



The Olive Tree

December 2017



GLC Highlights

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

Deck the Halls
Part I
Thursday, December 7th

SNHU Wind Orchestra
Concert
Friday, December 8

Dicken's Christmas Carol
Sunday, December 10

Deck the Halls
Part II
Wednesday, December
13th

Christmas Musical
December 17, 2017
10:30

Barnes & Noble Wrap
Thursday, December 21

Christmas Eve Services
10:30 AM
5:30 & 11:00 PM

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



For Unto Us a Child is Born



Season of Advent

"Camel Lot" Don't Miss the Manger

Beth has been practicing hard for the church Christmas pageant. Her Dad (who runs a car dealership), may be too busy with Christmas car sales to make it to the program. Exhausted from practice, with line from Luke 2 swirling in her mind, she drifts off to sleep. Transported by Beth's imagination (and a sound effect or two!) we all "wake up" in Bethlehem on a very special day, and in a most unusual place - the Camel Lot! It doesn't take long inside Beth's topsy-turvy dream world, to encounter camel shoppers, sales people, shepherds, wise men and a very familiar story, told in a fun and refreshing new way!



Join the youth of Gethsemane as they bring you this musical celebration of the season on Sunday, December 17th at the 10:30 service.

Following the service, there will be a potluck luncheon in the Mary Martha Room (see next page for details).



Dickens's "A Christmas Carol"

So many people said "let's do it again!" that we are doing it again!.

Be transported back in time to old England and Christmas. Join fellow members and friends on Sunday, December 10th at 5:00 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 for their funds to help 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. All reservations and checks need to be in to the church office no later than December 1st. 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 in advance. Thanks.

Holiday Concert

The Southern New Hampshire Wind Orchestra under the leadership of Rick Cook will once again hold a winter concert at Gethsemane on Friday, December 8th at 7PM. Admission is free and the concert is open to the public. We need volunteers to greet and usher people to their seats and also volunteers to bake and serve holiday "treats". The sign up sheet is on the Café board. If you have any questions, check with Monica Moquin or the office.



Season of Advent



Deck the Halls

Come join us on Wednesday, December 13th from 5:30 to ? We will be setting up and decorating the tree and hanging the lanterns. We will have pizza and soda for those who are able to stay and help out. Diane Destrempé has promised to have some Christmas music all can sing along to! Please consider joining us and helping to make this church even more beautiful than it is for the Christmas season. If you have any questions, please contact Shelley in the office.

(PS. - we also need a few people to help hang the wreaths on Thursday, December 7th around 9:30 AM. We want the wreaths up before the concert the next evening).



Check out the Advent Calendar for this year and take one home (take a set of stickers to hold it together from the basket too)! They are on the Café table.

Time to order poinsettias and wreaths to decorate Gethsemane for the season. See the order sheet insert in your weekly bulletin or use the order form on the back of this Olive Tree.



Barnes & Noble Gift Wrap

Please save the date! Our annual Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping Event is on Thursday, December 17th 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 Karen Andersen if you have any questions.

Giving Tree

This year we will be giving Christmas to children living in Manchester's New Horizon's housing and shelter. Marsha Journay is coordinating this program. More information will be coming in the next couple of weeks.



Christmas Pageant Potluck Lunch

There will be a pot luck lunch following the 10:30 "Christmas Pageant" service on December 17th. If your last name begins with the letters **A -G**, please bring a dessert; **H-O**, a main dish and **P-Z** a side dish or salad. Drop off your fully prepared items (there will be no time to cook anything here) in the kitchen before the service. We expect to have a larger turnout than normal so please keep that in mind.

Christmas Eve



Gethsemane Lutheran Church will hold three worship services this year on Christmas Eve (Sunday, December 24th). The first service will be at 10:30 AM. It will be a Service of the Word and there will be no communion. There will be two evening (“Christmas Eve”) services.



The first service will be at 5:30 PM. The “Service of the Angels” will be traditional in nature and will be more young family centric and comfortable for families with younger children. The Gethsemane Bell Choir will be playing throughout this service.

