

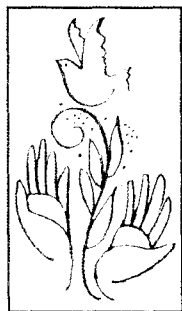
# MESSENGER

## GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

NOVEMBER 2008

VOLUME #1 15: ISSUE #11



God's Work,  
Our Hands-  
Sharing the  
Gift of  
God's Grace

Over the next few weeks, we will be celebrating and giving thanks for all of the wonderful things that happen here at Gethsemane. We will look to the future to see how we can extend our ministries in continuing thanks to God. Our Stewardship theme for the weeks ahead will be **God's Work, Our Hands – Sharing the Gift of God's Grace.**

We will be lifting up the ministries which our congregation already provides and challenging ourselves to grow in our mission and outreach.

Your presence is requested at one of our three Mid-week Mission Meals:

- Wednesday, November 12, 2008 10:00AM – 12:00 Noon  
Mid-week Fun, Faith, & Food **or**  
Wednesday, November 12, 2008 6:00PM – 8:00PM  
Mid-week Food, Fun, & Faith **or**  
Thursday, November 13, 2008 6:00PM – 8:00PM  
Mid-week Food, Fun, & Faith

**Please sign up at church or by calling the church office to attend one of these special occasions for fellowship and growth.** Food will be catered by the One World Neighborhood Café, a collaborative venture to enhance the lives of socially and economically marginalized women and their families by promoting and celebrating the benefits of their racial and ethnic diversity and by creating access to meaningful jobs that pay a living wage and benefits.

Then, on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, there will be **ONE SERVICE ONLY** at 10:00AM, followed by a **Mission Party**. During worship, we will offer our commitments of financial giving for 2009. During the Mission Party, we will see the variety of mission and ministry opportunities at Gethsemane and offer our time and talent. The Mission Party will be a culmination of our efforts to celebrate how we Share the Gift of God's Grace and to show how Our Hands can become more involved in the day-to-day outreach of our church family and beyond. Also, at the Mission Party, there will be a Chili and Cookie Cook-off – an opportunity for you to sample the best of our Lutheran recipes!

Join us and show your appreciation to a gracious and giving God!!  
Everyone's presence is important!!

### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

November 2, 2008

#### **Life Review: Telling Your Story**

Sunday, Nov. 2, at 10am in the Chapel

#### **Blood Drive**

Sunday, Nov. 9 from 8:00am-Noon

#### **MID-WEEK MISSION MEALS**

Wednesday, Nov. 12

10:00am-Noon

6:00-8:00pm

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:00-8:00pm

#### **ONE SERVICE ONLY**

Sunday, Nov. 16 at 10:00am

#### **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

Sunday, Nov. 16

Mission Party, Chili and Cookie Cook-Off following the 10:00 service

#### **TOWN HALL MEETINGS:**

Sunday, Nov. 23, 10:00am --

**Partnership for Missional Church**  
Sunday, Nov. 30, 10:00am --

**Preparing for the Congregational Meeting**

## Sundays in November :

### Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>: All Saints' Sunday

*(Daylight Savings Time Ends)*

We give thanks for the communion of saints—past, present, and future.

We remember those members of Gethsemane who died during the past year: **Charles Bergmann, Margaret Cerney, Ralph Hensel, James Menown, Adeline Stehlin, Gloria Watson, and Virginia Winters.**

And those who were baptized: **Adam Bernstein, Lindsey Garland, Noah Jenson, Will Kelly, Sheila Smith, and Avery Williams.**

### Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

On this Veterans' Day weekend, we welcome **Chaplain Peter Muschinske** as our preacher. Pastor Muschinske has been a pastor of the ELCA since 1992. For the first thirteen years he served full time as a pastor of congregations in California and Wisconsin and part time as a Navy Reserve Chaplain. In January of 2006 he was recalled to active duty in order to deploy to Iraq with the

