



A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

January 2012

VOLUME #119 ISSUE #1

## *The Difference Jesus Makes*

*Now that Jesus has come, we know God stands with us in every season of our lives. We know because Jesus lived life just as you and I do. He was not a celestial visitor who just dropped in for a casual visit. He was a human being who worked long and hard, faced temptation, knew joy and sorrow.*

*Now that he has come, we know we are not alone when we face the terrors of our existence—loneliness, pain, and death. We know because Jesus faced each of them in turn and suffered the full measure of their power.*

*Now that he has come, we know that nothing the future holds can overcome the love God has for us. We know because God raised Jesus from the tomb, and through him gives us the promise of eternal life.*

*It does matter that he has come. For people of faith, the future is the same unknown quantity as it is to people with no faith at all. Bright Sunday afternoon lengthening into dark, cold Sunday evenings may still trigger a remembrance of childhood fears.*

*But there is something else. It is the assurance that victory over all that threatens us — a victory begun in Jesus Christ — will be completed in God's own good time.*

*This is the gift God offers on the days after Christmas, a gift that is possible only now that he, the Holy Child, has come.*

Kenneth L. Gibble  
Once Upon a Wonder

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, January 15, 2012**

**10:00 am (between church services)**

At this meeting we will receive the 2011 Treasurers' Report and vote on the 2012 Budget.  
Please plan to attend.

# January @ Gethsemane

## Sunday, January 1st

### **One Service Only at 10 am**

*The "Beginning of the Good News!" We start the new year at the beginning of Mark's Gospel, Mark 1:1. What do you need to leave behind in order to move on to the new? Do you need to leave behind your leftover Christmas cookies? Then, bring them to church for a brief fellowship time after the service!*

## Sunday, January 8th

### **Baptism of our Lord**

*Installation of Church Council Members*

*Between Services: **The Windows of Gethsemane.***

*Join Pastor Kendra for a tour of our windows, and a brief study of the Bible passages on which they are based!*

## Sunday, January 15th

*Between services: **Congregational Meeting on 2012 Budget***

## Sunday, January 22nd

*Between services: **Usher and Greeter Training and Orientation!** Come help with our ministry of hospitality in this very simple, but important way. All are welcome!*

**4:00pm Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service, at St. Joan of Arc.** We gather with our brothers and sisters from SJA and Union United United Methodist.

## Sunday, January 29th

**Welcome Sunday:** This Sunday is annually designated by Lutherans Concerned/North America as "Reconciling in Christ Sunday." We will include prayers for continued reconciliation and welcome for all God's people in our worship.

*Between services: **Radical Welcome at Gethsemane.** Gethsemane voted in June, 2010 to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Join Pastor Kendra for Bible Study and a conversation about what becoming an RIC congregation has meant for us so far...and work we still feel called to do!*

## *Which way do you like your Chili - Hot, Spicy, Mild.....*

Warm up this winter with something good & hot.... CHILI and top it off with a tasty Cookie Sweet Treat.

Come join your Gethsemane friends in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, January 29th at 12:00 PM,** following second service for a Chili & Cookie Cook-Off. You can make your favorite chili and/or cookie recipe and enter to win fabulous prizes, or just come to eat and be a taster. All types of chili are welcome & encouraged! Regular, Cincinnati, White Chicken, Vegetarian, Hot, Mild, Super Secret, if you can make it or eat it, bring it! The more the merrier!

We had such a great turnout last year, from novice tasters to professional testers, so let's hope this year's is even a bigger and better event.

The Fellowship Committee will provide the fixin's: crackers, shredded cheese, onions & sour cream, plus nice cold drinks to cool down the fire.

Kim Elliott has graciously volunteered to co-chair the Cook-off this year, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee. Please contact Kim Elliott [theelliotts1993@charter.net](mailto:theelliotts1993@charter.net) / 314-644-3335 or Lois Wind at [loja2@charter.net](mailto:loja2@charter.net) / 314-487-5755 if you are planning to enter a chili and/or cookie for the judging. Labels will be made ahead to identify the kind of chili or cookie. Also a number will be designated for your entry for voting so be sure to contact us ahead of the event.

