

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

October 2011

VOLUME #118 ISSUE #10

From the Pastor:

A friend recently visited us. She's on a road trip, what she calls a "journey to find grace." My husband Jeff commented: "But I thought the miracle was that grace finds us!" Whether we find grace, or grace finds us, we are touched by grace!

Last month, I received word that I was accepted into a spiritual renewal program for women pastors serving congregations called "Women Touched By Grace." The program is funded by the Lilly Endowment and offered by the Sisters of St. Benedict at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana. I will participate in a gathering of 20 clergywomen, meeting for five 10-day sessions over the next two and a half years. The sessions are designed to help pastors take time to establish a rhythm of prayer, to engage in the spiritual disciplines of meditation, contemplation and reflection on the Word of God, to build time into their day for stepping aside to give praise to the Creator of all things and to relax in the presence of like-minded women of faith.

I see this program as my "sabbatical" time, and look forward to sharing what I learn with you at Gethsemane. The first session will be next April, 2012. I invite your prayers, your conversation, your questions!

Together on the journey,
Pastor Kendra



Blessing of the Animals Service
Sunday, October 2 at 3:00 pm
On the Front Lawn

In honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis (on October 4th), patron saint of animals... Animal companions blessed... Prayers for health, long life, and happiness for our beloved animal friends...

Light refreshments, including dog & cat treats, following the service...

All are welcome, even if you don't bring a pet!

A monetary offering will benefit the Humane Society.



Sundays in October

Sunday, October 2:

Between services: Sunday School Jump-a-thon “Jump for JOY”
Endowment Trustees Meeting; Altar Guild Meeting; Social Action Team Meeting

Sunday, October 9: Celebration Service

Between services: Bread for the World Letter-Writing

Sunday, October 16:

Between services: Adult Class — “From Slavery to Freedom”

Sunday, October 23: Stewardship Kick-Off Sunday

[Note: see elsewhere in Messenger about road closures for the Solutia Rock ‘n Roll Marathon]

Between services: Adult Class — “From Slavery to Freedom”

Sunday, October 30: Reformation Sunday, Presentation of Bibles to 4th & 5th Graders

Between services: Reformation Sunday Intergenerational Activities

Welcome New Members!



Stewardship:

*I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me
heavenward in Christ Jesus*

Philippians 3:14

As we continue to grow in our giving, **Press on to the Goal** is our congregations theme this year for focusing on Christian stewardship. In 2012, we will continue to be team players by sharing our gifts and growing in our spiritual relationship with God.

On Sunday, October 23rd we will kick-off a five week focus on how each of us can jump out of our comfort zone and into God's end zone. The five weekly themes are:

October 23rd – **Team Gethsemane Kick-off and Press on to the Goal of Stewardship**

October 30th – **Put Yourself into the Game** (Everyone on the team counts)

November 6th – **Giver's Gain for a Week of Good** (Pay it Forward/Pledge One Thing)

November 13th – **Any Giving Sunday** – (Pledge Sunday)

November 20th – **Tailgate Celebration Sunday** – (Celebrate Getting into the End Zone)

As members of Gethsemane you'll have the opportunity to identify what you bring to the game by completing a Talents Checklist. Every member counts and with the sharing of your talents, Team Gethsemane can continue to gain yards in giving to God. By putting yourself in the game you'll have a chance to pledge to make wise choices with your money and live even more generously. Team Gethsemane will then celebrate our victory with God with a Tailgate Party on November 20th.

Over the next few weeks, be on the look out for more Press to the Goal details. As part of Team Gethsemane, look forward to being a team player by using the gifts God has given us, to do the work God is calling us to do.

Go Team!!!

In Christ's Service, Keith Paulson – Stewardship Chair

Adult Education

From Slavery to Freedom

On October 16 and 23, the Sunday morning Adult Class will explore the first two sessions of a Living the Questions series by Old Testament professor Walter Brueggemann called "Countering Pharaoh's Production-Consumption Society Today." Using the flight from Egypt story in the book of Exodus, Dr. Brueggemann compares economic slavery of that time with similar circumstances today. In language challenging to both liberals and conservatives, he examines the biblical story, compares it to today and offers what he sees as God's alternative.

Join us in the library at 10:00am on these two Sundays for this lively presentation and discussion!

