



# The Olive Tree

May 2016

## GLC Highlights

Pentecost Sunday  
Confirmation Sunday  
New Horizons Walk  
May 15, 2016

Blood Drive  
May 26, 2016

Women's Retreat  
June 10-12, 2016

Vacation Bible School  
June 20-23, 2016

Fisher Cats Game  
Saturday, June 25th

Rally Sunday  
EndHunger NH Event  
Sept. 18, 2016

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



# Join us for "JOSEPH'S Adventure IN EGYPT"

# June 20-23 6-8 pm

# Vacation Bible School 2016

## JOSEPH'S JOURNEY FROM PRISON TO PALACE



## A typical day in Egypt Vacation bible school

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 the enticing desert air. Come and be transported to ancient Egypt where you will meet Bible-times heroes, visit the Egyptian marketplace and spend time exploring firsthand the unique culture of Joseph's world. We will explore the story of Joseph as he goes from prison to palace, and learn how God brings good out of tough situations. Four evenings of fun and Bible learning.

VBS is geared for all kids ages 4-12. We will have a special program for the younger kids under 4 who would like to participate. There will be crafts, games and projects geared for the 2-4 year olds. Join us on this trip June 20-23rd from 6-8 pm. Registration will start soon!



## Calling all volunteers



Pharaoh can't run his palace without help and yours is requested! Please consider coming to Egypt with us and lending a hand. There will be a volunteers meeting on June 5th at 9:15 in the Mary Martha room. If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Lord, JoAnn Wegman or Allison Krones.

# 2016 Women's Retreat

The GLC's Women's Retreat is June 10-12 at Calumet Camp and Conference Center in Freedom, NH on Lake Ossipee. We are fortunate to have this opportunity for friendships new and renewed, celebrations, disappointments and grieving for loved ones all unconditionally embraced by God's Love.

The invitation is for any woman interested in a very special week-end which includes Bible study, discussion and sharing as you feel comfortable, free time to enjoy the environment of Camp Calumet, wonderful meals, always some fun and fellowship. We are and always have included members, women attending GLC, friends, sisters and mothers.

This year we will base our activities on the Women of the ELCA summer 2014 study Of Many Generations: Mary, Elizabeth, Lydia. **"We are women of many generations, many ages many places and many experiences. We have a calling to come, learn and serve together, as well as to rebuild and repair and restore not only our own relationships, but also the world around us. To do this we look to Scripture for stories that take us into this calling. We look for stories of women who come together, women who understand themselves to be a part of a multigenerational community and who have known both challenge and joy."**

Our title is "What about Mary?", our emphasis will be Mary, Mother of Jesus. We will include a study of Luther's Wisdom in regard to Mary's Song, the message of Grace as God comes first to us and opens us to see our callings in service to God. Mary is a link for Christians and Muslims as she is included in the Bible and Koran. "Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea" an exhibition in 2014 at the National Museum of Women in Arts in Washington DC. Finally, the *Return of Mary* as expressed in a wax sculpture in the Uppsala Cathedral in Uppsala, Sweden. Her expression and her demeanor for each of us to discern. I did come upon Mary behind the large altar and she has left me wondering for many years.

Please contact or ask for Carol Burgess

[cburgess03304@comcast.net](mailto:cburgess03304@comcast.net) or Clare Tino [claretino@aol.com](mailto:claretino@aol.com)

If you are interested in attending this year, June 10 Friday evening to June 12 Sunday afternoon, Sunday morning worship at Calumet, 2 nights lodging in the conference center and 5 meals in the dining room. The cost for this week end is \$161. Financial assistance is available.





