

MESSENGER

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

APRIL 2008

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Got Purpose?

OK – it happened because of a breakdown in communication. But on Easter Sunday morning, during the Gospel procession the cross ended up going out the door! And the more I think about it, what a wonderful thing to happen on Easter! Easter celebrates that “God is Loose in the World” (as Peter Mayer sings). God is loose in the world because Christ is risen! God is on a mission to love, bless, and save the world. And God is looking for allies in mission – each one of us and each congregation has a role to play, a purpose in God’s mission.

So, during this Easter season, we will be celebrating “50 Days of Purpose” (with thanks and apologies to Rick Warren!). 50 days – because that’s how long the Easter season is, a week of weeks! Of purpose – to help us clarify what God is up to in our midst, so that we can stay centered on what we believe God wants us to center on.

In his book Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation, author and pastor Dave Daubert lifts up three keys for this work: Bible study, prayer, and dialog. **Bible Study:** during Easter, the Sunday morning lessons provide wonderful gist for considering what God is up to in the world and the purpose of the church. **Prayer:** each Sunday, you will be invited to offer time in prayer the following week to listen for what God is saying. **Dialog:** it is only through speaking and listening to each other in real conversations of the faithful that we can discern what God is saying to all of us as the church. So, every member and guest of the Gethsemane faith community is asked to participate in one Gethsemane Gathering: Sunday, April 13th – Sunday, April 27th – or Sunday, May 4th from 10:00-10:50 a.m. between services. These Gethsemane Gatherings will be led by the Church Council and myself. In addition, all leaders in the congregation are invited to the 2nd annual ELCA South Cluster Leadership Workshop which will also focus on God’s mission and our part in it.

I look forward to this time of Bible study, prayer, and dialog as we follow the cross out into the world for the sake of our Risen Lord!

*Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;
May we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise!*

*Service be our sure vocation; courage be our daily breath;
Mercy be our destination from this day and unto death.*

Alleluia, alleluia; Rise, O church a living faith. (ELW 548)

Pastor Kendra

SAVE THE DATE

Social Action Meeting

Sunday, April 6, 10:00am

Tai Chi Classes

Sundays, April 6, 13, 20, 27

6:30pm Continuing Students

7:30pm Beginning Students

“Got Purpose?” Gatherings

Sundays, April 13 and April 27

Between Services

Bread for the World Letters of Offering

Sunday, April 20, Between Services

CPR Class

Sunday, April 27, 12:30pm-4:00pm

GYG: Co-op Youth Planning

Sunday, April 27, 12:30-2:30 pm

Wired Coffee Coffeehouse

3860 S. Lindbergh

April at Gethsemane

Got Purpose? Gethsemane Gatherings

Sunday, April 13

Sunday, April 27

Sunday, May 4

From 10:00-10:50 am between services.

Every member and guest of the Gethsemane faith community is asked to participate in one of these gatherings. Gatherings will be led by Council members and Pastor Kendra. A letter will be sent out at the beginning of April and a sign up sheet will be available at church. These gatherings are an opportunity for us to be in conversation with one another about our purpose in God's mission.

Note: A reminder to all Council members that our training session will be Sunday, April 6th from 1:30-2:30 pm.

Hearing on Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality

Monday, April 14 7-9 pm

St. Thomas/Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
3980 S. Lindbergh

Representatives of both the synod and the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality will be present. A synod rep will be present to record all comments made by participants, which will then be submitted to the task force and considered as they revise the text for 2009. Comments made at the hearings are critical to the task force in the development of the proposed social statement to be brought to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

A copy of the Draft Social Statement of Human Sexuality is downloadable at www.elca.org/faithfuljourney. If you have any questions regarding the synodical hearings, please call the synod office at 816-861-6584 or toll-free 866-915-3548.

A Night with Pastor K Sunday, April 13th

5:00 pm Hors d'oeuvres & wine
5:45 pm Potluck Dinner and conversation
St. Thomas/Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
3980 S. Lindbergh

Rev. Dr. Karnig Kazanjian, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mobile, Alabama will be with us to talk about the ongoing work of St. Paul's and Lutheran Disaster Response to repair and rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Many mission teams (including folks from Gethsemane) have enjoyed St. Paul's hospitality.

Please contact Don Thuss or Steve Fobian (965-5436) for more information.

Leading Beyond: From Consumer to Missional 2nd Annual Southside ELCA Cluster Leadership Workshop

Saturday, April 26th, 8:30am – 12:15pm
Christ Lutheran Church, Webster Groves
Arden Mead Center

**Presenter on the Missional Church:
Melba Bangert, Vice-President of the
Central States Synod**

All Gethsemane leaders (Council members, committee chairpeople and members, staff, and interested persons) are strongly encouraged to attend. RSVP to prkendra-glc@swbell.net.



Alleluia! Christ Has Risen Indeed!
An Amazing Fellowship of Events on this Special Weekend!

