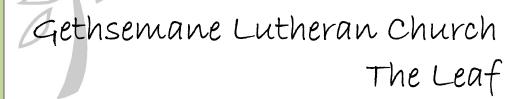
April 2024

Volume 56, Issue 4

The Leaf – a monthly publication of GLC





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Rev. TJ Lynch pastortj@gethsemane.org

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Brian McLean bmac1745@aol.com

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Confirmation Sunday

April 28, 9:30 AM Reception Follows

Christ is Risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

In chapel a few weeks ago, we were singing a crowd favorite amongst the Cookie Monster class – *This Is the Day the Lord Has Made*. As the kids screamed at the top of their lungs, "THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE. LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT!" it got me thinking, and you know what? They were *right*, and we should all have that same enthusiasm!

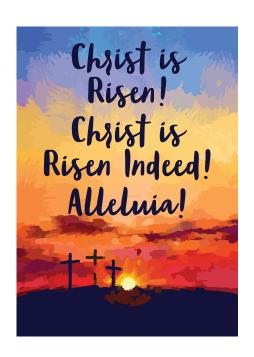
Today (and every day) is a gift from God.

Every moment. Every hour. Everything we have comes from God, including our very own lives. In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, we can still give thanks to God. We have been blessed beyond belief.

Most of all, we can thank God for the resurrection and promise of Easter. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead. The tomb is empty. Whatever challenges we face, whether as individuals or as part of the whole human race, we can count on that. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

As we trust in Christ's resurrection, we find a source of power that will sustain and energize us every day of our lives. The promise of Easter is more powerful than the empty promises of the devil. The death-defying power of Christ's resurrection is beyond any human power and greater than all our combined abilities and strengths. **We are Easter people.** We belong to Christ!

As we celebrate the promise of the empty tomb, this Easter season, I see so many ways that the resurrected Christ is at work among us here in the community that is Gethsemane Lutheran Church. I see how Christ gives you hope. I see how Christ empowers you for your daily lives and for your important ministry in this place.



I hope you'll read on and be inspired by this month's newsletter and how Christ is alive and active at Gethsemane today!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

God loves you, and I do, too.

Rev A Ly-

Peace,

Rev. TJ Lynch

Adult Ed Series Using ELCA's "A Study Curriculum on Civic Life and Faith"

Christian Nationalism is "a cultural framework that idealizes and advocates fusion of certain Christian views with American civic life. This political ideology, whether explicit or not, includes the beliefs that the US. Constitution was divinely inspired and enjoys godly status, that Christianity should be a privileged religion in the U.S., that the nation holds a special status in



God's eyes and that good Americans must hold Christian beliefs."

Have you encountered the description of the United States as a "Christian nation"? If so, what was your reaction? How do you see a difference between Christian nationalism and exercising citizenship as a Christian?

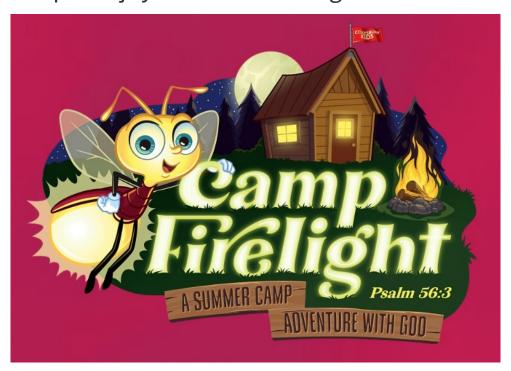
Such questions are timely and important for all of us at Gethsemane, especially now as we all negotiate the current election year. During April and May, during the Adult Ed hour after worship each Sunday, we will work through a several-session series developed by ELCA called "A Study Curriculum on Civic Life and Faith." These sessions will be held in the sanctuary starting April 7th.

