

GETHSEMANE

Lutheran Church

News from 4040 N. 108th Street, Omaha, NE 68164
October, 2017



You are invited
to come to a special
service celebrating the
500th Anniversary of the
Lutheran Reformation.

All Omaha churches will participate!

Sunday, October 29, 2017

10 a.m.

Bennington High School Auditorium

16610 Bennington Rd, Bennington, NE

Combined choirs • Special Music • Special Message

(There will be no Saturday evening service at Gethsemane on October 28th)

Holy Communion



The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." - 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

Often we have a hard time believing that we are loved. Men and women who have a keen awareness of their flaws will wonder if anyone can really love them. So we have a need to not only hear that we are loved, but also to receive tangible assurance of that love.

If we need that assurance from our fellow human beings, how much more do we need that assurance in our relationship to God?

God knows us so well. He knows how we feel. He knows what we need. Not only does he tell us in his Word that he loves us, he also gives us personal assurance of that love.

How does he do that? He does so in what Christians call *Holy Communion* or *The Lord's Supper*. In this special meal Jesus gives us bread that isn't just bread. He tells us, "This is my body." He also gives us wine to drink that isn't just wine. He says, "This is my blood."

Now before anyone gets grossed out, this isn't some kind of weird cannibalism. It's bread and wine that looks, smells, and tastes like bread and wine. Yet, in a way that we can't perceive or comprehend, Jesus tells us that with the bread and wine, his body and blood are really present in this Supper.

Here's why this is such a great gift. You may think, "I know that Jesus forgives all those other people out there, but I'm not really sure that he can forgive me." In Holy Communion, Jesus comes to you personally and says, "I love you. Your sins are all forgiven. You want proof? Here's the price I paid for you on the cross. This is my body which was sacrificed for you. This is my blood which I shed for you."

Whenever we receive the Lord's Supper, we remember Jesus' saving, self-sacrificing love for us, and we personally receive not only assurance of that love, but we also receive his forgiveness.

THE PROMISE DOES NOT CHANGE

Galatians 3:15-18

Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

To illustrate his point that salvation in Christ is a free gift of God and that there are no requirements for us to fill in order to receive that gift from God, Paul takes an example from

everyday life. His example is that of a person's last will and testament. Basically, when a person writes a will - and has it notarized - he is promising to give certain things to certain people. Two things about that will . . . First, no one can change his legally-binding will (once it's written, it is written); secondly, no one will be expected to pay \$10,000 for the truck in the deceased person's garage and no one will be told that he has to clean the garage before he can drive the truck.

In terms of salvation - the covenant that God made with Abraham which said that he and all nations would be blessed through his Seed (Christ) - no one can change that covenant and no one can add requirements to that covenant. In fact, the requirements that the Judaizers in Galatia were trying to add were requirements of the Mosaic Law that hadn't come into existence until 430 years after God had made his original covenant with Abraham! God's covenant with Abraham - his covenant with us - depends solely on God's promise not on law requirements that we must fulfill before he'll keep his promise. Otherwise, as Paul said, salvation would then no longer depends on God but on us. That wasn't the covenant of grace that God had made with Abraham.

PRAYER: I thank you, heavenly Father, for making me your child through faith in Christ and an heir of eternal life. Amen.

Pastor Helwig



School News

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope you had the opportunity to worship during the anniversary weekend back on September 9-10 (if you didn't, the sermon video is available and worth your time). It was a fantastic opportunity to be reminded of what God has done for us as individuals, as a congregation, and in our community. It truly is a blessing to be able to say that God has preserved his Word among us for so long. It truly is a blessing to know that throughout this congregation's history, God has provided Gethsemane with shepherds and overseers of both his Word and his flock. In addition, for 93% of this congregation's existence, God has blessed this church with a Christian day school/Lutheran elementary school, whichever name you prefer. Over the past 70 years, God has provided the arm of ministry with teachers, leaders, and mentors to work with the little lambs that He provided. Thanks be to God!

While it certainly would be interesting to see the names of both the pastors (and vicars) and teachers that all can call Gethsemane part of their lives and ministries, the bigger picture topic is that there were/are pastors and teachers to be able to serve this congregation. Obviously we know that this isn't always the case. We feel the pinch of pastor shortages in the form of vacancies that are a little too close for comfort. We become more aware of the teacher number scenario when Assignment Day doesn't fill all of the needed spots in the district. It's easy for us to say, "God will provide." But what happens when we see those shortages, those openings, those ministries hurting - even as close as looking over the "backyard fence" here in Omaha? How sad to think that future anniversaries would be in jeopardy due to a lack of workers!