# Pastor's Page

On Sunday, May 15, we will celebrate the Day of Pentecost and three of our young people will participate in the rite of Affirmation of Faith by Confirmation. The day is always a day of joy and excitement as we recall the moment in the life of the Church when the Holy Spirit was poured out with grace and power upon the apostles. The earth shook, the wind roared, and in fire the Spirit descended, bringing the urgency of consuming **flame to the church's life.**

Yet, the flame does not consume, and the color of fire so evident on the first day of the season gives way to green, the color of growth and new beginnings. During these May days, when with every glance, we see life unfolding, the promise of the Season of Pentecost is easily discernible in the world around us. However, the key for us is to understand that what is happening all around in nature may also happen in our **lives if we remain open to the Spirit's promise. As surely as the New Year, the Pentecost** season offers the promise of new life, new hope and renewal. Even the lengthening of days suggests more time in order for us to work out the promise of life our Lord intends.

Here at Gethsemane, this new season brings all the possibilities of life and growth, and a certain amount of anxiety as we wrestle with our deficit and how it may impact our future. During the Easter season, many of the lectionary readings have come **to us from the book of Revelation...a book on which people often project their anxieties** and concerns. The book also reminds us that ultimately our times and our lives are not in our own hands. Everything changes, everything comes to an end, life passes, and the zeitgeist of the times change. Only one remains the same, the One we name as Alpha and Omega; the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier of our lives. In this one, finally, we place our hope and our faith, and it is He who promises that the first things will pass away, and that all things will be made new.

The challenge of these days is, I think, to let go of our anxiety about what may or may not happen to us personally, and to place our lives more fully and completely in the God who calls out through all of creation that we are loved and cared for in ways that we cannot yet fathom. Blessings to all of you as we live into a season of grace, hope, and new life.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Peter

## Generous Heart Gift

With the 2016 Financial Shortfall becoming an issue, the Operations Ministry is asking all members to consider tithing their tax refund or giving a portion of it to help in solving this shortfall. This is above and beyond normal giving and should be designated as "Generous Heart Gift", so we are able to track your response. Thanks for being a "Generous Heart". David Reinke, Chair



# Treasurer's Report - March 2016

## Monthly Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures

Monthly Contributions	\$21761
Monthly Spending	\$27,061
Difference	<b>(\$5,300)</b>

## Monthly Operating Income vs. Monthly Operating Expenses

Monthly Operating Income	\$16,366
Monthly Operating Spending	\$23,549
Difference	<b>(\$7,183)</b>

## YTD Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures

YTD Contributions	\$63280
YTD Spending	\$69952
Difference	<b>(\$6,671)</b>

## YTD Operating Income vs. YTD Operating Expenses

YTD Operating Income	\$51,461
YTD Operating Spending	\$71,157
Difference	<b>(\$19,695)</b>

Thrivent Investments	Month	YTD
Total Account Value beginning of month	\$88,387.74	
Securities Transfers	\$0	\$0
Additions and Withdrawals	\$0	\$10,000
Income	\$576.18	\$1,400.63
Taxes, Fees and Expenses	<b>(\$18.44)</b>	<b>(\$285.02)</b>
Change in Investment Value	\$4,922.63	\$3,010.11
End of Month Money Market Cash on hand	\$5,778.78	\$6,336.52
Total End of Month Account Value	\$93,868.11	

Projections based on Income vs. Expenses	
Average monthly deficit	<b>(\$6,565.16)</b>
Thrivent & Money Market Balance	<b>\$ 98,568.11</b>
Months before GLC depletes Accounts based on deficit	<b>15.01</b>

	<u>Month Actual</u>	<u>Month Budget</u>	<u>2016 YTD Actual</u>	<u>2016 YTD Budget</u>	<u>2016 Annual Budget</u>
<b><u>BUDGET INCOME</u></b>					
Giving Income	\$16,162	\$17,688	\$49,821	\$45,684	\$193,025
Operating Income	\$204	\$742	\$1,640	\$1,918	\$8,102
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$16,366	\$18,430	\$51,461	\$47,601	\$201,127
<b><u>NON-BUDGET INCOME</u></b>					
Thrivent Withdraw	\$0	\$6,896	\$0	\$17,812	\$75,259
Withdraw from TD Bank Money Market	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Giving to Off-Budget Programs	\$3,054	\$0	\$7,473	\$0	
Giving to Capital Campaign	\$2,341		\$4,346		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$21,761</b>	<b>\$25,326</b>	<b>\$63,280</b>	<b>\$65,413</b>	<b>\$276,386</b>
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES	\$23,549	\$22,688	\$71,157	\$69,952	\$276,386
<b><u>NON-BUDGET EXPENDITURES</u></b>					
Reimburse Investment Account Principal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures on Off-Budget Programs	\$3,512	\$0	\$7,148	\$0	
Capital Campaign Spending	\$0		\$5,496		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$27,061</b>	<b>\$22,688</b>	<b>\$83,800</b>	<b>\$69,952</b>	<b>\$276,386</b>

