

# Gethsemane Lutheran Church

2825 Paris Road,  
St. Bernard Parish, LA 70043  
504-271-4254 [www.gethsemane-lutheran.com](http://www.gethsemane-lutheran.com)



## March ~ April 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."

James R. Shears, Pastor 901-251-1903

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Missionaries – Andy & Barb Hinderlie

## Life Of Power – Life Of Witness

By Dawn Santalucito

.....and A child shall lead them.

Power – ability to act or produce an effect

Witness - 1: attestation of a fact or event.

2: one that gives evidence

I recently became reacquainted with an old schoolmate from high school on Facebook. She was a year or so younger than me, but we're on the dance team together and got to be friends. Terri was a sweet girl and I knew back then that she had a special heart.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Facebook here is Wikipedia's definition: **Facebook** is a free-access social networking website that is operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. Users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school, and region to connect and interact with other people. People can also add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves.

The site allows you to view the profiles of those who you have accepted as friends. I was looking at Terri's profile and saw that she was the mother of a "special" child. Terri has an 11 year old boy, Casey Michael, who was born 13 weeks premature. His twin Kelsi, died at birth. The doctors told Terri and her husband, Herman that Casey had cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus and to take him home and love him and not to expect too much. They, however, refused to believe that Casey would not ever walk or talk. He went to speech therapy, was booted out at the age of 2 and took his first independent steps at the age of 9. **WOW!!!**

Dr. Louis P. Bauer who is a Christian Clinical Hypnotherapist goes to church with Casey's family. He watched Casey over the years go from a wheelchair, to a walker, to needing lots of assistance with walking and onto walking independently. Casey made such an impression with this doctor that his story is on

Dr. Bauer's website. Dr. Bauer told Casey that Jesus said that a little child shall lead them. Casey now travels with Dr. Bauer whom he lovingly calls "Boss" and is a motivational speaker at the age of 11. He starts his speeches with the words, "I am a child of God". At Casey's first speaking engagement at the age of 9, he said the following; "Never give up faith, if you believe in the Lord he'll be there for you. Pray and he will answer your prayers." I was truly inspired by this little boy who has so much wisdom and is so young. Not only did he find the power through his faith in God to overcome such obstacles, but he has the courage to get up in front of so many people – mainly adults – and be a witness of God's goodness and grace.

We can all draw inspiration from Casey that **we can** be powerful without being big or strong and **we can** be a witness without being an adult or a minister or teacher. I know that Casey has touched deep into the hearts of those who have heard him or know him. I hope and pray that by you hearing his story of what seemed to be a hopeless beginning and what is a modern day miracle, inspires you to live a *Life of Power* and a *Life of Witness*. Below are 2 links that you can go to online and hear Casey in action at a speaking engagement.

God bless you all,  
Dawn

*"Life don't have 2B perfect 2B wonderful"*  
Casey Michael Schallenberg

<http://www.goodtapes.com/Casey's%20Miracle.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9w73FHLa8o>



## *Easter Worship Service Schedule*

**Holy Thursday** – First Communion Service – 7 pm

**Good Friday** – 7 pm

**Easter Vigil** – Saturday, April 11 @ 10 am

**Easter Sunday** – April 12

Sunrise – 6:30 am, Traditional – 8:00 am, Contemporary – 10:30 am

## **NO GREATER LOVE--A Passion for the 21st Century**

This is the title of the passion play the youth will put on Palm Sunday, April 5, at 3pm & 7pm. It will be a remembrance of the last hours of Jesus' life—his suffering and death—and ending with the glory of his resurrection. Scenes will be depicted along with Scripture readings and music.

We would like to invite you and your families and all your friends to join us. It will certainly bring to life those special events and make your celebration during Holy Week and Easter more meaningful.

There is no charge for the play, so bring everyone. A love-offering will be taken and refreshments sold to help with the youth's mission trip this summer.

## 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. The cost of the trip is \$350.00 which includes everything.....lodging, meals, entertainment, etc. Below is a list of the fundraisers and/or events that are scheduled for the youth. Money raised from the fundraisers is divided up amongst everyone who participated in that fundraiser. At the last carwash fundraiser there we're 4 people who participated and they have already earned \$92.00 toward their fee.

**April 4, 2009** Rehearsal for Passion Play

**April 5, 2009** (Palm Sunday) Passion Play

**April 12, 2009** Mission Trip Fundraiser.

Breakfast between and after Services.  
(Easter Sunday)

**April 18, 2009** Mission Trip Fundraiser.

Carwash 10A-3P.

**April 25, 2009** Youth Night. More info to come.

**May 10, 2009** Mission Trip Fundraiser.

Breakfast between and after services for Mothers' Day.

