



# The Olive Tree



March, 2017

GLC Highlights

First Sunday in Lent  
March 5, 2017

Youth Led Sunday  
March 26, 2017

Easter Sunday  
& Breakfast  
April 16, 2017

Hymns & Hops  
Sunday, April 23, 2017

New Horizons  
Walk Against Hunger  
Sunday, May 21, 2017

**Women's Retreat**  
June 2-4, 2017

Vacation Bible School  
June 26-29, 2017

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



Welcome and Thank You  
*To Gethsemane's*  
New Congregation Council.



Back Row: Matt Noon, Sue Roma (Treasurer), Ron Jones (President)  
Steve Stanley (Vice President), Katelyn Shaffer

Front Row: Major Tyler Tafelski, David Reinke, Susan Capano,  
Lynne Dapice (Secretary), Abby Kelly

Missing: Pastor Boehringer (photographer)

# Gethsemane Council

On Tuesday, February 21st, the new Congregation Council of Gethsemane met for the first time. Please welcome and thank the following members for volunteering their time and talents: Susan Capano, Lynne Dapice, Ron Jones, Abby Kelly, Matt Noon, David Reinke, Sue Roma, Kate Shaffer, Steve Stanley and Tyler Tafelski.

Last month we introduced you to three of our new Council members and now we would like to introduce you to our fourth, Lynne Dapice.



Lynne moved after nearly 40 years in the Burlington, VT. area, to Londonderry in the fall of 2015 to be next door to her daughter and her family (Abby Kelly). She was thankful to find a place to worship and contribute at Gethsemane. She sings in the choir, is an assisting minister, communion assistant, lector, and is part of the Mary Martha group. Lynne looks forward to getting to know the church more in depth as she serves the congregation as a member of the Council. She came from Ascension in South Burlington. In her many years there she served on the council and was the 2<sup>nd</sup> lay person and the first woman president of the council. Off and on she was the choir director and played the organ a couple of times a month. She retired from all that activity in 2008.

On January 26, 2012, Lynne and her husband Doug were in a terrible accident in Maine in which he was killed. They had been married 48 ½ years. She has 3 children, 1 boy and 2 girls. Abby is the youngest of the three. She also has 8 grandchildren. The oldest got married this past summer.

Her first degree is in church music. She then went back to school and got her BS and MS in nursing. Although she was only in the role for 5 years, she loved emergency nursing because of the opportunity to work with families in crisis. Her greatest contribution was designing a program in conjunction with the state that allowed families with babies with high tech needs (for example, on a breathing machine) to be at home, with around the clock nursing assistance until the families could manage on their own. For 12 years, she was the director of the State Nurses Association. For about half of that time she served as VT. nurse's lobbyist at the state legislature. Her last full time position was at the VT Dept. of Health as the Diabetes Chief and then as the Bioterrorism Grant Manager.

# NES Conflict Mediation Team

The Conflict Mediation Team of the New England Synod (formerly known as the Listening Team) has been engaged by the Gethsemane Congregation Council to do some mediation work here at Gethsemane. Staff Support and Pastor Boehringer brought a proposal to engage the team to the council in November, and the Council agreed at the December meeting that the team should be called. Pastor Boehringer and the Staff Support committee noted that there are both interpersonal conflict and trust issues that were beyond the depth of the expertise of our Staff Support Committee or the pastor to resolve. Bishop Hazelwood has chosen Pastor Bill Peterson and Pastor Pat Harris to lead us through this process. Both pastors bring many years of expertise to the work, as well as having mediation training from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

In the coming weeks, Pastors Harris and Peterson will be interviewing all the members of the council, and persons identified by the council and the pastor. The hope is to interview people from a wide range of Gethsemane's demographic profile. Much of their work in these early weeks will involve asking people about their hopes, joys, and concerns regarding Gethsemane. They will then return to the Congregation Council to offer an interim assessment.

