



Gethsemane Guidepost

September 2010

• 2185 Garden Springs Dr., Lexington, KY 40504-3459 • 859-277-6096 • e-mail: gethluth@windstream.net



***Sunday School Classes
for All Ages!***

***Join Us Every Sunday
Beginning
September 12 at 10:50 a.m.***

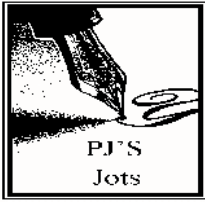
CONFIRMATION MEETING

**Sunday, Sept. 19th
at 1:00 p.m.**

**A Confirmation Ministry
Meeting will be held for
Parents, Students,
Mentors and Other
Interested Parties**

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A Well in the Distance

by Carol Howard Merritt

Hagar stood in the desert with her son Ishmael in her arms, the dust of the dry landscape swirling about her. She'd been the slave of Sarah, wife of Abraham, and her son was conceived when Hagar was forced to have a child with Abraham. But when Sarah finally and amazingly gave birth to her own son, Isaac, she urged Abraham to send Hagar and Ishmael away. The hostility drove Hagar and Ishmael out of their home and into the desert to die.

Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael, the mother and his child, into the barren landscape with only a little bit of water. With no protection from the elements, Hagar walked in the hot sun until she and her child had consumed all of the water; they were parched, without a drop left.

As usual, the biblical story is scant, summing up a dramatic episode in a few short paragraphs. The ancient holy writers leave a lot to the imagination, and so I envision Hagar holding her child close, trying to soothe his dry, thirsty cries.

Finally, Hagar cannot bear to see his parched lips any longer, cannot stand that her words and desperate caresses no longer comfort him. So she places her son under a bush to die. As she walks away helplessly, trying to escape her child's cries, Hagar calls out to God,

begging God to prevent her from seeing the death of her son.

At that moment of heart-wrenching distress, Hagar begins to understand she will be a mother of a great nation. It is as if she has somehow been given a taste of Abraham's covenant, when God promised Abraham his offspring would be as numerous as the grains of sand and the stars in the sky. It is after this realization that Hagar looks up and sees a well in the distance.

I wonder what stirred within Hagar that allowed her to imagine a great nation after having just relinquished her son? What caused her to look up from that barren ground and see living waters on the horizon? Was it the same sort of wondrous divinely inspired imagination that allowed Moses to lead men and women through miles of dusty landscape, driven by a vision of something completely different: a land flowing with milk and honey?

Our Scriptures are heavy with characters who became mothers of nations, saviors of people, and leaders of movements because they were somehow able to envisage that life-saving water as they stood in their particular desert. Even though every breath they took made their mouths as dry as dust, God gave them the imagination to hope.

Their examples have inspired a long history of people who have continued to dream of streams in the midst of barren deserts, rivers in dry wilderness, and milk flowing through inhospitable wastelands. In our day, we too can sense great hope in our own seemingly barren landscapes. What may have once been fertile land for our churches is now parched.

Looking over our pews, many of us see the faithful remnant of a congregation from a half-century ago, and we wonder whether our churches will exist twenty years from now. In our denominations, churches that once boasted a membership of 3,000 have dwindled down to 150 members

who can no longer afford to keep the church building running. Regularly, our governing bodies downsize and churches close.

Every once in a while, when we crack open our sanctuary doors and take a good look at what is outside, we hardly recognize the world in which we serve, because it has become so different from the one in which our churches were formed. Our denominational churches are no longer situated in the middle of a robust downtown, their proud steeples held erect through the hard work of dedicated housewives. We were seeing the world through a completely different frame then; we were working in a different context. And often those frames don't work in a new generation for a number of reasons.

Within our old frameworks, our church ministries reached out to a different family structure. We had churches that catered to nuclear families—ones with a mother, a father, and offspring. Our congregations often relied heavily on the volunteer work of housewives and geared programming and outreach to young families.