At 11:00 PM we will hold the “Service of the Shepherds”, featuring our senior choir and a very traditional, Lutheran liturgical Christmas Eve service. Communion will be served (by intinction) at both services. We hope you can join us for one or all of these services.



Pastor's Page



And Joseph was betrothed to Mary...

A few weeks ago, Mary and Joseph came up in the political sphere. While I have no political comment to make, I thought in our Advent preparation we could look a little more closely at the Holy Family.

We, of course, refer to Mary as a teenager when she was betrothed to Joseph, however, overlaying modern nomenclature on an ancient custom doesn't work very well. In first century Israel, when boys and girls had passed through puberty they were considered to be of age for marriage. The concept of "teenager" as we know it simply did not exist. Marriages in Israel in the first century were arranged marriages, and

usually took place within one's clan, and most likely with a man and woman of roughly equal economic status. The parents worked out the details and though the bride's consent was needed, this was usually a formality. This is most likely the scenario under which Mary and Joseph were married. Young men didn't usually leave their parents household when married, but continued to work within the household. Young women, when married, went to live in the household of their husbands. Throughout much of ancient Jewish history, the father of the groom paid the father of the bride for the lost economic input of the daughter into the household. However, by the second century b.c.e., the custom had been changed so that the price was merely pledged, and it was only paid in the case of divorce. This made it easier for marriages to take place as well as made divorce more difficult.

When Mary was betrothed to Joseph, it is most likely that the bride price was pledged. It was also not unusual that the couple did not live together. After the betrothal, the father of the bride had up to a full year to bring the bride to the groom. However, at the betrothal the couple was fully married. While we may wonder and be somewhat bewildered at the propriety of such a young woman being married, average life expectancy was much lower than it is today and perhaps necessitated earlier marriage and procreation.

While Mary may have been as young as 12 when she married Joseph, we don't know what Joseph's age was at the time they married. Tradition has often depicted Joseph as a much older man (as old as 90 years). However, this tradition developed in order to protect the belief in the perpetual virginity of Mary. An older Joseph would have supposedly have had little interest in sexual relations. Yet, there is no biblical evidence that Joseph was an older man, as well as compelling evidence that Jesus had brothers and sisters. I think it is safe to say that Joseph was not that much older than Mary, perhaps 15 or 16 years of age.

Of course, these things make the story of the Nativity all that much more remarkable. That Mary was willing to assent to God's plan, and that Joseph was also willing to be the father of a child not his own is remarkable (perhaps miracle is a better word).

That is the wonder and mystery of the Nativity. In the end, this is not a story about the proper age of assent. It is a faith story. Mary accepted the word of the angel Gabriel, and thus became the first believer in Jesus as well as the one the church calls "God bearer." Joseph, the one we name as the "protector of Jesus" is unremarkable, except that to fulfil his role, he married Mary despite his doubts, listened to the warnings of the angel, took the unprecedented step of fleeing with his wife and child to Egypt, and returned to Nazareth to raise Jesus.

Most importantly, the Nativity is God's faith story. The Incarnation is about God's keeping faith with all of his children...sending his son to live among us, to share all that there is about being human, and remaining obedient to God's plan for our salvation. It is God taking on flesh and bone and giving himself as a gift to the world...the only gift of Christmas that truly matters.

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Peter

Treasurer's Report - Oct. 2017

Summary for October 2017

Monthly Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures (includes C4G)

Monthly Contributions	\$22,726
Monthly Spending	\$24,982
Difference	(\$2,256)

YTD Total Contributions vs. Total Expenditures (includes C4G)

YTD Contributions	\$206,757
YTD Spending	\$241,811
Difference	(\$35,054)

Monthly Operating Income vs. Monthly Operating Expenses

Monthly Operating Income	\$17,892
Monthly Operating Spending	\$22,706
Difference	(\$4,814)

YTD Operating Income vs. YTD Operating Expenses

YTD Operating Income	\$179,884
YTD Operating Spending	\$225,283
Difference	(\$45,400)

