

March 2010

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Gethsemane Lutheran Church
The Leaf



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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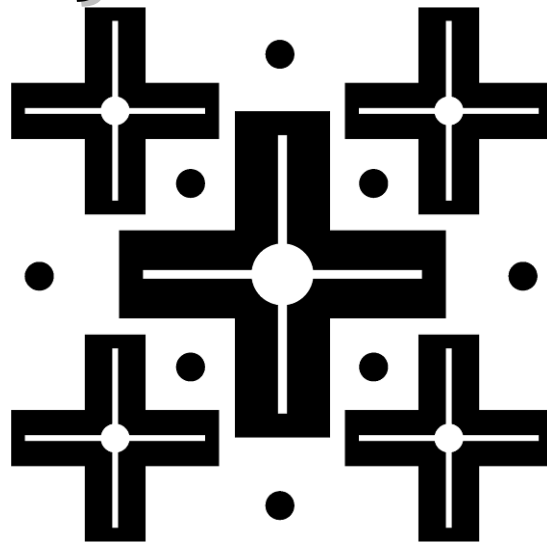
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Holy Week 2010



Maundy Thursday

April 1, 7:30 pm

Good Friday

April 2, 7:30 pm

Easter Vigil

April 3, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday

April 4, 9:30 am

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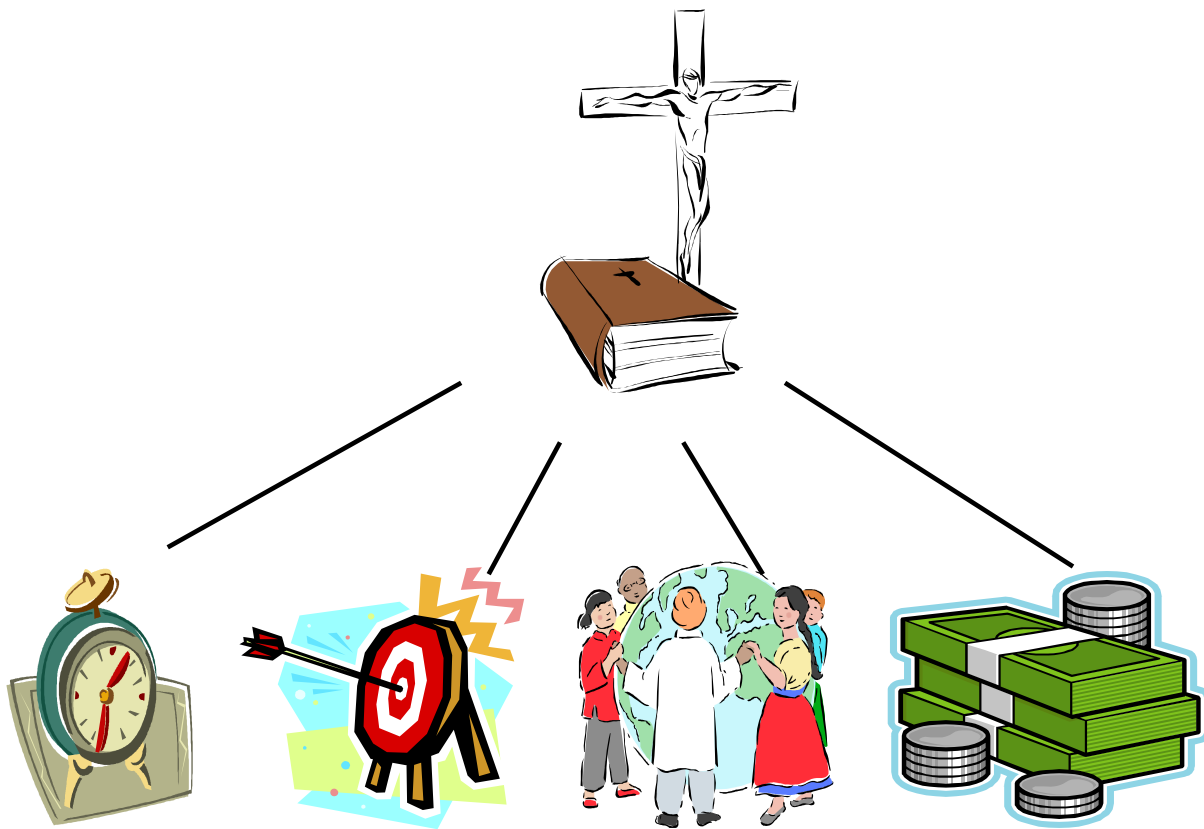
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Faith-Filled Living: A Group Study on Stewardship



Stewardship is more than money... it's all of the Christian life! Join us every Wednesday in Lent at 6:30 PM for a group study on stewardship. The five-part educational series will focus on the areas of "Time," "Talents," "Resources," and "Revenue" as well as faith practices and spiritual gifts. Mark Allan Powell's book *Giving to God* will also be used to supplement discussion. Soup supper will start at 6:00 PM and a worship service of prayer, proclamation, and praise will begin at 7:30 PM.