“Seabees”—Naval Mobile Construction Battalion two-five—out of Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. He left his family and Faith Lutheran Church of Marshfield, Wisconsin, for a flock that included Seabees, Sailors, Marines, Soldiers and civilians of numerous nations. After nine months away from home, he returned to his congregation. Two months later he was asked to return to active duty, to facilitate the recruitment of seminarians and clergy of all faiths. He has served in this capacity since May of 2007. He and his wife, Katie, and their three children, Nicole, Erik and Lianna, now reside in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

**Sunday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>: Stewardship Mission Sunday**  
*One Service Only at 10:00am, followed by the Mission Party (with Chili and Cookie Cook-off!). Sunday School children will sing during worship.*

### **Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Christ the King Sunday**

**Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**  
During Advent, we will be using Setting 4 “Light of Christ” from the *With One Voice* hymnal. Each week, there will be a special Advent drama.

## November Adult Forums: 10:00am-10:50 am each Sunday

**Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>: “Life Review: Telling Your Story”** by Dr. Tom Meuser, Gethsemane member and Director of the Gerontology Department at UMSL. You will enjoy his casual approach as he leads participants in an engaging adventure on life review and life story, including formats of video, recording, written and scrapbook methods for creating your life story...for future generations.

**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: "Our Church on the Front Lines: Chaplaincy and the Church in the Military, Combat and Iraq"** with Chaplain Peter Muschinske.

**Sunday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Gethsemane Town Hall Meeting: What is Partnership for Missional Church?** Come and find out more about this proposal for Gethsemane to participate in a St. Louis cluster of ELCA congregations in a journey of spiritual discernment that has empowered congregations worldwide to respond to God's call, so that their outreach and life together as a church are witnesses for Jesus Christ, in their context today. (See description below.)

**Sunday, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>: Gethsemane Town Hall Meeting, Part 2: Preparing for the Congregational Meeting**

### Reminder to Committee Chairs:

Annual Reports are due to the Church Office by November 16<sup>th</sup>!

(Electronic format is the best.)

# Partnership for Missional Church (PMC)

Partnership for Missional Church is a three to five year journey that engages denominations and congregations in practices that help them discern what God is up to in their place, what is referred to as God's preferred and promised future. The program works with synod staff (Bishops and their assistants), pastors and many levels of lay leadership to guide and assess the process. Clusters of 12-16 congregations gather in a three year journey. The PMC cluster meets three times per year for three years, called Phases.

**Phase One - Discovery:** Congregations meet together to use tools, learn processes and share what they are learning about themselves and the ways they act as a community.

**Phase Two - Experimenting:** Missional Engagement Teams (MET) take on the task of identifying and addressing the needs, challenges and desires identified in the Discovery Phase. They then experiment with how they might shape and change how

the congregation responds to the preferred and promised future God has in mind for them.

**Phase Three - Visioning for Embodiment:** This phase turns to the development of five documents that will help shape and guide the congregation into its future. Documents are: Statement for Missional Vocation, Vision for Embodiment, Strategic Plan, Smart Plans of Action, and Staff Covenant.

**Phase Four - Learning and Growing (Optional):** Many congregations realize at the end of Phase Three that they were just at the beginning of significant and long lasting change. There are many ways for them to move forward and continue the journey of learning, experimenting, planning and effectively executing their plans.

The costs associated with this program are \$3,000 a year for the congregation and \$25,000 a year for the Central States Synod.

The expected outcomes are many, but a few key developments are: A God-centered, biblical vision for mission; Ownership of the mission of the congregation by more members; Both a vision for mission and a practical plan of action to achieve it; strengths of the tradition of the congregation; dramatic expansion of lay involvement; higher participation in continuing education; decision process for planning activities and budget; faithful and hospitable congregation; beneficial long term relationships with other Partner congregations.

Statistics of the program: 17% median growth in worship attendance over a 5 year period; 77% correlation to the longevity of pastorate; 74% correlation to increased lay leader base; 62% correlation to developing a new constituency base in situations of high social change. However, more than "measurable outcomes," congregations report a renewed sense of vitality, leadership, and spirituality.

