

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 6, 2010

"Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane..." St. Matthew 26:36

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1 AUSTIN, TEXAS

EPIPHANY LIGHT REVEALS VISION, UNITY, HOSPITALITY

JANUARY 10—EPIPHANY 1

**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL**
SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; St. Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

BAPTISMAL LIFE

The twelve days of the Christmas festival concluded January 6, **Epiphany Day**. The Christmas Community is transformed, by the liturgical church year, to the Epiphany Community manifesting the "Light of God". The Wise Men, as told by St. Matthew, worship the "Word Made Flesh" bringing gifts reflecting the life to be lived by the Christ child. **Jan. 10, the Baptism of our Lord**, incorporates the community of the baptized into the story of salvation for all humanity. The Gethsemane community continues the tradition of *Affirming Life Together In Baptism*.

VISION MISSION TRIP

Gethsemane weekend Vision Mission Trip is **Jan. 8-10**. This is a special weekend mission experience for "Gethsemane" to minister and expand our vision of another culture. The group will work doing Habitat style work, cleaning, and carpentry in Eagle Pass and assisting in their food pantry. Part of the group will do a modified VBS experience in the afternoon with the children in the area and host a dinner for San Lucas.

RUSSIAN GUEST

Gethsemane welcomes **Alexander Skopintsev (Sasha)**, and his wife **Katja** Sunday, **Jan. 10**. Sasha first came to Gethsemane through Gethsemane friends, **Jerry & Jean Bartholomay**, whom they visited in Henderson, NV. Sasha owns his own English school in Moscow. He is a Christian living out his baptism in the Russian Orthodox community. They will also visit Washington D.C. and New York City. Plan to visit with them Sunday morning during the 9:30 a.m. Learning Hour, and dine with them at GLADOFFF.

GETHSEMANE WELCA

Mary/Martha Unit meets Tuesday, **January 12**, 9:30 a.m., Music Room. Program leader, **Laura Riddell**; Hostess, **Verline Berkman** and **Norma Wendlandt**.

GLADOFFF

Gethsemane Lutheran Adults Dining Out For Food Fun and Fellowship gathers Tuesday, **Jan. 12**, 7 p.m. Brick Oven, 10710 Research Blvd, hosted by **Art & Glenda Tiemann**. All are welcome at the table.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MIDWEEK CONNECTIONS

All ages are invited to share in evenings of learning, play, fellowship, fun and worship

January 13—February 10

11:00 am "Maya Angelou study" with Pastors Bohls and Schnelle
12 noon Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
5:00-5:30 Guitar with Dar (Steffans Parlor)
5:30-6:30 Supper (\$4 each; \$12 family) MPR
6:00-8:45 Baby sitting available
6:00-7:10 Children's activities (MPR)
6:15-7:10 Confirmation, Pastor Schnelle
6:15-7:10 Galatians Bible Study, Pastor Bohls
6:15-7:10 "Being Positive Parents", Elizabeth Kite
7:15-7:30 Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
7:30-7:45 Mentors & Confirmands
7:45-8:45 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (MR)

JANUARY 17—EPIPHANY 2

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. EMPHASIS
SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; St. John 2:1-11

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

2010 SCHEDULE BEGINS

Lori Althaus and **Belinda Malin**, Gethsemane Congregation Council remind students and families **January 17**, will be the beginning of the 2010 Learning Hour continuing their use of Augsburg-Fortress Publishing House material learning the liturgical church year with emphasis on "Lent and Holy Week" Classes for all ages 9:30 a.m. Participate in Sunday Church School as 2010 commences.

HTU GUEST

Gethsemane Lutheran welcomes **Rev. Don Brewington** of Huston-Tillotson University Center for Religious Life and Campus Ministry **Jan. 17**. Pastor Brewington has served the HTU community for 18 years. Through the generosity of Gethsemane members, the HTU Religious Life and Campus Ministry has been expanded. HTU presented **Pastor Karl Gronberg** with the 2009 Appreciation Award for support of Huston Tillotson University and the Austin community. Pastor Brewington will participate in worship and the 9:30 a.m. Learning Hour.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins **Jan. 18**, The Conversion of St. Peter and concludes **Jan. 25**, the Conversion of St. Paul. Gethsemane Lutheran has a historic connection with ecumenical and inter-faith expressions in the Austin community having been a charter member of the **Austin Area Conference of Churches** (Pastor Gronberg served two terms as president of AACC) and the **Austin Area Interreligious Ministries**. Thanks be to the God for decades of leadership provided by Gethsemane representing the Reformation/Lutheran tradition with people of faith in the Austin community.

