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Gethsemane Lutheran Church
The Leaf



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

35 East Stanton Avenue ♦ Columbus OH 43214 ♦ 614-885-4319

www.gethsemane.org

Pastor

Rev. June A. Wilkins
pastorjune@gethsemane.org

Music Ministries

Dr. Timothy E. Guenther
tguenther@gethsemane.org

Learning & Family Ministries

Terri Siebert
tsiebert@gethsemane.org

Child Care Center

Brenda Weilbacher
bweilbacher@gethsemane.org

Parish Secretary

Diane Gutgesell
glcoffice@gethsemane.org

Custodians

Kate and Shana Bumster

In this Issue

Pastor's Message—P. 2

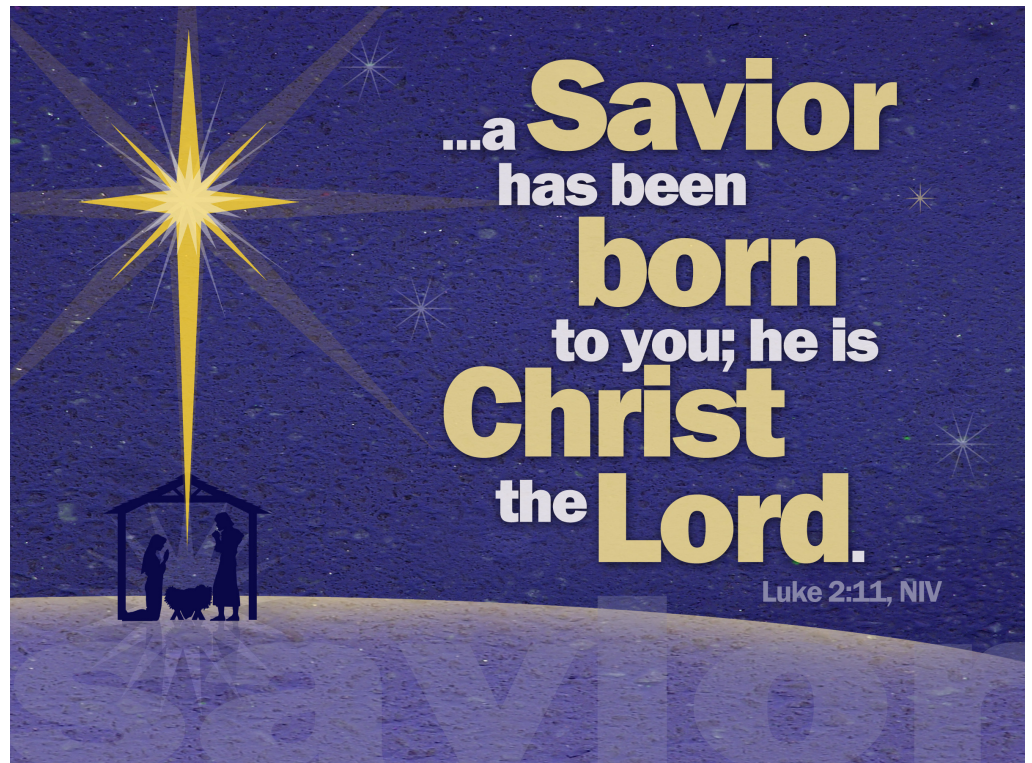
OWLS—P. 3

Lifetime Learning —P. 4

Faith Mission—P. 5

Welcome to the Table—P. 6

Prayer Concerns—P. 7



Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24

7:30 pm

(musical prelude 7:00 pm)

Christmas Day Worship

Tuesday, December 25

10:00 am

New Year's Eve Worship

Monday, December 31

7:30 pm

This December don't forget to celebrate Advent – don't forget to wait.



On November 1, the day after Halloween, I turned on a local oldies station that I sometimes listen to and they were playing *Carol of the Bells* by

Manheim Steamroller. I thought at first it was a commercial for an upcoming Christmas show. Then I realized that they were playing the whole song. After that song ended it was followed by *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* by Frank Sinatra. Then I realized that, starting November 1, the entire radio format had shifted to Christmas music.

