

August '09 News



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

2825 Paris Road
St. Bernard Parish, LA 70043
504-271-4254
www.gethsemane-lutheran.com

James R. Shears, Pastor
pastorjim@gethsemane-lutheran.com

Dawn Santalucito, Office Mgr.
dawn.glcmgr@yahoo.com
601-542-3936 (home)

Our Mission Statement

“We are a gathering of God’s people, committed to worshipping God and to sharing his love and salvation through Jesus

**You are cordially invited
to join us for our
4th Annual Reunion Service
Sunday, August 30, 2009
10:00 am**

Dinner and fellowship to follow.

Please bring your family and friends to share this special day with us.

We want to celebrate another year of God’s blessings and look forward to what He has in store for us in the year to come.

Bishop Mike Rinehart will be with us to share a message and spend the morning with us.

Life of Power – Life of Witness

For many years, I have unleashed my feelings by taking pen to paper and writing various pieces, usually inspired by an event or a person who has either impressed me beyond belief or made me incredibly angry. From an early age, my writings were full of passion, sometimes misdirected, but nonetheless, heartfelt. My first “published” piece was a poem I’d sent to the editor of the Times Picayune when I’d just turned 18 and was getting ready to vote for the first time. I was blown away by the names of some of the people running for office. “Names like ‘Bubba’ and ‘Sonny’ and ‘Bud’ and some you wouldn’t believe. There’s even a ‘Lum’ and a ‘Pudgy,’ too. What happened to names like ‘Steve?’” Various other publications followed and in December 2004, the highlight of my writing “career” was my interview with Dave Carr, drummer for the Christian rock band “Third Day.” The article was published in a local Christian magazine and I felt like a star! I cannot express to you how it felt to open this professional, slick looking publication and read the caption “A Visit with Third Day” with my byline underneath! It was one of my greatest moments, and I thank God that I had that opportunity. I thank Him that He gave me a gift that I was able to “fan into flame.”

In 2 Timothy, Paul wrote “I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God...”

As Paul directs Timothy to “fan the flame,” what he is saying is that the gift that God has given us, this “spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” has to be nurtured. I’m sure you’ve heard the expression “Use it or lose it!” That’s what Paul is talking about here. If we don’t use this spirit of power, love, and self-discipline that God has provided us with, we will lose it! Practice makes perfect!

“So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.” It’s the very spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline that gives us the power to be great witnesses. The good news is the gospel. It’s our saving grace. It is our very reason to be self-assured and loving and powerful. And by His grace, we will live a life of power and a life of witness.

In Christ’s love,
Tina Guillot

Pastor's Prattle

By Pastor Jim Shears

ON THE WAY TO SOMEWHERE. This is the title of a book by Celia Whittler, a Christian singer who shared her music with us at the National Youth Gathering. It is a collection of encounters with people on her journey through life. I recommend that you get a copy of it.

Isn't it true that we are all "on the way to somewhere?" We scurry through our lives, always in a hurry to get somewhere or get something done. We seem to have less and less down time. There are so many things we have to do – work, cook, shop, run the kids here and there. It's almost like we are constantly out of breath, trying to get everything done. I suppose that's why we are so stressed and so many in our nation are on medications to deal with it.

The saddest part, though, is that we run through our lives with blinders on. We are so focused on our own agendas that we can't see the people around us, who are just as hurriedly "on the way to somewhere." Many of those others around us are really on the way to nowhere; they just don't know it.

You see, we know where we are going, at least, in the long run. All the places we have to go in this life are temporary destinations. All the things we have to do during this life will fade away. There is only one destination that is permanent—our Father's heavenly kingdom. When we finally reach it, we will be able to say, once and for all time, "I'm home!"

We ARE "on the way to somewhere," and while we travel we must not overlook those on the journey with us, who maybe are heading nowhere. We must not try to avoid encounters with them. In fact, we should be looking for opportunities to engage them. Those encounters just might be what God is expecting of us. They might be his challenge to us to be his witnesses. It might be that our encounter with them will give them a new direction.

Gethsemane is at a crossroads. God has put us in this community to be a witness to his love for the people who are here. He expects us to engage the people of St. Bernard Parish in a way that shows his love and shows the way to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. We must take seriously God's command to reach out and touch the lives of those on the journey with us. If each one of us does not take this seriously, then Gethsemane may cease to exist next year.

God has empowered us to do his work, but it is our choice whether or not we reach out. The time has passed for us to wish our members would come back. The time has come for us to seek out those who are on the road to nowhere and invite them to join us on our journey to the Father. We must take our blinders off and look for opportunities where we live or work or play to share what God is doing in our lives and what he can do for others.

