

# GETHSEMANE

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

News from 4040 N. 108<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68164  
November, 2017



November 4, 2017



## Sing for Joy to the Lord

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. - Psalm 95:1-2

Many of us like to sing. Even if we are hesitant to sing publicly, when we are alone in the car or at home, often we sing along when we hear our favorite songs.

We love to sing for a lot of reasons—joy, love, sorrow, even fear sometimes.

Our best reason to sing is given in the Bible verse: “Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.”

We live in changing times. Change means uncertainty. Culture, the future, security, economy, jobs, politics, family—these are life’s experiences that bring us more change that we are sometimes comfortable with. In this sea of change, we can always depend on the unchanging Rock of our salvation.

Salvation is the Bible’s word for God rescuing us from the consequences we should receive for all of our sins. We don’t give God the respect he is worthy of. We second guess how God deals with us and this world. We don’t give God the love he deserves. He comes in second or third or four hundred fortieth on our love list. Our actions and attitude pile up a boatload of trouble for us. God should reject and punish us.

But instead of dishing out what we deserve, the Rock of our salvation rescued us. In his great love, God chose to rescue us by sending his Son to suffer sin’s consequences for us. God will never punish us for our sins because he already punished Jesus for them. God’s choices and actions are unchangeable history. Our Rock of salvation will not shift his position or change his mind. He has rescued us from our sins. This fact will outlast the universe!

So we sing to the Rock of our salvation. We sing for joy because God has forgiven us. We sing

songs about his sure promises to chase away our fears and heal our wounded hearts. We sing to express our love to God who will never stop loving us.

Go ahead and sing to the Rock of our salvation. If you aren’t sure what to sing, or would like company singing to the Lord, come and worship with us. We have found real comfort and genuine joy in singing together the praises of our Lord.





## A LAW WITH A PURPOSE

Galatians 3:19-25

What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator. A mediator, however, does not represent just one party; but God is one.

Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

Having established the fact that God saved us purely by grace - through his Gospel promise and not through requirements of the law, Paul now will stop the pendulum from swinging too far the other way for those who will be tempted to say that the Mosaic Law had served no purpose. The main point that he makes in these verses is that while the Mosaic Law is inferior and insufficient when compared to God's Gospel promise (it was added later, it dealt with sin not salvation, it was a temporary arrangement, and it required a mediator) it did point the Old Testament Israelites to the coming Savior.

All those civil and ceremonial requirements reminded them that they needed to be taught how to serve God and one another. All those sacrifices reminded them that the wages of their sin was death. All that bloodshed pointed to the righteous blood of the Messiah that would wash away their sin. The two-sided covenant - one in which they could not hold up their end of the bargain - reminded them how much they needed the one-sided covenant of grace fulfilled in Christ.

Once Christ came, however, there was no longer any need for the ceremonial law. Those laws had served their purpose of pointing God's chosen people to the coming Messiah. Now that the Messiah had come, the Galatians had no need to look to those regulations but to the One to whom those regulations pointed.

*PRAYER: Thank you, Jesus, for coming as the fulfillment of the ceremonial law and for being the one and only, the perfect, sacrifice for my sins. May your Ten Commandments, which are still in effect, guide me in the way I live so that I may show you my love and gratitude. Amen.*

*Pastor Helwig*

# WORSHIP

The WELS Hymnal Project Committee, in working to publish a new WELS hymnal by 2024, is introducing a new order of service. We at Gethsemane are participating in field tests to see what works and what doesn't. We used Setting One for five weeks and began using Setting Two on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Setting One involved prayers, and confessions in different formats while keeping the musical selections "familiar." Setting Two adds new music to the liturgy. We will be using this setting until Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. After that time we will need to submit our feedback to the hymnal committee. Please share your thoughts on these liturgies with the pastors. Thank you so much for helping us to try these out.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SPECIAL WORSHIP TIMES COMING UP!:

- † 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 30<sup>th</sup>)



## MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES\* BEGIN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

\*There will be no pre-Advent service dinners



## SCHOOL NEWS

Autumnal greetings,

Fall is surely upon us now. The leaves are changing. The winds are swirling. The farmers are harvesting. It's also very windy. The deer are running. And, like unfortunate clock-work, the football team is struggling.