**6:00 Soup
6:30 Study
7:30 Worship**

Habits of Heart, Body, Soul

By the Rev. Karen Asmus-Alsnauer



One of my pre-Lent disciplines is to clean off my bookshelves. I usually get sidetracked as I read

something I had forgotten about, this time from Stephen Covey ([7 Habits of Effective People](#)). He credits Aristotle with saying, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act, but a habit. Character, basically is a composite of our habits.”

We usually think of habits in negative terms; habits we need to break. Covey suggests however that there are some habits we need to create if we are to be highly effective people. I think that principle applies in our own quest for health, holiness, and wholeness.

Worship can be a powerful and ultimately transformative habit we ought to cultivate. The classic habits of fasting, study, prayer, service, and worship allow space for the Spirit’s work! They are gifts to get us in spiritual shape. They are gifts of spiritual nourishment for strength that will see us through the days ahead. A word of hope, a taste of grace, and a healing touch. ... with and within the community of faith.

When Jesus was a boy, his life was filled with such habits. Luke tells us that “it was his custom” or “as was his habit” Jesus would go to the synagogue. He did not go only to preach, to stir up the people, or to make a cameo appearance that could be reported in the New Testament. Jesus went to synagogue Sabbath after Sabbath. He heard the lessons, he learned the teachings of the Torah, he prayed the prayers.

It should not, then, be a surprise to learn that when Jesus was tested by the devil, when Jesus was pushed

against the wall and had his calling and loyalty to God pressed to the limits, he did not defend himself or resist the temptations with clever sound bytes. He quoted Deuteronomy. He quoted truths he learned as a child, recited in Sabbath school, heard time and time again in the synagogue. The words that served him well in the wilderness were engraved on his heart in worship. So it is with us. When life presses us to the wall, the patterns of faithfulness learned in worship, the habits of our hearts and souls, will be there as spiritual nourishment.

During Lent we’ll worship *twice* a week! We’ll gather for Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm (preceded by Soup & Study at 6:00), focusing on developing habits as stewards of this precious life and world of ours. On Sundays, nurtured by Word and Sacrament, our gospel readings invite us more deeply into the mystery of who Jesus is and, therefore the life in Christ to which we are called.

Thank you for your patience and prayers as we continued this winter to tweak our worship schedule, and as we *continue* to plan for the worship in all it’s varieties of expressions. I’m wondering what might happen if we all spent a bit more time throughout the week praying for those who prepare our worship.. the lectors, the musicians, even the preacher and presider. What might the impact be if we got up 10 minutes early on Sunday and prepared our souls rather than rushing in out of breath?

Lent is a great time to start some new habits... or to rejoice in some ancient ones. I’m looking forward to worshipping with you... at whatever time or day or style we gather.

STAFF

A Child in Our Hands

By Terri Siebert

Director of Learning & Family Ministries



“Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

Deuteronomy 6: 6-7

When at home, when away, when lying down, when rising – hey, that’s all the time!

It is and the writer of Deuteronomy tells us that talking to our children about faith is **that** important.

But mix in the daily stuff of life, the driving to games and lessons, the homework, the lack of sleep plus work and you have an almost impossible task to find time for it all, let alone talk about faith and God.

Years ago the culture was to send a child to Sunday School and let the teachers there teach about God and Jesus. The church taught faith, the schools taught the 3 R’s, and the home took care of all the rest. It was a nice and neat package deal. But where were the words of Deuteronomy in all this? “Recite them to your children”...hmmm, that means talking about faith, doesn’t it? And it wasn’t directed at Sunday School teachers!

And as a parent you might say, ok, that sounds all good and well, but how do I do it? I never learned how to make my faith alive for my child. I was raised in that old school of thought, you know, the church teaches faith. I want to be able to pass on my faith to my child but how?

And where *is* the church in all this?

That’s where Milestone Ministry comes into the picture. It’s something new and exciting in family ministry. It’s taking significant events in a child’s life – milestones – and recognizing the importance in his/her life journey. A faith milestone is one where we know that God is present and saying “this is important”. For example, Gethsemane gifts our children and youth with Bibles at certain times of their lives – 3 year olds with the love of being read to, 6th graders entering confirmation, and 9th graders on the day of their affirmation of baptism. These are all milestones and we make these steps a part of our worship life here at Gethsemane. And there’s first communion where we partner with the parents in this special milestone.

But what else? What about at home? Perhaps it’s digging out your child’s baptismal candle on the anniversary of his/her baptism, lighting it, and saying a blessing for the gift of this child, God’s child. It’s talking about the day and looking at the pictures. It’s telling your child that this is important to you and to God. That’s talking your faith.

