



# The Olive Tree



November, 2016

## GLC Highlights

Worship Services  
Sundays  
8:30 & 10:30 AM  
Education Hour  
9:20 AM

Holiday Fair  
Saturday, Nov 12th

Christmas Carol  
Palace Theater  
Sunday, Dec 4th

SNHU  
Wind Concert  
Friday, Dec 9th

Christmas Musical  
December 11, 2016

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



## We are Thankful for...

The children of Gethsemane  
Our Youth  
Our fellowship of friends  
Our volunteers  
Our Church



## Thanksgiving at Gethsemane

Mag & Diane, Dave & Sue Roma invite you to share a Thanksgiving dinner with them at church again this year. There are many reasons for folks wanting to celebrate Thanksgiving this way, but the main reason is that we enjoy one another's company. All are welcome. You may bring family and friends along. Just bring a dish for everyone to share. The Romas will provide the turkey, stuffing, gravy, squash (grown by a master garden in Maine) mashed potatoes, and an apple pie. Those coming bring the rest. Let Diane Roma know how many will attend with you and what you would like to bring. 668-4672. Items you might consider as your contribution could be: a squash pie, pecan pie, other dessert, an appetizer or drinks. It is perfectly acceptable to buy the pies if you are not a baker. Oh! Vanilla ice cream to put on the pie.

The dinner will be on Thanksgiving Day. November 24th at 1:00PM. Appetizers will be served before then. The doors will be open at noon.

We have had as few as 17 and as many as 35 over the years. But, the more the merrier!

# *It's Holiday Fair Time!*

Mark your calendars!

Saturday, November 12th, 2016

9:00 - 2:00

*It's the most wonderful time of the year!*



Come do your Christmas Shopping

We need YOU to make the fair a success!

Sign Up sheets are on the Café board.

We need  
Elves, Angels  
and bakers,  
chili and soup makers  
Set up, clean up  
Time to sign up!

## Holiday Fair Raffle Baskets

The Holiday Fair is fast approaching – Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – and we are asking committees and individuals (those willing to contribute baskets on their own) to begin planning now. Popular baskets in the past have been those related to holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas; pets, wild birds, gardening, Italian and French food themed. All you need to do is decide on a theme and purchase the items you would like to have in the basket. The basket committee will do the rest! We provide the basket and the wrappings to make it attractive. Please have your basket contents at the church by Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. The basket committee will meet at 7:00 PM that evening to assemble the baskets. The basket raffle raises a lot of money for the fair and your contributions are very helpful and appreciated. Thanking you in advance. Diane Roma – coordinator. 606-668-4672



# *Don't let your inn get overfilled* this Christmas

A young pregnant woman, about to give birth, is refused lodging. We are aghast. We are appalled at the dearth of human kindness.

That is the story we hear each Christmas about Mary and Joseph, turned away because there “was no room for them at the inn.”

We wonder: Why wouldn't somebody make room? Why wouldn't somebody invite them in to sleep on their floor? We are incensed at the coldness, yet we are those somebodies.

Pollster George Barna once said when most people hear statistics, poll results or information on behavior patterns, they usually apply the findings to others, not themselves.

We hear a report on the declining civility in American culture, and we think of someone else who has been rude or abrupt or who has behaved like a cad. We tend to give ourselves a pass.

We hear about a woman nine months pregnant forced to give birth in a shelter for animals and we think how self-absorbed those people were. Rarely do we consider that they were probably people just like us.

We could have been those somebodies all those years ago – too busy, too crowded and too preoccupied. We could be those somebodies even now.

The inn has never been more crowded than it is today. Best wishes prying open the door. The inn is packed with over-scheduled people frantically coming and going, scrambling to host or attend parties, creating playlists, cooking, baking, shopping, wrapping and decorating. So much to do and so little time.

Why, no, we'd never shut out the holy family. We'd never be so preoccupied as to miss the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Christ. Or would I? Do I?

Truthfully, much of what we do – the many activities and self-imposed requirements for celebrating Christmas – has little to do with the genuine meaning of the holiday. On the one hand, they're fun and a delight to the senses and create marvelous memories. On the other hand, we grow nearly frantic with each additional activity, raising the water level a little more and a little more until we are struggling to stay afloat.

But perhaps the best way to celebrate Christmas is not to pack the inn quite so full. Leave room for the unexpected, for extending spontaneous hospitality and for a sudden change in plans.

Be the sort of somebody willing to make room. Keep the door open a crack. And in the spirit of Advent, keep watch. Wait and watch – in the small snippets of quiet, in the still of the night, the early rays of sunrise, or the twilight of late afternoon – stay alert and you will witness the joy and beauty and mystery of heaven reaching down to earth.

