

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

December 2010

VOLUME #1 17: ISSUE #12

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 5th

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Followed by Lunch and Meeting 12 noon—2pm

All voting members are encouraged to attend this annual meeting of the congregation which will include the election of Council members, initial consideration of 2011 budget, and committee reports. Meat (chicken) will be provided for lunch; everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish.

A Night in Bethlehem & LIVING NATIVITY

Saturday, December 4th 4:00-7:00 pm

Set aside time to prepare away from the hustle and bustle of the season! This event is for all ages! As you enter the Fellowship Hall, you will be transported back to a Night in Bethlehem. We'll begin with some Advent/ Christmas crafts that everyone can enjoy, eat a simple meal together (with Middle Eastern foods), share candlelight devotions around our tables, and then go outside to witness a live nativity (with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, shepherds, and live animals), hear the Christmas story, and sing carols. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this special evening.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES

Friday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm "Happy Birthday, Jesus, All Over the World" with Candlelight and Holy Communion

10:30 pm Candlelight Holy Communion (Note Time Change!)



Saturday, December 25th Christmas Day

10:00 am Carol Service of Holy Communion "A Family Affair—Matthew's Begats"

Life at Gethsemane

HELPFUL HINTS FOR YOUR ADVENT JOURNEY!

Are you looking for ways to keep your focus on the Christ in Christmas – for yourself, or for your family?

Come to Midweek Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-7:30pm. This will be a simple time of candlelight and quiet, with a brief reflection read from “*Making Room for Christmas: Preparing a Place for the Christ Child*” by Herbert Brokering.

Use an Advent wreath, lighting an additional candle for each week in Advent, and using a daily prayer or devotion.

Advent Devotion Books are available, including one entitled *Happy Birthday, Jesus, All Over the World* that goes along with our Advent theme of **Savior of the Nations, Come: The World Prepares for Christ’s Birth.**

Come to Advent Bible Study on Wednesdays, December 8, 15, and 22 from 10-11:30am. The topic is “Mary Had a Baby: An Advent Study based on African American Spirituals.”



Christmas Caroling
Sunday,
December 19th
at 2:00pm

Join us to prepare our hearts and spread the cheer of Christmas. All ages welcome! After caroling, we’ll come back to the church for chili and cookies.

A “BLUE CHRISTMAS” SERVICE
Wednesday, December 22, 2010
7:00 pm

Many churches in the past decade or so have begun to offer “Blue Christmas” services. These services provide space for those who may be grieving, hurting, lonely, or simply not connected with the public joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons because of their life situations. In coming together, we are free to acknowledge our pain and receive comfort from the surrounding community of faith. This simple service, using Holden Evening Prayer, provides quiet opportunity for prayer, song, and silent reflection as it seeks to nurture one’s hurting spirit.



Sundays in December

*Savior of the Nations, Come:
The World Prepares for Christ's Birth*

Each Sunday in Advent, we will pray for a different part of the world. Our candle lighting hymn will be from that part of the world. Nativity scenes from around the world will be on display. You are invited to light a "prayer candle" and place it on the map in the front of the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent
One Service Only at 10:00 am
Global Focus: Asia

Sunday, December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent
Global Focus: Latin America
Healing Prayer Stations will be available.

Sunday, December 19 4th Sunday of Advent
Global Focus: The Middle East
The Sunday School Christmas Program *No Strings Attached* will be presented at the 11am service.

Sunday, December 26
1st Sunday after Christmas
One Service Only at 10:00 am
Pastor Martin Rafanan, director of Gateway 180, will be our guest preacher; Pastor Kendra presides.

**RACHEL CIRCLE WILL NOT
BE HAVING A JANUARY LUNCHEON**
Please remember the reason for the season.
Hope everyone has a Blessed and Safe
Christmas Season!

