

Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Hackettstown, NJ

The Garden

Gethsemane's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Volume V: Issue 2

April/May 2011

DATES OF IMPORTANCE

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT GETHSEMANE:

St. Augustine called it "the Great Week", because of all the great things accomplished for our salvation, in such a short time.

****Sunday, April 17: 10:30AM PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**

Palm crosses will be handed out for the Palm Processional, led by our Sunday School children and youth, and our Vocal Choir. A special anthem, "Blessed is He" will be shared by the vocal choir, the Chime choir, and the Sunday School Choir. Narrative reading of the Passion History according to St. Matthew. Holy Communion and a Childrens' Message.

****Thursday, April 21, 7:00 PM. MAUNDY THURSDAY**

A special focus on Holy Communion and Forgiveness, as we consider the Fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer, "And Forgive Us our Trespases". Holy Communion will be celebrated. The season of penitence concludes as the last three days of Lent begins. The stripping of the altar is carried out by the Altar Guild members. This represents our Lord being stripped of his life and his glory.

****Friday, April 22, NOON and 7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY**

This year's service of meditation will include the Liturgy of the Cross. The service contains the traditional reproaches: readings from the 10th-century in which Christ is portrayed as confronting His people with their responsibility for His suffering an death. Pastor will offer a homily on the seventh petition: "But Deliver Us From Evil." The service will include "the Adoration of the Crucified", a procession using the narthex crucifix, as we pay homage and allegiance to our sovereign Lord. The cross is a throne.

****Sunday, April 24 6:30am and 10:30am EASTER SUNDAY**

We celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection. The joyous receiving of forgiveness and grace in the Lord's Supper will be at both services. At the 6:30 am service, we gather in the Fellowship Hall for the special rite of inscription and lighting of the Paschal Candle, followed by a candlelight procession into the darkened nave. At the 10:30am service, we are accompanied by the vocal Choir and our Chime choir. Special Childrens' message and gifts for the children. Pastor Terry completes the sermon series on the Lord's Prayer with the special doxology: "For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, Forever and Ever."

Note: We will gather to enjoy good food and fellowship at our annual

EASTER BREAKFAST at 7:30pm, with special thanks to the John Hinners family for their hosting and serving. Last call for signups this Sunday...either to donate food, or to help give us a head count if you're attending.

EVELYN BEEGLE IS TURNING 90!

And she's throwing a birthday party! Although her birthday is Holy Saturday, April 23, we'll celebrate on Saturday, April 30th, with a 1pm luncheon. She would like it to be a celebration also of all members age 90 (and up!), as well as family members who've passed away and who would be 90+ now. Bring photos of loved ones for display. AND PLEASE: NO GIFTS. A signup sheet is posted on our hallway bulletin board. Note: Evelyn is Gethsemane's only living and active charter member.

VOTERS' MEETING IS SUNDAY, MAY 1

Please join your fellow members at Gethsemane as we meet to hear of our kingdom work and its support. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship on Sunday, May 1st. The main agenda item is election of new Church Council members for 2011-2013. The Nominating Committee is currently at work preparing a slate. Also to be discussed is the possible change in the number of times our Church Council meets each year

GETHSEMANE PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSES IN MAY

Our Christian Preschool will offer two Open Houses in May: on Saturday, May 14, from 10-11:30am.....and on Tuesday, May 17, from 6:30-8pm. We offer classes for 3-year olds and 4-year olds. Please contact our Preschool Director, Sue Galloway, for further information. Please share this information with any of your neighbors and friends who have young children.

THANK YOU to our small army of members and friends who joined to serve the Lord at our Spring Cleanup on April 9. Over 40 volunteer hours were given by Mike Appeld, Sandy Anderson, Bill Everett, Jason Kiefer, Vern and Kathy Shisler, Jon Siek, Susie and Pastor Terry. Windows were washed, flower beds were cleaned out, leaves were raked, branches and brush picked up and wheelbarrowed into our version of the Pine Barrens, the old rugged cross was erected, and the Church was served.

CALLING ALL GOLFERS (AND WOULD-BE GOLFERS AND FRIENDS)

Bill Everett and Pastor would like to organize a church golf outing during May or June, and perhaps also summer and fall, for members and friends. Perhaps start out with a scramble format, a few prizes, and much fellowship. We're looking at Saturdays or Sundays. Also, Bill is able to register anyone interested in playing in a Sunday afternoon league at Shawnee-on-the-Delaware resort course during the summer. No requirement to play, just show up when you can and get paired up, hopefully with fellow members and friends. Cost is \$30, includes cart and unlimited play; likely a 1:30 to 2pm start. Contact Bill at 908.637.6727.

Secret Prayer Pals

Easter & Spring! What a wonderful combination! As we celebrate this season, let us also remember our special friends in Christ, our Secret Prayer Pals. We pray for them daily, but we might also want to let them know we care for them with a card and/or a small gift this Easter season. Then, within a month comes Mother's day and another opportunity to show our love. And always remember your Secret Prayer Pal's birthday and anniversary (if she has one).

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, ask Marilyn Meeks. And remember, have fun!