Saturday morning was awesome with all the volunteers to help prepare for the Easter Breakfast: **Florence Frederickson, Denise Buehrer, Mary Brice, Maria Haritatos, Joan Williams, Norm Hopfer, Roy Geers, Peggy Zapf, Justin Henson, Sheila Smith, Rich Brown, and Jack Wind.** They completely transformed the Fellowship Hall into a very festive room and then became kitchen “worker bees” preparing the food and drinks for the next day. Thanks to our Floral Designers **Margaret Lenhart** and her two daughters Katie and Christine for arranging the table flowers provided by **Mary and Don Thuss.** We had much fun working together, the “oops” had many laughs, but much was accomplished in order for Sunday morning to go smoothly.

A joyous Easter Sunday...Pr. Kendra we thank you for the beautiful and memorable Easter Service. Once again our dedicated members were there to help. We thank everyone who prepared food for the Easter Breakfast to make such a wonderful and delicious array of choices. **Matt Hartz, Scott Tanner, Emma Tanner, and Johnny Frohlichstein** thank you for assisting members and serving drinks.

Thank You EVERYONE who helped Saturday and Sunday. All the volunteers and those who walked in and helped immediately and also those who stayed to do the unfortunate task of “Clean Up” helped us tremendously (Rich and Denise for their dedication of washing and drying all the dishes). It is fun working together!

*We are all thankful for our wonderful GLC family.
Blessings to Everyone,
Paula B., John M. and Lois W.*

The Ecclesiastical Stagehands Need Hands

Have you ever wondered:

- How the wine gets into those little cups?
- How the colors change from green, to blue, red, or white?
- Why the eternal flame never burns out?
- Why the candles around the altar never seem to burn down entirely after all these years?
- How those little hymn numbers fly up to that board?
- Why the water in the baptismal font is always clear and clean?
- What happens to the unused wine and bread?

Church Council Highlights

March 11, 2008

(Note: Official minutes are placed on the hall bulletin board after approved at the next Council Meeting)

1. Continued book discussion of *Living Lutheran*, by Dave Daubert.
2. Approved a resolution from the Social Action Committee to be submitted to the Central States Synod Assembly asking that the Synod become a ONE synod and that congregations be encouraged to become a part of the ONE campaign to end extreme poverty.
3. Heard a report about staff reviews.
4. Heard a report that money available for disbursement from the Endowment Fund for 2008 is \$22,500 (6% of \$375,104). Approved giving a “second-mile” gift of \$2000 to the Central States Synod. Approved designating \$10,000 for an Endowment Fund Matching Gifts program for the following organizations: Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity; Project Peanut Butter; Panama Mission; Nancy Bond’s mission work with the Rafiki Foundation in Ghana; Joint Neighborhood Ministries; International Partners in Mission; ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Relief; CHADS – Communities Healing Adolescent Depression and Suicide..
5. Received a request from Lutheran Family and Children’s Services to use space in our building for counseling and child welfare services. Decided to invite someone from LFCS to come to the April Council meeting.
6. Confirmed final list of 2008 Committee Chairpeople.
7. Received a recommendation from the Property Committee that the Council form a Building Renovation Committee to continue meeting with an architect about accessibility, entrance, and restroom needs.
8. Heard a plan from Pastor Kendra to use the Easter season to focus on Gethsemane’s purpose through a sermon series, a South Cluster Leadership Workshop, and congregational gatherings between services.
9. Heard that dates had been set for picture-taking for a new church pictorial directory – September 4,5,6, 2008. Estimates have been received to replace the street banners around the church.
10. Stewardship Committee has completed the Ventures Stewardship Workshops and is looking toward plans for 2008.

Participating in altar and communion care could answer all these questions and more about the intricacies of the worship service.

Give us a hand with altar and communion care and you'll get to appreciate the quiet peacefulness of the sanctuary on a Saturday and you may even be treated to Ella's music as she rehearses for Sunday morning. Knowing that you are contributing a valuable service for life at Gethsemane ... priceless!

A degree in theology or music or worship is not required; just some of your time and willingness to serve the worshipping community.

You are welcome to come and observe what we do between services. If you have any questions about what's involved in this ministry, please feel free to ask the folks who serve in this role: Mary Thuss, Cindy Tanner, Jane O'Neill, Susan and Dan Flaxbart, and Cheryl and Ken Bauer. We'd love to have you join us!

**ENDOWMENT FUND EARNINGS
in 2007 HARNESSED for
MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM in
2008**

For the second year, the Church Council has approved a Matching Gift Program using Endowment Fund Earnings. Solid Endowment Fund earnings in 2007 have made it possible to dedicate up to \$10,000 toward matching gifts for worthy causes as a way to encourage designated new giving by our members to eight special mission opportunities:

- ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Relief*
- Project Peanut Butter*
- Nancy Bond's Work with the Rafiki Foundation*
- Panama Mission*
- International Partners in Mission*
- Joint Neighborhood Ministry*
- Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity/St. Louis*
- CHADS: Communities Healing Adolescent Depression & Suicide*

which have historically been supported by individual members and the congregation.

