. The BBQ offers grill items, salad, dessert, fresh fruit, chips, etc. and beverages. You can bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Supper BBQ for Gethsemane: About 5:30 we gather at the beach where the men do the grilling. Those participating provide their own meat and beverage and bring to pass: appetizer, salad, or dessert. Paper plates, napkins, cups, and plastic ware are provided unless you prefer to provide your own sturdier ware. You may want to bring a tablecloth. In case of rain we have alternative arrangements at the beach.

SUNDAY: Breakfast and noon meals are the same as Saturday. The worship service is at 10:00 in the Outdoor Chapel and you won't want to miss it! In case of rain we meet in Luther Hall.

If you have questions about reservations for a camp site or a room, contact Calumet Conference Center (603-539-3223 ext. 220). Rooms and camp sites fill up quickly. If you have questions about the weekend contact Cindy Kaufmann or Elaine Murphy.

SEE YOU THERE!!



Mary Martha News

Women's Retreat

June 2-4, 16 women, GLC members, friends and family enjoyed a week-end of rest, reflection and fun at Camp Calumet on Lake Ossipee. We enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere of Calumet, the meal times and conversations and the proverbial pontoon boat ride, sighting 4 loons and the beauty of the mountains.



The week-end objective was to introduce and explore the idea of 'mindfulness': 'to be more fully *aware* of your own *experience* in the present moment in a *non-judgmental* way'. Our study, conversations and reflections were based on the book Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality Making Space for God by Tim Stead, an Episcopal Priest from Great Britain. As an introduction to 'mindfulness' we watched a 60 Minute episode featuring Anderson Cooper and Jon Kabat-Zinn, PhD from UMass Amherst who created the application of 'mindfulness' to help people manage chronic pain.

Friday evening, we relaxed with a welcoming reception and an exercise gleaned from the book Joy of Less by Francine Joy. Everyone was asked to bring or talk about one item in their home that has no value to them and answer "why do I keep this?", a metaphor for why we keep old 'stuff' or worry about future 'stuff' in our hearts and minds, and many times miss the present moment.

Saturday, we started the day with a session of Christian chair yoga and later watched a video featuring Steven Benitez, talking about mindfulness and our Christian response, about Jesus and His mindfulness, being present, being quiet. With these ideas, we broke into groups and tried to read and perceive familiar Bible stories, Prodigal Son, Mary and Martha and John the Baptist in a new light of awareness of situation and people, being present and non-judgmental. Indeed, when we met together fresh ideas were shared. We ended the day with a campfire and then inside for some games. We had so much fun, laughed and learned unimportant tidbits about each other.

Sunday morning, we renewed our awareness and call to practice Love, Kindness and Compassion with prayer and the poem "The Guest House" by Jalaluddin Rumi. With those thoughts and prayers, we ended our time together with love, faith and appreciation.

The planning committee studies and prays for guidance in developing the retreat week-end focus and schedule. We always experience the Holy Spirit opening hearts and minds, which creates and supports very caring relationships.

Clare T.

Mary Martha Hits the Road!

Watch out everyone... the ladies of the Mary Martha group are taking to the highways and byways again this summer.

July 17th will find them at Sara Kjendal's in Deerfield. Carpooling is available, meet at the church at 10:45, leaving at 11:00. Bring your lunch, Sara will have chips, drinks and dessert. Enjoy Sara's gardens and have fun watching the birds.

August 14th, all will be heading to Meredith to Denise Merrill's home for the annual cookout. Again, carpooling is available. Meet at the church at 10:15, leaving at 10:30. Sit by the water and relax! Have a wonderful summer ladies, and see you in September.



Ends



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Gethsemane Lutheran is registered as a charitable 501(c) (3) organization with AmazonSmile. Please check with the office if you have any questions. We look forward to having you shop AmazonSmile and having their foundation give back to Gethsemane.



Monday, August 21, 2017 is the ABSOLUTE deadline for articles for the September 2017 Olive Tree. If you would like to contribute, please email your news to the church office at glemanchester@comcast.net.

The Olive Tree

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The Congregation Council

Ron Jones (1-2017)	President
Steve Stanley (1-2018)	Vice-President
Sue Roma (1-2019)	Treasurer
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David Reinke (1/2018)	
Katelyn Shaffer (1/2018)	
Tyler Tafelski (1-2019)	

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

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