MLK, JR. WALK

Monday, **Jan. 18**, Gethsemane members join people from the Austin community in the annual walk commemorating the life of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** Contact **Pastor Gronberg** indicating your participation.

MEN-IN-MISSION

Men-in-Mission tour the new Cedar Park Center on Thursday, **Jan. 21**. The center is home to the Texas Stars hockey team. Cedar Park Mayor Pro Tem, **Matt Powell**, will also highlight other activities in Cedar Park. Lunch follows at Rudino's of Cedar Park. Come at 9 a.m. for coffee and donuts in the Music Room; tour departs at 9:30 a.m. Sign up!

Thanks Gethsemane Men-in-Mission for the beautiful Christmas tree lighting the hillside outside the Gethsemane sanctuary.

JANUARY 24 — EPIPHANY 3

ELCA GLOBAL MISSION SUNDAY
SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; St. Luke 4:14-21

PRAYER OF THE DAY: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GLCM BEGINS 2010

GLCM entered the New Year with thanksgiving for love and support in 2009. The new year began with the leveling and re-flooring of one of the Education building classrooms. Thanks to Larry Pounds for his assistance. We rejoice in the good health of staff and students. Blessings to Gethsemane Lutheran congregants in 2010.

GRADUATE STUDIES

Pastor Susan Schnelle began her doctoral studies at the Austin Presbyterian Seminary Jan. 4. Her studies this semester focus on "The Bible and the practice of Ministry". The final project for this course is writing a six week Bible study to be taught at Gethsemane. Pastor Schnelle is grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow.

SENIOR FEST 2010

Lutherans explore the theme "Finding Purpose in our Later Years—Without Manipulating the Will of God" with Senior Fest 2010 speaker, **The Reverend Doctor Peter Marty**, Saturday, **Jan. 30**, Triumphant Love Lutheran, 9508 Great Hills Trl. Workshops include: Simply Living/Downsizing; Finishing Strong; Financial Update; Late in life Challenges; Senior Resources; Senior Nutrition; Bible Study. See **Pastor Gronberg** for more details.

GETHSEMANE YOUTH

Eighteen Gethsemane youth attended Southwestern Texas Synod ELCA Senior High Youth Gathering, Theme: "Change the World" **Allie Anderson, Paige Anderson, Kallie Crawford, Catherine Hillmer, Amy Kingsbury, Kathleen McKenney, Colby Chandrasoma, Andrew Davitt, Chris Greinert, Caleb Johnson, Don Jung, Tyler Kuenast, Ross Malin, Craig McConaughy, David Riley, Evan Spielvogel, Dustin Swening, Sebastian Wilhelm**. Thanks to **Pastor Susan Schnelle, Pastor Kent Bohls, Dar Joy Krenek, Raymund Kuenast**, sponsors; **Mary Lou Newman, Pastor Karl Gronberg** presented the work of the ELCA Southwestern Texas Synod Poverty Task Force.

DECEMBER ALTAR GUILD

Thanks to those having served: **Debra Rodgers-Pitts, Lloydine Vinyard**, co-chairpersons, **Kay Goodlow, Sharon Gronberg, Daisy Horton**.

December Altar and Chancel flowers were given to the Glory of the Triune God: in loving memory of my husband, **Frank**, by **Ria Corbett**; in honor of the **Swedish Women's Education Association** by **Ingrid Edlund-Berry**; in loving memory of the December 12, 1868, founders of Gethsemane Lutheran by the **Frances Margareta Wetter** and **Carl Leonard Wetter Estate**; in celebration of **Hannah** and **Pat Jurgens'** birthdays by the **Jurgens Family**; in loving memory of **LaRue Olson** on the anniversary of his 80th birthday by **Donna Olson** and family; in celebration of **Pimjai's** birthday by **Khem Saythongkham**.

