

Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Hackettstown, NJ

The Garden

Gethsemane's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Volume VI: Issue 4

November/December 2012

UPCOMING DATES OF IMPORTANCE

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, Nov. 4th - Discussion Forum after 10:30 AM worship (Consultation Prescriptions)

Wednesday, Nov. 7th, 7:15PM - Discussion Forum on the Prescriptions/ Womens' Guild

Sunday, Nov. 11th – Voters' Meeting after 10:30AM worship

Saturday, Nov. 17th- Thanksgiving Baskets Outreach

LOYALTY SUNDAY Nov. 18th

Special Congregational Mtg/
Chili Cookoff/ Hymn-Sing (7pm)

Wednesday, Nov. 28th

Senior's Luncheon/Play at Centenary

Sunday, Dec. 2nd - First Sundays in the Pew

Dec. 5/12/19 MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES (7PM)

Saturday, Dec. 8th-Women's Guild Bookmark Project

Sunday, Dec. 23rd - Worship with Sunday School Christmas Program

Monday, Dec. 24th-Christmas Eve Candlelight Services (7 & 11pm)

Tuesday, Dec. 25th-Christmas Day Communion (10am)

GETHSEMANE VOTERS' MEETING IS ON NOV. 11

Please join your fellow family members as we adopt our budget for 2013. Meets right after our worship service.

CHILI COOKOFF RETURNS-

All you chili aficionados (fans) are invited to Gethsemane's Chili Cookoff on **Loyalty Sunday, Nov. 18**, following the worship service and during the congregational meeting to vote on the prescriptions. This may be your final shot at dethroning former chili champion Steve McLelland and his hot recipe. Prizes for hot, mild, and most creative.

THANKSGIVING DINNER OUTREACH

-On Saturday, November 17 our church family will gather again to cook, assemble and deliver meals to the elderly, shut-ins and those w

*Sign-up sheets for workers and for donations of food items (including turkeys, vegetables, potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce) will go up on the bulletin board November 4th

*The Youth Group is baking cookies on Nov. 15 to help

*We are inviting you to give us names, especially of single, elderly neighbors who would appreciate this basket of food. (call the church office)

*Contact Ginger Starrett for more information (908.475.5591; starrettfam@embarqmail.com)

SENIORS' LUNCHEON

Our next Luncheon date is **Wednesday, Nov. 28, 12:30pm**, and Mike Habermann will share about his travels in Mexico.

*The group also decided to go to the **2pm matinee show of "The Wizard of Oz"** that same day. Tickets cost \$25, and Jim Dobak is lining up the tickets and carpooling (call 908.459.5487)

*And, the Seniors chose to have a **Christmas Party Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 19**. Tentative plans are to go out to eat at The Prickly Pear. Stay tuned for details.

SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR AT CHRISTMAS.....

- 1) Our Sunday School has grown enough that they will present their own Christmas Program as part of our Dec.19th worship, 10:30am. We thank Michele Barrett and Jennifer Hopek for coordinating the program. If you'd like to help in some way, please contact them. And we thank you parents for your support.**
- 2) Instead of a cantata on the Sunday before Christmas, our chancel choir will be singing special anthems and leading us on CHRISTMAS EVE at the 7pm service. It will still be a family-oriented service.**

Music Notes

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend our **second annual Hymn Fest here at Gethsemane**. This is a perfect opportunity to reach out to your friends in the community and invite them to an evening of singing and beautiful music in praise of our God. **On Sunday, November 18 at 7 pm, church choirs from Hackettstown will gather in our sanctuary** so that we can all sing together in celebration of our common sacred music heritage. Between anthems offered by our friends from Trinity Methodist First Presbyterian, St. James Episcopal, St. Mary's Roman Catholic, and our own Gethsemane singers and chimers, community and congregation members will be inspired to sing some of our favorite hymns with thanksgiving.

There will be refreshments following the hymn-sing and a chance to visit with members of other churches. What a great event to bring in friends who do not have a church affiliation, so that they can witness our faith and share our joy! In addition, this is a night for community service. The **"ticket" for the Hymn-Fest is a non-perishable food to donate to our town's food bank**. As the holiday season begins, this is a needful gift to those in our town who depend on the generosity of Christians.

I guarantee an evening of fellowship, great music, new friends, and inspiration! Please join us. I'm counting on our Gethsemane members to be good hosts for this worthwhile community event. Let's make a joyful noise!

Laura Petrie

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild celebrated LWML Sunday on November 7. We would like to thank Pastor Terry for highlighting the wonderful works that this LCMS auxiliary does within the church, the state and the world at large. There was a special collection held for Mites which totaled \$268.00. This money will go to the first LWML NJ mission grant, Lutheran Bible Translators.

This LBT grant is to provide water, electricity, and window screens for a missionary family entering into the mission field in 2013. We thank you for your kind donation towards this grant.

Did you know that the main source of giving for the LWML is the Mite Box? For over 70 years all that loose change in all those boxes collected by the women of the LCMS has supported mission grants totaling \$100 million dollars.