The plan is that each of the eight identified ministries would be highlighted for one month through bulletin and Messenger announcements during the course of the year. You may, however, make your gift AT ANY TIME during the course of the year. Checks simply need to be made payable to Gethsemane, with the organization noted in the memo line. \$1000 will be reserved to make matching donations for each of the eight groups. The remaining \$2000 will be distributed proportionately according to donations received through Dec., 2008.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2008 IS IN THE AIR

We are in need of a few good folks who care.



"POWER LAB"

is our theme and we need you on the team.

Here's what we want, so take a look:

"TEST TUBE TREATS"

needs a head cook. Snacks are easy, so don't despair. You have a great crew to help prepare. And yes, we'd like to plan ahead.

We need teachers and helpers. Enough said, so let us know NOW, if you can. Come on ... we know you're a big VBS fan! Don't make us grab you by the collar. Just contact Kate Hartz or Debbie Schaller.

Enough of that Bottom line

Vacation Bible School 2008 is in the works and people are needed to help make it a success. We are looking for someone (or a duo would be okay) to head up the snack area, and we would like to start a list of teachers and helpers.

We also need to know now (if at all possible) if your Gethsemane child/children will be attending VBS this year. Spaces/slots will be limited in some of the classes and we would like to make sure that Gethsemane children don't miss out. You don't have to pay ahead of time; we would just like to know ahead of time. So if your child is coming to VBS this summer (July 28-August 1), we'd like to know NOW! We just need to know the name and date of birth of each child.

You may contact us by email or call us at home. Debbie Schaller: daschaller@aol.com or 314-832-6649. Kate Hartz: katehartz@sbcglobal.net or 314-664-2935.

GYG: CO-OP YOUTH PLANNING

Sunday, April 27, 12:30-2:30 pm

Wired Coffee Coffeehouse, 3860 S. Lindbergh

Youth and parents from Gethsemane, Trinity-Kirkwood, St. Thomas/Holy Spirit (Sunset Hills), and Christ (Webster Groves) are invited to this event to plan a middle school/high school youth service event for our congregations. This will be the first venture of a possible youth cooperative ministry among our congregations! Stay tuned: more details will be coming....

Children / Sunday School

On Palm Sunday, March 16, seven Gethsemane 2nd graders received their first communion.

As part of their first communion instruction, these young people wrote prayers they could use to prepare for communion. These are the prayers they wrote:

-- Dear God, Please help me on how to get closer to you. I am very glad you help me in my everyday life. Amen. (Jacob)

-- Oh, Lord, thank you God for being with me during all my trouble. Thank you God for being with me during communion. (K.T.)

-- Dear God, thank you God for letting me take first communion. Help me to forgive others and help others. Amen! (Anna)

-- Dear God, help me to be a good person. And to love other people. Amen. (Aaron)

-- Dear God, thank you God for life, heaven, and the holy church. Help us to have a good life. Amen. (Julian)

-- Dear God, thank you for saving me and help me to do good in school. Amen. (Alex M.)

- Thank you God for these gifts I'm about to receive. Thank you for my family. (Alex S.)

Congratulations to these young people for completing one more step in their faith journey.



Thank you to all the Sunday school children who joined with the adult choir in singing "Hosanna!" on Palm Sunday. Your voices were a joyful addition to our worship!

Calling all Gethsemane Men

The Sunday school is asking for your help! On Mother's Day, May 11, we will be offering a special presentation on women and prayer led by Sonja Sandquist. In order to allow all Sunday school teachers to attend this presentation, and to enjoy a relaxing Mother's Day, we are recruiting men to teach the children's Sunday school classes for this one Sunday. Lesson plans and technical assistance will be provided! If you are interested or for more information, contact Christy Scheidt or Laura Begley.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Classes resume on Mondays, April 7 and 21 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Please turn in your registration forms for the ELCA Metro St. Louis Coalition ConfirCamp at Camp Wartburg, June 16-20!

Health Cabinet

TAI CHI CLASSES

Sundays, March 30 – May 5th

Beginners class is from 7:30-8:30pm.

Continuing class is from 6:30-7:30pm.

The 6-class session costs \$30.

Contact Ted Yemm at (314) 842-0523 with questions or to register.

Introduction to Tai Chi and Tai Chi Fundamentals

What is Tai Chi? Tai Chi Chuan (or Taijiquan) or, more simply, Tai Chi, translates as “Supreme Ultimate Fist or Boxing”. It is considered an internal or soft martial art relying on relaxation, balance, and body awareness to redirect and create force. Modern Tai Chi traces its roots back to the system that was taught by the Chen family to Yang Lu Shan in 1820. Legend has it that Tai Chi was founded centuries ago in Buddhist monasteries and all forms of traditional Tai Chi contain the original thirteen movements created by Zhang Sanfeng in the 12th century.

