



Gethsemane News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH NOVEMBER 2011

With this new day,
we open our eyes
and we pray:
God, inhabit our seeing.
Live in our looking.
Be our vision and our sight.
Illumine us, that we may perceive you,
know you, welcome you
in all the ways you go hiding
in this world.

Jan Richardson
In the Sanctuary of Women



Time is an amazing thing, isn't it? Every single day offers the same twenty-four hours, but few days seem to be alike in how *long* they are! So much depends on what we do with the time we have: how we fill the hours with time to work, play, and learn; to rest, eat, serve, and worship. To some, days seem especially long when not so much is going on; for others, the problem is completely the opposite when we have too much we want or need to tackle on lists of things to do, people to see, and books to read!

In these first months of living in Washington, one of the things I have cherished is creating new rhythms with Kari about how we *use* or *invest* our time. We both are well aware of how much more time everything takes when we don't know where we are going and also need to give more space to think about what we've seen and whom we have encountered... We recognize that for at least a full year we will have opportunities for *first days* as each month unfolds, as holidays come and go, as seasons change. So far, we experience all this *newness* as something that helps us keep expectant and hopeful about what is before us...

Of late, though, I've been thinking this has parallels for everyone at Gethsemane. These days, all of us are presented with the new as, both in building and community, Gethsemane is remade. Some of our practices are changing; structure is being reshaped. We do well to take time to talk through how this feels, to process with one another what is being let go of and what new things are opened to us for the future. We won't stop the march of time. And conversations won't halt the changes. But they will equip us to look to the future with hope, confident that God who has brought us thus far is leading us into the new. Perhaps we also will thus be ones who pray God to "inhabit our seeing" and "live in our looking." These marvelous images give me hope as we move forward in all that is new...

Yours in Christ, Pastor Joanne Engquist

GETHSEMANE'S FALL APPEAL

Matthew 25 challenges us to see those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison—and to care for them as we would care for Jesus. For its Fall Appeal, the Social Ministry Committee invites you to reach out in caring toward some of the “least of these,” for sisters and brothers in Christ who are in great need. Please consider how you might respond this month to any or all of these needs, sharing what you have. Donations will be received through November.

MARY'S PLACE

SHARE A COAT OR SHARE SOME TIME



The coat rack at Mary's Place is empty! Women and children need warm coats and rain jackets (all sizes, but larger coats are especially helpful for layering). Bring your gently used or new coat for donation on Sunday mornings (or drop it by Denny Park office during the week). Or, bring a contribution and Social Ministry members will buy coats to donate at month's end. The need is great now, so coats will be brought as they are gathered.

Perhaps you already have cleaned your closets and have no coat to spare and little money to go around. Would you volunteer to spend an hour or two at Mary's Place? Share coffee and stories with the women or volunteer to help with a mailing. Contact Mary's Place directly or speak with Pr. Engquist for more information.

ELCA DISASTER RESPONSE

SHARE FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

In countries like Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya the past six months has led to the region being plagued by the worst drought seen in 60 years. People have experienced reduced access to drinking water and major reductions in crops and livestock, which in turn has led to skyrocketing food prices and food shortages. As the situation progresses the ELCA continues to work with partners and companions to determine how we can continue to meet people's needs. Your gifts will be used entirely (100 percent) for immediate relief in Africa.

Financial gifts to this cause (checks payable to ELCA Disaster Response, designated for “Horn of Africa Drought”) may be placed in offering. Or give online: <https://community.elca.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=656>



OCTOBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

BY DORIS ROLANDER, COUNCIL SECRETARY

October 12 Council Meeting Highlights

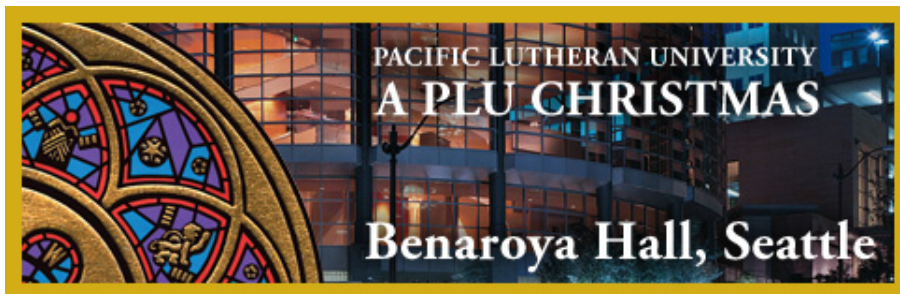
When Bill Fovargue made the Financial Secretary's report on behalf of Dick Ellison we learned about the \$15,000 unrestricted gift from the estate of Ruth Fandek to Gethsemane's operating fund. This timely gift was a boost to Gethsemane's Checking Account. The loan for completing the building from MIF (Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA) is in progress. Money will be drawn only as needed, thus reducing interest payments.

