

MESSENGER

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

MARCH 2008

VOLUME #1 15: ISSUE #3

Holy Week and Easter

This year Easter arrives almost as early as it possibly can; the earliest date for Easter would be March 22nd. Early in March, the Welcoming Team will be providing special "invitations" for members to use in inviting friends and neighbors to Holy Week services.

Sunday, March 16th 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

We will gather in the front yard on the corner of Hampton and Pernod for the Procession with Palms. The Sunday School children sing at the 11:00 service. Second graders will receive their First Communion, with a special cake served during coffee hour to honor them.

Thursday, March 20th 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

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

Friday, March 21st 12 noon & 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Adoration of the Cross, with artwork from across cultures and through the centuries.

Saturday, March 22nd 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil

Lighting of the First Fire; Sacrament of Holy Baptism for 3 children; the First Communion of Easter

Sunday, March 23rd 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday/The Resurrection of Our Lord

Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Easter Breakfast will be served between services (free will offering). We need volunteers for food donations (casseroles, coffee cakes, fruit), set-up, clean-up. Call Lois Wind at 314-487-5755 or Paula Brud-Brown (314-544-5036 to let them know that you can help.

SAVE THE DATE

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Worship Services

Wednesdays, March 5, 12

6:00pm Supper

7:00pm Evening Prayer

First Communion Class

Sunday, March 2 and 9, 3:00pm

March is Nutrition Month

Health Speakers in the Fellowship Hall, Between Services:

Ted Yemm, March 2

Mike Elliott, March 9

March at Gethsemane

MARCH SUNDAYS

Extreme Makeover— Faith Edition

Each week in Lent will include an item to take home for your home devotional space and prayer.

March 2nd : 4th Sunday in Lent/Laying on of Hands with Healing Prayer

The gospel reading is the healing of the man born blind in John 9. After receiving Holy Communion, any who wish are welcome to come for prayers of healing.

March 9th: 5th Sunday in Lent

A special guest will help us hear the gospel story of the Raising of Lazarus from a different perspective. New members will be received and welcomed!

March 16th: Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

We gather outside for the Procession with Palms. For the second year, we will be using “eco-palms” that are part of the fair-trade movement and earth friendly.

Sunday, March 23rd: Easter/The Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, March 30th: Living in the New Life of Easter!

LENTEN MIDWEEK WEDNESDAYS

March 5 and 12
6:00 Soup Supper
7:00 Evening Prayer
“40” Stories

Join us for our final “40” stories:
Jonah & the Fish and
Elijah & the Bread.

The Bell Choir will do a special version of Jonah on March 5th.

A nursery for children (up to age 6) is offered during the service.

St. Louis Hills Ecumenical Midweek Worship: 10:00 am

Thursday, February 28

At St. Gabriel Archangel Catholic Church

Rev. Robert Samson, St. Gabriel,
Preaching

Thursday, March 6

At Trinity Assembly of God

Rev. Joel Oliver, Trinity, Preaching

Thursday, March 13

At Ascension Lutheran Church

Rev. Charles Spomer, Ascension,
Preaching

First Communion Instruction

Pray for our children who are preparing to receive their First Communion: Jacob B., K.T. E., Anna K., Alex M., Aaron M., Julian M., and Alex S.. Classes will be held on Sundays, March 2 and 9 from 3:00-4:00 pm; children will receive their First Communion on Palm Sunday.

Book Selling & Signing

Wednesday, March 12

Kathryn (Kathie) Hise-Muehlheausler has published a novel *A King's Story* and will hold a book signing and brief reading on Wed., March 12, during our Soup Supper and after our Lenten Service.

Kathie lives in the neighborhood, near Gethsemane member Pat Blake. She will share with us how Gethsemane Lutheran became an integral part of her book.

Below is an endorsement from local author Rev. Joseph F. Classen:

“A King’s Story” is a beautifully written tale which incorporates a wonderful weaving of Biblical characters. Muehlheausler’s attention to detail and obvious research help to firmly construct a truly captivating, inspirational adventure for the reader to embark upon.

Rev. Joseph F. Classen
*Hunting for God, Fishing for the Lord
Meat & Potatoes Catholicism*

Kathie’s novel is about Gaspar, the youngest of the Magi, the three kings, and his servant, who return to the area of the great adventure of their younger days to discover if “the man has fulfilled the child’s destiny.” Their lives become dependent on the fictional younger brother of Dismas, “The Good Thief.” Besides being a wonderful read, *A King’s Story* is an appropriate gift for friends and family on Easter, Mother’s Day or other special occasions.

