



A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

September 2011

VOLUME #118 ISSUE #9

Pastor's Letter

One of the first items of business at a Synod or Churchwide Assembly is learning to use the voting machines! So, after the first session of the Assembly, Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson got a laugh during his sermon at the Opening Worship when he began: "Please take out your *imaginary* voting machine. Here is the question: 'Like Mary, are we as a church ready to be moved by the power of the Holy Spirit?' Press 1 for Yes. Press 2 for No. Press 3 for 'Moved? I just got here!' Press 4 for 'I am totally confused, Bishop.'" Vote now. Voting is closed. Let's see the results. My screen says: "No results at this time. They will be posted Friday before adjournment."

It was the Festival of Mary, Mother of Our Lord, and we had just heard the marvelous Magnificat text from Luke, chapter 1. And so Bishop Hanson asked: "Are we ready, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for the Holy Spirit to move us as the Spirit moved Mary?"

What were the results by Friday of the Assembly? Come this Sunday, September 4th, to a forum I'll present in between services to see the results!

I will tell you, though, that one of the highlights of my week came during that opening worship. The closing hymn was *Canticle of the Turning*, whose refrain goes: "My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn." Standing with the group of communion servers, it was a couple of the bishops who led the way in literally "turning" and dancing during the singing of that refrain. And as the "turning" swelled and grew, more and more joining the dance, there was joy and delight in the presence of the Spirit, the gift of one another, and this expression of Christ's body, the ELCA, seeking to do God's work with our hands.

Pastor Kendra

Sundays in September

Sunday, September 4

Freed in Christ to Serve! On this Labor Day weekend, the theme of our worship experience will be discovering what God is up to in our everyday lives and anointing for service in our daily lives. Testimonies of faith and daily life will be shared, and there will be an opportunity to have your hands anointed for ministry and service.

Between services: Pastor Kendra will give a report (complete with videos and pictures!) of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly which met August 15-19 in Orlando, Florida.

Sunday, September 11

8:30 am Worship at Gethsemane

11:00 am Devotions at Tilles Park (before the Church Picnic)

Both services will include commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of September 11th with prayer, silence, and candlelighting.

Sunday, September 18

Blessing of 3-year olds/Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Between services: Sunday School classes begin

Meeting for GYG youth and parents

Adult Class: Prayer in Uncertain Times

Sunday, September 25

Blessing of Confirmation Students

Between services: Adult Class: Prayer in Uncertain Times

Adult Education

Prayer in Uncertain Times: In uncertain times so much is up in the air, but not our relationship with God. We are connected eternally to God through our baptisms. However, our sense of that connection, especially during the week when we're so busy with our lives, can also be uncertain. These two sessions, Sundays September 18 and 25 from 10:00-10:50am, led by Pastor Robin Morgan, will introduce a variety of prayer starters to help you find ways to connect with God during the week. The first week, we'll talk about kinds of prayer — thanksgiving, praise, petitions, etc. and introduce different options: lectio divina, breath prayer, praying the psalms, Joyce Rupp, helpful websites.

Other Upcoming Adult Forums include:

Sunday, October 9 Bread for the World

Sunday, November 27 Disaster Preparedness—Making Disaster Kits

Please talk with Robin Morgan if you have a suggestion for a certain topic, or are willing to teach/present.

Remember that the first Sunday of each month is “reserved” for Fellowship and necessary Committee Meetings.

September 11th Commemorations

An Interfaith Memorial in Music: Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of September 11, 2001. 5:30-6:30 pm on Sunday, September 11 at the Sheldon Concert Hall. This event will be religious and interfaith in character. It will be a program to inspire and allow reflection, express sorrow and regret, and unify the community in hope for peace. One statement of the message of the event: although we cannot directly bring about world peace, we can do what we can, in our community, together and in public. The program will include: First Responders from the County Police and City and County Fire Departments presenting the Colors; Senator John Danforth (Invocation); Soloist Christine Brewer; SLSO String Quartet, and religious musical expressions of various faith communities. This event is free and open to the public. General admission seating. Doors open at 4:45 pm. Seating in limited.