Christmas it seems starts earlier and earlier every year. I know I'm not the only one who has noted this. I hear groans from a lot of other people about it too. We know it's driven by businesses wanting to extend the sales time of this very profitable season, but maybe there's a part of us that drives it too. It goes with our tendency to over-achieve and to do things fast and hard. We want to get to all the good stuff right away. We want to hear the songs and pass around the figgy pudding (whatever that is) and share all of that warm Christmas glow on November 1. We can't be blamed for wanting that, but it seems like we want to do all the celebrating of Christmas before Christmas, and we're ready to forget about it on December 26.

At Gethsemane and at other churches like ours, during most of December we celebrate the season of Advent. While many other people are consuming their Christmas cheer early, we are waiting. While many other places are covered in red and green and Christmas lights, we wear a calming shade of blue.

Here in the church, we're not driven by consumer needs. We know that the best things are worth waiting for and sometimes the anticipation is the best part.

I've heard that some Lutheran pastors have had people coming to their churches and expecting them to be decked out in trees and lights and festive Christmas images like shopping malls and stores. Some churches have succumbed to this pressure and have started celebrating Christmas early with the rest of the world.

But I like to think of church during December as a place where we can take a break from all that. Where we can still live in hope of what is to come instead of wishing that it would just be done with. Where I can under-achieve and wait for God to do the work. Where we can still be surprised by the birth of the savior of the world to a poor girl from Bethlehem. Church during December is where we do Christmas on God's time, not the world's. This December don't forget to celebrate Advent – don't forget to wait.

Pr. June Wilkins



From the Director of Learning – Terri Siebert



“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. 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. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6: 5-9

Wow, that pretty much covers all the bases! Those of you without young children might be thinking . . . that’s great but my kids are grown now. I’ve done my job as a parent and now it’s time to sit back. Or I’m just too old for this children business. But . . . think about it . . . isn’t our congregation a family of believers? Doesn’t that include the children? So, don’t we all have a part in nurturing the congregation’s children to grow in their faith? Don’t we all have a part in supporting the parents in raising faithful children? We do make that promise in the rite of baptism, after all. And it’s not that hard . . . really.

Coming Dec. 16 – a Christmas event for the whole family of Gethsemane. **A Child is Born**. A celebration of the birth of a special baby, one that was born for us all. Help us celebrate this event that is central to our faith. Help our children experience the feeling and wonderment of God reaching out to us. Whether you are crafty (making costumes and props), dramatic (playing a part), can read (yes, that pretty much covers

everyone), or even just hungry for cookies 😊, **JOIN US SUNDAY, DEC. 16 AT 10:45am in the Great Hall**. This will be both Sunday School and Lifetime Learning combined with a special invitation to those who don’t normally attend either.

Coming Feb. 10 – a special guest, Dr. Diane Hymans, will be here to share her expertise in children’s faith development. Dr. Hymans is a Professor of Education at Trinity Lutheran Seminary and has spent many years in Christian education, past and present. She will talk about how faith develops in children and what the unique aspects are in the different ages. This isn’t just for parents – it’s for anyone interested in how our children grow in faith. Class will be during the Education hour 10:45-11:45.

And introducing . . . OWLs. No, not those fascinating birds with the big eyes, although they are really cute.

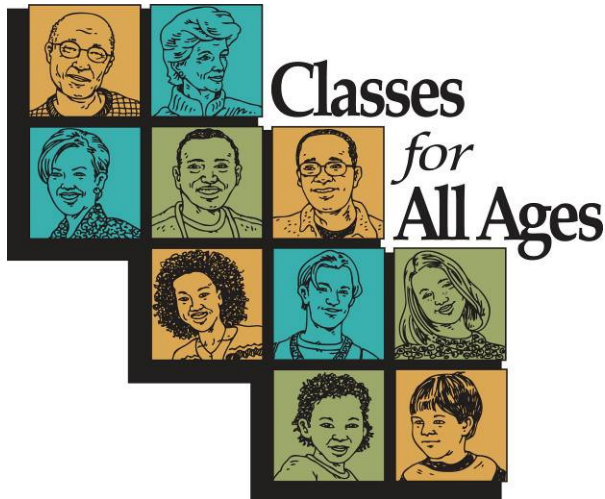
Older Wiser Lutherans = OWLs



Coming in January – OWLgrams, an opportunity for adults to connect with our youth and children of all ages. Each month several will be chosen to be recipients of OWLgrams, notes of

prayer and encouragement from the adults of the Gethsemane family. In exchange, our children and youth will share with the adults a bit of their lives, what they like, do, and hope for. Look for the special mailboxes in the narthex starting in January.

