

# May Creator Connection

All Are Welcome

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**C R E A T O R L U T H E R A N C H U R C H**

Creator Lutheran Church

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

## 13th Month: Coming in June

Each Sunday in June we will be celebrating our life of ministry and stewardship and community. We voted to set aside the month of June to celebrate our stewardship by making an additional contribution to meet our budget. Our 13th month celebration will focus on 4 themes: Youth, Global Mission, Diversity and Music.

- June 4:** Celebration of Creator's Graduates, Youth Sunday
- June 11:** Author Kelly Beane of African Road speaks at Adult Forum
- June 18:** Portland Pride Parade day: Join Creator's contingent
- June 25:** Celebratory BBQ and Potluck meal following worship

Creator Lutheran Church welcomes you to come – as you are, where you are, and who you are – and join us in worship, fellowship, and ministry.

The Gospel reveals God's astounding grace as an unconditional gift of love for all people, so ethnicity, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status are not barriers to our invitation. Instead, as an inclusive community grounded in God's love and following Jesus' example, we celebrate the diversity of God's creation.

# MAY CALENDAR

Sunday, May 7, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Adult Forum: Faith Sexism, Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement. This week: "What Does Economic Sexism Look Like and how Can We Seek Equity for All?"

Sunday, May 14, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Adult Forum: No Adult Forum

Sunday, May 21, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Adult Forum: Faith Sexism, Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement. This week: "How Can We Address Violence Against Women and Girls?"

Sunday, May 28, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Adult Forum: No Adult Forum for Memorial Day Weekend

## Church council members sought

At the next Congregational meeting, we will be voting on new church council members. If you are interested in joining the council and helping to discern

Creator's needs and direction, please let Gary Schulstad know of your interest.

It is a fun and challenging job and great leaders will make our transition with a

new pastor so much smoother!

Please pray and consider joining the leadership of this community.

## ADULT FORUM: "FAITH SEXISM, JUSTICE: CONVERSATIONS TOWARD A SOCIAL

- May 7 "What Does Economic Sexism Look Like and how Can We Seek Equity for All?"
- May 14 No class (Mother's Day, Plant delivery)
- May 21 "How Can We Address Violence Against Women and Girls?"
- May 28 No class (Memorial Day weekend)
- June 4 Thirteenth month celebration: Graduates and Youth Sunday

\* From time to time, our national church leadership asks member congregations to engage in conversation around topics of importance to our life together as followers of Jesus Christ. Since its inception in 1988, the churchwide assemblies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have compiled a number of social statements articulating our church's position on various issues. This year the "ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ" is asking for congregational input on the topic of "Faith, Sexism, and Justice." All feedback will be analyzed, and this analysis will culminate in a social statement to be voted on at the Churchwide Assembly in 2019. The deadline for feedback is August 31, 2017

## THE CALL COMMITTEE NEWS

The call committee has selected a candidate that they feel is a very good fit with Creator! Now they enter into deeper conversation and negotiations with that candidate to see if they can arrive at a mutual agreement on terms and conditions.

Please keep the members of the call committee as well as the candidate in your prayers.

Call Committee members are : Craig Edberg, Rick Hartung, Heidi Steen, Pat Salisbury, Luka Staerk, Paul Stromberg, Nate Hubbard, Eric Schulstad.

### CREATOR CHOIR REHEARSALS ON WEDNESDAY

Creator Choir rehearsals are at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening.

All skill levels welcome - don't hesitate to join us in making a joyful noise!

For more info, contact Matt Weiers at [matt.weiers@gmail.com](mailto:matt.weiers@gmail.com) or 503-764-5351.



*Make a joyful noise unto the lord, all ye lands.*

### Creator Has Upgraded to more earth-friendly lighting

*Look around Creator and notice the bright new LED lighting everywhere. That's right, Creator has upgraded the lighting and reduced our*

*carbon footprint with help from Energy Trust of Oregon. Thanks to their program, and the fact that they were willing to write off most of Creator's installation*

*as a donation, Creator has benefitted from a very inexpensive upgrade.*



## FROM PASTOR MICHELLE

May 2017

Dear partners in Christ's ministry,

As I turn the page on the calendar to May 1<sup>st</sup>, it fills me with a sense of joy. I know the weather isn't tied to the calendar, but somehow, after all those "April showers" we've experienced, I'm ready for the May flowers!... May means that summer is on the horizon. Soon our kids will be on vacation, and, if we're lucky, we can carve out some R and R time, too! It's a busy time of year, but it's busy in a different way—with a different kind of rhythm that calls us out into the beauty of God's creation—and I think most of us are ready for that!

