

For Unto Us A Child Is Born!

And we shall call him **WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, ALMIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, AND PRINCE OF PEACE!**

Christmas Spirit of Compassion

It's that time of year when lights and decorations go up, shopping malls are full of eager (or tired) shoppers, cookies are baked and Christmas gatherings are had. But we must remember that for some of those in our community, Christmas might be a time of pain and sadness, not joy. The loss of a loved one or a job, disconnection with family and friends, even seasonal depression or addictions can cause a whole host of difficulties. May your Christmas spirit this year be one of serving and compassion towards others. Ask those around you what they might need and see if you can give a helping hand or a listening ear of support. Please pray for those that suffer loneliness and isolation, hunger or depression. May God grant us all an extra measure of compassion for others.



God Bless Us Everyone!



Tiny Tim had it right when he said a blessing over the world on Christmas. Yes, he might be the fictional boy from The Christmas Carol who helped change the heart of Scrooge, but he also represents the type of mindset we have as disciples in Christ. We ask for blessings for ourselves, for our church, our families, and our friends—we are good at that. But to ask for blessings for strangers, even our enemies, those that may not share the same beliefs, and the “Scrooges” in our lives, that is truly profound. It is the blessing that Tiny Tim and Jesus both ask for us to pray. God told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and forgive our enemies. But to go one step further and pray blessings over them, that they might prosper, and find Christ in their lives... now that is truly the Holy Spirit moving among us. This year, have a blessed Christmas of blessing others!

Save The Dates!

Chinese Dinner

**Wednesday Dec,
20th @ 6:00 pm**

*Join us for a free,
community,
homemade, yummy
Chinese Dinner!*

Kids Program

**Sunday Dec, 17th
10:00 Service**

Come and watch our Sunday School act out the miracle of Jesus' birth.

**Note: Kids will practice every Sunday in December until the program.*

Christmas Eve Morning Service*

**Sunday 12/24/17
10:00 Service and
Fellowship**

**Note:
NO EVENING
SERVICE*

Who's Who At Gethsemane...

- Senior Pastor:** Jeff Nehrbass
- Youth Group (GYG) Director:** Matt Straumann
- GYG Assistants:** Anne Johnson, Dick Mork
- Camden Kids Director:** Carrie Asanji
- Building and Grounds:** Darrel Taitt
- Confirmation Teacher:** John Nelson
- Sunday School Leader:** Brittany Schiebe
- Newsletter Editor:** Cindy Nehrbass
- Bulletin/Stewardship Coordinator:** Linda Omark
- Food Shelf Volunteer Coordinator:** Jean Bailey
- Altar Guild Coordinator:** Arlene Dohrn
- Prayer Chain Leader/Sunshine Person:** Dianne Szach



GETHSEMANE CHURCH: (612)-521-3575
CAMDEN KIDS Learning Center: (612) 767-3097
CAMDEN PROMISE: (612) 521-5216
EMERGENCY ONLY LINE (612) 964-0881

Website: www.glcmps.org
Website: www.camdenkids.net
Website: www.camdenpromise.org
Prayer Chain Request: 612-521-8583

Weekly At Gethsemane...

Sundays:

- 9:00-9:45 am **Breakfast*** (2nd & 4th Sundays =
Breakfast & a Bag* of food)
- 9:00-9:30 am **Bible Study**
- 10:00 am **Worship Service**
- 11:00 am **Fellowship, Sunday School &
Confirmation**
- Noon-3:00 pm **GYG (Youth Group)**

Mondays & Fridays: 9:45 am **Food Distribution**

Wednesdays:

- 10:00 am **Bible Study**
- 6:00 pm **Free Community Meal**
- 7:30 pm **Food Distribution**

Saturdays:

Every Saturday: 11:00 am **Produce
Distribution**

(1st & 3rd of the month) 12:30-3 pm **Food Shelf
& Lunch**



Annual Holiday Bazaar & First Annual Roxi Mork Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner

On Saturday, November 18th the ladies of our GLCW displayed a lovely bounty of crafts and yummy baked goods for our holiday shopping pleasure. I personally covet their colorful crocheted dishcloths (and fondly remember our beloved Roxi and myself vying over a basket of them one Night of the Stars – in the end we split it ☺). So this year our family restocked our kitchen with them in her remembrance.

After the shopping came a bountiful meal. 23 turkeys were cooked, 4-dozen pies baked, and vats of mashed potatoes and gravy were made for our first annual Roxi Mork memorial Thanksgiving Dinner. Every year this was Roxi's event and she would coordinate every

detail of our Thanksgiving community meal. In her honor, we continue on with the tradition renaming the event after Roxi and her generous spirit. This year, over 225 people feasted on a warm buffet of holiday deliciousness, served by our community, and enjoyed the company of fellowship together as one family in Christ's love.

We have so much gratitude for those that donated, prepared and served this year's meal and set up the room for the event. A special thank you to the GLCW group for their talents making so many treasures and goodies.

What a great kick-off to the holiday season!



