

As I write this, Christmas is only two days away. I am imagining the happy faces of the families who have benefited from your generous donations. Not only the original two families, but three more families plus the Canyon Crisis and Resource Center will be celebrating the holidays and next year in the warmth of your caring spirits. Many thanks to Mary Schenk who lives in Gates and works for AmeriTitle for forwarding the names and information about the families.

Each family received clothing, shoes, and gifts for the children and generous grocery gift cards for the parents.

The **Petersons** have lived in Gates for about 8 years and lost their log home and a rental cabin. They just got their building permit and septic approved. A rustic farmhouse is in the process of being built with the help of family.

*"Being displaced is definitely not something I thought would ever happen to us. It's humbling and a giant roller coaster of feelings we have gone through. I think it has made us stronger and appreciate everything and each other more than ever. We have learned to work together as a family and the kids have sacrificed their Saturdays to join in the fun. (Maybe they wouldn't call it that)."*



The **McCormicks** were renting the home that burned, and prior to moving in they had been homeless for about six months. They are staying at her mother and step-father's place in Stayton with relatives and two other tenants that rent space. Per Onna, *"We're all packed in like happy little bugs in a rug!"*



When their home burned, they lost everything and did not have insurance. They have every intention of moving back to Gates as soon as they're able to, but don't know if their landlord is going to rebuild or if he's going to sell. *"My husband and I fully believe that God brought us to Gates for a reason. We thought it was to help needy people, but ended up becoming the very people we wanted to help. God got us out of that situation, and now has walked us through the loss of our home. We still fully believe that He is in control and will put us where we are supposed to be. Tomorrow He may change that, and we'll be on our next adventure."*

The **Fawcett** family are renting an RV after the Beachie Creek fire destroyed their home, which they stationed right next to the remains of their house in Gates. The land on and surrounding their property provides a constant reminder of the devastating damage the fires caused Labor Day night. The family's primary struggle has been trying to help their 16-year-old daughter Abby, who has an intellectual disability, feel safe. Both have had trouble coping with the pervasive anxiety that escaping the fires and being displaced has caused.



**Roberta Mills** lost her home on Gates Hill Rd. Per Mary Schenk, *"She loved her home, it was beautiful. She always took great care of the yard, always surrounded with flowers. Roberta has a heart of gold and loves people. She goes to my church and when I speak with her she always stays positive but when I look in her eyes I see so much sadness and once in a while she gets teary eyed, it's hard to see the pain in her eyes. Unfortunately, she did not have insurance, she tried a couple times but kept getting lenders telling her it would cost a fortune due to how old the house and wood stove were in her home. She never dreamt she would ever see a fire come through Gates."*



Christ the Good Shepherd  
Lutheran Church  
4440 State Street

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**Interim Praise Director:**  
Ali Briskey

**Organist:**  
Diane Hawkins  
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Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Channel 23.

**Traditional:** Wednesday 9:00 am Friday 9:00 pm  
Saturday 9:00 am Sunday 1:00 pm  
**Contemporary:** Monday 9:00 am Thursday 9:00 pm  
Saturday 3:00 pm Sunday 6:00 am

[www.christthegoodshep.org](http://www.christthegoodshep.org)



## *Treasurer's Report*



As of the end of: November

General Offering Goal \$13653

General Offerings \$13720

General Offering for November with one week remaining is \$12,173

Due to overall expenses being less for the month of November we were left with an additional amount in our checking. This is good news because expenses for December will be much higher due to elevator repair, last month severance pay to Pastor Shelley and new payroll expense for Pastor Zieske.

*Virginia Mohr, Treasurer*

## 2020-2021 Council

President - Gwen Carr  
Vice President - Heidi Dupuis  
Secretary - Chuck Palmquist  
Treasurer - Virginia Mohr  
Financial Secretary - Laura Drager

## Council Members

Kathy Moredock Marc Clemens  
Ron Mohr Dean Hatzenbihler  
Inez Ambrosek Wendy Cody-Johnson  
Virgil Anderson

## A Note From the President

As we begin the New Year together ; thank you for your ongoing commitment to worship and to serve. Thank you to Council and staff and to all volunteers who have found ways to creatively continue their work through the COVID pandemic. Thank you to the Transition Team and Call Committee as they are working through the process of calling a new Pastor. Thanks to all of you who have continued to sustain our ministries through your generous financial giving and giving of your time and talents.

While there are many unknowns about our future in 2021, we know that God is faithful and is at work and we will continue to trust in His plan for us.

The Council has scheduled our Annual Congregational Budget Meeting for Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> following our Zoom worship service. We are working on a process that we hope will allow you opportunity to fully participate. The work on this budget has been especially challenging for the Council this year with so many unknowns. When will we "get back to normal?" When will we have a new permanent pastor? When will we start worshipping in the sanctuary again? While there are still lots of unanswered questions we nevertheless will propose a budget which we believe will allow us to move forward.

As always, a proposed budget (along with budget assumptions) will be made available a couple of weeks in advance of the meeting and we encourage you to read through them, ask questions, provide suggestions and make recommendations.