Pastor Engquist reported that she had made visits to twenty-one members, six visitors to Gethsemane Services and seven community/neighborhood leaders. She has made many Church connections as well as working with the Hope Center Board. Connections have been made with Cornish College and Mary's Place. She noted that Mary's Place is in great need of winter coats and other winter clothing. Working with staff and committees has been a priority. An effort is being made to streamline the bulletins and newsletter. An outreach to young adults through "Table to Table" has been organized with several events planned.

A twenty year lease with Mary's Place was signed with the Hope Center on October 11, 2011 with a celebration that included representatives from Gethsemane, Mary's Place, and the Hope Center Board, as well as John Schwartz and Donald Summers. The Hope Center Board is now working on integrating the work of Mary's Place, Gethsemane Community Services, and Soup and Movies.

The Worship/Arts/Music Committee chair, Nancy Sutter, said we will use "Unfailing Light" a Marty Haugen liturgy for Advent. Dr. David Barela is planning a Christmas concert to follow the Worship Service on December 18th. A light lunch will be served. A traditional Candlelight Service is planned for 4pm on Christmas Eve at the Children's Hospital Research Center. The Wednesday noon services will not resume until after the move back to Gethsemane.

Jens Eysteinnsson, chair of the Finance Committee, reported that the 2012 budget is being worked on. Committees and staff members are preparing financial requests for staff and program needs to be submitted in early November.



Tickets go on sale November 1st for PLU's Christmas Concert at Benaroya Hall. Would you like to go with a group from Gethsemane on Monday, December 5, 7:30pm? Cost is \$30 general admission; \$25 seniors (55+), students, PLU community and alumni. The program features the Choir of the West, University Chorale and members of the University Symphony Orchestra performing hymns, carols and a choral orchestral masterwork, all in the great tradition of Lutheran choral music.

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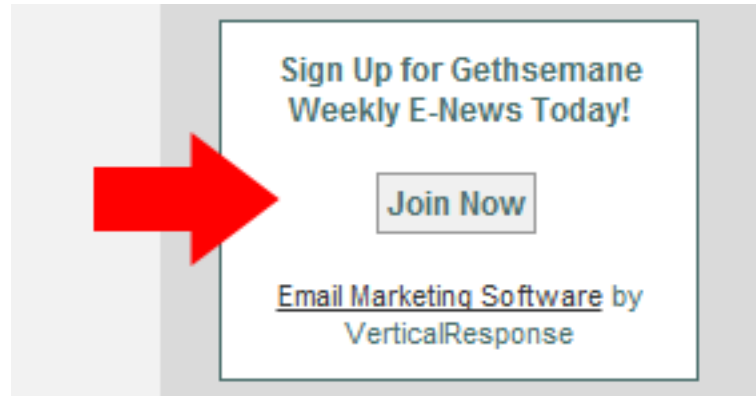
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for the October issue. Please e-mail
articles and announcements to:
admin@urbanfaith.org.

WEEKLY E-NEWS

Prefer reading your GethsemaNews online? Stay connected with the most up to date information in the new Gethsemane Weekly E-News, a weekly email newsletter sent right to your inbox.

You can go online at www.urbanfaith.org and sign up for the weekly newsletter using the handy webform found on most pages in the bottom left corner.



If you'd like to stop receiving the paper copy of the monthly GethsemaNews please email admin@urbanfaith.org and request to be removed from the paper newsletter mailing list.

Prayers are asked for...

- ... our home bound – **Robert Hull Nelson, and Kay Mayer;**
- ... those in need of prayer for strength and healing – **Mike Callahan, Betty Casey, Pat Champion, Marie Cress, Alfhild Ellison, Irene Haven, Stan Haven, Gail Hendrickson, Louise Hintz, Karen Jackson (GCS client), Marian Johnson, Ann Melander, David Melander, Rose Mary Pendergast, Ruth Pipe, and Evelyn Pittman;**
- ... our staff – **Charles, David, Greg, Pr. Joanne, Kareen, Shawnrene, and Vito;**
- ... our Bishops – **Wm. Chris Boerger and Mark S. Hanson;**
- ... **ELCA Domestic and International Disaster Response;**
- ... our companion congregation the **French Speaking Lutheran-Protestant Church in Moscow;**
- ... **The Rev. Dorcas Wang,** ELCA Missionary to Beijing
- ... peace in **Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq;** peace in **Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Yemen** and in places in our world where there is unrest and strife.



The Spirit

Volume 28, Number 10

News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

November 2011

God's Generous Response by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



How do we give thanks this year?