# Confirmation, How Things Have Changed



THE CLASS OF 1956

*Ann M. Anderson \* Jane Blidberg \* Bruce Gilbert \* Susan Gillespie \* Carleen Gustafson  
John F. Murray \* Joy Ahnklobeck \* Elaine Murphy \* Hugh Weind \* Norvalle Ruskad  
Kenneth Schrieber \* Merrill Walsh \* Brenda Perdue.*

In getting ready for the May Olive Tree, we thought it would be fun to highlight our Confirmation Class and do an article on them and the confirmation process. At about the same time, we received from Brian Fetterman the most beautiful photo albums he created of all the past Confirmation Classes. Looking at the photos and how solemn everyone was, and dressed up, I thought it might be interesting to see how things have changed over the years. I came upon a photo that caught my attention; the Class of 1956. WOW! Sixty years ago almost to the day and in it are two of our members who are still very active in

the life of this church. I wanted to sit down with these two ladies and also sit with the three young women who will be confirmed on May 15<sup>th</sup> and get their thoughts and memories about Confirmation Class. Unfortunately for me and this article, the Class of **2016 wasn't able to meet with me due to very busy lives. That in itself says something** about the changes that have come about in sixty years. So here is a little comparison of then and now.

Picture the Mary Martha room. It is a Saturday morning, there is a small stage at one end of the room and chairs are lined up below the stage. In them sit thirteen 8<sup>th</sup> graders, 14 years old, 5 boys and 8 girls, all dressed in their weekday school attire. Among the girls are Elaine Murphy and Jane Blidberg (now Scarlett). Standing on the stage is Pastor Einar Persson. Pastor Persson is doing all the talking. The kids will listen to him for the next 1-2 hours and this will go on for two years. Year one classes will take place on Sunday mornings during Sunday School. Year Two will take place on the Saturdays.

Flash forward to 2016. Trying to find a time to hold class has been very difficult **because of all the other activities today's youth are involved in. Sports, extra-curricular activities, homework, life in general!** It makes it tough. Priorities have changed over the years. Talking to Jane and Elaine I learned that in 1956, you went with the flow. It was **expected that you wouldn't miss a class unless you were very sick. No time off for a track meets, or Spanish projects, or anything. You sat there and were talked "at" for the entire class.** No questioning the pastor, no discussions about what you were learning. Jane and Elaine told me that they had to memorize Luther's Catechism, The Ten Commandments and a Bible verse as part of their program. **Today's classes are much more give and take.** The young women have been given assignments to do outside of class and then come in and sit with Pastor Boehringer and discuss their thoughts on the subject. Questions are asked and some differences of opinion may happen. What a

change! Emma, Meghan and Hailey did take part in the Youth Led Service last month, and made a presentation to the congregation during the service about their take on the **story of the Prodigal Son. No Friday night "Interrogation" for them. The Class of 1956** met with the congregation the Friday night before they were to be confirmed and had to recite (ah, the rote teaching) three things from the Catechism in front of everyone.

