

Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Hackettstown, NJ

# The Garden

Gethsemane's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Volume VI: Issue 3

Sept/Oct 2012

## **RALLY SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 9!**

**\*Sunday, Sept.9: RALLY SUNDAY**

**9:15AM:** Special Sunday School Rally Program

**10:30AM:** Rally Day Worship Service

Join your fellow believers at Gethsemane on **Sunday, Sept.9, at 9:15am**, when we "kickoff" a new year of learning, led by Jesus, "the Way, the Truth, and the Life".

\*All parents, students and teachers meet in the church nave for a special rally opening at 9:15am, a time for praying, singing, and introducing our SS staff.

\* After the children are dismissed to their classes, Mrs. Petrie will speak about a new ministry of chimes for youth, and Pastor will share a video preview of the new Sunday morning class, "The Bible Jesus Read".

\*Parents will have time to meet the teachers and some brief refreshments.

\*Then, our **RALLY DAY WORSHIP starts at 10:30am**, with our first Children's Sermon of the fall season.

**"First Sundays in the Pews"** returns, held on Oct.7, Nov.4, and Dec.2 in 2012. Our Sunday School classes are held during our worship time at 10:30am, with the children dismissed to their class after a children's message and a special song by our Sunday School choir.

We anticipate our largest SS enrollment in more than five years, and we have a **full staff ready to serve:**

\*Preschool(3's) and Pre-Kindergarten: Susie Herzberg, Sue Galloway, Lauren Corydon

\*Kindergarten: Sandy Anderson, Danielle Siek, Stacy Smith

\*1st/2nd grade: Sylvia Allen, Lorraine Smith, Caitlin Allen

\*3rd/4th grade: Mike Appeld, Anita Page

\*5th/6th Grade: Peter Karcher, Jon Siek

\*7th/8th Grade: Jason Kiefer, Charlie Stackhouse

\*Music: Laura Petrie

\*Superintendents: Susie Herzberg, Sylvia Allen

Please pray for each of these servants, entrusted with a mighty calling to be God's instrument of love and care to each of our children.

## **NEW SUNDAY MORNING VIDEO SERIES: "The Bible Jesus Read"**

We will startup our Fall Sunday morning adult class with a special 8+session video series, "The Bible Jesus Read" by noted Christian writer Philip Yancey (who authored the video series on prayer here last year).

Yancey is editor-at-large for Christianity Today magazine.

If you think the Old Testament is just a mysterious, outdated book, THINK AGAIN. It's the Bible Jesus read, used, and loved. When he meditated, He used the Psalms, the Prophets, the books of Moses. The Old Testament is still God's living message to us. We will use a participant's guide, interspersing video segments with discussion. The eight topics include:

\*Is the Old Testament Worth the Effort?

\*Understanding the Old Testament

\*Job: Seeing in the Dark

\*Deuteronomy: A Taste of Bittersweet

\*Psalms: Spirituality in Every Key

\*Ecclesiastes: The End of Wisdom

\*The Prophets: God Talks Back

Here's an opportunity for some to get back into the Word, and perhaps a part of the Word you haven't read! For sure, it's an opportunity to gather and learn with fellow believers. See you Sundays.

**STARTS SUNDAY, SEPT.16, 9:15AM....with a SNEAK PREVIEW ON RALLY SUNDAY, SEPT.9, AFTER THE CHILDREN'S PORTION OF THE RALLY OPENING AT 9:15 AM.**

**A SPECIAL ACOLYTE TRAINING (AND RETRAINING) SESSION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCT.7TH, 9:30AM IN THE CHURCH CHANCEL. THIS IS FOR ALL ACOLYTES, LED BY PASTOR.**

**GETHSEMANE CHURCH CONSULTATION WEEKEND ON OCT.12-14 (see cover letter)**

**SENIORS LUNCHEONS BEGIN AGAIN:  
SEPT.26 AND OCTOBER 24--12:30PM.**

All seniors (you can decide if you fit the title!) are invited to our growing luncheon fellowship at Gethsemane, held **fourth Wednesdays each month** in our Fellowship Hall, coordinated by our Board of Social Ministry.