Tai Chi Philosophy: Tai Chi training is intended to teach the practitioner awareness of one’s balance, what affects it, and awareness of the same in others. Tai chi practice also teaches the value of one’s ability to moderate extremes of behavior and attitude at both mental and physical levels (Wikipedia 2007). The slow repetitive work teaches the practitioner how to coordinate the joints and muscles to apply leverage to generate energy and power. This practice also measurably opens internal circulation throughout the body. The application of this leverage in martial arts often allows the student to appreciate the full benefits of the exercises.

Tai Chi Health Benefits: Tai Chi shares some common philosophies with the traditional Chinese medical approach including the description of Chi or life energy. Recent medical studies have recognized that Tai Chi does have measurable benefits including lowering blood pressure, decreasing the amount of cortisol, a stress hormone, and reducing the risk of falls. Tai Chi is a weight bearing exercise of moderate intensity suitable for a wide variety of populations. Current research is exploring immune response and bone density changes.

Yang Style Tai Chi: Yang Style Tai Chi is currently the most popular style throughout the world. This family branch of Tai Chi was created in 1820 when Yang Lu Shan secretly watched as the Chen family

passed the secrets of Tai Chi form one generation to the next. When he was discovered practicing, the Chen family was so impressed by his form that they agreed to take him as a student. Tai Chi didn’t reach the U.S. until the 1960’s. Grand Master Cheng Man Ching was one of the first to teach openly to non-Chinese students. He also devised a shortened 37 posture Yang style form.

Tai Chi Fundamentals: Tai Chi Fundamentals is a three part program meant to teach and refine the basic principles of Tai Chi:

1. Tai Chi Fundamentals Form is an accessible exercise routine that is adapted from the traditional Yang style. It consists of 19 postures taught in 3 sections progressing from the simplest movements to the most complex.
2. The Movement Patterns are a series of 12 movements that are part of the TCF Form. These movements are practiced repeatedly to train Tai Chi skills. Rooted in Qigong (energy cultivation), these movements are also used to train breathing.
3. Mind/Body Principles describe elements of Tai Chi that enhance well being.

The Happy Hoofers are on the Move!!

Get out those Walking Shoes! The St. Louis Susan Komen Race for the Cure will be held June 21, 2008. The Happy Hoofers will meet at the church and carpool to downtown. After an exciting walk, we will return to the church for lunch and lemonade. You may register online Komen St Louis Race for the Cure or pick up a registration form from Mardi Manary, Parish Nurse.

April CPR Class at GLC

Sunday: April 27, 2008 12:30-4:00 pm
Light Lunch at 12:30 pm Class Begins 1:00
Cost: \$15.00 per person Register at 454-KIDS
Sponsored by Gethsemane Health Cabinet and St. Louis Children’s Hospital

ALZHEIMER’S MEMORY WALK

Save the date: Saturday, September 13, 2008

The Alzheimer’s Association’s Memory Walk will be held on Saturday, September 13. This year the walk will be moved to Forest Park. Many Gethsemane members, family and friends have been affected by Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia. The Memory Walk is a great opportunity to raise money for research and treatment of the disease and gather information and resources. It’s also a great way to join friends and enjoy a walk in the park. Please consider joining Gethsemane’s team this year. For more information contact Christy Scheidt or Mardi Manary.

... IN OUR COMMUNITY

Joint Neighborhood Ministry

Joint Neighborhood Ministry's food pantry emphasis for April is CEREAL. Please bring boxes of cereal to Gethsemane and place in the shopping cart in the upper level hallway for the hungry neighbors and children served by JNM. Thank you once again for your support!

MISSOURI TAX CREDIT FOR DONATIONS TO FOOD PANTRIES

You may have noticed some new lines on your 2007 Missouri income tax return relating to various tax credits. One of those tax credits is for donations to food pantries. Basically, donations that were made to food pantries can be listed on Form MO-FPT. This form must be signed by the staff of the food pantry receiving the donation. The amount is listed on Form MO-TC. Both forms need to be filed with your Missouri tax return. The credit is worth 50% of the donation (up to a \$2500 maximum credit), which is deducted from the amount of the Missouri income tax owed. When this tax credit is joined with the federal charitable deduction, most taxpayers will get, effectively, \$0.75 back for each \$1.00 donated to the food pantry. There are some limits on the amount that Missouri has set aside for this program, so the credit will not be given until after April 15, 2008 for the 2007 tax year. Consult your tax preparer, or look at the information from the Missouri Department of Revenue about this tax credit. We do not know how the credit will be funded for 2008, so save those receipts and keep up the great donations. For donations made to Joint Neighborhood Ministry in 2007, contact Fred Lenhart before April 8 about having your Form MO-FPT signed by the Joint Neighborhood Ministry staff.

“Life in Occupied Palestine: Eyewitness Stories and Photos”

is presented by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women in Black, and Green Trails United Methodist Women on Sunday, April 6th, 3pm, at Green Trails United Methodist Church, 14237 Ladue Rd., Chesterfield (1/3 mile west of Woods Mill road). This event is free. The speaker is Anna Baltzer, Jewish American Fulbright Scholar and Peace Activist. A social hour will follow the presentation, and Ms. Baltzer's book “Witness in Palestine: A Jewish American Woman in the Occupied Territories” will be available for purchase. For more info, call 314-434-8545.