At that time, the Conflict Mediation Team may recommend proceeding (but not limited) in the following ways:

- Training for the congregation in conflict transformation
- Limited mediation between two parties
- Engagement of outside resources for full scale congregation dispute mediation

The purpose of engaging the Conflict Mediation team is to deal with conflict by engaging impartial mediators who can help the congregation work through conflict in the healthiest way. The team also helps the congregation to develop tools for dealing with conflict in the future.

The hope of the Congregation Council and the pastor is that all who are asked to participate will fully engage so that when the process is finished, our faith community is able to move forward together.

Yours in Christ,

Ron Jones,  
Congregation Council President

Pastor Peter Boehringer

# Pastor's Page

## Lent 2017



The Season of Lent offers many possibilities for those who wish to delve a little more deeply into the life of faith. As I have said in other forums, in recent years the Church has endeavored to recover the season as a time of catechetical teaching. (As an aside, “catechetical” has its roots in verbal repetition, and through the centuries involved baptismal candidates repeating, or reciting what they had been told. With a paucity of written material and with limited reading and writing skills, most everything was learned by repeating what had been heard. When Luther developed his Small Catechism, he intentionally chose the word “Catechism” for this very reason.) In the early church, those preparing for baptism (there was no such thing as Confirmation) learned the basic teaching of the church from the elders, while engaging in both fasting and prayer throughout the season. At the end of the season, often times during the Easter Vigil Liturgy, they were baptized and brought forward

as new members of the church, who could now participate fully in the church’s life, and most particularly, receive the Eucharist.

However, in our own time, in what is unarguably a more individualistic society, people ask why they should “join” a church, or what is the “value” of being a member. The use of the latter word by some is not surprising given our consumer culture which is always asking the question of value. We often hear from people who say that they can worship alone and don’t need a church community to do it. In some cases, they say that membership is nothing more than the church’s way of asking for a financial commitment...and of course some say that the church represents values that are either archaic or in some cases repugnant.

First, while one can certainly do many things at home, one cannot be “the church” alone. The very word church, from the Greek EKKLESIA means assembly. The church is the gathered people of God. Jesus made this abundantly clear when he said, “If two or three are gathered in my name, there I will be, in the midst of them.” The Lutheran reformers were very clear and succinct regarding this. In the Augsburg Confession, they stated that the church is where the people of God are gathered, the Gospel is rightly preached, and the Sacraments are administered.

Yet, the call to church membership is even more. People are invited to live in the covenant of baptism, to live among the people of faith, to hear the word and share in the supper, to proclaim the Gospel in *word and deed*, to serve all people and to strive for peace and justice (from the Affirmation of Baptism); and the promise to do these things is what membership is about. It is a promise to do all of these things even when you don’t feel like it, even when you disagree with something in your local congregation, it is a promise to do these things whether they are popular or unpopular, and the promise is to do them together, as the ecclesia, the community of Christ. The question of value, or “what is in it for me,” is answered in that all of these responsibilities are yours only as a matter of Christ’s grace, - you are already a member of the body of Christ, and part of the Kingdom of Heaven. There is no other promise, there is no greater promise.

Of course, there is a commitment, and part of it is financial. From the beginning those who had more, shared with those who had less, and continually aided the church’s mission. St. Paul writes of

the patrons and patronesses of his missionary work, as well as those who supported the local community churches. Giving out of one's abundance was the church's answer to the paucity of the Roman system, and it remains the church's counter cultural message. The Ten Commandments themselves, as interpreted by Luther are not moralistic rules, but are a statement of how to organize social power and social goods for the common benefit of the entire community. In the words of Jesus, they are "a new commandment" in stark contrast to the tenets of an individualistic capitalist society.

As for the those who claim the message of the church is repugnant to their values, I would ask "what church are you looking at?". Somewhat facetiously, I would ask those who can discern the differences between the various lattes offered by Starbucks to spend some time discerning the differences between and among churches. Anything less is sheer spiritual laziness.

Indeed, there are churches that are o.k. with racism, sexism, and that preach a gospel of prosperity that is the worst sort of heresy (and I do not use the word lightly). There are also churches, and I believe the ELCA is one of them, that have a deep commitment to the Gospel out of which grows a commitment to environmental, social, and economic justice, as well as a devotion to finding peaceful solutions and helping our neighbors here and abroad who are in need.