Day of Service and Remembrance: In 2009, Congress called for September 11th to be a National Day of Service and Remembrance. The United Way is joining other partners in holding several dozen service projects during the week, and is organizing 5000 people to volunteer and serve their community. Go to www.stl.unitedway.org to see the list of service projects and sign up to volunteer. Also, check out www.stlislam.org for information about how our Muslim brothers and sisters are participating with prayer and service.

CHURCH PICNIC and RALLY DAY
Sunday, September 11th Tilles Park Pavilion
8:30am Worship at GLC
9:30 am Fellowship/Coffee Hour at the Park
(Yes, this includes doughnuts!)
11:00am Devotion in the Park, 11:45 am Lunch

The Fellowship Committee invites everyone to be a part of the Gethsemane Church Picnic. Join us at Tilles Park after first service for coffee and donuts 'al fresco! Then stay for the 11:00 a.m. devotion under the park pavilion and after that the picnic begins! Food and Fellowship with your church family – can't beat that! The Picnic will be catered once again! The suggested donation is \$7 per person; \$3 per child (under 2 free); with a \$20 "family rate." Shuttling will be provided, if needed. Preferred parking, for those in need, is in the driveway.

REMEMBER: Comfortable Dress for the day! Bring lawn chairs, balls and gloves, and games!

We will be asking for your reservation and also if anyone would be willing to help move tables, chairs, coffee pots, and other items to or from the park that day. Looking forward to fun and fellowship!

(Tilles Park is just 3 blocks north of church on the same side of Hampton! The Pavilion is located in the back of the park; the restrooms are very close to the pavilion.)

Confirmation and Youth

This year's Confirmation program will begin with a day retreat on **Saturday, September 10th** from 10:30am-3:00pm. At the retreat, we will go over this year's program, get acquainted — especially with the youth from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, eat lunch, and do a service project. **Classes will be held on Wednesday, September 14 and 21 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Gethsemane.** Don't forget: we'll bless and pray for our new class of confirmands during worship on Sunday, September 25th!

GYG (Gethsemane Youth Group) Youth and Parent Meeting: Sunday, September 18th, between services in the Stage Room (back of the Fellowship Hall). We'll give out initial information about the 2012 Youth Gathering in New Orleans for youth who will be entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2012. We'll also discuss other upcoming events and your ideas for the new year!

Mission Trip Reunion: will be that same Sunday, September 18th at 4:00 pm at St. Thomas/Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. We'll gather for pizza and pictures (bring yours!) Then we'll head to the **First St. Louis Pre-Gathering Event** from 6-8 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 13014 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur. Those who want to carpool will meet at Gethsemane at 3:30 pm.

Lutheran College Fair: Sunday Sept. 11 at LCMS International Center, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd. 7:00pm financial aid seminar, 7:30-9:00pm college fair reception. For more information visit www.lutherancolleges.org/events

Social Action

On August 20, a group of Gethsemane members, with their family and friends, packed food boxes at the St. Louis Area Foodbank. The STL Foodbank repackages donated food into 30-pound boxes, and sells the boxes to local food pantries for a minimal cost. Together with another group, we packed 556 boxes in 2 1/2 hours. Thanks to Vickie Herrmann, Paula Brud-Brown, Keith Paulson, Paul Meuser, Joe Epplin, Lois and Jack Wind, Joan Williams, Jane and Matt O'Neill, Linda Ford, Ken Bauer, Mary and Don Thuss, and the entire Yemm family, including parents from both sides. (We could not have done it without the little Yemms actually sitting inside the huge cartons in order to hand up the food!) It was a great morning of service, and the time really flew by.

JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY: Item for the month of September is *children's socks and underwear*. **In addition, the shelves are almost empty. The following items are in need:** Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Canned Meat, Peanut Butter and Jelly (July food item), Toilet Paper.

**You are invited to experience
the world of mission...
worldwide and local...urban,
rural and suburban ...**

Glocal Mission Gathering

**At St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 925 N. Waco, Wichita, KS
Friday, Sept. 30 (2 p.m.) & Saturday, Oct. 1 (8 - 5 p.m.)**

Hosts: the ELCA, Central States Synod and Wichita area

Register *now* at www.elca.org/glocal (St. Paul's event, \$35)

Register at nearby hotels listed before August 30 for very special rates.

Speakers: Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission; Rev. Maiyupe Par, Papua New Guinea, our Companion Synod; Sunitha Mortha and churchwide global ministry staff....and mission-in-action locally throughout our synod.

Workshops: * Mission 101 * Short Term Mission * Stewardship of Diverse Gifts * Cross-Generational Engagement * Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service * Growing a Missional Congregation * Music & Mission * Mission Interpreters... and more.

Begins at 2 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 30 (includes dinner).

Concludes Saturday, Oct. 1 at 5 (includes lunch).

God's work in mission propels us to encounter the neighbor, particularly the stranger. ELCA Glocal Mission Gatherings equip us for God's work in today's global and local realities as well as their "glocal" intersections. What is mission? Who is the neighbor? Come, join some of the most relevant mission conversations of our time.

This is a rare opportunity. Don't miss it!

For info: www.elca.org/glocal (Wichita/ St. Paul's event) or contact facilitators: Call 316- 263-0810 (Pr. Dave Fulton) or send e-mail to Pr. Sally Fahrenthold, sallyf@cox.net.

The **Wednesday Women Study Group** will resume on Wednesday, September 21st, at 10am at church. If you have time, check out **The Red Tent**— a fictionalized account of the women in Genesis, telling the story from their point of view. Talk to Pastor Kendra to find out about the book.

RACHEL CIRCLE LUNCHEON
Monday September 26, 2011
at Pietro's Restaurant
Please call our hostess
Dorothy Bergmann at 314-832-7164 to
make your reservation.

Health Cabinet

Fall Prevention

Each year, one out of every three older Americans reports falling with falls being the leading cause of death for those over 65. In 2009, over 2.2 million injuries were treated in emergency rooms resulting from falls, and over the past decade, the fatality rate from falls has risen sharply. The good news is that many of these falls are preventable.

It is well known that most falls occur in the home, so removing as many potential hazards is the first important step to improving your safety. Walk through your home and make sure that you have a clear path with no furniture or clutter from room to room and to an exit. Make sure that all power cords are covered and out of main walk ways. Pick up throw rugs or stick them to the floor with double sided tape.

Some areas like stairs and bathrooms need special attention. Make sure that your stairways have safe, sturdy rails and the steps are in good repair. Make sure that stairways and hallways are well lit, and if possible, have a light switch at the top and bottom of your steps. In the bathroom, make sure that there is a non slip coating or mat in your bath or shower. Installing grab bars by the toilet and tub can also improve safety in the bathroom.

Other home safety tips include placing frequently used items on lower storage shelves. If you have to get to a higher shelf. Have a sturdy step stool available, or have a friend or relative help you get to these items. Also keep emergency numbers and doctors' contact information by the phone.

To help improve safety in the home and in the community, Rehab1Network, Saint Louis University and Crestwood Parks and Recreation are presenting a free Fall Prevention event at Crestwood Community Center on September 23rd, 2011 from 10AM-12PM. Crestwood Community Center is located in Whitecliff Park at 9245 Whitecliff Park Lane, Crestwood, MO 63126. The event will feature balance evaluations by physical therapists, education regarding home safety appliances by occupational therapists, and medication reviews with pharmacists as well as many other education opportunities. For more information, please visit. www.rehab1network.com.