**May 23, 2009** POSSIBLE] Mission Trip

Fundraiser. FREE concert at GLC.  
Sell food and drinks.

**June 6, 2009** Mission Trip Fundraiser. Rent-A-Kid. Meet at GLC about 8A for devotion and snack/breakfast, then split into groups to work at designated site.

**June 14-21, 2009 MISSION TRIP!!!**

## GULF COAST

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The annual assembly of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod is scheduled for May 28-30 in Houston. We need three individuals who would like to serve as delegates from our congregation.

We will leave early on Thursday, May 28, and return early in the evening on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost to you.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jim.

### ELCA YOUTH GATHERING JULY 22-26

If you are available and interested in being a volunteer at the gathering, please contact Mike Perez at 650-5056. There are time slots available at all times if you would like to do some of the behind-the-scenes work to help make the gathering a success.

## Pastor's Prattle

*By Pastor Jim Shears*

It's hard to believe that almost a whole year has passed since we last celebrated our Lord's resurrection. Yet, here we are again—about to head into Holy Week. The highest holy time in the Christian year is upon us, as we move into our celebration of Jesus' suffering and death. Once again, we will have the opportunity to see what our sin has brought about. Were it not for us, Jesus would never have had to die.

But the fact is, it IS all about what we have done. What you and I have done, or left undone, made it necessary for Jesus to give up his life. It was the only way to satisfy God's sense of justice. There is a price that has to be paid for being outside of his will, and Jesus is the one who paid it. And he paid it for everyone of every time.

What magnificent news!

Even better news is that Jesus rose again. The resurrection is the proof that God had accepted the sacrifice, that the price was paid. Once the price was paid, the penalty of death no longer applied. The grave held no power over Jesus, and he left it behind to live forever, as God and man in one, on the throne of heaven.

By virtue of your faith in him, the benefit of his sacrifice and his new life becomes yours. You have new life! Now you will live forever at the feet of the one who sits on the throne.

HALLELUJAH!

Right this very moment, you are living that new life. It has started already. Death has no power over you. When you leave this life, it will seem to some that you are dead, but you will not be. You will have only moved to the throne of God.

Since we are all living that new life now, it should inform the WAY we live. What are you doing with your life? What are your priorities? How much of your priority is centered around God? Is your life so caught up in the things that you will leave behind that there is little room for God? Is there more that you could do that makes a real difference in your life and in the lives of those around you?

We all need to ask ourselves these questions. Better yet, we all need to answer them for ourselves. There are plenty of opportunities for us to make changes, changes that will bring God's blessings into our lives and others'. Look around you; think about the areas of your life. I'll bet you can come up with ways to serve God and others that you are leaving out now.

And when you do – GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED BY YOU!

PASTOR JIM



## 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](mailto:ke5kfa@cox.net) or 337-344-7939.

It's not too late to attend this year's weekend! Please get in touch with Pastor Jim or Dawn for a registration form. The cost is \$175.00 for the weekend. There are scholarships available to help with part or all of the cost of the weekend. PLEASE do not let the weekend fee make your decision for you! This is an awesome experience and you'll not only come away from the weekend spiritually renewed you'll gain a whole new community of friends who share your faith.

## 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:** Millie Brandt, Richard Brady, Sr.

**RECOVERING FROM SURGERY, ILL, or HOSPITALIZED:** Camden King, Becky Broussard, Dave Blum, Loretta Hooch, Buddy Hupp, Patty, A.J. Guillot, Tina Guillot, Bruce Palmeri, Gayle Buras, Charlie Arico, Eula Mae Moss, Roy "Peanut" Reed, Kelsi McNab, Vic Michon, Larry Armond, Ellen Heck, Bill Stitch, Patrick, Sandra Cambre, Keith Black, Jr., Jessica Grenner, David Songe, Jr., Stephanie Sorbet, Baby Andrew, Suzanne Renckly, George & Rita Zerr, Golda Buras, Erin S., Macey Catherine Dennis, Jessie Stevens, Erin Verhey, Mr. Martin & Fly., Evelyn Powell, Joe "Big Daddy" Thibodeaux, Mary Toucheque, Betsy LeBeouf, Joyce Keller, Greg Dove, Anselm Wetzka, George Fuller, Jason Brown, Lisa Gonzales, Louis & Gloria Miller (Marie Heck's parents), William Reid Bordelon & family, Herman Bonette, Brooke Lacoste, Elsa Barrientas, Mike Young, Anne Leonard, Mickey Terminie, Barbara Fray, Eric Vosbein, Kitty Johnson, Lucille Treitler

