



A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

April 2011

VOLUME #118 ISSUE #4

Holy Week and Easter Blessings

During Lenten mid-week worship, we have been praying the Beatitudes as a description of living in the reign of God. During Holy Week, we see how these Beatitudes also point us to what Christ is passionate about as a way of understanding his life, death, and resurrection.

Sunday, April 17th 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. PALM SUNDAY

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

We begin outdoors for the Procession with Palms. During worship services, we welcome ten of our young people to the Lord’s Table for their First Communion.

Thursday, April 21st 7:00 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

This first liturgy of the Three Days has no ending; it continues with the worship of Good Friday and concludes with the Vigil of Easter. Together the Three Days proclaim the mystery of our faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Friday, April 22nd 12 noon & 7:00 p.m. GOOD FRIDAY

The Cross and the Beatitudes

Saturday, April 23rd 7:00 p.m. EASTER VIGIL

Lighting of the First Fire; Affirmation of Baptism; the First Communion of Easter

Sunday, April 24th 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. EASTER SUNDAY

Rejoice and be glad! Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Breakfast will be served between services as a fundraiser for the Youth Mission Trip.

Tickets are \$5 per person; children age 2 and under are free. If you are able to bring a breakfast sweet, please let us know!

Letter from Bishop Mansholt

The Church Council wanted to share the Bishop's letter of thanks and encouragement with the entire congregation.



Central States Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

March 1, 2011

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Yesterday I looked at a printout of all the congregations of the Central States Synod with the amount of mission support contributed in 2010. With a smile on my face and joy in my heart I gave thanks to God for each and every one of you and for our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And I was truly inspired and thankful for those congregations whom I know have given not only generously, but even sacrificially to support the mission and ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

These have been stressful days in the church. Some congregations have withheld funds because of their disagreements with the larger Church, while other congregations have found ways to increase their mission support. All of us have felt the pinch of the economic crisis, even as we rejoice in signs the economy is growing again. The biggest challenge remains the cultural changes around us: people participating in church life less and less.

And yet for these very days, we have been baptized! The culture and life around us is no better, no worse than the culture and life that surrounded the church in Corinth in the days of Paul. Paul wrote to that small congregation that was in mission in a large city characterized by its wealth and immorality. To them Paul said, "...let your light shine out of darkness...you have this treasure in clay jars... anyone in Christ is a new creation...in Christ God was reconciling the world unto himself...as we work together with him (God), we urge you not to accept the grace of God in vain...now is the day of salvation (chapters 4-6)."

Like the Corinthian church we have the treasure of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Like a clay pot, we can be broken and cracked, and have all kinds of imperfections. But the Gospel is the light that shines out of the darkness and gives hope and healing to the world.

Because of our partnership in the Gospel, we participate in God's mission in the world. Your mission support helps provide for the training and formation of pastors at our seminaries, for sending of campus pastors to serve students at our colleges and universities, for the start-up of new congregations in this and other synods. These are challenging days, but we live as people of hope. Paul said, "...since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart." So be of good cheer, and be thankful for the life we share and the mission to which we have been called. And thank you for your generous mission support.

Together in Christ,

Bishop Gerald L. Mansholt

Changed by Love ♦ Sent in Love ♦ To Serve

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Building a House Where All Are Welcome: First Year Celebration!

It seems hard to believe that one year ago on May 2, 2010 was our Commitment Sunday for the Building Renovation Project! To date, close to \$85,000 has been contributed toward our goal of \$200,000. Wouldn't it be great to reach the halfway mark by the end of the first year? Mark your calendars: on Sunday, May 1st in worship we will celebrate the generous hearts and hands that have led to reaching this milestone. Also, at 3:00 pm in the afternoon will be a Celebratory Concert featuring the Gateway Ringers, a local Bell Choir that has played at Gethsemane in the past.

