

# GET HISSMAN

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



## Confession of Faith

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. - Romans 10:9

Did you ever wonder what made the early Christians willing to confess their faith in Jesus even when it brought persecution and death? Some Christians in the first century were stoned to death. Others were crucified. Still others were thrown to the lions. Yet they died praising Jesus, confessing him as their Lord and Savior.

In the centuries that followed, believers in Jesus continued preaching and teaching about him even at the threat of physical harm. One such man was Martin Luther who lived in Germany back in the 1500's. Luther boldly preached and taught about Jesus and became one of the most prolific writers about the Christian faith who has ever lived. When the authorities pressured him to take back what he had written, Luther firmly replied, "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen!" As a result, he was labeled an outlaw, and it was open season for anyone who wanted to take his life.

How could Luther and many other Christians confess their faith so boldly even at the threat of physical harm and death? Because they knew that something much better was waiting for them after this life. They knew that Jesus died for their sins and rose from the dead. Jesus' resurrection meant that God accepted his sacrifice for their sins and they too would rise to live forever in heaven.

Christians still have this hope today. We know this life is temporary. Nothing in this life is going to last. It will all eventually decay and perish. But those who trust in Jesus and confess him as

### 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>)

their Lord and Savior will enjoy a perfect life with him that will never end. This changes the perspective and priorities of believers in Jesus. Confident in their eternal salvation through Jesus, Christians confess their faith in the Lord Jesus even to the point of death.

Come worship with us and learn more about what confessing Christians throughout the ages have been willing to die for. Jesus is your Savior who came into this world to die and rise again so that you might live with him forever.

**Tell me who's coming!**

## **ADVENT 2017**

### **Gethsemane Lutheran Church**

<b>December 2-3</b>	<b>Zechariah, 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>December 6</b>	<b>Elizabeth, 7 p.m.</b>
<b>December 9-10</b>	<b>John the Baptist, 8 &amp; 10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>December 13</b>	<b>Gabriel, 7 p.m.</b>
<b>December 20</b>	<b>Mary, 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Joseph, 5:30 &amp; 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Saint John, 9 a.m.</b>

### **Who are You?**

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

"You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." What an amazing passage! I am a child of God through faith in Christ - and so are you. The way I fulfilled my role as both husband and father yesterday would tell me something different. The places that I let my mind wander and the words that I spoke with my mind - if not my voice - tell me something different. My sin tells me that I do not deserve such a high status. My sin tells me that I do not deserve to be one of God's children. But at baptism God clothed me with Christ. On the cross Christ paid for all my sins and now God the

Father no longer sees my sin. He sees the perfect life of his Son lived in my place. God did the same thing for you through the water and the Word. This is indeed an amazing passage.

Within the context of Paul's letter to the Galatians the point Paul is making is that God deals with all people the same way. All are sinners regardless of sex, race, culture, legal status, or age. But all who have been brought to faith in Christ are sons - and daughters - of God regardless of sex, race, culture, legal status or age. A law-based religion could never give such assurance or be so across-the-board-equal. But because we are justified purely by God's grace through faith we have that assurance. Such an assurance leads me - as it leads you - to not only wear the robe of Christ's righteousness but to also live a righteous and upright life as one of God's dearly loved children.

**PRAYER:** *Holy Spirit, give me strength to resist Satan and his temptations. Help me live as God already sees me in Christ so that I may bring glory to his holy name. Amen.*

Pastor Helwig



Brothers and Sisters in the Christ-child,

Some of you are on the list. It's a list that you know what the expectation is. It's a list that you know will be brought up. It's a list that you are reminded of. It's a list that if you are not on the good side, you are on the bad side. No - it's not Kris Kringle's list. It's Mrs. Sloan's monthly newsletter reminder email list. Church leaders and organizations are always invited to submit articles and information for Gethsemane's monthly communique. The reminders come each and every time. They come with encouragement for timeliness. They come with deadlines. They come with a hopefulness for timeliness. A good number of times each year, the newsletter timing is tricky - for example, the December edition this year gets put together on Thanksgiving week (extra church service, short week with the holiday).

I have to admit (and you can go ahead and ask her) that most times I miss those deadlines. I may have good intentions, I may have a plan for my article, but still I run late. It's not that I think that my time is more valuable than the time of others. It's not that I think the newsletter is an unimportant document. More times than not, I start it and fail to get back to it early enough. Other times I bury it somewhere on my "to do" list. Still other times find me pushing it off until other priorities end up taking the last of the available time for me to have my article in on time (or a word that I hear some say - "early"). Thankfully, Mrs. Sloan is very forgiving.