Books can be purchased for \$10 each and autographed for free. Kathie will be tithing proceeds from this sale to our Lenten offering for Habitat for Humanity.

LIFE AT HOME ...

Church Council Highlights

February 12, 2008

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

1. Received “thank you” letters from various agencies that had received special gifts from Gethsemane.
2. Met with treasurer Rick Schuessler and received a detailed 2007 Financial Report. Regular giving was \$217,787, which was \$3000 over what was needed for our budget. Gethsemane also benefited from a large amount of interest income. Total income was \$247,372 and expenses were \$240,192. Concerns were raised about costs for utilities and snow removal. Thanks were expressed to Rick for his service as treasurer.
3. Heard a report from Dan Flaxbart about the Endowment Fund Matching Program for 2007 (see elsewhere in the newsletter). Council will decide at the next meeting how to continue this program for 2008.
4. Heard that Staff Reviews would be occurring shortly, and that initial work on a constitutional revision was underway.
5. Pastor Kendra reported being approached by Lutheran Family & Children’s Services about housing a satellite counseling office at Gethsemane that would be available a couple of days a week.

SCHNUCKS COMMUNITY CARD

Please pick up a Schnucks “eScrip” community card at the church, activate the card and present it every time you shop at Schnucks. Schnucks contributes a percentage of your purchase to Gethsemane every time you use the card. **THIS COSTS YOU NOTHING!!!!**

CHOIR

Come and Sing with the Choir for Easter! The choir will soon be rehearsing our music for Easter morning. If you’ve thought about singing in the choir, I encourage you to join us as we prepare music to celebrate our Risen Lord. Even if you can’t make a year-long commitment, we would welcome your voice on Easter morning!

The Choir rehearses Monday evenings at 7:30 in the balcony. **CHILD CARE IS PROVIDED!**

Any questions – call Ann at 314-963-0934 or ptall4@earthlink.net

MINISTRY OF MOTHERS SHARING (MOMS) INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, February 28: 7:00-8:30 pm

MOMS is an 8-week class/group for mothers of ALL ages. It is designed:

- To gather mothers together to form a network of mutual spiritual support.
- To provide a group experience of learning, praying and ministering to each other.
- To introduce mothers to opportunities for personal and spiritual growth in a faith sharing group.
- To increase communication skills and the use of prayer rituals in the home.

It addresses such topics as Self-Esteem, Stress, Self-Acceptance, Worry and Anxiety, Everyday Spirituality, Feelings, Personal Goal Setting, and Values in Friendship, all in a context of Christian support and prayer. If you have questions, please contact Leslie Wobbe (481-0708) or Pastor Kendra.

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?

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!

How is the Date for Easter Determined?

Children / Sunday School

Sunday School Spotlight

March will be an important month for Gethsemane's second graders, who will celebrate their first communion on Palm Sunday, March 16. Each week in Sunday School, these students, along with the first graders, are taught by Betsy Bartholomew and Kate Hartz.

Betsy Bartholomew and her family have been attending Gethsemane for about 10 years. They first came to Gethsemane through VBS and were impressed with the "warm, welcoming and non-judgmental" Gethsemane members. The Bartholomew family includes Betsy, her husband Scott, and their 3 children along with their dog Willy.

Betsy works full time as a media director at Weintraub Advertising in Clayton. She also volunteers as a neighborhood block captain, a CERT member, and with the March of Dimes. When she's not busy with the kids' sports and activities, Betsy enjoys art, crafts, gardening and reading.

Kate Hartz began attending Gethsemane with her husband, Terry, and their children Rachel and Matt in 1993. They became active in Sunday School and VBS before formally becoming members. Kate says they were attracted to Gethsemane by the many opportunities to grow in their faith.

Kate works as a speech/language pathologist in the diagnostic department of Special School District. She evaluates children who have communication disabilities, particularly those who may have autism. In her free time Kate enjoys reading, riding bikes, going to the Symphony and the Fox, and planning family trips. In addition, she has walked two miles in Tower Grove Park nearly every day for the past 15 years!

Thanks to both Betsy and Kate for sharing their faith each week with Gethsemane's 1st and 2nd grade class.

The Sunday school children will be singing during the 11:00 church service on Palm Sunday, March 16. In addition, the second graders will be singing with the adult choir at the 11:00 service on Sunday, March 9.

On Easter Sunday, March 23, Sunday School classes will not meet. Instead there will be Easter themed activities (word puzzles, crafts, etc.) offered in the fellowship hall between services.