It draws me back to the end of Anniversary service's sermon - the call to get to work. We all can contribute by encouraging our young people. We all can help by realizing that it only would take a generation or two worth of people to cast aside the importance and role of the ministry only to put their children and grandchildren in a position of an even larger or insurmountable gap in the number of available workers compared to the amount of need. Could our children's children or grandchildren be left out when it comes to Lutheran churches and schools with no one to preach and teach in them? Could our own congregation wilt and fold due to a lack of Gospel servants? We pray that God will always provide such men and women to fill pulpit and classrooms. But we have work to do - let's not allow the disinterest in the vocations of pastor and/or teacher to be swallowed up by this world. Encourage, support, pray - there is work to be done.

May His will be done,
Mr. P

September blurred right past us, and now it's on to month number three of the school year. What September brought/will bring us:

K4 students joined the K-8 student body after the Labor Day holiday | Soccer season will be three-quarters of the way through by month's end | 7-8TH soccer travels to Norfolk for their annual tournament on 9/29-30 | Our new on-line testing starts the last week of the month | Our annual Book Fair and Parent-Teacher Conferences for 3-8TH will take place | School pictures are done, and NELHS Day was held

October brings plenty to the table as well:

Fall Break with Teachers' Conference in Rapid City | End of soccer season | Start of volleyball season | End of Q1 | Volleyball tournament at NELHS | Reformation celebrations

And peeking farther ahead, all are welcomed to the 5-8TH grade musical, "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" on November 9-10.

FOCE

(Friends Of Christian Education)

FOCE held our first meeting of the school year on Tuesday, September 12. Items that were discussed were fundraisers and setting goals for this school year. We are looking for suggestions for items needed to enhance the education at our school; so if you have a suggestion, please reach out to the church office!

September starts off our Yankee Candle fundraiser! If you'd like to support our school and get some Christmas shopping out of the way, make sure to place an order! We are going to have order forms available after church services, or you can place an order with a GLS student!

We are also sending in our Box Tops shortly! Please have all Box Tops in for counting by October 22!

Liz K, Secretary

Box Tops

Do you have a collection of Box Tops to turn in? There are boxes conveniently located in the fellowship hall and school hallway. This is free money for our school and has earned us \$6,144 since the program started. Please take a minute to clip these out and **turn them in by October 22nd**. If you have questions, please contact the church office. Our first submission will be mailed in late October. Thank you!!!!

Hy-Vee Cash for Students

Please start saving your Hy-Vee receipts dated between September 1 and December 31 only. Bring them in and place them in the collection boxes located on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall and in the school hallway.



**MEETING
NOTICE!**

Next Voters' Meeting

Sunday, October 22 • 9:15 a.m.

All voters and guests are invited

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)

On September 9th OWLS met at Beacon Hills in Aksarben village for lunch followed by a presentation by Pastor Jeske and a brief review of the pocket catechism that he has helped develop and produce. The chapter is going to help promote this booklet at the national convention in October. A few stragglers stayed on board to watch the Oregon Ducks consume the Cornhuskers (at least until halftime).



- **October 15**-Reformation presentation Pastor Schell at Good Shepherd at 2:00 p.m. **All congregation members and guests are invited and refreshments to follow.**
- **November 19**-Veterans celebration with guest speaker Bill Williams (Heartland Honor Flights) at Gethsemane 2:00 p.m. **All congregation members and guests are invited and refreshments to follow.**
- **December 10**-Holiday dinner/annual election at Gethsemane 4:00 p.m.

We are again looking for silent auction donations for the national convention in October. Contact the church office if you have anything.

Dick V, President

WINGS

We voted in new officers for this year at our September meeting. We thank Christine H for her many years of service as a WINGS officer and a job well done! Our new officers are: president, Rachel C; vice president, Ginger B; treasurer, Becky G; and secretary, Shonni J.

Join us at "Create" in Elkhorn Thursday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m. for our next fellowship opportunity! Create is a craft studio where you can pick your own craft and create what you want.

No experience is needed and they will guide you through the process. There will be a sign up sheet for this in the fellowship hall, or please contact Shonni to RSVP or if you have any questions!



It's that time again to support our members who are studying hard! September 30th-October 7th we will be collecting care package donations for our NELHS students. We will also be collecting monetary donations for our college students to send them gift cards. Please consider making a donation to either or both of these opportunities to show our support to our young members!

Mark your calendars for our annual Silent Auction, November 4th-12th! There are many ways you can show your support for this event: set-up/clean-up, making donations, or as a shopper! In the past, we have received gift baskets, craft items, kids items, and much more. If you choose to donate a gift basket, please have your basket wrapped so all items are contained. Also, with any donation, it is helpful if you have it marked with your name. We appreciate all of your help to make this a successful event!