## LIFE AT HOME ...

### Endowment Fund Matching Gift Program

We want to remind all members of the matching gift opportunity for giving to eight special mission opportunities. Earlier this year the Church Council approved for a second year the Matching Gift Program using earnings from the Endowment Fund. \$10,000 has been designated for this program as a way to encourage designated new giving by our members to several missions that we have traditionally supported. The ministries eligible for this match are:

- *ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Relief*
- *Project Peanut Butter*
- *Nancy Bond's Work with the Rafiki Foundation*
- *Panama Mission*
- *International Partners in Mission*
- *Joint Neighborhood Ministries*

- *Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity/St. Louis*
- *CHADS: Communities Healing Adolescent Depression & Suicide*

Just under \$4,000 had been contributed to these ministries through the end of September, so \$6,000 is still available for matching funds for gifts received before the end of the year. Checks should be made payable to Gethsemane, with the organization noted in the memo line. After adding the matching funds from the Endowment Fund, a check for the entire amount will be sent to the respective ministry at the end of the year with a list of those who made donations.

## **Church Council Highlights:**

**October 14, 2008**

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

1. Met with Pastor Len Dale from the Central States Synod Office about the Partnership for Missional Church Process. PMC is a process for congregational renewal and mission in which 12-15 congregations are clustered for 3-5 years. It is a process to help congregations discern what God is up to through 4 phases: Discovery, Experimenting, Visioning for Embodiment, and Learning and Growth. The Synod has invested a significant amount of money and staff; participating congregations commit \$3000 per year. The Council is favorably inclined toward participating. Discussed holding a couple of congregational forums to get out the information about the process.
2. Received a Treasurer's Report that showed regular and loose giving as \$3700 behind budgeted needs.
3. Welcomed new members to the Gethsemane Faith Community: Rodney Jones, Laura Pearce, Theresa Hopfer, Chris Kleine, and Henrietta Hegdahl.
4. Heard an update on the South Side Revival for February 6-7, "Spark the Spirit."
5. Approved a request for Memorial Funds to purchase a percussion ensemble.
6. Made plans for the Congregational Meeting on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> to approve the Revised Constitution.
7. Heard about this year's Stewardship Program: "God's Work – Our Hands: Share the Gift of God's Grace." Every committee/ministry/team is asked to set up a display table for the Mission Party on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be one service only at 10 am that day, followed by the Mission Party. The Mission Party will include a Chili and Cookie Cook-Off.
8. Received a report from the Property Renovation Task Force that they had been in conversation with an architect. The priority is on accessibility issues: ramp, bathrooms, elevator, and entryway. They hope to have a design prior to the Annual Meeting.

### **FAITH SHARING GROUP**

The Gethsemane Small Group is now reading Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together" and using the *Companions in Christ* Small-Group Experience in Spiritual Formation series as a guide for their bi-weekly meetings. Our purpose is to get together and share faith, scripture, and reflections. The next meetings are on Thursday, Nov. 6 and Nov. 20, from 7-8:30pm. Call Joe Epplin (314 351 6598) for more information and for location.

*Thanks, Joe Epplin*

## **Financial Update**

Just as our members are seeking to keep their households afloat in the midst of the current economic storm, we are being buffeted by higher than anticipated utility and maintenance costs. Without those extra expenses our budget would be in great shape. We want to thank all who have continued to give in these times of financial uncertainty. Our congregation has no other way to survive other than through your generous offerings shared in the faith and trust that God will provide.

Through the first three quarters of this year, we anticipated budgeted expenses of \$185,324 and actually spent \$188,327 so we've over spent our budget to date by about \$3,000. This takes into account that we have over spent the line items for maintenance and utilities by \$14,411 during this time. This amount includes \$6,352 spent on heating and a/c repairs, \$3,086 on roofing repairs, and \$8,050 to Custom Tree and Lawn service. There have been times when members have had to literally "bail us out."