Easter and the holidays that are related to it are moveable feasts, in that they do not fall on a fixed date. In Western Christianity, Easter always falls on a Sunday from March 22 to April 25 inclusive. In the Julian calendar used by Eastern Christianity, Easter also always falls on a Sunday from March 22 to April 25 inclusive, which in the Gregorian calendar, due to the 13 day difference between the calendars between 1900 and 2099, are dates from April 4 to May 8 inclusive.

The precise date of Easter has at times been a matter for contention. At the First Council of Nicaea in 325 it was decided that all Christians would celebrate Easter on the same day, which would be a Sunday. It is probable that no method of determining the date was specified by the Council. (No contemporary account of the Council's decisions has survived.) Instead, the matter seems to have been referred to the church of Alexandria, which city had the best reputation for scholarship at the time. The rule has since the Middle Ages been phrased as *Easter is observed on the Sunday after the first full moon on or after the day of the vernal equinox*. However, this does not reflect the actual ecclesiastical rules precisely. The reason for this is that the full moon involved (called the Paschal full moon) is not an astronomical full moon, but an *ecclesiastical* moon. The difference is that the astronomical vernal equinox is a natural astronomical phenomenon, while the *ecclesiastical* vernal equinox is a fixed March 21. Easter is determined from tables which determine Easter based on the ecclesiastical rules described above, which approximate the astronomical full moon.

In applying the ecclesiastical rules, the various Christian Churches use 21 March as their starting point from which they find the next full moon, etc. However because Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches use the Julian Calendar as their starting point, while Western Christianity uses the Gregorian Calendar, the end point, the date for Easter, may diverge. (Wikipedia)

CONFIRMATION

The next Confirmation Class will be Monday, March 31st, from 6:30-8:00 pm.

Thanks to the Confirmation Youth and to Scott Hanson for working with the class to present "The Woman at the Well" during worship on February 24th.

Remember to reserve June 16-20 for the ELCA Metro St. Louis Coalition ConfirCamp at Camp Wartburg! Registration forms are in the mail!

STORIES OF LIFE, HOPE, AND FAITH

Faith, Health, Life *By Shirley Roberts*

Life-changing experiences occur in all lives. Some happy, some sad, and some not recognized until later. I was living a "normal" life. My health was "okay." I was living independently and doing things I enjoyed.

After a CT scan and MRI, the decision was that I needed surgery, because of a disc pressing on the spinal cord. It was explained that there was only a 2% chance of complications. The surgery was successful.

Within 48 hours, a massive infection developed involving the spinal cord. It was a life-threatening situation. The 7-inch incision was opened for drainage. IV antibiotics were started. I remember nothing for days while critically ill. I know God was watching over me and this may have been his protection plan.

When I became aware of what was happening, there were many challenges to face. Problems with memory loss, speech problems, loss of appetite, poor balance and physical weakness had occurred. This was a frightening time. God answered prayers, and I developed determination to do my best. IV antibiotics and dressing changes continued even when I went home after achieving therapy goals. Therapy continued at home. I thought all was going well. After a week, the IV antibiotics were stopped. The incision was healing. However, I was not eating properly or taking enough fluids. I became dehydrated and fell 3 times in 4 days.

I returned to the hospital for rehydration. Depression was present and I wondered what else God had in my future. After 4 days, I went to a skilled nursing facility for continuing incision care and intense therapy in physical therapy and occupational therapy. My appetite finally improved. After spending Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, my birthday, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day there, I went home again. Most memory had returned, speech was clearer, and I was physically stronger. The incision healed.

I am able to start doing things but at a slower pace. I may never be as active as before. I know with God's help, adjustments and changes will occur.

This was a life-changing, difficult time and without God's presence and love it may have ended in a different way. Prayers and other things provided by the congregation, family, and friends contributed to my recovery. Pastor Kendra with calls, visits and Christmas evening communion was a strong support. Mardi with her home nursing care, visits and positive attitude was awesome. Gethsemane is a very caring, compassionate community, and I thank you all!

Health Cabinet

First 2008 Blood Drive! Once again, we are asking you to give the gift of life. Area hospitals depend on our generosity to fill their blood needs. Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be at Gethsemane on Sunday, March 9, 2008 from 8:00am to Noon. Please come prepared to donate. You need to have a picture ID with you. Please eat breakfast the morning of the blood drive.

Mark your calendars now for 2008 Blood Drive Dates: Sun., July 27 (Mobile Unit) and Sun., November 9 (Mobile Unit)

Nutrition Month! March is Nutrition month! That's right! Apple Boy and Grape Girl are due for a visit. This year, we also have two exciting talks lined up for you. Not only will you have nutritious snacks and a visit from our two favorite fruits on March 2nd, Ted Yemm will regale you with fantastic facts on nutrition. Then on March 9, 2008 Mike Elliott will astound you with a candid look at how portion sizes of food have ballooned. Both of these talks will take place in the fellowship hall. So enjoy a doughnut and learn a bit about nutrition (?)