Additional Education Opportunities

- First Reflections meets on Zoom every Monday morning at 8:00am to discuss the lessons for the coming Sunday. Contact Mark Keller at mhkeller11@columbus.rr.com for the code information.
- Midweek Connections restarts on Wednesday, April 3, at 10:00 am after a Lenten hiatus. The group will continue to watch the video "The Chosen" followed by discussion. They meet in the church library.
- Men's Breakfast meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:00 am at TeeJaye's in Clintonville. Contact Bob Davis for more information.

Vacation Bible School Sunday June 9 – Thursday June 13 5:30pm-8pm

Kids will be campers learning to trust God when afraid – as God goes with us, leads the way, shares wisdom, gives us peace, and sparks joy – as our building is transformed into:



It takes a LOT of volunteers to make an immersive VBS experience possible. We'll need help with decorations, food, music, crafts, science experiments, check-in/check-out, Bible lessons, and much more! Please register to volunteer at:

https://gethsemane.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-volunteer

Children who are completing grade 4 this spring or younger will be campers in this VBS. Kids/youth who have completed grades 5-12 will be "counselors in training" who assist our adult counselors in making this camp possible! Register at:

https://gethsemane.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-child

Pictures from elementary and confirmation retreats to HopeWood Pines, making liturgical art for the sanctuary, high school youth game night, making Easter baskets to distribute at the GLC Food Pantry and cards for homebound members, and an Easter egg hunt where around 30 children hunted for about 400 eggs thanks to your generosity!



Stay in the loop by signing up for REMIND and subscribing to our Google Calendars.

REMIND

- High school youth/parents: Text @glc614high to 81010
- Middle school youth/parents: Text @glc614mid to 81010
- Parents of children: Text @glc614kids to 81010

Also, please send me schedules for youth extracurricular activities: sports, band, drama, etc. I'd love to come sometime!



CALENDARS

- High school: http://tiny.cc/glc614high
- Middle school: http://tiny.cc/glc614mid
- Children: http://tiny.cc/glc614kids
- All our YFM programming (combined): http://tiny.cc/glc614yfm

Grace and peace, Ben Buss (he/him/his) Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator bbuss@gethsemane.org
614-885-4319 ext. 13

What's upcoming in Youth & Family Ministry?



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH EVENTS

with Ascension, Gethsemane, IYK, and Lord of Life
Sun. Apr. 21 at 5:30pm-7:30pm
Watch your email & REMIND for details!



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Sun. Apr. 14 at 5:30pm-7:30pm Watch your email & REMIND for details!



GAME NIGHT FOR ALL AGES

Sat. Apr. 13 at 6:30pm – GAME NIGHT for <u>ALL ages</u> in the Great Hall. Bring your favorite game(s) to share. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors! ☺



UNDERSTANDING TRANSGENDER & NON-BINARY GENDER IDENTITIES

Tue. Apr. 30 at 7pm-8:30pm – Our next "Gethsemane Gabs" discussion will be with Jody Davis, RN, LISW-S and Jennifer Evans, MA helping us to better understand transgender and non-binary gender identities. There will be a presentation and time for Q&A. In the Great Hall. Please promote it to any friends who might be interested. Facebook event: http://www.tiny.cc/gab2



FAMILY SPRING RETREAT (ALL AGES WELCOME)

Fri. Apr. 19 (7pm) overnight to Sat. Apr. 20 (6:30pm) – Family Spring Retreat for families of all ages at HopeWood Pines (Lutheran Memorial Camp). Let Ben know if you are going. Register at:

https://hopewoodoutdoors.org/program/family-spring-retreat/



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday June 9 – Thursday June 13 – Mark your calendars now.