Mustard Seed Theatre

presents “Measure for Measure” by William Shakespeare on Thursdays-Saturdays at 8pm (April 11-12, 17-19, and 24-26) and Sundays at 2pm (April 13, 20, and 27) at Fontbonne University, 6800 Wydown Blvd. Call 314-719-8060 or visit mustardseedtheatre.com.

Luther College Collegiate Chorale

Presents a Concert on Fri., April 18th at 7pm at Zion Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MO. Conducted by Timothy Peter, Collegiate Chorale will perform *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré, as well as sacred and secular choral works by Handel, Caccini, Hassler, Christiansen, and Joyce. Freewill offering. For info, call (636) 441-7425.

“Reporting from Darfur: The First Genocide of the 21st Century”

is an address by Nicholas D. Kristof, New York Times columnist, and presented by the Lee Institute on Monday, April 28, 7:30pm, at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, 9450 Clayton Road (314-993-4771). This address is free and open to all!

LFCS 13th ANNUAL FAMILY WALK

April 19, 2008

Muny Upper Parking Lot in Forest Park

7:30am – Registration and Check-In

(Complimentary breakfast for everyone!)

8:30am – Start of Festivities –

Competitive Run/Walk/Activities

9:00am-11:00am – Children's Activities/Exhibits/Food

Registration Forms/Pledge Forms are available in the rack near the parking lot stairway.

If you would like to be the Captain for a GLC Team, we have a Captain's packet in the church office.

Camp Wartburg: 2008 Summer Camping Program

2008 Camp Brochures and Registration forms are available in the racks in the hallway.

Why you should send your child or grandchild to Camp Wartburg:

- Camp Wartburg is conveniently located within an hour of nearly anywhere in St. Louis and southwest Illinois. Nestled in the beautiful rolling hills of southern Illinois near Waterloo, Camp Wartburg seems far away to campers, but comfortably close to parents.
- The spiritual life of your child will be nurtured. Energized, college-age Christian counselors will lead small groups in all activities. Camp Wartburg's 108 acres of woods, fields, and hiking trails offer an awesome study of God's beautiful creation.
- Camping programs are offered for children and youth, grades 1-12. Specialty camps include Equestrian, Fishing, High Ropes, Mall Rats, Native American, Night Owl, Painting, Sketching, Spelunking, Sports, Theatre Arts, and more! Trip Camps for Grades 7-12 include Appalachian Odyssey, Colorado Rocks, and Missouri Quest.

Come and enjoy **Camp Wartburg's 39th ANNUAL FRIED CHICKEN DINNER and OPEN HOUSE** on Sunday, April 27. Serving begins at 11am and ends at 2pm. Dinners are \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 5-12. Children under 5 eat free. An area will also be available to enroll campers for our summer camp and day camp programs. Call (618) 939-7715 if you have questions.

River's Edge: Via de Cristo (Way of Christ)

Men's Weekend: May 1-4, 2008, LaSalle Retreat Center, Eureka, MO

Applications and brochures are available from Pastor Kendra. You can also talk with Joan Williams or Ami Boehlje who attended the Via de Cristo Women's Weekend.

Who should attend a weekend? Christians who believe their spiritual lives need strengthening; who have unanswered questions about prayer, study and sharing their faith; who understand being a Christian involves responsibility and would like to have both the spiritual foundation and moral reserve to carry this out in their lives; who are willing to dedicate their lives to God in an on-going manner, are the best candidates to attend a Via de Cristo.

What happens at a Weekend? While there, you spend three busy, but very enjoyable days. You live and study together with much singing, prayer, worship and discussion. Discussions center around the talks given by laity and clergy. The talks center around the grace of God, its reality in your life, and how you can live the life of grace, imparting grace to others. You have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and you begin to understand the real presence of Christ in His Body of believers.

Summary: We ask you to keep an open mind and heart in making your decision. Many of those who attend also wondered whether they should go. Now that they have, they want to share this wonderful gift from God. Please understand that their experience was unique, and all discussions in the world will not become a substitute for your Weekend. You need to experience it yourself to obtain its full and life enriching value.

... AND IN OUR WORLD

South Cluster Immersion Trip to El Salvador with International Partners in Mission

Southside ELCA congregations are planning an **Immersion Trip Experience** with International Partners in Mission to El Salvador from September 20-27, 2008. The cost will be about \$2000 per person. We will need a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 persons. Registration deadline is April 20th, with a \$200 deposit. Talk to Pr. Kendra if you are interested.

Notes from Social Action: Much happening in this corner. Everyone is invited to join our next meeting, **Sunday, April 6th at 10:00 am.**

Gethsemane's **Bread for the World letter writing Sunday is April 20th** featuring fresh baked bread in the fellowship hall between services. See separate article for details.