Return of the Happy Hoofers! Komen Walkers, time to look for those walking shoes! June 21st is just around the corner! This year, the Komen Walk for Breast Cancer will take place June 21, 2008. We are looking for walkers! Join us for this fun time of fellowship. We meet at the church, carpool downtown, walk, then return to the church for lunch and talk! Registration will open sometime in March. We will have paper registration forms available or Mardi Manary, Parish Nurse can help you register on-line!

Parish Nurse, Mardi Manary, will be out of town from Wednesday, March 5 through Monday, March 24.

White Breakfast. The White Breakfast was once again a blessed event to start the season of Lent. Thirty eight people gathered for the traditional White Breakfast, followed by an Ash Wednesday worship service led by Pastor Kendra. Pastor's words were especially fitting to this time of preparation for the coming of our savior.

Thanks to Carol Frohlichstein, Lory Bowman, and Mary Thuss who set-up, served, and cleaned up after this event for the last three years. Thanks to all those who contributed food.

Jefferson School is Going Fruity! Fruit Snacks, whether Rolled, by the Foot, or in the Shape of Bears and cartoon characters are needed by Jefferson School for their Friday awards. Our favorite Jefferson School teacher, Ms. O'Shields, allows her class the treat of these fruit candy once a week for good behavior and hard work. So, for the month of March, we are asking you to bring these packaged fruit snacks!

Severe Weather Awareness

March 10-14 is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Missouri. Spring is the prime season for strong storms and tornadoes. Bearing this in mind, now is a good time to review severe weather terminology and review your home plan in case of severe weather.

Severe Weather Alerts: When communicating with the public, the National Weather Service uses specific terminology for specific conditions. It is important to know what these terms mean so that appropriate actions are taken:

Tornado Watch (WT): Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms producing tornadoes in and close to the watch area. Watches are usually in effect for several hours, with 6 hours being the most common. (Also automatically indicates a Severe Thunderstorm Watch)

Tornado Warning (TOR): Tornado is indicated by radar or sighted by storm spotters. The warning will include where the tornado is and what towns will be in its path. (Also automatically indicates a Severe Thunderstorm Warning)

Severe Thunderstorm Watch (WS): Conditions are favorable for the development of severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area. Watches are usually in effect for several hours, with 6 hours being the most common.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning (SVR): Issued when a thunderstorm produces hail 3/4 inch (20 mm) or larger in diameter and/or winds which equal or exceed 58 mph (93 km/h). Severe thunderstorms can result in the loss of life and/or property. Information in this warning includes: where the storm is, what towns will be affected, and the primary threat associated with the storm. Tornadoes can also and do develop in severe thunderstorms without the issuance of a tornado warning.

Flash Flood Watch: Indicates that flash flooding is possible in and close to the watch area. Those in the affected area are urged to be ready to take quick action if a flash flood warning is issued or flooding is observed.

Flash Flood Warning: Signifies a dangerous situation where rapid flooding of small rivers, streams, creeks, or urban areas are imminent or already occurring. Very heavy rain that falls in a short time period can lead to flash flooding, depending on local terrain, ground cover, degree of urbanization, degree of man-made changes to river banks, and initial ground or river conditions.

Home Preparation: Planning ahead is the most effective action that you can take to protect yourself and your family in the event of severe weather. It is important that everyone in the house know how and when to take appropriate shelter when severe weather is a possibility.

- When severe weather approaches, go to the lowest, most central area in the building.
- Have a battery operated or crank operated weather radio available for updates in case you lose power during the event.
- Avoid using telephone or other appliances power through the electric grid.
- Do not take a bath or a shower.
- Cover your head and the heads of small children or get under sturdy furniture if it is available.
- Adults and older children should know how to shut off utilities in your house. If your house is moderately to severely damaged in a storm, shut off water, gas, and electric to prevent accidents.
- **ALL** standing water should be treated as electrified until it can be confirmed that the electricity has been shut off.
- Use flashlights and **DO NOT** turn on light switches until gas has been shut off and all spaces have had an opportunity to air out.
- It is important to have a 72-hour kit in your house in case of emergency. In wide spread emergencies like severe weather, it is possible that supplies like food, water, medication, and activities for children will not be available for at least 72 hours after the event because public safety organizations are overwhelmed by the event.

