

Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Hackettstown, NJ

# The Garden

Gethsemane's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Volume VII: Issue 4

September/October 2013

## DATES OF IMPORTANCE

**Thursday, Sept.5, 7pm**  
**Music Ministry Open House at church**

**Sunday, Sept.8:**  
**"Back to Church and Sunday School"**  
**\*Special Sunday School Rally, 9:30am**  
**\*Regular WORSHIP Schedule resumes, 10:30am**

**Monday, Sept.9:**  
**Preschool Classes begin (9--11:30am)**

**Tuesday, Sept.24: Church Council, 7pm.**

**Thursday, Sept. 26**  
**1) Seniors' Luncheon, 12:30pm**  
**2) Thrivent Workshop, 2:30 & 7 pm**  
**"Savvy Social Security Planning"**

**FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION:  
THE GETHSEMANE VISION STATEMENT DRAFT.**  
**(see reverse side)**

It was more than 10 months ago that our congregation held our Consultation Weekend, when we received the "prescriptions" from the Transforming Churches Network consultation team, including the main one: to undergo a vision process, including a vision statement describing God's preferred future for Gethsemane in the near-future of 3-7 years.

And it was back in mid-April that many of our leaders gathered and spent much of a Saturday doing our own preliminary visioning. Since then, Pastor and a small group, largely from the Vision Task Force, met to begin fashioning the Vision Statement. What is printed on the reverse side of this page is a draft of much of the prayerful thinking, dreaming and sharing of your leaders. Please read the draft and pray about it, for we intend to bring this to the congregation for approval, perhaps after

one of the upcoming Sunday worship services in September. If approved, this Vision Statement would then become a guiding document for all our planning and goal-setting for the future.

Today the average life span of a congregation is about 75-80 years, which is really just a short time to be significant in carrying out GOD'S MISSION together. So having a Vision is one way God keeps us on track for His purposes and Mission.

Too often, when a typical congregation is a generation old, it tends to relax and take a breath, and so often plateaus....and before you know it, it's "OVER THE HILL", that is, not running on all cylinders. People who study congregations will tell you there are four main cylinders or organizing principles: 1)VISION, which is our understanding of God's strategic direction for the congregation, our sense of God's preferred future (what we look like when we are fulfilling God's Mission); 2)RELATIONSHIPS, 3) PROGRAMS; and 4) STRUCTURE.

And the bottom line is: If our congregation is like a car, then we need VISION to be in the driver's seat, with RELATIONSHIPS on the front passenger side. CONGREGATIONS THAT MOVE FROM ADULTHOOD DOWN THE LIFE CYCLE ("Over the Hill" so to speak) ARE MARKED BY LOSS OF VISION, when vision isn't driving anymore. Then gas mileage goes down, you get lost a lot, people fight more, and the backseat drivers.--- PROGRAMS AND STRUCTURE take over. AND YOU GET STUCK IN A RUT.

The only way to revitalize the LIFE of a congregation is to get VISION back in the driver's seat....a Christ-centered vision to be sure, since we are first of all a living organism, and secondarily an organization. He is the vine, we're the branches. He is the head of this Body of Christ here in this place. Pray that God will bless our congregation to move in a unified direction together.

--Pastor Terry

## GETHSEMANE VISION STATEMENT--DRAFT

Jesus said "Go!"

"Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...." (Matthew 19:28,29). He said "You shall be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8)

This means that we at Gethsemane and all believers are "sent" people, sent to serve a missionary God, who "wants all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). We are sent on a journey together to connect people to Jesus, and to welcome them to be part of the journey with God. Every week the sign at the end of our main parking lot reminds us: "You are now entering the mission field".

And so, we envision Gethsemane to be an Oasis in our community, a "rest stop" in life's journey, much like the oasis of Elim in the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites (Exodus 15:27), a place of springs of water and palm trees. In the Gethsemane oasis, people are fortified with God's dynamic Word and His Holy Meal for our walk with Jesus, who said "I am the Bread of Life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst." (John 6:35).

We see the people of Gethsemane serving God by loving each other and welcoming others to share in our worship life, our fellowship, and our service. We see our worship life including family-oriented services.

We see the "garden of Gethsemane" as a place where our members grow into fully functioning followers of Christ and practicing disciples, who help others become disciples. We see many small groups being offered where we model Biblical community, safe places where people are accepted, loved, shepherded, forgiven, served.

We see our front lawn as a gathering place for recreation, for regular gatherings and activities that welcome our neighbors.

We see our people involved in many ministries, especially to families and children. We see seniors and volunteers providing mentoring, offering afterschool tutoring to school-age children. We see young children on our expanded playground, watched by their parents, who sit on comfortable benches and share each other's company. We see teens on the parking lot playing basketball.