I'm the kind of person to let a little sports-talk radio into my day. The other day a discussion caught my ear. I was listening on my ride home from school, and the lead commentator was describing the current Husker situation in relation to both the wonder years gone by AND the future years to come. Something about the mid-90's being a long time ago. And the

early 70's being known to an even smaller number yet. And the current disarray of the program, the records, and so on. But that's pretty standard radio blab around these parts, right? Anyone in the five-state area could make that point. But what piqued so much of my interest was the concept of the current faith in the NU program - who has it? Where is it in terms of strength? Where does the next generation fall in line on all of this? Well, obviously the word "faith" stood out to me. The broadcaster made points that the current young generation of Nebraskans knows next-to-nothing of Nebraska's football lore, greatness, glory, or dominance. He wondered if those ideals should be maintained. Or if they are even relevant anymore. He then pointed to the parents of this young generation of Husker fans. He not only wondered where their faith in the program currently is, more importantly he slid into a wondering if those parents can pass that NU faith on to their kids. If not, faith in NU football could simply just run out. If so, what would follow? Generation after generation of Nebraskans who would just roll with the football punches of mediocrity? Nebraskans losing interest in NU football altogether? He surely was a disheartened sportscaster.

In a different context, here we are - celebrating 70 years of GLS, 70 years of Christian education. That's a long time. Some might say a storied history. But where are we at in terms of our program? Maybe the "glory days" of 128 students are behind us (although not too far behind us). Maybe the "lore"

of being the largest K-8 school in the district is being challenged by others. That could be disheartening to hear. But those are not the aspects of our school that really matter. Like our sports-friend focused on, it's the FAITH that matters. At GLC/GLS, that means the faith of our parents and grandparents. It means the faith that God's Word is relevant in our society and world today. It means faith in the Word itself. It means a faith that says God's Word needs to be maintained and sustained in our hearts and minds, along with our children, our families/ friends/neighbors, and all the generations that are to come. A faith that gets passed along to children by baptism and instruction in the Word. A faith that understands that you can't just skip a generation and hope that faith comes back. It also means the faith of our children. A faith that is nurtured each and every school day that is attached to God's Word. A faith that is strengthened, applied, and shared. Friends, looking at the status of our program - that's not disheartening at all! This world - that is what is disheartening - how far away God's Word is from so many. Well, I'm keeping the faith. I believe that God's people will remain in the faith. I believe that our congregation will remain committed to sharing the faith-giving Word with our members and our community through a Lutheran elementary school. I believe the next generation will not fumble away the opportunity to continue that long line of tradition that says children will be raised in the Word. The future is bright! Let's all continue to look for the blessings ahead!

*Mr. Pederson*

+ + +

- Q1 ended OCT 26. We are moving right along into Q2 next week. The year is flying by already!
- Our Fall Musical is coming up, and you are all invited. Willy Wonka is a big undertaking for us this year. Join us NOV 9-10 at 7 p.m. (both nights)!
- We thank our coaches, players, and parents for another successful soccer season. Fall Volleyball will complete this weekend already, and Basketball is already in the hopper for early NOV.
- Fall testing has been completed. Computer tests were used this year, and we are very excited about the prospects of the data we are receiving.

- Plans for the Children's Christmas service are on-going. Please look for announcements. We want all of our GLC/GLS kids to participate!
- Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Year #70 is going great so far! God has made you all a blessing to everything that GLS does every month!



# FOCE

## (FRIENDS OF CHRISTIAN EDECATION)

FOCE has been busy with fundraisers. The Yankee Candle fundraiser netted us around \$1,500. We also recently wrapped up a fundraiser at Pizza West. Totals for that one haven't come in yet. Box Tops have been submitted, too. Please keep saving your Box Tops. You can submit them any time in the collection containers located on the tables in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall and the school hallway.

