

MESSENGER

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

SEPTEMBER 2007

VOLUME #114: ISSUE #9

At Home Witness Kits Finally Available!!

Finally, after years in study, test marketing and development comes the remarkable “At Home Witness Tools Kit.” Haven’t you, like me, been waiting for the ultimate package to help you be a better witness? Here it is and it is available now!

Your Patio – The perfect place to invite your friend or neighbor over for a barbecue or glass of lemonade. It’s ideal for building relationships.

Your Kitchen -- The coffee pot’s on, just invite that special friend over that you’ve suspected has been dealing with some hard issues lately. Give him or her a chance to open up.

Your Shoulder – It’s equipped with padding and warmth. It’s the perfect place to just let a person unload for a minute or two.

Your Ears – What’s that old saying...”you have two ears and one mouth so listen twice as much as you speak.” Listening is a lost art. Discover it!

Your Pen – Use it to write notes of care and concern (e-mail also works!). It’s a little thing that can communicate care that a person will never forget.

The Gospel – Finally, the kit is inoperative without this last, but most important ingredient. None of the others accomplish anything without the Good News of what Christ has done. Everything is tied to the relationship God gives us through Christ.

There it is! Order yours today! You can begin immediately! Whether you are by yourself, or with others, you can use it! Don’t delay; it’s time to get started!

(Thanks to LFCS Auxiliary News, 1997)

In Christ, Pastor Kendra

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, Sept. 2: Hat Day

Wear a hat to church.

Decorate a hat between services.

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 10:00am

Wed.Morning Bible Study resumes

Sunday, Sept. 9

RALLY DAY

Sunday, Sept. 9, 10:00am

Social Action/Ending Poverty Interest Group in the Library

Saturday, Sept. 15

GYG Service Project

Sundays, Sept. 16 & 23, 10am

In the Chapel: Harry Potter and the Adult Christian Reader

Sunday, Sept. 23, Noon-2pm

Lay Eucharistic Ministers Training Session

Thursday, Sept. 27, 10:00am

Book Study: *Facing Your Giants*

Sundays in September:

Sunday, September 2nd: *“Let Us Put on the Clothes of Christ.”*

For the final Sunday in this series, we celebrate Hat Day!

Wear a hat to church – and-between services make/decorate a hat to remind you of the new clothing you have in Christ: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience.

Sunday, September 9th

Rally Sunday

> A Gethsemane “ensemble” of musicians will lead us in worship, using a blend of new and familiar hymns to lift up the gifts of our youth.

> We will bless and gift 3-year olds as they begin their Sunday School experience. Welcome Gabe Begley, Jeremy Meuser, and Ronin Wobbe!

> We will also pray for and commission Sunday School staff.

> Stay between services for an intergenerational learning event and to hear about various adult education opportunities.

Sunday, September 16th

> We will bless and pray for confirmation students and their families as they begin a new year of catechetical studies.

> We will begin learning Setting 6 from our new Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal to use throughout the fall.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Resumes Wednesday, September 5th at 10:00am in the Conference Room. You don't want to miss these lively and exciting classes!

MUSIC MONDAYS !!!

Are You A Ringer?

Maybe you have never felt good enough at anything to be considered a "ringer." Well, now you can be! Even if you think you don't have a musical bone in your body, you can ring handbells.

All three handbell choirs at Gethsemane are looking for new members. They all meet on Mondays: a **senior** group at 12:30pm a **youth** group at 5:30pm (4th grade and up) an **adult** group at 6:30pm (musical experience preferred)



If you're interested or would like a demonstration on how easy it is to be a handbell ringer, talk to Dawn Schuessler anytime.

Bell Choir rehearsals will begin on Monday, September 10, 2007.

Choir

The choir also rehearses on **Mondays, at 7:30pm.** Talent is not a requirement! Anyone who would like to sing and be a part of this fun group is welcome to join, or just try us out. Choir sings almost every Sunday, alternating between services, as well as special services such as Christmas and Easter. Come and welcome Ann Luciani as our new choir director.

