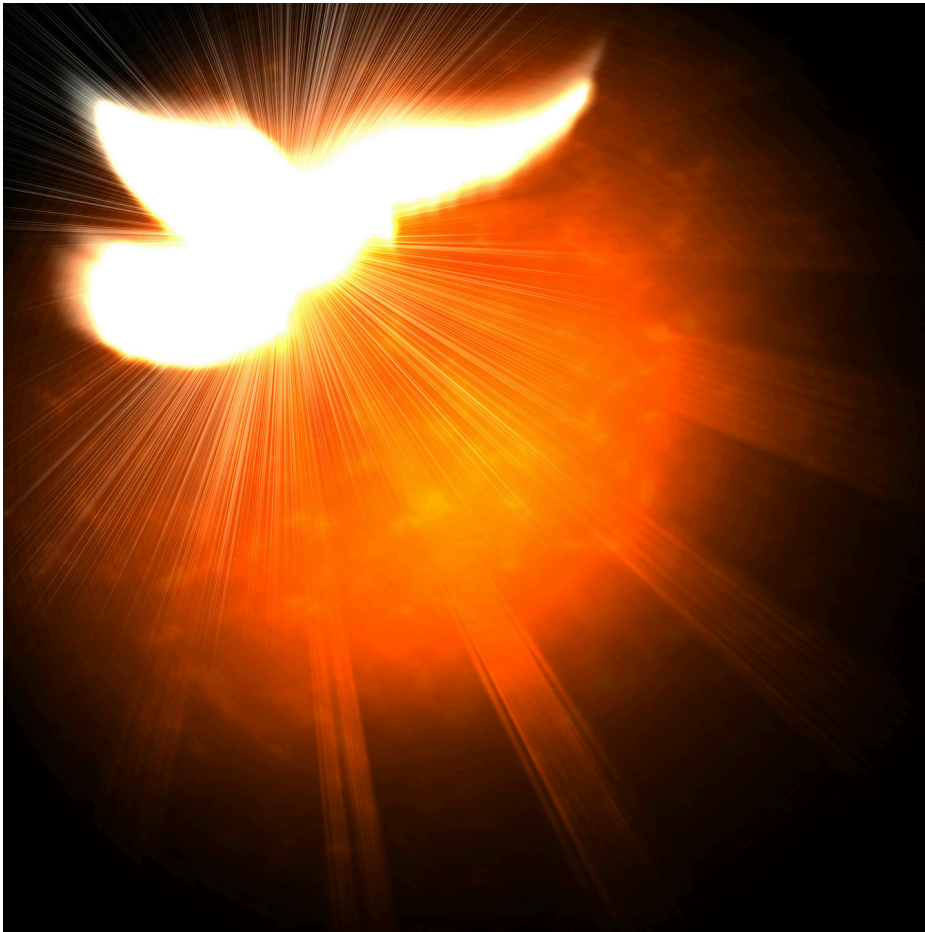




Olive Tree Newsletter

May 2024



Feature	Page
Minister's Musings	2
Younger Member Survey	3
Book Review, Mary Martha Meeting	4
Pentecost	5
Announcements	7
Calendar	9

Minister's Musings



Thomas Fedorka, LLM

We continue our Easter Season throughout most of May.

Early in May, we hear in the Gospel according to John, Jesus teaching the disciples about friendship and giving His greatest command that we Love one another.

Later we get the Ascension of Our Lord from the Gospel of Luke where Jesus takes the disciples to Bethany, opens their minds to understand the scriptures and gives us the Great Commission 24:47 that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in His name to all nations. This is certainly Love that we receive and are asked to share. Pentecost comes later in May with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The month of May then closes with Trinity Sunday. All of these feel like expressions of Love to me. The Love that God the Creator has for us. God Loves us and wants a relationship with us. God's heart truly breaks any time (and every time) we turn away from God and turn toward sin.