It's sure to be a fun time, hope to see you there! Remember.... CONTACT us by January 22nd if you can HELP with this event and/or bring CHILI and/or COOKIES!

*Thank you,  
Fellowship Committee*

# Social Action

## ***THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!***

WOW! The Gethsemane team again really made it to the end zone with a generous outpouring for the JNM Adopt-A-Child program this year. Your donations of fantastic gifts for our children, plus more than 30 blankets, over 25 pillows, and \$1030 in gift cards will bring joy and signs of hope to many homes this Christmas.

You, the members of Team Gethsemane, are truly a blessing in your eagerness to lovingly touch the lives of others.

Lenharts & Bauers

**Thanks to cookie baker and candy makers extraordinaire, Peggy Zapf and Margaret & Fred Lenhart (with help from Stephanie Lenhart!) The cookie sales generated \$1,435 for Joint Neighborhood Ministry and Project Peanut Butter.**

## **Opportunities for Adult Learning & Faith Sharing**

### **Sunday Mornings at 10:00am:**

Sunday, January 8— The Windows of Gethsemane! Join Pastor Kendra for a tour, explanation, and brief Bible Study around the stained glass windows in both the sanctuary and original church building (chapel). We'll begin in the Chapel at 10 am.

Sunday, January 29— What does the Bible have to say about a “Radical Welcome”? We'll begin a conversation based on the book “Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation” by Stephanie Spellers (a Women of the ELCA Book Discussion Selection).

**The Bible Bunch:** Wednesday mornings at 10 am. A group for both women and men who read through the Bible with teacher Nellie Hohnsen.

### **Wednesday Women at 10 am Wednesday mornings:**

A group of younger women who gather weekly for Bible study and faith sharing. We will begin again on Wednesday, January 11th in the Library. For more information, contact Pr. Kendra or Leslie Wobbe.

### **Faith Sharing Group at 7 pm on occasional Thursday evenings:**

This group decides on books to read and discuss together. They meet in one another's homes. Talk to Joe Epplin or Fred Lenhart for more information.

### ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service***

***Sunday, January 22, 2012***

***4:00 pm at St. Joan of Arc***

This year we will join with our brothers and sisters from both St. Joan of Arc and Union United Methodist — each one of our congregations is a lighthouse for God's love on a corner of Pernod! “We Will All Be Changed By the Victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ,” based on 1 Corinthians 15, will be this year's theme. Watch for more information about a joint choir.

## Confirmation and Youth

**Confirmation Classes** will be held on Wednesday, January 11 and 18, 2012 from 6:30-8:00 pm here at Gethsemane.

**Remember: YOUTHQUAKE** is Friday-Sunday, January 20-22, 2012. Watch for information about a meeting with Adult Leader, Bruce DeChambeau.

**ELCA YOUTH GATHERING:** The next Pre-Gathering Event is scheduled for Sunday, January 8th from 6-8pm at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Belleville. The cost is \$5 per youth. Watch for more information by e-mail!

**ELCA South Cluster Youth Worker:** The next step in our plan to hire a joint youth worker for our congregations is a meeting with interested parents and youth (at least one from each congregation). This meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 15th at 1:30 pm at Christ Lutheran Church, Webster Groves.** Talk to Pastor Kendra if you are interested!

### Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights

Gethsemane's annual meeting was held on Sunday, December 4th, following a delicious potluck lunch. Key items included:

1. Dwelling in the Word with Mark 6:30-44.
2. Electing Council Members. Congratulations to Michael Elliott, Paul Lenhart, Hal Morgan, Luke Borkowski, Darlene McElwee, and Paul Meuser. Thanks to those who are completing their terms: Rich Brown, Jim Mantia, Peggy Zapf, and Jan Bornemann. Special thanks to this year's Nominating Committee for all of their prayer and contacts.
3. Conversation about Missional Directions for Gethsemane, and "big, crazy ideas" God might be planting in our midst.
4. Approval to participate in a joint ELCA South Cluster Youth Worker, designating \$2000 from the Gift & Memorial Fund for 2012.
5. Initial presentation of a 2011 Budget.