The Adult Choir will begin rehearsals on Monday, August 27th.

Adult Education Opportunities

Sunday Mornings

10:00-10:50 am

In the Chapel:

Sundays, September 16 and 23: *Harry Potter and the Adult Christian Reader.* Are there themes in the Harry Potter books that could be seen as glimmers of the Christian gospel? Why has the world of magic entranced people of all ages in our culture, and is it something we should be concerned about?

Teacher for this class will be Mike Elliott,

an avid Potter reader. Since he and his wife Kim have both wanted to be “first” in reading each book as it's come out, instead they have read them out loud together! You need not have read the books; however, there probably will be “spoilers!”



Sunday, September 30: TBD

Spirituality/Faith Sharing Small Group

You are aware of the koan, "If a tree falls in the woods with no one around, will it make any sound?" Sometimes God's personal love for us is similar to that tree; it becomes even more vital just by being shared with someone else. This fall, we are organizing a "small group(s)" interested in realizing the richness of living as a Christian through personal sharing,

Bible discussion, reflection on spiritual classics, and prayer. The specific agenda of the gatherings will be established by the group at a first meeting. Probably bi-weekly Monday evenings after mealtime at one of our local coffee shops will work out well, but if you are interested in the concept and cannot match that meeting plan please just mention this. If this type of small group interests you, please contact Joe Epplin at 314 351 6598 or joeepplin@msn.com or **plan to check in with him between services at Rally Day on September 9 in the Fellowship Hall.**

*“Facing Your Giants”
Book Study
Beginning Thursday,
Sept. 27th at 10:00 am*

“Facing Your Giants” by Max Lucado uses the biblical story of David to help us face the “giants” in our lives: the bills you can’t pay, people you can’t please, habits you can’t break, failures you can’t forget, a future you can’t face. Like David, we can face our giants even if we aren’t the strongest, smartest, best equipped, or holiest. Copies of the book are available at Amazon.com or any local bookstore. We will gather in the “Orange” Room downstairs; children are welcome to come and play in the nursery! It would help to read Chapter 1 before the first meeting.



**Lay Eucharistic Ministers
Training Session
Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007
12 noon – 2 pm**

Do you feel a call to assist in the distribution of communion to our homebound members? Pastor Kendra and Parish Nurse Mardi Manary are looking for a small group of folks to participate in this ministry. Individuals should be comfortable in visiting the elderly and praying with others, be able to commit 1-2 hours every 4-6 weeks for one year, and have a means of transportation. A light lunch will be served at the training. If you are interested, please talk with Pr. Kendra or Mardi ahead of time.



**Church Council Highlights
August 14, 2007**

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

1. Continued discussion of book entitled *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church*.
2. Received correspondence thanking Gethsemane for various special gifts: Lutheran Campus Ministry, ELCA, St. Paul’s (Mobile, AL).
3. Heard about recent worship guests and plans for New Member Orientation on Sunday, August 26th.

4. Reviewed a Calendar of Events for September-December, 2007.
5. Heard from Pastor Kendra and President Ken Bauer about a meeting they attended to describe “Partners in Missional Church,” a process being offered by the Central States Synod for renewing congregations. Because of the cost and the rapidly approaching timelines, it was decided that we would not participate this year. However, a congregational/council retreat to do mission planning should be considered for early 2008.
6. Approval was given for a local family support group to use the facility on a 5-month trial basis.
7. Concerns were raised about the location and safety of our paper recycling dumpster; further consideration will be given at the next meeting.
8. Stewardship Committee is planning a Consecration Sunday program for this year, with Gordon Sandquist (Associate in Ministry at Trinity, Chesterfield) to be our outside leader and guest preacher.
9. Approval was given for the wood board in the Chapel to be used to list each year’s confirmation classes, beginning with the year 2000.

**Social Action/Ending
Poverty Interest Group**
will meet Sunday, September 9, at 10:00 am in the library to make plans for the fall. All interested parties are welcome to bring your coffee and join the conversation!