Opportunities for Alternative Gift Giving

- ◆ **Christmas Cookies and Snack Mix Bags.** You may place an order, or buy on December 19th. Cookie trays are \$20/tray and snack mix is \$5/bag. Proceeds benefit Gateway 180 Homeless Shelter and Joint Neighborhood Ministry. Matching Funds are being donated by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.
- ◆ **"Mini" Craft Fair, Sunday, December 12th, in between services and after 11am service.** The Fair will feature items by Gethsemane crafters, Fair Trade coffee and chocolate, and a gift table from Plowsharing Crafts.
- ◆ **Sunday School Christmas Cards:** Sunday School children are selling handmade Christmas cards to support a project through Lutheran World Relief.
- ◆ **Gethsemane T-shirts.** These shirts are in Swedish colors of yellow and blue, and feature the Central States Synod Mission Statement: Changed by Love, Sent in Love, To Serve. There are both youth and adult sizes, and all shirts are \$10. You can also buy a shirt and tie-dye it in your favorite colors!
- ◆ Check out the ELCA Good Gifts catalog by going to www.elca.org.

"Isaiah and the Christ Child: The Prophetic Voices of Advent"

By Dr. Clint McCann

Thursday, December 9, 2010
10:30 am

Ascension Lutheran Church
5347 Donovan.

This Bible Study is sponsored by the Clergy and Laity Alliance of St. Louis Hills. Dr. McCann is a professor of Old Testament at Eden Theological Seminary and is married to Rev. Sarah Frederickson-McCann of Hope UCC.

Stewardship: Give Thanks!

The Stewardship Committee wishes to thank everyone that participated in the four week Stewardship theme of **Give Thanks – Be the Difference**. A special thank you to Mary Lou Young for her Stewardship Moment talk and her tasty pumpkin desserts, to Susan Flaxbart and Jill Burgard for helping with the Gratitude Journals, to Jennifer Paulson, Mary Lou Young & Jill Burgard for helping their husbands out when needed, and to Gary Borkowski for his administrative support. Special thanks to Mike and Kim Elliott and friends for the “Thankful Tree” that adorned our worship space.

As of November 21, 2010 there were 73 Be the Difference volunteer worksheets received along with 71 Pledge Cards with pledges totaling over \$129,000. **If you have not done so, please return your financial commitment card and Be the Difference volunteer sheet as soon as possible.**

In 2011, let’s look forward to see how each of us can continue to grow God’s garden, and **Be the Difference** in God’s work.

The Stewardship Team
Keith Paulson, Chris Kleine, and Ryan Burgard

Health Cabinet

Parish Nurse Update: When we first publicized this 10 hour per week position, we received 3 inquiries. We interviewed one candidate about whom we felt very positive, however she declined the position because of the long distance commute. It was a very helpful conversation and we learned a lot from her. We continue to explore many options and look for additional sources of funding for this position, and we hope that in the New Year we will conduct more interviews. Please continue to be in prayer for the right person to serve on our staff.

In the meantime, Deaconess Phyllis Saathoff continues her work as a Parish Visitor, visiting and bringing the sacrament to homebound members or those undergoing health challenges.

Missional Note: Rick Meigs wrote an article entitled, **What is Missional—A Short Answer**. “Jesus told us to go into all the world and be his ambassadors, but many churches today have inadvertently changed the ‘go and be’ command to a ‘come and see’ appeal. We have grown attached to buildings, programs, staff and a wide variety of goods and services designed to attract and entertain people. Missional is a helpful term used to describe what happens when you and I replace the ‘come to us’ invitations with a ‘go to them’ life. A life where ‘the way of Jesus’ informs and radically transforms our existence to one wholly focused on sacrificially living for him and others and where we adopt a missionary stance in relation to our culture. It speaks of the very nature of the Jesus follower.”

Remember Our Homebound Members

During this Christmas season, please remember our homebound members in your prayers and with a card:

Sarah Chamberlin
Laclede Oaks Manor #267
705 S. Laclede Station Road
St. Louis, MO 63119

Werner and Jan Dallman
Mary, Queen and Mother
7601 Watson Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Theresa Diehl
9924 Zenith Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63123

Lillian Doebber
Charless Home, Room 201
4431 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63111

Paul and Anna Fehr
6222 Tholozan
St. Louis, MO 63109

Grace Helen Lett
(Cindy Tanner's mother)
Garden View Center
13612 Big Bend
St. Louis, MO 63088

Mary Lou Mattke
(Ruth Hanson's mother)
Laclede Groves, Room 346
723 S. Laclede Station Road
St. Louis, MO 63119