Something new will be starting on March 7. It will be the beginnings of a **new ministry to the parents of our preschoolers and their little ones.** I will take the opportunity to share with them some of our songs and prayers of chapel (which I do weekly with the Play and Learn children) and then as the children learn about Jesus with teacher Chris Lutz, our parents and I will have time to explore what it means to raise faithful preschoolers. I look forward to some wonderful sharing and conversation! We’ll meet downstairs in the preschool classroom at 10:45.



“Heart of Gold”

By Vicar Carl Bjork



The other day, I was driving southbound on I-71 towards home. I was in a “grumpy” mood. I decided to turn on the radio. I pushed the “Scan” button. I found a classic rock station. I heard Neil Young’s “Heart of Gold” from 1972’s *Harvest* album. It changed my life.

The past few months haven’t been the easiest. In fact, they’ve been pretty hard. Juggling home-life, work-life, parent-life, and social-life has been the most challenging experience of my life. I’m tired, I’m confused, I’m fulfilled, and I’m trying to “keep on keepin’ on!”

And as I drove home, Neil Young opened my mind and my heart to a deeper understanding of life. He sang these words to me:

*I want to live, I want to give,
I’ve been a miner for a heart of gold.
It’s these expressions I never give.
That keep me searching for a heart of gold,
and I’m getting old.
Keep me searching for a heart of gold,
and I’m getting old.*

And between the melody and the lyrics, I felt that this folk acoustic artist summarized my entire mood, my entire few months, my entire life, and I was moved beyond words.

Isn’t it funny how the most meaningful things occur at the most unexpected times? Isn’t it funny how the best things happen in the weirdest of ways? Isn’t it funny how the oddest events reflect the deepest truths?

“Heart of Gold” helped me recognize that even though I have experienced the recent ups-and-downs of trials and tribulations, blessings and beauties, at the center of it all, I am a miner for a heart of gold and I am getting old(er). I have worked to persevere, I have worked to grow, I have worked to find peace amidst the seeming disorder of life. And I have done so through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Only God can allow us to arise to the challenges of life, only God can help us work through our struggles to find peace, only God can lead us towards clarity. And God does so through song and dance, friends and family, enemies and strangers, Word and Sacrament, and faith, hope, and love.

Perhaps you can relate to my experience. Maybe you have a memory where everything seemed to make sense. Possibly you have had a time in your life where you were able to step out from your anxiety, fear, and worry and into joy, excitement, and spirituality. I know that I have had many great, transcendent experiences, but I can only recall a few that were as powerful as that winter day of 2010 where Neil Young helped me to see my calling, where a song helped me to express what I was otherwise unable to express, where lyrics helped me to believe that God has blessed me with a heart of gold.

Now more than ever, I feel called to share my value and confidence with others, and this is why I consider my experience in the car to be an experience of God. That moment re-inspired me to share my love of life with others in the name of Jesus Christ. I was re-charged, re-energized, re-newed; and I believe that to be the power of faith, the grace of God!

May God keep you searching for a heart of gold, may God keep you seeking to express what lies deep inside of you, and may God help you to live and give as you continue to grow old. The peace of the Lord is with you all!

Swahili Eucharist Service for the Columbus Community Sunday, March 7, 2010, 3:30pm

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Pastor Karen Asmus-Alsnauer
mchungaji@gethsemane.org

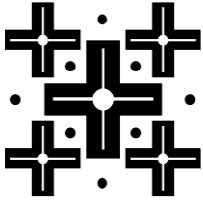
(a joint ministry of Gethsemane and Ascension Lutheran Churches)



Bwana asifiwe!

Praise the Lord!

Please join us on Sunday, March 7, 2010, for a Eucharist Service in Swahili. The service begins at 3:30pm with African music. Terry Rapoch will preach the sermon. Terry lived and worked in Tanzania for three years and during that time he learned to speak Swahili. He is currently the chairman of the Tanzanian Task Force in the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA. Holy Communion will be served and all baptized and believing Christians are invited to the Lord's Table to share in this meal. There will be fellowship time and African snacks after the service. Gethsemane Lutheran Church is located at 35 E. Stanton Ave., ¼ mile off North High Street behind Tim Horton's. If you have any questions or would like more information, please call the church at 614-885-4319 or email Pastor Karen at mchungaji@gethsemane.org.



Holy Week

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28, 9:30 a.m.

Education 10:45 a.m.

On this day, united with Christians around the world, we mark Jesus' triumphant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem to complete the work of our salvation. We follow in his footsteps as we enter the church, our Jerusalem, acclaiming the one whose throne was the cross. In today's gospel reading we hear the passion narrative of Jesus' suffering, death, and burial for our sakes.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

On this night we begin the Three Days during which we participate once again in the saving power of Jesus' passing over from death into life. The Maundy Thursday service includes the words of Jesus' new commandment (*mandatum*, from which *Maundy* comes) to love one another. As a sign of our calling to follow Jesus' example of humility and service, we may wash one another's feet as Jesus washed the disciples' feet. On this night in which Jesus was handed over to death we also gather around the Lord's supper. At the service's conclusion, the altar area is stripped of furnishings as a sign of Jesus' abandonment.

