

Gethsemane Outreach Ministry Team: Recap of Activities for 2010

Members: Chris Lutz, Gary Rader and Jim Siebert. Joe Reilly attended our October meeting and may be interested in joining us!

With the switch from committees to ministry teams for 2010, the Outreach Ministry Team decided to focus on the “out” and leave the internal / social activities to others. Our goals were / are to oversee the evangelism ministry at Gethsemane Lutheran Church by:

- Promoting our mission via general public relations efforts.
- Coordinating a welcoming response to visitors.
- Working with the pastor and staff to orient and assimilate new members into this congregation.
- Educating members about sharing their faith and inviting others to worship.
- Promoting a connection between Gethsemane and the local community.

To that end, the committee:

- Makes a point to identify and speak to new and returning visitors attending Gethsemane worship services. (A special “thank you” to Jim Siebert for his diligence in doing this!)
- Delivers fresh bread and information about Gethsemane to first-time visitors. (Thanks to Paula Sauer for her assistance.)
- Passes out Gethsemane mugs to multi-time visitors.
- Sends letters to new residents in designated zip codes. (Thanks to Ralph Portzline and Diane Langner for their assistance.)
- Developed a “Visitor Log Book” to track contact with visitors, and works with Diane Gutgesall and Pastor John in continuing contact.
- Oversees a weekly ad in the Worthington and Clintonville SNP newspapers, along with special holiday / service ads. We also place a yearly ad in the Yellow Pages.
- Chris Lutz taught several classes during the Education Hour on “The Evangelizing Church”. (Chris started a Gethsemane Facebook page when she was Coordinator of Outreach and Integration Ministries; she continues to maintain that page.)
- Promoted, organized and coordinated a Fall Service Day that helped 30+ households in Gethsemane’s surrounding neighborhoods with maintenance chores and yard work. (A BIG “thank you” to Jim Siebert for his tremendous work!!)
- Will organize and coordinate Christmas caroling to elderly and homebound members in December.
- Will hang banners outside the church in December re: our Christmas season worship schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Rader, Outreach Ministry Team Leader