Now people get married and have children later in life, if at all. There is no longer a mom, a dad, and two-and-a-half children in each home. A good percentage of our households are likely to be single or in a same-gender relationship. The women of our congregations typically work at full-time jobs and have less free time to volunteer in the church.

Within our old frameworks, our churches could flourish in a Eurocentric society. Now, the ethnicity and culture of our nation has grown more diverse; we no longer live in the same context in which the particularly white Protestant church flourished. Since the Immigration Act of 1965, when national quotas were abolished and U.S. borders were opened to non-European immigrants, the rich diversity of the United States has become even more vibrant. Yet our mainline churches seldom reflect the diversity of the communities in which they are located.

Within our old frameworks, the people to whom our churches reached out were largely from a Christian background. Most of the people we welcomed into our congregations had been born and raised in the church. They could easily find their way around a Bible and could recite the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed on demand. These men and women knew those complicated hymns and were familiar with the flow and structure of the worship service.

Today, our neighborhoods are filled with people from a wide array of religious backgrounds and expressions. We struggle to communicate our faith in the midst of such pluralism and, in our worst expressions, we avoid or discriminate against those who are not Christians.

Within our old frameworks, we could rely on social conditioning and denominational loyalty to drive people to church. Now, we need to become much more intentional and caring as we reach out to our wider communities. Our modes of communication have changed so dramatically and so quickly that the church has struggled to keep up. The younger edge of our neighborhoods speaks fluently, instantly, globally, and interactively in the world of social media, while many of our congregations struggle to put together even a basic website.

Many of our denominational churches have found it difficult to thrive in the midst of these changes. Our message has been muted as we try to communicate from generation to generation. Sometimes we've lost the vision to make our churches communities of welcome for our adult sons and daughters, the very people who could map out a course in our shifting deserts. They can easily communicate and minister to different family structures, an array of ethnicities, and among a variety of religious expressions.

The landscape has changed all around us. To some it feels like a desert—dry and barren, inhospitable, unable to sustain the next generation. Yet our common biblical story reminds us that we have a God who brings salvation to people who wander in the driest deserts. With a bit of divine imagination we will see the wells full of living water, as Hagar and Ishmael did. With a bit of divine imagination, we will see the milk and honey flowing all around us.

Even in the driest deserts we are beginning to see networks of tributaries flowing around us and vast constellations of stars sparkling above us. New opportunities, tools, movements, missions, and passions cascade through our wilderness landscape bringing vital ways of organizing faithful communities, communicating prayerful longings, and seeking social justice.

* * *

Pastor Hawkins may be reached Monday through Thursday during office hours at 859-277-6096, or anytime at cell phone number 317-626-1694 and e-mail: hawkins951@comcast.net. His home address is 3266 Monterey Dr., Whiteland, IN 46184.

Installation of New Bishop

The date for the installation of Rev. Bill Gafkjen as bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod is Saturday, September 11, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, IN, at 11:00 a.m. There will be a mass choir singing at the installation. Area rehearsals for the mass choir for the installation of Bishop-elect Gafkjen will be held at Faith Lutheran Church here in Lexington on September 1st at 7:00 p.m. Rehearsals will last about an hour

and a half. If you would like to participate please contact Norma Akers at 797-0071. You do not have to be a member of Gethsemane's choir to participate.

I-K Synod Newsletter

If you would like to start receiving the I-K Synod Newsletter via e-mail, please call Danielle at 317-253-3522 or go to their website at www.iksynod.org and use the subscriber box.