May 27, 1956 - Today is the day these thirteen young people will be confirmed (They all passed the Friday night test). Everyone met in the Mary Martha room, and all were **wearing white robes. I was told that this was because some of the parents couldn't** afford to buy new suits or dresses for their child and this way, everyone would look the same. The girls all wore dresses underneath, stockings and white shoes and the boys all had on dress pants, shirts and ties. Everyone one wore a red carnation. The group processed in to the sanctuary together and sat together during the service. The confirmation ceremony was a very big part of the service and the young people were presented with a Bible and a Confirmation Book. And, it was the first time they were **allowed to take Communion! Back in '56 you did not participate and take communion until** you were confirmed. No cakes, no big coffee hour or anything afterwards but as both Jane and Elaine told me, it was a very important and special day for them. They both could tell me in detail about the day - **isn't that cool.**

**Sixty years...a lot has changed and a little has changed.** I know that the young women being confirmed on May 15<sup>th</sup> have studied hard, done their assignments and entered into discussions that will have an effect on the rest of their lives. They too are looking forward to the day they are confirmed and will remember it always. Will they be **wearing white robes? No. Will they be as solemn as the Class of '56, probably not,** because they have a much more relaxed relationship with their pastor. Will there be a special celebration or cake? Most likely. What I do know is that this day will be a very important and special day in their lives, and one they will not forget.

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2016 and Happy Anniversary to the Class of 1956. Sixty years.



*Elaine Murphy & Jane Scarlett*



*Class of 2016: Meghan Lord, Hailey Dearborn and Emma Krantz*

# Our 2016 Confirmands



Hi. My name is Hailey Dearborn. I live in Bedford NH and I am currently in the 8th grade at Lurgio School and I can't wait to see what high school has in store for me. I enjoy hanging out with friends and family, sing and I also am in a play at my school called "wonderland". I love to read, swim, draw and travel to new places. I love adventure. I have a dream that one day I will live in NYC and pursue my goal to be a lawyer just like my grandfather. I love to play lacrosse and basketball and trying new things. I go to church every Sunday and I have met so many kind and loving people who have welcomed me just like family. I am currently in Confirmation class and will soon be making my confirmation. I am very excited.

Our third Confirmand is Emma Krantz. We hope to tell you about her in June.

Hi my name is Meghan Lord. I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Nashua Catholic in Nashua, NH. In the fall, I will be attending Bishop Guertin High School also in Nashua. I am very involved in soccer. I play center-midfield and outside back all-year-round on my travel team, GPS New Hampshire, and I also play on the New Hampshire state team in the Olympic Development Program (ODP). We play games throughout the region, most often in MA. In the winter, because it is a little hard to play outdoor soccer in the winter in New England, I play futsal. Basically, futsal is soccer played with a heavier, smaller ball on a basketball court. This year, my team advanced to and played well in the regional futsal tournament. Other than soccer, I have been involved in cross-country and track at my school, and in the winter I love skiing and snowboarding. Aside from sports, I am a member of NCL (National Charity League) a program that encourages mother-daughter volunteering, and the National Jr. Honor Society at my school. I also play the piano and take lessons, though my practice minutes need a little work. Another thing I have been into is gluten-free vegan baking. Two foods I would not be able to live without are avocados and almond butter. Above all, my favorite thing to do is hang out with my family. We love playing in the backyard, playing cards, skiing, and traveling together. We look forward to traveling to Europe this summer. I also love my church family. Everyone here has been so supportive of me while growing up here. I love helping out with all the kids in Sunday School, and I am extremely thankful for my friendship with Hailey and Emma through our years at Gethsemane. I am excited to make my confirmation this month, and I am extremely thankful for all the help and support from my church family along the way.







# Blood Drive

*Together, we can save a life*

## Gethsemane to host Red Cross Blood Drive

Gethsemane will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 7:00 PM. We encourage everyone to get involved, either by volunteering or donating blood. You can go out on-line to schedule an appointment to give blood, or just show up that day. We will need some volunteers to help check people in and make and /or serve snacks that day. Abby Kelly is the Gethsemane coordinator. IF you can help out or have any questions, please contact her. There will also be a sign up sheet for volunteers on the Narthex board.