Well, some of you may remember the old American Express marketing slogan, "Membership has its Privileges." In the life of the church, membership also has its privileges, as well as some responsibilities, and becoming a member is a commitment, not taken lightly, that we will each do our best, given the gifts God has given us, to be a truly Holy people. We take on these responsibilities, because having received the gift of justification by grace through faith, we are free to help others, in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.

Lenten Blessings,

Pastor Peter



## A Note from Stewardship and Operations Ministry

### A Less Taxing Way To Give

As many of you did last year, the Stewardship Committee is asking each and all of us to consider titling our Federal Income Tax Refund to Gethsemane. For many of us our refund comes as extra income that enables us to do some extra things around the house or take a little vacation. It can also be a way to help Gethsemane meet our 2017 ministry goals.

This is above and beyond normal giving and should be designated once again as a "Generous Heart Gift" so that we may track it. Thank you all for being "Generous Hearts" during 2016 and again throughout this year. They say only two things in life our sure, "death and taxes." Not so we say, because here at GLC, the generosity of our members remains sure. We live in the light of God's overwhelming generosity, and therefore, we are also generous.

Thanks be to God!



# Treasurer's Report - Jan 2017

## Summary for January 2017

### Monthly Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures

Monthly Contributions	\$23,923
Monthly Spending	\$21,451
Difference	<b>\$ 2,472</b>

### YTD Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures (includes C4G)

YTD Contributions	\$23,923
YTD Spending	\$21,415
Difference	<b>\$ 2,472</b>

### Monthly Operating Income vs. Monthly Operating Expenses

Monthly Operating Income	\$21,800
Monthly Operating Spending	\$20,842
Difference	<b>\$ 958</b>

### YTD Operating Income vs. YTD Operating Expenses

YTD Operating Income	\$21,800
YTD Operating Spending	\$20,842
Difference	<b>\$ 958</b>

All giving and spending includes C4G

## NUMBERED OFFERING ENVELOPES

### Thrivent Investments

	Month	YTD
Total Account Value beginning of month	\$90,479.80	
Securities Transfers	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Additions and Withdrawals	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Income	\$ 307.05	\$307.05
Taxes, Fees and Expenses	(\$334.65)	(\$334.05)
Change in Investment Value	\$2,214.38	\$2,214.38
End of Month Money Market Cash on hand	\$2,214.38	
Total End of Month Account Value	\$92,666.58	



To those of you that haven't received any envelopes recently, there was an overlap with Augsburg Fortress during our Stewardship campaign. Several families didn't check whether or not they wanted envelopes for 2017 so were deleted from the list. We have straightened this out and everyone who wants envelopes should be receiving the Mar/Apr batch in mid-Feb. You may also see a new envelope #. If you have any questions or don't receive your envelopes, please give Shelley a call. Thanks for your patience.

	<u>Month</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>Month</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2017 YTD</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2017 YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2017</u> <u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>BUDGET INCOME</b>					
Giving Income	\$20,898	\$21,296	\$20,898	\$19,135	\$255,553
Operating Income	\$902	\$566	\$902	\$566	\$6,791
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$21,800	\$21,862	\$21,800	\$21,862	\$262,344
<b>NON-BUDGET INCOME</b>					
Thrivent Withdraw	\$0	\$526	\$0	\$526	\$6,309
Withdraw from TD Bank Money Market	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	
Giving to Off-Budget Programs	\$527	\$0	\$527	\$0	
Giving to Capital Campaign	\$1,597		\$1,597		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$25,423</b>	<b>\$22,388</b>	<b>\$25,423</b>	<b>\$22,388</b>	<b>\$268,653</b>
<b>SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$20,842</b>	<b>\$21,544</b>	<b>\$20,842</b>	<b>\$21,387</b>	<b>\$268,653</b>
<b>NON-BUDGET EXPENDITURES</b>					
Reimburse Investment Account Principal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures on Off-Budget Programs	\$610	\$0	\$610	\$0	
Capital Campaign Spending	\$0		\$0		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$21,451</b>	<b>\$21,544</b>	<b>\$21,451</b>	<b>\$21,387</b>	<b>\$268,653</b>