But we are also an oasis from which we are sent out. We see Gethsemane members becoming missionaries in and to the community, having compassion for the lost and weary, sharing Christ's love and mercy in outreach ministries, including to the elderly, providing transportation for worship, doctor's visits, and shopping. We see ministries like ESL that connect with immigrants and minorities.

And finally, we see Gethsemane sending members on short-term mission trips, and empowering members for a personal life mission in the world.

The writer of Proverbs wrote, "Where there is no vision, the people perish". We pray at Gethsemane we will not only catch the vision, but embrace it as God's preferred future for us.

### **"BACK TO CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL"**

Sunday, September 8.

\*We'll have a Sunday School Rally at 9:30 a.m. (including refreshments at 10:05 a.m.).

\*We resume our regular **WORSHIP** at 10:30 a.m.

### **NEW VIDEO SERIES STARTS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

Our Sunday morning 9:15am Bible class will feature "*The Bible on Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt*", a 4-part video series by Lutheran Hour Ministries, featuring Dr. Paul Maier of Western Michigan University and & Dr. Jeff Kloha of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, among others. The course examines critical views of scripture, examines evidence from the ancient world, surveys how archeology corroborates the Biblical record, and considers the word of those who were closely connected to eyewitnesses who knew Jesus, all to help us answer "Is the Bible and its contents reliable?" Note: This is a great introductory course before we do our next study of one of the books of the Bible, starting in October.

### **GOLFERS: SAVE THE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

After our morning worship service, we head to Shawnee Golf Club near the Water Gap for a **CHURCH OUTING**, with first tee-times at **1:30pm**. Reservations have been made for 20 golfers. We invite all players to plan on staying after your round for a get-together at one of the restaurants at Shawnee, order off the menu, Dutch treat. The fee for golf and cart is \$35, payable at the pro shop when you arrive. PLEASE INVITE A FRIEND! (especially if they have no church home!) To register, please call or email Bill Everett at [beverett52@comcast.net](mailto:beverett52@comcast.net) or 908 637 6727, **by Friday, September 6th** in case we need to adjust the reserved spots up or down.

### **SENIORS' LUNCHEON ON SEPT.26TH:**

All seniors are invited to join in our monthly luncheon, being held on **Thursday, Sept.26th, 12:30pm**. (Yes, please note: we're moving it to accommodate the Preschool LunchBunch)

We are very pleased to welcome the **Rev. John Welge** of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Blairstown, as our guest. But not to preach! He's an accomplished organist (as some of you know from our Christ the King Hymnfests), and after we finish our bag lunches and "catching up", we'll "retire" to the church nave to listen to Pr.Welge give a mini-recital.

So, note the change from Wednesday to Thursday, still the last week of each month, and we'd love to see you on the 26th! PLEASE call the church office if you are in need of transportation.

### **SUMMER MISSION PROJECT UPDATE**

We were able to **exceed** our goal of providing an assortment of school supplies for 100 school children from low-income families for this fall! (130 bags full ) Praise God! Thank you to all who donated supplies, and especially to Toni Torchia for her coordinating, and to Jodi Eberhart and her family, Kailee Rafalko, Danielle and Christina Siek, and others who helped assemble the supplies for distribution.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKUPS** will again be offered by our parish nurse, Karen Cook on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Meet in the Pastor's office right after the service.

FREE Health Training being offered

**Saturday, September 14th —10:00AM-3:30PM**

Workshop on CPR/First Aid—This course is taught by certified instructors of Life Force International, USA and combines hands-on training, and instructor-led demonstrations and discussions. Be sure to check your records to be certain you have current training. A Bag Lunch is Suggested!

**Class will be held at:**

**Parsippany Day Care Center**

**300 Baldwin Road, Parsippany, NJ**

**Registration Require. Please contact [Melissa Rivera](mailto:Melissa.Rivera@lutheran.org) at 973-601-6158**

### **MUSIC NOTES:**

"How often, making music, we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound  
As worship moved us to a more profound  
Alleluia!"

The Reverend Fred Pratt Green, a Methodist minister in England during the 20th century, wrote those words for the second verse of his hymn "When in Our Music God Is Glorified" (LSB796). That hymn, and that verse in particular, is a wonderful reminder of the power of music in our worship to deliver God's word and give voice to our praise and prayers. Through our joyful work as musicians, we search for the "more profound Alleluia" with each offering of song.

The 2013-2014 choir season begins with an Open House Choir Rehearsal on Thursday evening at 7, September 5. We welcome back all of our chime and chancel choir members and invite new members to the ranks. It will be an evening to try out the chimes and sing along on some familiar hymns and anthems. Additionally, it's a time to get to know each other and talk about convenient rehearsal times and procedures. Refreshments will be served, and there's no pressure to make a commitment to the choirs - but I would be so pleased to welcome any new members who have considered singing or playing with the choirs, even if only during the holiday seasons. Please consider joining us!