Gifts & Memorials

A very Special Thank You to Edna May Otto for purchasing the hand held wireless microphone and wireless lapel mic for all of us to hear clearly in the Fellowship Hall!
Conrad Otto has always been our "audio tech guru" so a Special Thank You for researching and replacing the mic system for the Eckman Fellowship Hall so quickly and efficiently.

In memory of Edna Geers, by Roy Geers

In honor of the Reconciling in Christ program, by Rollie Walston

In honor of GLC Music, by Ella Rothgangel

Sunday School

The 2011 – 2012 Sunday School is starting on September 18! Sunday school is held between services and offers a safe and happy place for the children of Gethsemane to learn about God and His love for each of us. This year we will have 5 classes plus GYG (Gethsemane Youth Group); 3 year olds -pre k, Kindergarten and 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 4th, and 5th – 6th. We have many of the teachers from last year back and several new ones!

There are several things that are in the works to offer a fun and exciting learning experience. Many of these events are going to be focused on inter -generational participation. That means that everyone that attends fellowship is going to be able to interact with the youth at various times of the year. In October we already have planned a “jump-a-thon” and Reformation Sunday activities.

Sunday School is a very important part of our church community and we are always looking for more kids, teachers, subs, and special activities. If you could fulfill any of these needs please let us know. You need not be a parent, female or of any particular age. All you need is the desire to make a positive influence and share the good news of God’s love with the children of Gethsemane. If you would like more information on ways to help with Sunday School please contact Laura Begley (314)

Thanks, Gracias, Merci Beaucoup!

...to those who helped with Holy Hospitality Sunday: Rollie Walston for the bracelets, Lindsay Schuessler, Dawn Schuessler, and Ken Bauer for the balloon rainbow; Peggy Zapf for the cake. If you have not done so already, take a moment to read the letters of congratulation in the binder on the table in the narthex.

...to Don Kurt for changing our outdoor sign through all the summer heat!

...to all those who helped weed and water during the summer months!

Are you someone who enjoys counted cross stitch or sewing? Enjoys interior decorating? We are looking for some volunteers to 1) make baptism, first communion, and confirmation banners (instruction will be provided!) and 2) to help decorate the upstairs hallways, deciding on art work and bulletin boards. Talk with Pr. Kendra or call the church office if you’d like more information!

Autism is at the core of the new play *Falling* that kicks off Mustard Seed Theatre's 5th season. Written by Artistic Director Deanna Jent, who has a son with autism, the play explores the challenges faced by a family caring for an 18-year old with severe autism. "It's essentially about loving someone who's hard to love," says Jent. "Many families face similar struggles to keep family, faith and relationships healthy."

Falling opens Thursday, September 1 and runs through September 11, with shows at 8:00 pm Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and at 2:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. All shows are performed in the Black Box Theatre at Fontbonne University. Tickets are \$25.00 for General Admission and \$20.00 for Seniors and Students. For more information, or to make a reservation please visit www.mustardseedtheatre.com or phone 314-719-8060.

Lutheran School of Theology Announces Fall Term Courses

Lutheran School of Theology offers biblical and theological courses for everyone, from interested lay persons wanting to learn more, to professional church workers and students. You are cordially invited to enroll in the following upcoming Fall term courses beginning September 19: **“Reading and Responding to the Gospel of Mark”** (Dr. Deborah Krause), **“Reading the Bible with Eyes Wide Open”** (Dr. John M. Bracke), and **“Preaching Mark From the ‘Low and Outside’: Wrestling with the Lectionary, Mark’s Community, and our Contexts of Ministry”** (Dr. Deborah Krause), a one-day workshop. Brochures with registration forms are on the LST poster in the narthex. You may also call 314-725-9710 or email <registrar@lststl.org> or register online at www.lststl.org.

IN OUR COMMUNITY...