Permission to reprint given by the author Lori Borgman  
[www.loriborgman.com](http://www.loriborgman.com)

# Sola Scriptura



Among the *Solas* of the Reformation, is *Sola Scriptura* or as translated, “Scripture Alone.” I am going to begin with a statement that may seem to be a paradox; that Christ is the sole content of scripture. Surely, the Bible contains laws, historical accounts, prophecy, prayers, psalms, praise, and proclamation. However, from a theological perspective, Luther and the reformers believed that in terms of its essential themes, the Bible is unified. This means that ultimately, Jesus Christ is the Bible’s only content. “All of Scripture everywhere deals only with Christ.” (Luther’s Works, 46, p 414).

This does not mean that the Holy Scriptures contain exclusively gospel. Luther believed that Scripture contains both law and gospel (perhaps another topic to wrestle with), and that Christ is also the interpreter of the law. Where there is law in scripture, its intent is always to drive people toward Christ as the Savior. From this perspective, law and gospel, indirectly and directly bear witness to Christ. Understood in this way, not everything in scripture is gospel, but it contains the gospel in all its parts.

Scripture in the eyes of Luther and the reformers is self authenticating. What this means is that because Christ is the content of Scripture, in the Holy Spirit, Christ authenticates himself to us as the truth and thereby authenticates the Holy Scripture. In this way Scripture is self authenticating; it is the *norm ens normata* (the norm which is not normed) of the church’s life.

At the time of the Reformation, the church maintained that because it established the canon, the church guarantees the authority of Scripture. From this perspective, since the canon is established by the church, the church stands above Scripture, and decides both what the Scripture is, and its proper interpretation. Luther’s reply to this thinking was straightforward. To him, it made as much sense as saying that John the Baptist stands above Christ because he bears witness to Christ by pointing his finger at him. Luther wrote of Scripture, “This queen must rule, and everyone must obey, and be subject to her. The Pope, Luther, Augustine, Paul, or even an angel from heaven—these should not be masters, judges, or arbiters but only witnesses, disciples, and confessors of Scripture (Luther’s Works 40 p 119; 26 p 57; and others). Since no one is in the position to validate Scripture, it validates itself. He argued that it is not the church which authorizes Scripture, but quite the contrary: the Scripture validates the Church. “The gospel is not believed because the church confirms it, but because one recognizes that it is God’s word.” (Luther’s Works 30, p 687ff.)

Luther went on to argue that since Scripture validates itself, it is also self interpreting. There can be no outside authority that can stand above the Scripture. At the time of the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church argued that the teaching office of the church to which the Holy Spirit had been promised stood above scripture. This would have allowed the church to negate Scripture as it wished. At the other end of the spectrum, enthusiasts believed that interpretation was a gift of the Spirit given to individuals. This too, placed the final authority outside Scripture. Everything according to Luther is subject to Scripture; no doctrine or dogma, not even a papal declaration, has any validity unless it can be proven by Scripture. Scripture is its own norm, and there can be no other.

Having said this, Luther certainly recognized that Scripture is subject to interpretation, but he believed that only those who are moved by the Holy Spirit can interpret it...and that the Spirit which enables them to interpret Scripture comes to them through the Scripture itself. Since the Spirit is promised to the community of believers, it is the community, moved by the Holy Spirit which may interpret Scripture. Outside the community of faith there is no promise of proper interpretation of Scripture as the Spirit is “necessary to understand all of Scripture as well as every part of it. (Luther’s Works 18 p 609).

Through the centuries, *Sola Scriptura* has led us into some interesting challenges. Among them is overcoming the penchant for both idolizing Scripture (in the deepest theological sense worshipping the Bible instead of Christ) as well as proof texting our own positions by claiming for them Scriptural authority without having done the work of allowing Scripture to interpret itself. For Lutherans in particular, there has also historically been a de emphasis on the sacraments, in favor of Scripture, even though the sacraments are the clear command and gift of Jesus Christ, though in recent decades there has been a recovery of the sacraments. Yet, it must be recognized that the declaration *Sola Scriptura* not only motivated Luther to translate the Bible into German, but launched a Reformation in the life of the Church that made the Scripture available to the entire faith community, and moved the community to a richer and deeper understanding of God’s Holy Word.