Our combined income for the first three quarters was \$170,867, which included \$18,421 in interest and miscellaneous income but no endowment fund support. Based on our previous three years giving pattern, we anticipated income of \$172,703, which is \$1,836 less than we actually received. If we used the  $\frac{3}{4}$  amount of our annual budget, we would be \$13,782 behind on our anticipated giving. Although we are well aware of the financial constraints that many are facing this year, we hopefully look forward to another strong year-end finish.

A third way to look at the budget is to compare income to expenses. Using the figures noted above, our expenses have exceeded our income by \$17,460. Fortunately, we began the year with a cushion so we have been able to pay all our bills. Income generally exceeds expenses during the last two months of the year, so we anticipate the final number to be much lower. This does have important implications, however, as we begin to plan for our budget for 2009.

The dilemma we share as a community of faith is one of vision and responsibility. We believe God is calling us to great opportunities through the work of this congregation. So on one hand, the challenge is to respond with boldness and faith, trusting that God will provide. On the other hand, we recognize that these are indeed severe economic times that will require sacrifice and difficult choices because of reduced income, including for us as a congregation. How shall we proceed? Should programs and ministries be increased or reduced? What about salaries? Do we invest in upgrading our physical plant or continue to apply band-aids? Your prayerful response to the upcoming stewardship emphasis and your own consideration of what you plan to give in the coming year will help us answer these questions.

*Dan Flaxbart, Finance Chairperson*

## Blessing of the Animals Service

was Saturday, October 4. It was a beautiful day on the front lawn of our church when we offered prayers for health, long life and happiness for our beloved animal friends. The afternoon also included songs of thanksgiving and refreshments, including dog and cat treats. Each animal received a special blessing; this year 17 dogs, 2 cats and 2 rabbits were blessed! Offerings benefited the Humane Society of Missouri and Stray Rescue.



## RACHEL CIRCLE

All women are invited to attend the next gathering of the Rachel Circle on Monday, November 24th at 11:30am at the church. For more information, call Edna May Otto, hostess for November.

## Confirmation

**Confirmation Classes** will be held on Mondays, November 3 and 17 from 6:30-8:00 pm.

**All junior and senior high youth are invited to help with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Rake and Run! Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, following the Mission Party!!**

## GYG

We're on our way! Registration forms were sent in for 7 youth and 3 adults. Over 32,000 youth and adults have registered to date – there's still room! So please contact Pastor Kendra or Lisa Mantia if you are still interested! We'd love to have you participate in this awesome servant school opportunity!



**All junior and senior high youth are invited to help with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Rake and Run! Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, following the Mission Party!!**

Sunday morning class continues to meet with Jen Meyer in the Youth "Stage" Room!!

## Children / Sunday School

In last month's Messenger, you saw pictures of the Sunday school children singing, studying and learning. You may have wondered just what the children are learning in Sunday school these days. This month, a roving reporter was sent to the Sunday school classrooms to ask the children what they had learned, and this is what she found:

The 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade class was studying Hebrews 11, which they said told stories about heroes in Bible times. Jacob reported that Samson shut the mouth of the lion, and Paul said that Rahab, who was the only woman they learned about, hid Israelite spies in her home. KT told the reporter about an interesting circle they had discovered – Jesus had to flee to Egypt when he was a boy because Herod was killing all the baby boys, and Moses escaped from Egypt when he was a baby because Pharaoh was killing the baby boys.

In the 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, Justin said he had learned that we serve God by serving others. Kaitlyn and Brenna both learned that God's way includes, "love God, Worship God, love parents, no stealing, no killing." In the Kindergarten room, Sam had listened to a song asking "Who will be the next king?" (The answer was David). Will learned that David had a good heart and took good care of sheep, while Rowan said she had learned how special we all are.

The preschool class was a little shy about sharing, so the roving reporter and teachers had to ask more questions. The exchange went something like this:

Roving Reporter: "What did you learn in Sunday school today?"