If you have any questions or suggestions concerning WINGS, please contact any of the previously listed officers.

Ginger B



(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

The Fall LWMS Rally will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk on Saturday, October 7th. The rally will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will finish at 12:30 p.m., with a lunch to follow. The speaker is John Sebald, who will speak on the topic, Truth in Love Ministry, Reaching out to Mormans. The rallies are such a fantastic way to hear about the varied mission work being done throughout the Synod. It is such an inspirational morning! We will be taking a door offering for the next two Sundays. Sign up on the sheet on the table in the fellowship hall, if you are interested in going.

Thank you for the pill bottles that have already been donated! I have contacted the CAMM (Central African Medical Mission) coordinator about the most efficient process in getting the pill bottles to Africa for them to use.

We will be giving gifts to the new Befriend a Missionaries in October. I will know more information about them after the fall rally. Look for more details about what is needed for them in the upcoming weeks.

The 2018 LWMS Prayer Calendars are again for sale! This year's calendar theme is kids c.a.r.e. Each month details a different kids c.a.r.e. project that has taken place. You can read more information about the 2018 calendar on the flyer on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

The 55th Annual LWMS Rally is in Green Bay, WI, on June 21-24, 2018! The theme is, "Speak, O Lord, from the Valley to the World." Consider Green Bay as a travel destination next summer!

October Prayer Requests

-Our Befriend a Missionaries

-The churches and schools who have suffered damage during Hurricane Harvey and Irma.

-The work being done in Nepal.



Leslie B, Reporter



(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

- We added another student in September and we now are blessed to serve **95** students. Praise the Lord!
- The composite ACT scores have arrived for the class of 2017. Nebraska Lutheran received a composite score of **25.4** which compares to 21.4 state average and places Nebraska Lutheran among the top five schools in the state of Nebraska. This is also the fourth consecutive year of achieving an average composite score of at least 24 and is the highest score for Nebraska Lutheran in at least the last fifteen years! Praise God!
- Fall sports update:
 - Football is blessed with a record number of players (35) and a perfect record (**3-0**).
 - Volleyball has started its season in extremely strong fashion. Their current record is **11-1** and they won the five-team Cross County Invitational on September 16.
- Homecoming will be celebrated the week of October 2-6. A week of dressing up and games leads up to Homecoming Friday on October 6 when the Knights will take on Central Valley in football. This will also be parents' night for our football players and cheerleaders.
- Our annual fall "Silent Auction" will be held on Sunday, October 15, starting at 1:30 pm. Please consider donating to and attending this event which helps fund so many important extra-budget items. This year, the proceeds will go towards replacing our dorm roofs which have reached their life expectancy. The goal is to raise \$32,000 between the fall "Silent Auction" and the spring "Knight Out."
- The biannual association meeting will take place at NELHS on Sunday, October 15, at 4 pm. Delegates will hear updated reports, set the tuition for the 2018-2019 school year, and consider what to do with our unoccupied parsonage.
- On Saturday, October 21 Nebraska Lutheran will host a **Reformation Festival**. The event runs from 1-5 and consists of 10 congregation-run stations highlighting different aspects of the reformation followed at 4 by a reformation concert consisting of a youth choir and the NELHS choirs. We hope you can join us for this special day as we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation
- We are beginning to seek applications for mid-year transfer students. We are hoping to add 5-10 students at this time. If you have a son or daughter who is interested in transferring to Nebraska Lutheran in January, please let Administrator Mark Otte know at motte@nelhs.org or 402-728-5236.
- The "This is Our School" campaign continues to grow. As of this writing we have **38 donors** making gifts totaling **\$2,870 monthly** which adds up to **\$34,440**. The goal is to get to 100+ donors making monthly donations to our school and to create a total annual impact of \$100,000. Please consider heading to our website at www.nelhs.org and joining this campaign.
- We are beginning our recruiting efforts for 2018-2019. If you know of a family whom we can contact to tell about our ministry, please e-mail Administrator Mark Otte at motte@nelhs.org or call 402-728-5236.
- Upcoming Events:
 - NELHS Day: September 22
 - Homecoming: October 6
 - Fall Auction: October 15
 - October Association Meeting: October 15
 - Reformation Festival and Concert: October 21

Mark Otte, Administrator

Deacons

Since we have been blessed with some recent rains and warm weather, we could use some help with the mowing in October. If you'd like to take a shot at mowing and didn't get a chance this summer, please contact the church office.