*Jaelynne, Jeff & Jaya Kelly at  
the blood drive 2015*

"Hello! My name is Abby Kelly and for those who do not know me, my family and I have been members of Gethsemane since 2008. The reason for my note today is because the church is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on May 26, 2016 from 3-7pm. We have held two other ones and I would like to make this one the best one yet. My connection to the Red Cross is a strong one, and I would like to share it with you today. My paternal grandmother was a Red Cross nurse. My father was a huge Red Cross blood donor giving over 93 gallons of blood in his life, and also doing platelet and plasma apheresis (a process in which the blood is collected by a machine, which separates the plasma, red cells and platelets and returns the red cells back to the donor). When my father was killed in a car accident, many friends and family asked us what they could do to help, and our response was, "Please give blood in his honor". We knew how important blood donation was to him and how committed to it he was. About two years ago, I was looking for work, and came across a job at the Red Cross (I teach health and safety and preparedness programs to elementary school students). I felt like it was where I was meant to be and that my dad and God had a hand in my hearing about the job, and also getting the job! Then in May of 2015 I received an email asking if any of us on the Outreach committee would be interested in heading up a Blood Drive at the church. It was another nudge from above! What I ask is if you are able, would you consider giving blood on May 26th? If you are not able, would you consider asking a friend to give blood on May 26th? My personal goal is to have 25 people come in and give. Some reasons to give blood (from [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)): "It feels great to donate! Most people have blood to spare...yet, there is still not enough to go around. Your donation helps ensure that blood is available when it is needed the most. You will be someone's hero! In fact, you could help save more than one life with just a single donation." It is a pretty amazing gift to give, and a pretty easy gift as well! To make an appointment, please go to [American Red Cross - Give blood](http://AmericanRedCross-Giveblood) and search "GLCMANCH". If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me! I thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

# Odds and ...



## New Horizons Walk Against Hunger

The New Horizons 5K Walk Against Hunger will be held on Sunday, May 15th. Help the hungry and homeless in Manchester by becoming a member of the Gethsemane Walking Team. The sign up sheet is posted on the Narthex Board. New Horizons is hoping to raise \$120,000 this year and Gethsemane would like to beat our record of \$3300 which we raised in 2015. Karen Wynn is again the GLC Team Captain and you can contact her at 603-714-4588 or [kwhrdh@comcast.net](mailto:kwhrdh@comcast.net). Last year New Horizons and Angie's Shelter for Women provided a safe place to stay for an average of 61 people every night, served 72,183 meals in the soup kitchen and supplied 11,331 bags of nutritious food to children and their families through the food pantry. Gethsemane helps make a difference locally! So, dust off your sneakers and join the team. There is still time!



Thank you from Michelle Cox

Hi, thank you to everyone who contributed to my 'alternative break' trip to Nicaragua. It was a wonderful week of community service.  
Thanks again! Michelle Cox

Sarah Dorsch spent some time in January visiting with family in Texas. The reason for this trip...the 105th birthday of her aunt, Jewell Hutson on January 27th. Congratulations Jewell and what a great photo!



To my Gethsemane Family,

A sincere thank you to everyone who took part in the Easter breakfast. It was a joy to see so many families there.

I especially want to thank all the fabulous cooks and bakers; Richard for all the casseroles he made; those who helped in the kitchen before the breakfast; and those who helped set up and do the final clean up, without whose help I would not have been able to handle this event. I am truly grateful and feel blessed to have so many wonderful friends.

We have a dedicated congregation who step up and help out wherever it is needed. And, we should plan more gatherings like this one. What could be a better way to get to know all the people who attend this church? Thank you again.

Easter Blessings, Carol Burgess



# 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.*



**Friday, May 20th, 2016 is the deadline for articles for the June 2016 newsletter.** If you would like to contribute, please email your news to the church office at [g lcmanches-ter@comcast.net](mailto:g lcmanches-ter@comcast.net).

### **The Olive Tree"**

is published monthly by

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
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The Congregation Council

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

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