Educating yourself and your family before an event occurs offers the best protection in case of emergency. By taking some simple steps, you can increase your chances of surviving severe weather and minimize the damage to your life.

Sources: www.wikipedia.org, www.nws.noaa.org

Valentine's Spaghetti Dinner

What fun! 100 members and guests joined in the fun of the 4th Annual Komen Team Spaghetti Dinner! As always, our chairperson, Lory Bowman had everything well organized. True to Lutheran tradition, we had excellent food, fabulous desserts, beautiful music, and leftovers. Thank you to our many workers, especially leaders Peggy Zapf, Margaret Lenhart, Rob Schainker, and Peggy Lewis and each of the many persons who worked the night of the dinner to make it a success. Thanks also to thank Dawn and Ella, Christy and Paula, and Pastor Jeff for their gift of music. Thanks to our confirmands and older kids who helped out with the serving and clean-up. Over \$800 was raised for our team, the Happy Hoofers. (Special Note: We received praise from the City inspector for our immaculate kitchen, excellent food preparation, and hygienic facilities.)



OUR SPONSORS:

VIOLA ARONSSON: In Memory of Loved Ones
KEN & CHERYL BAUER: In Honor of Our Granddaughters, Anna, Gracy, and Harper
DAVE AND JAN BORNEMANN
MARY BRICE
DAN & SUSAN FLAXBART: In Memory of Lynn Flaxbart
LINDA FORD: In Memory of Debbie Dalba
GUSTAFSON FAMILY: In Honor of all Breast Cancer Survivors
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MICHAEL HOGAN: In Honor of Thomas Hogan and In Memory of Ed and Nina Sawyer
THE JENSON FAMILY: In Honor of Lenora Arntson
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ELLA & CONNER LAWRENCE: In Memory of Great-Grandma, Rudy Yerkes
CHARLOTTE MAHNKEN: In Memory of Debbie Dalba
PAULINE MEINECKE: In Honor of All Survivors
MEUSER-SCHIEDT FAMILY: In Honor of Edie Scheidt
WALTER & MARIE MUELLER
GUS & LILLIE NIEBUHR: In Memory of Our Daughter, Debbie Dalba
JOANN OLANDER: In Memory of Elinor Roltsch and Lucille Elmore
EDNA MAY OTTO: In Honor of Loved Ones
FRED & GERI PRAECHTER
SHIRLEY ROBERTS: In Honor of All Survivors
BILL & MARY SCANLAN: In Honor of All Survivors
DEBBIE SCHALLER: In Honor of Gethsemane
AMY SCHOENHERR
ART SCHUMM: In Memory of Mary Schumm
BOB & CYNTHIA TANNER: In Honor of Peggy Cole and In Memory of Lori King
DON & MARY THUSS: In Honor of Carol Freund (Mary's sister) and In Memory of Mert Trierweiler (Don's sister)
YEMM FAMILY: In Honor of April

.. IN OUR
COMMUNITY

Joint Neighborhood Ministry

March is CANNED FRUIT emphasis for Joint Neighborhood Ministry's food pantry. Please stock up on some extra cans of fruit and donate them to Gethsemane during the month of March. Also, thanks to all who so generously donated to the SOUPER BOWL can drive and the noisy offering! We collected 130 cans of soup for Joint Neighborhood Ministry and \$257.35 for Immanuel Lutheran's breakfast program.

The Lynn Schaaf Memorial Lecture

Sunday, March 2, 2008 at 6:00pm

Saint Mark Lutheran Church

North High & East "D" Streets, Belleville, IL

(618) 233-7914

Dr. Fred Niedner, Chair of the Department of Theology at Valparaiso University, will speak on "Dying to be Ambidextrous: Cross-Bearing Disciples as Citizens and Members of Christ's Body." What does it mean to be a Christian citizen, especially in an election year? What does it mean to be a Christian parent, child, spouse, employee, or employer?

Episcopal Recovery Ministries

9 Ridgewood Road, St. Louis, MO 63124

Phone: 314-994-0340

continues its 12 Step Holy Communion services in 2008. Last year's services brought much comfort to people suffering from addiction and their families. Those who attended continue to speak very highly of them and attendance has been growing. One man struggling to come to grips with addiction was so moved by one of the services that he stayed afterward to talk about where and how he could get help. This is why they do it!