Here at Creator we find ourselves on the threshold of what promises to be a wonderfully busy season. Here are some things you should be aware of and be in prayer about:

Yesterday in worship, Call Committee Chair Paul Stromberg announced that the committee has narrowed their search for a pastor to one candidate. In the course of the next couple of weeks, as the candidate and the committee discern God's guidance, we should know whether this is a match for Creator. Please continue to hold the Call Committee, the candidate, and the process in your prayers, and stay tuned for more announcements about this in the near future!

Beginning this Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and continuing through Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, clergy and lay-people from all over the state will gather for the annual Oregon Synod Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Please hold all the delegates in prayer. Doug Bennett, Diane Mattox, Nick Goudie, Nate Hubbard, Sonnet Mungyeh, Debi Stromberg, and Pastor Michelle will be attending from Creator. Also, Creator's "Wailin' Jennies," Kim Fairbanks-Lee, Vaune Kemp, and Annie Miles, will be singing for Sunday morning worship at the synod assembly. Creator will be well represented!

This coming Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, we'll be receiving some new members during worship. Come celebrate with us!

On Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> we'll gather after worship for Creator's semi-annual congregational meeting. Your congregational leaders will be sharing important information, and you'll be voting on new council members. Please pray about whether God is calling you into leadership at this pivotal time in Creator's history, as the congregation is preparing to welcome a new pastor.

Looking ahead, exciting plans are in the works for the month of June, as Creator prepares to celebrate "13<sup>th</sup> Month." This celebration of offering an extra month's worth of offerings to God grew out of Creator's annual meeting in January, where you, the members of Creator, promised to step up and meet your budget in gratitude

for all God's gifts. In true Creator style, the month of June will be overflowing with blessings and music and fellowship and good food!

An older, wiser colleague said recently that as she approaches retirement, she will strive to follow the advice of her personal trainer by making her "last lap" her "best lap." As I near the end of my time with you at Creator, I pledge to do the same! Even though we human beings don't much like change, our God is all about change, and so I'm acutely aware that even as I get ready to pass the baton, Christ's ministry in and through the Creator community will continue in the very midst of your pastoral transition, and that's Good News indeed!

Your companion on the journey,  
*Pastor Michelle Manicke*

## Celebrate Creator's Graduates

On June 4, Pentecost, Creator will be celebrating the graduates among us. Our high school seniors are: Majax Nduta, Chris Hubbard, Kyrie Coats-Howarth and Amanda Haase. We also bid farewell to Rakan, the Kelly's exchange student.

College graduates include Damian Ntiranyibagira and Mary Nolte.

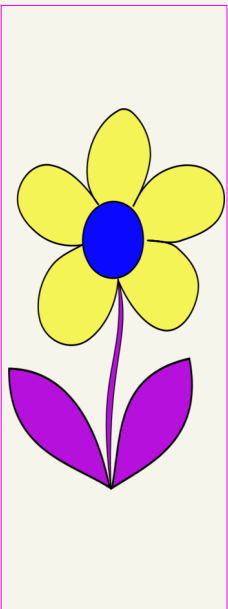
Any more grads out there? College? Grad school?

Please let Toni know if there are college grads that we can honor.

# TECH-IES NEEDED!

Needed! Tech minded people to be on a Technology Team for Creator. Help us keep up with the latest communication technology. Interested? Let Toni know:

[toni.hartung@creatorlutheran.org](mailto:toni.hartung@creatorlutheran.org)



## SPRING PLANT SALE

Orders will arrive on Mother's Day, May 14, for pick-up

Thanks to all who ordered plants from the Creator Youth Plant Sale! Plants will be delivered on Mother's Day, May 14 for pick-up

after worship.

This year extra planters and baskets have been ordered that can be purchased on delivery day. Get Mom a beautiful planter for her special day!

KING'S CUPBOARD IS A SATELLITE  
OF THE OREGON FOOD BANK

## KING'S CUPBOARD

FOR MAY PLEASE BRING DRIED PASTA, MAC AND CHEESE,  
DRIED BEANS AND RICE

Items Most Used at King's Cupboard: Tuna, Macaroni & cheese, Hearty soups, Cereal, Toilet paper, Peanut butter, Baking ingredients (flour, sugar, etc.) Laundry detergent and dish detergent are always welcome. They still are asking for re-usable bags as well.

**Hunger knows no season.**

Creator Day Camp is coming!



## Day Camp for Kids

July 17 through July 21, 2017

Kids grades K—6

**It is time to register for Creator Day Camp!**

*Registration forms can be found in the narthex or on line.*

Sign up for fun, music, stories, games and a great week of learning of God's love for his creation.

Cost is \$5 per child, \$110 per family

Register before June 1 to get the early-bird discount.