Good Friday

Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

The Good Friday service continues the journey through the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. At the heart of this service is the passion reading according to John, which celebrates Christ's victory on the cross. As Jesus draws all people to himself, we pray for the whole world for which Christ died. Finally, we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. With all God's people we are invited to bow before this mystery of faith. Christ has died, so that we may live.

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.

On the night before Easter Day, Christians around the world gather to celebrate Christ's passage from death to life. The service includes strong signs: new fire in darkness, light spreading from the light of Christ, the water and Word of baptism, the first resurrection meal. And powerful words: the great saving stories of Hebrew scriptures and the first Easter gospel. We keep this wondrous night in the spirit of vigil, our lamps lit, awaiting Christ's coming both now and at the end of time. Alleluia! Christ is risen! And Christ will come again.

-*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, pages 249- 250*

Easter Sunday, April 4. 9:30 a.m.

LEARN

Adult Education Opportunities Sunday Mornings 10:45am

Adult Forum meets in the multipurpose room on the lower level below the church offices. The coffee pot is on – come on down!

“Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” A Social Statement of the ELCA



Every Sunday in March during the education hour, Dick and Judy Reuning and/or Vicar Carl Bjork will facilitate a discussion of this social statement. The four-part series will focus on Lutheran theology, trust and sexuality, society and sexuality, as well as responsibility and sexuality. The series will also emphasize the impact of the social statement on the Christian life, the ELCA, and Gethsemane Lutheran Church. There are no requirements or prerequisites for participation – all are welcome! The instructors will encourage discussion and promote a safe environment in which to reflect upon this sensitive issue. This endeavor is one of education and dialogue so bring your unique perspective and a desire to grow together as we celebrate and discern sexuality as a dynamic of gift and trust!

Adult Bible Study meets in the library on the upper level, past the coffee area. They have begun a study of the **Book of Ezekiel**. Dick Lyndes is discussion leader. For more information, contact Dick at 885-6061 or Bob Davis at 885-9785.

Additional Learning Opportunities Throughout the Week

Men’s Breakfast

This group of men meet at Wesley Glen every second Saturday of the month at 8:00am for breakfast, fellowship, and conversation. Contact Bob Davis at 885-9785 for information.

Monday Bible Study -- First Reflections

First Reflections meets every Monday morning at 7:30am at La Chatelaine in downtown Worthington, 627 High St. The group uses Daily Discipleship, a lectionary Bible study designed for small groups which reflects on the coming Sunday’s text and explores how to follow Christ daily. Contact the church office at 885-4319 for more information.

Women’s Saturday Morning Bible Study

This group of women meets every third Saturday of the month at 10:00am in the conference room on the upper level. Contact Rosie Mohler at 740-965-1494 or the church office 885-4319 for more information.

New Bible Study Coming in April

"Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World -- Finding Intimacy with God in the Busyness of Life" written by Joanna Weaver is the book that Doris Ing will use to lead a Bible study for women in her home starting the week of April 11th. For more information, please contact Doris Ing at 425-3763 or dor_ing@yahoo.com.



Announcing : A Service Project

- Led by our 8th grade confirmands (Sam Ankrom, Andrew Carringer, David Perin and guide Jon Ankrom)
- Collection of \$\$\$ for purchase of food items to assemble lunch bags for homeless at Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resource Center.
- Feb. 28, March 7 and 14

(Bags include one protein such as beans and wienies, a drink, a sweet item, crackers or chips, and fruit. The confirmation class will do the shopping, assembly and delivery).

Something new is coming to the Great Hall!



Stop in and take a look.

It's a project of our Golden Angels class.

(Rachel Mackov, Bryn Hagerdorn, Leah Hiller, and Linda Mackov)

Summer Seminary Sampler June 13-July 3 & July 11-31

Summer Seminary Sampler is a three week residential program at Trinity Lutheran Seminary for high-school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Each summer participants in both the June and July sessions work on service projects, attend theological classes, shadow mentors, and spend time living in community with one another.

Classes taught by Seminary professors offer a challenge to think theologically and ethically. In addition, participants in Sampler have the opportunity to lead worship for the seminary community, join in regular morning and evening devotions, and grow in faith through time with mentors and other interesting individuals.

Mentors work as hospital chaplains, parish educators, church musicians, parish pastors, youth ministers, funeral directors, librarians, archivists, development staff, communicators, volunteer coordinators, teachers, campus pastors, deaconesses, associates-in-ministry, and a host of other fascinating careers.