I feel like I go through a very similar process with Advent. I might have good intentions to slow my life down and "smell the roses" of Advent. I might have a plan that could make sure the family spends the weeks of December focusing on Advent's message of the coming Messiah. Yet (and you can go ahead and ask me or my family), I still fall short. A family or personal devotion series for Advent gets started and never finished. I allow the hustle and bustle to shove spiritual priorities to the bottom or have them buried under other things that "have to get done for Christmas." Thankfully, God is the ultimate in forgiving!

What an opportunity we have to spend extra chances in worship to quiet our worldly minds and hearts! What a blessing we have to be offered some additional tries to listen to the sweet message of the Promise! Now if only we take advantage of them with proper planning and priorities. If you don't see me, bug me about it. Just like when my newsletter article is late.

In Him,  
Mr. Pederson

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We hope you had a chance to view our fall musical a few weeks ago. The kids worked really hard, and the final product was amazing! Special thanks to everyone who helped make our shows successful - especially Miss Hunt for her direction.

Our GLS caroling date is Wednesday, December 6. We will have two stops again this year to share the Gospel message of the Messiah through song. Join us if you can. The more the merrier (and the louder)!

We are gearing up for Christmas. Services have been distributed, parts have been assigned and selected, and practices in school and Sunday School have started. Please contact Mrs. Landis, Miss Hunt, or any of the teachers with any questions. Our formal practice will be at Bennington High School on December 16, with the service being held on Sunday, December 17, at 10 a.m. at BHS. Come worship the new-born King with us!

It's hard to think that 2017 is wrapping up already. We look forward to the end of the calendar year with our celebration of Christmas in our school and in our homes.

GLS basketball will be in full gear in December. Grades 3-4 are already working their way through their YMCA season. Many thanks to Mr. Linde, Mr. Schmidt, and their assistants for working with our middle graders. 5-8<sup>TH</sup> graders are participating in the Parochial Athletic League in conjunction with their peers at Good Shepherd. Those games start in early December and run through early/mid-February. We have nine folks on our coaching staffs for five different PAL teams. Go Falcons!



## (Friends Of Christian Education)



Our next FOCE meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 p.m. During this meeting we will discuss and vote on how we should spend our recent fundraising funds. Projects that we'll be voting on are buying new pianos for a couple of classrooms or buying mats for underneath the swings on the playground. Be there - your vote matters!!

A huge THANK YOU goes out to families who supported our Yankee Candle fundraiser, and more recently our Pizza West fundraiser! We raised around \$100 with our Pizza West fundraiser. We couldn't do it without you!! Have a blessed Christmas and holiday season!!

*Liz K, Secretary*

## 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.

## Box Tops Update

Thank you to everyone who submitted Box Tops! This submission earned \$340.90 for Gethsemane Lutheran School. Thank you so much for your support! Keep saving your Box Tops so we can send them in next spring. Drop them off any time in the collection containers on the table in the school hallway or on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall.

## 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.



## OWLS

### (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)

WOW! What good speakers we get for OWLS! Hope you didn't miss it!

Twenty-five individuals from all three churches enjoyed a presentation by **Bill Williams**, organizer of the local **Heartland Honor Flights** for military veterans to visit the war memorials in Washington DC.

Since 2004, they have taken over 1500 Veterans to Washington DC. The undertaking is not a small one and comes with lots of challenges both in funding and getting the veterans to and from Washington DC.

The stories about the veterans and what they endured to keep our county safe was so interesting in his presentation. It was just another reminder as to why we should always thank and honor individuals that serve in our armed forces. **Let's always thank them and keep them in our prayers!!**

On December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m., we are having a Holiday Dinner with the children of Gethsemane singing and playing tone chimes at Gethsemane. Please come if you can! There will be a meeting at 3:00 so that we can elect new officers for 2018. Please come and join us! Let the church office know so we can plan accordingly. Have a blessed thanksgiving and look forward to the birth of Christ!

*Sandy T, Secretary*

## WINGS

### (Women IN God's Service)

Thank you so much to all who supported the silent auction! We appreciate all those who donated items or did the bidding. We have raised over \$1,000 so far, and we still have some items to be picked up. There will be more information to come on the final total and how we are able to use the funds!