In other words, it's time to live out our theme for this year—*LIFE OF POWER-LIFE OF WITNESS*. On Sat., August 29, at 9am, we will have an Outreach Summit at the church. We will have a light breakfast, while we discuss ways that we can reach out to the people of our community. I invite all of you who care about the people of

St. Bernard to join us. Bring your ideas and suggestions of how we might contact and invite people to join us on the journey.

And PRAY! Pray that God will use the summit to energize us and that the Spirit will be working in our hearts and minds to lead us to follow God's lead. God has called us to seek out and lead to salvation those that are on the road to nowhere.

Pastor Jim

OKTOBERFEST OCTOBER 17, 2009

This will be here before we know it so mark your calendars and be sure to join us. We will be scheduling a meeting soon and encourage everyone to come be a part of this awesome event and outreach to our community. We will once again have the German food, games, crafters, parade of prizes, etc. If you own a business and/or able to get any donations for our parade of prizes it would be much appreciated. We will also be collecting canned coke products also. Look for upcoming news of a planning meeting and sign up sheets!!!

Outreach Summit

You are invited to bring your ideas about reaching the people of our community with the Good News of Jesus Christ's love to an Outreach Summit at the church on Saturday, August 29, at 9am. There are many who need to hear the message of salvation, and we have been called by God to be the bearers of that message.

We need your ideas of how we might best accomplish that. How do we contact people? How do we let them know what we are doing? How can we let them know that they are welcome in join us. These and other questions will be addressed, and we need your input. If you have a heart for the people of St. Bernard Parish, then we will see you on that day.

We will serve a light breakfast in the fellowship hall while we discuss what we want to do. Please come! We need you!

YEP!

(YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM)

It's time for YEP! (our version of confirmation) classes to begin again. If you have a young person going into 7th grade or older who has not started classes, now is the time. We will meet one Saturday a month for 3-4 hours. The schedule will be made soon for what Saturdays.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jim as soon as possible.

In Loving Memory

PRAYERS THOSE:

Please keep the families of the following people who passed away since our last mailing in your prayers.

Bill Beyer + Roy "Peanut" Reed + Dottie Reggio
Susan Haskins + Dottie Champagne + Robin Abel
+ Infant daughter of Patrick & Cindy (Kleyle) Fuller +

CRAWFISH CORNERS

How y'all are? I hope you been havin' a good summer! Sure been a hot one, tho! Dat's fine by me, sha, but I bet y'all been miserable. But tink 'bout it—only 2 months to go an' da weather, she be startin' to cool down.

Dere been a lot goin' on dis summer. I sure enjoyed da VBS! Was good seein' all dem kids around. Seems like dere's more every year. An' I 'specially enjoyed dem guys from up north. Dis is da firse year I met dem. What a great group! I hope day can keep comin' down, dem.

Did you get to see all dem orange shirts 'round town a couple weeks back? Man o man! Was sumtin' to see. All dem 37,000 folks from everywhere came to our town to help out. I went over to dat convention center to see what was up. Dere was so many feet, I din't know if I'd ever make it out. An' it was really crazy at da dome! But I gotta say, I was inspired, me. I'm sure a lot more folks know who da Lutherans are now. An' dat we care about folks, us.

Better get ready to start watchin' out for dem school busses again. Been lots of school shoppin' goin' on. Know what always amazed me? Dem kids get bored in da head during da summer, but dey can't stand da thought o' goin' back to school. I figured dey be glad for sumtin' to do. I know I be glad dey back!

You gonna come to da reunion service? I hear da bishop's gonna be here. Hope I see ya, but ya prolly won't see me. I be stayin' outa harm's way.

Did ya see 'bout dat Holy Spirit ting in Sep.? if ya didn't, ya better read up 'bout it. Sounds like a really good ting, if you're serious 'bout servin' God. I know I be dere sure.

Gotta git goin' now. Y'all be sure to start getting' ready for Oktoberfest. I tink dere be plenty for everybody to do, yeah.

God bless ya!