Sunday Mornings in April Fellowship/Education Hour 9:45-10:45 am

Sunday, April 3 Open for Fellowship and Committee Meetings

Sunday, April 10 "The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus' Final Week in Jerusalem." Pastor Kendra will lead this study, sharing some highlights from this book by Borg and Crossan. It will also be a great way to prepare to go hear Pastor Zac Sturm perform the entire Gospel of Mark on April 17th.

Sunday, April 17 Reception for those receiving their First Communion on Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 24 Easter! Come share Easter breakfast! Help the youth raise funds for their summer mission trip!

Calling All Singers!

The choir will be leading the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter. Anyone who would like to join the choir for singing the Hallelujah Chorus is welcome on Easter morning. If you would like a refresher course, we will be rehearsing the Hallelujah Chorus at the end of every choir rehearsal (approximately 7:40 - 8:00 Monday evenings). Please join us for this majestic expression of love for our risen Christ!

The Gospel of Mark Performed from memory by Pastor Zac Sturm (Trinity, Kirkwood)

Sunday, April 17, 2011 4:00 pm

At Good Shepherd Lutheran, Manchester
The performance lasts two hours and includes an intermission. The Gospel will be performed in its entirety according to the NRSV translation. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit Lutheran Campus Ministry in St. Louis.

RACHEL CIRCLE LUNCHEON

**Monday, April 18, 2011
at Pietro's Restaurant**

Please call our hostess

Claudine Hensel at 314-894-8335 to make your reservation.

Health Cabinet

As early as the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for 40 days. The forty days of Lent recall the 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness after his baptism (Matthew 4:2, Luke 4:1-2) and Moses' 40 day fast on Mount Sinai (Exodus 34:28). It is a time of simplicity and preparation. Classic Lenten disciplines such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving focus on identifying with Christ's suffering on the cross through personal actions of devotion or deprivation. When you engage in Lenten disciplines – prayer, fasting, almsgiving – the rest of your life falls right into place. Your priorities are set in motion, you achieve balance in your life and your relationship with God is realigned.

Throughout the Bible, sages and prophets and Jesus himself recommend fasting as a way to deepen our relationship with God. You can't fast and consume at the same time. There is something about breaking the chain of intake that allows us to tap into that great source of all being, God. A carefully chosen Lenten discipline leads us to focus on our call to love God and serve our neighbors. Honest reflection can help us see how some disciplines can be more about serving than suffering. For instance, instead of giving up chocolate to identify with Christ's sufferings through personal deprivation, you might give up desserts so that you can donate what you would have otherwise spent on treats to help those who are hungry, whether through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal or your local food bank. (*The Rev. Julie A. Kanarr serves as co-pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles, Wash.*)

Nine Reasons to Fast (*taken from Fast Your Way to Health by Lee Bueno*):

- To combine the power of fasting with prayer for more dynamic results.
- To become more like Christ.
- To make a special request or achieve a specific goal.
- To more fully praise, worship, and honor God.
- To receive deeper insight and revelation from God.
- To better prepare ourselves for serving God.
- To more fully open our hearts to the hungry.
- To intercede on behalf of the sins and weaknesses of others.
- To develop self-discipline and show our commitment to God.

We pray and hope all of you are enjoying the peace and wholeness of Christ. Lent means springtime (new growth). As we enter into the season of spring, think of a renewal with God. This renewal is a time of spiritual growth through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In Romans 14:23 we are encouraged to place our eating and drinking in the context of our faith in God. We are encouraged to fast during Lent. In Exodus 34:28 Moses fasted forty days and nights, We read in Matthew 6:3-4 about almsgiving. As we fast and pray, let us focus on the hungry of the world. May we who have been blessed with so much, share our abundance with those in need. Make charity your aim (1 Corinthians 14:1).

Information taken from the ELCA website.

Blood Drive

In conjunction with St. Joan of Arc Parish
Gethsemane will host a blood drive on
Sunday, April 10th from 8:00am—1:00pm

The blood mobile will be parked in front of church ready to take your life giving donation.