Olivia: "God."  
Teacher: "What did God do?"  
Ben: "He helped the guy."  
Teacher: "Was the guy's name David? What did God help him do?"  
Mykaela: "Throw the stones!"  
Teacher: "He threw stones at Goliath. What happened to Goliath?"  
Jeremy: "He fell down like this!" (Jeremy falls on the floor.)

As you can see, all of Gethsemane's Sunday school classes have been busy studying and learning God's

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGING ON NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT THE 10:00 SERVICE:** That's right, you don't want to miss being at church on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> to hear the Sunday School children sing!!!

word. If you see a young person on Sunday morning around 10:45, I encourage you to ask them what they learned in Sunday school.

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There will be **NO REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL** on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, since there is one church service followed by the Mission Party. You will be able to visit the Sunday school table at the Mission Party to learn more about how we share the gift of God's grace through Sunday school.

Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, so that Sunday school students will have an opportunity to help create greeting cards which will be used by Mardi Manary when she visits members or sends them notes on behalf of Gethsemane. Everyone is welcome to join us in this project on Sunday, November 30 between services.

## Health Cabinet

### **BLOOD DRIVE: Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008**

We are hoping to make this the best blood drive of the year! We will be calling each and every one of you and asking you to give. Please give! It is relatively painless, simple, and a great way to care for another.

### **Christmas at Jefferson School!**

Although we do not want to take away from the primary Christmas Benevolent Activity at Gethsemane-the Joint Neighborhood Ministry's Adopt-A-Family campaign, we do want to again collect children's gloves and hats for the two kindergarten classes at Jefferson School. We ask that you remember these items as you shop this holiday!!

# STORIES OF LIFE, HOPE, AND FAITH

By Laura Begley

Merriam Webster Online gives the definition to coincidence and fate as follows:

*Coincidence: the occurrence of events that happen at the same time by accident but seem to have some connection*

*Fate: the will or principle or determining cause by which things in general are believed to come to be as they are or events to happen as they do*

Whatever you call it, as a Christian I believe it is God knowing what you need and when you need it. I have seen this in my life in many ways. One particular way has occurred in the past few years with a relationship with two friends.

Leslie Wobbe and I met over 3 years ago when we were both looking for a geographically close friendship while we raised our 3 and 1 year old boys. I was pregnant and not getting out much and Leslie was adjusting to her new station in life. We met in the alley after I questioned her husband; does your wife stay home? Do you have kids? How many? Ages? Boys or girls? A friendship was born. Coincidence, fate or God? Leslie had 2 boys like me, months apart from mine, and we were both reeling with the terrible threes. Leslie, Royal, Ronin, Sam, Gabe and I had a wonderful summer and over the coming fall and winter developed a great friendship.

God's next friendship blessing came in May of 2006. Jon and I were walking the boys late at night around the block. We were in front of the house behind ours and 3 away from Leslie's. We knew they had at least one child but we had never seen the mom and rarely the child. The family was all outside getting ready for a trip to Texas

when I stuck up a conversation. I saw she ( Troy ) had a child around Sam and Royal's age as well as one close to Ben's age (my newest baby). She also had boys and seemed really nice but quiet. A week later I told Leslie to invite her to her Pampered Chef party and she came. The three of us sat on Leslie's patio after everyone else left and talked until after midnight.

None of us would know why we were truly brought together until after that summer. We spent a couple evenings a week meeting in the alley talking about a rough day or celebrating our children's good days. Ultimately we developed a network where we could call and someone would be there. We traded babysitting, we shared meals, and raised our kids in what we referred to as "The Village." This network was tested when Troy had a traumatic family experience where she needed to take care of her self yet know her children were safe. She called Leslie to tell her what she needed and did not worry again. God brought us together so Troy could be someone else's hero. Leslie's mom died after a long battle with mental illness. God brought us together so she could sit at the hospital and hold her hand as her mom went with Jesus. My situation was never as dramatic yet no less important. I knew whenever I needed I had 2 people who would take care of my kids as though they were their own. Most people go a lifetime without ever having the trust and friendship we have forged. Is it a lifelong friendship? I hope so. I do know it is a friendship designed by God not fate or coincidence. I know it is a gift. Wherever I go, I will know God gives you what you need when you need it; just ask me or my friends Leslie and Troy.