PILLARS AND CATERPILLARS

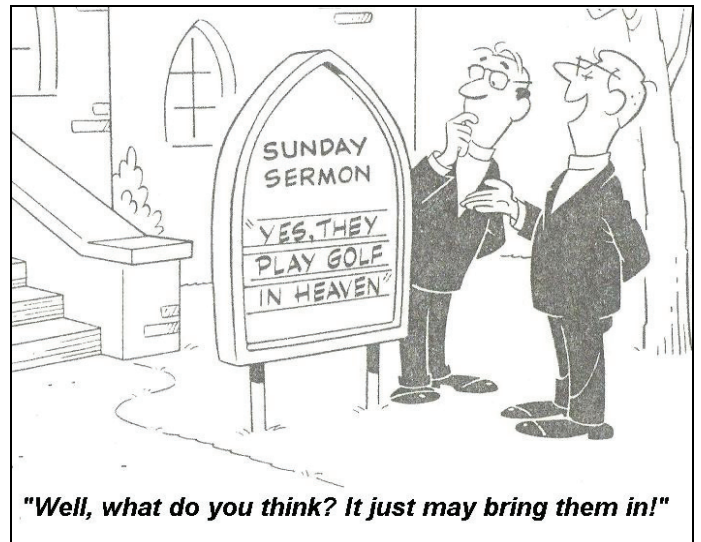
"There are two kinds of people in the church....Pillars and Caterpillars.

The pillars hold up the Church, and the caterpillars simply go in and out".

When I first heard this quotation, I took it to mean the caterpillars are the bad guys and the pillars are the good guys. But the more I thought about it, the more I wondered. Pillars do not change. They are made of stone. Sometimes people get so intent on holding up the Church, they become too set in their ways. They support the Church, but they forget about God, who is the One the Church is all about. Perhaps they "hold up" the Church in another way and keep it from advancing.

Caterpillars, on the other hand, are alive. As long as they keep going in and out---in to receive the Sacrament and to worship and praise, and pray, and out to spread the Good News in the world---they are moving and changing and becoming. And we all know what happens to caterpillars---the big change which comes when they break out of the cocoon and they lift their lovely wings.

So it goes both ways. The pillars would profit by adding 'cater' to their name, and breaking out of their stony shells, and the caterpillars should remember that their last name is 'pillar', and that they are needed to do their share of the 'upholding', so that there will continue to be a church to go in and out of! ----borrowed.



CANCER IS SO LIMITED.....

**It cannot cripple love,
It cannot shatter hope,
It cannot corrode faith,
It cannot eat away peace,
It cannot destroy confidence,
It cannot kill friendship,
It cannot shut out memories,
It cannot silence courage,
It cannot invade the soul,
It cannot reduce eternal life,
It cannot quench the Spirit,
It cannot lessen the power of the resurrection.**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

409 East Baldwin Street
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HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING

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"In The Cross of Christ I Glory"

LSB 427

***In the Cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.***

"In The Cross of Christ I Glory" was written by John Bowring (1792-1872)

Music: *Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867*

This hymn was produced in 1825 and first appeared in the author's *Hymns* published that year his famous hymns, The story is sometimes told that he was moved to write "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" upon seeing the cross at the ruined Church of St. Paul in Macao, but he did not go to Macao until 1849, and the hymn had appeared some 24 years earlier! Very little is known about his early life. The tune (Rathbun) which is used with the hymn in America was composed by Ithamar Conkey, who was born at Shutesbury, MA, on May 5, 1815. One rainy Sunday in 1849 the minister, named Mr. Hiscox, was preaching a series of sermons on "The Words of the Cross," and Bowring's hymn was to be sung to what Conkey considered a dull and obsolete tune.

Discouraged and disheartened because only one member of the choir, Mrs. Beriah S. Rathbun, showed up, Conkey just decided to leave early and go home. That afternoon, while going over the songs for the evening service,

the 34-year old musician was now filled with regret for his actions in leaving early that morning and, continuing to think about the morning lesson and the words of Bowring's hymn, decided to provide a new melody for it. Later he admitted that his feelings were a vivid contradiction of his actions at the morning service. The tune was first published in the 1851 *Collection of Psalm and Hymn Tunes*, edited by Henry Wellington Greatorex, though set to a different hymn. Around 1850 Conkey moved to New York City, NY, where he served first at Calvary Episcopal Church and then at Grace Church. From 1852 to 1854 he served at Trinity Church, and in 1861 became music director at the Madison Ave. Baptist Church. He died at Elizabeth, NJ, on Aug. 30, 1867.

This hymn is considered one of the finest reflections on the meaning of the cross.

I. Stanza 1 affirms that the cross and what it represents have survived all the attacks of time. "In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering o'er the wrecks of time; All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime."

A. We glory in the cross because it is a symbol of the death of Christ: Jn. 19.17

B. Thus, the message of the cross is the message of salvation: 1 Cor. 1.18-21

C. There are those who wish that the offense of the cross would cease, but it still towers over the wrecks of time: Gal. 5.11

Bob Bornemann