Minutes of Congregational Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

I. Preliminary:

- A. Bill Akers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- B. In attendance were: Bill Akers, Vickie Brubaker, Paul Davidson, Jolene DeLong, Charley Doerge, Alan Farmer, Meghan Knapp, Amy Minarik, Art Nonneman, Bob Williams, and Pastor John Hawkins. Absent were: Paul Davidson, Duncan King and Wes Swan.
- C. Recognizing that the fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:22) characterizes all Council meetings, Art Nonneman provided a small fruit platter to nourish body, soul and spirit.
- D. Pastor Hawkins posed the question, "Where or in what way did you experience God today?" Each council member shared their experience(s) of God during the day.
- E. Charley Doerge moved approval of the July 13, 2010 meeting minutes. Meghan Knapp seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.
- F. Bob Williams indicated that we are still spending somewhat more than we are receiving. Receipts declined in July and some expenses (e.g., utilities) increased. Two AC units have been recharged with coolant, which should reduce utility bills for the remainder of the summer. \$10,000 has been transferred to checking from the Wells Fargo account. Pending fulfillment of pledges and reimbursement from a grant, the Garden of Gethsemane expenses will be paid off.
- G. Meghan Knapp requested assistance at a work day this Saturday, Aug. 14. Several significant projects will be tackled if a sufficient number of workers are present.
- H. The second Congregational Town Hall Meeting will be this Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010.
- I. Sister Kelly Peterson will return in September as our principal organist.

X. Action and Discussion Items:

- A. There were no action items to discuss.

II. Pastor's Report: Pastor John asked Council to consider dates in late October or early November when members and their spouses might join him and his wife, Cathy, for dinner at the Hofbrau Haus in Newport, KY. The raffle he won allows him to bring 25 of his 'closest friends'. On September 11, 2010, the new Bishop will be installed at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Pastor and several members of the congregation will participate. Four confirmands will begin meeting with Pastor John around September 19, 2010. Several persons have expressed interest in joining the congregation of Gethsemane Lutheran Church. An introduction/instruction program including brief presentations by Council members will be held on a Saturday in October at a date to be determined. Pastor requested a week of vacation Sept. 22-28, 2010 (approved).

III. Closing Business:

- A. In September, the Youth Committee will be responsible for coffee/tea/drinks after worship.
- B. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday September 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.
- C. Art Nonneman moved, Vickie Brubaker seconded the motion to adjourn. Adjourned at 8:00



Happy New Sunday School Year!

September 12, 2010 starts the new Sunday school year. Let's give praise and thanks for this great opportunity to provide Sunday school for all from 3 years old through adult. Our Sunday school time is 10:50-11:30 a.m. Please plan on attending each and every Sunday to renew our souls with old favorite stories and/or new and enriching lessons. A special "kick-off" will be held on September 12th right after the worship service.

Sunday, September 12th - A Very Special Day!

Also on Sunday, September 12th, there will be a brief reception to honor all of our members who are *octogenarians*. These folks who are 80+ years old are indeed very special folks who've done a lot for Gethsemane. If you're willing to let us know your age, please contact Enid Waldhart (277-6836). Help us make this day a special one!

Bible Study

The Beth Moore - Esther Bible study group will meet on Monday, September 27, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Vickie Brubaker. Please contact Ruth Green at 278-7016 if you have questions or need additional information.



Garden Springs Backpack Program

We will start sending food home to needy children by the end of September, so it is time to start collecting the items we will be sending home with the kids. Please check out the list posted on the kiosk and remember, you may also make a donation to the Backpack Program and we will do the shopping.

We send: 100% juice boxes, individual cereal boxes or bars, small Chef-Boy-R-D or Kroger meals, shelf stable jello, pudding and fruit cups, raisins, small packs of peanut butter and crackers, small cans or packets of tuna or chicken and shelf stable milk.

Please do your part to see that these children get food for the weekends. Thanks to all!



Choir Rehearsal

Come one, come all, to Thursday Night Live! Choir rehearsal has resumed every Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. We invite everyone who likes to sing to please join us. We look forward to another great year!