That is not a question about what is on the menu for the annual Thanksgiving Feast. It is a question about how we see our world and ourselves.

Walter Brueggemann in his book *Journey to the Common Good* argues

that the forces of empire and Pharaoh are always working from the scarcity, fear and control. In contrast, the people of Israel learned in the Wilderness that God brings abundance, shalom and the presence of God. He argues that Jesus' feeding miracles continue this pattern.

We live in a time when our consumer culture wonders if there will be enough (scarcity). Our threats used to be color coded and the world seems out of control. Brueggemann argues that this is how the world is when we ignore the Word of the Lord that has come to us. It is a compelling argument.

It is easy to over-focus on what we don't have or what we might lose. While our anxiety increases, our fears look to quick fixes so that we can say that we are doing something about our situations. Our desire for a church that was like we remember is a symptom of our participation

in this longing. Like the people of Israel complaining in the wilderness that they at least had meat when they lived in Egypt, so we look back with longing to times that were not as good as we remember them.

The Word of the Lord came to.....That is the good news in Brueggemann's analysis. The Word became flesh and lived among us. That is the good news for us. Our relationship with God and with the rest of creation comes from the abundance of God who comes among us. Samuel Torvend argues that our response to the poor comes from God's abundance at the Eucharist. Our life together, the common good, is based in God's abundant and generous response in creating and re-creating us.

The harvest is in. The economists will tell us if we have enough. The people of faith should rise up and affirm that we have more than enough. We have the blessings of God to share and these blessings, like manna, are sufficient for each day. We give thanks to God for God's presence in countless ways. So the food that we eat, we can share. The grace that we live in is not ours, but God's to be extravagantly poured out into the world. The hope that we have comes from God.

Thanks be to God.

Gifts That Make A Difference

Did you know that the average American plans to spend \$700 on Christmas gifts this year?

Challenge yourself and your congregation to rethink the tradition of gift-giving by participating in ELCA Good Gifts. Together as the ELCA, we

do more than we could ever do alone: grow our congregations, inspire new leaders and care for those around the world who live with hunger and poverty.

ELCA Good Gifts are a creative way to do just that. Visit www.elca.org/goodgifts to learn more.

NOVEMBER 2011

1	Tue	12 pm	Community Services
3	Thu	12 pm	Community Services
		7:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Stamp Club

6 SUN ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

		9:00 am	Adult Forum
		10:00 am	Holy Communion -Pr. Joanne Engquist
		11:15 am	Coffee Hour
8	Tue	12 pm	Community Services
		6:30 pm	Finance Committee
9	Wed	1:30 pm	Office Staff
		6:30 pm	Parish Council
10	Thu	12 pm	Community Services
		7:00 pm	Choir
11	Fri	Veteran's Day - Office Closed	

13 SUN 22ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

		9:00 am	Adult Forum -Dr. Dorothy Bass
		10:00 am	Holy Communion -Pr. Joanne Engquist
		11:15 am	Coffee Hour
14	Mon	1:00 pm	Newsletter Deadline
		5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
		6:00 pm	Dinner and Game Night
15	Tue	12 pm	Community Services
17	Thu	12 pm	Community Services
		7:00 pm	Choir
		7:00 pm	Stamp Club

20 SUN CHRIST THE KING

		9:00 am	Adult Forum -Paul Benz/Kari Lipke
		10:00 am	Holy Communion -Kari Lipke
		11:15 am	Coffee Hour
22	Tue	12 pm	Community Services
23	Wed	1:30 pm	Office Staff
24	Thu	Thanksgiving - Office Closed	
		11:30 am	Gethsemane Thanksgiving
25	Fri	Thanksgiving - Office Closed	

27 SUN FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

		9:00 am	Adult Forum
		10:00 am	Holy Communion -Pr. Joanne Engquist
		11:15 am	Coffee Hour
29	Tue	12 pm	Community Services



Forum Schedule

November 6 (All Saints' Sunday)

Pr. Engquist on Baptism

Final week of the Fall series: preparing for an affirmation of baptism in worship.

November 13

Dr. Dorothy Bass on The Quality of Time

See back page of GethsemaNews for more information.

November 20 (Sunday of the Reign of Christ)

Pr. Paul Benz and Kari Lipke on Faith Action Network

Gethsemane recently became an "advocating congregation" of the Faith Action Network -- a statewide partnership of faith communities striving for a just and sustainable world through community building, education, and courageous public action. In this forum hour, we will learn more about this partnership and the ways we can participate. (Also, those interested in further conversation are invited to a coffee hour discussion with Paul Benz and Gethsemane's advocacy representatives, Robyn Townsend and Pat Champion.)