Beulah Mattson
1724 Liggett Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63126

Sammy Mayer
8730 Glenwood
St. Louis, MO 63126
(for mail)

Madge Ogan
Laclede Commons, Room 256
727 S. Laclede Station Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63119

Janet Schottel
45 Honeylocust Ln Apt. 206B
St. Charles, MO 63303-5711

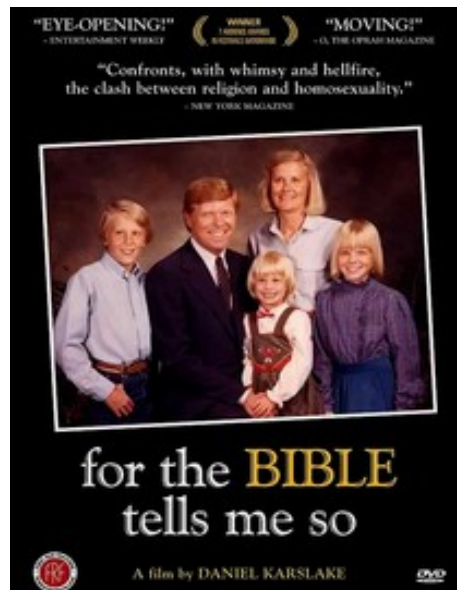
Cindy Williams
c/o Peggy Ruhland
2963 Spring Water Drive
St. Louis, MO 63129

Remember that HUGS is a free service available to anyone who can't make it to church but would like to listen in on the service. No special equipment is needed. Please call the church office for information and instructions.

Reconciling In Christ

Reconciling in Christ is a program for Lutheran communities of faith to answer the inclusive call of the gospel by welcoming believers of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Gethsemane is in a process of prayer, dialogue and education to make a decision to adopt this designation through a welcoming statement.

**Sunday afternoon movie
January 9, 2010
12:30 pm – 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Watch the film, pizza lunch, discussion after.
Childcare available!**



For the Bible Tells Me So

In this Sundance documentary, director Daniel Karlake goes to the Bible to examine the ways in which conservative Christian groups have used -- and sometimes exploited -- holy Scripture to deny human rights to gays and lesbians around the world. Highlights include interviews with V. Gene Robinson, the first openly gay bishop in the Anglican Communion, and Chrissy Gephardt, the lesbian daughter of former U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt.

Fellowship Committee

We want to thank everyone who made the Fellowship events successful with their time, commitment to help and/or monetarily. The Committee cannot do all the events alone and it is so very helpful and gratifying the GLC family is committed to fellowship and friendships.

Look for upcoming details for the Chili & Cookie Cook-off in January 2011. Get your recipes ready for the amazing taste-testing!

Also we are looking for new event ideas so if you have any thoughts please join us or let us know.

Social Action

Thanks to all those who brought pumpkin pies and green bean casseroles for Thanksgiving dinners offered in conjunction with St. Joan of Arc.

Reminder: All items for the Joint Neighborhood Ministry Adopt-a-Child, gift card, and pillow/blanket ministry are to be at church by Sunday, December 12th. Thank you for your generous response — all 47 children were “adopted!”

Confirmation and Youth

Confirmation Classes will be held from 6:30-8:00 pm on Wednesdays, December 1 and 15 **here at Gethsemane!** Confirmation students and families are encouraged to participate in Christmas caroling on December 19th.

Parent’s Night Out: The Gethsemane Youth are again sponsoring a Parent’s Night Out event on Friday, December 3 from 6:00-9:00pm (kids 3 yrs and older, please). Dinner will be provided along with games, activities, and a classic holiday movie. Enjoy quiet time with your spouse or shopping time for the kids! This is a fund-raising event for the youth to go on a service work trip next summer. Donations will be accepted at the door.

2011 Summer Service Trip: We will be joining other ELCA South Cluster youth in a Group Work-Camp to Jackson, Michigan, the week of June 26-July 2, 2011. The minimum age is 14 years old/or beginning 9th grade in the fall of 2011. To reserve a spot, a \$50 deposit is required (payable to Gethsemane) by December 5th. If finances are a current difficult, please talk with Pr. Kendra about signing a letter of intent. The focus of the trip is home repair for elderly and needy families. Please talk with Megan Yemm or Pastor Kendra for more info.