Children / Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: Summer is over and we're back to school. It will also be time for a new year of Sunday school at Gethsemane. Please consider lending your time as a Sunday school teacher, helper or substitute teacher for the coming year. No experience is necessary, and the rewards are plentiful! If you are interested or for more information, contact Christy Scheidt (314) 781-5644 or Laura Begley (314) 752-9335.

RALLY DAY will be held on Sunday, September 9 between services. This date is also Grandparents' Day, and our theme is an Intergenerational Event. People of all ages are welcome and encouraged to come and participate in this annual Sunday school event.

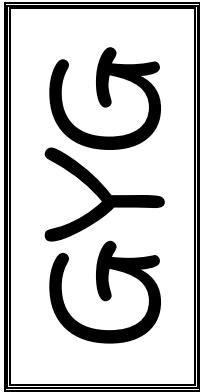
Sunday school classes for ages 3 years-high school will begin on Sunday, September 16. Please complete the enclosed registration form to help us plan for class sizes and materials. See you at Sunday school!

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will be held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 6:30-8:00 pm, beginning Monday, September 17th.

On Sunday, September 16th, we will bless and pray for confirmation students and their families as they begin a new year of catechetical studies.

Saturday, September 15th, there will a joint GYG/Confirmation Service Project to participate in making food packets for "Feed My Starving Children." We will meet at Gethsemane at 12:30pm to go to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Manchester for a 1-3pm shift in assembling packets. Afterwards, we will have a swimming party.



Sunday Classes

will meet at 10:00am in the Stage Room. Thanks to Jen Meyer for returning this year to work with our youth.

A Service Project/ Event

will be on Saturday, September 15th. We will work a 1-3pm shift assembling food packets for "Feed My Starving Children" at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Manchester. Afterwards, we will have a swimming party. Watch for a letter with more information!

LUTHERAN COLLEGE FAIRS

Sunday, September 16, 2007

Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel
900 Westport Plaza, 63146; 314-878-1500
6:30pm-7:30pm: Workshops
7-8:30pm: College Fair Reception and Hors d'Oeuvres

Monday, September 17, 2007

Concordia Lutheran Church
505 South Kirkwood Road, 63122; 314-822-7772
7:00pm-7:30pm: Financial Aid Seminar
7:30-9pm: College Fair Reception and Hors d'Oeuvres

ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Thank you to Kim Rose and John McElwee for organizing the Ice Cream Social again this year. And Thank you to all who brought baked goods, manned the

games, grilled the meat, helped serve, and set up and cleaned up. What a fun event!!!



Once again our **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** was huge success. Special thanks to our outstanding Trail Blazers Kate Hartz and Debbie Schaller for leading the round-up. There are so many ranch hands who make all of this possible.



Wow Cows!!!! Thanks for sponsoring t-shirts and CDs.

- Vi Aronsson
- Mary Brice
- Ken and Cheryl Bauer
- Boehlje Family
- Denise Buehrer
- Mike and Cindi Fenton
- Hartz Family
- Ralph and Claudine Hensel
- Melissa Humbarger
- Don and Jane Kurt
- Peggy Lewis
- Rose Lubbes
- Mantia/Mudd Family
- Jane Mann
- Sammy Mayer
- John and Darlene McElwee
- Gus and Lillie Niebuhr
- Edna May Otto
- Keith, Alexandra and Mitchell Paulson
- Shirley Roberts





Health Cabinet

Memory Walk 2007

Saturday, September 15th, 2007
Tower Grove Park

Registration: 8 am, Walk: 9 am

Distance: 1 or 3 Miles

Join us in taking steps to end Alzheimer's

1. Sign up on the Gethsemane Team
Gethsemane Remembers
2. Set a fundraising goal and send e-mails to everyone you know to ask them to join and support you.
3. Walk and celebrate the difference you are making for Alzheimer's disease.

Since 1989, Memory Walk has raised more than \$200 million to help those battling Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Association, the world leader in Alzheimer research and support, is advancing progress in prevention and cure, and living with Alzheimer's.

Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's disease.