Our September guest speaker is one of our own members, Alicia (Starrett) Seidel, who is Director of Social Services at the Regency Grande Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Dover. She will speak about medicare benefits as they relate to skilled nursing stays or rehabilitation stays.

### **Music Notes**

In these last few weeks of summer, I have had the pleasure of scanning several music catalogs for anthems and organ music for the coming year. Companies send recordings and sample sheet music, and I enjoy the time spent listening and making notes on the various and beautiful compositions, selecting those best suited to our choirs and congregation.

Be a part of this wonderful expression of love for our Lord and join a choir! We start our rehearsal schedule on **September 6 at 6:45 for chimers and 7:30 for singers** in our sanctuary. We are always excited to welcome new members, and I can assure you that the fellowship and worship opportunities are very enriching! I've optimistically "over-ordered" some beautiful anthems in the hopes that my prayers will be answered for even *more* faithful members in 2012-2013!

I'm also anxious to **start a choir for older children**. Presently, our Sunday School Singers are mostly younger children. Their sweet voices are a gift, but they are limited by not being able to read words or music yet! We have a number of older children who would enjoy a more challenging program of music and the chance to harmonize and learn about sacred music. If you're interested, please speak to me, put a note in my mailbox, or send an email. This could be a Saturday morning rehearsal group, or a weekday after school. What a blessing it would be to have two youth choirs!

Last year's first annual Community Hymn-Fest was a rousing success. We hosted five choirs and guests in a program of beautiful hymns. We also collected many food items for the community food bank, just in time for the holidays. Please support our **second annual Hymn-Fest which will be held here at Gethsemane on November 18th at 7 p.m.** This is the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving. We hope to fill the sanctuary to overflowing with members of all of our congregations, singing praises to our God. Mark your calendar, invite a friend, consider donating to the food pantry, and volunteer to bring a refreshment! This is our chance to make a contribution to the Hackettstown community of believers with our shared gift of song.

The fall planning time is a special time. I look ahead to all of the special days of the church year and our Sunday worship times and plan for music that will enhance our worship and bring a blessing to our Lord. As

always, I welcome your suggestions and ask for your prayers. Please join this important ministry. \_Laura Petrie

**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS** to Joanna Petrie and John Michael Scarangelo, Jr., united in marriage August 11 at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Mountain Lakes, NJ. Joanna is the daughter of our music director, Laura Petrie and her husband Ed, and has shared her musical gifts with our congregation over the years. She is presently teaching music at the Mountain Lakes school system. They will reside in Oak Ridge, NJ. May God bless their promises.

**A KOUSA DOGWOOD TREE** has been planted in our front Gethsemane garden, (just behind the bench), by one of our church families in memory of Eppie Stackhouse. A memorial plaque is located in front of the tree. We are grateful for this beautification

Gethsemane supports **The Lutheran Hour radio ministry** on **Sunday evenings, 7:00 p.m.** on WRNJ-AM (1510), also 92.7 FM and 104.7 FM and streaming at [www.wrnjradiocom](http://www.wrnjradiocom). Note: if you miss a broadcast, just go to The Lutheran Hour website: [www.thelutheranhour.org](http://www.thelutheranhour.org) and it is archived.

**VBS 2012:** What a great week God blessed us with back on July 16-20—lots of kids, lots of teachers and helpers, and the AC worked (in the nave)! But the Holy Spirit was the real "breeze" we needed.



- 93 children and youth were present at one time or another.
- Plus 38 staff: Devin Allen, Caitlin Allen, Sandy Anderson, Leatrice Boyer, Dorothy Busch, Morgan Cook, Lauren Corydon, Dave Davenport, Paula Douma, Zoe Eberhart, Susie and Pastor Terry Herzberg, Monica Higgins, Joey, Steven and Sue Hill, Payton Intindola, Marlene Kenia, Kristen Labert, Denise Manole, Karen Olivieri, Carol and Janeen Pietraszkiewicz, Juanita Reyes, Hannah Ruskan, Kathy Shisler, Danielle Siek, Stacy Smith, Lorraine and Jason Smith, Julia Streeter, Gina and Vicki Tonno, Ashlee and Courtney Weingarten, Gretchen and Emily Wolfrum, and Eleanor Yurkutat. THANK YOU!