Six Lafitte

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION – There are still openings for Gethsemane Preschool's 2 & 3 year old programs. Children must be 2 or 3 by September 30, 2009. Registration is \$75.00. Tuition for the 2 year olds is \$100.00 and they attend 2 days a week and tuition for 3 year olds is \$110.00 and they attend 3 days a week. For more information call Peggy Seago at 504-277-4010 or 504-495-9759.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY, ILL, or HOSPITALIZED:

Jesus Hernandez, Zeth Major, Isa Wolfarth, Keith Black Jr., Wendy Bailey, Wayne Melerine, Danielle Guillot Sugg, Loretta Mader, Lee Dove, Noel Buras, Matthew Tabbert, Carol Schiavone, Kenneth Buuck, Jeannie Brister, Angie Sullivan, Helen R., Stephanie Manich, John Mercier, Allie Williams, Dana C., Pastor Elizabeth, Sid Guttuso, Sr., Joyce Dupont, Camden King, Joe "Big Daddy" Thibodeaux, , Joyce Keller, Greg Dove, George Fuller, Jason Brown, Lisa Gonzales, Herman Bonette, Brooke Lacoste, Mike Young, Anne Leonard, Mickey Terminie, Barbara Fray, Kitty Johnson, Lucille Treitler, Joseph Brandt, Sal Santalucito, Sr.

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:

Ken Pearson, Chris Iennusa, Corp Moises Barrientos Jr., Brian Robinson, Sandra Lachica, Elliott Vann, Austin Vann, Matthew Roberts, Eric Dove, Bill Hewitt, Larry Varnado, Jr., Sean McCalla, Tom Bell, Justin Fortado, Joshua Cullia, Shane Mailhes, Joy Nunez, Patrick Buuck, Jason Medine, Michael Donnelly, Mike Perez, Jennifer Hessock, Mark Nunez, Darryl Ayer, Jon Clay, Jared Landry, Jonathan Shears, Manny Campo

OTHER CONCERNS: Gator Theriot & family, Paulette

Guthrie, PJ Guillot, Denver & Roselyn Nobles & family, Melerine Family, Mona Serpas, Jason Becnel, Sandy Riches, Heather Conners & Fly., Marion Songe & family, Debbie & John Melady, those suffering from depression, Beth Bauer, Kelly, Zoe, Hayden & Noah Bauer, Jared Landry & family, A.S. & family

HEALTHY PREGNANCY & BABY(IES):

Luke & Kasie Anglin, Billy & Lara Thonn George, Jeff & Kristi Blum, Regina Resendez , Johnny & Jenny Bergeron, Amy & Kevin Frederickson, Kayce Mason, Jeff & Kristi Blum

BATTLING CANCER OR WHO ARE IN REMISSION &

THEIR FAMILIES: Caleb Nyberg (4 yrs old) Lennie Gaudin, Camille Reynolds (7 months old), Jessica Caillet, Jazmyn Floyd, Maggie Medvitz (2½ yrs old), Sharon Wilheit Fredrickson, Karen Salathe, Lenny Ingargiola, Brenden Maestri, Haydyn Guttuso (2½ yrs old), John Franceski, Rita Montelero, Judy B. Jenny, Shane Draughan, Patricia Haydel, Paul Daigrepoint, Treschelle Reis, Pam Bell, Brooke Salazar, Erlene DuBose, Sonia Evans Gabb, Joan Switzer, Roy Fernandez, Sr., George Francke, Kathy & Paul Miller, Toni Brown, Mr. Weiskopf, Erlene DuBose, Patsy Werling, Kathy M., Nicky Levine, Anna, Isabella, Scott Hayworth, Susan Faucheux, Cyndi Jones, Merrick "Ricky" Joachim Sr., Len Hadley, Susan Mallory, Penne Hebert, Bob Ducombs, Tim Pritchard, Judy Nunez, Mary Kabel Smith, Gilda Spinner, Sandra Terminie, Peggy Seago, Barbara Forestier, Rosie Wiggle, Karen Henderson, Joan Switzer, Jo Ann Senko & mother, Leo Barnes, Cindy Barnes Varnado, Karen Pace, Karen Herrmann, Christine Dittman, Devan Young, Danny Licciardi, Haley Hunter, Melissa Ruedsill, Vannessa L.



Just before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples that they would be filled with power when the Holy Spirit came on them. We know what happened to them on Pentecost and what that power looked like in their lives.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have that power in your life? You can begin to discover that by attending a workshop at Gethsemane entitled *Discovering the Spirit-Filled Life*. The workshop will be conducted by a team from Oil of Heaven Ministries in Texas on Friday, Sep. 18, 7-9pm, and Saturday, Sep. 19, 8:30am-4pm. There will be time for prayer, presentations on the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts, and a look at "How can I be filled with the Spirit?"

This workshop is open to everyone. We would love to have you come, and it would be especially great if you invited someone to come with you. There will be coffee and doughnuts Saturday morning and lunch will be served. There is no cost, but a love offering will be taken at lunch.