All the ladies are invited to a Christmas party at T's on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a side or beverage to share. We hope to see you there!

The Omaha area congregations are providing the meal for the NELHS Christmas concert on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We have received volunteers for food items needed. However if you are able to help with set up or serving the meal that day at NELHS, it would be greatly appreciated!

Mark your calendars: We will be having our annual evening of playing Bunco at Carrie's on January 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be more information to come with this.

If you have any questions or comments concerning any WINGS items, please feel free to contact any WINGS officers.

*~Ginger B*



## (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

“O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Our Befriend a Missionaries are Pastor Joel Sutton of Mexico, and King of Kings Lutheran Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, with Pastor Joshua Shandor. The display is finished, and can be found in the narthex in the upcoming Sunday. Check it out!

The 2018 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 prayer calendars are just \$10.00 each, and make great gifts!

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 your travel destination next summer!

### December Prayer Requests

- Our Befriend a Missionaries.
- The mid-year graduates at Martin Luther College.
- The work being done in Mexico.

-Leslie B  
-Reporter



## (Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

- **Fall sports wrap**
  - Volleyball finished with a record of 21-8 which breaks the season win record by three. Additionally, many individual records were broken this year. Congratulations to the team on a fine year.
  - Football finished with a record of 8-2. They won the district championship and advanced to the second round of the playoffs. Both losses came to a tough East Butler team that won the state title.
  - Unified Bowling has begun its second season. The team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 11 teams at an invitational in Lincoln on November 2. District competition will take place on November 28 in Lincoln.
- **Winter sports preview**
  - Boys' basketball has 38 boys on its teams. It should be a good year for our varsity team as we return all starters from a record setting team last year.
  - Girls' basketball has 13 out this year. They should also have a good year as they return quite a bit of talent.
  - Winter cheerleading has 8 girls trying out this year.
- **Call News**
  - Miranda Maasz has accepted a call to teach at Divine Savior Academy in Doral, FL to teach social studies at the high school level. As a third year tutor, she is eligible to receive a “normal” call and she will not be called back to NELHS for a fourth year.
  - Jake Ziel has received a call to teach at Divine Savior Academy in Doral, FL to teach health and science at the high school level. As a third year tutor, he is eligible to receive a “normal” call and he will not be called back to NELHS for a fourth year.

- Kathy Stern has received a call to teach math at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. Her husband Phil, principal at Trinity Lutheran School in Waco, has also received a call to Fox Valley Lutheran High School to teach religion and social studies.
- Pastor Steven Bode of Allenton, WI has been called to be our campus pastor.
- **Support**
  - The “This is Our School” campaign continues to grow. As of this writing we have **44 donors** making gifts totaling **\$3,065 monthly** which adds up to **\$36,780**. 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.
- **Recruitment**
  - We are seeking mid-year transfer students. We are hoping to add several students at this time. So far we have **1** student transferring in. 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.
  - We are beginning our recruiting efforts for 2018-2019. School visits have taken place. So far **8** students have enrolled to be freshmen next year. 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**
  - November 22-26: Thanksgiving break
  - December 17: Christmas Concert at NELHS (4 pm)
  - December 20-January 2: Christmas break

*Mark Otte, Administrator*



## Nebraska Lutheran High School Cheer Camp

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 1:30-6:30PM  
Theme: Beach Party

Deadline to register is December 19<sup>th</sup>.  
See the flyer on the bulletin board in the  
fellowship hall for details!



Thank you to our fall clean-up steward who has cleaned up the landscaping, cleaned off the parking lot and keeps up with the leaves that have fallen. The fall décor was a nice touch!

The furnaces for the sanctuary conked out recently, and we needed to repair them in order to have heat for our Thanksgiving service. We are still collecting a special offering to cover the cost of all four of our HVAC units for the church sanctuary (\$26,000-\$30,000 needed). 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.

Updates on this fund are in the weekly bulletins. Please prayerfully consider helping us reach our goal to keep us warm this winter and cool next summer!

With the upcoming season, snow may fall and the parking lot may become slippery. We will do our best to clean it off and make it as safe as possible, but we appreciate your exercising utmost caution when conditions warrant it. Ice melt is located in the tubs next to each entrance for use on the sidewalks if you see a need. Please let the office know if you use the last of it so more can be ordered.