Service projects are also often a highlight of a typical day at Sampler. Past service projects have included: an inner-city Vacation Bible School, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, a food pantry, Mid-Ohio Food Bank, Faith Mission, a home for the elderly, hospice, Mid-Ohio Workers' Association, Camp Friendship for mentally challenged adults, and many others.

For more information contact Pastor Karen at 885-4319 or pastorkaren@gethsemane.org. You may also check out the website www.summersampler.com.

Synchronicity Trio

Benefit Concert

“Happy Birthday with Strings Attached”



Dick Reuning - violin, Sharon Walton - piano, Bruce Posey – cello

Synchronicity Trio and guest artist Denise Spires will return to Gethsemane on Sunday, March 14 at 5:00pm to present another Benefit Concert for Faith Mission Homeless Shelters. As usual, they will perform music of different styles and periods in a program titled “Happy Birthday...with strings attached” which features classical Dvorak, a showpiece duet for violin and cello, and the piece by John Williams played at President Obama’s inauguration. Enjoy fellowship at the reception afterward in the Atrium with pastries provided by Mozart’s Bakery and Café, 2885 N High St. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match cash donations and checks made out to West Franklin Co. Chapter, Thrivent.

At last year’s concert pictured here \$5000 was raised to serve the homeless people of Columbus. Can we match that or do even better? What a great way to celebrate Gethsemane’s partnership with Faith Mission for more than 30 years. Invite your neighbors and friends!

Sunday ♦ March 14 ♦ 5:00pm

Small Group Ministries

First Reflections

Monday Bible Study

glcoffice@gethsemane.org

Saturday Bible Study

glcoffice@gethsemane.org

Connections: Faith in the Workplace

Judy Reuning

jreuning@lifecrossings.com

Men's Breakfast

Bob Davis

rjdjr@wowway.com

Habitat for Humanity

Bill Darlage

Darlage_bill@hotmail.com

Mom's Group

Doris Ing

dor_ing@yahoo.com

LWR Quilts

Ruth Fortis

ruthfortis@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Shawls

Kathleen Addlesperger

woodsiewoman@yahoo.com

OR

Call the

Church Office

614-885-4319



Calling All Quilters

Thanks to all the women who showed up in January and February to work on quilts! The next date is March 20 from 9-1. In the meantime, take a bundle from the basket in the narthex to sew a top. 1/4" seams work well. If you would like to sew but don't have a machine, we now have two machines to loan out. Either Ruth Fortis or Terri Siebert can sign one out to you so you can help make the tops. If you want to help on Monday evenings, come to the Fortis home at 200 Brookhaven Drive N., Gahanna for soup at 5:30 and stitches the rest of the evening. The more the merrier. You do not have to be an expert seamstress to join the fun. Come and learn, tie knots, cut squares, iron seams open, and share in fellowship.

Tai Chi Sponsored by Health Ministry Team

Gethsemane's Wayne Melton will be leading a Tai Chi class from March 4-April 29 with no class on April 1, Maundy Thursday. Cost is \$40 for 8 weeks. The time of the class is 6:00-7:15 pm. You can still sign up in Atrium Way or just show up on March 4!



We will **not** be meeting on a Sunday in March but instead go to the synod event for Grades 1-3 at St. John's Lutheran in Grove City, Saturday March 13, 10:45am – 2pm. Meet Terri at **Gethsemane at 9:45am.**

Bring a lunch including beverage plus \$20 for the activities. Checks should be made out to "Southern Ohio Synod".

If you haven't signed up yet to go, let Terri know right away or up until March 5. You can still join us for a fun time!

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School

Summer will come....we have had a lot of snow fall, but we are hopeful. Here is an early *save the date* because VBS is changing to June for the first time in a long time. June 22, 23, 24 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) from 6:30pm to 8:00pm we will have fun with stories, music, games, and crafts! The theme is FRIENDS OF THE LORD! Watch for future updates. If anyone would like to participate as a VBS helper/teacher this year, please contact Paula Sauer at 888-4625 or jpsauer@wowway.com

PLAY AND LEARN



Play and Learn Christian Child Care

Telephone: 846-7576

E-mail:

playandlearn@gethsemane.org

Web Site:

www.playandlearnccc.org

Administrative Staff

Brenda Weilbacher, Dir.
Emily Hatem, Asst. Dir.