Confirmation and Youth

Confirmation Classes: will be held Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm on October 5th and 19th. We will also participate in the "Feed My Starving Children" Mobile Pack Event on Saturday, October 8th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Manchester. We'll leave from Gethsemane at 9am and return at 12 noon.

South Cluster Junior High Picnic: the annual Fall Picnic will be held on Sunday, October 23rd from 12:30-2:30pm at Blackburn Park in Webster Groves.

Registration for ELCA Youth Gathering: Deadline is October 9th to turn in your registration information and \$150 deposit!!

St. Louis Area Pre-Gathering Event: All youth planning to attend the Gathering (and friends!) are invited to this event on Sunday, October 16th from 6-8pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Creve Coeur. Bring \$5 for food. It's TRIVIA Time!!

Social Action

1. October 2 Meeting - All Social Action committee members and anyone else who is interested is invited to a Meeting on October 2 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room. We will finalize plans for the Bread For The World letter writing and offering of letters on October 9. We will also prepare our Bread For the World sign for display at Gethsemane.

2. October 9 - Bread For the World letter writing between services in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to write a short letter to Senators and Representatives in support of policies to reduce poverty and provide accountability for U.S. aid. Raise a GETHSEMANE VOICE in support of God's people around the world and here in the U.S. Share some fresh bread and write or pray for those who will not have bread to eat on this day.

3. October 30 - Tricks and Treats for Joint Neighborhood Ministry. Help JNM, not with candy, but with some other treats -- canned milk, toilet paper, canned tuna, salmon, meat, fruits, vegetables, rice, pasta. If we split our candy money with the food pantry items, the children will eat through the next week. Look for the Halloween collection bin on that day.

JOINT NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY: Item for the month of October is *paper products (toilet paper, personal care items)*. **In addition, the shelves are almost empty. The following items are in need:** Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Canned Meat, Peanut Butter and Jelly.

Church Council Highlights September, 2011

1. Began with devotions and a video promoting “National Back to Church Sunday.”
2. Heard that Pr. Kendra has been accepted into the “Women Touched By Grace” Spiritual Renewal program for 2012. The Mutual Ministry Committee will meet to talk about how her participation will impact Gethsemane.
3. Acted on Membership Items: to receive Michelle Lovelady-Armstrong and her son Brock, Lisa Martin and her son Andy as new members. To remove child members who have moved away from the area: Hailey, Kaitlyn, and Kyle Taylor, Spencer LeCorgne, and Lindsay Garland. To transfer Laura Pearce to Bethel Lutheran, University City.
4. Heard that we had not yet signed off on renovation work with Reicon or received a final bill. Asked that the “elevator” be kept up-to-date with contributions.
5. Reminded Committee chairpeople and liaisons that 2012 Budget requests are due in October.
6. Will be in touch with Nominating Committee about potential Council candidates.
7. Asked that Mission Support funds for specific ministries (Project Peanut Butter, Joint Neighborhood Ministry, etc.) be dispensed quarterly. In addition, any funds from fundraisers need to be authorized to be released by the coordinator of each fundraiser.
8. Discussed the possibility of a part-time ELCA South Cluster youth worker who would organize a cluster senior high and junior high event each month.
9. Received Committee Reports.

GLCW Luncheon

Wednesday, December 7, 2011
11:30am

Joey B’s, 189 Concord Plaza
Call for reservations by December 1st
Norma Schenck 892-3868
If you need a ride, call Lois (487-5755) or
Norma (892-3868)

New Member Orientation Sunday, October 9th, 3:30- 7:00pm

This orientation is for all who are considering joining the Gethsemane faith community and will offer an opportunity to learn more about Gethsemane and its ministries, to get to know other folks, to explore our spiritual gifts, and to share our faith! Please contact Pastor Kendra if you have any questions!

The **Wednesday Women Study Group** meets on Wednesdays, 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 October 24, 2011

at Pietro’s Restaurant

Please call our hostess
Billie Chamblin at 314-335-7405 to
make your reservation.

Health Cabinet

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Thanks to Lois Pfeiffer for sharing her journey of faith with us this month!