Congratulations to our partner school, Mallinckrodt Academy! Mallinckrodt was one of 8 schools receiving a new garden charter from Gateway Greening. Once installed they will have 5 raised beds and all the gardening tools one could ever need. **Please mark your calendars for Sept 14 @ 9am for garden installation.** Volunteers will be needed to construct raised garden beds, haul dirt, and plant fall crops. Installation will be filmed by Channel 4 and featured by Kristen Cornett for her bi-weekly green living show.

Prefer a more “laid-back” volunteer opportunity? Volunteers are also needed for the Book Fair September 12-16 to help students with purchases and work the cash register. Contact Autumn Jennings at autumj3@gmail.com to sign up!

The Big Blue Mob Is Out to Put an End to Alzheimer's Disease. Join Us! Lutheran Senior Services is a presenting sponsor for the Alzheimer's Association's biggest fundraising party of the year, and we'd love to have you walking with us! Come show your support for the fight against the sixth leading cause of the death in the United States, and have a great time while you're doing it. The walk is September 17th at Busch Stadium. Sign Up and Raise At Least \$20 by Aug. 31 to get a FREE LSS Team T-Shirt!

Join Jeff Lindgren, Paula Brud-Brown, and friends for a celebration of “Hank Williams Birthday.”

Where: Macklind Deli, corner of Macklind and Nottingham

When: Saturday, September 17th, 7-9:30 pm —free! Drinks and food are available from the Deli. Come and “see the light!”

MS Ride: I will be participating in the MS Ride (formerly known as the MS 150) for a third time on September 10th and 11th. The Gateway Chapter event starts and finishes in Columbia, MO. It is a fun bicycle event that raises money for a great cause. Any amount you can give is greatly appreciated. Please contact me if you would like an electronic link for donations or checks may be written to "National Multiple Sclerosis Society". Thank you - Denise Buehrer

National Medicare Training Program: A FREE 2-day Intensive Training Conference for Health and Social Service Professionals on the Campus of UMSL at the JC Penney Conference Center Auditorium. Tuesday and Wednesday, September 13 and 14, 2011. Call 314-516-5974 to

Dear Lutheran Family and Children's Services:

Please find enclosed a check for \$966.50 for the Joplin Response by Lutheran Family and Children's Services. This check includes the Chapter's fair share of \$566.50 from the July 29 Ice Cream Social by Gethsemane Lutheran Church ELCA and \$400 in matching funds from Thrivent—Care Abounds in Communities. Please join me in congratulating Gethsemane Lutheran Church for their contribution, and thank you for your efforts to assist the Joplin area in the recovery from the recent disaster.

With God's blessings,
Jim Lehn, Financial Director
Saint Louis South Chapter #30663

(Way to go, Gethsemane! And thanks for all who helped with this year's Ice Cream Social on such short notice!)

Eliot Chapel Nursery School was awarded a Youth Garden Grant for Expansion Gardens by the Kids Garden Fresh Youth Program of Gateway Greening. Staff member, **Jane O'Neill**, who wrote the grant proposal received the award from Elijah Liske who represented the Future Farmers of America chapter in Okawville, IL. Installation of the school's raised garden beds will take place on Saturday, September 10 at 9:00 AM. If you are available, we would love your help!

IN OUR WORLD...

In late June, record flooding devastated the city of Minot, North Dakota, forcing nearly a third of the residents to evacuate and leaving more than 4,000 homes and businesses heavily damaged. Our brothers and sisters in Minot need our help now. The goal is to have as many flood-damaged homes gutted as possible before the first major snowfall, which could be less than three months away. **This is an all-call for volunteers from around the country.** Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota has set-up a volunteer hotline, and anyone interested should call 218-443-4970 to register. You can also visit www.lssnd.org to find volunteer registration forms and other important information about volunteering.