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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VISION MISSION TRIP—JANUARY 9-10 CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK—JAN 18-25 MLK JR, WALK—JANUARY 18

MEMORIAL

Lisa Holmstrom, a baptized Christian and confirmed member of Gethsemane Lutheran, claimed the promise of her baptism Monday, December 28, 2009. The memorial liturgy for the faithful was held at Gethsemane Thursday, December 31.

Lisa was quiet and shy, smart and funny, and the most tenderhearted person. She loved her family, rarely missed a concert, a program, or a game that a member of her family participated in. She watched more than a thousand fastpitch softball games, dozens of plays and programs, and scores of soccer games. Words cannot express how much she was loved nor how much she will be missed. She never complained, she just did the best she could. Lisa lived out her baptism through the ministries of Gethsemane serving on the altar guild, faithful participation in worship and supporting Gethsemane youth. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, her twin sister, Lori, and her mom, Nannette. The Gethsemane Lutheran community expresses loving ministry to her dad, Elgene "Buddy" Holmstrom; brothers, Don, wife, Rachel, and daughter, Susanna; Kynn; and Lane, wife, Glenda, and children, Daniel and Amanda. The words of scripture proclaim the hope of the faith community: *"What does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?"* (Micah 6:8)

Blessed be the memory of Lisa Holmstrom

MEMORIAL

Don Franz, a baptized Christian and confirmed member of Gethsemane Lutheran, claimed the promise of his baptism Monday, December 28, 2009. The memorial liturgy for the faithful was held at Gethsemane Monday, January 4.

Don graduated from Virginia Tech University and served in the United States Air Force. He and his beloved wife Dorothy retired to Austin, Texas in 1971 joining Gethsemane Lutheran in July, 1972. Don was a faithful steward giving generously to ministries of Gethsemane, synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Gethsemane Lutheran community expresses loving ministry to daughter, Donna Ray; son, John; "inherited daughter", Sandi, and spouses, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren. Don was a loving husband and father and will be missed by all who knew him. The words of scripture proclaim the hope of the baptized community: *"God is our refuge and strength..therefore we will fear"* (Psalm 46 :1,2)

Blessed be the memory of Don Franz

MEMORIAL

Alice May Timmerman, a baptized Christian and confirmed member of Gethsemane Lutheran, claimed the promise of her baptism December 31, 2009. The memorial liturgy was held at Gethsemane Tuesday, January 5. She was unselfish in her reaching out and care for others. She was ever faithful as she lived out her Christian faith. She joined Gethsemane Lutheran in 1964 blessing the congregation and pastors with generous and faithful stewardship. The Gethsemane Lutheran community expresses Loving ministry to her sister, Julia, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Scripture proclaims the hope of the baptized community: *"...that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, being rooted and grounded in love."* Ephesians 3:17

Blessed be the memory of Alice Timmerman

GETHSEMANE PEOPLE NEWS
CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO: families of **Vanessa Teeda Neak, Bernard Gastler, James Fulcher—**