I was asked to write about my faith and recent powerful healing experiences. After 9.5 years cancer free (breast cancer 2001) my annual tumor marker number started rising last fall, an indication that cancer was returning. After numerous tests, the PET scan on April 29, 2011 showed a cancer spot in the bone/vertebrae at C6.

During the six months of tests, waiting, additional tests, my faith in God, Jesus and Spirit, which I have relied on fully my entire adult life, kept me grounded and positive. I prayed and continue to pray that whatever happens that I will be equipped to handle this with my regular positive attitude and foundation of faith. I am not saying that I did not have days when I imagined bad results, but basically I stayed focused and prayed.

After a visit to the radiation oncologist and MRI, it obviously was more serious than they originally thought – the cancer was not on the back of the vertebrae but on the front side, and it had encroached on C5 and C7. I was informed that I needed to see a neurosurgeon to get my neck stabilized before I could do radiosurgery.

The visit to the neurosurgeon was horrible for me and Paul. We found out that there would be major surgery with pins and plates to hold up my neck. I learned more about how close it is to my spinal column and what could happen. But I was in no pain. The Lord was truly protecting me – I found a ceramic cross and the back says “protect me”. I started doing deep breathing exercises with the mantra: (breathing in) I trust in the my Lord (breathing out) I am protected. It is immensely calming to me and can relax me a minute. I know that I am protected and enfolded in God’s loving arms, and I physically feel it at times when I pray.

Angel/Spirit/Messenger from God #1: My brother’s next door neighbor and his wife were at my house for my niece’s shower. Tony had very serious cancer four years ago, where he lost part of his face, the top of his mouth, came close to losing an eye, and was not given much hope. We talked and cried, and he said to me I thought of my cancer as a blessing from God. He said, “Think of this as a tremendous opportunity and blessing – you get to see what you are made of and will show others what you are made of”. What a gift that was from Tony! I think about his words often.

Angel/Spirit/Messenger #2: Paul and my family and friends were terrific, supportive, praying for me, and giving me suggestions on neurosurgeons and oncologists. We researched and called various doctors. I was overwhelmed with the really important decisions to make because I really trust my oncologist who saw me successfully through cancer the first time. As we prayed about the decisions we were about to make, I was talking to a former co-worker and found out his wife is now the head of radiology at the hospital I was going to and said “if I had what you have that is the only doctor I would trust with my spine”. Prayers of thanksgiving and relief for now that we are making the right decision.

Angel/Spirit/Messenger #3: As a visiting Eucharistic Minister I visit Janet Schottel regularly, but did not want to worry her. After speaking with Pastor Kendra about it, she said “Janet is a Prayer Warrior”. I called Janet that evening, and she told me that she prays for me and my family daily (thank you Janet) and that she would be praying for my doctors, nurses, hospital staff and anyone connected to my treatment. Wow – until that minute, I did not know how important that was – I was praying that I would make the right decision, but Janet knew I made the right decision and she was already focusing on my outcome and recovery.

Angel/Spirit/Messenger #4: One more really incredible experience two weeks after my neck surgery: In addition to my neck fusion and cancer, I found out that I had to have some outpatient surgery unrelated to the neck. I was at St. Clare Hospital and was lying there praying in my pre-surgery room before going in and I even prayed “Lord, lie down here next to me and stay with me in the operating room so that you can be with my doctor and operating team”. Mary Lou Young walked through the door looking at my chart and said “Lois Pfeiffer from church.” She was going to be my surgical nurse and she said “Don’t worry at all. I will be with you throughout your surgery”. Talk about an immediate answered prayer! Wow, wow, and more wow!

At the end of June I had 3 very intense radiosurgery treatments. They made a mask that covered my chest, face, and head and is bolted to the table to immobilize me while they do the radiation. There is no pain other than having to lie still for an hour and a half;

Pastor Kendra visited me the night before – I was very afraid – and she brought me a book “God’s Promises for Every Day”. Before I left the house that morning, I opened the book and it flipped to a page entitled “What to do when you are Afraid”. Several verses struck me but this one in particular: Psalm 91: Nothing bad will happen to you. No disaster will come to your home. He has put his **angels** in charge of you. They will watch over you wherever you go. The Lord says “If someone loves me, I will save him”. I left the house feeling God’s protection.