WORSHIP LEADERS: **December 2010**

Ushers (8:30): Jon Begley, John Loscuito,
John McElwee, Ted Yemm

Ushers (11:00): Bill Burmeister,
Nathan Burge, Steve Hetager, Pauline Farmer
Altar Guild (a/k/a "Ecclesiastical Stagehands"):
Mary and Don Thuss

Doughnuts: Norma Schenck, Joan Williams,
Lois & Jack Wind

DECEMBER 5	10:00
One Service	
A.M.	Rollie Walston
ACOLYTE	Addie O'Neill
LECTOR	Rodney Jones
BREAD	Marie Mueller
WINE	Mantia Family
ALTAR FLOWERS	Marilyn McGuire
FLOWER DELIVERY	Ruth Johnson
VAN DRIVER	Norm Hopfer
GREETER	Claudine Hensel
GREETER	Jeff Hopfer

DECEMBER 19	8:30	11:00
A.M.	Ken Bauer	Carol Frohlichstein
ACOLYTE	Jacob Luciani	Johnny Frohlichstein
LECTOR	Rosalind Roberts	Jack Jaworski
BREAD	Elke and Mark Overton	
WINE		
ALTAR FLOWERS	Lois Pfeiffer	
FLOWER DELIVERY	Keith Paulson	
VAN DRIVER	Don Kurt	
GREETER	Susan Loscuito	Jill Burgard
GREETER	Lisa Mantia	Ryan Burgard

DECEMBER 24	4:00	11:00
A.M.		
ACOLYTE		
LECTOR		
BREAD	Lois Pfeiffer	
WINE	Lois Pfeiffer	
ALTAR FLOWERS	Schuessler Family	
VAN DRIVER	Jeff Hopfer	
GREETER		
GREETER		

DECEMBER 12	8:30	11:00
A.M.	Megan Yemm	Carolyn Schainker
ACOLYTE	Zoe Bowman	Luke Borkowski
LECTOR	Fred Lenhart	Victoria Herrmann
BREAD	Edna May Otto	
WINE		
ALTAR FLOWERS	Mantia Family	
FLOWER DELIVERY	Rose Lubbes	
VAN DRIVER	John Sandberg	
BLOOD PRESSURES	Janelle Davis	
GREETER	Norm Hopfer	Jennifer Paulson
GREETER	Theresa Lamczyk	Billie Chamblin

**Worship Leaders are needed
for Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day.
Please contact the church
office or sign up at church.**

DECEMBER 25	10:00
One Service	
A.M.	
ACOLYTE	
LECTOR	
BREAD	Shirley Roberts
WINE	Rose Lubbes
ALTAR FLOWERS	Rosalind and Brian Roberts
FLOWER DELIVERY	
VAN DRIVER	Jack Wind
GREETER	
GREETER	

DECEMBER 26	10:00
One Service	
A.M.	Todd Boehlje
ACOLYTE	Paul Meuser
LECTOR	Elizabeth Hetager
BREAD	Dell Roth
WINE	
ALTAR FLOWERS	Nellie Hohnsen
FLOWER DELIVERY	Roger Shaw
VAN DRIVER	Bill Scanlan
GREETER	Kathy Lee
GREETER	Jack Jaworski

Financial Report January through October, 2010

<u>YTD Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Regular & Loose Giving	\$164,166	\$169,467	\$ (5301)
*Total Year-to-date Income	\$174,295	\$192,600	\$ (18,305)

<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Year-to-Date Expenses	\$199,942	\$200,100	\$158

Income Shortfall YTD \$25,647

***Note:** Total Year-to-Date Income also includes Special Offerings and Interest. Support from the Endowment Fund has not yet been added in to the total, but will potentially add another \$9300 for 10 months.

Building a House Where All Are Welcome (Building Renovation Fund): Gifts in excess of \$60,000 have been received.

More complete Treasurer and Finance Committee Reports will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Finance Fact: Gethsemane's budget for 2010 is \$245,500. Gethsemane has approximately 140 active households; we average over 160 people attending worship each Sunday.

