AUGUST 2014 – GETHSEMANE NEWSLETTER

Pastor Jeff Nehrbass
Gethsemane Lutheran Church - North Minneapolis

"Tired Of Runnin' "
I'm sittin' on my porch watching the law
As they ride past in their patrol cars
So tell me why I feel like the enemy
They're supposed to be here protectin' me
I might have went too far
Helpin' the contribute to makin' their job hard
Servin' fiends like these people ain't no enemy
I can't believe I'm out here killin' my community
If you knew how far I came
From where I am and where I used to be
Don't want it
You can tell by the look of me
This gangsta life ain't no longer in me - Akon

As I write you today, violent crime is up over 4 percent citywide this year with the highest concentration of violent and property crimes in North Minneapolis. Aggravated assaults in our precinct are up over 13%. Shooting calls are up over 36% and officers have already seized 258 guns so far this year, up 35%.

Mere blocks from the church our neighbors are being shot and killed in senseless acts of violence. A bloody Fourth of July weekend saw two neighbors shot dead and three others wounded. Later the following week three women just down the street from us on 35th and Dupont were ambushed and shot multiple times.

People are picking fights on buses and settling them with guns. People are racing their cars through our streets shooting at each other through the windows. Our own church kids are now afraid to go to the park down the road because of the new police cameras being set up to monitor gun violence.

Our city council president and fourth precinct rep is tired of "our neighborhood being overrun by thugs with guns" and presses the courts to send these "thugs" to our overcrowded jails for a maximum sentence. Our Mayor is calling for an end to the city's spike in violence and presses the police for more officers and overtime though no one is quite sure how to pay for that. Our own police chief is walking the beat on our blocks herself but openly acknowledges that "we can't arrest our way out of this problem." We all agree that everyone has a right to feel safe in our neighborhood and in our homes and that we must do what we can to stop the violence. But then we fence in and pit bull our yards, slam our doors and shake our fists at our neighbors in a tired and impotent rage through our front porch windows.....

Are we tired of the running? Tired of the shooting? Tired of being afraid of our own neighbors? Are we tired of feeling hopeless, embittered and disempowered? Excellent.....

It is time for a reality check. We create the community we wish to be. This is our neighborhood, these are our blocks. This is our church and we have been called to serve this neighborhood for more than 120 years. If we will not create the community we wish to see here, no amount of police officers, courts or politicians will.

More, we must own that we have created the community we have. We can blame economic realities, slum lords and Chicago gangland transplants for the urban blight we are suffering. We can hold our elected leaders feet to the fire and force them to exhaust our financial resources holding those whom we deem undesirable at bay. We can even form vigilante neighborhood groups to chase away the riffraff ourselves. But no amount of blame or accountability can hide the fact that being tired of the running is the biggest part of the problem in growing community. We have let our neighborhood deteriorate by our indifference, self-interest and self-imposed helplessness.

Even more, to create the community we wish to be, we must change our behaviors that are in conflict with that community. Anger and frustration can be destructive to building community when it becomes fuel to feed the sicknesses of dependency, helplessness and entitlement. But anger and frustration are wonderful tools for change as long these emotions push us in the direction of re-engagement, reconnection and relationship.

So eat a hot dog on Wednesday night at our neighborhood BBQ with 130 of our neighbors and get to know some of them. Come to our Awesome Summer Kids program during the week and teach one of the 30 neighborhood children about what is right and wrong. Better yet, go to the park with them so they are not afraid to play next to the cop cams. Show up on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday and have a cup of joe with the 60+ families at or below poverty level that are coming to receive groceries. Talk to them about what they could do with the $400-$600 in real dollars they now don't have to spend to feed their families.

Even better, invite our community to sit and listen and learn from the greatest community activist of all. Because being a disciple of Jesus means being in community, building hope, serving in love and never, ever having to feel tired of the runnin.....

Bible Camp For Kids - "Travel Guide To The Beatitudes"
August 16 - 23, 2014 Walker Minnesota

Last Call

Summer Bible Camp brings back tons of memories from when I was a kid. Swimming, pranks on counselors, passable food, mosquito bites, hot dogs, roasting marshmallows, crafts and learning about God. This year at Bible Camp For Kids, we are learning about the Beatitudes.

Jesus left no doubt that being a Christian can be hard; but because of God's promises, each of us can experience his blessings. We will learn about how to live the life God wants for us even when things get tough. And we will learn firsthand about all the wonderful ways God shows his love in our lives, no matter the circumstances.

No one will be turned away because of issues of money. The Camper's job is to learn and soak up the experience of Bible Camp. Among my many jobs is to find the money for scholarships. If you need help or have questions - see Roxi Mork.