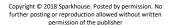
Register to attend or volunteer using the links at the TOP of:

https://gethsemane.mycokesburyvbs.com



SUNDAY SCHOOL – SUNDAYS 11AM-Noon

- KIDS (PreK-Grade 5) starting in Room 212, our children gather to sing songs and pray together before splitting into two classes by age to learn about a Bible story from one of the lectionary texts.
 Weekly except when there are all-ages activities.
- CONFIRMATION with Pastor TJ (room 207): Learn about the basics and roots of our Christian faith and what it means to be Lutheran.
 Meets Apr. 7 & 21; May 5.
- **HIGH SCHOOL with Mark (room 213):** Dig into the Bible together. *Meets Apr. 7 & 21; May 5.*
- COMBINED MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL with Tammy & Ben (room 213): We'll start out talking about "Intersections" between faith and everything else, such as current events, pop culture (music, movies, TV), everyday life, etc. Our youth will shape this over time.
 Meets Apr. 14 & 28; May 12.







*** Watch your email and future newsletters for additional details for these events and others! ***

Pub Theology – Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 pm

After a Lenten hiatus Pub Theology resumes at the Pub Outback in Worthington on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. Come for a brew and a view.

Holy Hilarity - Sunday, April 7, 9:30 am

Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the early Greek Christians --"Bright Sunday" or "Holy Humor Sunday" celebrations on the Sunday after Easter. For centuries in all
Christian faith traditions, the week following Easter Sunday was observed by the faithful as "days of joy
and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Here at Gethsemane, we call it
"Holy Hilarity Sunday" and we celebrate by ringing a bell or other noise maker every time we hear
Hallelujah said or sung in worship. This will all take place on Sunday, April 7, at 9:30 am.

Noisy Offering - Sunday, April 7, 9:30 am

Our kids would like you to know that they appreciate your support of the Noisy Offering. They have decided to save a bit longer before determining what animals to purchase for "God's Global Barnyard" through ELCA's Good Gifts. Our children will be collecting the noisy offering towards this during worship Sunday, April 7.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Monday, April 15, 1:30 pm

The group normally meets the 2nd Monday of the month, but due to the Solar Eclipse they have postponed their gathering until the following Monday, April 15. The group meets in the library to either knit or crochet lap robes, baby blankets or shawls. Anyone is welcome to come and learn.

Special Congregation Meeting - Sunday, April 28, 11:15 pm

An Ad hoc team has met, and the R.R. Isler Company is holding a July start date for construction of the Infant house. The plans have been submitted to the city for a permit. A special Congregation Meeting is planned for Sunday, April 21, at 11:15am to seek approval from the congregation to go forward with the project.

Small Group Ministries

Book Group

Sharon Walton

skrwalton@gmail.com

Barbara Ford

bandbford@columbus.rr.com

Care Groups

Contact the church office if you wish to start a new one

First Reflections Monday Bible Study

Mark Keller mhkeller11@columbus.rr.com

LWR Quilts

Terri Siebert tsiebert@columbus.rr.com

Men's Breakfast

Bob Davis

rjdjr38@gmail.com

Midweek Connections

Pastor TJ

pastortj@gethsemane.com

Prayer Shawls

Emilie Hagerdorn rdhekh@yahoo.com

Pub Theology

Pastor TJ

pastortj@gethsemane.org

Habitat for Humanity the A-Team

jsiebert@columbus.rr.com

REFLECTIONS

Every Monday at 8:00am on ZOOM



Midweek Connections

Restarts on Wednesday April 3



Second Saturday of the month at 9:00am at TeeJaye's



Tuesday, Thursday, and some Saturdays from 8-3:00pm.









Saturdays to be announced from 9-12:00pm.





Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the church library.



Second Monday of the month At 1:30pm in the library.



April Birthdays

- 2 Mel Hampton
- 3 Emilie Hagerdorn
- 6 James Laspisa Evelyn Lyatuu
- 12 Heidi Hiller
- 18 Eli Klukas
- 19 Jim Childs
- 22 Kathy Montgomery
- 24 Joanne Crouse Sam Gibson
- 25 Barb Driver

 Jenn Bogan

 Darlene Norman
- 29 Rick Nelson

Our Prayers and Concern Are With . . .

"Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints." Ephesians 6:18

New concerns: Penny Perry-Balonier (friend of Char Jessie and Laurie Burnett) ... Mark Darst (brother-in-law of Laurie Burnett) ... Andy Phalen (friend of Michelle Castrogiovanni) ... Denise Sager ... Joe Muhlenkamp (brother-in-law of Alice Siddall) ... Lynn Bridges (friend of Gary Rader) ... Rick Stark (son-in-law of Joanne Leussing) ... Former pastor Rev. Gerry Miller, wife Lynn and son Michael ... Bob Patton.

Our love and compassion to

Heidi Hiller and family whose father passed away February 24.

Friends and family with

concerns: Cindi McCullum (sister of Char Jessie) ... Norma
Nickelson (friend of Carole
Wilkins) ... Sandy Pawsey (mother of Anna Wildermuth) ... Drew
Thomas (son-in-law of Carole
Wilkins) ... Mary Jo Muhlencamp
(sister of Alice Siddall) ... Dale
Powers (friend of Gary Rader).

Homebound: Bob Cerny (Danbury Senior Living-Westerville) ... Barb Driver (Home) ... Howard Feole

(Home) ... Gene Fisher (Home) ...
Alice Gerken (Mayfair Village) ...
Elaine Haines (The Ashford at
Sturbridge) ... Don Huiner (Danbury
Senior Living-Columbus) ... Becky
Oldaker (Bennington Glen) ... Doug
Sand (Wesley Glen).

Would you like to add a name to the prayers?

Contact the church office at 614-885-4319 or glcoffice@gethsemane.org.



Congregation Council

OFFICERS:

President Bill Darlage

darlage bill@hotmail.com

Vice-President Joel Wildermuth

jtwildermuth@gmail.com

Secretary Karen Obee

karen.obee@gmail.com

Treasurer
Roland Hornbostel
rolandhorn@aol.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Mike Shugert

michaeldshugert@hotmail.com

Gary Rader

grr71160@gmail.com

Tammy Bullwinkle

tammybullwinkle@gmail.com

Mike Siddall

msiddall@columbus.rr.com

Sam Gibson

stgibsoniii@hotmail.com

Highlights of Council Meeting – March 18

Copies of the Council Minutes and Financial Report are posted in Atrium Way.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 19th, 2024

Approval of Prior Month's Minutes

Bill presented the minutes from last month's meeting for approval and **moved** to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by Joel. Motion **passed** unanimously.

Officers' Reports

Pastor

Pastor TJ Reported that Diane completed and submitted the synod congregation report for 2023. Confirmation camp was last weekend and it went great. Ben and Pastor TJ are exploring different models of confirmation class. We received word that the Pastor called to the IYK congregation has been accepted for an R-1 Visa; we hope to have a joint celebration soon. Pastor has been meeting with Mission and Ministry and is excited about the directions of the conversations. Pastor has been working with Play and Learn and the Play and Learn Committee.

<u>President</u>

No President's report.

Vice President

No Vice President report.

Treasurer

February financials have been posted. February contributions information is deceptive due to the annuity from John Jacob which makes it look like our contributions were \$57,000. Sale of the annuity resulted in a third party contribution of \$32,886. Absent the annuity proceeds, contributions for the month were unfavorable to the budget by approximately \$5000. On a positive note, income exceeded expenses by approximately \$3200.

Play and Learn Financial review - A firm has been identified to carry out a financial review of Play and Learn as required by the church constitution. A

continued

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS--continued

license visit was done at Play and Learn and it was learned that Brenda was listed as the owner; needs to be addressed; the committee feels it should be listed as a member of GLC council.