12 Step Holy Communion: Are you or someone you care about affected by addiction? All faiths are welcome to celebrate Holy Communion and the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. The 12 Step Holy Communion Schedule is:

Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 5:00pm

Grace Episcopal Church, 514 E. Argonne, Kirkwood
Celebrant: Rev. Sally Weaver; Speaker: Susie Skinner

Sunday, July 27, 2008 at 5:00pm

St. Martins Episcopal Ch., 15764 Clayton Rd, Ellisville
Celebrant: Rev. Sally Weaver; Speaker: TBD

Sunday, October 26, 2008 at 5:00pm

Trinity Episcopal Ch., 600 N. Euclid, CentralWest End
Celebrant: Rev. Sally Weaver; Speaker: Howard Park

Additional information available at

www.MissouriEpiscopalRecovery.org

Did you know...that a “Women in Recovery” Group meets at Gethsemane every Saturday morning at 10:30 am? This is an all-female group of Al-Anon Adult Children. Meetings are closed except for anyone who personally has been affected by close contact with a problem drinker.

River’s Edge

Via de Cristo (Way of Christ)

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

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.

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.



Mission Interpreters

God’s Work. Our Hands.

Stories of Faith in Action

Making Poverty History through the ONE Campaign

Did YOUR mom say, “Eat your vegetables there are children starving in India”? Or Africa, or Asia, or... Unfortunately, mom was right. There are ONE billion people across the globe living in extreme poverty. Extreme poverty is defined as someone living on less than ONE dollar each day. And, while mom was also right about eating our vegetables, we know that this is not the solution to global poverty.

At Gethsemane Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO, a group of congregants studied Jeffrey Sachs’ book, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. Mr. Sachs writes that the problem of extreme poverty IS solvable: we have the knowledge and the tools to make poverty history by the second decade of this century. As a result, Gethsemane members were inspired to join the ONE campaign and to become a ONE ELCA congregation. See www.css-elca.org/missioninterpreter.html for the complete story.

ONE is the campaign to make poverty history. It was formed in 2003 and is composed of Americans of all beliefs and every walk of life – over 2.4 million people united as ONE. The campaign represents 50 states and over 100 of America’s most well-known and respected non-profit, advocacy and humanitarian organizations. As ONE, Americans are raising public awareness about the issues of global poverty, hunger, disease and efforts to fight such problems in the world’s poorest countries. As ONE, Americans are asking our leaders to:

- Direct an additional one percent of the U.S. budget to address extreme poverty.
- Support debt relief for the world’s poorest countries to help them meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Make the rules of international trade fair so all may benefit from the global economy.

At Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO, a group of individuals came to the realization that they were limited on how much they could do as a congregation to end global poverty and inspired by how much they could do if they could influence Congress, with the help of others, to act in order to end global poverty. They organized a letter writing campaign through their congregation as well as through their community’s Annual CROP Hunger Walk in September, 2007. The congregation discovered that

many did respond by writing letters and that “people really did care about helping. They just hadn’t been shown how.” Read more at www.css-elca.org/missioninterpreter.html.

In June of 2005 Bishop Mark Hanson wrote, “I affirm the Millennium Development Goals and I now invite Lutherans to join me in supporting the **ONE Campaign.**” Many synods are committed to ONE and have urged their congregations to become ONE Lutheran Congregations, including the Delaware-Maryland Synod, Western Iowa Synod, the DC Metro Synod and the Northwest Washington Synod. In addition, more than half of the 65 ELCA Synods have identified a ONE Lutheran leader to help promote and coordinate ONE activities in their synod.

In Central States Synod, Bishop Gerald Mansholt wrote in the synod October, 2007 newsletter: “I have been wearing a white wristband in recent days. I encourage members of this synod to join the Lutheran ONE campaign. Why would Lutherans get so involved politically, so publicly? Because God has made us one in Jesus Christ, we get to put that love and unity into action. Because Jesus keeps showing up among the poor, we get to learn new things about what it means to be one in Christ. Show me your wristband!”

Individuals are invited to join the ONE Campaign and pledge their voice to the fight against extreme poverty and global AIDS at www.one.org and congregations are invited to become a ONE ELCA congregation at www.elca.org/advocacy/one. The goal of ending poverty may seem lofty, but it is within our reach if we take action together as ONE. We CAN be the last generation to hear, “there are children starving....”

We thank individuals and congregations of Central States Synod for their efforts to raise awareness as well as mission support for world poverty.

ONE THE CAMPAIGN
TO MAKE
POVERTY HISTORY



“If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.”
Isaiah 58:10

Energized to Make a Difference – Gethsemane Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO Helping to lead others to “Make Poverty History Through the ONE Campaign”

Be careful what you read, it can change your life!

In 2006 a book changed the minds and hearts of members of a congregation in South St. Louis city. Dr. Mark Manary, a pediatrician at St. Louis Children’s

Hospital, agreed to lead an adult class at his home church, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO. He wanted to study and discuss Jeffrey Sachs’ 2005 book, The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time. Mr. Sachs has been called the world’s most influential living economist.