Bible Camp For Kids Registration Form

Name: _____

Age as of today's date: _____ Grade in September 2014 _____

Address: _____

Parent's Name (s) Mother: _____ Phone_____

Father: _____Phone: _____

Cost of Camp: $150 per camper:

_____ I need some help - can I get a scholarship

_____ I don't have $150 but I have this much

_____ I have the $150

We are limited to 20 Campers - so please get your registration form in early!

The Camden Promise Summer Lunch

June 11 - August 20th (11:30 am - 12:30 pm)

The Camden Promise will provide lunches to all who come to our summer lunch program. Lunch will be served from 11:30 - 12:30 We will feed anyone who enters our doors. If you are in the neighborhood - stop in and have lunch. Meet new people and if you want to help - that's even better. Don't have to make reservations - just come and eat lunch

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Get a group together and take one Wednesday a Month!!!!!!!!!

Dinners go inside **September 3rd**

It is a time to visit across the "backyard fence" like we do during the summer. The difference it is inside. The time line is the same . . . the food is different. Many of the people are the same. Sometimes not as many people come to eat. Pick a menu from what we have available. Cook it, serve it and clean up. It's pretty easy. Questions: See Roxi Mork.

Block Party
August 27. 2014

August is literally just around the corner. Lots of fun, lots of people, lots of good food, and lots of opportunities to help. Please look at the poster in the Narthex to sign up to help. Everyone is needed and there is something for everyone to do. You can set up chairs, serve, greet . . . .any number of things to do. But, it takes you to sign up and help. August 27th is not that far away. You can sign up to set up, clean up, serve, grill, be a floater, garbage duty . . . . there is something for everyone.

Sign Ups available in July. Start thinking about where you want to help.

Looking For Help For the Block Party - August 27th.

Set Up Tent, Tables and Chairs - set up tent on the 26th, put tables and chairs under tent on the 27th.

General Set Up - Set up tables & chairs for registration, serving and door prizes

Clean Up - take down tent help with all clean up after Block Party

Garbage Duty - empty garbage and put new bags in during Block Party and pick up spills

Cook/Grill: Prepare the food and cook and grill it (served at 6 pm)

Registration & Door prizes Get people to sign in and answer questions (5-8 pm)

Set Up Serving Line & Serve the food - utensils, warmers, etc & Serve

Sign up in the Narthex **Or Call 612 521 3575**

Looking for Food Shelf Volunteers

Do you know how many people it takes to run a Food Shelf? LOTS!!! I know we need more . . . we need you!!!!!! There are so many things that you can do to help. Can't stand for long period of time . . . it's ok we have chairs.

Do you like to color? Yes, then you can "color" out bar codes. Can you see? Great then you can look at the dates and see if they are ok to use. If you can lift - that is wonderful we have lots of things that need to be moved. Do you like to organize? Yes, great then you would be perfect for stocking.

Don't have all day . . . that's OK we usually work around 4-6 hours. Only have evenings . . . great that's one of the times we work. Can only work during the day . . . wonderful, that's when we work too.

Can only be there Tuesdays and Thursdays . . .good that is two of the days we need you.

You might ask "what do I have to do or know"? Well, you need to know that you are needed. You would work with other great people or sometimes by yourself on a certain job. You will always be shown and explained whatever needs to be done. . Helps if you want fellowship with others working to do what God tells us to do . . . . feed those who are hungry and love everyone.

There are even benefits**:** Get to work with great people. Get breaks and we sometimes feed you lunch. Cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Sometimes get fresh air while working outside. Always changing . . . work is never the same. Always something to do

If this sounds like something you would want to do . . . please see Jean Bailey or Roxi Mork.

Looking For Sunday School Teachers

Qualifications: Love kids, be patient and kind, show up when it is you turn to teach or find a replacement. Want to help kids learn about Jesus while you are also learning. Be flexible. Be able to "go with the flow" and change what you were planning if kids need something different that Sunday.

Long time members come to mind and new members who would be great teachers . . . so just come and talk to me. I will show you the curriculum. Questions? Want to teach? See Roxi Mork So, please pray about it and then give me a call.

Can you help us out with any of these supplies for Bible Camp?

5 rolls of masking tape

3 rolls of blue painters tape

Baby Wipes

Magazines to cut up for words and pictures

30 packs of washable markers

Scissors for older kids

Permanent Markers – multi colors fine point and chisel

*60 containers of Sugar Free K*ool Aid (Wal-Mart is the cheapest)

White poster board – 10

Asst. Colors of Poster Board – 15

Pump Soap for Bathrooms – 12 bottles (gentle on the hands)

12 containers of Clorox wipes to use for cleaning

Plastic Snack bags – 3 boxes

300 Plastic bowls

300 dessert plates

700 each Plastic silverware (forks, spoons and knives)

600 Napkins

Letter Beads

Fabric Paint – all colors

Acrylic paint - all colors

10 packs of Word Stickers

10 packs of Letter Stickers

20 large bottles of white glue

20 Blindfolds

50 huge black garbage bags

40 Tall Kitchen Bags - draw string

Newspapers - lots

Thanks for your donation.