Continuing Business

Strategic Plan Implementation

- Communications Website Update Joel, Pastor and Bill met with Paul about the GLC website and are feeling very positive about going forward in the process to update the website. It will be kept "in house". A test site will be ready sometime in July with an August launch.
- Daubert consulting agreement Pastor TJ has followed up with Dave Daubert and is working towards an agreement.
- Other progress Bill has received and shared many reports requested from the ministry teams. The council members are encouraged to review them.

<u>Infant House Remodel update</u>

The Ad hoc team met Monday afternoon; R.R. Isler is holding a July start date for construction. The plans have been submitted to the city for permit. Modulars are needed to house the infant care during construction and the total expected cost for modulars is \$125,000 for a year. Permits for modulars are handled by the modular rental company. Tentatively, a special Congregational meeting is planned for April 21st (since the council meeting the date has been set for April 28th) to seek approval from the congregation to go forward with the project.

New Business

2025 Fiscal Year Budget

- Roland distributed the draft budget forms to the various people assigned by ministry teams. He has received lots of good questions about the draft which is a good sign for engagement in the process. It is expected cost will increase, a rough estimate of \$18,000 more than last year is suggested.
- Council discussed expectations and goals for 2025 fiscal year budget planning. Council members will strive
 for a balanced budget. The council reserves the ability to approve or deny budgets requests for Ministry
 teams.

Welcome Immigrants Sign

Bill Darlage sent a brief history of the sign welcoming immigrants hanging on the side of the GLC building. Council was asked to consider this history and explore what we are doing to actively help this cause.

<u>Southern Ohio Synod -</u> Representatives are needed to attend the Synod Assembly in Beaver Creek, Ohio (one day event) in June.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Obee



UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong.

Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

flower, stem, bee, leaf	
pink, red, yellow, blue	
mother, sister, brother, aunt	
purple, dress, skirt, blouse	
necklace, ring, bracelet, braid	
diamond, emerald, heart, ruby	
orange, cherry, potato, kiwi	
my, our, she, your	
faith, family, love, hope	
sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature	
cookie, cake, pie, sandwich	
silver, white, gold, bronze	

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self,
the unfading beauty of a g _ _ _ _
and qu _ _ _ _ p_ _ _ _, which is
of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

Answers: bee, pink, brother, purple, braid, heart, potato, she, family, temperature, sandwich, white; gentle, quiet, spirit

SERVING THIS MONTH – APRIL 2024

	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	May 5	
	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	9:30 AM	
Assisting Minister	Jeff Luedke	Jeff Luedke	Tammy Bullwinkle	Tammy Bullwinkle	Tammy Bullwinkle	
Projectionist	Paul Siebert	Paul Siebert	Paul Siebert	Paul Siebert	Paul Siebert	
Readers	Carol Prigan	Joe Reilly	Michael Murphy	Don Seidelmann	Bill Seifarth	
	Gary Rader	Bonnie Reilly	Denise Sager	Pam Seidelmann	Jim Siebert	
Greeters	Sam Gibson	Brian Burdette	Rick Langner	Heidi Hiller	Jim Siebert	
	Mary Gibson	Parker Burdette	Diane Langner	Abby Surbella	Mike Shugert	
Ushers	Tim Mayer	Mark Hagerdorn	Jim Siebert	Jeff Luedke	Sam Gibson	
	Andrea Mayer	Pam Hagerdorn	Dave Reutter	Wendy Luedke	Mary Gibson	
Communion Bread Bakers	Cathy Jung	Joanne Leussing	Carole Wilkins	Brian Lutz	Cathy Jung	
Communion Care	Mike Siddall	Dave Kulikowski	Dave Kulikowski	Jane Sieberth	Jane Sieberth	
	Alice Siddall	Judy Kulikowski	Judy Kulikowski	Mary Gibson	Mary Gibson	

If you are interested in serving in some capacity – assisting minister, reader, usher, greeter, communion care, please contact the church office at glooffice@gethsemane.org.