VICISSITUDES

(The changes or events that occur in our lives)

*Dear Friends at Gethsemane,
I wanted to thank all of you who sent me sympathy cards or gave me a hug or words of comfort when my Mom died. Mom always liked visiting Gethsemane. She said it was such a warm and friendly church. She especially liked the music. Thank you for the love and support.*

*Sincerely,
Vicki Herrmann*

Thanks, Thanks, and More Thanks!

...to the Elliott girls for sharpening all the pencils in the pews and to Mike for helping change sanctuary light bulbs.

...to Roy Geers for hanging the pictures around the building and to Billie Chamblin and Roger & Wilma Shaw for donating pictures.

New Address for Christopher Moe:

2LT Moe
629th MCAS
Unit #15342
APO, AP 96258

You can send a letter for regular postage to this address and it will reach him in Korea.

December Anniversaries

20	Mark and Mardi Manary	30 yrs
22	Brett and Rachel Fehr	9 yrs
23	Scott and Ruth Hanson	31 yrs
27	Bob and Peggy Lewis	18 yrs
28	Richard and Dawn Schuessler	36 yrs

December Birthdays

3	Ted Yemm
4	Paula Brud-Brown
7	Laura Begley
9	Carolyn Schainker
12	Jane Harrington, Alexis Tatum
14	Linda Gustafson, Victoria Herrmann, Charlotte Mahnken, Emma Tanner
16	William Bartholomew
17	Samantha Yemm
18	Brett Fehr, Alexander Mudd
19	Lawrence Mattson
20	Carolyn Pirkle
22	Adrienne Roberts, Jocelyn Lampkin
23	Shirley Roberts
25	Keaton Hanson, Robert Tanner
28	Nellie Hohnsen
31	Anna Burmeister

The Great Pumpkin Visits Mallinckrodt

After several vines were destroyed at Mallinckrodt Academy, leaving students without pumpkins to harvest this October, the Great Pumpkin came. Leaving 20 pumpkins where the vines had been, the Great Pumpkin saved the school's fall parties. On behalf of Principal Merry Denny, and the students, the school would like to thank the Great Pumpkin, whoever it is.

PS The Great Pumpkin has a connection with Gethsemane's Partnership for Missional Church Team!

November Recap



ELCA South Cluster Revival: Pastor Anthony Chatman was our Revivalist. On Saturday afternoon, 33 care packages were put together to send to military personnel. The theme was “Spark the Spirit in



All Saints’ and Dedication Sunday: After opening prayers dedicating the newly renovated space, we processed to the sanctuary singing “When the Saints Go Marching In.” In between services, we had the ceremonial ribbon cutting and “first ride” on the new elevator. Pauline Meinecke (our oldest member attending worship), Lucas Hopfer (our youngest member attending worship), Joanne Grana, and Pastor Kendra were the “dignitaries” for the first ride!



GO! Challenge Winners receiving their broccoli floral awards, representing the Health Cabinet, Council, and Choir Crescendos!

Uncle Jim Live! Jim Mayer shared songs of fun, values, and respect in a family concert at Gethsemane and a benefit concert for children at Froebel Elementary School! Thanks to Dawn Schuessler for spearheading the effort to sponsor Jim’s first St. Louis area family concert!



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109
Phone: 314-352-8050; Fax: 314-352-8051
Email Address: Gethsemane@swbell.net
Webpage: www.gethsemanestl.org
Church Office Hours: 8:30am-1:30pm

Pastor Kendra Nolde
314-524-6817 prkendra-glc@swbell.net

MESSENGER NEWS

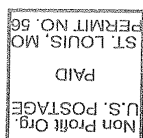
You can send your news and notes for the Messenger to glc-messenger@swbell.net. There is also a Messenger drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the 20th of each month, but we'll do our best to get your news in whenever you submit it.

eMESSENGER

Please consider helping us save a tree and save on the cost of paper and postage. This happens if you choose to receive your Messenger only by e-mail. Just send us a message at glc-messenger@swbell.net.

WEEKLY E-NEWS

If you are not receiving our weekly e-news and would like to receive it, let us know by sending an email to gethsemane@swbell.net (and make sure that you put our address in your address book so that your spam filters let it pass through!).



“Return Service Requested”

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63109