

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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St. Bernard Parish, LA 70043
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January ~ February 2009 News

Our Mission Statement

"We are a gathering of God's people, committed to worshipping God and to sharing his love and salvation through Jesus Christ by meeting the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of our community."

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Life Of Power – Life Of Witness

By Gaby Serpas

"14 To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm- neither hot nor cold- I am about to spit you out of my mouth."

Revelation 3:14-16

Ever went swimming (or wading) in the kiddie size pool, the one that is almost fluorescent yellowish green, the one that is lukewarm with the kids' pee?

Yuck! Lukewarm in his perception we should not want to be. Why should I be either hot or cold? If I can't be hot on fire for Him, would it not be better to be at least lukewarm and not cold? Oh no.

In this life he promised to give me power, power to do his bidding, to witness. This power ought to make me hot, hot to serve, for Him, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel – God is with us (He promised to always be with me in Matthew), The Risen, by many names.

Power to Witness.....Witness to whom? Well, to those that are cold.

So, the hot have the power in them, the cold are being tended to. What about the lukewarm? Lukewarm is yucky. Lukewarm does not do much, coasts through a life of routine. Lukewarms appear to be safe – or saved – and don't get the tending from those clothed hot with power. They are, well, yuck, to be spit out.

In the last three years we certainly saw that God has his own plans for and with Gethsemane, he showed us the power in others, the power to witness by their words and even more by their action. Many witnessed God's power in various ways during our recovery from Hurricane Katrina. Our own congregation, members and visitors, friends and family,

showed the presence of growing power to witness by overcoming physical, external, and most powerfully internal and emotional struggles during this time; power to overcome fear, as with God All things are possible, so we need not fear; power to exercise patience and discern on what to do and what to wait for; power to move ahead in spite of obstacles and apparent dead ends, when he always provided for us, just in time.

Is our presence alone not a witness to his power.

Oh yes, our presence and continuous growth is a witness to his power. Yet, do we want to cool off to the state of 'lukewarm'? Or do we want to continue receiving the constant flow of his power to heat us up for Him to witness, whatever he has us to witness, wherever he has witness, however he has us witness.....

The opportunities are there, the cold ones are out there, and the fellow lukewarm ones can use a dose of power and heat too, myself wholly included to be holy included.

Please God, do not let me turn lukewarm. Heat me with the power to witness for you, witness your power, your love. Show me where you need me, show me how you want me. Amen.



Pastor's Prattle

By Pastor Jim Shears

Can you believe it? It's already carnival season! Mardi Gras is just around the corner. Already things are starting to get geared up. If we didn't notice it around Epiphany on our own, we knew it was coming when the King cakes appeared. And just when we made our New Year's resolutions to lose weight!

So let's get into the spirit of things! It's time to party and parade and second line and cover everything in purple, green and gold. Get the back of the pickups cleaned out. Gather up your bags for your beads. Get the picnic baskets, grills and crawfish pots ready. We're gonna have a party!

And you might as well enjoy it now, because also right around the corner is the time to get serious. Once Mardi Gras is over, we begin to take a serious look at ourselves as we enter Lent. And what we will discover is that we are in dire need of a Savior. As we examine ourselves, it will become clear to us how far afield from God's will we have gone. And it will become just as clear that we have no hope of finding our own way back. We are in a hopeless situation.

Well, that's not completely true. Left to our own resources, left to figure things out for ourselves, then it IS hopeless. But God has not left us on our own. We will discover as we go along that he is with us each step of the way. Ultimately, he leads us to the cross, where we find the Savior we so desperately need. We find him on a cross—dying.

It doesn't make sense, but that is exactly what God planned, what he needed to happen, in order for the price to be paid for the guilt of the world's sin—for the guilt of our sin. Jesus is not on the cross for anything that he had done, but for what we had done—and are doing—and will do. As we gaze on Jesus, giving his life for us, we will see him looking back at us with eternal love in his eyes.

I invite you to take advantage of the time after the party's over to renew your connection to God through Jesus Christ. Take the time each week and midweek to gather for worship and to learn how much God loves you and what he was willing to do for you. This time of self-examination and prayer can truly change your life!