Regular choir rehearsals will begin on September 19 in the sanctuary for both chime and chancel singers. Chimers meet at 6:30 and singers meet at 7:30. We always end by 9 pm.

The Sunday School Choir will meet every morning at the opening of Sunday School. This is an important time for the children. As they gather for their lessons, we are introducing new and traditional songs for their learning - so that they, too, will find that "profound Alleluia!" So many Bible stories and basic tenets of our faith are easily learned in rhyming songs. I hope that more and more children will be present for these lessons and willing to share what they have learned during worship services.

Mark your calendars for the Third Annual Hymn Fest which will be held on Christ the King Sunday, the evening of November 24. In its brief history, this event has really grown! What a joyous evening of singing with our Christian neighbors and providing food for The Lord's Pantry! The choirs are also planning a Christmas Cantata and some striking new anthems for chimers and singers. It will be an exciting year of music for Gethsemane.

I am always grateful for your feedback regarding the music for worship. Hymns are selected according to the lectionary, of course, and anthems are also tied to the lessons, and certainly the liturgical season. I believe that it is very important to learn beautiful new music that serves these purposes, as well as continuing with the traditional music that is so much a part of our Lutheran heritage. I am always interested to know peoples' favorite hymns. A few of you know mine, too!

Alleluia!

Laura Petrie

## LWML Pittsburgh Convention



Thank you to all those that "Served the Lord with Gladness" for the national LWML convention in Pittsburgh.

Special thanks go out to our attendees and workers, Mia McLelland, Jeff Meeks, Sharon Kiefer, Juanita Barna-Providosian, Alicia Starrett-Siedel. And to our workers here at Gethsemane, Susie Herzberg, Elna Park, Joyce Kennedy, Marlene Kenia, Peg Pensack, and Pastor Terry. .



**Pictured l-r, Ginger Starrett, NJ LWML president, Danielle Siek, NJ LWML young women representative with the NJ district banner.**

### LWML Gethsemane Woman's Guild

The first meeting of our women's group here at Gethsemane will be held on Saturday, September 14. All ladies of the church are invited to attend. There will be a bible study and craft. Light refreshments will be served.

Sunday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> coffee hour will be a waffles and ice cream social to honor Marilyn Meeks. All free will donations will go towards an "All Saints" banner that will be purchased in Marilyn's memory.

**LWML Sunday** is a day to honor all the women in the LCMS who give of their time for this auxiliary of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This year LWML Sunday will be held on October 20. Remember to start saving all that loose change for the special mite collection that will be used in the mission field here in NJ.

### Holiday Fair- November

Home made crafted items will be offered by the ladies of Gethsemane. If you are a crafty lady or a baker and would like to give of your time or host a craft event please Ginger Starrett at 908-500-7337.

Only handcrafted items will be offered at the fair and there will be no outside vendors. Craft dates will be held at the church during Sept. and Oct. Look for those dates in the Sunday bulletin.

**VBS 2013:** God blessed us not only with a wonderful weather week for VBS, but a lot of kids! We have grown from 40 children back in 2009 when we renewed VBS, to over 100 who registered this summer, with an average daily attendance of 89. A very grateful Thank you to our 41 servant-volunteers, who were "well-used" by God in teaching, guiding, helping, and caring: Devin Allen (openings), Caitlin Allen, Sylvia Allen, Sandy Anderson (Bible story coordinator), Juanita Barna-Providoshin (music coordinator), Emily



Brennen, Dorothy Busch (food), Lauren Corydon (crafts coordinator), Dave Davenport, Jeremy Diehl, Paula Douma, Zachary Eberhart, Zoe Eberhart, Sue Galloway, Arin Gunn-Russell, Susie and Pastor Terry Herzberg, Monica Higgins, Joey, Steven and Sue Hill, Sean Kessell, Jason Kiefer, Kristen Labert, Samantha Naclerio, Karen Olivieri (movie station), Cathleen Rafalko, Taylor Reaser, Juanita Reyes, Kathy Shisler, Danielle Siek, Jason



Smith, Stacy Smith, Lorraine Smith, Sydney Smith, Daniel and Julia Streeter, Liz Tintle, Vicki Tonno, Gretchen Wolfrum (food), Brett and Jenna Wyckoff, Eleanor Yurkutat (food). Special thank you to Susie Herzberg, who served as coordinator this year.

**THANK YOU** to all who served in making our Church Picnic back in early June a great time of fellowship (and good food!): David Diehl, Dan Rose and Frank Eberhart (head chefs at the grill brought by Dan); Jodi Eberhart (games coordinator) assisted by Cathy Peterson, Cathleen Rafalko and Danielle Siek; Eleanor Yurkutat (food coordinator and all details). Brian and Audrey Stratton, who brought their portable "bounce house"; Jason Kiefer, Steve Providoshin and Don Pulver (setup/take down); and finally, to all the kitchen "helpers".