The Camden Promise

Building Hope...Together



Food Shelf

Our Client Choice Food Shelf is a point value system. Different foods have different point values. Each household receives a certain number of points per month (based on the number of people living in their home) to be used for food of their choice.

Open: 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 12:30-3 pm*

**Lunches provided onsite during this time*

Food Distribution: M & F @ 9:45 am, Wed. @ 7:30pm, & every Sat. of the Month @ 11:00

Breakfast & A Bag

Gethsemane Lutheran Church serves **breakfast every Sunday** upstairs in their fellowship hall from **9:00-9:45 am. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays**, you can have **breakfast and a bag** of groceries to bring home with you! Our goal is to provide a meal and extra food while building a sense of community and fellowship.

Clothes Closet

Clients of the Food Shelf can select from donated gently used and new clothing. The clothing comes from Gethsemane congregation members and their friends. To donate clothing, call **(612) 521-3575** or please submit a donation request via email at the contact page of **www.thecamdenpromise.org**.



Our new refrigerator truck is named **Manna Mover** (thank you Linda O. for the name!). Volunteer food pick-up drivers needed!

Donations and Volunteers Needed

Camden Promise cannot serve the community without our many volunteers. Volunteers are trained and assigned different jobs based on availability. The food shelf alone takes 26 plus volunteers per day it is open. To volunteer call **(612) 521-3575** or contact us via email at the contact page of **www.thecamdenpromise.org**.

Camden Promise “Empty Bowl” Fundraiser



On November 24th dozens of bowls (left), crafted and decorated by our community with the generous help of local artisans, were filled with soup donated by local chefs. The Camden Promise made over \$1,500 dollars towards its Food Shelf and programming. Thank you to Connie Beckers (left middle) and the generous donators, coordinators, artisans, chefs and participants for your generosity and creativity!



Annual Coat Give-Away

On Sunday, November 19th, members of our community and neighborhood (of all ages) received coats to help stay warm in the coming brisk winter months. Families came and tried on stylish new and gently used coats donated by generous church members and stores, and found great items to wear home. For those of us who buy coats whenever we'd like, we can take having coats for granted. But to be gifted a new coat is such a wonderful blessing. So remember when the after-Christmas store sales come to stock up on donations for next year's coat give-away. Then you can help provide more families with the warmth of God's love through gifts of down and cotton/poly fiber-fill.





Camden Kids Learning Center

Safe, reliable and quality care for the youngest members of our community.

Enrolling Now!

(612) 767-3097 OR www.camdenkids.net



Camden Kids Provides:

- Faith-based learning center
- Caring and qualified staff
- Safe and clean environment
- Activity-based curriculum
- Flexible schedules and competitive rates*
- Programs for ages from **Infants (6 weeks) to age 12yr**: before, during and after school hours
- Tools taught to help reinforce independence, social, listening and motor skills
- Before/After School Programs with bus pick up/drop off options for school agers!

**Hours of operation: 6:30 am – 6:30 pm
Monday through Friday**

- *Onsite help with paperwork for families using county childcare assistance*

CARRIE'S CORNER: **Happy Birthday Jesus!**

Memory Verse- Psalm 28:17 *“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to Him in song.”*

As we move into the month of December, we will have many discussions about the meaning of Christmas and our Savior's birth. Through fun and exciting curriculum, our children will learn about the story of redemption, the humility of Christ, how God works through weaknesses and how He always keeps His promises. As we near the end of the year, we would like to thank all of our families for being a part of such an amazing year. Our center would not be the welcoming and loving place it is without you and we truly look forward to what miracles lie ahead in 2018!

Editor's Page: Remembering Our Family Traditions

Christmas is a time of traditions for many families. Some people see the Nutcracker Ballet, or make day trips into the forest to chop down a tree, and others spend days baking cookies for friends or make Christmas shoe boxes to donate overseas. And some of us celebrate traditions from our personal heritage. Those of us with Swedish ancestry bring out our red painted horses and Traditional Swedish Angel Chimes with candles whose heat spins a carousel of trumpeted angels round and round in a gentle bell song. We might even find ourselves trying Lutefisk or bringing out the fondue pot and skewers.

Rumor has it that my grandpa, a full-blooded Swede through and through, used to wake up early Christmas morning and sing a traditional Swedish Christmas song (whether he pronounced the words correct, no one really knew or cared ☺). When I was a child (and before becoming gluten-free), my mom used to make Rosette cookies sprinkled with powdered sugar. In our home now, we decorate with over ten trees, hundreds of ornaments and a giant Santa that guards our front porch. And most recently my favorite Christmas traditions include going to a Handel's Sing-a-long Messiah with my dad to belt out the Halleluiah chorus until I can no longer speak.

Traditions are fun and meaningful ways to bond together with others in common interest and celebration. But they are also reminders of who we are, our connection in faith and what we believe.

When the Wisemen presented baby Jesus with precious gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, they were continuing on with a common tradition of gifting a newborn's family with items they might need (something we do even today). But they also started a new family tradition: that of following their hearts, and the signs from God, to seek and find the one true Messiah. This year, in our family Christmas traditions may we not only remember our personal heritage and the little things that make the holiday so special to our families and friends, but also remember that very first Christmas when determined travelers followed a star, and the voices of angels, to meet their savior.