2008 OFFERING OF LETTERS AT GETHSEMANE

Sunday, April 20, between services in the Fellowship Hall:

1. **information on the Global Poverty Act**
2. **opportunity to write letters to your senators**
3. **fresh baked bread!**

Sunday, April 27, during worship services: offering of our letters

What We Want to Achieve in 2008:

Bread for the World's 2008 Offering of Letters is pushing for more and better poverty-focused development assistance—funding for programs in the U.S. budget that give people in poor countries the skills and opportunities to break the cycle of poverty permanently. These include long-term investments in things like education, agriculture, nutrition, health and clean water.

The United States should provide more of this kind of assistance because we are not on track to meet the goals and fulfill the promises our country has made in recent years. And we must improve the way U.S. assistance is packaged and delivered so that it reaches those in greatest need with the maximum impact.

More and better poverty-focused development assistance is a critical component of the effort to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are a set of eight achievable objectives adopted by the nations of the world in 2000 to improve the quality of life of hundreds of millions of poor people around the world. All nations promised to fulfill these goals by 2015.

The United States agreed to do its part. In the past few years, the U.S. Congress has increased federal funding for poverty-focused assistance by about \$1 billion a year, and other countries have followed suit by increasing their aid as well. Now, more kids are in school, and many fewer children are dying every day from preventable, hunger-related diseases. For the first time, villages in Africa and Latin America have new wells and access to clean water. Now, there is hope for hundreds of thousands of Africans and Asians living with AIDS because they have received life-saving medication.

Bread for the World members played an important role in convincing Congress to approve the increases for these effective, hope-giving, poverty-reducing programs. We wrote letters to our representatives and senators. We called. We emailed. We told our nation's decision makers that helping our neighbors—whether they live next door or on another continent—is the right thing to do. We insisted that everyone deserves the opportunity to live productive lives and provide for their children. In faith, we lifted our voices. And Congress listened.

But our work is not over. The increases we've won in poverty-focused assistance have made a difference, but we are not yet on track to fulfill our promises. 2015 looms ever closer. There are still too many people who live in extreme poverty, too many people who go to bed hungry every night, too many children not in school, too many children dying from preventable causes. We can do better.

Bread for the World's 2008 Offering of Letters is pushing for more and better poverty-focused development assistance.

That means:

- Congress should increase its funding for poverty-fighting efforts by at least \$5 billion a year, starting this coming year. Funding should be aimed at programs that most directly address the root causes of poverty and hunger. The programs should encourage the participation of citizens from the targeted communities in crafting programs and setting priorities.
- Congress should improve U.S. assistance to ensure the maximum benefit reaches those in greatest need. A first step would be to pass the Global Poverty Act (S. 2433), now in Congress. The Global Poverty Act would:
 - >>> Make the first Millennium Development Goal (to cut in half the number of people who are hungry and the number of people living on less than \$1 a day) an official part of U.S. policy.
 - >>> Require a coordinated strategy to achieve this goal through U.S. aid, debt relief, and trade policies. The strategy would emphasize cooperation with other countries, international institutions, faith-based groups, and the private sector.

2008 is a critical year. To achieve the Millennium Development Goals we have to step up the pace. 2015 is just around the corner. **Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 20th for more information, discussion, letter writing and fresh bread!**



To combat malaria, healthcare workers demonstrate how to use an insecticide-treated bed net. Malarial kills more than 1 million people each year, most of them young children in sub-Saharan Africa.

photo by Margaret W. Nea



The ELCA Central States synod approved Gethsemane's request to sponsor a **ONE Campaign workshop** during the Synod Assembly June 5 – 8 at the Renaissance Hotel in St. Louis. Gethsemane will also sponsor a **ONE information table**. So, there will be many opportunities to assist with the planning and implementing of these.

In addition, in its March 11th meeting, Gethsemane's council unanimously approved the submission of a **ONE resolution** to the synod assembly. Many thanks to Rich Brown and Peggy Zapf for their work on this. Following is the text—

Resolution Relating to Adoption and Promotion of the ONE Campaign Goals

WHEREAS the ONE campaign is dedicated to advocating for attainable goals to end extreme poverty and to end its attendant consequences of lack of minimal necessities to sustain life, such as adequate food, potable water, access to healthcare and educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS the principles embodied in the pledge of the ONE campaign are included in the Millennium Development Goals, adopted by the United Nations and approved by national leaders around the world; and

WHEREAS in June 2005, Bishop Mark Hanson wrote, "I affirm the Millennium Development Goals and I now invite Lutherans to join me in supporting the ONE Campaign." And

WHEREAS in October 2007 Central States Synod Bishop Gerald Mansholt wrote, "I encourage members of this Synod to join the Lutheran ONE campaign." And

WHEREAS there are no monetary costs to the Central States Synod because the ONE campaign is dedicated to advocacy and education; and

WHEREAS Christ admonished us in Matthew 25 "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ELCA Central States Synod adopt the pledge of the ONE campaign, as follows:

"WE BELIEVE that in the best American tradition of helping others help themselves, now is the time to join with other countries in an historic pact for compassion and justice to help the poorest people of the world overcome AIDS and extreme poverty.

