

Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Hackettstown, NJ

# The Garden

Gethsemane's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Volume V: Issue 4

November/December 2011

## DATES OF IMPORTANCE

*Mark Your Calendars!*

**\*Sunday, Nov.20 LOYALTY SUNDAY**

Dedication of Pledges at 10:30am service  
Loyalty Luncheon follows the worship service

**\*Sunday, Nov.20: HYMN-FEST, 7PM.**

Hymn-sing with local choirs

**\*Wednesdays, Nov.30, Dec.7, & Dec.14**

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES, 7PM

"A Child is Born in Bethlehem"-Dramatic dialogs

**\*Sunday, Dec. 4: "First Sundays in the Pew"**

10:30AM: Worship and Sunday School

Baptisms of SS Children

**Voters' Meeting** follows worship

**\*Sunday, Dec.18, CHRISTMAS CHOIR CANTATA**

10:30 AM, SS Choir also

**\*Saturday, Dec.24, CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

7 & 11 PM

**\*Sunday, Dec.25, CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION**

10:30AM

**\*Sunday, Jan.1, NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP**

10:30 AM

## LOYALTY SUNDAY IS COMING ON

NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>

What better Sunday to express our devotion to our God, to acknowledge that He is #1, than on Christ the King Sunday!

- We will be dedicating our pledges to the Lord during the service. (These were mailed to you—please let Pastor or the Church office know if you did not receive one, but wish to).
- A **LOYALTY LUNCHEON** will follow the service, catered by Stella G's, and funded by several generous members. The menu includes: antipasto, salad and dressing, selection of gourmet sandwiches (including smoked pork loin, smoked salmon, liverwurst), house made chips, pulled pork sliders, orzo pasta salad, pignolio radicchio, and shaved parmesan olives.
- ***To register***, please fill out a reservation card in Sunday's bulletin, OR call the church office (852.2156) or email the church ([gethsemanetown@verizon.net](mailto:gethsemanetown@verizon.net))

## **MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES BEGIN ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

In the busy, busy pre-Christmas rush of life, we invite you to pause in the midst of your week to be refreshed by 45 minutes of relatively quiet time in prayer, praise and devotion. Join fellow believers at Gethsemane at 7pm on **Wednesdays, Nov.30, Dec. 7 & 14, for our Midweek Advent Worship services.**

This year's theme is "***A Child is Born in Bethlehem***", featuring dramatic dialogs on the births of Benjamin, Obed and David, three significant births in Bethlehem leading up to the most important birth to ever happen in Bethlehem, the birth we will celebrate on Christmas.

**HYMN-FEST:** Mark your calendars for "***Hymn-fest – An Evening of Thanksgiving and Praise***" on **Sunday, Nov. 20, at 7pm.** We will host a gathering of Christians from our area, including the choirs of St. James Episcopal, Trinity Methodist, First Presbyterian and our own Chancel and Chime Choirs. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend, especially an unchurched one. Refreshments and fellowship follow an evening of singing our favorite hymns! Ticket price - a non-perishable food item to support our local food pantry.

Please save **Saturday, Nov.19, 3pm.** to come down to our Fellowship Hall and join in preparing Thanksgiving dinner baskets for our shut-ins, seniors and friends. SIGNUP on the hallway bulletin board to donate turkeys, vegetables, potatoes, cranberry sauce, rolls, desserts, and bottled water. Contact Ginger Starrett for more information.

We are meeting again! We are planning to do some baking (cookies and more) for seniors and shut-ins on **Friday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall at Gethsemane. If you need a ride, contact Sue Hill or Pastor.

worship service. The main agenda item will be the adoption of the 2012 budget, recently proposed by our Church Council. A copy of the proposed budget will be posted on the hallway bulletin board by Nov. 20.

Thirty-five children are enrolled for this year. We have been busy this fall studying the Monarch butterfly, “marvelous me”, families, apples, fire safety, leaves and pumpkins. Pumpkin-picking trips to Tranquility Farms were enjoyed by children and parents.

Students from the drama class at Centenary College paid two visits to our Pre-K class, first to ask the children what they would like to be for Halloween, and then returning with created costumes on October 28<sup>th</sup> for a party, treats, songs and a parade.