The Love that God the Risen Lord has for us. Jesus Loves us and died so our sins would be forgiven. Jesus gives us the ultimate example of Love and calls us to Love as He does.

The Love that God the Holy Spirit has for us. The Holy Spirit guides and directs us to live the life we are called to live. This life is tough work because we come from a broken humanity. Living our life into the Trinity can truly be a blessing.

Jesus calls us to Love one another. This is stated many times in the Gospels, in Paul's letters, as well as in OT scriptures. After all, the Ten Commandments are largely ways for us to show Love and respect to one another.

God Loves us forever and always and we are to share that Love.

I heard a sermon recently from Pr. Ann Cammarn where she preached about how and why we should Love one another. Pr. Ann said that when we don't share God's Love with others, they may feel that God is withholding Love from them. This is such a powerful image because we know that God would never withhold Love from us or anyone else.

So go and Love as Jesus Loves.

Younger Member Survey

Submitted by Tracy Erdahl

As we continue our journey of faith, we recognize the importance of fostering a vibrant and inclusive community that embraces all generations. Today, we reach out to our younger members or former members, seeking your valuable insights and perspectives.

Background: We understand that life's demands, shifting priorities, and cultural changes have led some of our younger members to stop regular church attendance. We deeply care about your spiritual well-being and that of your families. Our desire is to create an environment where you want to participate and feel welcomed, engaged, and spiritually nourished.

Our Questions: We invite you to share your thoughts on what would encourage you and your children to return to our church. Your honest feedback will guide us in shaping a more relevant and meaningful experience for all. Here are some questions to consider:

1. **Community Connection:** What aspects of our church community always resonated or still resonate with you? How can we enhance fellowship and relationships among members for you to considering coming back to the church?
2. **Worship Experience:** What elements of worship speak to your heart? Are there specific styles, liturgies, or music that would draw you back to our services?
3. **Family-Friendly Environment:** How can we support families with young children better during worship and other church activities? What programs or resources would benefit your family?
4. **Spiritual Growth:** What topics or study materials would inspire your faith journey? Are there specific classes, workshops, or discussion groups you'd like to see offered.
5. **Outreach and Service:** How can we engage members of your generation and other younger people in meaningful service to our community and beyond? What causes are important to you to allow us to make a difference in Manchester and beyond?

Your Voice Matters: Please take a few moments to reflect on these questions. Your input will shape our future endeavors. You can respond by: Email Thomas Fedorka, LLM at office@glcmanchester.org with any feedback or schedule time to discuss directly at 603 623 3451.

Your
VOICE
MATTERS

Book Review

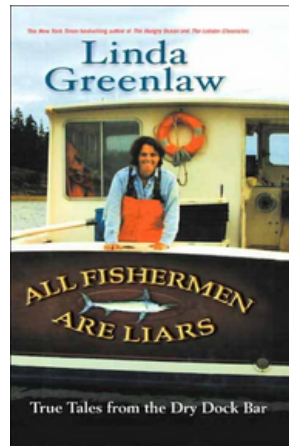
Submitted by Thomas Fedorka

Ms. Greenlaw weaves several stories into one overall story. All these stories are said to be true, though we know from the title that All Fishermen Are Liars. We need to assume this adage applies to fisherwomen as well.

Ms. Greenlaw begins the tale telling in the Dry Dock Bar with her friend and mentor of many years. What started as a nice lunch with a friend turned into a late night of storytelling with many friends.

Each tale is bigger than the last and each is more entertaining than the last.

The book is a wonderful romp up and down the East Coast. The stories reveal a lot about the fishing industry and even more about strong friendships.



Mary Martha Meeting

Submitted by Denise Merrill

The Mary Martha Ladies celebrated spring at their April meeting with their annual Spring Hat Parade.