**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

**OTHER CONCERNS:** Adrianna & Dustin King, Carla & Jon Paul, Josh Guillot, Irene & Kev Relgnaps, Heather Connors & Fly., Marion Songe, Elvera & Bill Beyer, Chuckie Beyer, Blake, Cyndi & family, Shanquell Wilson, Missionaries Andy & Barb Hinderlie & children and all people and leaders of Madagascar who are at risk of potential violence due to political unrest, Joan V., families of helicopter crash, Debbie & John Melady, those suffering from depression, Joseph Brandt, Denver & Roslyn Nobles, Beth Bauer, Kelly, Zoe, Hayden & Noah Bauer, Kristen, Robbie, Gabriel, Lisa, Fay, Marcia, Natalie, Len's son, Glenn Gonzales & fly., Jared Landry & family, K.S., A.S. & family

**HEALTHY PREGNANCY & BABY(IES):** Luke & Kasie Anglin, Tim & Courtney Diebold, Billy & Lara Thonn George, Buddy & Marsha (Chism) Reviere, Kaylie Buras

Ronnie & Ashley (Chutz) Pohlmann welcomed a healthy baby boy, Gavin Andrew on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.  
Will & Cilla welcomed a healthy baby boy, Landon William on Friday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>.  
David and Erin Teague welcomed a healthy baby boy, Aidan James on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**BATTLING CANCER OR WHO ARE IN REMISSION:** John Franceski, Rita Montelero, Judy B. Jenny, Shane Draughan, Patricia Haydel, Paul Daigrepoint, Treschelle Reis, Pam Bell, Gilbert Cambre, Brooke Salazar, Erlene DuBose, Sonia Evans Gabb, Joan Switzer, Roy Fernandez, Sr., Irma Hartman, George Francke, Kathy & Paul Miller, Toni Brown, Doty Reggio, Mr. Weiskopf, Erlene DuBose, James Poirer, Patsy Werling, Kathy M., Nicky Levine, Anna, Isabella, Scott Hayworth, Susan Faucheux, Cyndi Jones, Merrick "Ricky", Len Hadley, Joachim, Sr., 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



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A B A A

Breakfast will be served following sunrise service continually up until 10:30 service. This is a fundraiser for the youth mission trip and our youth will be at your service. There will be a sign up sheet if you would like to donate breakfast casseroles, breakfast danishes, etc. in the narthex. If you need a breakfast casserole recipe there are copies in the narthex as well. Cost of breakfast is a donation.

## Did You Know??

Maria Serpas recently competed in a Mu Alpha Theta Competition at Riverside Academy representing Mount Carmel Academy. She won first in Advanced Math Individual. Her team of 4 people won 3rd on the Alpha test. (Advanced Math) As a whole group MCA won 1st for the interschool test and the Sweepstakes which is an overall award. Awesome job, Maria!!

Claire Switzer won 2<sup>nd</sup> place and "Most Beautiful" in the baby contest at the Crawfish Festival on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Oh, you beautiful girl!!

Maria Serpas, Margaret DeVeer and Jeannette DeVeer have been selected to represent the TX-La Gulf Coast Synod at the LYO Convention this summer. Congratulations, girls!!! We're proud of you!

Brady Kyle was born March 14 at 6:12 am, weighing in at 6lbs 2 oz and 19.5 inches. Of course, maw-maw and paw-paw are doing well and mom and dad are hanging in there. His brother Brenden absolutely loves him (well at least for now). OGB, MIKE

Julie Houpy became a grandmother again on Friday, March 27. Her daughter, Ashley and husband, Ronnie welcomed a healthy baby boy, Gavin Andrew Pohlmann. Congrats!!!

Elaine Teague welcomed 2 great-grandsons recently. Grandson Will and his



## Save for Retirement ~ Support Mission

It's never too late to support mission and save for retirement. The Mission

Investment Fund is now offering investors a special incentive to purchase term investments held as Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA).

Through the Mission Investment Fund, you can grow your savings and your church at once. With your investments, Mission Investment Fund makes loans to ELCA congregations and related ministries for land purchases and building projects.

**Through April 30, purchase an IRA and earn a .20% higher rate than for a**

wife, Cilla welcomed healthy baby boy, Landen William on Friday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. Another grandson, David and wife, Erin Teague welcomed a healthy baby boy, Aidan James on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations, Great-Grandmother!!

Hailey Cascio was selected as "Student of the Month" at Our Lady of Devine Providence in Metairie and was acknowledged as having the highest GPA in math of all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Big brother, Ryan Cascio made the Dean's List at Nunez. Way to go, Cascio's!!