In November our themes are nutrition, turkeys, Pilgrims, and Thanksgiving. Special Thanksgiving programs for the parents will take place on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

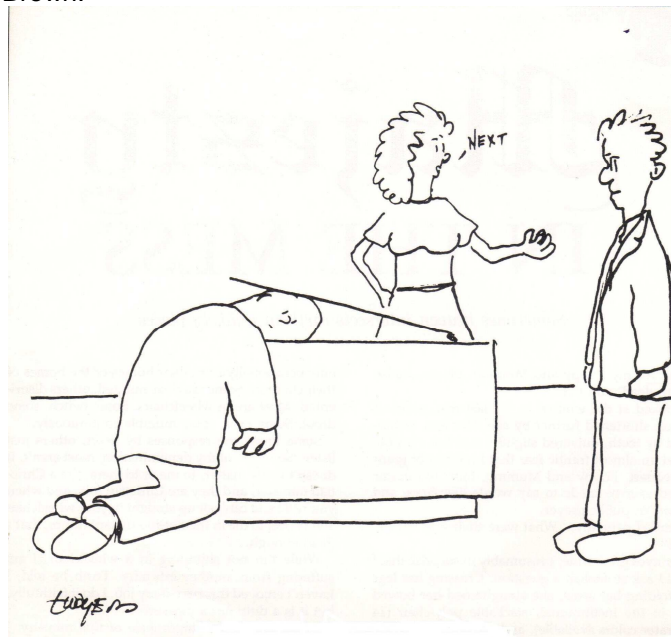
December will be filled with the wonder and joy of baby Jesus' birth. We will learn new songs to help us focus on this holy time. We will also celebrate the fun of Christmas with our annual "Night Before Christmas" parties where the children and parents will enjoy crafts, games, treats and a special program of songs and poems by the children.

Sue Galloway, Director  
Gethsemane PreSchool

**If I choose to take care of someone,  
As I care about them I will soon find out I do care  
about them!**

**But if I wait until I care about someone before caring for them, I may wait forever.**

Thank you to all who participated in our photo sessions. We hope to see the new directories by early to mid-December. Special thanks to the Directory Committee: Susie Herzberg, Juanita Reyes, Alvis Eikstrems, Janet Long, Marilyn and Jeff Meeks, Danielle Siek, and Dorla Brown.



## Women's Guild Secret Prayer Pals

Sunday School started, choir started, the kids went back to school and we returned to our hectic routines. The holidays are upon us and with all our busy schedules, it becomes so easy to forget to send uplifting and "I'm thinking of you" cards and include our Pals in our daily prayers. And let's not forget our Secret Pals on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let us set the example and always remember our Secret Prayer Pal. But, don't reveal yourself until January. Then by the end of January you will have a new Pal.

Many educational institutions use soup (and other designated) labels to "purchase" support items for the work that they do. For many years, LWML Societies have been sending their labels to Bethesda Lutheran Homes—residence facilities for the developmentally disabled. Bethesda uses its labels to purchase equipment for residents and facilities. A wide variety of items from these Campbell divisions are eligible for this program: Campbell's® , Franco-American®, Pepperidge Farm®, Swanson®, Market Day®, V8® beverages, Prego® Pasta sauces, Campbell's ® Foodservice and more. For a few items such as Prego and V-8, save the lid. Please place your labels in the blue box in the hall by December 11<sup>th</sup>, so we can send them to Bethesda's Good Samaritan Home in Cypress, Texas by year's end.

## Music Notes:

Gethsemane is hosting a hymn-fest on the evening of November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to gather Christians from our community for a celebration of song, fellowship, and service. We will be gathering to learn about some of the many hymns that our various denominations share and to sing God's praises as one voice. In addition, we'll be asking for donations to the local food pantry, housed at Trinity Methodist Church, to benefit those in need. Mark your calendar for the first annual hymn-fest, and be sure to bring several friends!

The Chancel Choir begins rehearsing our annual Christmas Cantata this month, and we welcome additional singers for this worshipful event! Please join us on for our weekly choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings, and Wednesday evenings during Advent, as we practice our music for the December 18th service. It's a beautiful medley of original songs and narration which illustrate the prophecies of the birth of Jesus. See Laura or any choir member if you're interested in singing with us! We had CDs of the score to help us all learn the music.

We are so grateful to our Reinforcement Choir members who are adding to our ranks for special and festival Sundays. After the Reformation Sunday anthem, the next opportunity to join us in song will be for special choir rehearsals after Sunday services in December for those who would like to sing an anthem on Christmas Eve. The more voices, the more joyful the sound! Our dedicated 'reinforcements' need not process or sit with the choir, and do not have to wear robes. It's a 'part-timer' commitment, and we're thankful for your involvement.