For an appointment, go to www.redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: GethsemaneLC)
or you can also make an appointment by calling Mary Jane Thomsen at 218-213-4313,
email: maryjanethomsen@hotmail.com

Photo ID is required but an appointment is not.

Please consider giving the gift of life!

Life at Gethsemane

Church Council Highlights

March, 2011

1. Began with devotions and Dwelling in the Word.
2. Talked about a Sunday morning schedule that would leave the 1st Sunday of every month “open” for Committees that wanted to meet. Bible Study, forums, and presentations would be scheduled for the other Sundays.
3. Continued a book study on “Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life.”
4. Heard that an invoice had been received from Reicon and paid; the only outstanding amount is for the concrete work which needs to be redone. Council asked for an updated report on income and expenses for the project to determine how much will need to be a “loan” – either to ourselves or from an outside source.
5. Searches continue for a Parish Nurse and are beginning for an organist-pianist.
6. Reviewed the work from the Council retreat. At the retreat, members looked at data from 2 ½ years ago answering the question: “If God has God’s way with Gethsemane for the next five years, what do you see in our future?” Out of that information, Council drafted five missional directions:
 - ◆ Building bridges and bearing public witness to address poverty and homelessness in our community and world.
 - ◆ Reaching out to partners in the neighborhood to find and address the needs of the community.
 - ◆ Creating a welcoming and diverse congregation that values each individual and what they bring to the community and the world.
 - ◆ Spiritually renewing God’s disciples to inspire and equip them to respond to what God is calling them to do in their daily lives.
 - ◆ Nourishing the spiritual oneness of the Gethsemane family and sharing the joy of knowing God’s all-encompassing love. For the next Council meeting, members will reflect on 1) why is this priority/direction important? 2) what are the obstacles and what are the supports and resources at Gethsemane to head in this direction?, and 3) in what ways and places is and could this direction best be addressed at Gethsemane?
8. Identified that there would be one service only on Sunday, May 29, 2011 at 10:00am for Confirmation.
9. Heard that the Mutual Ministry Committee will be meeting with Pastor Kendra for a review on Thursday, March 10, 2011.

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.

Thanks to all who provided comments to the RIC Committee during the first draft session and the Sunday forum. All input is important and will be considered as we work toward our final proposed statement of welcoming. If anyone has additional comments, please put them into the RIC box on the table in the Narthex, or speak to Linda Ford, Lindsay Schuessler, Rollie Walston, Sharon Salerno or Peggy Zapf. Thanks to the Gethsemane community for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

Confirmation and Youth

Easter Breakfast

Make your plans now to bring your family and join with Gethsemane friends to celebrate the joy with the annual Easter Breakfast. Breakfast is being organized this year by the GYG (with help and support of the Fellowship Committee) as a fund-raiser for their summer mission trip to Jackson, MI. The cost is \$5 per person, children 2 and under are free, max. of \$20 per family. Tickets will be sold in advance on April 10 and 17, and will also be available at the door. You may also help us plan ahead by marking the blue attendance card with the number of persons who are planning to come.

The menu includes: Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Crisp Bacon, Sausage, Hash Brown Casserole, Biscuits and Gravy, Orange Juice, Milk and Coffee (and, of course, donuts). We are also looking for donations of breakfast sweets.

You may help the Youth sponsor the breakfast by making a cash donation for orange juice, milk, coffee, donuts, and sweets.

Plant Sale and Car Wash!

See the order form in this newsletter. Orders need to be placed before April 18th; plants will be delivered on Sunday, May 1st. Help support the six youth and one adult from Gethsemane who are preparing to join a group of 30 from our Southside ELCA Cluster on the Home Repair Mission Trip at the end of June.

Social Action

Easter Baskets for Gateway Homeless 180 Shelter

Do you get misty-eyed at the sight of a Peep? Does finding Easter grass under the rug edges in September give you the same thrill that you get when you find pine needles there in March? Do you surreptitiously dye Easter eggs and still put the stickers on them, even though you children are now in college? Then we are looking for YOU.