We are still collecting a special offering to cover the cost of all four of our air conditioning units for the church sanctuary. Over \$4,600 has been collected so far. The total cost is approximately \$25,000. Since this was not a foreseen expense, this will be above and beyond our budget, and we need your help. Please prayerfully consider a special offering towards covering these costs and include "HVAC" on either your offering envelope or the memo line of your check.

Fall preparations for the property include restocking the bait boxes for mice prevention and cleaning up any leaves that fall. If you see any trash on the property, we would appreciate your help in picking it up. If you see anything that needs to be repaired, please let the church office know so the issues can be addressed.

Thank you for helping to keep our property in great shape!

Discipleship Sunday School News

Sunday School is off to a great start! We invite students in Preschool through 8th grade to join us for songs, stories, games, crafts and discussions that teach us God's Word! Guests are always welcome too.

Sunday School starts each week at 9:15 a.m. Every student is important to our Sunday School classes. Every student brings their own questions and understanding of the Bible lessons and brings each of us new things to think about. Please help your child to be on time and attend as often as possible. We carefully prepare lessons each week and look forward to sharing God's word with as many students as possible.

Preschool through 6th grade will meet in the sanctuary from 9:15 to 9:30 for the opening, offering, and songs and then will proceed with their teacher to their classrooms for their lessons. 7th and 8th grade students will report to their classroom for their lesson.

October Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade:

- 1 - The Flood
- 8- The Tower of Babel
- 15 - Abraham Trusts God
- 22 - God Answers Abraham's Prayers
- 29 - No Class- Reformation



A big thank you to all our teachers, helpers and substitutes who put in time, talents, and resources to have lessons and activities planned for their classes.

See you Sunday!

Nickie L, Sunday School Coordinator

BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Bible Study

Gethsemane fellowship hall
9:15 a.m.
Church—Mission—Ministry

Tuesday Women's Bible Study

McDonald's on 108th & Emmet
6 a.m.
"Connecting Sinai to Calvary" by John Jeske.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study

HyVee at 108th and Fort
6 a.m.
The Bible book of Job

Thursday Women's Bible Study

Gethsemane fellowship hall
9:45 a.m.
The Bible book of James

Mark your calendars! Special worship times coming up!:

- † Sunday, October 29 Area Reformation @ Bennington High School Auditorium
10 a.m. NO SATURDAY SERVICE on October 28
- † Sunday, December 17 Christmas Service @ Bennington High School Auditorium
10 a.m. NO SATURDAY SERVICE on December 16
- † Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve
9 a.m. Song Service
5:30 or 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service
NO SATURDAY SERVICE on December 23
- † Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve
9 a.m. Service
(5:30 service on December 30th)

Stewardship

New Member Dinner

Save the Date! The new member dinner will be held on Sunday November 5th following the 10:30 a.m. service. The stewardship board will be hosting a chili-cookoff, and members are asked to bring in a batch of their favorite chili to vie for bragging rights. Fun and entertainment will be provided as Pastor Helwig hosts our very own Gethsemane version of classic tv game shows. More details to follow in the coming weeks.



Adult Tone Chimes



We would like to see if any adults are interested in participating in a tone chime choir. You really don't need to know how to read music. You mostly need to count! We ask that if you would like to join us that you be committed to three weeks of practice one night per week (to be determined) before the date we play in church. The first time we would like to play is for the Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 22.

Our first rehearsal would be the week of November 1st.

Please contact the church office if you'd like to play with us!

Good Shepherd Call News

The saints at Good Shepherd recently called Pastor Matt Zimpelmann from Idaho, to serve as their new shepherd.

Please keep Good Shepherd and her ministry in your prayers. Pastor Helwig continues to serve as the vacancy pastor.

Book Club

Book Club for October will actually be held at Gethsemane in the fellowship hall. We will have a wonderful opportunity on Sunday, October 29th at 2:30 p.m. to visit with Elfi Lee, a member of St. Marks in Lincoln, regarding her life and her book co-authored with Rachel Marie Hartman, **Watching Over Me: A World War II Story of Survival and a Quest for Peace**. Leslie B will be our host that afternoon and all members of Gethsemane who'd like to join us for conversation with Elfi are more than welcome to attend!!!! Elfi will bring some books for sale and some books to be given free to guests.

November sees our date pushed back to December 5th (due to the Thanksgiving holiday) and will be hosted by Mande L. That evening we will discuss **Hacksaw Ridge** by Booton Herndon. We hope you have your calendars marked for that evening as well. We then take a bit of a break due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays so won't be meeting again until January 30th (or the 23rd - yet to be determined). Our book for discussion that evening will most likely be **Beyond Tuesday Morning** by Karen Kingsberry.

We hope you're making plans to join us for an upcoming book club date! We enjoy some great fellowship and invite you to be a part of it.

Becky