Anyone who plays an instrument and would like to accompany the choir - and especially the children! - please let me know! Recently, we've added the guitar playing of Mrs. Susie Herzberg and the violin of Miss Kristen Labert. What blessed additions these have been! Our children are also enjoying the new rhythm instruments. Let us know if you have a talent that *you're* willing to share!

Laura Petrie

### **LET GO AND LET GOD**

As children bring their broken toys  
With tears for us to mend,  
I brought my broken dreams to God,  
Because He was my friend.  
But then, instead of leaving Him  
In peace to work alone,  
I hung around and tried to help  
With ways that were my own.  
At last I snatched them back and cried,  
"How could You be so slow?"  
"My child", He said, "What could I do?  
You never did let go."

## Musical Happenings

\* **Tuesday, Nov.22,7pm. "Sharing the Harvest" Benefit Concert** for the Children of Haiti at Trinity United Methodist Church, featuring the folk, spiritual and bluegrass music of the Americana Troupe, the gospel ensemble, The Joyful Silvertones, and the bluegrass trio, The Sleepy Man Banjo Boys. Free-will offering.

\* **Saturday, Dec.3, 7:30pm and Sunday, Dec.4, 3pm "Winterfest of Music"**, a concert by the Warren County Community Singers, including our own Juanita Barna-Providoshin. Saturday at Grace Lutheran Church (300 Roseberry St. in Phillipsburg) And Sunday at First Presbyterian Church (40 East Church St.) in Washington. Free admission.

\* **Tuesday, Dec.6, 7:30pm. Music Ensemble Winter Concert** at the Sommer Center of Concordia College, Bronxville, NY (our nearest Synodical school), featuring their Handbell Choir, Holy Ground, and Gospel Choir. Concordia is located at 171 White Plains Rd, Bronxville, NY. ([www.concordia-n-y.edu](http://www.concordia-n-y.edu)) or phone 914.337.9300

### **HELP STILL WANTED AT GETHSEMANE**

God has blessed and equipped us to serve Him, shaping us for service. Please give prayerful thought to serving our Lord in one of the following "servant opportunities":

\* **Transportation ministry** (to church, doctor, etc.)  
Contact: Pastor or church office.

\* **Funeral repast ministry** (host/hostess) Contact:  
Marilyn Meeks.

\* Volunteer to **help with Interfaith Homeless Ministry** (as a cook, host, over night supervision)  
Contact: Toni Torchia.

\* **Greeter's ministry** (before/after worship) Contact:  
Pastor/Toni Torchia.

\* **Outdoor beautification** (weeding/flower care)  
Contact: Elna Parke

\* **Kitchen Cleanup**; Contact: Elna Parke

### **Wedding Congratulations!**

Alicia Starrett and Brian Seidel, married in the midst of our October snowstorm on Oct.29, now honeymooning in Paris!

Christin Kurz and Stephen Riefler, married at the shore on September 10.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE SPECIAL FREE-WILL OFFERING FOR MISSIONARY JIM BUCKMAN ON MISSION SUNDAY, OCT.23.**

You can support him directly through those pink "Special Missionary Fund" envelopes at the beginning of each month in your offering envelope box.

# Gethsemane Lutheran Church

409 East Baldwin Street  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840



## HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING

### HYMNS WE LOVE TO SING

*"Glorious Things of You Are Spoken" LSB 648*

*"Glorious things of you are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken,  
formed you for His own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake your sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
you may smile at all your foes. "*

Author --John Newton, 1725-1807

Music--Franz Joseph Haydn, 1732-1809

Tune Name --"Austrian Hymn"

Scripture Reference --Psalm 87:3 and Isaiah 33:20-21

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of His holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge." Psalm 48:1, 2, 3

John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy. This fitting testimonial, written by Newton himself prior to his death, describes aptly the unusual and colorful life of this man, one of the great evangelical preachers of the eighteenth century. The granite tombstone bearing this inscription can still be seen in the small cemetery adjoining the parish churchyard in Olney, England, where John Newton ministered so effectively for fifteen years.