From The Parish Nurse:

A Mom's Account of her MySpace "Discovery"
(This is a personal account of one parent's experience with MySpace.com.)

Mom accidentally came upon her 18 year old son's MySpace page. It was a most shocking event. On his homepage, there was a gigantic picture of him. He had just gotten a tattoo (un[be]knownst to mom) and there he was, with a black tattoo covering his whole upper back, for the world to see. Of course, that was only the tip of the iceberg. In his personal section were all the bad habits he said he had ... smoking, drinking,

having sex, etc. The response section of Friends had girls' pictures everywhere. They were provocative pictures, with provocative write-ups. Both her son and these friends used abusive language throughout.

You might say, so what, the boy was 18 years old at the time? Well, it is now common knowledge that future employers have access to these pages. What does that represent to them? Not to mention, when parents try to raise their children with some sense of morality, it's awfully disappointing to see them flagrantly throw their values to the wind, if only online.

Mom later found out that her son had introduced MySpace to his 11 year old sister, who was in middle school. She had her own page and own friends. Although her page appeared hugely innocent in comparison to his, she would get daily messages (which she deleted, she said) that discussed penis sizes, breast augmentation, etc. One day her parents got a phone call from a male claiming to be in love with her. After much investigation, the middle school found out that it was from a classmate's older cousin who went to another school but had seen her MySpace page.

Professionals recommend either denying your children access to MySpace, or sitting there with them as they use it. This mom agrees. Of course, kids go to other friends' houses and use MySpace, but that requires increased supervision by the friends' parents. MySpace damage must be discussed and taken seriously.

Guide to Keeping Your Kids Safe Online MySpace, Facebook and Xanga, Oh! My!

The quick tips for teens:

- Put everything behind password protected walls, where only friends can see.
- Protect your password and make sure you really know who someone is before you allow them onto your friends list.
- Blur or morph your photos a bit so they won't be abused by cyberbullies or predators.
- Don't post anything your parents, principal or a predator couldn't see.
- What you post online stays online - forever!!!! So thinkb4uClick!
- Don't do or say anything online you wouldn't say offline.

• Protect your privacy and your friends' privacy too; get their okay before posting something about them or their pic online.

• Check what your friends are posting/saying about you. Even if you are careful, they may not be and may be putting you at risk.

• That cute 14-year old boy may not be cute, may not be 14 and may not be a boy! You never know!

• And, unless you're prepared to attach your MySpace to your college/job/internship/scholarship or sports team application, don't post it publicly!

And for parents:

• Talk to your kids — ask questions (and then confirm to make sure they are telling you the truth!).

• Ask to see their profile page (for the first time). Tomorrow! (It gives them a chance to remove everything that isn't appropriate or safe, and it becomes a way to teach them what not to post instead of being a gotcha moment! Think of it as the loud announcement before walking downstairs to a teen party you're hosting.)

• Don't panic. There are ways of keeping your kids safe online. It's easier than you think!

• Be involved and work with others in your community. (Think about joining "WiredSafety.org" and help create a local cyber-neighborhood watch program in your community)

• Remember what you did that your parents would have killed you had they known, when you were fifteen.

• This too will pass! Most kids really do use social networks just to communicate with their friends. Take a breath, gather your thoughts and get help when you need it. (You can reach out to WiredSafety.org)

• It's not an invasion of their privacy if strangers can see it. There is a difference between reading their paper diary that is tucked away in their sock drawer and reading their MySpace. One is between them and the paper it's written on, the other between them and 700 million people online!

• Don't believe everything you read online — especially if your teen posts it on her MySpace!

• And, finally, repeat after me — "I'm still the parent!" If they don't listen or follow your rules, unplug the computer; the walk to the library will do them good.

For more information, visit WiredSafety.org.

Final Thoughts?

From our experience in being advocates for online safety, parents need to fully understand that they are the ones ultimately responsible for keeping their kids safe online. So many times they want to pass off this responsibility to the various websites where problems have occurred. While sites do share some responsibility for maintaining a decent environment for their users, the sheer size of many of these sites should cause all parents to realize that no site will be 100% safe. Work with your kids; teach them what is appropriate and what is inappropriate activity online. Set down rules and ENFORCE them. Keeping your family safe online is the responsibility of everyone in your family, but as parents, your kids are looking to you for your experience and your guidance. You're still the parent. Remember that!