All giving and spending includes C4G

Thrivent Investments

	Month	YTD
Total Account Value beginning of month	\$82,787.56	
Securities Transfers	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Additions and Withdrawals	\$ 0.00	(\$15,000.00)
Income	\$ 268.53	\$ 3,318.42
Taxes, Fees and Expenses	(\$313.00)	(\$ 1,275.90)
Change in Investment Value	(\$53.32)	\$ 5,202.85
End of Month Money Market Cash on hand		\$10,494.56
Total End of Month Account Value	\$82,689.77	



	<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>
BUDGET INCOME					
Giving Income	\$17,120	\$21,296	\$172,965	\$160,469	\$255,553
Operating Income	\$772	\$566	\$6,918	\$4,264	\$6,791
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET INCOME	\$17,892	\$21,862	\$179,884	\$164,734	\$262,344
NON-BUDGET INCOME					
Thrivent Withdraw	\$0	\$526	\$15,000	\$3,962	\$6,309
Withdraw from TD Bank Money Market	\$500	\$0	\$7,250	\$0	
Giving to Off-Budget Programs	\$1,759	\$0	\$14,584	\$0	
Giving to Capital Campaign	\$3,075		\$12,290		
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,226	\$22,388	\$229,007	\$168,695	\$268,653
SUB-TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURES	\$22,706	\$20,884	\$225,283	\$215,509	\$268,653
NON-BUDGET EXPENDITURES					
Reimburse Investment Account Principal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures on Off-Budget Programs	\$2,045	\$0	\$9,031	\$0	
Capital Campaign Spending	\$230		\$7,497		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$24,982	\$20,884	\$241,811	\$215,509	\$268,653

Gethsemane Notes

A Message from the Treasurer

2017 is rapidly coming to a close so I want to take this opportunity to give an update of where we are financially since our Congregational Meeting in September.

My financial report to the Council on November 14th covered our income and expenses up to October 31, 2017. Our operating income for the year up to that time was \$179,884 which is 68 % of what we have budgeted for the year. Our operating expenditures up to the same time period were \$225,283, a (\$45,400) deficit. Ideally, it would be great if we were able to make up the remaining 32% in income by the end of the year.

There are only a few weeks left to our budget year but time to make up pledged contributions for those who may be behind before the end of the tax year. Don't miss the opportunity to get your pledges in so you can use them as a tax deduction for those of you who itemize.

Thank You!
Sue Roma

Music

As most of you already know, Diane Destrempe has given her notice of resignation as Music Director at Gethsemane. Her wish is to spend more time with her family, especially those grandkids! Council voted to accept her resignation at their November meeting.

Our hope is to have a celebration in honor of Diane in January, or whenever she is going to be in town. We will keep you posted.



November Council Notes

Because of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, the November council meeting was held on the 14th. There were five council members present as well as the pastor. The meeting was called to order by the president. Seeing no visitors the agenda for the evening was adopted. Pastor Boehringer led evening devotions. Approval of the September minutes was tabled until the December meeting. The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. The pastor's report was presented and a vote was taken to formally accept the resignation of Diane Destrempe as music director. A closed Facebook group called Gethsemane Prayer Partners will be created and any Gethsemane member may join.

In the area of the Ministry the Strategic Planning Committee's five areas of action included, facilities, membership, finances, new members, cooperation with other churches in the area. After a review of upcoming events, a motion was made for adjournment and the session ended in prayer.

It's a Wrap!

EndHunger NH Packaging Event

(This past Sunday) many members of Gethsemane Lutheran Church sponsored and/or participated in our annual Food packaging event. This was GLC's participation for the ELCA's "Gods Work Our Hands" program.

Our members raised more than \$2,500.00 which purchased enough product to package almost 11,000 Tomato Basil Meals. This program is run through "The Outreach Program" of the EndHunger New England branch, directed by Matthew Martin. Jane Marie Galiette was the representative that lead our volunteers through packaging 10,700 meals within 2 hours. These meals will be donated to the New Horizons Food Pantry intended to be given to families who are food dependent in New Hampshire.