OFFICERS:

President
Bill Akers - 797-0071

Vice-President
Charley Doerge - 619-3349

Congregational Secretary
Art Nonneman - 296-2946

Treasurer
Bob Williams - 272-8296

CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES:

Property
Meghan Knapp - 502-868-8037

Worship & Music
Vickie Brubaker - 299-4018

Christian Education
Amy Minarik - 272-5266

Congregational Life
Paul Davidson - 225-4268

Youth
Jolene DeLong - 502-867-9953

Fellowship
Duncan King - 879-9552

Outreach
Alan Farmer - 276-3194

Reminder:

In September refreshments will be provided following our worship services by the Youth Committee.



September Birthdays

- 2 Kathy Gosnell
- 7 Rosalie Metcalfe
- 11 Sutton Hooker
- 13 Carol Stuckert
- 17 Michael O'Connor
- 18 Christopher Williams
- 20 Kristin Russo
- 23 Peter Knapp
- 29 Mike DeLong

Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 Jon & Jolene DeLong
- 4 Howard & Bonnie Musgove
- 9 L.J. & Janet Koerner
- 11 Art & Kathy Nonneman
- 21 Denny & Angela Roberts

Read *The Lutheran* on the World Wide Web! The address is www.thelutheran.org



In order to allow time for publication, all items submitted for the *Guidepost* must be sent to the church office no later than the 20th of the month. Your consideration and cooperation in honoring this deadline are greatly appreciated. The *Guidepost* staff reserves the right to edit any article submitted for reasons of space, grammatical errors, or unclear content. We will make every effort to preserve the meaning of the message. Thank you!



Altar Guild for September

Vickie Brubaker, Marilyn Roe

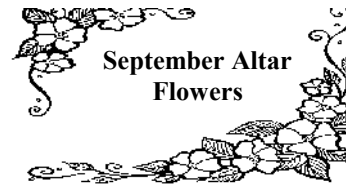
Each Sunday we need volunteers to prepare and to clean up for our worship service. The tasks are quite simple but obviously important to our worship. User-friendly instructions are provided. Sign-ups are by the week. The sign-up sheet is posted on the sacristy cabinet in the kitchen area. If you would like to do this and/or if you have questions, please contact Vickie Brubaker at 299-4018.



Prayer Chain

Contact Barbara Herbener: 277-8054 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

The prayer chain is a group of volunteers who have promised to pray for others when requested. When a prayer request comes to the chairman, she calls the second person, who calls the third person, etc. The last one on the list calls the chairman to report that the entire chain has been alerted to pray for the concerned. The prayer chain prays regularly for Gethsemane's homebound members and for all congregational meetings and is willing to pray for individual and group concerns. The prayer chain also respects everyone's preferences for privacy. To request a prayer either phone the contact person or write it and place in the Prayer Box in the narthex.



- 5 Ray & Marilyn Roe
- 12 Art & Kathy Nonneman
- 19
- 26

Flowers are \$18.50 per bouquet . Please see the sign-up sheet in narthex. Place your check marked "Flowers" in the Sunday offering plate or use the offering envelope designated for flowers.

GLCW Project Day

Attention all ladies - Mark your calendar for Wed., Sept. 22, for a morning of fellowship, good desserts and busy hands doing God's work. We will meet in the Multi-purpose room. Everyone is invited. We have lots of things to do, so you won't be bored! We start at 10:00 a.m. and finish about 1:00 p.m. Please contact Enid Waldhart at 277-6836 if questions.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure
October 16, at 8:00 a.m.
in Downtown Lexington

Register at
www.komenlexington.org

Seventy-five percent of net funds raised stay in Kentucky, which includes 58 counties in central, eastern and southern Kentucky. That's over \$520,000 granted last year to help our uninsured and under-insured get the treatment, screening and education they need. The remaining twenty-five percent is sent to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation to fund National Research for breast cancer. Komen has invested nearly \$1 billion in breast cancer research for community outreach programs in the past 25 years.