Melissa Budde & David Lard and Stephanie Picou & Derron Decker are newlewyeds. Congratulations, couples!!

Cecilia Victorians Manalla was baptized at Gethsemane on Sunday, March 29, 2009. Cecilia is the daughter of Neal & Melissa (Boudet) Manalla. Proud grandparents, Dennis & Kim Boudet and great-grandparents, John & Lottie Heidel among others came in from Franklinton, La to celebrate this special day.

## Gaby's Senior Moment

By: Gaby Serpas

*Peter said to him "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him "If I do not wash you, you have no part in me." John 13:8*

1999 was declared by the United Nations resolution as the *International Year of Older Persons* with the theme "Towards a Society for All Ages."

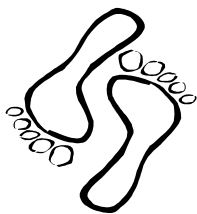
Recognizing the intrinsic value of persons of all ages past market value and wisdom seems difficult when it comes to the very old and physically or mentally infirm.

I find myself in awe of such persons, seeing them so close to their heavenly home, often completing their earthly tasks with such grace, faith, and dignity, accompanied at times by great suffering. I am inspired by the spiritual strength shown in the bodily weakness. I feel like a coward, because I rather give the care than trading places, finding my task an easier burden than their task.

You ask what is this task? One day we may need others to bathe us, feed us, change us, turn us, scratch our itchy nose, even interpreting our needs as our minds may no longer able to properly think or tell our mouth to speak. This task of the very old is 'to receive', to accept care, to 'need being served.'

Many of us serve our Lord by serving others. Then what would we do without Peter letting Jesus wash his feet? We can't all wash Jesus' feet all the time, sometimes we have to let him wash ours. The task of the very old is to accept as Peter did, getting past the denial let someone else make the cup of tea, getting past the anger of losing ones independence to drive anywhere we want, getting past the grief for the loss of our ability to even get to the bathroom when the urge is there. We have to learn to accept someone to serve us, accept it faithfully, while trusting in the Lord that he will provide someone to serve us, and continue to let our faith shine, let Jesus show through in us to those who so willingly want to serve our Lord. This is not an easy task.

Anyone who was temporarily disabled by a broken limb, unable to get up for a cup of water or needing help to zip up a zipper, knows how it feels to have to rely on others. This is the task many of the very old have until God embraces them into eternity. There may be a time for each one of us to perform this task, to accept a servant serving us, accepting it gladly, faithfully, still knowing our value, still feeling loved. By embracing this task of receiving service, the very old inspire others to serve the Lord and are fulfilling his wish for them. In order to serve each other, sometimes we have to be the one to receive the service. Pray for strength for those who have this task 'needing to be served.'



*"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet." John 13:14*



Jeanette deVeer

## LUTHER HALL KATIE HALL

As most of you know after Hurricane Katrina we turned two of our preschool classrooms into men and women dormitories with all of the necessities needed....beds, showers, laundry facilities, towels, sheets, quilts, etc. This addition to our facility gave us the opportunity to house the many out of town volunteer groups who were planning mission trips to come to the aid of our parish. 2008 was our first full year of housing groups and below is a breakdown of this past years activity.

# of groups - 19 # of volunteers - 418  
# of sites - 83 # of manhours - 8,058

That is awesome!! These groups came from Wisconsin, Iowa, NY, Oklahoma, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, Texas, Nebraska, Maine, & Arkansas.

Thanks so much to Steve Brandt who coordinates the groups. You've done an amazing job.

We do have volunteer groups scheduled for upcoming months and they'll NEED some jobs to do while they are here. If you or someone you know needs work done such as light carpentry, sheetrock, painting, etc. please contact Steve.

## GYM Gethsemane Youth Ministries Featured Youth

**Name:** Jeanette deVeer

**School & Grade:** Lusher Charter School, 10<sup>th</sup>  
**G.P.A.** - 4.0

**School Extra Curricular Activities include:**  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes  
Student Council  
soccer team

**Activities outside of school include:**

Lutheran Youth Organization  
What's Next  
Camp Dixie

**Hobbies include:**

youth group activities, creative writing,  
sleeping

**Unique characteristic about herself:** I'm pretty friendly and am a red-headed twin who is best friends with Maria Serpas

**Some of Jeanette's favorites:**

**Band** - Casting Crowns & Lady Antebellum

**Movie** - Titanic

**Actor** - Tom Hanks

**Song** - Lean on Me

**Book** - Harry Potter

**TV Show** - Grey's Anatomy

**Color** - Blue & Green

**Past Time**- hanging out with Christians,  
writing, sleeping



**THE GYM PAGE**  
**Gethsemane Youth Ministries**