Although much thanks is extended to everyone who donated and participated, a special thanks to Sue Capano and Shelley Stama for their efforts with the Tomato tree at the top of the stairs. This visual kept members interested, informed, and motivated to truly succeed in our efforts in "Gods Work, Our Hands."

Thank You,
Matt Noon



A Thanksgiving Thank You!

I am truly thankful for all the wonderful people who helped make this year's Holiday Fair such a success. Everyone pitched in and made the job much lighter and more fun.

We had the most amazing Attic Treasures this year; the bake sale was delicious (what wonderful bakers in this congregation); a room full of energetic vendors; the most baskets ever and so thoughtfully done and beautiful; the food in the Cafe was well received and enjoyed; thank you chili and soup makers, and adding hot dogs was a treat.



The women of the Mary Martha group spearheaded the fair, but it is truly becoming a whole congregation's venture, and makes it feel more like a happy family working together for a common cause.

Again, my most sincere thanks and Happy Thanksgiving!

Carol Burgess

(The Holiday Fair raised over \$3400!)

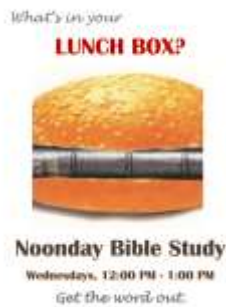


Odds and Ends

Gethsemane Prayer Partners

Interested in deepening your prayer life? Are you willing to share your prayer insights with others? Are you willing to try something different? Are you willing to commit to daily prayer?

Pastor is putting together a six-week prayer/study group that will use the book, "Grounded in Prayer" as its basis. Rather than meeting at a specific time, the group will meet on Gethsemane's Facebook page under the group "Gethsemane Prayer Partners." Using our Facebook page will enable us to communicate with one another each day to offer our insights, questions and have conversation about prayer and the questions around prayer raised in the book. The group is just beginning, and using Facebook is an experiment in communication and fellowship without having to drive to the church on cold snowy days. If interested, speak with the pastor. The books are available to anyone interested and we will teach you how to use Facebook if you need help.



A Note from Pastor

Pastor Boehringer is very appreciative of the gifts he receives from members of the congregation. He has asked that this year, in lieu of a gift, please make a donation to New Horizons or World Hunger in his name. Thank you.

Mary Martha News

The Mary Martha Group will meet on December 11th at noon. It's the annual Cookie Swap party. Bring 3 dozen cookies, 1 doz. to deliver to our shut-ins, one to share and 1 to eat for dessert! All ladies are invited to join in the fun. The group meets at noon and everyone brings their lunch. Beverages and dessert are provided.

Next Up: January 8th at noon. It's Game Day!



A Christmas Wish

"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." (printed with permission from Lori Borgman)

To my Gethsemane Family,

Have a beautiful and magical Advent season and Christmas.

Shelley





Thank you to those who shop Amazon Smile!

We have some wonderful shoppers within our church community who love to shop on Amazon and love to help out Gethsemane. Thank you to all of you.

For those who don't know what Amazon Smile is... Here is how YOU can help Gethsemane while you shop!

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, 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 from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (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 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, December 15th, 2017 is the ABSOLUTE deadline for articles for the January 2018 Olive Tree. If you would like to contribute, please email your news to the church office at glemanchester@comcast.net.

The Olive Tree

is published monthly by

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Pastor: Rev. Dr. Peter Boehringer

Director of Music: Diane Destrempe

Church 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)

**PLEASE VISIT US ON
FACEBOOK**

Click any of the Facebook links in this newsletter to visit us on Facebook and LIKE US!



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS 2017



Members of Gethsemane have the opportunity to donate poinsettias and wreaths to decorate the Sanctuary and/or make a special offering for the relief of hunger throughout the world. Please return this form with your gift to the church office no later than Sunday, December 10th.

Number of Poinsettias @ \$12 each _____

Number of wreaths @ \$15 each _____

An offering to the Hunger Appeal \$ _____

include your envelope number here: _____

A GIFT FROM: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN THANKSGIVING FOR: _____



Please make your check payable to Gethsemane Lutheran Church
(write "Christmas Offerings" in memo area)

Please put any additional information on the back