may those who mourn be comforted by the Epiphany light...**THANKS FROM:** **Alan Jarl, Helen Enders, Erik Svenkerud, John McKnight, Viola Hall, Max & Beverly Helsel, Carolyn Lahtinen, Bill & Rose Adair Corbell, Sandi & Randy Dodd, Don & Anne Roefer, Paulette Akers, Sandra Tipton, George Wendlandt, Barb Jones, Heatherwilde residents** for prayers, cards, altar/chancel flowers, hospital, birthday, pastoral ministries; **T.A. Brown Elementary** for gifts...**THANKS TO:** **Gethsemane musicians** for beautiful music during Twelve Day Christmas Festival; 2009 Santa Lucias: **Carrie Eubank and Amy Kingsbury; Inez, Jennifer & Chuck Rice and Margaret Ransom, Timothy Huston** for Christmas Apples; the **Christianson/Tharp family** for poinsettias in Gethsemane Garden; poinsettia donors to Gethsemane altar/chancel garden-over 140 donated; **Gethsemane Men-in-Mission** for beautiful outdoor Christmas tree; Gethsemane Carolers; December Altar Guild: **Lloydine Vinyard, Debra Rodgers-Pitts, Kay Goodlow, Sharon Gronberg, Daisy Horton** assisted by **Valerie Johnson, George Craeger, Martin Gonzalez, Joel Gronberg, Ron Tighe** for the beautiful, creative decorating of the Gethsemane altar, chancel, nave, Gethsemane Garden; 2009 Advent Wreath participants: **Anne Roefer, Ruben Sr. & Cruz Santa Ana, George & Susie Hamm, Ryan, Heather and Carly Hamm, Ria Corbett, Art & Marilyn LaValle, James & Harriet Gardner, Karalyn Heimlich, Jim & MJ Bradley, Greg & Lori Athaus, Ken & Belinda Malin, Amanda Schnelle, Jeremy Ullrich, Christa McConaughy, Dong Hoon Jung, Johann Sebastian Wilhelm, Erik Svenkerud, Paul Waller...GREETINGS FROM:** **Pastor Heriberto Prudencio & family; Joel Gronberg, Rhia Gronberg and Umid Azimov** visiting Madrid, Spain, Budapest, Hungary, Rome, Italy; **Corky Stewart & family; Dr. Todd Thames & family.**

GETHSEMANE CALENDAR

SATURDAY, January 9

Vision Mission Border Trip

9:30 a.m. Altar Guild

SUNDAY, Jan. 10 - THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL

Vision Mission Border Trip

8:15 a.m. Epiphany eucharist

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Epiphany eucharist

5:00 p.m. Sons of Norway (Music Room)

MONDAY, January 11

7:15 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Children's Ministry (M-F)

6:30 p.m. Square Dancing (Multi-Purpose Rm)

TUESDAY, January 12

9:30 a.m. GWELCA Mary/Martha (Music Rm)

1:30-4:00 p.m. Food Pantry/Clothes Closet

7:00 p.m. GLADOFFF (Brick Oven-Research Blvd)

WEDNESDAY, January 13

Midweek Connections — see front left column

THURSDAY, January 14

9:00 a.m. GLCM Chapel (Narthex)

7:00 p.m. Ostomy Assn of Austin (Music Rm)

FRIDAY, January 15

7:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Music Rm)

SATURDAY, January 16

9:30 a.m. Altar Guild

SUNDAY, January 17—EPIPHANY 2

8:15 a.m. Epiphany eucharist

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Epiphany eucharist

MONDAY, Jan. 18—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Children's Ministry/GLC Office Closed

9:00 a.m. MLK walk

6:30 p.m. Square Dancing (Multi-Purpose Rm)

TUESDAY, January 19

7:15 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Children's Ministry (T-F)

10:30 a.m. Trinity Place Apartments Chapel

1:30-4:00 p.m. Food Pantry/Clothes Closet

6:30 p.m. Royal Dancers (Multi-Purpose Rm)

7:30 p.m. OCD (Music Room)

WEDNESDAY, January 20

Midweek Connections — see front left column

11:45 a.m. LTC Guild (Music Room)

THURSDAY, January 21

9:00 a.m. Men-in-Mission Tour

5:30 p.m. GLCM Advisory Board (Parlor)

FRIDAY, January 22

9:00 a.m. GLCM Chapel (Narthex)

7:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Music Rm)

SATURDAY, January 23

9:30 a.m. Altar Guild

SUNDAY, January 24 - Epiphany 3

ELCA GLOBAL MISSION SUNDAY

8:15 a.m. Epiphany eucharist

9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Epiphany eucharist

2:00 p.m. Heatherwilde Communion Service

MONDAY, January 25

7:15 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Children's Ministry

6:30 p.m. Square Dancing (Narthex)

7:00 p.m. VASA (Multi-Purpose Room)

TUESDAY, January 26

1:30-4:30 p.m. Food Pantry/Clothes Closet

7:00 p.m. Czech Historical Assn (MPR)

WEDNESDAY, January 27

Midweek Connections — see front left column

THURSDAY, January 28

9:00 a.m. GLCM Chapel (Narthex)

FRIDAY, January 29

7:30 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous (Music Rm)

SATURDAY, January 30

9:30 a.m. Altar Guild