## IN OUR COMMUNITY ...

### RELATIONSHIP ENHANCEMENT WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the ELCA South Cluster

*Newly married? Married for years? Engaged? Where do we go from here?*

*Every Journey Needs a Good Compass!*

When: Mondays (Jan. 12, 19 and 26, 2009)

Time: 5:30pm to 8:15pm

Where: Christ Lutheran Church, 1 Selma Ave. in Webster Groves (at Lockwood)

**SPACE IS LIMITED!!!**

Registration by Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> is required to attend.  
Call (314) 754-2758 or contact Pr. Kendra.

**FREE** -- Refreshments and Childcare

- > *Learn how to talk about the tough stuff*
- > *Learn ways to keep your relationship fresh*
- > *Get the most out of your relationship*
- > *Enjoy life together*

## Educational Inequity: Our Nation's Greatest Injustice

Did you know that...

- > Fourth graders growing up in low-income communities are already three grade levels behind their peers in high-income communities.
- > About 50 percent of them won't graduate from high school by the time they're 18 years old.
- > Those who do graduate will perform on average at an eighth-grade level.

**The Geography of Opportunity:** These educational disparities unfairly limit the life prospects of the 13 million children growing up in poverty today, impacting their earning potential, voter participation, civic engagement and community involvement as they grow into adulthood. The zip code these children were born into has become a major determining factor in their life outcomes.

**Do these facts disturb you???? Do they make you thankful for the education you and/or your children have received??? Want to do something that directly impacts the future of our nation?????**

### ***VOLUNTEER AT FROEBEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!!!***

Some factors that contribute to educational inequity are that 1) children growing up in low-income communities face extra challenges and 2) schools and school systems lack sufficient capacity to meet students' extra needs.

I am currently working at a St. Louis Public Elementary School through Teach For America, a program determined to end educational inequity in America. I teach special education students in kindergarten through second grade. Our school is in desperate need of extra help and would be happy to have members of Gethsemane volunteer their time and services. There are volunteer opportunities for anyone (you do not have to work with children if you do not want to), no matter your skills, talents, age, interests, or abilities. Please inquire with me about volunteer opportunities at our school and/or educational inequity. Any little bit of help will make a significant impact on the students, the school, and the state of education in our country.

[lingsayschuessler@gmail.com](mailto:lingsayschuessler@gmail.com) OR (314) 496-1382

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### **FROM ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS:**

**Division of Early Childhood Education-Parents As Teachers** is hiring qualified full-time and part-time individuals as Parent Educators. Early Childhood experience and education are required. The selected candidates will be sent to the Parents As Teachers National Center for certification and added to the SLPS Parents As Teachers staff. Call 314-771-4626 x605 for additional information or email your resume to: [Sharon.crandell@slps.org](mailto:Sharon.crandell@slps.org).

SLPS is hosting the ***Building Our Future: One Community, One School, One Child at a Time Summit, Part II*** on **Sat., Nov. 8th**, from 9am-12:30pm, at Vashon High School (3035 Cass, 63106). Childcare provided for children ages 1-12.

## November emphasis for Joint Neighborhood Ministry is **CEREAL**

That's right. All kinds--your choice. This is nourishment that can be eaten right out of the box. So, please include an extra box of cereal in your grocery cart this month to donate to our struggling neighbors. There is a grocery cart in the upper level hallway for all Joint Neighborhood Ministry donations of any nonperishable food and personal care items. Thank you for your continuing support in these tough economic times!

Thanks to all who stood up against global poverty and for the Millennium Development Goals on Stand Up Sunday, October 19th. 64 folks were documented by photo and results sent to the worldwide website. Congratulations, Gethsemane, for refusing to stay seated in the face of poverty and hunger!