I prayed the entire time I was on that table – I prayed for the medical staff, the oncologist, neurosurgeon and physicist that they had the measurements correct, the techs who were implementing the radiosurgery, and I prayed for all the people who were praying for me.

You may think these are coincidences but they are not. My personality is open to angels or messengers – some I know are sent straight from God to help lead me in the right decisions or to confirm “there you go ... that’s the right decision.”

I started chemotherapy on July 11 and I am ¾ of the way through that and feeling absolutely fine. I am keeping the faith and the positive attitude. And we are really looking forward to having this last phase behind us.

I pray every day for my support group and all those who are praying for me. These experiences are powerful and I really treasure that I am open to receiving the Message from the Real Messenger.

Lois Pfeiffer

Sunday, October 23rd –IMPORTANT!

The Solutia Rock 'n' Roll St. Louis Marathon is scheduled for Sunday, October 23rd. Many of the streets throughout the city, including around church, will be closed for the morning of the race. Please note the closures below and allow extra time for your travels to church on this day.

All roads will be closed starting at 6:30am

<u>Street Closed</u>	<u>Side Of Road</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Time Open</u>
Arsenal Street	Whole Road	January Ave	Hampton	11:15am
Hampton Ave	Southbound	Arsenal St	Marquette	11:15am
Marquette Ave	Whole Road	Hampton	Tamm	11:30am
Tamm Ave	Whole Road	Marquette	Bancroft	11:30am
Bancroft Ave	Whole Road	Tamm	Prague	11:30am
Prague Ave	Whole Road	Bancroft	Nottingham	11:30am

These are the streets only immediately around the church. The course runs throughout south city.

The following points will be metered by a traffic control officer allowing for crossing of the race course.

<u>Street Closed</u>	<u>Metered intersection</u>	<u>Metering End Time</u>
Morganford	Chippewa	2:00pm
Tamm Ave	Chippewa	11:45am
Magnolia/Columbia Ave	Kingshighway	11:00am
Holly Hills Ave	Kingshighway	12:30pm

Sunday School

Jumping for J.O.Y. (Jesus, Others, You)

On Sunday, October 2nd, the Sunday School children will be participating in a Jump-A-Thon to raise money for Mallinkrodt School in our neighborhood and Project Peanut Butter, a St. Louis based effort to end malnutrition in Africa. This activity is designed to help our children see the joy in helping globally and locally, all the while improving their physical activity. Parents are needed to help staff the different jump stations. Contact Ted Yemm, Jump-A-Thon Coordinator, or Laura Begley, Sunday School Coordinator.

4th-5th Grader Bible Survey Class

4th and 5th Graders and their parents are invited to join Pastor Kendra during Sunday School on Sundays, October 9, 16, and 23 for this special Bible class in preparation for receiving Bibles on Reformation Sunday. We believe it's important for children not only to have a Bible, but to know what's in it! And to spend time as a family with the Word of God. We'll meet in the Conference Room from 10am-10:45 on those three Sundays!

IN OUR COMMUNITY...

Lutheran Campus Ministry presents

BEER & JAZZ FEST

Friday, October 21, 2011 6:00-8:00pm

Ferguson Brewing Company, 418 S. Florissant Road, Ferguson, MO

\$25 donation, includes the FBC Beer Sampler and Appetizers

Featuring the Tom George Combo

With great piano jazz standards in a variety of styles

(UMSL Chancellor Thomas George in a Benefit performance for LCM)

Joint Neighborhood Ministry presents

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, October 21, 2011

Parkway United Church of Christ

Doors Open at 6:30pm with Trivia at 7:00pm, \$20 per person (tables of 8)

Contact 314-771-3987 or talk with Fred Lenhart

International Partners in Mission presents

Encaminar (Walk with) Me

Friday, November 4, 2011 6pm-9pm

Mead Center for Youth & Community at Christ Lutheran Church, Webster Groves

Come walk with International Partners in Mission as we enjoy Latino foods and music. Learn about the El Salvador projects from friends who recently returned from an Immersion experience. For tickets, call toll free: 1-866-932-4082 or contact the office: office@ipmconnect.org Tickets: \$25.00; \$10 for students with valid ID

IN OUR WORLD...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

My name is Kevin Massey, I am the Program Director of Lutheran Disaster Response. I've just had a great experience meeting wonderful volunteers helping clean up in Minot North Dakota. I'll describe my latest travels and the great work Lutherans are doing preparing for and responding to disasters.