With Hands Uplifted We Pray For...

Those in need of healing and intercession... Ami Boehlje; Rich Brown; Terry Garland; Marion Grana; Damien Gustafson; Ralph Hensel; Jack Jaworski and Kathy Lee; Beulah Mattson; Gus & Lillie Niebuhr; John Salerno; Matt Spicer; Tatum family.

Those who suffer from chronic health issues: Marge Cerney, Helen Lett, Madge Ogan, Joann Olander, Janet Schottel, Bonnie Weber, Norma Westemeyer, Cindy Williams

Our Friends – Aunt Margaret and Riley Abell; Dennis; Jocelyn Boehlje; Delores Kim Nowatski; Ryane; Joy Schultz; Neil Gustafson; Jesse; Jim Mattke; Kent and Jane Humbarger; family of Landon Arntson; Rosso family; Family of Edna Streufert; John S.; Lillian Riccio; Dan; Shelly Morris; Marsha Perkins; Evelyn Gray; Tyler Fisher; Hank Panethiere; John Hammerschmidt family; Megan Schermer; Joe Wilson; Duff Shepherd; Kelsie Malone; Malorrie Mangano; Barb and Dave Sheffield; Carol Kress; Melody; Mark; Sandy; Kathy; Gerard; Dave and Don; Paytlee Picou

For ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and newly elected ELCA Secretary David Swartling.

For continued healing in our church and country.

For those serving in the military or in Iraq – Major Roger Bodenschatz and family, SPC Brendan Sass, SPC Dietrich Sass, Matthew Ginther; Matthew and Christopher Rosso; Dan

For all those suffering from the effects of natural disasters.

Our mission partners – Pr. Ernesto & Norma Weigandt in Panama; Drs. Mark Manary & MacDonald Ndekha; Project Peanut Butter in Malawi; Nancy Bond: the Rafiki Foundation in Ghana

Our World – For an end to extreme poverty, in Africa and elsewhere; For peace in Iraq, in Darfur, in the Middle East.

Prayer focus for the month... *Blessed are you, O God, ruler of the universe. The earth, the stars, even galaxies yet to be discovered are the works of your hands. And we, your creatures, stand in awe. Shelter, protect, comfort all who are in harm's way. When calamities abound, give us the strength to endure, and hope for restoration, that we may reflect your light for this ailing world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

... IN OUR COMMUNITY

Please Join Us!

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN MISSION (IPM) works across borders of faith and culture on behalf of children, women and youth to create partnerships that build justice, peace and hope. Please join us for a special evening on **Wednesday, September 19th at 7:00pm** to learn more about our important work and ways for your involvement. With more than 60 projects in 25 countries around the world, IPM's Executive Director, Joseph Cistone, will share how friends like you make our work possible. Visiting from El Salvador, Julieta Borja, IPM's Regional Coordinator for Latin American and the Caribbean, will provide an informative and personal account of IPM's work entitled *"Letting your heart be broken ...finding solidarity with the poor."* The event will be held at the **Oak Grove Recreation Center** located on the Laclede Groves Campus, St. Louis. Refreshments will be served. For more info and to RSVP, please contact the IPM Office at 1-866-932-4082 (toll-free). *Hope you can join us!*

CAMP WARTBURG SEEKS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, Illinois is seeking a full-time program coordinator. Responsibilities include:

- Assist the Camp Manager in the supervision of summer staff and the overall execution of the summer camp program.
- Assist in the booking of retreat groups, and take the lead in providing hospitality services.
- Personally lead all Camp programs as needed: outdoor education; high ropes; team-building, etc.
- Assist the Camp Manager and Executive Director in developing and implementing a program marketing plan.

For further information, please contact John Mohl, executive director, at JMohlLCFS@aol.com, 618-939-8777.