Yes, now we may only see Christmas stars atop our trees and hear church choirs singing Alleluias, but we can still recreate the Magis' journey to the newly born Christ child. We can try to reconnect to our God with their same spirit of faith in this advent season, continuing to seek to meet Christ in our lives every day. We can pledge to offer ourselves, and our time, as gifts to Christ in honor of his birth and the salvation He so generously gave through suffering and sacrifice. And we can remember that, regardless of our personal family heritage, the unique ways we celebrate Christmas or go about living our lives, that we are all part of God's original Christmas family tradition. We were all adopted into God's clan through grace and Jesus' birth. May we continue to stand like the Wisemen that night, in reverent awe over the tiny baby in the manger, giving profound thanks for God's generous gift to our world.



125 Years of Gethsemane Memories:

DO YOU REMEMBER when the whole Sunday School marched in from the back of the church for the Christmas program singing "Thy Little Ones Dear Lord Are We" in Norwegian as they carried the Bethlehem Star? In English the first verse translated: "I came to greet my King, who came from heaven above. And while no gold I bring, I give Him just my love."



Season of Gratefulness: GOD PROVIDES!

November Food Drop:

Monday November 27, ten thousand pounds of food were dropped off at Gethsemane and hundreds of community members and friends lined up to gather bags, suitcases and boxes of fresh food and produce for their families and homes. On a near record warm day in Minneapolis, our corner of the block was also radiating much more: joy, excitement and anticipation of happy, full bellies for the post Thanksgiving holiday season. So much to be thankful for as you can see in the faces of those in the pictures above.

And Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25: 35-40

New Gethsemane Kitchen:

Just in time for our 125th Anniversary year, our Gethsemane kitchen got a brand new facelift. It is spiffy clean stainless steel, a modern, shiney, culinary dream. A year ago we were wondering how to keep our daycare program going without an up-to-code kitchen. But because of generous mission partners at Mt. Calvary, and Tom Stevens (owner of Maynard’s Restaurant), we can feel the change coming for the promise of a good year ahead. Our daycare is happy and all our other programs can benefit from new countertops and appliances. Praise be to God, and thanks to our mission partners!



Stewardship Schedule: December 2017-January 2018

SERVICE ROLES	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24	12/31	1/7	1/14	1/21	1/28
ALTAR GUILD	Arlene Dohrn	same	same	same	same	Jean Bailey	same	same	same
MINISTER ASSISTANT	Linda	Matt	Linda	Linda	Matt	Linda	Matt	Linda	Matt
COFFEE	Youth	same	same	same	same	same	same	same	same
COMMUNION STEWARDS	Norma & Maryann	Jean & Dianne Shep.	Rocky & John Nelson	Diane & Dale Szach	Arlene & Rose R.	Norma & Maryann	Jean & Dianne Schep.	Rocky & John Nelson	Arlene & Rose R.
GREETERS	Maryann	Norma	Jill T.	Norma	Linda	Maryann	Norma	Jill T.	Linda
MONEY COUNTERS	Diane & Dale Szach	Linda & Jill T.	Diane & Dale Szach	Diane & Dale Szach	Linda & Jill T.	Diane & Dale Szach	Linda & Jill T.	Diane & Dale Szach	Linda & Jill T.
POWERPOINT	Youth	Anthony	Youth	Youth	Linda	Youth	Anthony	Youth	Linda
USHERS	Ben & Ella	Darrel & Earl R.	Darrel & Anthony	Anthony & Earl	Anthony & Darrel	Ben & Ella	Darrel & Earl	Anthony & Darrel	Anthony & Darrel
VAN DRIVERS	Ben K.	Randy S.	Randy S.	Randy S.	Randy S.	Ben K.	Randy S.	Randy S.	Randy S.

Our Community Christmas Prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you for your many provisions and blessings in this past year for our church and our community. We know that it has not been easy for many and that the hardships we have faced as a community and personally have tested both our faith and courage. We thank you for your constant support and faithfulness to us, your children, and for your forgiveness of our sins and shortcomings.

Especially at this time of year we are reminded of your gift to us in Christ who came as a baby into this world to save us all. May we hold on tight to this reminder as we approach a New Year, and face many new circumstances and challenges. Lord, you are our **Everlasting Father** with immeasurable patience in us as you guide us to be better disciples and servants in this world that you created. And you are the **Prince of Peace**, sending Jesus to show us the meaning of love and service for others. Please be with all those who are suffering, lonely or lost, and bring us all an extra measure of your peace in the New Year. **AMEN**

If you have a special prayer request please call Prayer Chain leader Diane Szach @ 612-521-8583

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
4656 Colfax Avenue North
Minneapolis, MN 55412

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MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
Our Mission:

To graciously invite into life-giving Christian community in a just and safe neighborhood.



“We love because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

**Celebrating 124 years of ministry...
praise be to God!**