Readers of LDR field reports met Bonnie Turner, who heads up LDR in North Dakota, last March when the Red River was threatening Fargo. I met with Bonnie and members of her staff at our office trailer in Minot. Bonnie shared that there is a good number of volunteers coming at this time, and we want to keep that interest going as long as we can. I met Becky Wynia, our volunteer coordinator. Becky is a graduate of Minot State University and was busy helping volunteers get arranged with their work sites. I asked Becky what drew her to this work. Becky shared, "It is meeting real needs for people in Minot. And it is fun to see all the volunteers come from all over!" Already, in addition to scores of volunteers from North Dakota, volunteers from places like Michigan and North Carolina and Oklahoma and Minnesota have visited.

Driving back I saw something that puzzled me for a moment. I saw an apple tree in the front lawn of a flooded house. The tree had a few ripe apples in its branches, but scores of spoiled apples were strewn around the ground at the foot of the tree. It sunk in to me that no one had been home to pick the fruit.

My main goal in visiting Minot this weekend was to accompany the congregations in worship. These congregations are all doing wonderful ministry during these difficult times. To help them with this work, consider giving a gift to the ELCA Western North Dakota Synod Flood of Love initiative to restore the damaged churches and revitalize mission and ministry in Minot.

A wonderful group of volunteers turned out in Minot this weekend organized by Lutheran Campus Ministries and Student Government from Minot State University and the University of North Dakota. Max Buchholz of Minot State and Carter Hill from UND challenged each other in a friendly rivalry to organize as many students as they could to come and work. About a hundred students converged on flooded homes from these schools. Many people worked to make this effort a success.

I was particularly excited to visit Lutheran volunteers from St. Philip's Lutheran Church Disaster Relief from Fridley Minnesota, who are volunteering this week in Minot. The team from St. Philip's travels the country responding to disasters of every kind. They give a great example of the finest efforts of Lutherans loving and serving their neighbors affected by disaster. Team Co-ordinators Mike Anderson and Renee Johnson showed me a site they were working on. They are staying this week at First Lutheran Church in Minott, which even still recovering from flood damage in the lower level of the church is pitching in to host recovery efforts.

Above all, please pray for people all around the country affected by disasters this year. People throughout the Southeast have been affected by tornadoes and storms. People throughout the Midwest and Plains have been affected by flooding. People in Texas are affected by drought and wildfire. People along the East Coast were affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Many other people have been affected by tragedies that didn't make the news. Pray that help and hope come to those in need.

VICISSITUDES

(The changes or events that occur in our lives)

Thanks...Gracias...Merci...

...to Sarah Hoper for letting Pastor Kendra use her car for the St. Joan of Arc Homecoming Parade!

...to all those who designated Gethsemane as the recipient of their Thrivent Choice monies. Over \$1600 has been received, designated for the Building Renovation.

...to Kathy Lee for re-doing the Gethsemane History Albums on archival materials. Look through the first book during coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

...for your generous response to September's Noisy Offering — over \$500 was raised to provide school uniforms for students in need at Mallinckrodt School!

Gifts & Memorials

Gifts designated for the HUGS program and the Health Cabinet were received in loving memory of parents Hugh and Lois McCall, by Karen and Marv Lohmann. "We pray God's love continues to bless you all every day as you live your faith. Your generous spirit inspires us to reach out in support of your mission."

From Pauline Meineke:

Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers I received for my 97th birthday.

Church Picnic



We came, we worshiped, we ate, we played and some even ran. Sunday, September 9th was a wonderful day of fellowship and worship in Tilles Park. Thank you to all who attended and to those who made this special event happen. A special thanks to our outstanding Fellowship Committee.



Garden Installation at Mallinckrodt School



Thanks to Richard Lima and Don Thuss for construction assistance, and to Mary Thuss and Randy Drake for refreshments!



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

MESSENGER NEWS

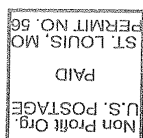
You can send your news and notes for the Messenger to glc-messenger@swbell.net. There is also a Messenger drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the 20th of each month, but we'll do our best to get your news in whenever you submit it.

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