Stewardship

By Diane Allison

Stages of Faith . . . Stages of Giving

Hebrews 5:13-14 *And a person who is living on milk isn't very far along in the Christian life and doesn't know much about doing what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do what is right.*

The relationship we each have individually with our Lord and Savior is a very personal thing. "Faith is a journey, not a destination," my husband, Bill, often says. James Fowler identified six "stages of faith" ranging from the imitating faith of a preschool child to a universalizing God-centered faith. The stage of faith we're in, where we are on the journey, influences the decisions we make regarding the goals we're striving to reach, the organizations to which we are dedicated, whom or what we are committed to, the activities that get our best time, and with whom we share our most sacred hopes. The six stages start with being the most self-centered and move towards disregard for self and being God-centered. While the stages of faith are often compared to our physical growth, there is no correlation between our age and our faith. On this journey of faith, our attitude toward money, possessions, and giving often

measures which stage of faith we're in. Let's explore these stages, and see where we are (and what we can become).

Anyone who's been around preschool children understands the "me" philosophy and has experienced the extreme of self-centeredness. A preschool child is the very center of his world; nothing else is important except his wants and needs. At this stage he often imitates the behaviors of others, both good and bad. On the faith journey, we all start out in this self-centered stage; after all, knowledge of our sin is what brought us to understand our need for a savior and to accept Jesus Christ as that savior. At this very first stage we love to hear and read the Bible stories and we often imitate the behaviors of other Christians. Some Christian "babes" find a spiritual mentor who becomes their example and from whom they get spiritual direction and instruction. When it comes to giving, when we see someone on the pew put \$1 into the offering, we imitate and also put \$1 in the offering plate; after all, we imitate what we see and haven't yet learned the Christian principles of giving. We learn Christian doctrine in very small digestible bites, in the same way infants slowly transition into eating solid food. In stage 1 we understand little about faith, and what propels us to the second stage of faith is a desire to learn more.

The writer of Hebrews admonishes his audience for backsliding into this infant stage of faith, even though they had been Christians for a while; the writer thought they ought to be the spiritual mentors, teaching others.

RALLY DAY

Sunday, August 30, 2009 at 9:15 am in the fellowship hall. This is for youth ages 3 (potty trained, please!) through 5th grade and teens grade 6th through 12th to register for the upcoming year of Sunday School and Youth Hour. Heidi Palmeri is our Sunday School Director and Eva Dow leads our youth on Sunday mornings at 9:15. If you are interested in teaching Sunday school or helping out with the youth please contact Heidi or Eva.

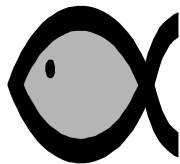
High school students

There are opportunities at Gethsemane for mature high school students who need service hours for school. If your teenager needs service hours please contact the church office and leave a message.

Swimming
IN THE SPIRIT

Gaby's Senior Moment

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction"
James 1:27



The following checklist can be used by caregivers of a senior citizen. When taking care of a senior, the caregiver must be aware of available services.

- 1- Notice signs a senior needs help. Obvious signs include past due notice and hot stoves left unattended.
- 2- Use automatic bank drafts to pay as many bills as possible.
- 3- Make sure the senior has a Power of Attorney to handle important matters when necessary
- 4- Remind the senior to protect his or her Social Security number to guard against identity theft
- 5- Order a credit card check annually to see if any unauthorized person is using the senior's credit cards.
- 6- Shred important documents and unused credit card offers
- 7- Accompany the senior to doctors' appointments and take notes on treatment and medications.
- 8- Maintain a current list of all health care professionals treating the senior and all the medications the senior uses.
- 9- Contact the senior's telephone service provider to ask about special services for seniors.
- 10- Help the senior use local agencies that provide special services that enhance the quality of life.

"Every one of you shall revere his mother and father"
Leviticus 19:3

...and of course "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long and you can become a senior yourself one day" (rephrased Exodus 20:12)

Be nice to your kids, one day they pick out your nursing home.

Gaby



Forgetter Be Forgotten?

My forgetter's getting better, But
my rememberer is broke
To you that may seem funny But, to me, that is no joke .

For when I'm 'here' I'm wondering If I really should be 'there'
And, when I try to think it through, I haven't got a prayer!

Of times I walk into a room, Say 'what am I here for?'
I wrack my brain, but all in vain! A zero, is my score.

At times I put something away, Where it is safe, but, Gee!
The person it is safest from Is, generally, me!

When shopping I may see someone, Say 'Hi' and have a chat,
Then, when the person walks away I ask myself, 'who the heck was that?

Yes, my forgetter's getting better While my rememberer is broke,
And it's driving me plumb crazy And that isn't any joke.