Pastor Jim



Lenten Themes

I would like to invite you to participate in the special opportunities

that you will have during the season of Lent to experience the love of God in some special ways. There are several themes that will be emphasized that will help you have a clearer understanding of the grace of God that came to us through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, our Savior.

Midweek (Thursdays) Theme –

The theme is *Our Suffering Servant*, based on the Suffering Servant song in Isaiah 52 & 53. In those chapters, we have a clear picture of what Jesus endured. Not only that, we learn exactly why he had to die and what it accomplished.

Sunday Theme –

Life, Death, Victory! is the theme for the Sunday services and will carry us all the way through Easter. It is clear from the title that the ultimate end of God's plan was to give life back to Jesus and IS to give life to us. It is the victory we all want at the end, so you won't want to miss what this theme can teach you.

"God demonstrates his own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8. This verse is the theme of some materials that will be available to you around the theme *Extreme Love*. There will be magnets, bracelets, crosses and devotional material for all ages. You will want to help yourself to those items that will help you experience the love of God and be able to share it with your families and others.

A personal word of encouragement – don't let this Lent pass you by. Take advantage of the opportunities you will have to be drawn close to God, for him to renew your faith and strengthen you for service. You will be glad you did!

PJ

Statements & Offering Envelopes

If you need your giving statement for 2008 for tax purposes please let Dawn know

You can pick-up your 2009 offering envelopes in the narthex of the church. If you are unable to pick them up and would like to have them mailed, that can be arranged. Anyone who doesn't have offering envelopes and wants a set should let Dawn know as well.

Thank You

Aloma and I would like to thank you for your generosity toward us over the holidays. Your gifts to us as individuals and as a congregation are very much appreciated, as are the prayers I know you offer on our behalf. We pray that God will continue to bless each of you, as you seek to be in his service.
Jim and Aloma

Because of the generosity of so many of our Gethsemane family and friends there were 10 little boys and girls who had big smiles on their faces for Christmas. We received an overwhelming response and would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who gave to the Angel Tree.

VIA DE CRISTO

April 23-26, 2009

Judson Baptist Retreat Center in St. Francisville

You know that spring is near if you start hearing anything about Via De Cristo. If you have attended a weekend before and would like to serve on the team, please contact Kathy Wood at ke5kfa@cox.net or 337-344-7939.

For those of you who have never attended a weekend and are interested, please prayerfully consider it. You won't be disappointed. VIA de CRISTO is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." VIA de CRISTO is a structured three day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and brings them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church. You can also talk to someone who has attended for a little more insight. Some people who have attended are Pastor Jim & Aloma, Helen & Vernon Landry, Mike Perez, Mike Dauterive, Dawn Santalucito, Marilyn Spangler, Stella Boteler & Gayle Francke to mention a few. If you are interested, PJ or Dawn can get a registration form to you.

THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

The prayer of Jabez is found in I Chronicles 4:10. It is Jabez's prayer to God for blessing and protection. Blessing and protection are two things that we crave from God. During the adult Bible study hour on Sundays, we will take a close look at that prayer and the expanded meaning of it. We will be trying to incorporate that prayer, thinking seriously about it can mean in our lives, into our prayer discipline.

I invite you to take an extra hour on Sundays during Lent to join us. We will be making materials available to everyone in the congregation, but it will mean a lot to have you join us. PJ

MISSION TRIP

This year's Mission Trip to Atlanta is the week of June 14th. This is for senior youth entering the 9th grade for 2009-2010 school year. If you are interested or want more information, contact Pastor Jim. More information as to cost of the trip as well as fundraisers will be available soon.

Baptisms



Seth Michael Oramous was baptized on Sunday, January 18, 2009. Seth was born on April 18, 2008 at Tulane Lakeside Hospital. Seth's parents are Richard III and Dawn Smith Oramous and his sponsors are Joshua Oramous and Mandi Faurie.