Even with lots of unknowns I am still confident of our ability as a church to meet challenges before us; as long as we are dedicated to prayer and trust in listening to where God leads us.





*She is currently staying in an unfurnished home not too far from where we live, but unfortunately it didn't have running water. She recently had her brother out here visiting with her from Alabama and he was able to help her get her water up and running. She still has several other issues that we're dealing with. But we're happy she has a place in Gates to stay while she figures out her next step." Roberta is pictured with the gifts sent for her.*

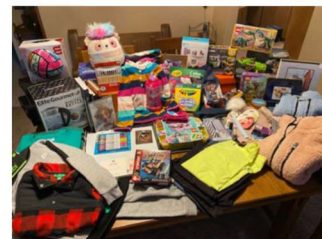
**Daniel & Leslie Ward's** home completely burned down with the wild fire. They lost everything including their two work cars and tractor. Daniel is pictured with the envelope holding gift cards we sent. Leslie writes, *"We were all evacuated from Gates on the morning of 9/7/20. Some of our neighbors stayed to fight the fire and help with the neighbor's home putting out fires. We stayed till 3:00 am till we could not stand the smoke anymore; it was very thick up there. We went to Church friends at 4:00 am, just got settled in and then were evacuated from there. We moved to an Aumsville church friend's home and settled in there. My husband went back up Tuesday night, 9/8/20 and the house was still there, but the neighbor's house was burned to the ground. My husband wanted to fight the fire, but Gates City ran out of water so we had no water to fight and try to save our home. My husband was putting out spot fires around our home but it was getting too hot so he had to leave. We got up early to go back up and when we arrived the home and everything we owned was gone. It was one of the hardest days of our lives to see 58 plus years gone over night. But we still have our memories. I'm very thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ that we are alive and well. God has blessed us and He will continue to bless us.*



*We are now staying in a cabin that our neighbors told us about. The family that has opened their cabin to us on McCully Mountain has allowed us to stay here for a few months to gather our thoughts and establish our lives again. We are very thankful to them. We have now bought a motor home to live in while we rebuild our new home on Thistledown Lane.*

*We are very thankful to all our neighbors and support of the community that has reached out in this time of need. We will not be defeated by the devil, God Almighty did not do this to the Canyon people, this was an act of the devil. God allows thing to happen which we don't understand, just don't lose your faith in God because that is what the devil wants you to do. Be strong and don't give up for God never leaves us. And we will rebuild and those that don't rebuild will rebuild their lives somewhere else. May God be with us all."*

Pictured are most of the gifts purchased. As more family needs came in, more were purchased. Thanks, Laura



## Better Together - Racial Justice



As we move into 2021 we will continue our journey with Holy Cross and Saint Marks Lutheran churches to address racial justice issues in this community and in our churches. In January, we plan to "reset" our commitment by reviewing what we have been learning and discussing ways we can continue this work.

In the last few months the enthusiasm for addressing ongoing racism has decreased; preempted by the concerns of the covid pandemic and the political races. However we don't have to wait until the next racial crisis before we take this subject seriously and so the journey continues. You are invited to join us on the journey so stay tuned for the Zoom meeting dates and times.

As always I ask that you take time for reflection and prayer to consider what has happened in the last few months and how we can move forward into our future together.

- What has changed?
- How have you changed?
- What would God have us do as a next step?

*Gwen Carr, Council President*



The past year has been a real challenge, especially here in Oregon, and in the midst of those challenges we've all had to develop our technological skills. It's necessary to leverage our technology to help us to be a congregation even when we cannot "congregate." This time last year, most of us hadn't even heard of Zoom, and now we've become experts in virtual meetings.



That's why it's important for everyone to know that you don't need to have an Internet signal, a computer, or a smartphone to participate in the weekly Zoom worship. You can use any phone to call in to Zoom. In Oregon, we would dial (253)215-8782, and when the system prompts you for a meeting ID, punch in: 837 6115 9516. It's important to note that this is NOT a toll free call, so use your cell phone or be aware of the time used. Worship begins at 10, but call in a little early to make prayer requests and give praise updates.

If you are missing out on meetings, please ask someone close to you to help. As Paul wrote in Hebrews. *"Not forsaking our assembly, as some are accustomed; but comforting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching."*

*I continually keep you all in my thoughts and my prayers.*

~~Rose



Wi-fi now available in the church building!  
Connection info is posted in the Gathering Room cabinets, and in the Narthex.