MUSTARD SEED THEATRE Planting Stories -- Cultivating Dialogue

Is a new professional theatre company exploring our relationship to God and our ethical responsibility to the world around us. The theatre is in residence at Fontbonne University, performing in the Black Box Theatre. Leslie Wobbe, who has been attending Gethsemane, is one of the founding members.



The Mustard Seed Difference:

- Classic and new plays will explore questions about faith and social justice.
- Our "Dijon Series" – staged readings of thought-provoking plays precede lively discussion and debate.
- The Mustard Seed Blog allows the conversations to continue long after the curtains fall on a performance.
- 10% of all tickets sales are given to St. Louis charities.
- Thursday shows: Pay What You Can or Pay with a Can (proceeds go to a local food pantry).

For more information, visit www.MustardSeedTheatre.com to learn more about the company and our upcoming productions.

LSS Private Duty Seeks Experienced Caregivers

Lutheran Senior Services Private Duty is looking for full time/part-time caregivers with at least six months' experience to work daytime shifts. We're also looking for live-in caregivers. Please call Barb at (314) 446-2581 or Pam at (314) 446-2488.

50th Anniversary Hymn Festival

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is celebrating a 50th Anniversary with a Hymn Festival on Sunday, September 23rd at 3:00pm. Holy Trinity is located at Union Road and Reavis Barracks near Interstate-55. The Hymn Festival will be a special celebration of Lutheran Hymns featuring guest organist, Tom Leeseberg-Lange.

NO TRIVIAL MATTER!

St. John's Lutheran Church Trivia Night

September 29, 2007

At the Kolping House, 4035 Keokuk

\$10.00 a person, \$70 a table of 8

Silent Auction, Attendance Prizes, 50/50 Drawing,

Light Snacks, Soda and Coffee included

Call Melba Fanger at 314-892-8384

Or Maureen Rehmer at 314-352-6266

For advance Ticket Sales

Cash Bar Available

South St. Louis Missouri Thrivent Chapter Picnic

Saturday, Sept. 29, 2007 at Lemay Park

Noon to 2:00pm or so

All food and drink provided.

RSVP on or before Sept. 24 to Charlie Costley:

314-892-2385 or charlescostley@sbcglobal.net

Lunch served at Noon

Games for all ages.

Attendance prizes awarded.

... AND IN OUR
WORLD

Where in the World is the ELCA South Cluster Going Next?

After our experience working together on Christmas with Katrina, the five ELCA South Cluster churches are investigating the possibility of doing an Immersion Trip through International Partners in Mission. IPM works across borders of faith and culture on behalf of children, women, and youth to create partnerships that build justice, peace and hope. Trips have been facilitated in El Salvador, India, Kenya, Nicaragua, and Wyoming, USA (Native American). If you are interested in such a trip, an initial planning meeting will be held with IPM staff on Thursday, September 20th at 10:00am at Christ Lutheran, Webster Groves. Talk to Pastor Kendra for more information.

A "Thank You" From Project Peanut Butter:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous donation to Project Peanut Butter. 100% of this gift will be used to feed malnourished Malawian children. Mark just returned from 1 month in Malawi. The factory was successfully inspected by UNICEF and Doctors without Borders. We are looking forward to supporting a NATIONWIDE rollout of home-based therapy! Our goal is that everywhere in Malawi, every malnourished child, will have access to the life giving peanut butter food, known in Malawi as Chiponde.

An audit of last year's work showed that over 6,000 severely malnourished children were treated last year, with complete recovery seen in 89% of these kids, and failure in only 4%. Feeding was directly supported at 25 centers by Project Peanut Butter last year. Now, that other charities have started using the ready-to-use therapeutic peanut butter food as well, we estimate that this life saving therapy reaches over 50% of all severely malnourished children in Malawi.

In January we installed a new packaging machine in the factory, pictured on this page. This allows the peanut butter food to be packaged in foil sealed plastic cups. Since the cups are sealed, the shelf life of the food is extended to 9-12 months. This allows the food to be used in more programs for HIV infected children and in areas of northern Malawi, areas which are far away from the factory in Blantyre. In June PPB started distributing a new formulation of ready-to-use food especially designed to help HIV infected children, called Chitukule in Chichewa.

