



## Press Release

Event: Asbury Methodist Hosts the Minneapolis Southside Singers

Date: August 20-22, 2004

August 20, 2004 – Friday: 7:30pm – Talent/Variety Show

Time:

Location: Asbury United Methodist Church  
Kankakee, IL

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Contact: Coleen Fowler

Phone: 815-933-4408

### A Weekend of Music and Fun

The Minneapolis Southside singers in conjunction with the Something Special Singers of Kankakee are returning for two shows and two worship services the weekend of August 20-22, 2004. The Music and Fine Arts Department, the Something Special Singers, church choirs and the Asbury congregation are hosting this special music event.

The Weekend will also honor Pam Gurney who spearheaded the planning and organizing of events of seven years ago by obtaining an Illinois State grant to pay for transportation to help a senior chorus here in Kankakee, IL. These two groups represent many religions and heritages and have the common love of music. No auditions are required and each group is like a family.

Friday, August 21, 2004, 7:30pm there will be a Talent/variety show with special small group numbers from both groups and from the Asbury music department. The choruses and participants will combine on two numbers and close with "Let there Be Peace on Earth." The Something Special group and Minneapolis Southside Singers will present a show representing many music styles. This program will consist of full chorus numbers with both groups combining for several closing songs.

These music events are open to our community, and there will be music for all ages. There is no charge, but a free-will offering will be passed to help defray expenses of the concert.

Sunday morning the seniors will combine with the Asbury Chancel Choir and Sunrise Singers for worship services at 8:00am and 10:30am.

We welcome our community to all three events.

The Minneapolis Southside Singers are a group of seniors over 55 years of age organized in the fall of 1989 by Colleen Fowler with a grant from the Community Education Department of Minneapolis Public Schools. There are over 60 members in the group and they sing all types of music including country western, patriotic, show tunes, hymns, spirituals, almost anything except hard rock.

Past engagements have included performing at the Minnesota State Fair, IDS Crystal Court, American Swedish Institute, Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel, many nursing homes, community centers, churches, and schools. Singing engagements average about 50 per year. The Love to Sing! Seniors and retirees are welcome.

The chorus meets every Monday at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. There are no auditions required for membership.

The Asbury Older Adult Ministry Outreach Program organized the Something Special Singers chorus primarily through the efforts of Coleen Fowler, Director of Music at Asbury United Methodist Church, and church member Pam Gurney. Asbury opened its music room facilities to the choral program without requiring a commitment from the chorus to the church. The arrangement has worked successfully for over seven years.

Most year there has been a 2 show performance for the public as well as the many appearances by invitation to various groups 35 miles.

The chorus meets every Thursday at Asbury at 1:00pm. There are no auditions required for membership. The group is non-profit and has supported many charities including the benefit "911" concert which raised \$2000.00 for the Heroes Fund.