Maya Rose Dufrene was baptized on Sunday, January 25, 2009. Maya was born on September 5, 2008 at North Oaks Hospital in Hammond, La. Maya's parents are Shelton and Sanebia Brown Dufrene and her sponsors are Korry and Jessica Lewis.

Please remember in your prayers:

Lord, watch over and guide all those who suffer from illness. Give us the courage to face any situation so that others may see your light shining through us, as a beacon of strength that overcomes setbacks, and reaffirms your Love for all. We are all your children in spite of our physical situation. Grant us the spiritual and mental strength to endure any obstacle we may face. We ask this in your holy name, Amen.

LOSS OF A LOVED ONE ~ FAMILIES OF:

Dean Schwab, Andrew (Moose) Militello, Donald Weiskopf, Merlin Lehman, Jean DeVun, Archie Casbarian, Greg DePaula, Tica Schmidt, Matt Eudy, Carl Barre, Sonny Rosenberger, Lorey Keiff, Carl Franzella, Gabrielle (Gabi) Gettys

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY, ILL, or HOSPITALIZED: Baby Andrew, Suzanne Renckly, George & Rita Zerr, Golda Buras, Erin S., Macey Catherine Dennis, Jessie Stevens, Erin Verhey Mr. Martin & Fly., Evelyn Powell, Pastor Jim, Joe "Big Daddy" Thibodeaux, Mary Toucheque, PJ Morreale, Tina Guillot, Betsy LeBeouf, Anna Mae Champagne, Keith Black, Jr., Jessica Grenner, Joyce Keller, Jennie Goodman, Greg Dove, Lonny Scortino, Don Arthur, Anselm Wetzka, George Fuller, Jason Brown, Edna Hurling, Wayne Melerine, Sr., Ray Guillot, Jr., Lisa Gonzales, Louis & Gloria Miller (Marie Heck's parents), Don Arthur, William Reid Bordelon & family, Yvonne Pinto, Chuckie Beyer, Herman Bonette, Brooke Lacoste, Elsa Barrientas, George Decondris, Mike Young, Anne Leonard, Mickey Terminie, Barbara Fray, Eric Vosbein, Kitty Johnson, Lucille Treitler, Gayle Buras, Gloria Bailey

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: 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

SAFETY FOR THOSE WHO ARE TRAVELING: Pastor Jim who travels weekly to and from Memphis

OTHER CONCERNS: Joan V., families of helicopter crash, Debbie & John Melady, those suffering from depression, Vanessa & baby, Shane & Danielle Dennis, Robin Roberts, Joseph & Millie Brandt, Crystal Eudy & fly., Catherine Schinn, Bridgette & Olivia Nunez, Shelley Sanders, Denver & Roslyn Nobles, Beth Bauer, Kelly, Zoe, Hayden & Noah Bauer, Kristen, Robbie, Gabriel, Lisa, Fay, Marcia, Natalie, Len's son, Ray Guillot, Sr. & fly., Glenn Gonzales & fly., Wendy & Chip England & children, Amy & Ryan, Beverly Wellmeyer, Krissy & Ray Ajan, Martinez family, Lisa Umbach, Larry & Cindy Varnado, Betsie LeBeouf & family, Bert Menge, Patsy Werling Levine, Christy & children, Edna Decondris, Jared Landry & family, Carol Schiavone, Stephanie & Jeremy Young & family, Sandra Terminie, K.S., A.S. & family, David & Carol Fife

HEALTHY PREGNANCY & BABY(IES): Ronnie & Ashley (Chutz) Pohlmann & unborn baby, Mike & Shelly Dauterive & unborn baby, Will & Cilla Teague & unborn baby, David & Erin Teague & unborn baby, Luke & Kasie Anglin & unborn baby, Tim and Courtney Diebold, Baby Elese and unborn baby Aidan Benjamin, Billy & Lara Thonn George and unborn baby, Brad & Lacey (Poole) Bonvillian