Home-based therapy with peanut butter food is now widely accepted all over the country of Malawi, and endorsed by the Ministry of Health and other official agencies, so we are in the process of embedding the therapy in the standard practice of medicine there..

Looking forward in 2007, we are hoping to raise an additional \$15,000 to purchase our own industrial grinder so that we can grind the peanuts and sugar within our factory

*Thank you so much,
Mark Manary and all of us at Project Peanut Butter*

ENDOWMENT FUND MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

September Ministry ~ Rafiki Foundation, Inc.



Mission Interpreters

Walking Together
as the Central States Synod & ELCA
Making Christ Known

Our member, Nancy Bond, is just now celebrating three years of work in Ghana with The Rafiki Foundation, Inc. and so it is especially fitting that we highlight that ministry this month in conjunction with our Endowment Fund Matching Gift Program. Please see Nancy's August newsletter attached below.

If you would like to make a gift, please make your check payable to "Gethsemane Lutheran Church" and write RAFIKI on the memo line. You can place checks in the offering plate or mail them to the church office. All gifts will be matched by the Endowment Fund Matching Gift Program approved by the Church Council in March so each dollar given will become two when sent to The Rafiki Foundation, Inc. (\$1,000 in matching funds has been reserved initially for this ministry opportunity). Enclosed in the Messenger is a 2-page letter from the Rafiki Foundation.

Remember that while we are highlighting a specific ministry each month, you are still welcome to make a gift at any time to any of the seven special mission opportunities that were identified by the Church Council as eligible for the Endowment Fund Match:

- World Hunger/Disaster Relief
- Project Peanut Butter
- Rafiki Foundation
- Panama
- International Partners in Mission
- Joint Neighborhood Ministries
- Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity/St. Louis

Be sure to note on the memo line which ministry should receive the match.

Copies of "A Summary of Actions" from this year's Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are available on the Welcome Table in the church entrance, or by going to www.elca.org.

Accepting the Call: In baptism, God calls all Christians to use their gifts to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ in their daily lives. In order to minister most effectively, however, the church also needs persons with particular leadership gifts to serve in its rostered ministries.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has four distinct rostered ministries: ordained ministers of Word and sacrament – pastors, consecrated deaconesses, consecrated diaconal ministers, and commissioned associates in ministry. 8 ELCA seminaries throughout the U.S. provide high quality theological education to prepare our future leaders to serve in these capacities within the church.

This fall 21 students from the Central States Synod, ELCA, will be enrolled in seminary. We are blessed that each has received and accepted God's call to ministry. Central States Synod Seminary students, Quinn Gorges of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Mike Kern of Trinity Seminary, recently shared their stories about how they received their calls to ordained ministry (<http://www.css-elca.org/missioninterpreter.html>).

Quinn traced her call back to when she accepted her first invitation to preach, as a missionary, in a tiny village in Cameroon. Quinn realized that she could share the Good News with others through this experience and started to wonder what other things were possible with God. Mike shared how he has felt God transforming him throughout his life journey and is now responding to God's call to be a part of the transformation of others. Both expressed their appreciation for the prayer and financial support they have received from their congregations and Central States Synod to assist with their seminary education.

Tuition at ELCA seminaries covers less than one fourth of educational costs per student. The remainder is supported by church grants, endowments, and gifts from ELCA members. Your offering helps provide for those who are studying to serve in the rostered ministries of the ELCA and we thank you for your support.

If you would like to support the fund for seminary students with a special gift or "adopt" a seminarian through providing prayer and financial support, please contact the Central States Synod, ELCA office free at (866)915-3548.

If you think God may be calling you to ordained ministry, diaconal ministry, or as an Associate in Ministry, please talk with your pastor and other spiritual advisors. For information about candidacy, please call Jule Pierce, Chair of the Central States Synod, ELCA Candidacy Committee, at (816)232-9174 or email her at spiritjourney@stjoelive.com.