There are 65 kids currently living at the Gateway Homeless 180 shelter, and we have agreed to make Easter baskets for each of them. If you would like to help build and deliver the baskets, please come to the Fellowship Hall on Good Friday (time to follow) to make the baskets and/or bring them to the shelter on 19th St downtown. We will need:

70 baskets (search your basement and attic for them)

Pink or yellow or green Easter grass

Plastic eggs (to put jelly beans in)

Stuff for the Baskets (Candy, Fruit Snacks, Small Fruit or Applesauce Cups, Crayons, Mini Toys, etc.) There doesn't have to be 70 of each thing; we just want the baskets to be comparable.

This is a great service project for youth. The more the merrier, if you want to bring a friend. Donated items can be put into the box in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please call Peggy Zapf (351-6598).

A note -- I had not spoken to anyone else when I told Gateway that we would provide these baskets. I would like to say it was a leap of faith, but truly I knew that everyone would step forward to help, and I have already been overwhelmed by offers. We really can do anything with this wonderful faith community.

WOW, What a Month!

In conjunction with the Fill the Plate food drive, a total of 127 boxes of cereal, 138 rolls of toilet paper and 14 boxes of addition food were delivered to Joint Neighborhood Ministry. Way to go Gethsemane! The item of the month for April is peanut butter and jelly.

Hymn Festival

The music director and organist at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in South County would like to invite you to join them for their annual Hymn Festival April 3rd at 3:00pm. This year, they are celebrating the 25th dedication anniversary of their sanctuary and pipe organ. Dr. John Behnke, Professor of Music at Concordia University Wisconsin, will be the featured organist. There will be a massed choir (including Gethsemane choir members), handbells, brass, and congregational singing, along with some solo organ pieces played by Dr. Behnke. There is no cost to attend, and a free-will offering will be collected for the benefit of future hymn festivals as well as covering of expenses for this year's program.

IN OUR COMMUNITY...

Camp Wartburg

Please join us for Camp Wartburg's 42nd Annual Fried Chicken Dinner and Open House on Sunday, April 10. We will serve from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children ages 5-12. Children under five eat free.

If you would like to bake a dessert to donate for our dinner, please drop it by Camp Wartburg on Saturday, April 9 or Sunday morning, April 10.

While you are here, you will also have the opportunity to enroll campers for our Summer Camp and Day Camp programs. Want to become more involved with Camp Wartburg? Camp's "Let Your Love Shine" Auction will be held on Saturday, August 27th. Please bring an auction donation with you to the Chicken Dinner. For every item donated, valued at \$25 or more, your name will be entered into a drawing to win a nice wine basket valued at \$100. Don't miss your opportunity to be entered into our drawing at the Chicken Dinner! If you have any questions, please call 618-939-7715. Hope to see you at Camp Wartburg soon!

Please join us for Camp Wartburg's 11th annual Golf Classic on Monday, May 23, 2011 at Acorns Golf Links in Waterloo, IL. Register your foursome for golf, lunch, beverages and dinner. \$100 donation per golfer. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please contact theresa-thorburg@lcsf.org for more information or call Camp Wartburg at (618) 939-7715. Hope to see you on the golf course.

Registration is now open for Lutheran School of Theology **Spring 2011 Term**

Courses for Laity and Clergy

"I Saw Satan Fall Like Lightning: THE ORIGIN OF SATAN AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL"

Three Tuesdays from May 3 to May 17, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Taught by the Rev. Dr. Ben Asen at St. George's Episcopal Church, 105 East "D" Street, Belleville, Il. Tuition: \$41

"THE REFORMATIONS: THEN AND NOW" Six Wednesdays from April 27 to June 1, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Taught by the Rev. Dr. Warren Crews at Grace Episcopal Church, 514 East Argonne Drive, Kirkwood, Mo. Tuition: \$81

"THE BULLIED PULPIT: PASTORING IN AN ANXIOUS TIME" One-day workshop on Thursday, May 19, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Taught by the Rev. Dale Kuhn at the Care and Counseling Office, 12141 Ladue Road, St. Louis, Mo. Tuition: \$35 (Lunch is included in price.)