On November 10 the LWML NJ District will hold their annual retreat on the beautiful grounds of Crane's Mill. The theme "God in the Laundry Room," is a reminder that when we seek the Lord with our whole heart, we find Him everywhere...even in the laundry room!

The day will start with a communion service, followed by bible study, a skit, and a craft. It will be a day full of fellowship with other ladies from across the state. There will be a Gift of the Heart collected at the retreat. All sizes of NEW socks, underwear, plus laundry detergent which will benefit Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ. They actually use the laundry detergent to wash the clothes of the homeless. Information can be found on the Women's Guild bulletin board.

We are busy planning out our Guild year and have a few things already in the works. Watch the bulletin and the Women's Guild bulletin board.

The next Guild meeting is November 7th at 7:00PM. Come out and join us, all are welcome.

Ginger Starrett

Craft Day

All Gethsemane women, ages 10 and older, are invited to a craft day on November 3rd and December 8th. We will be making 500 of the 4,000 bookmarks needed for the LWML National Convention taking place in Pittsburgh June 2013, Come join us as we have some quality girl-bonding time over snacks, beverages, music, and laughter. Please sign-up on the LWML bulletin board – so that we know how many to expect for food/drink – come to one session or both! Look forward to having some fun! If you have any questions, contact **Sharon Kiefer at:**

SKieferLWML@gmail.com or [732-816-9206](tel:732-816-9206).

Social Ministry Board

October was a designated Food Drive Month. The Lords Food Pantry is still quite low on peas, carrots, any type soup, facial tissues, toilet paper or paper towels. Anything you donate will be put to great use. You may deliver your donation directly to the Pantry on Mon, Tues. or Thurs. (9am-Noon).

The Lord's Pantry serves almost 1000 people per month. There will be food distributed at Trinity UMC with all ingredients for a complete holiday dinner, including turkey or a Turkey Day Dinner at the church. People must sign up for either or.

Do you know of a male/female in the Armed Services who might enjoy a box of Christmas cookies from the ladies of this church? If so, call the church office or Toni Torchia, and leave a name & address of the recipient

Thank you for all that you can do - This is your spiritual home too...Giving back to others is a positive step in the right Christ-like manner that reflects and shines during difficult times for so many people.

Thanking each and all.

Toni Torchia

Gethsemane Lutheran Pre-School

Our Pre-School is off to a wonderful start. We have a total of 27 children enrolled this year.

Our themes of study so far have been Marvelous Me, God's creation, the monarch butterfly, friends, family, fall, apples, leaves, and pumpkins. Our trip to Tranquility Farms was fabulous. We picked pumpkins and gourds, enjoyed the hay ride, animals, corn box, hay bale slide, and doughnuts and apple cider.

The Centenary College drama class interviewed our Pre-K class to find out what they wanted to be for Halloween. They returned on the 26th of October for a special party, with costumes they created for each child.

November will be busy with Thanksgiving and turkeys. A special Thanksgiving program with songs and special food is planned for the parents. The Hackettstown firemen will visit with their truck and fire safety tips.

December will bring all the joy and wonder of Christmas. We will focus on the birth of baby Jesus. A special "Night Before Christmas" party will be held with many activities planned to be shared with Mom and Dad. We will hold a special Christmas program of songs and poems for the parents.

Sue Galloway, Director

Parish Nurse

SEASONAL TIPS Grief and the Holidays

Holidays bring back memories of special days spent with family and friends. However, for some people, these happy memories can be dulled by the pain and sorrow of experiencing the holidays without a loved one who has died.

Holidays may be often extremely difficult for someone who experienced the death of a loved one, especially during the first year after the death and even suppressing the next, which few are prepared for. The bereaved person can feel sad, lonely and depressed. It is normal to expect physical and emotional responses after losing a loved one.

Everyone grieves in a different way, but some responses are commonly experienced. These may include physical symptoms such as stomach distress, difficulty breathing, headache, chest pain, lack of energy, difficulty sleeping, nervousness and more. Emotional responses include, but are not limited to, shock, disbelief, sadness, loneliness, guilt, anger, crying, nightmares, difficulty with concentrating, fear and preoccupation with thoughts of the deceased.

Television and radio play many that stories and songs that remind us of togetherness, love and sharing. During the holiday season, people are always asking, "What are you doing for the holidays?" This can be a very difficult question to hear for those experiencing sadness and depression.

The holidays don't necessarily have to be sad occasions. There are always ways that can help people cope with how they are feeling during these times. The Lord is at your side.

It can be helpful to plan ahead. Individuals should think about what they would like to be doing during these special occasions. Trying to limit the number of decisions one has to make may be helpful also. Dealing with only a few decisions at a time can be helpful to avoid feeling overwhelmed. Changing up some traditions is also a thought. It is important to stay focused on remaining physically healthy. A grieving body may be more susceptible to illness, so rest and proper nourishment are very important.

The use of excessive drugs or alcohol will only postpone the painful feelings, but will not eliminate them. They should not be used in an attempt to bury pain.