- Special thank you to Susie Herzberg, who served as coordinator this year.
- And finally, thank you to all who have donated school supplies to our mission project at Willow Grove School.



### HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING

*For much of the past 2,000 years, all Christians drank from the common cup for Holy Communion. The introduction of the individual cup is relatively recent.*

*Our own LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations, in a special report on Holy Communion, said: "In the absence of a specific Scriptural mandate, either method of distribution, when performed in a reverent manner, is acceptable. Some Christians prefer the use of the common cup because of its symbolism as representative of the oneness of the body of Christ--the church--and because there is reason to believe that Christ used this method of distribution. Any decision in this area is to be marked by Christian liberty and charity."*

*I have asked Bob Bornemann to share his thoughts on the use of common cup for this Gethsemane newsletter. Pastor Terry*

In place of my usual contribution to the newsletter, HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING, I wanted to comment on Holy Communion as we offer it at Gethsemane.

Here at Gethsemane we offer the chalice (aka "the common cup") in addition to the individual cups in the distribution of Holy Communion, and it seems fitting to me to give some explanation for why I think that receiving Jesus' very blood in this manner, for those who are so inclined, is a safe practice for God's people.

First, there is the simple scriptural justification. In the Words of Institution, recorded in the Gospels and recited each week, we are told that Jesus "took the cup (singular) after supper....He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you...'"

Incidentally, this was something of a novelty since the customary practice for Jews at Passover was that each person would have their own cup. Does this rule out receiving with individual cups, or nullify the Real Presence of Christ therein? Of course not. Only that the Scriptures indeed testify to the practice of the common cup.

Second, reception from the chalice strengthens our confession in the Real Presence of Jesus' very blood in the Lord's Supper. Just as you grace your table with the "fine china" for an honored guest, how much more when we come to the Lord's table? It sends the message that something—or, rather, Someone—important is in our midst.

Third, the practice of receiving from the common cup is a counter-balance to the rampant individualism of our society. This is not to say that receiving individual cups at Holy Communion sanctions such an attitude.....only that it doesn't discourage it. The Lord's Supper is, after all, the "Sacrament of unity": we are participants with God and one another.

Fourth, as a practical matter, it makes simpler reverent handling of our Lord's blood. The consecrated wine that remains in the chalice and flagon after the Divine Service may be consumed or, as is often the case, returned to God's creation by pouring it out on the ground. Without knowing the history of the common cup's use (or lack thereof) here at Gethsemane, let me briefly respond to the obvious question of health concerns. In short, there need be no concern. A study on just this topic in the Journal of Infectious Diseases concluded that "the transmission of organisms from one person to another by common use of the chalice showed that 0.001% of the organisms transferred even under the most favorable conditions and when conditions approximated those of actual use, no transmission could be detected."

I have received exclusively from the common cup since I made my Confirmation back in 1942, and I can't say I have fallen ill more than anyone else.

Perhaps this is one more reason for the practice: it shows our confidence that the promise of Jesus is greater than the fears of the world. I encourage you to avail yourself of the chalice and see if your faith in God's forgiveness given in the Holy Communion is not thereby strengthened.

It is my firm faith that neither disease nor harm can pass through the Holy (Common) cup. I realize that perhaps this is an area of faith in which some have not grown, and we must allow for that, just as there are probably areas of faith in which I have not grown. I have taken communion from the common cup most of my life and the passing of bacteria from one person to another has never bothered me. Scientifically, gold, silver and alcohol are principal antiseptics, just in case you are concerned.

**Bob Bornemann**

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**  
409 East Baldwin Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840



VBS 2012 at Gethsemane