The story of John Newton's early life is generally quite well known. He was born on July 24, 1725, in London. His mother, a godly woman, died when he was not quite seven years of age. When he was eleven years old, he went to sea with his sea-captain

father and followed this life for the next eighteen years. These years were filled with adventure but were one continuous round of rebellion and debauchery. He became known as one of the most vulgar and blasphemous of men. Following his dramatic conversion experience, in 1748, and his call later at the age of thirty-nine to the Christian ministry, Newton became pastor of the Anglican parish in the little village of Olney, near Cambridge, England, and began writing hymn texts that expressed his spiritual experiences and convictions. His most popular hymn, "Amazing Grace", is really a testimony of Newton's early life and conversion. "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" is from Part I of the Olney, near Cambridge, England, and began writing hymn texts that expressed his spiritual experiences and convictions. His most popular hymn, "Amazing Grace", is really a testimony of Newton's early life and conversion.

"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" is from Part I of the Olney Hymns and is generally considered to be one of Newton's finest. It is said to be the only joyful hymn in the entire collection. The hymn gives a stirring description of God's protection of His chosen people. Expressions such as "He whose word cannot be broken formed thee for His own abode" show Newton's profound respect for the covenantal promises to the Jews as well as to the local church and its earthly ministry.

The tune, "Austrian Hymn," was composed by Franz Joseph Haydn or the Austrian national hymn text by Hauschka, and was first performed on Emperor Franz II's birthday,

February 12, 1797. Haydn later used the air as a theme for variations in the slow movement of his string quartet known as the "Emperor" of "Kaiser," Opus 76, No. 3. The music was first used as a hymn tune, in 1802, in Edward Miller's hymnal, Sacred Music. Its first appearance with John Newton's text was in Hymns Ancient and Modern (1889). All of Haydn's works are said to be characterized by the "joy of a heart devoted to God.

Bob Borneman

# November 2011 (December on reverse side)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board of Social Ministry, 7:00 pm	2 Confirmation, 3:45 pm	3 Youth Quilters, 3-5:30 pm Chime Choir, 7 pm Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm	4	5 LWML Fall Retreat
6 <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> Worship, 10:30 am "First Sundays in the Pew" Sunday School, 10:45	7	8	9 Confirmation, 3:45 pm Womens' Guild Meeting, 7:30 pm	10 Chime Choir, 7 pm Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm	11	12
13 Worship, 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15am	14	15 Revitalization Pastors Group at Newton, 9am	16 Confirmation, 3:45 pm	17 Youth Quilters, 3- 5:30 pm Chime Choir, 7 pm Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm	18 YOUTH GROUP BAKING, 4PM	19 Thanksgiving Baskets Outreach, 3pm NJ JAM AT FLEMINGTON
20 <b>LOYALTY SUNDAY</b> Worship, 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am <b>LOYALTY LUNCHEON,</b> 11:45AM <b>HYMN FEST</b> , here at 7pm	21 Pastor's 35 <sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary	22	23 No Confirmation	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 Advent 1 Worship, 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am	28	29 Church Council Meeting, 7:30 pm	30 Confirmation, 3:45 pm Chime Choir, 6pm <b>ADVENT WORSHIP, 7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir, 7:45pm			

\*\*Note: Alcoholics Anonymous groups meet at Gethsemane on Fridays (8pm), Sundays (6:30pm), and Mondays (7 & 8 pm)

# December 2011 (November on reverse side)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Youth Quilters, 3-5:30 pm	2	3
4 Advent 2 First Sundays in the Pew <b>WORSHIP</b> and Sunday School, 10:30 am <b>VOTERS' MEETING</b> , 11:45 am	5 Womens' Guild Christmas Party at Pump House, 6:00 pm	6	7 Confirmation, 3:45 pm Chime Choir, 6pm <b>ADVENT WORSHIP,</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir, 7:45pm	8 Youth Quilters, 3-5:30 pm	9	10 Church Christmas Decorating, 9 AM
11 Advent 3 Worship, 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am	12	13	14 Confirmation, 3:45 pm Chime Choir, 6pm <b>ADVENT WORSHIP,</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir, 7:45 pm	15 Youth Quilters, 3-5:30 pm	16	17
18 Advent 4 Worship, 10:30 am <b>CHOIR CANTATA</b> Sunday School, 9:15 am	19	20	21 Chime Choir, 6pm Chancel Choir, 7:45pm	22 Youth Quilters, 3-5:30 pm Chime Choir, 7 pm Chancel Choir, 7:30 pm	23	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>Candlelight, 7 pm</b> <b>Candlelight</b> <b>Communion, 11 pm</b>
25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <b>Communion,</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	26	27	28	29	30	31 NOTE: Sunday, Jan. 1 WORSHIP is at 10:30 am (no Sunday School)

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