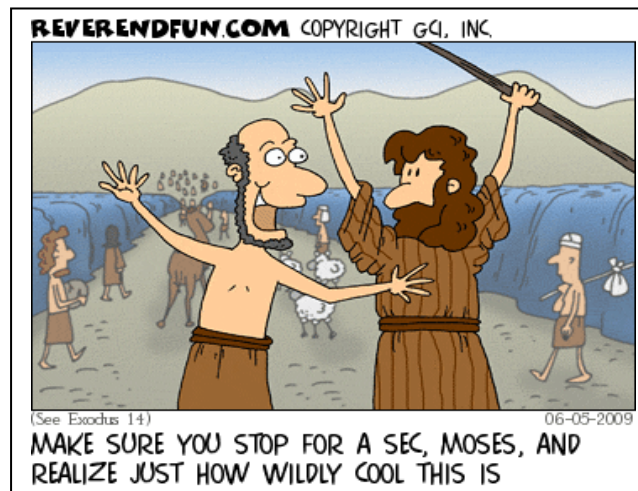
CAN YOU RELATE???

Did You Know??

7 of our youth were among 36,000 + Lutherans who attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Orange T-shirts were spotted all over the greater New Orleans area. Did you see any? For more on this topic turn to our youth page.

Miss Independence: Janie Fuller was pictured in the Times Picayune, ringing the Liberty Bell (replica in Chalmette) on the Fourth of July.

Steve Brandt was also pictured in the news picking up trash with some of those youth wearing orange T-shirts.



GYM

GETHSEMANE YOUTH MINISTRIES

Seven teenagers from Gethsemane were among 36,000 high school students from across the country who participated in the National Youth Gathering of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, July 22-26 in New Orleans. Pastor Jim and Patti Bene accompanied the group as adult advisers.

The National Youth Gathering is held every three years. It was last held in New Orleans in the '90's. The theme for the event was "Jesus, Justice and Jazz." The gathering focused on opportunities for spiritual growth, as well as community service.

Each day 12,000 of those who participated went to a section of New Orleans or surrounding parishes and participate in some type of community service project. This was the first time that the National Youth Gathering had focused on this type of community service. In all it was estimated that over 250,000 hours of community service was served.



GLC GROUP TOURING THE NINTH WARD DURING THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Back Row – Trey Brunet, Mason Navo,
 Luke Santalucito, Pastor Jim, Pattie Bene
 Middle Row – Krista Brunet, Maria Serpas,
 Jeanette DeVeer, Margaret Deveer
 Front – Gabriella Perez



Gaby's Gab on the youth gathering!

What an experience! I'm not even there. A new kind of connectedness.

On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Weeks before the Gathering, I signed up for this Twitter thingy for the JJJ09 (Jesus Justice Jazz 2009 of course) and then forgot about it. Just another newfangled idea for kids to play with their phones. Weeeeeeeeeeeee!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Suddenly I get these messages from JJJ09, updates, news, unbelievable numbers, where the bands are playing, where there is an oasis for rest and cold drink, how crowded it gets, McDonalds on Canal street ran out of food, the bishop is in a bathrobe.....

Gigabytes and Gigabytes of data zoom from the superdome across the world. Thousands of folks are logged on to the videostream, and I did not even get to check on facebook yet. There is yet a whole other world buzzing with the excitement.

Total strangers, so I thought, send a pic of the Hard Rock Cafe' Commemorative Pin, a Mardi Gras colored Guitar with a Spirit Dove. Cool. Maria had not seen them yet. I experience this event from a whole different viewpoint and feel strangely a part instead of apart.

Times Picayune says its RAINING LUTHERANS! And my child is one of them. Wow. Elca.org has Live Videostream of the events in the Superdome. Youtube is chockerblocked with videos from the events, the kids in the city, on their bus in the vans, on their way, sky shots of the city from high rise hotel buildings. There are sites with uploaded pics, blogs posted '2 minutes ago' or less, and conversations between people on vans and planes from Memphis and Minnesota, they don't even know each other yet, but they converse, connect, have a common destination and destiny.

I imagine in heaven we are all one in mind and spirit, communing and communicating on an instant, distance does not matter. On earth it is happening as well, with the help of these amazing little electronic devices. WOW. Jesus in Cyberspace. The conversations are fun: "I just had alligator" "There are 37,000 Lutherans in New Orleans - we are save" (and saved I might add). "Your low's at night are higher than our high's in the daytime". "Longest subway line and I am sweating buckets". But see for yourselves: The Journey begins here:

Home - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Note from the BLOOD Center: 1023 units of blood donated during JJJ09, the MOST given by any event in their 50 year history. Go Youth!!!!