Brochures with registration forms are in the narthex. For more information or for scholarship applications call the LST office at: (314) 725-9710 or email: registrar@lstsl.org or call Penny/Keith Holste, Administrators at (314) 962-0918, or register online at: <http://www.lstsl.org>

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Cost Per Plant -- \$10.00

Check must accompany order form.

Please include my name in the Easter Sunday bulletin for the following:

(check all appropriate spaces)

_____ Number of plants

_____ Deliver to a shut-in

_____ I will deliver to a shut-in

_____ Building Renovation Fund (no flowers)

_____ Other (no flowers)

_____ Amount enclosed. Envelope No. _____

How would you like your name listed in the bulletin:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Orders must be given to the church office by Mon. April 18.

Thank You!

VICISSITUDES

(The changes or events that occur in our lives)

Thanks...

To Jen Paulson, for agreeing to chair the Caring Casserole Program. Please call Jen or Pastor Kendra if you know of someone who needs a meal!
To Carolyn Pirkle, for "spiffing up" the new Women's Restroom upstairs.

VOLUNTEER WISH LIST:

Landscape Designers: 3 people willing to plan for the yard space near the new parking lot entrance.

Cleaners: someone willing to wipe down benches in atrium and hallways, and see that cushions are cleaned.

Yard work: persons willing to pick up branches and leaves in church yard as a spring clean-up.

Planters: persons willing to plant flowers around the church sign and in planters for Palm Sunday/Easter.

Contact the church office if the Spirit moves you to help in any of these ways!

HUGS

Remember that Gethsemane offers the opportunity to phone in and listen to the 11am Sunday morning worship service for those who are homebound. Call the church office to get the phone number and access code. It is a very simple and free procedure for you.

See what's happening with other Lutherans in St. Louis. Check out the spring newsletter of "The Metro-Link" at www.elca-metrocoalition.org/metrolink.htm. Facebook group "Lutherans around St. Louis" or Twitter "StLouisLutheran."

Sunday School

Thanks for helping *Bury the Cart!*

Sunday school kids celebrate a successful *Fill the Plate* food drive campaign which helped fill the shelves at Joint Neighborhood Ministry.

Did you know that 1 in 4 children and 1 in 6 adults go hungry everyday in the United States? You might know this statistic now, as do our Sunday school children after our March “Fill the Plate” activity. March was filled with wonderful activities to teach our children and some of the adults that there are many people in our Country that go to bed at night truly hungry. The month was started with a presentation from Joint Neighborhood Ministries and Lisa Mantia on hunger in our area. The next week kids decorated plates with food they cut out of ads. Children were asked to find healthy foods that would help nourish those with out and avoid the cookies, snacks and some of the junk foods. The following week the kids handed out the plates to remind people to bring in their offering the following week. This was also the week that every 6th person was turned away from the donut table to show how many people at fellowship would be hungry if 1 in 6 were without food. Several people were told to take a seat without a donut. Perhaps the greatest impact came with a mother let her child have her donut and she went without. This was a great example of what really happens in our nation. Finally on March 27th the food, toiletry and paper products were collected. This was a wonderful activity that helped the kids learn about hunger and work to do something to impact it. A special thank you to all who brought in goods for this activity and Lisa Mantia for organizing it.

Next month there will be regular Sunday School on April 3 and 10th. There will be no Sunday School on April 17th (there will be a reception for 1st Communion) and no Sunday School April 24th for Easter but there will be an Egg Hunt organized by Kim and Christy’s Sunday School class.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
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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

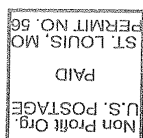
You can send your news and notes for the Messenger to glc-messenger@swbell.net. There is also a Messenger drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the 20th of each month, but we'll do our best to get your news in whenever you submit it.

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
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