# Happenings



## Hymns & Hops



Planning is underway for Gethsemane's first ever "Hymns & Hops" songfest. The event will be held at the Stark Brewery (the old Milly's Tavern) on Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 –6:00 PM. How does this work? You come, join in and sing...if you want a burger or a beer or anything else, you order it and pay for it yourself! John Read, Music Director at First Lutheran of West Barnstable leads Hymns & Hops events throughout New England. He makes the evening fun with lots of laughter and great music. No reservations will be needed and there is no cost to attend. Look for more information in the coming months.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL OPERATION ARTIC BRRRR!!!



Don your parkas, thermal underwear, goggles and snow shoes for the adventure of a lifetime! From June 26th through the 29th, Gethsemane kids and friends will trek

through the Artic Circle learning about the coolest Book ever! The BIBLE! We will meet all manner of animals, play on ice caps, climb glaciers and explore the treasure that is the Bible. Mark your calendars and get ready for a flurry of fun.

Lots of white sheets are needed for the icebergs. If you have any to spare, JoAnn Wegman and Allison Krones would be very thankful. They are already starting on the bergs. Drop the sheets off with the office and thanks.

## Blood Drive

Another Red Cross Blood Drive is being planned for March/April with Abby Kelly leading the way. Even though we had to postpone the blood drive from January, you can still donate now and be able to give again in the March/April time frame.



## Photo Directory

Plans are underway to produce a new updated Gethsemane Photo Directory. Please take some time and find that "perfect" photo that you would like to have in the Directory. Send the photo as an attachment to the church office via email (or you can give us a hard copy to scan -not as good, but will do). Include the name(s) of the people (and pets if included) in the photo. If you don't have that perfect photo, let us know. Matt Krones has offered his services to take photos of anyone without one to submit. Any questions, please see Janis Cox or Matt Noon.

## Community Hymn Sing

Sunday, March 26th at 4PM, Bedford Presbyterian Church is hosting Alice Parker who will be conducting a community wide hymn sing. Alice is a 90 year old luminary in the American choral world. She was the driving force behind Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Chorus. She has international standing as a conductor and composer. All ages and experience levels are welcome

# Women's Retreat



Ladies it is time to think about our retreat in June. Planning ahead is always good and there is no need to have a final answer right now, but by May it will be necessary to give Calumet a definite number of those who will attend. So, start thinking and planning. We have a wonderful program already being worked on and the excitement about the retreat is building.

The retreat is scheduled for June 2-4, 2017. Once again, we are so fortunate to meet at Camp Calumet and Conference Center in Freedom, NH on beautiful Lake Ossipee. This is year 22 and we always invite all women of Gethsemane, their friends, sisters, mothers, mothers-in-laws and sister-in laws.

Our participants come from many of religious and spiritual backgrounds which adds to the richness of the experience. We fondly remember those wonderful ladies who have been with us before who now rest from their labors for the joy that they brought to our lives.

There are exciting things going on at Calumet in the Conference Center where the rooms on the first floor are being changed around and private bathrooms are being added to each room. There will eventually be a new lounge and with all this, the number of beds available will only decrease by two. All this is being done as time permits so it may be a surprise as to how much has been accomplished by June.

The theme this year will be Mindfulness and Christian Spirituality and the book by that same name written by Tim Snead is available on the Kindle. I'm sure there will be other options for getting the book as time goes on. And our planning committee headed by Clare Tino is busy getting the program together

This year, the weekend will cost \$161 per person for the two nights, and all the meals through Sunday noon meal. As before, check-in will be at 7PM on Friday and no meal will be served that day. Several of us get together and eat at a local restaurant on our way there and always welcome more to the crowd (it turns out to be lots of fun and a great way to start the weekend.) As always, if there is a financial need, talk to Pastor or Carol Burgess and arrangements can be made so that you can attend.

Hope that you can attend and we look forward to the biggest group ever going this year!