Pentecost

Submitted by Hank Chary

The Day of Pentecost is the Christian festival commemorating the coming or descent of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts 2. Celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter it is sometimes, but rarely today, also referred to as the eighth Sunday of Easter, and with the coming of the Holy Spirit, as the “birthday of the Church.” This is the general coming of the Holy Spirit “to all.” In many places in the New Testament we read other words to the effect, “receive the Holy Spirit” directed to individuals or small groups. This Pentecost is for us all.

The Church Calendar consists of five “seasons” (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter, and then “ordinary time,” sometimes called the “season” or simply the time after Pentecost) and assorted special days, and several “Commemorations and Lesser Festivals.” Pentecost is one of those “special days.” It is not a season, just a special day. In fact, in the past it has been observed uniquely as the 50th day of Easter, the crowning close of the entire “great octave of Easter” (eight weeks inclusively: Easter Day is day one; Pentecost is day 50).

Pentecost, in today’s church, is a celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit as narrated in Acts 2. The history of this feast day, however, goes back into the Old Testament to the Book of Leviticus (Lev 23:15-21). The “Feast of Weeks” (Shavuot) or Pentecost was originally an agricultural celebration of the spring barley harvest (first fruits) 50 days after the first day of Passover. Sometime after the destruction of the Temple in 70AD, Shavuot transformed into the observance of the giving of Torah (the Law) on Mt Sinai (Ex 19:1), hence a religious not an agricultural observance. Josephus (c. AD37-100) calculated the date of Shavuot (Pentecost) as the time between Passover (exodus from Egypt) and when the Hebrews arrived at Sinai as 50 days.

The New Testament shows that Pentecost was celebrated in the first century and came to have special Christian significance. Paul told the Corinthians that he intended to remain in Ephesus until Pentecost (1 Cor 16:6). Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians was probably written about 53-54AD. The narration of Pentecost in Acts relates to events essentially immediately after Christ’s crucifixion and so around 33AD or so. Thus, it is probably safe to assume that Paul’s stay in Ephesus had to do with the Christian Pentecost not a residual observance of the Jewish Shavuot. But, this time in the first century and even into the second was a turbulent and evolving time in the early Christian church and its liturgy.

(Continued on next page)

Fourth developments had a profound impact on the church calendar and liturgy. By the beginning of the fifth-century there was a complete festival system in the Armenian Lectionary. (Recall that much early Christianity occurred in and developed in parts of western Asia.) It is to this development that we owe the emergence of our Pentecost as a feast day in its own right with its own vigil rather than as the “great and last day” of the Fifty Days of Easter.

It has been said that Pentecost, as the 50th day of Easter, should be understood as the crowning close of the Easter season, not an independent festival of the Holy Spirit. Fittingly in ancient times it was a time of baptism for those not baptized at the Easter Vigil. Hence the season of Easter was “bookended” by baptism at its beginning and its end. Indeed, the old name for Pentecost, Whitsunday (white Sunday), referred to the white garments worn by the newly baptized. But by the 8th century the understanding of Pentecost as the final day of Easter gave way to Pentecost as the celebration we know today with the liturgical color red suggesting the fire of the Holy Spirit instead of white, the liturgical color of Easter.

After the Day of Pentecost, the celebration of Easter being completed, the paschal candle is removed from its place in the chancel. It properly should be moved to the baptismal font where it is lighted as a reminder of the resurrection character of Holy Baptism and at funerals. Pentecost is a day, not a season. It marks the end of the Easter season in the Church Year. The time following is simply called “ordinary time” (liturgical color green) and the Sundays are counted as the “nth Sunday after Pentecost.”



Announcements

Prayer Requests

We occasionally get prayer requests through our website (glcmanchester.org), the church office email (office@glcmanchester.org), the church phone (603-623-3451), or through our Member Care Committee.

Requests can come from GLC congregation members, but membership is not required to receive prayers. If you would like to be added or would like to add someone to the Gethsemane prayer list, please reach out through one of the ways listed above or contact Thomas directly.

Please let Thomas know if you'd like to be part of a group that will pray intentionally for people on our prayer list and for other issues.