### **Don't forget--Holiday Adopt-A-Family is coming in November...**

The "Adopt-A-Family" is coming! We will have the opportunity to help people through Joint Neighborhood Ministry. Details will come soon.

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## **NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR BRINGS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL TO CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

**December 20, 4:30pm and 7:30pm - 1210 Locust Street**

The National Lutheran Choir's mission is to strengthen, renew and preserve the Lutheran heritage of choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature. The 22-year tradition of National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival performances in their home city of Minneapolis will come to St. Louis this year in two performances at Christ Church Cathedral, December 20, 4:30pm and 7:30pm.

The 60-voice National Lutheran Choir, directed by Music Dir. David Cherwien, performs "Love Incarnate." More than just another concert, it is distinguished by the choir's moving from place to place, singing from all corners of the cathedral space, poetry and scripture interspersed with the music, and audience-participation carols. This year's festival features music by Praetorius, Gabrieli, Paul Manz, Stephen Paulus, and F. Melius Christiansen, as well as Will Todd's stunning "Angel's Song II" in "surround sound."

Tickets for the National Lutheran Choir's St. Louis concerts are available in advance for \$20, by calling 1-888-747-4589 or online at [www.nlca.com](http://www.nlca.com). Doors open 45 minutes prior to performance.

The concerts are sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, KFUE-AM 850 and KFUE-FM/CLASSIC 99, Concordia Publishing House, and the contributions of individual supporters in the St. Louis area. More info on the National Lutheran Choir, the St. Louis concerts, and other 2008/2009 performances and workshops, visit [www.nlca.com](http://www.nlca.com).

# AND IN OUR WORLD ...

**MARK MANARY** in the October 3-9, 2008 **ST. LOUIS BUSINESS JOURNAL**: Check out this article about Project Peanut Butter on the insert page!

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## **Lutheran Planned Giving: November 2008 IRA Charitable Rollover Renewed... ...New Law Extends Opportunities**

Congress extended an excellent charitable planning opportunity for both 2008 and 2009. This new law (Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008) permits an IRA owner who is 70½ years of age and older to make a **direct** transfer from her/his IRA to charity. This transfer may be up to \$100,000 in one year and will exist for year 2008 and 2009.

Individuals 70½ years old or older may make a qualified charitable distribution outright to ministry in an amount up to \$100,000 per year directly from an Individual Retirement Arrangement ("IRA").

Another **benefit** of the IRA Charitable Rollover is that the charitable distribution may be used by the IRA owner to satisfy a portion or all of their annual *required minimum distribution (RMD)*.

### **You may take advantage of this new opportunity:**

- + if you are age 70½ or older
- + for gifts up to \$100,000 each year
- + if you make the gift on or before Dec. 31 in 08 or 09
- + if you transfer funds directly from an IRA

It is important to note that a distribution from a traditional or Roth IRA to benefit the ministry of the ELCA must be an outright gift distributed directly from the IRA trustee or administrator.

**Act Now for Benefit:** You must complete this year's transfer prior to Dec. 31. Contact our ELCA Lutheran Planned Giving Regional Gift Planner Joyce Palmer to take advantage of this giving opportunity. You may request a sample letter to send to your IRA trustee/administrator **AND** a notification letter for the receiving ministry organization/s from Lutheran Planned Giving. Everyone's circumstances are different, so you may want to discuss and, as always, Lutheran Planned Giving will be pleased to assist you without cost or obligation.

### **Lutheran Planned Giving**

Joyce "JP" Palmer, Director/ELCA Regional Gift Planner  
3210 Michigan Ave., Suite 407, Kansas City MO 64109-2055  
Phone: 816-861-6584 or Toll-free: 866-915-3548  
Cell: 816-204-5181; E-mail: jcpalmer49@aol.com

ELCA Lutheran Planned Giving is a service to ELCA congregations and individuals to help them plan for themselves, loved ones and the work of the Lord, by providing education and consultation in the area of stewardship of accumulated assets.

All services are available without cost or obligation.

# VICISSITUDES\*

\* The changes or events that occur in our lives.