Over the course of that spring and summer a group of Gethsemane members met and learned about Mr. Sachs’ view of the world economy, how and why wealth has diverged across the planet and why the poorest countries have been unable to escape extreme poverty. They discussed the issues faced by these nations and the possible solutions that can bring the end to poverty in the world’s poorest countries by 2015.

This book so energized and inspired these readers that they asked, “What now?” The answer to that question for us was: The ONE Campaign, the campaign to make poverty history. Gethsemane members discovered that Gethsemane could become a ONE ELCA congregation and become involved in spreading information and support for the movement to raise public awareness about the issue of global poverty, hunger, disease and efforts to fight such problems in the world’s poorest countries. The ONE Campaign lobbies U.S. leaders to allocate one percent of the federal budget toward providing basic needs like health, education, clean water and food to transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation.

During the past year and a half, Gethsemane ONE members have

- *Joined with the local St. Louis ONE chapter to call on Missouri Senators Kit Bond’s and Claire McCaskill’s offices*
- *Sponsored a ONE information table at the Central States Synod Assembly in June, 2007*
- *Worked with ONE St. Louis on a “Stand Up Against Poverty” event at a local university in October, 2007*
- *Provided educational opportunities for adults and children at Gethsemane concerning global poverty*
- *Provided letter-writing opportunities for Gethsemane members to contact legislators on The Farm Bill and The Jubilee Act*

In the coming year, Gethsemane ONE plans to continue these efforts and to sponsor a ONE resolution at the 2008 Central States Synod Assembly.

Individuals and congregations can learn more about becoming a ONE Lutheran, the ONE Campaign and becoming a ONE ELCA congregation at www.elca.org/advocacy/one.

Linda Ford
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, ELCA
St. Louis, MO, December 21, 2007

“Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.” Psalm 82:3

Endowment Fund Matching Gift Program

At its meeting on March 13, 2007, the Congregation Council adopted the following resolution:

Moved that the Congregation Council approve a Matching Gift Program for 2007 designating up to \$10,000 for this purpose using income received in 2006 from the Endowment Fund as a way to encourage designated new giving by our members to seven special mission opportunities (World Hunger/Disaster Relief, Project Peanut Butter, Rafiki Foundation, Panama, International Partners in Mission, Joint Neighborhood Ministries, and Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity/St. Louis) that have historically been supported by individual members and the congregation. Each of the seven identified ministries would be highlighted for one month through bulletin and Messenger announcements during the course of the year. \$1000 will be reserved to make matching donations for each of the seven groups. The remaining \$3000 will be distributed proportionately according to donations received through December 2007.

We are happy to report that members of the congregation responded to this program by contributing over \$12,225 to the ministries that were identified as eligible for a match. (There may also be members who made direct contributions to these and other ministry opportunities). With the matching funds of \$10,000 added to this total, more than \$22,225 was donated to these ministries. Below is a summary of the total amounts received and the amount of funds that were matched.

<u>Mission</u>	<u>Income from Contributions</u>	<u>Match from Endowment Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
World Hunger	\$397.30	\$397.30	\$794.60
Project Peanut Butter	\$3,588.95	\$2,649.02	\$6,237.97
Rafiki	\$345.00	\$345.00	\$690.00
Panama	\$2,904.75	\$2,213.22	\$5,117.97
IPM	\$1,125.00	\$1,207.01	\$2,332.01
JNM	\$1,935.00	\$1,595.54	\$3,530.54
Thrivent/Habitat	\$1,930.87	\$1,592.91	\$3,523.78
Total	\$12,226.87	\$10,000.00	\$22,226.87

Based on the positive response to last year's program, the Congregation Council will be considering at its March 2008 meeting reauthorizing the Matching Fund program using income that is available for distribution in 2008 based on the 6% of the Endowment Fund balance as of December 31, 2007.



* The changes or events that occur in our lives.

Congratulations to Gethsemane Trivia

Night Team who once again came in first at the annual Lutheran Campus Ministry Trivia Night on Sat. Feb. 23rd. That's 3 years in a row at NO.1!!!

Good-Bye Roberta!