Baby Bears 6 wks –18 mos

Petra Molina
Kim Weissman
Brittany Seitz

Elmo Express 18 mos–2 ½yr

Kerry Fisher
Debbie Miller

Big Birds 2 ½ –3 ½ yrs

Kate Bumster
Kelee McGuire

Cookie Monsters 3-4 yrs

Shirleen Erhart
Cheryl Miller

Kermits 4-5 yrs

Aida Montalvo
Annette O'Stroske

Kitchen Staff

Lorie Flynn

In a Childcare Exchange magazine article, "[4 Good Reasons Why ECE \[Early Childhood Education\] Is Not Just Important, But Essential](#)," Anne Mitchell, outlines four arguments on the value of early childhood education:

- 1) The moral argument – Early education is a right for children. All children deserve great places to be every day and great people to be with. Children deserve good parents, good health, and good early learning experiences. Children deserve to have delightful and joyous childhoods that lead to bright futures. It's the right thing for society to invest in young children.
- 2) The workforce productivity argument – Parents need to work to support their families and they need dependable, quality programs for their children while they work. We usually add that employers benefit by having a dependable workforce, and that parents are more productive when they have good stable child care
- 3) The brain research argument – The early years of a child's life, from the prenatal period onward, are when the brain is developing and growing faster than any other time. This period is critical and sets the stage for all of later learning and adult functioning. The baby's interactions with humans and the environment shape the brain's architecture. Positive and nurturing early relationships develop healthy well-functioning brains.
- 4) The return on investment argument – High-quality early childhood programs have financial benefits much greater than their costs — investing in low-income young children is a good investment with high public returns.

As early childhood educators and advocates, we know that early childhood matters. It's what we do every day with children; it's our life's work, and for many of us, it's our driving passion:

- We know that learning happens through relationships.
- We know that social and emotional development is directly linked with intellectual development.
- We know that positive early learning experiences lead to later success in learning.
- We know that families are the strongest influence on young children and when early childhood educators partner with families, children do better.



PLAY AND LEARN IS TURNING 30! We will be taking time throughout 2010 to celebrate these thirty years of playing and learning together. A special Play and Learn Celebration Sunday is being planned for October 3rd.

March Birthdays

- 1 Paul Feldman
- 4 George Smith
- 8 Amanda Burchfield
Samantha Melton
- 9 AdrienneJurgenson
Allison Stoshak
- 10 Dotty Edwards
Matthew Frashier
- 11 Madelyn Smith
Sue Wenger
- 14 Mark Keller
- 17 Penelope Smith
- 18 Heather Van Hull
- 19 Debbie O'Brien
- 22 Karen Alsnauer
- 25 Donna Darlage
Phyllis Nelson
- 26 Bryn Hagerdorn
Leah Hiller
- 27 Sarah Howard
- 28 Jill Feole
Paula Sauer
- 29 Diane Langner



Our Prayers and Concern Are With . . .

“Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.”
Ephesians 6:18

Members we continue to pray for:

Ray Alsnauer (Village at Westerville) ...
Donna Baer ... Marilyn Bosen
(Arlington Court ... Peg Crowell ... Jean
Fritchen ... Ken Gerken ... Madison
Keyser ... Mary Manship (The Forum) ...
Eleanor Nagy ... Phyllis Nelson ...
Rebecca Oldaker ... Howard Spring ...
Tim Toops ... Reva Woodruff

Family and friends:

Jennifer Bedner (friend of Don Huiner)
... Seth Jenkins and family (friends of
Pam Hagerdorn ... Nancy Meloy
(mother-in-law of Lucas Weiss ... Linda
Mills (daughter of Rob and Marie
Needham) ... Ruth Vollrath (cousin of
Jane Sieberth) ... Amy Williamson and
Ronnie Lane (relatives of Heidi Hiller
and Ruth Fortis)

Hospitalized:

Clara Bunk (Riverside)

Our love and compassion to:

Stanley Ludtke (father of Carol Prigan)
who passed away on Jan. 31.

Family and friends serving overseas:

Steve Bair (brother of Scott Bair) ... David
Frashier (son of Mike and Denise
Frashier) ... Ryan Oldaker (son of Becky
Oldaker) ... T.J. Smith (friend of Morgan

Melton) ... Nick Swenson (nephew of Barb Driver).

Would you like to add your prayers?

For Prayers of the People:

Contact church secretary, Diane, at 885-4319 or glcoffice@gethsemane.org by Thursday. Family and friends stay on the Gethsemane prayer list for one month. Please contact the church office if continued prayers are needed.

For prayers during the week:

Call Beryl Cumberland (471-0408) or Barbara Nelson (888-6257).

To Our Gethsemane Family:

My sincere thanks for the prayers, calls, cards, and expressions of concern after my fall and broken wrist during our Christmas caroling in December. What a blessing it has been to have the caring and concerns of my Christian friends.

The wrist is slowly healing and I have benefitted from the excellent nursing care of my wife Bonnie during my “down” period.

Also thanks for the warm and wonderful shawl brought to me after the surgery on the broken wrist. I really enjoyed the use of it.

Howard Spring

Faith Trek 2010 An Adventure in Christian Leadership and Service



Pictured above (from left to right) at the Faith Trek opening banquet at the Confluence Park is Jen Tatz, Pastor Karen, Bishop Holloway, and Morgan Melton.