GLCW Mary Circle Meeting

Mary Circle will meet on Wed., Sept. 15, at the church beginning with fellowship at 9:30 a.m. The 2010-2011 Bible Study is "The People of God: Unity in the Midst of Diversity", and is written, appropriately, by a very diverse couple. He, Jensen Seyenkulo, is originally from Liberia, and was baptized by a Lutheran missionary when he was a young boy. His wife, Linda Johnson Seyenkulo, grew up in Minnesota and is a lifelong Lutheran. They met in seminary where he received a Ph.D in New Testament and Linda became an ordained minister. To read more about them, see page 36 of the July-August issue of *Lutheran Women Today*.

The study will begin with HOW we read the Bible because biblical interpretation is at the root of many of the differences that divide us, and it can be a way we learn from each other. The following eight sessions will focus on subjects that can make community or break it; such ideas as the body of Christ, evangelism and stewardship, spiritual gifts, race and culture, loving relationships in the context of the community of the church, difficulties that keep us from experiencing the wholeness of resurrection life, and what is at the heart of Lutheran worship.

The text of the studies will be in each issue of *Lutheran Woman Today*. Subscription information is available from Marilyn Roe at 879-8178, and copies will be available at each monthly circle meeting. If you have been delaying coming to a Mary Circle study, now may be the perfect time to start! If you need transportation, call Nancy Frantsvog at 276-0112, or Barbara Herbener at 277-8054.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed weekly. It helps to work with a partner. One to trim and one on the riding mower.

Bushes around the building. The shrubs around the building also need trimming. If you have a hedge trimmer, please help out - on your schedule. Cuttings may be put in the dumpster.

Thanks in advance!



Who benefits when you recycle?

So far this year we have recycled 282 pounds of aluminum cans. Not only does this help the environment, it has allowed us to put \$138 into the Mission Trip Fundraising account. Please continue bringing in your cans.

In addition, we have begun using recycled ink cartridges to purchase school supplies for Garden Springs Elementary. Even though students in need may start off the school year with help from several different organizations, there is an ongoing need for supplies throughout the year. We were able to contribute an additional \$36 worth of composition books, scissors, paper and folders simply from our ink recycling efforts last month. Please continue bringing in your cartridges. Thank you.

THRIVENT

There are Thrivent funds designated for each of the Lutheran churches. There is \$650 available for Gethsemane, which can be used for fundraiser matching funds or can be used for Hands on Projects to purchase items to do the project. Think about how we can use these funds. Please call or see Glenn Schmuck (223-7809) or Paul Davidson (225-4268).

Youth

Thanks to all who made Chocolate Pudding Madness 2010 a huge success. This year's games included Kickball, Dodgeball, Relay games, and Ultimate Frisbee. Thanks to all the youth and make sure you continue to invite your friends to Rely/Youth events! Check out Facebook for pictures of the event. In the month of September we will see the return of RELY, our weekly youth group meeting, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for incoming 7th grade through Seniors in High School. We look forward to digging into new stories, activities, and trips. Our first official RELY meeting will be September 1st.

Our "Hand to Mouth" Existence

Shopping in a department store, a minister saw a man who he knew to be the director of the City Mission on Skid Row. Although the minister did not know the director, he wished to be friendly and to encourage the fellow who spent most of each day ministering to those trapped in poverty and/or addiction.

Introducing himself, the minister began asking about the director's work. "How is it going?," queried the clergyman. "It's a hand to mouth existence," came the answer, "God's hand providing for our mouths."

That answer was and is a universal truth. It is true that whether we are "down and out" or "up and in," we exist only because God's hand provides for our mouths. "Who provides the raven his food?," asks Job (38:41). And someone greater than Job said: *Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink or...what you will wear: Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*" (Matthew 6:25)

Our Lord reminds us that God always knows what we need and that what is truly important is that we strive first for the Kingdom of God. Then Christ's promise is: "All these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

Good stewards are those who gratefully acknowledge their "hand to mouth existence," and who generously share what God has provided to them for the work of the Kingdom. — Copyright © Parish Publishing, LLC



September Healthy Living - Get Health Smart with a Quick "Check Up"

Preparing for a Medical Emergency

Are you ready for a medical emergency? Have you ever considered what you would do if faced with one at home or work? Here are a few things you can do to help prepare yourself.