Roberta Wolters attended GLC for just a few short weeks before cancer hospitalized her and ultimately took her life. Roberta provided Pr. Kendra and me with a unique gift, the chance to care for the stranger. Pastor and I barely knew Roberta when we became her support and friends. She had a very lonely life, one scattered

with failed relationships. It would have seemed easy to cast Roberta back on one of the churches from whom she felt estranged and yet both Pastor and I felt drawn by God to this woman. Roberta didn't share words of wisdom or spiritual jewels with us. These were not "Tuesdays with Morrie." These were painful, raw visits with a woman struggling for life and fearful of death. Yet, we knew it was our place to be at her side. Each day, her distress grew; each day she struggled for life. She railed at death, wanting no part of it. Her last day, when death was eminent, Roberta was barely conscious. I watched her painful breathing and her eyes met mine. "How are you, Roberta?" She held my hand and said nothing. As I left, her eyes closed. The next morning, she died. Roberta was barely with us, yet she was sent by God. I give you no reason why God sent her to GLC, but I do not doubt that we were part of his plan for her.

Good-Bye, Roberta! God be with you. *Mardi*

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. We visited a newcomer in the resurgent Morganford business district in the Tower Grove South neighborhood. Three Monkeys is located at 3153 Morganford at Juniata. It's in an old building that has been rehabbed to fit into the atmosphere of the neighborhood. It's not very big, and there is no nonsmoking area, but that hasn't seemed to keep it from quickly becoming a bustling place. We arrived at 5:30 on a Tuesday evening and were lucky to get a table. By the time we left, there were several parties waiting to be seated. One of the unusual features of this bar/restaurant is that they are open seven days a week and serve breakfast off the menu on Saturdays, and a breakfast buffet on Sundays. The lunch and dinner menu consists of appetizers, salads, sandwiches, pastas, pizzas, barbecued ribs, and entrees. In keeping with the name of the restaurant, many of the items on the menu have a jungle theme in their names.

Our small group of four was only able to sample a few items. Two of us picked the Fall Off the Bone salad. It resembled a Cobb salad, with the toppings arranged in rows on top of the salad greens. The differences were shredded barbecue beef instead of bacon, and mixed shredded cheese instead of blue cheese crumbles. The sweetness of the barbecue sauce was somewhat odd when mixed with salad dressing, but overall, the consensus was that it was pretty tasty. One of the unusual side items offered at Three Monkeys is a fried potato salad. One order was placed for all of us sample. The potato salad is made of fried cubed potatoes instead of boiled potatoes, and the dressing is somewhat like a ranch dressing with a lot dill added in. It's unusual, but a nice change from most restaurant potato salad that comes from a can. One diner ordered Jungle Love. It's not as racy as it sounds. It is the Three Monkeys' version of nachos, consisting of fire roasted tortilla chips covered in spicy ground beef, shredded barbecue beef, cheese, lettuce, salsa, black olives, jalapenos, and sour cream on the side. It's really quite good, but if you're not a fan of jalapenos, be sure to ask them to use a light hand or you will get about a quarter cup of sliced jalapenos. The final item ordered was the wood fired Quick Sand Pizza. It came on a hand tossed crust, and is a meat lover's delight, covered with sausage, pepperoni, bacon, and andouille sausage. It topped our list of choices, and was made even better by being half price during happy hour.

Happy hour runs from 3 to 6 pm, and includes other daily drink specials.

You can see the menu at their web site, www.3monkeysstl.com. It does not include the lunch sandwich specials, which includes several sandwiches not on the regular menu, or their desserts. One other thing to note – the tables and chairs are taller than normal dining size, but shorter than regular bar size. Most of the chairs have backs, so you won't feel like you're going to fall off, and they are not so tall as to make short people jump to sit down.

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MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	1
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:50am Sunday School Between Services: Nutrition Month Speaker, Ted Yemm 3:00pm First Communion Class	4:00pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Evening Prayer		Pastor's Day Off	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
BLOOD DRIVE: 8:00am-Noon 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:50am Sunday School Between Services: Nutrition Month Speaker, Mike Elliott 3:00pm First Communion Class	4:00pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm Church Council	10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Soup Supper <i>(hosted by the Health Cabinet)</i> 7:00pm Evening Prayer		Pastor's Day Off	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
PALM SUNDAY 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship First Communion for 2 nd Graders 9:50am Sunday School	4:00pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		NO BIBLE STUDY	MAUNDY THURSDAY 7pm – Worship Service	GOOD FRIDAY Noon – Worship Service 7pm – Worship Service	EASTER VIGIL 7:00pm - Worship
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Between Services: Breakfast	NO BELL REHEARSALS NO CHOIR REHEARSAL		10:00am Bible Study	7:00pm Staff Support	Pastor's Day Off	
30	31	April 1	April 2			
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:50am Sunday School	4:00pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal 11:00am Rachel Circle <i>Marion Grana, hostess</i>	7:00pm Worship Comm.	7:00pm Health Cabinet			