(\$45 per child, \$100 per family)

The counselors from Camp Lutherwood will lead the camp again this year. Don't miss out!

## CONVERGENCE NETWORK NEWS

Creator recently joined the Convergence Network of Welcoming Churches.

<https://convergence.mn.co/posts/1114699>

Here are some great resources for your reading that Convergence has shared:



If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.  
Isaiah 58:10

### *Serving Meals at the Clackamas Service Center:*

#### **NEXT SERVICE DAY AT CLACKAMAS SERVICE CENTER:**

**MONDAY, JUNE 5, 4:00 P.M.** is the next day that the Creator Crew will be serving at the Clackamas Service Center. If you are interested in becoming part of the crew, please e-mail Toni at [toni.hartung@creatorlutheran.org](mailto:toni.hartung@creatorlutheran.org)

Creator volunteers serve on the first Monday each month from

## **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP NEWS**

*The Sign-up Genius site is extended out through July so you can schedule your volunteering easily. Please, please take a minute and sign-up for worship volunteer spots through the next couple of months. Thanks! Toni*

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4aabaa2ba0fb6-sunday>



## THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Come to Bible Study  
on Thursdays at  
10:00 a.m.

We will be meeting  
at the church.  
Current study is a

study of Revela-  
tions, based on a  
curriculum created  
by theologian  
Barbara Rossing.  
Bring your Bible  
and your questions.

All are welcome!



## IMIRJ NEWS

A number of Creator members are meeting monthly with a group of faith leaders in the community as part of the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice. The next IMIrJ Monthly Gathering meeting is on May 9: 6:30-8:30pm. St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal, 1704 NE 43rd Ave., Portland, OR 97213.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this group, please contact Toni.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.."

Matthew 25:35

## LIFE PAX KITS AVAILABLE FROM CREATOR YOUTH

The Creator Youth are selling Life Pax at Creator for \$3 each (suggested donation). These are packs to give to those in need that we meet along our way each day. They contain a Meal and Resource

contacts. Carry these in your car to give as needed. Pick up your packs in the narthex after worship.

## *MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CALENDAR:*

**High School Youth: The SE Portland Collective will be meeting again, a few Sunday afternoons this Spring! Dates will be coming - but in the meantime, here are Creator-related HS activities to put on your calendars!**

- Middle School: Confirmation meets Wed. nights from 6:30 - 8:30pm**
- Fri-Sun, May 6-8 - Youth encouraged to attend Synod Assembly in Portland;**
- Wed, May 10th - High school youth night; Confirmation**
- Sun, May 14th - Mother's Day, Plants delivered! (need sorters!)**
- Wed, May 17- Confirmation**
- Sun, May 21st - Practice music for Youth Sunday**
- Wed, May 24th - High school youth night; No Confirmation**
- Fri-Mon, May 26-29 - HS Road trip to Burns & Paiute reservation!**
- Wed, May 31— Confirmation with families**
- Sun, June 4th - Youth Sunday! (Pentecost!)**

**July 17-21st -MS/HS Day Camp Volunteering!**

### What's a Youth Collective?

**Ecumenical Youth Collectives** are springing up all around Portland, and elsewhere around the state as well! Creator has been in conversation with Ecumenical partners (Presbyterian, UCC, Methodist, etc.) in SE Portland for most of the past year to explore the gift of radical welcome to young people that our traditions share.

These conversations with SE partners led to a high school "Race & Privilege" retreat last April with ELCA Glocal musicians, which was deeply meaningful for all and provided us with continued motivation to experiment together. We believe our welcome to young people regardless of sexual orientation, legal

status, cultural background, etc. is unique and needed. We're currently asking parents and youth about their deepest longing for what youth hope to 'be about' in 5-10+ years. What qualities do they hope define their life in the world? Further input has helped us prioritize the following characteristics about our local SE collective.

- \*Create a safe space to struggle through tough questions, like who we are, and who God is.
- \*Step out together for issues of justice
- \*Include & develop loving, diverse young adult leadership

YOGA AT CREATOR

*On Thursday evenings, 6:00 p.m. join in yoga at Creator. This Class is for all abilities. Taya Gunsul will be instructing. Come and build strength, balance and flexibility, while relaxing the mind.*



**BACKPACK BUDDIES**

**Each year in our schools there are kids who live with food insecurity. During the school year they can get breakfasts and lunches at school, but they might not have enough to eat on the weekends.**

**Creator helps provide the food for the backpacks and the Boy Scouts pack the bags at their Tuesday night meetings for weekly distribution to**

**60+ kids each week.**

**Your help is needed. If you would like to be a shopper and devote a couple of hours a month to shopping for the items, or if you would like to team up with those folks who deliver the food each week, please contact Toni at church:**

**[Toni.hartung@creatorlutheran.org](mailto:Toni.hartung@creatorlutheran.org)  
503-698-8081.**



*If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger.*

*Buzz Aldrin*



**DRESS FOR SUCCESS®**  
*Going Places. Going Strong.*

The mission of Dress for Success is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Ladies, do you have business attire that you no longer wear? Chris Heard is collecting suitable clothing items for donation for Dress for Success, an organization that supports women working to enter/re-enter the business world.