- Take a basic first-aid skills course. Even consider enrolling in a CPR class, too. These classes will help teach you the appropriate and safe way to handle emergencies.

- Learn the details of your health insurance plan. Make sure you know what is covered in emergencies.

- Make sure you and your family members carry an emergency contact card on them at all times. List any allergies, contact numbers and insurance information needed.

- Have a first aid kit on hand in the car, at your house and even in your office.

Stay healthy and safe and enjoy your fresh new back to school month.

Prayer Garden

We are using pine straw for mulch in the garden to avoid trouble with termites. Do you have lots of pine trees in your yard? Are you having trouble figuring out what to do with all those pine needles? Talk to Nancy Frantsvog as we need more in the garden. Thanks in advance.

The Steward's Corner

What Stewardship Means to Us

When asked to write an article on our stewardship, a feeling of unworthiness came over us. We have witnessed incredible stewardship and talent at Gethsemane over our 20 year membership.

We have been blessed in so many ways in our personal life, family, friends, and a welcoming congregation. Most of all, we have been blessed with God's grace - the ultimate gift of all.

For us, stewardship is a reminder that we humans are responsible for the world and that we need to take care of it. It is a joy and an honor to be able to take the fruits of our labor and in our small way do God's work through Gethsemane, be it to assist our own congregation, our local communities and/or worldwide.

It is a blessing to be part of a wonderful, committed, caring congregation. We are thankful every day for God's blessings bestowed on us and it serves as a daily reminder to seize the opportunity to outreach whenever and wherever possible...to pass it forward.

Bruce & Diane Klockars

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER
at
Gethsemane Lutheran Church

**Sunday,
September 19th**

Watch for Details!

The Second Annual New Christmas Dinner and Auction

Friday, December 3, 2010

The weather outside may still be unbearably hot, but it is time to begin thinking about the Holidays. And for the GLCW, that means thinking about the Second Annual New Christmas Dinner and Auction, which will be Friday, December 3, 2010. This year we plan to again have a dinner (the menu is yet to be decided) as well as a Silent and a Live auction. Currently, I'm recruiting people to help, and will have the names of those in charge of the various parts of the evening by the next newsletter. Right now, I just want to remind everyone that it is time to think about what you can donate for the auction. And I want to refresh everyone's memory about what these donated items can be and how they will be handled.

The donations may be themed baskets, services, handcrafted items, sporting event tickets, theater tickets, etc. The only requirement is that the items be new. If the item is a basket, then it should have a theme, for example, Gardener's Delight, Everything for Your Car, Snowy Day, Things for Baby, Wine Basket, or whatever creative idea you may have for a basket. The baskets should be in a value range of \$20 to \$75. In other words, we would like some baskets at the lower range, some in the middle range, and some at the upper range. This way there should be something for everyone who wants to bid. The baskets can be done by just one individual or family or by several individuals and families. Also, for each item/basket that you donate, you will be asked to tell us what you count as the value of the item and a minimum bid for each.

If you have any questions, would like to help, whether with the planning or just helping where needed, then please contact me, Linda Doerge at c.doerge@insightbb.com or 859-619-3341.

Where the GLCW Money Goes

The New Christmas Dinner and Auction is the main fund raiser for the GLCW. The money that we raise is spent in *some* of the following ways:

- Support for Johnston Begay, a student at the Navajo Lutheran Mission School in Rock Point, Arizona
- The materials and postage for the quilts, lap robes, baby blankets, Christmas stockings and other items that our Project Day group makes for various local, national, and international groups that serve those in need.
- Food for the Garden Springs Elementary Backpack Program
- Donations to the Nest and God's Pantry
- Quilts and Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief
- Confirmation reception and gifts
- Caring baskets to Shut-ins
- Packages to College Students