WE RECOGNIZE that a pact including such measures as fair trade, debt relief, fighting corruption and directing additional resources for basic needs – education, health, clean water, food and care for orphans – would transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation in the poorest countries, at a cost equal to just one percent more of the U.S. budget.

WE COMMIT ourselves - one person, one voice, one vote at a time - to make a better, safer world for all."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ELCA Central States Synod shall encourage and promote the adoption of the ONE campaign goals and pledge by member congregations which are not yet affiliated as ONE campaign congregations.



Mission Interpreters: God's Work. Our Hands. Stories of Faith in Action

Did you know that your church is helping others half way around the world in Papua New Guinea and in Russia? It's true!

The Central States Synod, along with all other 64 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are part of the companion synod program which links churches around the world into a companion relationship, using the accompaniment model for mission. Accompaniment – literally, walking together side by side – is about forming a mutual relationship between companion churches that walk together in service in God's mission. Through this relationship, companions participate in one another's life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors, and sharing of resources. In the accompaniment model, "receiving" is as important as "sending". The act of receiving acknowledges the wide variety of gifts and talents present in the global Christian family. Being open to and appreciative of the gifts of companions is a hallmark of accompaniment and the Companion Synods program. To read more, visit the website: www.elca.org/companionsynod.

The Central States Synod is a companion to two synods outside North America: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea-Kotte District (ELCPNG) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia and Other States (ELCROS). The focus for the ELCROS relationship is the congregations in Far Eastern Russia.

A Companion Synod Team for Central States Synod was formed in 2002 and consists of representatives from each of the synod's ten Area Ministries. The team supports, encourages, and facilitates mission relationships that may be through activity of individuals, congregations, area ministries, and the synod team.

Three congregations in Central States Synod are currently in a covenant relationship with congregations in the Far East of Russia. These include:

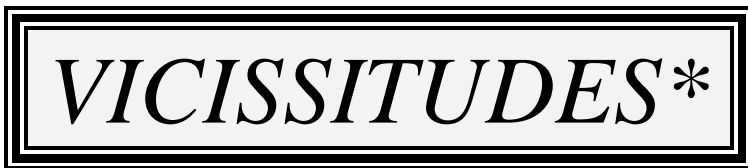
- Atonement Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS with St. Katharine's Lutheran Church, Komsomolsk, Russia
- Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Overland Park, KS with St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Magadan, Russia
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Wichita, KS with St. Marie's Lutheran Church, Ussuriysk, Russia

Congregations are journeying together to discover what God is calling them to do together in mission. For St. Katharine's, a worship space was purchased and ministry outreach programs are being developed together through the companion synod relationship with Atonement. For St. Mark's, the congregation was hungry to learn of Holy Cross' faith and to learn how they show and live their faith to others in order to be a stronger presence in their community. St. Marie's companion relationship is focusing on their work with orphan girls and how Gloria Dei could work with them to assist the Orphan School. To read more, visit: <http://www.css-elca.org/missioninterpreter.html>.

Thank you for your support of Christ's mission in the Central States Synod. Your prayers, partnerships and gifts are appreciated.

For more information about the Companion Synod Team of Central States Synod or how you, as an individual, congregation, or Area Ministry can get involved, contact Kathie Walter by e-mail: Kathie-PMA@swbell.net or phone: 913-451-8778, regarding ELCROS, and contact Rev. Gary Teske by phone: 785-843-4150 or e-mail: geske@trinitylawrence.org regarding ELCPNG .

"(Jesus said) ...Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love another." John 13:34
CSSMI#20 04/08



* The changes or events that occur in our lives.

Dear Friends at Gethsemane Lutheran,

I just wanted to drop a line to express our family's sincere appreciation for your thoughts and prayers and visits to my mother, Theresa, while she was hospitalized at Missouri Baptist Hospital, trying to recover from a bout of pneumonia. The flowers that were sent were lovely and seemed to perk up Mom's spirits.

After leaving the hospital she had to spend a week at Green Park Assisted Living Facility for therapy and to build up her strength. I'm happy to report she is doing well and is back home again, probably in the best shape she has been in for quite some time.

Thanks again.
Love, Sue Ann and Family

Dear Mardi and Gethsemane,

Thank you for all of your hard work; it really paid off. We ended up with 16 units on a goal of 15! These 16 units of blood will help 48 people. It was a pleasure working with you.

Best wishes,
Brittany, Mississippi Valley Blood Center

Gifts Needed (Please talk with Pastor Kendra or the office if you have gifts to share in these areas):

1. Bulb and flower planter(s) (*at the appropriate times!*)
2. An aluminum can recycler (*to periodically take cans to be recycled*)
3. An E-bay seller (*someone to take responsibility for putting a couple of items on e-bay to try to sell for Gethsemane*)

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Hold the Dates: *For Our Next*

Pictorial Directory!