Carol Burgess



The March Mary Martha meeting will be held on Monday the 13th. Annual Pizza Party so DON'T bring any lunch! See you then.





# A round the Church

## Kitchen Update

The kitchen is gutted, the cabinets are lining the walls of the Mary Martha room, the Esther room is full of dishes and pans, and Sunday morning coffee is being prepared in a Sunday School classroom. What in the world is going on around Gethsemane ???

A kitchen tap was left running on Jan. 30, AND the sink plug was in. Our custodial contractor found water half-way across the kitchen floor that evening. Luckily, he came to clean much earlier than he usually does. He cleaned up the water for us, contacted us, and upon inspection by Property Committee members that evening, a plan was put in place.

The kitchen was emptied of all items. A contractor came in to remove the cabinets. Another contractor came to remove the flooring. The sub-floor was tested for moisture, and that came back negative. However, a corner of the kitchen floor, under the microwave, was rotted out. Moisture has been entering via the exterior wall for a long time. The rotted sub-floor was removed, fans and a dehumidifier were brought in, and left for 4 days, to make sure the area was as dry as possible.

As of this writing, a contractor is being interviewed to determine the cost of repair. Our insurance company is determining how much they will pay for our claim. And, our rental groups must bring in their coffee for the indefinite future.

## Youth Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 26th at 10:30 AM. The youth of Gethsemane will be hosting and participating in the worship service. They are busy putting it together with the help of Diane Destrempe and will have some wonderful music and a skit and will take over the service!



# Lent and Easter 2017

Wednesday, March 1, 2017	Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM with Imposition of Ashes
Thursday, March 9, 16, 23, 30 Thursday, April 6	Evening Supper Service 6:00 PM in the Café area. A light supper will be served with the spoken service
Sunday, March 5, 12, 19, April 2	Regular Worship Services at 8:30 & 10:30 A M
Sunday, March 26	J J J Services at 8:30 A M Youth Sunday Service at 10:30 A M
Thursday, April 13	Maundy Thursday Service and First Communion 7:00 PM
Friday, April 14	Good Friday Service 7:00 PM
Sunday, April 16	Easter Sunday Worship Services 8:30 & 10:30 A M Easter Breakfast 9:15 A M



# Easter Offerings

## EA S T E R OFFERINGS

This year, members of the Gethsemane congregation will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of plants to grace the Sanctuary at Easter and/or make a special offering for the relief of hunger around the world. Please return this form with your gift to the church office by Monday, April 3, 2017. (Please make checks payable to Gethsemane Lutheran Church).

Number of Lilies @ \$12 each \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tulip Plants @ \$9 each \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Hyacinth Plants @ \$9 each \_\_\_\_\_

An Offering to Hunger Appeal \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Include your envelope number here: \_\_\_\_\_

A Gift From: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving for: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not planning on taking your plant home and would like to donate it to one of our shut-ins or a local nursing home please let us know.

Please use the back for additional information

# Ends



## AmazonSmile Gives Back to Charitable Organizations



**New Amazon Program Enables Shoppers to Easily Donate to Their Favorite Nonprofits**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. From time to time, we may offer special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount on one or more products or services or provide for additional donations to charitable organizations.

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.



**Wednesday, March 22, 2017 is the ABSOLUTE deadline for articles for the April 2017 Olive Tree.** If you would like to contribute, please email your news to the church office at [glemanchester@comcast.net](mailto:glemanchester@comcast.net).

## The Olive Tree

*is published monthly by*

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
65 Sagamore St.  
Manchester, NH 03104

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Director of Music: Diane Destrempe

Office Administrator: Shelley Stama

Missionaries in Residence:  
Rev. Michael Fonner & Leslie Weed-Fonner

### The Congregation Council

Ron Jones (1-2017)	President
Steve Stanley (1-2018)	Vice-President
Sue Roma (1-2019)	Treasurer
Lynne Dapice (1-2019)	Secretary
Susan Capano (1-2019)	
Abby Kelly (1-2019)	
Matt Noon (1/2018)	
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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