Morgan Melton chosen as 2010 “Trekkie”

Morgan Melton was chosen among the youth of the Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA, to participate in Faith Trek 2010. Jen Tatz will serve as the adult mentor from Gethsemane. Each congregation within the Southern Ohio Synod was encouraged to nominate one young person from grade nine or ten to participate in Faith Trek. Participating youth were chosen on the basis of the Christian commitment they have already demonstrated in their congregations, schools, and communities. They were also chosen according to their potential to develop even stronger leadership skills. Participants are asked to make commitments to the year-long program and to spiritual growth and service projects in their local congregations and communities.

Faith Trek seeks to:

- honor the youth of the Southern Ohio Synod, ELCA
- aid the spiritual development of synod youth
- foster an awareness of and engagement with the larger church
- identify and develop youth leadership skills
- empower synod youth as members of the Body of Christ as they experience hope in faith, growth in Christian friendships and confidence in their abilities to make a difference in the world around them
- and have fun together in the presence of the Lord.

Morgan will participate in retreats, Leadership Development Days, and a Servant Trip to Elkhorn, Wisconsin, where they will engage in servant team urban ministries and visit the ELCA Churchwide Office. (Past high school youth who were also part of the Faith Trek experience from this congregation included Meaghan Reilly and Alison Harvey-Adams).

“Journey of Faith” Confirmation Retreat



“Journey of Faith!” – From Feb. 19-21, Sam Ankrom, Andrew Carringer, David Perin and Vicar Carl attended a winter Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Memorial Camp near Fulton, OH. The theme for the weekend was “Service.” The three confirmation students and Carl had a wonderful time enjoying the snowy outdoors, developing a deeper understanding of faith and growing together in Christ. Ask them about their experience!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Congregation Council

OFFICERS:

President
Don Dell

Vice President

Secretary
Heidi Hiller

Treasurer
Jeff Luedke

MEMBERS:

Janice Dunham
Paul Feldman
Harry Lyatuu
Don Seidemann
Jim Siebert

Highlights of Council Meeting – January 21, 2010

A copy of the Council and Committee minutes and Financial Report is posted in Atrium Way. PLEASE READ BUT LEAVE POSTED. Take home copies (minus attachments) are available in the Welcome Center.

Prior to the regular meeting, there was an orientation for the new Church Council and a glimpse into the year ahead.

REPORTS

As part of an orientation for the new Church Council, Pastor Karen identified the Pastoral Staff as a resource to the Council and Ministry Teams.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Gethsemane

2009 was a financially difficult year for GLC. Contributions in support of general operations were approximately 18% less than budget. Lessening the impact of this shortfall, net expenses were approximately 10% less than budget.

Gethsemane's cash flow is the greatest and most immediate concern on which to focus our attention and prayers. Historically GLC has operated within a deficit between February-June, picking up by the end of the year. GLC requires approximately \$35,000 each month to cover typical cash flow requirements. We are significantly below this level. September and December, 2009, benevolences have been delayed so as to increase working cash by \$11,916 to a total of \$28,505.65. The challenge before us requires improving the cash flow either through an acceleration of donations (special fund raising campaign), or a decrease of expenditures. Staff and committees are to be commended, for expenses have been very well controlled and greatly diminished. Yet, at the present time we are relying on the income of the current month to cover expenses.

Council decided on a sub-group approach to immediately begin to focus on the cash flow and budgetary concerns. One group will look into a special fund raising campaign; the other group will focus on contingency plans regarding expenditures.

Play and Learn

For the month of December, Play and Learn had a net loss of \$10,166.15, and after the budgeted set-aside of operating reserves, the operating loss is \$13,034.15.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Play and Learn broke even for 2009 and was unable to set aside any reserves. Payroll costs were very close to budget, and non-payroll costs were held at a level that was significantly below budget. Year to date, P & L has a net loss of \$371.61, and after the budget set-aside of operating reserves, the operating loss is \$34,787.61.

Play and Learn enters 2010 in a stable condition and will have sufficient cash to meet its immediate needs. There is little cushion against significant, unexpected expenditures, and they need to continue to work toward building up reserves. Conservatism built into Play and Learn's 2010 budget offers hope for an improved financial status in the coming year.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

Motions carried for the approval of four Ministry Teams, their team leader, and Council liaison:

~**Outreach Ministry Team** with Gary Rader as the team leader and Jim Siebert as the Council liaison

~**Worship Ministry Team** with Carol Prigan as the team leader and Jeff Luedke as the Council liaison

~**Mission and Ministry Ministry Team** with Joyce Geary as the Team Leader and Paul Feldman as the Council liaison

~**Adult Education Ministry Team** with Judy Reuning as the Team Leader, **High School Ministry Team** with Mike Siddall and Jen Tatz as the Team Leaders, **and Children's Ministry Team** (contingent on filling leadership role) and Heidi Hiller as Council liaison for the Educational Ministry Teams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Council Meeting will be held on February 11, 2010 at 7:30pm.