Thursday, September 4 through

Saturday, September 6.

Congratulations...

To **Ella Rothgangel** on being elected to serve as president of the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board.

To **Sophia Schier-Hanson** for qualifying for the St. Louis City Spelling Bee.

Thanks...

To **Joann Olander, Nellie Hohnsen**, and the **Confirmation Class** for sharing the Word in various ways during our Lenten worship

To all who provided **worship leadership and special music** for our Wednesday midweek Lenten services

To all the groups who prepared and served the **Lenten Soup Suppers**.

To **Lois Wind and Paula Brud-Brown** for coordinating the Easter breakfast – and to all who brought food, set up, served, or cleaned up!

To all who helped to make our Easter worship inspiring and celebrative!

A KING'S STORY

Books Available...

Additional copies of *A King's Story* by Kathryn Muehlheausler are available in the office. The cost is \$10. Kathryn did a book signing at one of our Wednesday Midweek services and has tithed from Gethsemane books sales back to our Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity Lenten Mission.

Thanks, Kathryn!

LAGNIAPPE

Where Did the Worship Committee Dine Last Month?

Before each monthly meeting, members of the worship committee gather at a local restaurant for dinner. We try to go to a different restaurant each month, preferably one that is not familiar to everyone. In February, we went to Pizza-A-Go-Go, located at 6703 Scanlan at Ivanhoe. It's a small family-owned pizza joint that was originally located at Grand & Gravois many years ago. As a Mom & Pop place, it has a few eccentricities (besides the name) – only open after 4, closed on Wednesdays, and cash only. The major upside to it (for non-St. Louisans anyway) is that they hand toss their crust and use mozzarella cheese. It's very neighborhood and family oriented, serving only soft drinks and pizza in a bare bones décor. The only wild parties you'll find here will be a team of six year old soccer players.

We met at Pizza-A-Go-Go early one evening in the middle of a blinding rainstorm. As a result, only four of us were hardy enough to risk a drenching. No sharing in our group, though. We each ordered our own 12" pizza rather than splitting something bigger. The 12" special (\$10) is a five topping pie with pepperoni, sausage, green pepper, mushroom, and onion and is an excellent choice for someone who has trouble deciding on just one topping. Other standard pizza toppings are also available, but none that could be considered weird or gourmet. The hand tossed crust is a little thinner than what you get at places like Domino's and Pizza Hut, but is not as thin as Imo's. They make their own crust and a tasty sauce. It all adds up to a pizza that made each of us happy. You don't get all of the choices that you find at the chains, but Pizza-A-Go-Go is a great neighborhood place for a basic fresh, hand made, piping hot pizza served up inexpensively and quickly.

FROM THE LADIES OF THE RACHEL CIRCLE

Drinking From My Saucer

>I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now. But I don't worry about that much. I'm happy anyhow.
>For as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.
>I haven't got a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough, but there are caring folks around me, and that makes me rich enough.
>I thank God for His blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed. I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.
>If God give me strength and courage when the going gets steep and rough, I'll not ask for other blessings ~ I'm already blessed enough.
>And may I never be too busy to help others bear their loads. With them I'll share my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

George McPhee

APRIL 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:00am Bible Study 7pm Health Cabinet	3 6:45pm Property Committee 7:00-9:00pm MOMS	4 Pastor's Day Off	5
6 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:50am Sunday School 10:00am Social Action Meeting 1:30pm Council training session 6:30pm Tai Chi - Continuing 7:30pm Tai Chi - Beginners	7 4:00pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00pm Church Council	9 10:00am Bible Study 7:30pm Welcoming Team	10 7:00-9:00pm MOMS	11 Pastor's Day Off	12
13 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:50am Sunday School Between Services: <i>Got Purpose?</i> Gatherings 5:00pm Night with Pastor K at St. Thomas/Holy Spirit 6:30pm Tai Chi - Continuing 7:30pm Tai Chi - Beginners	14 4:00pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 7-9pm Hearing on Draft of Social Statement on Human Sexuality at St. Thomas/Holy Spirit	15	16 10:00am Bible Study	17 7:00-9:00pm MOMS	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 LFCS Family Walk
20 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:50am Sunday School Between Services: Bread for the World Offering of Letters 6:30pm Tai Chi - Continuing 7:30pm Tai Chi - Beginners	21 4:00pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23 10:00am Bible Study	24 7:00-9:00pm MOMS	25 Pastor's Day Off	26 8:30am-12:15pm Southside ELCA Cluster Leadership Workshop
27 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:50am Sunday School Between Services: <i>Got Purpose?</i> Gatherings 12:30pm-4:00pm CPR Class 12:30pm-2:30pm GYG Co-op Youth Planning at Wired Coffeehouse 6:30pm Tai Chi - Continuing 7:30pm Tai Chi - Beginners	28 4:00pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 11:00am Rachel Circle <i>Claudine Hensel, hostess</i>	29	30 10:00am Bible Study			