Peace,

Pastor Boehringer



# Treasurer's Report - Sept 2016

## Summary for September 2016

### Monthly Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures

Monthly Contributions	\$18,415
Monthly Spending	\$23,755
Difference	<b>(\$5,360)</b>

### Monthly Operating Income vs. Monthly Operating Expenses

Monthly Operating Income	\$14,480
Monthly Operating Spending	\$23,695
Difference	<b>(\$9,215)</b>

### YTD Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures

YTD Contributions	\$200,470
YTD Spending	\$225,548
Difference	<b>(\$25,079)</b>

### YTD Operating Income vs. YTD Operating Expenses

YTD Operating Income	\$172,357
YTD Operating Spending	\$209,875
Difference	<b>(\$37,518)</b>

Thrivent Investments	Month	YTD
Total Account Value beginning of month	\$94,522.99	
Securities Transfers	\$0.00	\$2,997.66
Additions and Withdrawals	\$0.00	\$960.98
Income	\$322.08	\$3,297.66
Taxes, Fees and Expenses	\$0.00	<b>(\$984.82)</b>
Change in Investment Value	<b>(\$320.50)</b>	\$8,850.70
End of Month Money Market Cash on hand	\$1,533.75	
Total End of Month Account Value	\$94,554.57	

Remember you can give using your envelope, you can give on-line through the website or you can use our new mobile app.



	<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	\$14,312	\$16,166	\$167,463	\$136,665	\$193,025
Operating Income	\$168	\$679	\$4,894	\$5,736	\$8,102
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$14,480	\$16,845	\$172,357	\$142,401	\$201,127
<b><u>NON-BUDGET INCOME</u></b>					
Thrivent Withdraw	\$0	\$6,303	\$0	\$53,285	\$75,259
Withdraw from TD Bank Money Market	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Giving to Off-Budget Programs	\$2,900	\$0	\$15,744	\$0	
Giving to Capital Campaign	\$1,035		\$12,369		
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$18,415</b>	<b>\$23,148</b>	<b>\$200,470</b>	<b>\$195,686</b>	<b>\$276,386</b>
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES	\$23,695	\$21,127	\$209,875	\$212,121	\$276,386
<b><u>NON-BUDGET EXPENDITURES</u></b>					
Reimburse Investment Account Principal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures on Off-Budget Programs	\$80	\$0	\$9,287	\$0	
Capital Campaign Spending	\$0		\$6,386		
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$23,775</b>	<b>\$21,127</b>	<b>\$225,548</b>	<b>\$212,121</b>	<b>\$276,386</b>

# Stewardship 2017

“For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond...”

2 Corinthians 8:3

Our 2017 Stewardship Effort is under way! If you have already returned your pledge card, we thank you. If you haven't, please consider doing so as soon as you can. We have visitation stewards that are pleased to sit with you and answer any questions you may have. You should hear from them very soon.

Your help, energy, and commitment  
are vital to making  
our 2017 goal of \$275,000 a success.



**Gethsemane**  
*Lutheran Church*  
For everyone, a place in the garden

# Outreach at Gethsemane

## Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap

Please save the date! Our annual Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping Event is on Friday, December 2nd, from 4p-10p - at the Barnes and Noble store on South Willow Street (across from the Mall of NH). We greet shoppers as they enter the store, and we are also available to wrap their purchases. All donations go to New Horizons. It is a Friday evening, so the store will be very busy, and we need lots of volunteers! Please sign up to greet or wrap! It's for a great cause! Please contact Janis Cox if you have any questions.



## Religious Response to Hunger Annual Food Drive



Food offerings from various parishes in Manchester participated in this year's caravan from Brookside parking lot to New Horizons for New Hampshire, complete with a police department escort. The goal was to transport those donations for use in the food pantry, which was accomplished with good cheer and the assistance of some awesome helpers at New Horizons when it came time to unload the vehicles. Approximately 520 bags of food were collected this year, the most in recent memory! These gifts will be used by many in need in our local community, and that need is ongoing. THANK YOU so much for your participation in this effort! Your donations are appreciated! Susan Edwards

## College Care Packages



The college youth of Gethsemane will be heading into finals at the end of November/beginning of December. We would like to let them know we are thinking about them during these stressful times and send some prayers and goodies along to help them out. The Sunday School will be putting the packages together on Nov 20th. We would welcome any donations to include in the packages. We have 7 college students to bless this year. Donations could be hot chocolate packages, tea bags, trail mix, snack bars, pens, pencils, highlighters, Post-it notes, pocket packages of Kleenex, lip balm, gift cards, etc. No Baked items as we are not sure of the timing of sending the packages. Anyone is welcome to join in the packaging Nov 20th during Education hour in Mary Martha Room. A labeled plastic bin will be located just outside the office during office hours for donations. If you have any questions, please check with Gretchen Lord.

## WELCA Convention

Judie Chary will be Gethsemane's delegate to the New England WELCA Convention Oct. 26-30. Sarah Dorsch will be joining her. They will be taking 8 blankets and 4 tarps to be given to "Seed of Hope Neighborhood Center" as In-kind gifts.



# Coming Soon....

Did you know that the Pastor Boehringer and Shelley are already hard at work on Advent and Christmas!?! Here's what's in the works.