The apparel order was submitted and items should be arriving soon.

Grades 5-8 will be performing their musical, "Willy Wonka," on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Parents of grades K-4 are asked to bring ice cream treats which will be served after the performance on Friday night.

The next meeting of FOCE is November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to come!

# CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Campbell's is ending its Labels For Education program. All labels need to be turned in as soon as possible. The deadline for us to get ours submitted is January 1. Please turn in all labels that you may have lying around by December 15 so we can get them mailed in. Collection containers are located on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall and on the table in the school hallway.

Thank you for your support of our school.

# HY-VEE CASH FOR STUDENTS

Please continue 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.

# AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)



Gethsemane now has an automated external defibrillator (AED). It is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm. AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). SCA is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating.

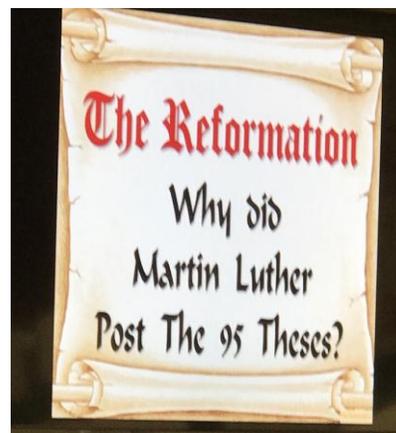
Our AED is mounted on the west wall in the north corner of the fellowship hall. We would appreciate anyone who has training on the device to step up in cases of emergency.

# OWLS

## (ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS)

The October OWLS meeting was held at Good Shepherd. In remembrance of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, Pastor Schell delivered a presentation on the disputation on the power and efficacy of indulgences commonly known as The 95 Theses by Dr. Martin Luther. The 19 members and seven guests in attendance were enlightened on the Biblical clarification of the road to salvation by faith and not by man-made canon laws.

At the conclusion of the presentation, some highlights were shared from the 10 chapter members that attended the 2017 Convention in Pewaukee, Wisconsin earlier in October. Mention was made of the great speakers and the fellowship shared with OWLS members from other states. We are looking forward to a fresh and energized start in 2018 with new leadership that includes Pastor Schell, from the Omaha chapter, who was elected as president of the National OWLS organization.



**Upcoming events:**

**November 19<sup>th</sup>** - Veterans celebration with guest speaker **Bill Williams**, organizer of the local Heartland Honor flights for military veterans wishing to visit the memorials in Washington DC. Refreshments following. Location at Gethsemane at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome! You don't have to be an OWLS member. Feel free to join us.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** - Chapter Holiday dinner at Gethsemane. Meal at 4 p.m. preceded by annual election of officers.

*Dick V, President*



# WINGS

## (WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE)

We received positive feedback from those that attended the fun evening at "Create"! We have discussed doing another similar fellowship evening in the future if there is continued interest.

Our annual Silent Auction runs Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> - Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> this year. By the time you read this, it may be in full swing! However, if you catch this before, we would love help with set up for the Silent Auction on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Donations are greatly appreciated too! We hope you have time to look through the items being sold, and are able to support this event. This year we are raising money for upgrades needed for the church; there will be more information to come on this when a final decision is made.

Please come to our next WINGS meeting on Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, where we will be discussing the Silent Auction and other important WINGS fellowship activities and events! Snacks and fellowship start at 6:45 p.m.; meeting starts at 7 p.m.

*~Ginger B*



# LWMS

## (LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY)

### "Now Thank We All Our God"

The Fall LWMS Rally was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. There were 52 people in attendance, with Trinity, Hoskins, winning the traveling trophy! John Sebald spoke about the Truth in Love Ministry, Reaching out to Mormans. It began in Nampa, Idaho, in 1981. There are 6.5 million Mormans in the United States, and 15 million throughout the world. It is the fastest growing religious group in the United States over the past decade. If you are interested in becoming involved with witnessing to Mormans, there is a coordinated door-to-door opportunity June 9-15, and 16-22. You can also find out more at [pleaseopenthedoor.com](http://pleaseopenthedoor.com). The spring rally will be held in Hadar. Look for more information in the months to come.