SERVING THIS MONTH – MAY 2024

	May 5 9:30 AM	May 12 9:30 AM	May 19 9:30 AM	May 26 9:30 AM	June 2 9:30 AM
Assisting Minister	Heidi Hiller	Joel Wildermuth	Joel Wildermuth	Joel Wildermuth	Jeff Luedke
Projectionist	Paul Siebert	Paul Siebert	Paul Siebert	Paul Siebert	Paul Siebert
Readers	Jim Siebert Bill Seifarth	Diane Spink Sharon Walton	Joel Wildermuth Jill Woods	Beth Berkani Tammy Bullwinkle	Michelle Castrogiovani Bob Davis
Greeters	Jim Siebert Abby Surbella	Char Jessie Biane & Parker Burdette	Mark Hagerdorn Pam Hagerdorn	Tim Mayer Andrea Mayer	Rick Nelson Dave Reutter
Ushers	Sam Gibson Mary Gibson	Rick Langner Diane Langner	Rick Nelson Dave Reutter	Bill Darlage Mark Geary	Hugh Geary Joyce Geary
Communion Bread Bakers	Cathy Jung	Joanne Leussing	Carole Wilkins	Brian Lutz	
Communion Care					

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
J**	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 AM Reflections 7:30 PM A.A. & Al Anon	9:30 AM P&L Chapel 4-9:00 PM Music Lessons 7:00 PM Pub Theology	3 10:00 AM Midweek Connections 11:00 AM Music Lessons 4-6:00 PM Food Pantry 4-7:00 PM Music Lessons	4 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Handbells 7:15 AM Vocal Choir	5 4:00 PM Piano Practice	6 9-2:00 PM Music Lessons 11:00 AM IYK Choir 2-6:00 PM IYK Seminar in the sanctuary
7 9:30 AM Holy Hilarity Worship NOISY OFFERING 11:00 AM Education 1:00 PM IYK Worship, Seminar & Dinner	8 8:00 AM Reflections 7:30 PM A.A. & Al Anon	9 9:30 AM P&L Chapel 4-9:00 PM Music Lessons	10 10:00 AM Midweek Connections 11:00 AM Music Lessons 4-6:00 PM Food Pantry 4-7:00 PM Music Lessons 7:00 PM	11 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Handbells 7:15 AM Vocal Choir	12 4:00 PM Piano Practice	13 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9-2:00 PM Music Lessons 11:00 AM IYK Choir 6:30 PM Game Night
14 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Education 1:00 PM IYK Worship 5:30-7:30 PM Middle School Event	15 8:00 AM Reflections 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00 PM Congregation Council 7:30 PM A.A. & Al Anon	9:30 AM P&L Chapel 4-9:00 PM Music Lessons	17 10:00 AM Midweek Connections 11:00 AM Music Lessons 4-6:00 PM Food Pantry 4-7:00 PM Music Lessons	18 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry 7:15 AM Vocal Choir	19 4:00 PM Piano Practice	
21 9:30 AM Worship 11:00 AM Education 1:00 PM IYK Worship 5:30-7:30 PM High School Event	22 8:00 AM Reflections 7:30 PM A.A. & Al Anon	9:30 AM P&L Chapel 4-9:00 PM Music Lessons	24 10:00 AM Midweek Connections 11:00 AM Music Lessons 4-6:00 PM Food Pantry 4-7:00 PM Music Lessons	25 2-4:30 PM Free Store 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Handbells 7:15 PM Vocal Choir	26 4:00 PM Piano Practice 11:00 PM Mkesha Prayer Vigil	9-2:00 PM Music Lessons 11:00 AM IYK Choir
9:30 AM Worship/Confirmation 11:15 AM SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING 1:00 PM IYK Worship	29 8:00 AM Reflections 7:30 PM A.A. & Al Anon	9:30 AM P&L Chapel 4-9:00 PM Music Lessons 7:00 PM Book Group 7:00 PM Gethsemane Gabs				

