

Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Hackettstown, NJ

The Garden

Gethsemane's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Volume VII: Issue 3

June/July 2013

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Sunday, June 9th: Music Appreciation
Sunday and Church Picnic

Friday, June 14: Gethsemane Preschool
"Graduation", 7pm.

Monday-Friday, July 29-August 2:
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE:
WE GO TO SUMMER SCHEDULE, STARTING
FATHER'S DAY, JUNE 16, WITH A 9:30AM
SERVICE. THIS CONTINUES THROUGH
LABOR DAY WEEKEND.

VISION PROCESS UPDATE

We may be on the other side of our VISION DAY back on April 13, when 32 of our leaders gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Rev. David Born, our TCN Lead Consultant, but the process is still just in it's early stages. At the end of our Vision Day, five varying pictures of potential "mission targets" emerged.

The next step is underway: creating a Vision Statement which paints a picture of God's preferred future of where we are going together in the next 3-5 years at Gethsemane. There is a group of 8 of us working on this. Our goal is to present a draft to a larger group of Council leaders and Vision Task Force members for final refinements, and then seek approval at a special congregational meeting, all we hope before the end of June.

This Vision Statement then will be our blueprint for setting goals and objectives for the immediate future. I would hope we can convene a gathering of leaders as early as the end of the summer for a special "workday"/retreat to do this. It is likely we will find (or create) a need for task force(s) to take on some of the goals and plans.

The key Mission Targets we are presently working on are: Families with Children, Seniors, and Ourselves (for spiritual growth). We can hardly expect to make God-pleasing plans without discerning His leading. Jesus said, "without Me, you can do nothing." So, none of this happens without prayer. I would like to see a few prayer warriors emerge who will take the leadership in organizing a prayer vigil of some type as we move forward.

We still have our Vision Prescriptions to work on, of course, including an "audit" of our Preschool, as well as a look at the Building Fund and how it relates to our vision. We will need to organize a Task Force to plan net-fishing events (like our VBS), as our prescriptions call for six events a year where the community has a chance to interact with our members on our "campus" in a non-worship setting. We will be offering again both the small-group home study on prayer, and the present study on "natural evangelism".

So there is plenty of Kingdom work to be done. May God bless us and you to discover how your giftedness can best serve.

CHURCH PICNIC

It's time for a PICNIC!
We had a great time last year, and we look forward to another great day for fellowship and good food and games this coming SUNDAY, JUNE 9, on the church grounds, following worship.



*Great FOOD: Barbeque Chicken (with a secret recipe), Hot Dogs and Burgers, plus many kinds of salads and desserts.

PLEASE signup to DONATE food.....by calling the church office or filling out the bulletin insert.

*GAMES for all ages.

We are pleased that many of our new members are organizing the picnic this year, coordinating the games and helping with the grilling.

VOTERS' MEETING update: Elected to the 2013/14 Church Council:

Vice –President: Molly Petty;

Treasurer: Sandy Anderson;

Financial Secretary: Doug Kocher;

Board of Evangelism: Carl Anderson;

Recording Secretary: Melissa Mauro;

Board of Property: Jason Kiefer;

Board of Elders: Jim Dobak.

*Final approval of bylaw changes to the constitution.

*Approved appointment of a financial task force to recommend movement of the Building Fund, with Council approval.

Thank you to our outgoing Council members: Toni Torchia, Art Stuber, Mike Appeld, and Pete Karcher

THANK YOU to: our mowing teams, to Dave Steinert for editing the newsletter and changing our signboard periodically; to Ginger Starrett for her changing of the banners; to Bill and Paul Douma for their weekly folding and stapling of our church bulletins; and to the recent spring cleanup crew of 20 members and preschool parents.

FAREWELL: *Steve and Mia McLelland* have moved to Fairfield Glade, TN; *Gerard and Maria Tonno* are in the process of getting ready to move to the Providence, RI area, where Gerard is professor and director of transportation services at NEIT University in Warwick, RI; and finally to *Inara Sternadori*, who has moved to Sagamore Hills, Ohio, and will be marrying Mark Liepa in Philadelphia on June 15.



Vacation Bible School is just around the corner so don't forget to sign up your children and their friends and your friends and neighbors.

We will be bringing a global fair to the kids with the theme **"EVERYWHERE FUN**

FAIR: WHERE GOD'S WORLD COMES TOGETHER!"

Children will learn to share God's love with their neighbors by focusing on the themes that: Neighbors are friendly! Neighbors are giving! Neighbors are bold! Neighbors are forgiving! And Neighbors are welcoming!

They will learn about children from other parts of the world including Australia, Haiti, Mexico, Japan, United Kingdom, and Zimbabwe.

The children will rotate through stations for Bible stories, crafts, music, recreation, snacks and of course lots of fun. Children age 4 through 4th grade may participate as students and 5th graders and older (and this includes adults) may be helpers.

Vacation Bible School meets from Monday, July 29 through Friday, Aug. 2, 9:00 am – 11:45am.

Contact the church office (908-852-2156, gethsemanehtown@verizon.net) for registration and Susie Herzberg (908-979-0024 or email Susie at susieherzberg@gmail.com) to be a helper.