LEARN



Lifetime Learning

Sundays, 10:45 am, Multi-Purpose Room

Christian Education about life, for life, and for a lifetime.

Dec. 2 – **BREAD** – a local justice ministry

(Multi-Purpose Room)
Leader – Amy Byler

Micah 6:6-8 (NRSV) "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

"Most congregations are very good at pursuing the humble walk with God and they are often strong at demonstrating kindness (or mercy). But when it comes to doing justice, most of those same congregations fall significantly short. One of the primary reasons for this shortcoming is that a single member, pastor or congregation does not have enough power to hold key decision makers accountable for protecting the weak from the strong. BREAD provides a vehicle for congregations to practice justice by joining together large numbers of people. These large numbers of people give us a chance to "do justice."

www.breadcolumbus.org

Dec. 9 – A Second Look – favorite Christmas carols

(Sanctuary)
Dick Reuning and Sharon Walton

The Lifelong Learning Class will meet in the Sanctuary to sing some favorite carols and to take time to reflect on the history and meaning of a few of these well-loved hymns. As part of the program, Synchronicity Trio will provide some musical accompaniment. Join us for some joyful Christmas singing.

Dec. 16 – *A Child Is Born* – a Christmas event for the whole family

(Sanctuary)

Dec. 23 and 30 – No class

January – Lifetime Learning resumes with
Caring for Creation



Wednesdays, Noon – 1:00 pm, Library
First Timothy

Our adventure in an adult midweek Bible study continues. We will study First Timothy this month and into the new year. Bring your lunch, your favorite Bible and your knowledge and/or curiosity each week.



Faith Mission to Move in 2013

Several years ago, when the area around the Faith Mission downtown campus started to develop, we began planning for a possible relocation of some of our facilities to a larger and better equipped building. We are happy to say that this relocation of our services has now become a reality, and the project is now underway. The relocation project, projected to be complete in the first quarter of 2013, will result in the ability to provide additional meals to those who are hungry as well as better overall services to our residents.

The location of our new facility at 245 N. Grant St. is 2 blocks away from the current Faith Mission and will hold the Community Kitchen, vision, dental and medical clinics, as well as administrative offices. Currently, the Community Kitchen, which serves anyone in the community who is hungry, serves three meals each day, 365 days a year. Between 800 and 1,200 people use the service daily, many crowding into a handful of picnic-style steel tables. At the new location, the number of people served at one sitting will nearly triple, and this means less people will have to wait outside for a meal, offering a greater sense of dignity to those we serve and also serving as a less disruptive operation to the shelter residents currently residing at Faith Mission. The dining facilities and other rooms at the new building will be brighter, more comfortable and simply more pleasant for users.

Some highlights of the relocation project:

- Seating capacity in dining room goes from 48 to 124, which eliminates the need for shift dining
- Actual shelters will remain in their current locations (6th, 8th and Nancy's Place)
- New facility will hold the Community Kitchen, vision, dental and medical clinics, and administrative offices
- Relocation of the Community Kitchen will ensure only shelter residents have access to the shelter building
- More dignity for clients – have separate living space area only for residents, women's shelter residents no longer have to walk through the men's day space to eat
- Those seeking services will not have to wait outside, and if they do, it will not be for as long
- Easier accessibility for volunteers/ donors
- Relocation and layout will promote operational and staff efficiency

If you would like more information on this project, or you are interested in lending your support, please let me know. I am also including the link to the story that appeared in the Columbus Dispatch this past Saturday regarding the move.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/09/08/property-swap-gives-faith-mission-more-space.html>

Peace,

Mary Lasits

Director of Congregational Relations, Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio

Small Group Ministries

First Reflections

Monday Bible Study

Paula Sauer

paulagsauer@yahoo.com

Brown Bag Bible Bash

Dick Lyndes

rhlyndes@wowway.com

Bob Davis

ridjr@wowway.com

Connections:

Faith at Work

Judy Reuning

jreuning@lifecrossings.com

The Gethsemane

Book Group

Sharon Walton

skrwalton@gmail.com

Barbara Ford

bandbford@columbus.rr.com

Men's Breakfast

Bob Davis

ridjr@wowway.com

Habitat for Humanity

Bill Darlage

Darlage_bill@hotmail.com

LWR Quilts

Terri Siebert

tsiebert@gethsemane.org

Prayer Shawls

glcoffice@gethsemane.org

Or call the
Church Office
614-885-4319

Children Welcome at the Communion Table

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them." – Matthew 19:14

We believe that the communion table we share is not our table, but God's table. Jesus' table was a table of welcome for all. When Jesus ate with people, he did not first determine if they had been confirmed, completed a class, or whether they were sinless or repentant. He did not require that everyone understood fully what was happening. None of us fully understands the mystery of God's presence for us in the bread and wine. Gethsemane surely embraces this in our practices.

In the past many churches have had requirements for sharing communion, especially children. We usually waited for children to reach a certain age and then they would complete a series of classes and then they would be allowed to take communion with the rest of the congregation. Many other churches (including Gethsemane) used to wait until young people were confirmed.

We, of course, believe that the children are part of Gethsemane's family. We want them to be full members of this community with no restrictions on their participation in our practices and their experience of God.

Last year we began allowing children or any age to take communion whenever parents wanted them to take it. I encouraged parents to let children start taking communion whenever they showed interest in sharing it. We would then offer ongoing, age-appropriate education for all our children about the wonderful gift we share.

This past year, several children have begun taking communion. Each child did it differently. Some did it quietly, some started and stopped and started again, some waited and shared a celebration with their families. We celebrate these children, their relationship with God and their receiving this sacrament this year:

**Noah Bogan, Anna Bogan, Rowan Fleming,
Evelyn Lyatuu, Lucia Murphy, Eric Ndossi,
Gerrit Woods, Maya Gardner, Brennan Sieberth**

We welcome you all to Christ's table!

Pr. June is available to discuss how you would like your child to receive communion at Gethsemane.



December Birthdays

- 2 Chuck Coppola
- 5 Tammy Bullwinkle
- 13 Anna Bogan
Ruth Fisher
- 16 Anna Lagergren
- 20 Beryl Cumberland
Andrew Frashier
- 22 Adam Norris
- 23 John Tyrrell
- 24 Noel Kigaraba
- 25 Imanuel Lyatuu
- 27 Rebecca Oldaker
- 28 Cindy Keller
- 29 Diane Gutgesell
- 30 Chris Feole

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

New Concerns: Lee Ann Perin ... Oliver Shipley (friend of Anita Gardner) ... Dorothy York (mother of Donna Darlage).

Members with ongoing concerns: Sibylle Custis ... Bob Edwards ... Bob Hagerdorn ... Elaine Haines ... Dick Lyndes ... Manfred Maeffert ... Rob Needham ... Phyllis Nelson ... Ralph Portzline ... Harry & Vickie Lyatuu and their children Ian & Evelyn for immigration issues.

Family and friends with concerns: Jerry Abrams (father-in-law of Pastor June) ... Bob and Elaine Dean (parents of Pam Seidelmann) ... Cindy Gifford (friend of Howard and Bonnie Spring) ... Caitlin McCommis (niece of Judy Kulikowski) ... Kyle McLean (son of Brian McLean) ... Philomena Scanga (mother of Anita Gardner) ... Michelle Smith (sister of Lisa Whitesell) ... Wayne Strain (friend of Paul Feldman).

Homebound: Marilyn Bosen (Arlington Court) ... Dotty Edwards (Laurels-Worthington) ... Carolyn Fergus (Wesley Glen) ... Jean Fritchen (Worthington Christian Village) ... Ken Gerken ... Eleanor Nagy ... Becky Oldaker (Bennington Glen) ... Reva Woodruff.

Family and friends serving overseas: Colin Steffa (son of Meredith Dobyns).

Our love and sympathy to the family of Frank Kulikowski (father of Dave Kulikowski) who passed away.

Would you like to add your prayers?