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before others." Matthew 5:14, 16

VICISSITUDES*

* The changes or events that occur in our lives.

LAGNIAPPE

Where Did the Worship Committee Dine This 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 July, we went to The Town Hall restaurant, 665 S. Skinker. It's in the ground floor of the Dorchester Apartments, across from Forest Park. It's not a large restaurant, but it does a good carryout business from the residents of the apartment building. The noteworthy item on the menu is for those who are nostalgic for the good old days – the Medart hamburger. This is a regular hamburger, but comes topped with the Medart sauce and wrapped in paper because it is very messy to eat. Mayo mixed with relish is not everyone's favorite hamburger topping, but if you want to relive your youth, go for it!

Our group of five shared an order of the house-made potato chips. These are very thin, crisp chips that are topped with parmesan-garlic salt. They were the hit of the dinner. Great minds apparently thought alike on this visit, because two members ordered the hot dog, and the other three ordered the crab cakes. The hot dog is an extra-large dog, topped any way you would like it. The crab cakes, which are also a house specialty, have a little extra spice added in and are topped with a spicy sauce. You can get one crab cake as an appetizer, or you can order two as a dinner with two side dishes. One person ordered a crab cake with a bowl of the navy bean soup, another ordered crab cake with an appetizer order of fried fresh mushrooms, and one person ordered the crab cake dinner. The navy bean soup was very hearty and good even on a hot July day. The mushrooms were large and crispy and came with a side of horseradish sauce. There are many other sauces to choose from, so you are not forced to eat horseradish. The restaurant was having trouble with their fountain soda dispenser on the day we were there, so two of our diners never were able to get a palatable diet cola. Service is not fast, but this seems to be based on the pace of the kitchen, not the waitress.

Rumor has it that the restaurant will be closing soon and the apartments converted to condos, so you'll need to go soon if you want a Medart's fix.

From the Church Office

Coffee Hour Hosts

Please consider hosting the coffee hour during September or for specific weeks. A sign-up sheet is in the hallway.

Thank you to our library volunteers:

Ruth Johnson for sorting through the books and getting them better organized.

Bob Bollinger for entering the books into a database.



We invite and encourage you to visit the library.

PETER MAYER CONCERT AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

We had a group of about 3 dozen people from Gethsemane at the wonderful Concert in July. Here's Peter with Lindsay and Tessa, part of the next generation of Peter Mayer fans!!



SEPTEMBER 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Hat Day: Wear a hat Between Services: decorate a hat 10:00am Choir Rehearsal	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY	4 Stewardship Meeting at Holy Cross Lutheran Church	5 10:00am Bible Study	6	7 Pastor's Day Off	8
9 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship 10:00am Social Action/Ending Poverty Interest Group in the Library RALLY DAY	10 12:30pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	11 7:00pm Church Council	12 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Health Cabinet	13	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 Confirmation/GYG Service Project and Swim Party
16 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Confirmation Students blessed 10:00am- In the Chapel: Harry Potter and the Adult Christian Reader	17 12:30pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Adult Bells 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19 10:00am Bible Study	20	21 Pastor's Day Off	22
23 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship New Members Received 10:00am- In the Chapel: Harry Potter and the Adult Christian Reader Noon-2:00pm: Lay Eucharistic Ministers Training Session	24 11:00am Rachel Circle, Norma Schenck, hostess 12:30pm Senior Bells 5:30pm Youth Bells 6:30pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26 10:00am Bible Study	27 10:00am - Book Study: <i>Facing Your Giants</i>	28 Pastor's Day Off	29
30 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship						

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
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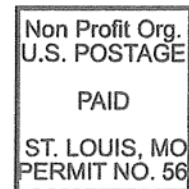
MESSENGER NEWS

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

eMESSENGER

Please consider helping us save a tree and save on the cost of paper and postage. This happens if you choose to receive your Messenger only by e-mail. Just send us a message at glc-messenger@swbell.net.

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“Return Service Requested”