Our Befriend a Missionaries are Pastor Joel Sutton of Mexico, and King of Kings Lutheran Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, with Pastor Joshua Shandor. Due to safety, there are some restrictions as to what can be given to Pastor Sutton in Mexico. I am in the process of coordinating what is needed for both of our missionaries. Look for more details.

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 55<sup>th</sup> 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!

**November 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*

\*\* Thanks to everyone who donated pill bottles. They have been sent and are no longer being collected.



**NELHS**

**(NEBRASKA EV. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL)**

- Fall sports update:
  - Football completed its regular season with a record of 7-1 and claimed the district championship. They will begin playoffs with a home game against Thayer Central on Thursday, October 26.
  - Volleyball has tied the record for wins in a season as they currently sit at 18-7. The team will be looking to break the record with three games this week before they start subdistrict play at Centennial on October 30.
- Pastor Philip Pitt of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin currently holds the call to be our next campus pastor. We pray for him and his wife Sharon as they consider where to serve.
- Our annual fall silent auction raised about \$7,500 which will be used to help replace the roofs of our dorms.
- The biannual association meeting took place on Sunday, October 15. Delegates voted to raise tuition by 1.61% and to sell the unoccupied parsonage and use all proceeds to pay down debt.
- On Saturday, October 21 Nebraska Lutheran hosted a Reformation Festival. About 150 people joined us for the reformation walk with almost 300 at the concert that afternoon.
- We are seeking mid-year transfer students. We are hoping to add several 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](mailto:motte@nelhs.org) or 402-728-5236.
- The "This is Our School" campaign continues to grow. As of this writing we have **43 donors** making gifts totaling **\$3,040 monthly** which adds up to **\$36,480**. We are nearing the halfway point of our goal 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](http://www.nelhs.org) and joining this campaign.
- We are beginning our recruiting efforts for 2018-2019. School visits have begun to take place. 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](mailto:motte@nelhs.org) or call 402-728-5236.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Saturday, October 28: NELHS LES Volleyball Tournament
  - November 10-12: 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary National Choral Festival at LaCrosse, Wisconsin
  - Sunday, November 19: Fall Activities' banquet
  - November 22-26: Thanksgiving break

*Mark Otte, Administrator*

# DEACONS



Cooler weather is upon us and pretty soon the snow will be flying! We are preparing the property for winter by cleaning up the leaves and sticks that have fallen in the windy days we've had. The parsonage has been "winterized" so pipes don't freeze. Ice melt will arrive soon.

We are still collecting a special offering to cover the cost of all four of our HVAC units for the church sanctuary (\$26,000 needed). Updates on our donation process will be in bulletins. We have also received a gift wherein every dollar donated as of October 2<sup>nd</sup> will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. (So far, that part is up to \$1,624—thank you!). Please prayerfully consider helping us reach our goal to keep us warm this winter and cool next summer!

A work day will be coming soon! We could use some extra hands to tackle a few projects. We have some concrete work, tree trimming, staining, and drywall projects on the list. Please stay tuned to email or bulletin announcements, and come and help if you can. We would really appreciate it!

If you see anything that needs to be repaired or attended to, 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



We invite students in Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will report to their classroom for their lesson.

November Lessons for Preschool-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 5 - God Tests Abraham's Faith
- 12 - Abraham's Servant Finds a Wife for Isaac
- 19 - Jacob Tricks Isaac
- 26 - No Class-Thanksgiving break

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*

# TEEN OUTING

All high school teens are invited to an outing on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Meet at Gethsemane at 6:30 p.m. The activity is TBD. Contact the church office with any questions you may have.



# CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

December 9, 2017

9-noon

For kids aged 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

Mark your calendars and plan to come!