BATTLING CANCER OR WHO ARE IN REMISSION: Brooke Salazar, Erlene DuBose, Sonia Evans Gabb, Joan Switzer, Roy Fernandez, Sr., Irma Hartman, George Francke, Kathy & Paul Miller, Toni Brown, Dotty Reggio, Mr. Weiskopf, Erlene DuBose, James Poirer, Patsy Werling, Kyle Brabham, Kathy M., Nicky Levine, Anna, Isabella, Scott Hayworth, Susan Faucheux, Cyndi Jones, Merrick "Ricky" Len Hadley, Joachim, Sr., Carl Barre, Susan Mallory, Penne Hebert, Bob Ducombs, Tim Pritchard, Judy Nunez, Mary Kabel Smith, Gilda Spinner, 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, Earline Thompson, Melissa Ruedsill



Musings

Rcvd. from Mary Toucheque

"Shirley & Marcy"

A mom was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?' Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.' The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?' 'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.'

'Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?'

'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mom makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.



Gaby's Senior Moment

By: Gaby Serpas

*In the night I remember your name, O LORD, and I will keep your law.
Psalm 119:55*

I sure hope I will never forget God's name. Good thing he can be called by so many names. I guess I will remember one of them?

"I am so bad with names. I see a face and know it, but the name escapes me. What is your name again? I can't seem to remember names. Must be the Katrina brain... Must be my age.... Too much information stressing my brain.... Must be getting Alzy...."

Ever said any of those, maybe with a joking laugh? Have you ever heard the 'don't worry, me to'? Yet don't you secretly worry that something is going seriously wrong? That you might end up in one of those places not knowing who your kids are, doing embarrassing things and not realizing it? That is a real fear, and a common one. Even with today's medications for Alzheimer's, there is no cure. If these pills work, they usually slow the progression of the illness, slow the regression of the memory, but none will halt it. So, one has to prepare. But do we really have to worry?

What are some signs of dementia and what is normal or human or stress?

- It is common to occasionally forget names or misplace keys.
- If you get told the name and 'yes, now I remember', it is probably normal
- If you are looking for keys to a car you had 25 years ago, that signals a problem
- If the iron is found in the freezer, that signals a problem.
- If one asks the same question over and over and forgets one even asked the question, that is a problem.
- Getting busy with something else after putting the eggs on the stove, is not uncommon
- Forgetting what a stove is for and covering it with the bed sheets is a problem.
- Searching for the proper word to convey an abstract thought is common.
- Not finding the right word and substituting with one utterly unrelated, signals a problem.
- Being moody is human. Changing from calm to tears or violence in minutes signals a problem.
- Getting side tracked by music or thoughts and missing an exit is common.
- Driving to the store and ending up somewhere strange, not knowing how one got there or how to get back, signals a problem.
- Needing more repetition to remember new material is part of normal aging
- Forgetting recently learned materials such as having a new grandchild signals a problem.

Some of these signs and symptoms are vague. Often there is a fine line between a normal faux pas and an early dementia sign. If you are worried about forgetting much and doing silly things, analyze this (If you can).

- Did I have a recent strong stressor? (Yes, Katrina counts, but it should get better over the years, not worse).
- Is there too much new info lately?
- Am I worried about something and distracted?
- Could I have a physical illness? Infection, even bladder infection can look like sudden severe dementia.
- Am I eating right or could I be missing vitamins? Do I get enough sleep?

If you can't seem to get your thoughts straight to analyze this, ask someone else. If you don't think there is a problem but people are stealing your keys and lying about what news they told you, then others probably realize you have a problem and hopefully intervene.

Say a prayer. That will calm you and center you.

If there is a problem, get help from a professional, and pray for the professional too.

God Bless. He will always remember YOUR name.

Gaby (in case you forgot)

Gethsemane

History

As is the case with many of us who lost treasured pictures and mementos left behind when we evacuated for Hurricane Katrina so did Gethsemane. If you have any photos, newspaper articles, special bulletins, etc. that you would like to share please contact Gaby at gabyhaze@aol.com or Dawn at dawn@gethsemane-lutheran.com.



LITTLE WHITE CHURCH

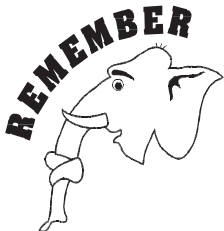


GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN SCHOOL

7th & 8th Grade – 1964-1965



CONFIRMATION 3-26-61



Did You Know??