VICISSITUDES

(The changes or events that occur in our lives)

*Dear Gethsemane Lutheran,
Thank you so much for donating the hot dogs and friendly workers for the Mallinckrodt Academy picnic. Your dedication to our school and its students is admirable and much appreciated. It was great to see parents, teachers and supporters like you working together to make the picnic a success. It was a memorable event which you helped make possible. We are very grateful to have you as our neighbors and friends.*

*Laurie Knight
PTO Member*

Congratulations! To Jeff and Jessica Hopfer on the birth of new daughter Molly. Molly was born on August 24th, and joins brother Lucas. Proud grandparents are Norm and Virgie Hopfer.

September Anniversaries

3	Rebecca and Daniel Doss	5 years
3	Fred and Rosemary Tatum	12 years
5	Louis and Connie Perretta	24 years
11	Neil and Linda Gustafson	40 years
12	Rob and Carolyn Schainker	19 years
13	Mary Brice and Herb Siebert	3 years
19	David and Sue Hackmann	29 years
20	Jean Chouquette and Gerry Richardson	25 years
25	Tripp and Carol Frohlichstein	29 years
25	Marilyn and Randy McGuire	24 years
27	Jack and Lois Wind	36 years

September Birthdays

1	Margaret Lenhart, Megan Manary, John Sandberg
4	Peter Borkowski
5	Norma Schenck
6	Ken Bauer, Kim Kolander, Leslie Wobbe
7	Fred Lenhart
8	Pauline Farmer, Luke Sandberg
9	Gary Borkowski
10	Jon Begley
11	Bonnie Stefanowicz
12	Jim Mantia, Keith Paulson
13	Jaden Meyerstrom
14	Rodney Jones
15	Janine Burmeister
18	Andy Martin
19	Zoe Bowman, Kathy Lee
20	Pauline Meinecke
22	Benjamin Begley
23	Joshua Fenton, Rob Schainker
26	Eric Lindgren
27	Jane Kurt
28	Cynthia Fenton, Addie Rose O'Neill, Anna Perretta
30	Simone Richardson

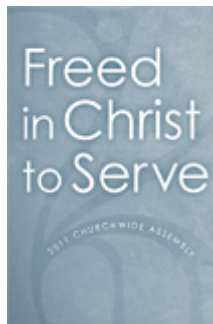
Thank you. We appreciate the Target gift cards for use at Peace Lutheran, Joplin. Thank you for your prayers and thoughts as we work towards rebuilding in Joplin. — Judy Stiles, Congregation President

Holy Hospitality Sunday



On Sunday, August 28, a rainbow of balloons greeted folks for Holy Hospitality Sunday, a Celebration of Reconciling in Christ. Gethsemane received a certificate presented by members of the local Gateway Chapter of Lutherans Concerned/North America. We affirmed our baptismal covenant call to justice, peace, and mercy. And we shared CAKE! Thanks to all who participated in the process to develop our Affirmation of Welcome. Pray for the Spirit to continue to lead us and guide us in mission—as Pastor Rafanan reminded us, there is still work ahead of us!

ELCA Churchwide Assembly



Left: The theme for this year's Assembly.

Right: Voting Members from the Central States Synod. (Yes, Pr. Kendra is tucked away in the back!) You can also barely see the "Joplin cross" behind us.



Left: Closing worship at the Assembly. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, presiding; Pastor Renee Splichal Larson, preaching. The banner, "Loving God Well," was designed and created by Karla M. Kincannon. Over 600 hours of labor were invested. It consists of two woven panels using acrylic, fabric, and ribbon, each measuring 12 feet tall by 7 feet wide. The use of reflective materials symbolizes how God's children reflect God's love to the world when we participate in acts of compassion, kindness, and beauty. As we love God with our whole being, God's light shines through us much like the light shines through the sections of the banner.

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
314-571-9205 prkendra-glc@swbell.net

MESSANGER NEWS

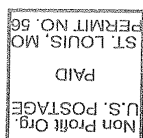
You can send your news and notes for the Messenger to glc-messenger@swbell.net. There is also a Messenger drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the 20th of each month, but we'll do our best to get your news in whenever you submit it.

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