#### **THRIVENT WORKSHOP HERE ON THURS., SEPT. 26.**

"Savvy Social Security Planning: What Baby Boomers Need to Know to Maximize Retirement Income" is the theme of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans-sponsored workshop here at Gethsemane on **Thursday, Sept. 26, at both 2:30pm and 7pm.** Mr. Richard Hopkins, FIC, and a financial consultant for over 30 years, will be our guest presenter. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Please call Mr. Hopkins toll-free at 877.657.9363 (or email him at rich.hopkins@thrivent.com) to reserve a place for you and a guest.

Topics include: 5 factors to consider when deciding when to apply for benefits; How to minimize taxes on SS benefits; & Coordinating Social Security with other sources of retirement income. Thrivent representatives Mel Kent and Erik Henriksen will be present.

#### **MOVING**

We bid farewell to Gerard, Maria, Gina and Vicki Tonno, as they are moving to Rhode Island, where Gerard has been teaching as a professor and serving as director of transportation services at NEIT University in Warwick, RI. Gerard most recently served as our Council President for two terms (4 years) at Gethsemane, while Maria has served with youth ministry. Gina is heading off to James Madison University for her first-year of college, and Vicki is starting her junior year of high school. The Tonno's new address: 125 Atlantic Ave., North Kingstown, RI 02852. Gina's college address: 800 South Main St. JMU Box 1023, Harrisonburg, VA 22807. We are grateful to God for their service to our Lord and His Kingdom work here at Gethsemane. May He bless their new chapter.

#### **GETHSEMANE HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE!**

We will use it to make announcements, publicize upcoming events and highlight past events, so LIKE us on Facebook and stay up to date. If you have a Facebook account then go to:

[www.facebook.com/gethsemanehstown](http://www.facebook.com/gethsemanehstown)

...and click LIKE. We will also use it to feature preschool activities.

#### **THANK YOU, THANK YOU!**

To **Elna Parke** for weeding our front "garden" and to her husband **Charlie** for all his trimming of our bushes, and yardwork; to **Sandy Anderson and Kathy Steinert** for power-washing the parsonage....to the **Alcoholic Anonymous groups** who purchased a new wall clock for our fellowship hall; to **Dave Davenport** for repairing the "memorial garden" outside benches on the side of the nave; and finally, to all our lawn-mowing volunteers thus far this summer: **Tom and TJ Hill, Bill Douma, Mike Appeld, Paul Cook, Jon Siek, Don Pulver, Charlie Parke, and Chris Tintle.**

(NOTE: We are still in need of volunteers for September. Thanks!)



#### **HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING**

##### **My Faith Looks Up to Thee LSB 702**

***My faith looks up to Thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day be wholly Thine!***

Words: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887.

Music: Olivet (Mason) Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

At 22, Ray Palmer was having a tough year. He wanted to go into the ministry but was stuck teaching in New York City. He was lonely, depressed, and sick. Then he found a German poem about a sinner kneeling before the cross. He translated it and added 4 stanzas.

"I wrote the verses with tender emotion," he said later. "There was not the slightest thought of writing for another eye, least of all writing a hymn for Christian worship." "I gave form to what I felt," says Dr. Palmer, "by writing, with little effort, the stanzas. I recollect I wrote them with tender emotion and ended the last line with tears." He placed the manuscript in a pocketbook, and carried it there for some time. One day, in Boston, he met Dr. Lowell Mason, who inquired if Mr. Palmer had not some hymn to contribute to his new book. The pocket-book was produced and the hymn was brought to light. Dr. Mason took a copy of the

song, and after reaching home was so much impressed with it that he wrote for it the famous tune "Olivet," to which it is usually sung. A short time after he met the author on the street and exclaimed:

"Mr. Palmer, you may live many years and do "many good things, but I think you will be best known to posterity as the author of " My faith looks up to Thee." The hymn was published in 1832, Dr. Palmer wrote me the following incident: "During the Civil War, and on the evening preceding a terrible battle, six or eight Christian young men, who were looking forward to deadly strife, met together in one of their tents for prayer. After spending some time in committing themselves to God and in Christian conversation, and freely speaking together of the probability that they would not all survive the morrow, it was suggested by one of the number that they should draw up a paper expressive of the feelings with which they went to stand face to face with death, and all sign it; and that this should be left as a testimony to the friends of such of them as might fall. This was unanimously agreed to. After consultation, it was decided that a copy of ' My faith looks up to Thee ' should be written out, and that each man should subscribe his name to it, so that father, mother, sister or brother might know in what spirit they laid down their lives. Of course, they did not all meet again. The incident was related afterward by one who survived the battle."

**Bob Bornemann**