For Sunday Prayers:

Contact church secretary, Diane, at 885-4319 or glcoffice@gethsemane.org before 12:00 noon on Thursday. After that time, you will have the opportunity in worship to name those silently or aloud during the prayers.



SERVING THIS MONTH – DECEMBER 2012

	December 2 9:30 AM	December 9 9:30 AM	December 16 9:30 AM	December 23 9:30 AM	December 30 9:30 AM
Assisting Minister	Brian McLean	Brian McLean	Brian McLean	Brian McLean	Brian McLean
Readers	Brian Murphy Dick Jones	Jim Sauer Paula Sauer	Joe Reilly Mike Siddall	Gary Rader Lisa Whitesell	Eric Walton Sharon Walton
Ushers	Don Cumberland Hugh Geary Joyce Geary Mark Geary	Judy Reuning Joe Reilly Dick Jones Sue Jones	Tim Mayer Andrea Mayer Jim Sauer Paula Sauer	Mike Siddall Mark Hagerdorn Dave Whitesell Ed Savolaine	Rick Langner Diane Langner Jeff Luedke Wendy Luedke
Nursery	Terri Siebert Bryn Hagerdorn	Jennifer Tatz Jim Tatz	Diane Langner	Christy Feldman Paul Feldman	Jill Woods John Woods
Communion Bread	Joyce Geary	Wayne Melton	Judy Reuning	Brian Lutz	Brian Murphy
Communion Care	Lisa Ankrom	Lisa Ankrom	Diane Langner	Diane Langner	Diane Langner

SERVING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

	Christmas Eve December 24 7:30 PM	Christmas Day December 25 10:00 AM	New Year's Eve December 31 7:30 PM
Assisting Minister	Brian McLean	Brian McLean	Brian McLean
Readers	Rosa Prigan Dick Lyndes	Hank Langknecht Shirla Langknecht	Elaine Haines
Ushers	Bob Hagerdorn Jim Driver Barb Driver Howard Feole	Jim Siebert Howard Spring Gottfried Maeffert Manfred Maeffert	Sayuni Kimaro Bob Abdou
Communion Bread	Howard Feole		
Communion Care	Darlene Norman	Darlene Norman	

Nursery Volunteers – Our webpage sign up has been updated.

To volunteer, log onto <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4CAFA92AA13-sunday>

Or, sign up in the narthex. Look for the maroon binder labeled "Nursery".

DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 PM Education 2:00 pm Swahili Choir 3:30 PM Swahili Worship	3 8:00 AM Reflections 8:00 PM A.A. & Al Anon	4 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 12:45 PM P&L Chapel	5 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Bash 7:30 PM Swahili Ministry Team	6 6:00 PM Handbells 7:15 PM Vocal Choir	7 7:00 AM Connections	8 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
9 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 PM Education 2:00 pm Swahili Choir NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	10 8:00 AM Reflections 8:00 PM A.A. & Al Anon	11 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 12:45 PM P&L Chapel 6:00 PM Handbells	12 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Bash 7:30 PM Swahili Ministry Team	13 6:00 PM Executive Com 6:30 PM P&L Christmas Program 7:00 PM Council 7:30 PM Vocal Choir	14 9:30-11:30 AM Synchronicity Rehearsal	15
16 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 PM Christmas Event for ALL 2:00 pm Swahili Choir	17 8:00 AM Reflections 6:00 PM Day Care Com. 7:30 PM Prayer Shawl 8:00 PM A.A. & Al Anon	18 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 12:45 PM P&L Chapel 7:00 PM Worship Ministry Team	19 12:00 PM Brown Bag Bible Bash 7:30 PM Swahili Ministry Team	20 6:00 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Block Watch 7:15 PM Vocal Choir	21 10:00 PM Mkesha Prayer Worship	22 No Quilting
23 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 PM NO Education 2:00 pm Swahili Choir	24 7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP (7:00 pm Pre- Service Music)	25 10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP 3:30 PM Swahili Christmas Service	26 NO Brown Bag Bible Bash	27 NO Choir Rehearsals	28	29
30 9:30 AM Worship 10:45 PM NO Education 2:00 pm Swahili Choir	31 7:30 PM NEW YEAR'S EVE VESPER SERVICE					