## EVANGELISM

In September we completed the worship thank you card design and coordination of the group that will send these out. We utilized the Time & Talents sheets and reached out to our members who indicated a desire to serve in this way. We want to thank those members who will be a part of this group and Joanna Schwede for her willingness to lead the effort to create the cards and coordinate the group going forward. The goal here is to reach out to any visitors and thank them for the opportunity to worship with them. This should be a nice supplement to the welcome they get from all of us during their visit.



It was a joy for our board to review the Time & Talent sheets and see all the ways that God is calling our members to serve the mission of the church. Our goal is to continue to utilize this list to include more people in our outreach efforts moving forward.

Additionally, if you have ideas or suggestions in regard to our Evangelism efforts at Gethsemane please share those thoughts with one of the members of our Board or one of the pastors.

*Tregan B*

## STEWARDSHIP

### NEW MEMBER DINNER

The new member dinner will be held on Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 a.m. service. The stewardship board will be hosting a chili cook-off, 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. Hope to see you there!



## THANK YOU!



Gethsemane family,

This fall I have had some medical issues and been off work without pay and you responded in a huge manner. I am so grateful. Thank you so much for your generosity, prayers and well wishes.

Relief and progress towards healing have been slow, but God is always faithful.

With gratitude,  
*A fellow Gethsemane member*

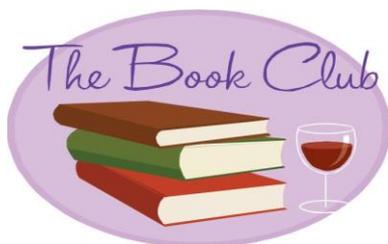
# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sydney Edens - 1<sup>st</sup>  
Lynda Loontjer - 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Elise Gosch - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Lance Palmer - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Conall Pederson - 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Mary Heiman - 4<sup>th</sup>  
Becky Pederson - 5<sup>th</sup>  
Carter Recoy - 6<sup>th</sup>  
Caleb Pederson - 7<sup>th</sup>  
Larry Janicek - 9<sup>th</sup>  
Shelby Jensen - 9<sup>th</sup>  
Konnie Zeitner - 9<sup>th</sup>

Finnegan Griffith - 10<sup>th</sup>  
Josephyne Masters - 11<sup>th</sup>  
Jonah Clayton - 12<sup>th</sup>  
Anika Stephens - 12<sup>th</sup>  
Stacey Johnson - 13<sup>th</sup>  
Rick Recoy - 14<sup>th</sup>  
Christopher Webb - 14<sup>th</sup>  
Aubrey Gosch - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Brice Larson - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Lexi Larson - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Wes Petznick - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Pastor Koester - 19<sup>th</sup>

Jayse Masters - 19<sup>th</sup>  
Henry Pretz - 19<sup>th</sup>  
Eric Zeitner - 19<sup>th</sup>  
Hannah Douglas - 24<sup>th</sup>  
Kes Burke - 25<sup>th</sup>  
Nathan Helwig - 26<sup>th</sup>  
Crystal Olson - 26<sup>th</sup>  
Tom Stewart - 26<sup>th</sup>  
Andrew Best - 27<sup>th</sup>  
Brooklyn Johnson - 28<sup>th</sup>  
Marlene Neujahr - 29<sup>th</sup>  
Dianne Adams - 30<sup>th</sup>

## BOOK CLUB



Thanks to all who were able to attend book club on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Sue's home. We had a super turnout and a really good discussion of **Hacksaw Ridge** with several of us now trying to figure out how to find a copy of the movie version of the book to watch!

Our next get-together will be Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> (due to the Thanksgiving holiday) at Mandie's to discuss Karen Kingsberry's **Beyond Tuesday Morning**.

If you'll recall from notices you've seen in recent bulletins, the originally scheduled discussion of Elfi Lee's (and Rachel Marie Hartman's) book **Watching Over Me: A World War II Story of Survival and a Quest for Peace** had to be postponed and is now scheduled for Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in the afternoon in the fellowship hall. A reminder if you've not seen the info on this book before - Elfi Lee is a member of St. Mark's in Lincoln, and she is joining us that afternoon for a discussion of her book. You won't want to miss it!