Please have to church by August 9th

PRAYERS, PRAISES AND THANKYOU'S

Prayers for loved ones in Hospice & their families:

--Marilyn Chapman & for Barb Whaley for strength

Prayers for Healing:

--Pr. Jeff's Mother, Linda, suffering with MS & for his dad's health
--KathyJo Klinger starting dialysis soon & on a Kidney transplant list.
--Cindy Hayes-hospitalized - for healing
--Barb Scheib-for continued healing

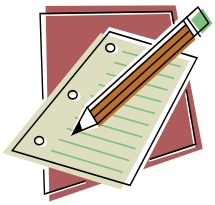
Thank You:

My family and I thank you for all your prayers, cards and thinking of us with the loss of my son, Jeff. Thank you and God's blessing, Arlene Dohrn and family.

2014 ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

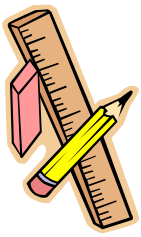
Once again we are collecting school supplies for the much needed items for our local schools.

We need your help for this very worthy cause and want you to know that you are greatly appreciated and we thank you for your generosity and we pray for God's blessings on you.



Please use the following list as a guideline for your donations – and again: THANK YOU!

Crayons – 24 packs	Scissors	Notebooks
Folders	3 ring binders	Pencils
Pens	Glue Sticks	Kleenex
Hand Sanitizer	Markers	Back-packs
Colored pencils	Highlighters	Pencil Pouches



… and any other school supply items you may think of that may be needed.

Thanks again and GOD BLESS!!

2014 AUGUST STEWARDSHIP SCHEDULE					
SERVICE ROLES	**AUGUST 3**	**AUGUST 10**	**AUGUST 17**	**AUGUST 24**	**AUGUST 31**
ALTAR GUILD	Janet Hanson	Janet Hanson	Janet Hanson	Janet Hanson	Janet Hanson
ASSISTANT MINISTER	Jeff Nelson	Bonny Wald	Linda Omark	Jeff Nelson	Bonny Wald
COFFEE & TREATS	YOUTH	YOUTH	YOUTH	YOUTH	YOUTH
COMMUNION STEWARDS	Dale Dawes Rohini Dawes	John Nelson Rochelle Nelson	Teresa Boyd Pat Stiegler	Jean Bailey Diane Schepker	Dale Szach Dianne Szach
GREETERS	Jill Taitt	Bonny Wald	Jill Taitt	Linda Omark	Jill Taitt
PRAYER MINISTRY	Denny Stiegler	Denny Stiegler	Denny Stiegler	Denny Stiegler	Denny Stiegler
MONEY COUNTERS	Arnie Hanson	Dale & Dianne Szach	Sue Nelson Jeff Peterson	Donna Peterson Jill Taitt Lorraine Hanus	John & Rochelle Nelson
POWER POINT	John Nelson	Jeff Peterson	Bonny Wald	Linda Omark	John Nelson
USHERS	Darrel Taitt John Nelson	Ben Knaus Greg Szach	Earl Rydholm Bonny Wald	Jeff Peterson Arnie Hanson	Darrel Taitt John Nelson
VAN DRIVER	Wayne Schepker	Ben Knaus	Randy Schepker	Arnie Hanson	Wayne Schepker

Thank you for your contribution to our worship services

It helps make our worship experience more meaningful for everyone

Please know you are appreciated ! ! !

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
4656 Colfax Avenue North
Minneapolis MN 55412

August 2014

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2593
Twins Cities MN

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
4656 Colfax Avenue North
Minneapolis MN 55412
(612) 521-3575 Fax (612) 521-9466
GethsemaneLutheranChurch@MSN.com
Jeff Nehrbass, Pastor

All are welcome at Gethsemane

Bible Study	**9:00 am**
Worship	**10:00 am**
Coffee Fellowship	**11:00 am**
Sunday School	**11:00 am**
Confirmation	**11:00 am**
Youth Group	**Noon**

Website: **www.glcmpls.org**
www.thecamdenpromise.org
Facebook: **http://tinyurl.com/gethsemane-mpls**

AUGUST 2014 BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL - - -

George Vita	*Aug. 2*
Kirk Proctor	*Aug. 3*
MatthewBaumann	*Aug. 5*
John Jackson	*Aug. 7*
Steven Pappas	*Aug. 7*
Doris Longerbone	*Aug. 8*
Jaysonn Mork	*Aug.10*
Dawn Schepker	*Aug.10*
Devon Cotton	*Aug.11*
Jamar Mork	*Aug.12*
Donna Peterson	*Aug.12*
Joe Peterson	*Aug.19*
Jamie Miller	*Aug.23*
John Wicklund	*Aug.26*
Kendale Willie	*Aug.29*