The Council retreat will be held on February 6, 2010 from 9am-2pm.

Heidi Hiller, Secretary

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of Council Meeting-February 11, 2010

REPORTS

The Pastor's report was included in her comments made during the opening devotions. In addition, she identified the opportunity to submit an application for a \$3,000 Lutheran Heritage grant through the Southern Ohio Synod. The three areas of focus include children, elderly and mission. The parameters appear to leave room for creativity. Application deadline is 4/2/10.

Jim Siebert reported that following Council's suggestion, the Outreach Ministry Team decided to narrow their focus to *evangelism* (community outreach). Council will have ongoing dialogue to address some of the *interior* outreach areas not covered.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Gethsemane

Gethsemane's cumulative shortfall has greatly restricted financial flexibility and has forced GLC to delay benevolence payments for the last two quarters for 2009-a total amount due of \$11,916. Furthermore, with working cash at February 1st of \$7,704 which is less than budgeted expense for February, GLC must rely on February income to pay February expenses. Action is needed to reverse this trend. For the month of January, contributions were less than expected. Expense exceeded income which resulted in a net shortfall of \$8936. The cumulative shortfall at the end of January was \$56,548.

Play and Learn

Play and Learn has modest net income for the month but there was no set-aside toward an operating reserve. January's net income was \$498.54, which was approximately \$700 less than budget. Play and Learn has begun to plan ahead for summer when tuition income typically declines. The greatest concern is balancing the personnel costs with decreased enrollment.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL

The following persons were approved by acclamation to the appointed committees and offices:

Nancy Feole Nominating Committee
Brian Murphy Assistant Properties Manager

Major Item

Jeff Luedke reported that Gethsemane is operating with one of the highest cumulative deficits in recent memory. We have had to borrow from our Special Funds to cover operating costs, which in turn limits our ability to utilize Special Funds as intended. We have had to defer making benevolence payments for the last two quarters of 2009. \$20,000 in accelerated contributions have been made (which will appear in February's financial report), but

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

that is not enough to prevent shortfalls later in 2010. Contributions in 2009 were considerably less than expected, which resulted in a \$36,000 deficit for the year. The 2009 deficit and the cumulative deficit made it necessary for Gethsemane to modify its 2010 budget to reduce expenses.

Don Dell reported for the sub-group of Council that examined trends in member contributions. The sub-group determined that 2010 contributions likely will not exceed 2009 contributions. Also it identified the need to raise at least \$20,000 in addition to regular giving. The Council discussed how best to guide the congregation through the fundraising process.

Jeff Luedke reported for the sub-group of Council that examined the opportunity to reduce expenses. Most of this discussion occurred in Executive Session.

MOTION: (Jeff Luedke, Paul Feldman) **Council to go into executive session (9:20 pm). Carried.**

Jim Siebert and Pastor Karen left the room during portions of the Executive Session, since Council's discussions included compensation paid to Terri Siebert (Learning & Family Ministry) and to Pastor Karen.

Don Dell declared Council out of Executive Session at 10:37 pm.

MOTION: (Paul Feldman, Janice Dunham) **Move that the Council President prepare a letter for the Congregation regarding the budget cuts agreed upon during Executive Session, the severity of the financial situation, and the additional cuts considered by Council at its next meeting. Carried.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 4, 2010 AT 7:30 PM TO ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE 2010 BUDGET.

THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 11, 2010 AT 7:30 PM.

Heidi Hiller, Secretary

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—MARCH 14

To submit an article

e-mail it to newsletter@gethsemane.org or leave it on secretary Diane's desk.



EASTER FLOWERS: A variety of spring flowers provide a wonderful splash of color across the chancel area enhancing the worship service for our risen Lord. Would you like to purchase one or more plants to help decorate the chancel for Easter? This would be a good opportunity to purchase a plant in memory of a loved one or to honor a special occasion. Please indicate below your choice(s) and deposit this form along with a check payable to **GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH** in the cannister located at the Welcome Center. Envelopes are provided.

DEADLINE: SUNDAY, MARCH 14.

Number	Type/Cost	Amount Due
_____	White Lilies @ \$8.25	_____
_____	Pink Hyacinths @ \$8.25	_____
_____	Blue Hyacinths @\$8.25	_____
_____	White Hyacinths @ \$8.25	_____
_____	Red Tulips @ \$8.25	_____
_____	Pink Tulips @ \$8.25	_____
_____	Yellow Tulips @ \$8.25	_____
_____	Red/Yellow Tulips @ \$8.25	_____
_____	Lavender Tulips @ \$8.25	_____
_____	Red Azalea @ \$13.00	_____
_____	Pink Azalea @ \$13.00	_____
_____	White Azalea @ \$13.00	_____
TOTAL		_____

ORDERED BY _____

TO THE GLORY OF GOD...

...IN MEMORY OF _____

...IN HONOR OF _____