Please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Christ the Good Shepherd. You still have until **March 21, 2021** to direct your 2020 Choice Dollars. The process is easy and there are two ways to direct your dollars. First, you can call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 and say **Thrivent Choice** when prompted. Someone will come on the line to assist. The second way, visit **Thrivent.com/Thrivent Choice** and follow the prompts. *Either way is easy.*



Zoom Outreach Meeting  
10 AM Meeting: February 2  
Meeting ID: 874 9635 6841 Passcode: 319041



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Anne Clemens January 6

Jacob A Smith	January 7	Dwayne Aas	January 27
Kathryn Anderson	January 9	Ilene Whelden	January 30
Zachary Elms	January 15	Sandy Elias	January 31
Nancy Ostrem	January 15	James Palmblad	January 31
Aubrey Palmblad	January 20	Jacques Dupuis	January 31
Lesla Maclean	January 21	Henry Briskey	January 31

**Help bring joy this season**

Buy your gifts at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)  
or with AmazonSmile ON in the app  
and Amazon donates  
**amazon smile**



**Happy Anniversary**

Pitso & Flo Phashwana	January 3	41 Years
Cheryl & Stuart Fitzsimons	January 5	50 Years
Art & Caroline Fennell	January 16	42 Years
Chuch & Sara Palmquist	January 27	41 Years

## Helpful Resources for January 2021

This month, our theme is “Things Bright and Beautiful.” Lift your souls by enjoying some art!



**Peace Lutheran Balcony Gallery-** Peace Lutheran’s balcony gallery displays beautiful works by local artists. Their collection is available to view online! Take a look here: <https://www.peacelutheransalem.org/balcony-gallery>

**Salem Public Art -** The city of Salem has more than 100 pieces of public art, many of which are outdoors! There is a published walking tour to view the art, and the pieces can also be viewed on the website:

<https://salem.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b129f6a2f3c24cf6bb3488d5d9a005e9>

**Smithsonian Open Access -** The Smithsonian Institute has released thousand of images, files, and more on their website. Sign up for live online events, review digital media, or look at the animals or interact with a 3D model. Start by visiting here:

<https://www.si.edu/online>

*(To have a helpful group or organization featured in a future article, please contact the office.)*

Join us each week on Zoom at 10 AM for worship, communion, and fellowship. The Zoom app can be downloaded to your phone or tablet or used on your PC or laptop.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83761159516>  
Meeting ID: 837 6115 9516

## Annual Budget Meeting

January 31, 2021

After Worship Service

You must attend the meeting  
to cast your vote.

## Our Lil’ Free Library is popular!

Please donate new and gently used children’s books, Bibles, and Spanish language items, and other gently used books. Contact the office or a member of council about drop off or pick up.



financial donation were taken to Simonka House so they can continue providing for women and children. Special thanks to all those who sorted, gathered, and delivered the items.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity. A large bag of warm socks and winter items were taken to the Union Gospel Mission for distribution, and many supplies as well as a



Online giving is here!  
Download the Tithe.ly app and search for CGSLC, or visit [www.christthegoodshop.org](http://www.christthegoodshop.org) and click the green GIVE button. Thank you for your continued support!!!

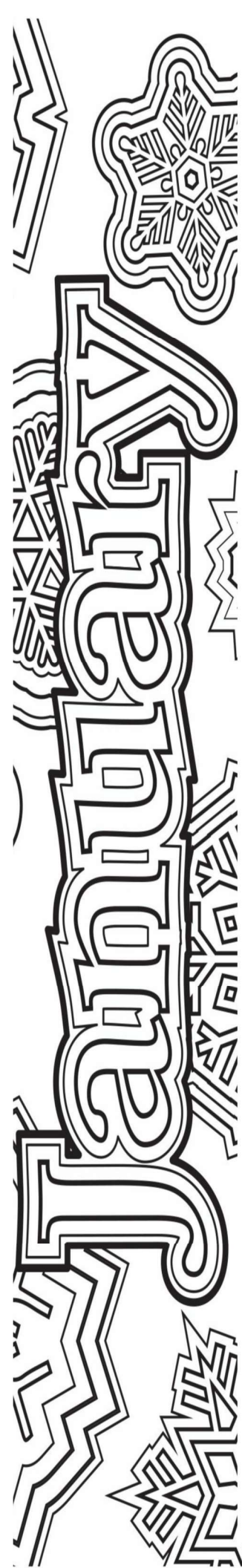
**Lord’s Cupboard is OPEN!**  
Saturdays 1 to 3:30 PM  
Trinity United Methodist  
590 Elma Ave SE

## Drive-Thru



Pick up from NORTH SIDE of church porch on  
Four Corners School parking lot





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00 AM Zoom Worship Meeting ID: 837 6115 9516 Dial in: (253) 215-8782	28	29	30	31	1 10:00 AM Outreach Meeting (Zoom)	2
3 10:00 AM Zoom Worship Meeting ID: 837 6115 9516 Dial in: (253) 215-8782	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:00 AM Zoom Worship Meeting ID: 837 6115 9516 Dial in: (253) 215-8782	11	12 6:00 PM Executive Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 10:00 AM Zoom Worship Meeting ID: 837 6115 9516 Dial in: (253) 215-8782	18	19 6:00 PM Council Meeting (Gathering Room)	20	21	22	23
24 10:00 AM Zoom Worship Meeting ID: 837 6115 9516 Dial in: (253) 215-8782	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 AM Zoom Worship Meeting ID: 837 6115 9516 Dial in: (253) 215-8782 12:30 PM Annual Budget Meeting After Service	1	2	3	4	5	6