Additional dates scheduled for book club (so you can get them on your 2018 calendars!!) are February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup>. We will be making some decisions on December 5<sup>th</sup> as to what books will be up for discussion those months. Stay tuned for more information in the December newsletter for those details.

Please - if you've been to previous book club evenings and haven't been able to join us for a while - come back!!! If you've never had a chance to join us - now's the time!! It's an opportunity for some great fellowship, and we'd love to have you be a part of it!

*Becky G*

## GOOD SHEPHERD CALL NEWS

On Monday, October 23, the saints at Good Shepherd called Pastor Jeremy Husby from Hartford, Wisconsin, 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.



## HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Everyone is invited to attend a free concert featuring the Voices of Omaha singing Handel's Messiah. It will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 3 p.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center in downtown Omaha.



## TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

Pastor James Humann, retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him as he hosts his fifth tour to the Holy Land. The tour is for ten days and leaves March 12, 2018. This is a beautiful time of year in the Holy Land and you will be back home again for Holy Week and

Easter. The tour includes Bethlehem where Jesus was born, Nazareth where he was raised, the Jordan River where he was baptized, Galilee where he spent much of his ministry, the Garden of Gethsemane where he prayed, and Jerusalem where he was tried before Pontius Pilate, was crucified and rose again from the dead. Take a ride on the Sea of Galilee, visit the ancient city of Jericho, and if there is time, swim in the Dead Sea. This tour of a lifetime still has limited space available. For more information and a colorful brochure with price and itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at [Jhumann383@aol.com](mailto:Jhumann383@aol.com) or call 253-839-9055 (PST).



**LUTHERAN MILITARY  
SUPPORT GROUP**  
*Shoulder to Shoulder in Service*

## THANK GOD FOR OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day is Saturday, Nov. 11. The USA is home to many young veterans of the war on terror, as well as older veterans from prior conflicts. Some of them are members of our own congregations. Some were stationed overseas. Some stateside. Some were wounded - visibly and invisibly. Some suffer from post-traumatic

stress disorder, depression or substance abuse. Some are homeless. Some are successful community leaders.

As Christians and US citizens, we have a responsibility to help those who are shouldering the burdens of war and protecting our earthly freedoms. We can do that without picking up a weapon. We can do it shoulder to shoulder in Christian service.

That sense of responsibility is what brought veterans from the ELS and WELS together in 2015 to form the Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG). Today, more than 320 congregations have formed local chapters to broaden our outreach to our military, veterans and those connected to them. The LMSG board of directors is encouraged by the sincere interest in growing these numbers because the needs are great.

We encourage you to pray every day for the ministry needs of our military and their families. Prayer is a powerful tool! You can also help through financial gifts. Look for the AMMO can at your church. This is another way to show your Christian care and concern for those who are willing to go into harm's way for the sake of our country. May God continue to bless you and our nation on Veterans Day and always.

In Christ,

Erhard Opsahl, President Lutheran Military Support Group

## HOW HAS LMSG SERVED OUR MILITARY?

In 2016, LMSG donated more than \$56,000 to the following:

- European chaplaincy (WELS)
- Grants to local congregations for events/recognitions/family support
- Special services for military members serving in Guam
- Blue Star Mothers to assist those on active duty and their families

Year to date in 2017, more than \$58,000 has been contributed to the following areas:

- Time of Grace Armed Forces Network broadcasts and advertising
- 2018 Military Contact Pastor Conference for ELS/WELS pastoral participation
- 10 Chaplain Certification Scholarships to military contact pastors
- WELS National Civilian Chaplain's Office for visits to bases and military contact pastors
- "Member Assistance Program" counseling for military personnel
- Grace Lutheran Church (WELS mission), Minot, ND, to strengthen its ministry to the military families stationed in and around Minot Air Force Base
- LMSG website and Facebook page enhancements to support communication with our stakeholders

**VISIT [LUTHERANMILITARY.ORG](http://LUTHERANMILITARY.ORG) AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT LMSG AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED.**