### "Be the Difference" (formerly known as Time and Talent)

Thank you for filling out your "Be the Difference" Volunteer forms as part of this year's Stewardship Every Member Response. Forms have been collated and information will be given to committee chairs and council members in January. If you have newly signed up to serve in worship leadership, watch for information in the mail and feel free to ask Pastor Kendra if you have any questions. **A special orientation and training for all ushers and greeters will be held on Sunday, January 22nd in between services!** *We are especially in need of greeters and ushers for the 11am service — so even if you did not sign up on your form, please come and learn how everyone can be a part of Gethsemane's great welcome!*

## From the Parish Nurse

**FLU SHOTS:** A free flu shot clinic will be held at Gethsemane on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> between 9am and 11am in the Library. The shots are only available to persons over the age of 18; no children, pregnant women, or persons on antibiotics. Visits to homebound members to give flu shots are also possible; contact Parish Nurse Carol Connolly.

**TOBACCO FREE INITIATIVE:** Do you have a New Year's resolution to become tobacco free? Free smoking cessation classes are being offered in January at both SSM DePaul Health Center and SSM St. Mary's Health Center. These 8-week sessions will help you identify your triggers and find coping strategies that work for you. For more information, or to register, call 314-SSM-DOCS (314-776-3627). This program is made possible through funding from the St. Louis County Health Department.

## Stewardship 2012 Checklist

- ◆ Pick up 2012 offering envelopes — recycle unused 2011 envelopes.
- ◆ Begin 2012 giving to Gethsemane Lutheran Church if you have not done so already.
- ◆ Examine your 2011 Financial Statement when it is mailed later this month. Read the cover letter from Stewardship Chair Keith Paulson. Thank you for your generous, sacrificial giving! If you were not current on your statement of intent (pledge) in 2011, prayerfully consider a special gift to start off 2011. If you have any questions about your statement, please call the church office.
- ◆ Use your Schnuck's e-script card when grocery shopping. This is free money for Gethsemane. Talk to Randy Moe, Peggy Zapf, or the church office if you would like to get a card.
- ◆ Help children become "cheerful givers" by having them set aside an offering each week and using their own offering envelope each Sunday.
- ◆ Set up an "automatic-giving" plan to Gethsemane via your bank (by check), or through Simply Giving (electronic giving). Either way, it is an easy way to support the church. No more playing "catch-up" due to illness or vacation.
- ◆ If you are a city resident, blue "single stream" recycling dumpsters should have been brought to your alley. Reduce — Reuse — Recycle!
- ◆ THANKS! To all those who designated Thrivent Choice dollars to Gethsemane. Your simple request to Thrivent generated \$2,073 for our Building Renovation Fund!
- ◆ Watch for opportunities to "Be the Difference" at and through Gethsemane!

### Upcoming Retreats at Camp Wartburg

**Volunteer Youth Leader's Retreat**, February 3-4, 2012, \$42 per person. This retreat is for all you volunteers who serve the youth of our church without pay...and sometimes without appreciation. Soak up some scripture. Learn from those who have gone before you. Bring home some resources. Pick up some "hot tips"...and know you are not alone.

**1st Annual Women's Retreat**, February 10-11, 2012, \$42 per person. "I've Got Rhythm," thinking about 'time' biblically and spending a good time on 'rest' or 'Sabbath'; setting into motion the rhythm between work and rest. Keynote Presenter: Lisa Lessing.

**Men's Retreat**, February 24-25, 2012, \$42 per person. "Discipleship...from the Gospel of Mark." Dr. David Lewis is your retreat presenter. Connect your men's group for a getaway retreat where everything is planned...you just have to show up. The food will be hearty. God's Word will be especially relevant to you. If you dare, free activities will make you feel like an adventurous kid again.