Bible Study

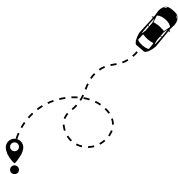
We would like to offer additional opportunities for Bible study. We need to know the preferred format that is easiest and most appealing for people. Please respond to the Bible Study survey and let us know, what day, time, and location works best.

Safe Church Policy

Our safe church policy is now posted on bulletin boards around the church for members to review.

Ride Sharing

Need a ride to Church or willing to drive someone? If you are looking for someone to come pick you up for a Sunday service, please email office@glcmanchester.org. If you are willing to pick up someone let us know and we can share details and locations for our members who may need some help, please email office@glcmanchester.org.



Community Meal Program

ReachOut has been fortunate to be able to continue the community meal program thanks to help from our congregation and a grant from the New England Synod. In April, we served lasagna, rolls, and grapes. We are grateful for Barb Connor's donation of a gift card to Angela's for the lasagna. In May, we will be serving brisket, donated by Camp Calumet. We are grateful for all our volunteers that have come out to assist with meal prep, serving, and delivery. We will be taking some time during the worship service on Sunday, May 5 to recognize our volunteers, and will have a coffee hour afterwards to celebrate.

New England Synod School of Licensed Lay Ministry Accepting Applications



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**New England Synod eNews
School of Lay Ministry accepting
applications
April 10, 2024**




**The New England School of Lay Ministry is now accepting applications
for the fall 2024 school year.**

The New England Synod offers a two-year educational program for laypersons through its School of Lay Ministry. It is an innovative program designed to give adult students an opportunity to grow in their faith for the purpose of personal spiritual development, biblical enrichment and life-long learning. The School embodies the belief in the "priesthood of all believers," empowering its students to greater service to God and their congregations. Enrollment is open to anyone over 18 years of age interested in learning more about the history and development of Christianity, the Bible, Lutheranism and more. No educational prerequisite or expectation of prior biblical or theological knowledge is required. [Read more](#)

For more information, visit: <https://nesynod-slm.com/application-to-the-new-england-school-of-lay-ministry/>

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am Christian Ed 6:00pm AA	29 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS 7:00pm Worship and Music	30 7:00pm AA WB2B	1 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	2	3 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	4 10:00am AA NO NAME
5 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am Christian Ed 6:00pm AA	6 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS 7:30pm COMMUNICATIONS	7 7:00pm AA WB2B	8 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	9	10 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	11 10:00am AA NO NAME
12 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am Christian Ed 6:00pm AA	13 12:00pm MARY MARTHA 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	14 7:00pm AA WB2B 7:00pm FINANCE	15 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	16 7:00pm COUNCIL	17 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	18 10:00am AA NO NAME
19  Community Meal 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am Christian Ed 3:00pm COMMUNITY MEAL 6:00pm AA	20 5:00pm AA HHE 7:00pm AA MNWS	21 7:00pm AA WB2B	22 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	23	24 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	25 10:00am AA NO NAME
26 9:30am WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00am Christian Ed 6:00pm AA	27 5:00pm AA HHE 6:30pm REACHOUT 7:00pm AA MNWS	28 7:00pm AA WB2B	29 12:00pm BIBLE STUDY 5:00pm AA HHE	30	31 12:00pm AA WNBB 5:00pm AA HHE	1 10:00am AA NO NAME



**The Olive Tree is Published by:
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
65 Sagamore Street
Manchester, NH 03104
603-623-3451
www.glcmanchester.org
E-Mail: office@glcmanchester.org
Licensed Lay Minister (LLM): Thomas Fedorka
Director of Music: Gary MacDonald**





**Gethsemane Lutheran
Church**

**Free Community
Meal**

Third Sunday of each month

**Next Meal Sunday, May 19
3-4 PM**

60 Pennacook Street
Manchester, NH 03104
(603) 623-3451