November 27 (Advent I)

Pr. Engquist on Leaning into Advent

The world around us counts down to Christmas with urgent messages to spend money, but the church sees the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas as a time to cultivate hope and deepen peace. On Advent Sundays we'll explore the rich tapestry of images that help us expand our understanding of the radically good news of God-with-us.

GETHSEMANE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Gethsemane's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is just around the corner, and your assistance is needed to create a wonderful meal for our low-income/homeless neighbors. This year we will host the dinner at Denny Park, as we did last year, so once again we will have a few logistical issues.

Any food you would like to donate can be brought to church, Gethsemane, the Sundays before Thanksgiving. We would prefer these donations to be **uncooked**. Food donations needed include, russet potatoes, 15-20lb turkeys, carrots, ingredients to make green bean salad, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce, yams, juice, gravy mix, and butter. We will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at church.

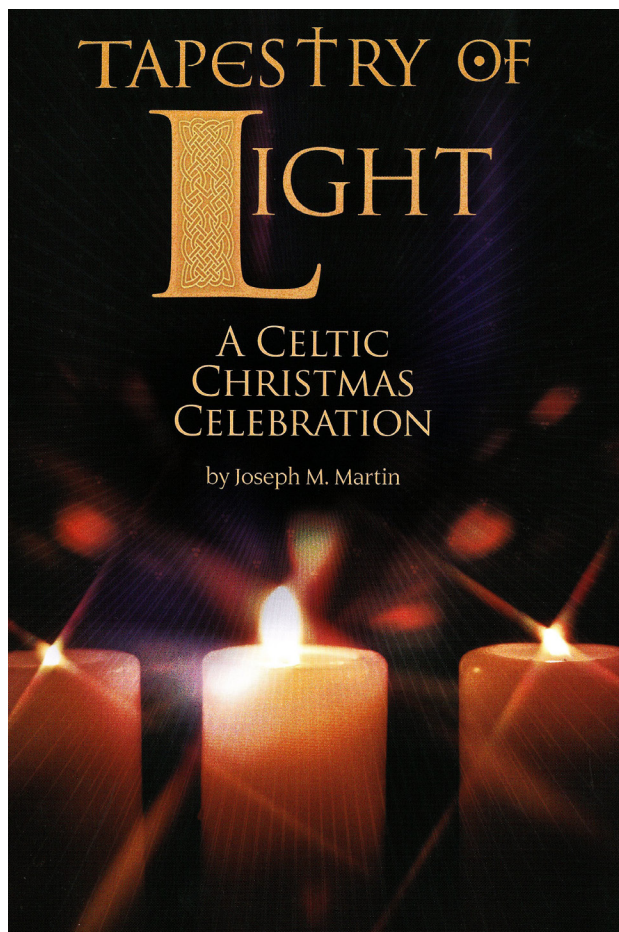
Last year we did not have a service on Thanksgiving Day, but if that changes, we may be able to accept cooked donations.

If you would rather give a cash donation, please make sure your check or cash indicates it is for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

The dinner will be served 11:30 am and 1:30 pm. Volunteers will be needed from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm help prepare, serve and clean-up. Please check the new bulletin board for sign-up sheets and information.

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Champion for more details.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Springing from the rich heritage of "celtic" Christmas music comes a cantata overflowing with hope and light. From seasonal songs that lift the spirits to quiet carols of reflection and peace, this work is filled with the music of grace. Incorporating Scripture readings, the lighting of candles, and expressive vocal writing, this choral tapestry richly tells the Christmas story using familiar carols and folk songs.

Gethsemane Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 18, 2011

*12:00noon following worship and a light lunch.
Seattle Children's Hospital Research Institute.
1900 9th Avenue*

*The choir will also be performing in cooperation at
Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Kent on Friday,*

December 16, 2011

7:30pm

*Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Kent.
327 Second Ave., South*

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November 2011

Sundays at Seattle Children's
Research Institute
1900 9th Ave.

9:00 am Adult Forum

10:00 am Holy Communion

11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship

THE QUALITY OF TIME

DR. DOROTHY BASS AT FORUM ON NOVEMBER 13TH



In her book *Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time*, Dorothy Bass writes, "What is the measure of my days, weeks, and years, those I have lived so far and those that remain? All of us wonder, naturally, about the quantity of this measure. More important, however, is its quality. Are we living lives that are good, in some large sense? Lives that contribute to the well-being of other people, close at hand and far away, and to our own well-being? Lives that are attuned to the good of creation and to the active presence of God?"

Dorothy's scholarship and life inspire and invite conversations that engage these and other questions. Gethsemane is privileged to have her among us from 9-9:45am on Sunday, 11/13. All are welcome.