## VICISSITUDES

*(The changes or events that occur in our lives)*

*Thanks to Pastor Kendra for her recent pastoral visits, care, guidance, and prayer for me and my family during my recent hospitalizations.*

*Thank you also to the Gethsemane community for your care, concern, prayers and cards!*

Randy, Kathleen, Carolyn and Christopher Moe

Thank you to Elke Overton for obtaining spring flower bulbs from Operation Brightside and the whole Overton family for planting almost 300 bulbs in the front gardens. Look forward to a colorful spring!

**Sympathy:** We offer prayer for the hope and comfort of the resurrection for the family of Harold Brinner. Harold was a very active member of Gethsemane from 1950-1987.

### **Congratulations**

....to Rachel Hartz on graduating with her Masters in Social Work degree.

....to Michelle and Chris Lovelady-Armstrong on the birth of Chase Daniel on November 28, 2011. Chase joins big brother Brock in the family, and weighted in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces!

*Pastor Kendra & Gethsemane Lutheran Church: Thank you so much for allowing us to honor our mother and our Savior at your church. Gethsemane has been an amazing support to our family for decades and it meant a lot to us and to our grandparents to hold our mother's memorial service there. Donna Blackstock on behalf of the Fehr and Schumacher family*

**Where is Pastor Jeff?** If you have missed seeing Pastor Kendra's husband around lately, it is because he is serving as interim pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, St. Ann, MO during their pastoral vacancy. Don't worry — he'll be back!

## January Birthdays

- 1 Charleene Liesner
- 4 Carol Frohlichstein, Royal Wobbe
- 5 Wilma Spicer
- 6 Lory Bowman
- 7 Nadine DeCambaliza, Walter Mueller
- 8 Blaine DeCambaliza, Allie-Vere Flinn
- 9 Diane Cook
- 10 Brent Jenson
- 13 Claudine Hensel
- 18 Melissa Humbarger
- 24 Jen Meyer, Richard Schuessler
- 28 Alexander McElwee
- 29 Dan Flaxbart
- 30 Terry Hartz, Virgie Hopfer

## January Anniversaries

- 26 Norm and Virgie Hopfer 21 years

**Thank you for all of your Christmas cards, gifts, and prayers!** You demonstrate in so many ways that God is "Emmanuel" — God with us and for us! We are blessed to be a part of the Gethsemane faith community. *Pastor Kendra, Pastor Jeff, and Eric*

### **Notes from the Office:**

Updated Church Directories are available upon request.

Please pick up your 2012 Offering Envelopes in the church hallway.

All contributions to be credited to 2011 need to be received in the church office by Tuesday, December 30th.

## December Events



***Christmas Thanks***...to all who served as musicians for special music Christmas Eve!...to our awesome music staff, Dawn Riske and Ann Luciani for all their planning and hard work...to everyone who served on Altar Guild, as worship leaders, ushers, greeters, etc...to the Sunday School for making the angels and to Dawn Schuessler and Gary Borkowski for hanging them in the hallway...to Mary and Will Kelly for arranging the poinsettias...to Jack and Lois Wind for wreaths for the parking lot doors...to Marianne Przek for the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary...to Kathy Lee for organizing the Craft Fair, and to all who participated...to all who helped with the Living Nativity and dinner



Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
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Webpage: [www.gethsemanestl.org](http://www.gethsemanestl.org)  
Church Office Hours: 8:30am-1:30pm

**Pastor** Kendra Nolde  
314-571-9205 [prkendra-glc@swbell.net](mailto:prkendra-glc@swbell.net)

## MESSENGER NEWS

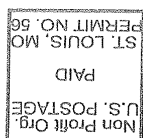
You can send your news and notes for the Messenger to [glc-messenger@swbell.net](mailto:glc-messenger@swbell.net). There is also a Messenger drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, but we'll do our best to get your news in whenever you submit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

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