## **Good-Bye, Adeline!**

Adeline was one of our "Van Ladies." A quiet woman whose participation was limited by her health and lack of transportation, Adeline still considered herself a member of Gethsemane. Adeline loved her family and they provided wonderful care for her in her last days. Adeline was a simple woman, humble, and shy. A memorial service was held for Adeline on Saturday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. *Good-Bye Adeline, you will be missed!*



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**Thank You to our "Weeders and Waterers."** Not many people noticed the group that kept our gardens looking nice and healthy this summer. Thank you to all those who pitched in to help:

**Tina Abell, Cheryl Bauer, Ami Boehlje, Jen Dieringer, Kim Elliott, Don Kurt, Margaret Lenhart, Jane O'Neill, Keith Paulson, Joan Williams, Jack Wind, Lois Wind, Sara and Sophia Schier-Hanson, and Peggy Zapf.**



HAPPY 50<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY,  
MATT SPICER!!!!  
Celebrated during choir rehearsal.



# NOVEMBER 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 9:45am Sunday School 9:45am Endowment Committee Mtg-Library 10:00am "Life Review: Telling Your Story" with Tom Meuser, in the Chapel	5:00pm Belladeers Bell Choir 6:30pm Angel Wings Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal  6:30pm Confirmation		10:00am Bible Study  7:00pm Health Cabinet	6:45pm Property Committee  7:00pm Faith Sharing Group	Pastor's Day Off	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
BLOOD DRIVE 8:00am-Noon 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Guest Preacher: Chaplain Peter Muschinske 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am "Our Church on the Front Lines" with Chaplain Peter Muschinske, in the Chapel	5:00pm Belladeers Bell Choir 6:30pm Angel Wings Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>Mid-Week Mission Meals:</b> <b>10:00am-Noon</b> <b>6:00-8:00pm</b>	<b>Mid-Week Mission Meal:</b> <b>6:00-8:00pm</b>  7:00pm Staff Support	Pastor's Day Off	
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>10:00am ONE WORSHIP SERVICE</b> STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Mission Party, Chili and Cookie Cook-Off  After the Mission Party – Rake 'n Run	5:00pm Belladeers Bell Choir 6:30pm Angel Wings Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal  6:30pm Confirmation		10:00am Bible Study	7:00pm Faith Sharing Group	Pastor's Day Off	
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Christ the King Sunday 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Town Hall Meeting-PMC  4:00pm Youth Gathering Planning Meeting at the Mantia's home	11:30am Rachel Circle ( <i>Edna May Otto, hostess</i> ) 5:00pm Belladeers Bell Choir 6:30pm Angel Wings Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		No Bible Study	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>  <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship First Sunday in Advent 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Town Hall Meeting-Preparing for the Congregational Meeting	5:00pm Belladeers Bell Choir 6:30pm Angel Wings Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal		10:00am Bible Study		Pastor's Day Off	

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
3600 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109  
Phone: 314-352-8050; Fax: 314-352-8051  
Email Address: [Gethsemane@swbell.net](mailto:Gethsemane@swbell.net)  
Webpage: [www.gethsemanestl.org](http://www.gethsemanestl.org)  
Church Office Hours: 8:30am-3:00pm

**Pastor** Kendra Nolde

314-524-6817      [prkendra-glc@swbell.net](mailto:prkendra-glc@swbell.net)

**Parish Nurse** Mardi Manary

314-646-7191      [MManary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:MManary@sbcglobal.net)

**Organist** Ella Rothgangel

314-353-4499      [erothgangel@earthlink.net](mailto:erothgangel@earthlink.net)

**Bell Choir Director** Ann Luciani

314-963-0934      [ptlall4@earthlink.net](mailto:ptlall4@earthlink.net)

**Choir Director** Ann Luciani

314-963-0934      [ptlall4@earthlink.net](mailto:ptlall4@earthlink.net)

**Council President** Carolyn Schainker

314-352-4183      [cschainker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cschainker@sbcglobal.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).