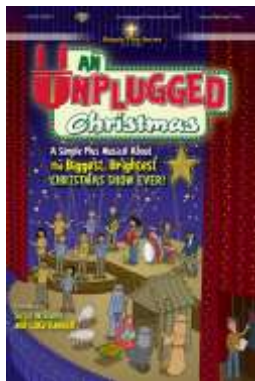
## Dicken's A Christmas Carol Palace Theater

Be transported back in time to old England and Christmas. Join fellow members and friends on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 PM at the Palace Theater (Manchester) for their annual performance of "A Christmas Carol". Tickets are \$30 per person and \$5 of that will be donated to the youth of Gethsemane funds for their funds to allow them to go to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering. There is a signup sheet on the Café board, or you can call the office and let Shelley know how many seats you want to reserve. Please make your check out to Gethsemane with "Christmas Carol" in the memo and please try and get the checks to us early as we have to pay the Palace before hand. Thanks.

Decking the halls of GLC  
Wednesday, Dec 7th 5:30 PM

## Gethsemane Christmas Musical

Mark you calendar for Sunday, December 11th during the 10:30 service for the kids Christmas Pageant and Musical, "An Unplugged Christmas".



## Christmas Concert



Back by popular demand is the Southern New Hampshire University Wind Symphony with a concert filled with Christmas music. The symphony is under the direction of Rick Cook, son of Brad & Kathy Cook. The concert will be held on Friday, December 9th at 7:00 PM with a reception preceding at 6:00 PM. Admission to the event is free and open to the public. Invite friends and family.



## Christmas Eve Services

Services on Christmas Eve will be at 6:00 PM (Service of the Angels - Family Service) and at 11:00 PM (Service of the Shepherds - traditional), both with communion. There will be one service on Sunday, Christmas Day at 9:30 AM with lessons and carols



# A round the Church

## Property Update

The Property Committee has been busy with a Fall Work Day, during which all the pews were cleaned and waxed, along with some touch-up painting on the ground level of the building.

The Planting Task Force has had a work day at the parking lot, to move around some plants, to replace some plants, and to put in a lilac between the new trees along the front sidewalk. The parking lot gardens are now ready for winter, although watering will continue until the ground freezes (early December).

Soon the neighbors who park overnight in our lot will be contacted and asked to sign their vehicles up, so that we know whom to contact should a problem occur. A 'registration' system will include clear stickers for windshields, and an information card.

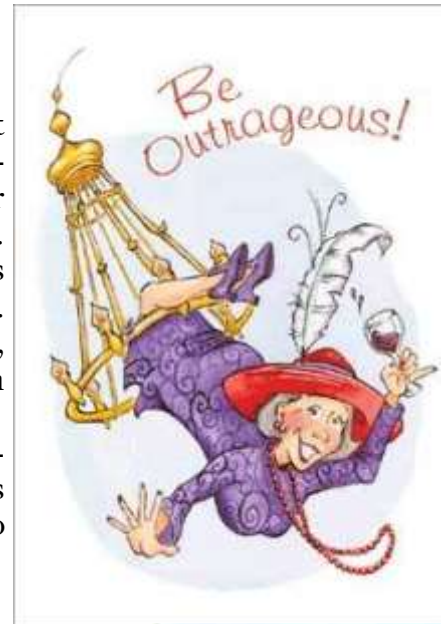
Photo: Fall colors in the gardens along the parking lot.



## Ladies Nite Out

Twenty-eight women attended our annual "Ladies Night Out" event. This year it was an Italian adventure at Mangia Italia on south Elm Street. It is run by the chef owner who cooks everything to order and the food is top notch. Angelo, the chef owner is from the Isle of Capri so his cooking is somewhat different from the usual Italian fare. The sauces are lighter and very imaginative. His wife, Amanda, who works full time at a bank, was kind enough to come in and waitress the event.

It is always fun for us to get together and spend an evening getting to know one another better. Everyone has such a busy life; it is nice to just be out and not have to do anything. A good time was had by all.



*(note: the ladies all had such a good time that no one took any photos—hmmm—were they having too good of a time?!)*



# 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, November 18th, 2016 is the **ABSOLUTE** deadline for articles for the December 2016 Olive Tree. If you would like to contribute, please email your news to the church office at [glcmanchester@comcast.net](mailto:glcmanchester@comcast.net).

### The Olive Tree"

is published monthly by

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
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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

Marcia Ressimeyer-Sink (2/2016)	President
Bryan Lord (1/2016)	Vice President
Ron Jones (1/2017)	Treasurer
Marsha Journey (1/2017)	Secretary
Alex Krantz (1/2016)	
Matt Noon (1/2018)	
David Reinke (1/2018)	
Katelyn Shaffer (1/2018)	
Stephen Stanley (1/2018)	

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

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