Sharing feelings with others may be very helpful. Finding someone that they feel comfortable talking with is important. This may include a family member, friend or Pastor. Professional counseling is another important option. All our local hospital, hospices and other have outreach program. Please call Karen Cook (908) 637-8613 if you need any information.

Holiday Tips

Thanksgiving

- Thaw turkey in the refrigerator. Allow 1–3 days for thawing. If there is less time, put the turkey in a plastic bag. Cover it with cold water. Keep ice in the water so it stays cold.
- Wash hands AFTER handling turkey or any meat.
- Stuffing should always be cooked and stored separately from turkey.
- Follow cooking directions for turkey on the label.
- Use a meat thermometer to test for doneness. Place the thermometer inside the thigh. Or place it in the thickest part of the breast. The turkey is done when the thermometer reads 165 degrees F at the minimum.
- Refrigerate turkey, gravy, and stuffing after your meal. They will quickly spoil if left out.

Holiday Decorations

- Most modern ornaments are made with non-poisonous materials. But ornaments more than 25 years old may contain lead.
- Make sure children don't put small ornaments in their mouths. Children can choke on them.
- Bulbs and tree lights may be poisonous if swallowed.
- Mistletoe berries can be poisonous if eaten in large numbers. If mistletoe is used in decorating, make sure children and pets can't reach it.
- Use fake snow only in a well-vented space. The fumes from this product can be dangerous.
- Please fill out the Congregation Health Needs assessment survey that will be distributed at Church in the near future to help plan for your needs for a more healthier YOU!

Karen Cook, Parish Nurse

Your Local Thrivent News

The Northwest New Jersey Thrivent Chapter (Warren and Sussex counties) has been active for us and our communities. To remain a non-profit organization, revenues the company accumulates as it manages members policies are given out for mercy and service organizations. Our local chapter has helped with purchasing food cards for the local food pantries, among other endeavors.

Once again the local leadership board will offer Gethsemane assistance for Vacation Bible School, and continue to offer service opportunities throughout the year, such as work days for Habitat for Humanity.

We would like to thank our members for voting this past November, as Susie Herzberg was again elected to the board as Director of Congregation Advocates. We would also like to thank those who have directed their Thrivent Choice dollars to Gethsemane. This past year the congregation received \$1964, which is used for volunteer recognition and leadership training at our church. The school received \$311 of its own. For those who haven't, please consider Gethsemane Lutheran Church and Gethsemane Lutheran Preschool as two possibilities.

Your 2012 Leadership Team, Advocates Jason Kiefer, lead, Kathy Steinert, Ginger Starrett with Susie Herzberg, Dir. of Cong. Adv. And Mel Kent, Financial Rep.

Jason Kiefer



HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come **LSB 892**

***Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.***

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is considered to be one of the most choice harvest and thanksgiving hymns in all of the hymnals of Christian singing. It was written for the English harvest festivals, a movable feast which varies according to the harvest time in different villages that celebrate it.

The hymn writer, Henry "Dean" Alford, is regarded as a gifted, Christian leader of the 19th century, a distinguished theologian and scholar. He was also a writer, poet, artist and musician. The composer is George J. Elvey, an long-time organist at the Windsor, Royal Castle.

One of the major interests of the writer, Henry Alford, was hymnology. He translated and composed numerous hymns which he published in his *Psalms and Hymns* (1844,) *The Year of Praise* (1867,) and *Poetical Works* (1852 and 1868.) Of his many works, including "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" "Forward! Be our Watchword," and "Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand," only "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is still in use in most evangelical hymnals.

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" first appeared in Alford's *Psalms and Hymns* in 1844. Originally, it was meant to be a harvest song, and titled "After Harvest" with seven stanzas. Only four remained in common use. From the four stanzas that remained, "Come, Ye

Thankful People, Come" is well-taken as a meaningful thanksgiving song with its related significance:

- *Stanza One* - An invitation and exhortation to give thanks to God, in His earthly temple which is God's Church, and for His care and provision to humankind's needs.
- *Stanzas Two and Three* – They are Alford's commentaries on the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares as recorded in the book of St Matthew.
- *Stanza Four* – A prayer for the Lord's return, a culminating event that Alford sees as an ultimate show of God's goodness in His purpose of humankind's redemption.

Henry Alford was born on October 7, 1810 in London. His ancestry came from generations of respected clergymen in the Anglican Church and he followed in their footsteps. He became Dean of Canterbury Cathedral at 47, and remained in the position until his death in January 12, 1871. He was also a prominent Greek scholar

The composer of the Tune Name "St. George's, Windsor" was George J. Elvey (March 27, 1816 - December 9, 1893), an organist. He served as organist for 47 years at the historic, Royal Chapel at Windsor Castle in England. He originally composed the music for another text. In 1861, the tune first appeared with Alford's text in the Anglican hymnal, *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. He was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1871.

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is found in nearly every published hymnal, most especially, Evangelical hymnals, to the present time.

Bob Bornemann