If you have items to donate, please bring them to Creator by Sunday, May 21

## *PORTLAND PRIDE PARADE SUNDAY, JUNE 18*

Join the Creator contingent and other ELCA congregations to march in the Portland Pride Parade on June 18. Sack lunches will be waiting for you after worship. Grab a sack lunch and head downtown to be part of the ELCA congregations marching in the Pride Parade.

More about where the staging area will be is coming from the organizers. Watch this space.



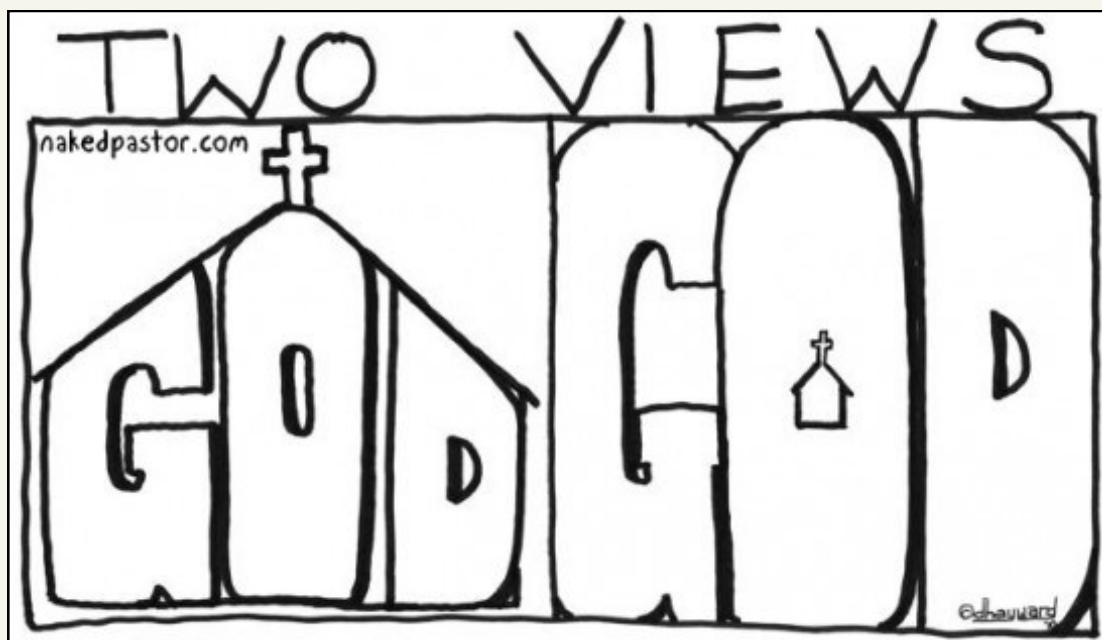
### Creator Piecemakers Quilters Meet May 20



The Creator Piecemakers meet on Saturday, May 20 from 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at Pat Isaac's home. There is lots of fabric to work with and lots of creative ideas to match.

All are welcome!

*Meetings are at Pat Isaac's home:  
10602 SE Isaac Dr. Happy Valley*



## Steps to Calling a Pastor for Creator Lutheran Church

### We are on the last four steps

#### Laying the Foundation

Six steps:

- ×Contacting the bishop*
- ×Exit interview and interim orientation*
- ×Review/clarify status of other staff (rostered and hired)*
- ×Appointment of the interim pastor*
- \*Selection of the Transition Team*
- \*Meeting with the bishop's assistant for further orientation to the call process*

#### Search Process

Eight steps:

- Determining ministry needs (preparation of the congregation's profile)
- Suggesting names to the bishop's office
- Selection of the Call Committee (in the process at this time)
- Receiving nominations from the bishop's office
- Preparing for mutual conversation
- Mutual conversation with nominee/s
- Decision to recommend one candidate
- Releasing other nominees

#### Calling the Candidate

Four steps:

- Preparing the call resolution
- The call meeting
- Issuing the call
- Completing the process

**Note:** Steps shown in blue have been completed.



*And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

*Matthew 22: 37–40*

THIS IS A PUBLICATION OF  
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Office Administrator:	Toni Hartung
Custodian:	Erik Edberg

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.