



Dear Gethsemane Family:

"You Are Now Entering the Mission Field". Most of you know those are the words on a sign that you see as you leave our main church parking lot onto 4th Street. I think the sign has been up over a year now. I have to confess that I really don't see it much anymore. I have "old eyes". I used to have "new eyes" when I first came here, and noticed the parking lot, roof, and other things visitors see but we don't.

What would be worse, of course, is that I no longer "see" the lost around me. But they are there. According to Pr. David Born, the lead Transforming Churches Network consultant who led an all-day Saturday session on Oct. 13 for our leadership, the US is the 3rd largest non-Christian nation in the world, in terms of sheer numbers. A full 33% of the adult population under age 30 has no church affiliation. Our culture is changing.

So, from my perspective, we now have an opportunity at Gethsemane to improve our sight, and in the process let God revitalize our hearts to care about the unchurched and lost around us.

The five "prescriptions" that the TCN report lays out for Gethsemane (summarized on the reverse side) **are doable**. After all, with God all things are possible! The question we ask of ourselves is: are we ready? ready to work together? ready to 'behave' our way into a new way of thinking?

Because that's ultimately what transformation is: thinking in a new way. Spiritually-speaking, this is God's doing. Yet, as surely as we recognize it is God Himself who grows His Church (and His people), we also recognize it is His people who plant the seed, water the soil, and cultivate the crops (1 Corinthians 3:6).

This is not about "knocking on doors". It's about seeing and thinking differently about the unchurched and the lost; it's about taking Jesus' Great Commission to "go and make disciples" as seriously as He did when He spoke those words.

I'm excited about finally working together to embrace a vision process of discovering what God's preferred future for Gethsemane might look like in the next 3-5 years. I hope and pray that many of you will be too.

Please come to the forums **on Sunday, November 4 (during coffee hour) and also on Wednesday, Nov. 7, (7:15pm)** at which time we will take time to discuss the prescriptions and what they mean. And then come **on Loyalty Sunday, Nov. 18**, both to dedicate your pledge to fund God's mission here, and then to vote on those prescriptions in a special congregational meeting after the worship service.

Blessings,

(see reverse side)

## A SUMMARY OF THE FIVE “PRESCRIPTIONS” FROM THE CONSULTATION REPORT

1. Set aside a month for focus on a VISION PROCESS, including a day devoted to why we exist, dreams, ideas, concerns. Deadline, June 1, 2013.
2. Begin a series of HOME AND CHURCH BIBLE STUDIES on prayer and witness by March/April, 2013.
3. Conduct a “MINISTRY AUDIT” of our resources and assets, including determining future feasibility of our preschool, and the best use of our building/expansion fund. (by June 30, 2013)
4. External Focus: a) BEGIN SMALL GROUPS focused on forming relationships with the unchurched (by May, 2013).  
b) plan 6 “NET FISHING” EVENTS in 2013 to interface with our community.  
c) begin a PRAYER-WALKING MINISTRY by April 2013.
5. EMPOWERMENT OF LEADERSHIP: Through a TCN Coach, begin empowering of ministry leaders and focus on carrying out the vision. Hold a TCN seminar on structure and accountability by November 2013.

### PASTOR ART DORING IS RETIRING ON DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>

Pastor Art Doring of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Stanhope is **retiring after 54 years of ministry on Sunday, December 2nd**. We are invited to his Retirement Celebration, with a Celebration Worship Service at 10:30am, at which Pastor Terry will be the guest preacher. A Celebration Dinner follows at Perona Farms at 2pm. Pastor Doring has served his entire ministry of 54 years at Stanhope! He has been a long-time friend of Gethsemane, serving as vacancy pastor in earlier years. He has been a close friend of Pastor Emeritus Tom Armour, as well as Pastor Terry. We hope to have him visit our Seniors Luncheon in the future, and perhaps preach as well. We give thanks to God for His service to the Lord and His Church these many years, and we pray good health and rich blessings on Pastor Doring and his wife Lois in the future.

### ***The Lutheran Hour***

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I am pleased to inform you that the Christian Heritage Endowment Fund has awarded Gethsemane a grant of \$5,200 for the Lutheran Hour airing on WRNJ Project.*

*Mr. Charles Stackhouse, a member of the CHEF Board of Trustees will arrange for a presentation of the CHEF grant. We hope it may be at or after worship service or another public setting where a photo may be taken to be published in the NJ District Grapevine.*

*The Chef Board asks that you submit a written report summarizing the accomplishments of this project within one year of its approval. We request this report reflects a tracking of outcomes as stated in the objectives of the grant request. In addition, it would be enlightening to see how congregation members are actively involved in reaching the outreach objectives. After discussion, the CHEF Board would be inclined to consider this grant for a third year with funding at the 50% level.*

*We hope this grant is an encouragement to God's people at Gethsemane from your brothers and sisters in the New Jersey*

**Anthony J. Steinbronn**