Cody Helmke of Troop 84, received the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the Eagle Scout Rank Award at a ceremony held on January 17, 2009. While earning his eagle badge Cody put together a work crew that built and painted 18 closets and painted the stripes in the parking lot of Gethsemane. Cody led a crew of 20 volunteers over two weekends and the project took a total of 226 man hours to complete. Cody is a senior at Holy Cross High School and is the son of Chris & Kerri Helmke and grandson of B.J. Helmke. Cody said he could not have accomplished this without the dedication from his Scoutmaster Dan Weaver and the wonderful group of dedicated adult leaders that helped him along his journey. Congratulations, Cody!!!!

Adrianna Iennusa is in the 6th grade and Antonio Iennusa is in the 2nd grade and have been on the "A" honor roll so far this year at Mary Goff Elementary School in Pineville, La. Adrianna also just made the 7th grade Junior High Varsity cheerleader squad at Tioga Junior High in Pineville. Way to go Adrianna & Antonio!!

Dominique Theady was accepted into nursing school at ULL in Lafayette, La. and younger brother Chaz has maintained a 3.48 GPA. Awesome!!

Megan Bordelon graduated Saturday, December 13th from Southeastern Louisiana University with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration.

Patti Jo (Grose) Bene is on the Dean's list with a perfect 4.0 GPA at Delgado Community College (City Park) and was also accepted into Charity School of Nursing for the Fall Semester.

Joshua Guillot who is in the 3rd grade made the A/B Honor Roll at Belle Chasse Primary School.

Cara Varnado who is a junior at Chalmette High School is a member of the Chalmette High Cheerleaders and holds the rank of lieutenant. Their group recently competed in the NCA/NDA Sunshine National Classic and were first place winners.

Janie Fuller who is a paramedic was recently named St. Bernard's Outstanding Citizen of the Year at the St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce Banquet. She was recognized for her heroic efforts during Hurricane Katrina which among other things included delivery a baby. Congratulations, Janie! We're so proud of you and thank you for your devotion to GLC and St. Bernard Parish.

Mike Perez was recently promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. Congratulations, Mike

Mike and Janet's children made the 2nd nine weeks honor roll. Gabriella is an 8th grader at Dominican High School made the Alpha Honor Roll, Garrett is in the 6th grade and made the Silver Honor Roll and Kayla is in the 4th grade and made the Silver & Citizenship Honor Roll. Garrett and Kayla are both students at St. Philip Neri School.

Maria Serpas made the Principal's Honor Roll for the 1st semester at Mount Carmel Academy.

Maria's poem "*Just Books in a Library Ready for Action*" was entered in the Creative Communication Poetry Contest and was selected to be published in a book called, "A Celebration of Poets". Look for her winning poem at the end of this article.

Maria worked a day with Habitat for Humanity at the Musician's Village along with other juniors at Mount Carmel Academy.

Jeannette, Margaret & Sarah DeVeer and their mom, Rebecca had their short essays on Katrina's evacuation and return published in "Essence of Grace".

Those Spangler girls are standing out again in Walker, La. Mackenzie who is 6 years old started Kindergarten this year at Walker Elementary School was the school "GROWLER" in January – which means that she was caught doing something good at School. Madison is a freshman at Walker Junior High and had a 4.0 GPA for the first semester of school. She played varsity volleyball for Walker High and was the only freshman who lettered on the team and she made the Lady Cats school softball team. Big sister Jourdan finished her first semester of college at SLU in Hammond with a 3.2 GPA and is now experiencing the true college life living in a dorm on campus. Great job, girls!!

"Just Books in a Library Ready for Action"

By: Maria R. Serpas

ALL is just another story,
Put to words on just another page
Of just another book
In just another Library,
Waiting, in no particular fashion,
To be seized and explored
By yet another eager pagemaster
Keen to stray into a thrilling
adventure,
Or perhaps simply hoping to
escape the last.



Be My  *Valentine*