CONGRATULATIONS to our three confirmands of 2013. Stephanie Burr, Jeremy Diehl, and Steven Hill were confirmed on May 5. We commend especially their parents: Don Burr, David and Carol Diehl, and Ed and Sue Hill, and also their sponsors for making the commitment to their spiritual nurture and growth:

Music Notes

The end of the school year also marks the end of the choir season at Gethsemane. It has been a wonderful year of music ministry, and I'm very grateful to the choir members for their dedication and especially for their extra efforts during the sacred holiday seasons. After June 9, singers and chimers enjoy a well-deserved summer break as they relax and prepare for the fall.

The summer months mark a great time for "new talent" to participate in the worship services with their gifts of music. If you are a young person who would like to play an instrument or sing during a prelude, please let me know! There are opportunities for small group ensembles and soloists of all ages- and I would be delighted to work with anyone who would like to dedicate their time and talents to worship. The chimes shouldn't be idle all summer, either! If you'd like to try your hand at this music, I have a library of simple hymn tunes and songs that would be great for beginners! Please consider using the summer months as a time to share your musical gifts as all of our schedules open up a little bit.

Any time is a great time to consider making the choir commitment. Our chancel choir, chime choir, and Sunday School choir are all great avenues for service. As we work toward our new Vision at Gethsemane, it is clear that music is a gift of God that can be a loving instrument for worship, outreach, fellowship, and prayer. Perhaps this summer is a good time to consider your weekly schedule and prioritize the times for choir rehearsals.

This summer, I will be "shopping" for new anthems for our choirs and kids. I will also be planning for the third annual Hymn Fest and the Christmas season. I welcome your suggestions and participation in the music ministry we share. I'm grateful for your support and interest in the music. Have a safe summer full of God's blessings.

Laura Petrie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MEETINGS FOR JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

June

4-Church Council, 7pm
6-Preschool Picnic for 3's
9-MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY/
CHURCH PICNIC/ LAST SUNDAY
SCHOOL CLASS
14-Preschool Graduation, 7pm
16-SUMMER SCHEDULE, 9:30am
Worship/Council Installation
19-Pastor on Vacation till 7/5
22-Women's Guild, 1pm

July

16-Church Council, 7pm
19-25 Pastor at Synodical
Convention in St. Louis
29-Aug 2 VBS WEEK!

Gethsemane Lutheran PreSchool

A Mother's Day Cookbook was created, by the children, for their mothers. Each child shared their favorite recipe and art work to create a very funny treasure of recipes that they had dictated for this book.

Our Pre-K class has been busy learning all about Bears. We have read many books on Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and also many different "take-off" versions. Flannel stories, books, songs, poems, and a puppet show have delighted the children.

Our Nursery Class is studying life in the ocean. We've created rainbow fish, starfish, seahorses, and octopuses. We will make a book in conjunction with World Ocean's Day.

The Memorial Day parade in Hackettstown will find our preschool kids and parents marching for Gethsemane PreSchool.

A trip to the Land of Make Believe will occur on May 31st.

We are presently preparing for our end of the year Class picnics. The Pre-K class is practicing for their graduation program on Friday, June 14th at 7:00 a.m.

We are currently taking registrations for the 2013-2014 school year. Please contact our church office for information. You can schedule an appointment to see our preschool.

Sue Galloway, Director
Gethsemane Lutheran PreSchool



HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING

O Savior, Precious Savior

LSB 527

**O Savior, precious Savior,
Whom yet unseen we love,
O Name of might and favor,
All other names above;
We worship you, we bless you,
To you alone we sing;
We praise you, and confess you
Our holy Lord and King.**

The lyrics were written by Frances Ridley Havergal, she was the daughter of the Rev. W. H. Havergal. She was born at Astley, Worcestershire, Dec. 14, 1836. The music was by Arthur H. Mann, 1830 -1929. Five years later her father moved to the Rectory of St. Nicholas, Worcester. In August, 1850, she entered Mrs. Teed's school, whose influence over her was most beneficial. In the following year she says, "I committed my soul to the Savior, and earth and heaven seemed brighter from that moment." A short sojourn in Germany followed, and on her return she was confirmed in Worcester Cathedral, July 17, 1853. In 1860 she left Worcester when her father resigned the

Rectory of St. Nicholas, and resided at different periods in Leamington, and at Caswall Bay, Swansea, broken by visits to Switzerland, Scotland, and North Wales. She died at Caswall Bay, Swansea, June 3, 1879. Miss Havergal could speak several languages fluently including Greek and Hebrew. She did not claim for herself, a prominent place as a poet, but by her distinct individuality she carved out a niche which she alone could fill. Simply and sweetly she sang the love of God, and His way of salvation. To this end, and for this object, her whole life and all her powers were consecrated. She lives and speaks in every line of her poetry. Her poems are permeated with the fragrance of her passionate love of Jesus.

Her religious views and theological bias are distinctly set forth in her poems, and may be described as mildly Calvinistic, without the severe dogmatic tenet of reprobation. The burden of her writings is a free and full salvation, through the Redeemer's merits, for every sinner who will receive it, and her life was devoted to the proclamation of this truth by personal labors, literary efforts, and earnest interest in Foreign Missions.

Bob Bornemann