Our church building is aging, and with aging comes repairs due to wear and tear and mechanical breakdowns. We are working on keeping our property up so we can fulfill our mission of "preaching the unchanging gospel to an ever changing world." Thank you for your help in letting us know if you see anything that needs to be repaired or attended to!



## Sunday School News

It's that wonderful time of year when we celebrate our Savior's birth! Our children at Gethsemane will be sharing the message of Jesus in the Children's Christmas Service December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> we will be practicing for the Children's Christmas Service. It is important for all children in preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grades to be there to learn all those songs together! We will start at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Programs have been passed out. Preschool students received their part. Public school families have been sent a links to various songs in the service. Please listen to them and practice. Public school families or preschool students if you are still in need of a program or your part let me know, [wnlandis@cox.net](mailto:wnlandis@cox.net), and I'll get them to you.

We will also have a practice Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 4 p.m. at Bennington High School's Auditorium, 16610 Bennington Rd. This is very important as children will learn where their place is and where we practice everything all together.

The Children's Christmas Service is Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at Bennington's High School's Auditorium. Students should be there at least 20 minutes before 10 a.m.

Sunday School in December

- 3 - Children's Christmas service rehearsal @ Gethsemane
- 10 - Children's Christmas service rehearsal @ Gethsemane
- 17 - Children's Christmas Service @ Bennington
- 24 - No class - Christmas break
- 31 - No class - Christmas break

May your Christmas Season be filled with JOY!

*Nickie L, Sunday School Coordinator*



## Christmas For Kids

December 9, 2017

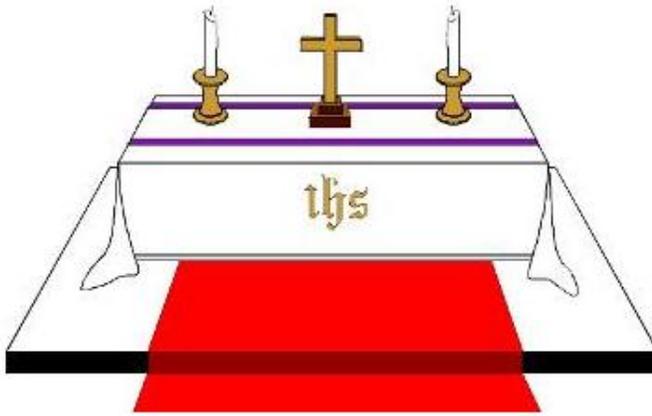
9-noon

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

Mark your calendars and plan to come!

# STEWARDSHIP

## Altar Care



We are asking volunteers to help prepare our altar for services next year. Duties include getting the hymn numbers changed, changing the altar paraments when necessary, and, for the first and third Sundays, preparing for communion. You can even pick out and hang seasonal banners! This job normally takes 1 to ½ hours per week, max.

Our altar care chairperson is Jean Redford. She will show you what to do and will help you change the paraments (because she's really good at getting them straight)! Men can do this job just as well as women, and we welcome any who are willing to try!

Please see the sheet on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall to sign up.

## Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Calendar for 2018 will be posted in the coming week so you can sign up to provide altar flowers for the Sunday of your choice. Family Fare on 108<sup>th</sup> and Maple will continue to provide us with beautiful arrangements. The cost is still \$30. Feel free to take your flowers home after the second service on the Sunday you provide flowers.

WINGS will bill you for the flowers and payment can be placed in the locked box on the fellowship hall table. Thank you for adding the beauty of flowers to our worship services!



## Christmas Decorating

Please come to Gethsemane on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, to help us decorate the church for Christmas! We will begin at 6 p.m. Many hands make light work. Hope to see you!

## Christmas Caroling

Come caroling with us! On Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, a group of us are going out to sing some Christmas carols to our shut-ins. The plan is to meet at church at 5:30 p.m. and drive to our first stop. If you can't make it to church by 5:30 p.m., please catch up with us on our route by texting Karen Sloan to see where you can meet us.





## Poinsettias

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the fellowship hall to provide a poinsettia for the Christmas services here at Gethsemane. After the last Christmas service, you may take your poinsettia home to enjoy. The cost is \$7 each. All orders need to be in by Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. WINGS will bill you.

## Book Club



December sees us having an "early" book club get-together as we skipped the month of November due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be meeting on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Mandie's home to discuss **Beyond Tuesday Morning** by Karen Kingsberry. We would love to have you join us!

Here's a look at the upcoming months.....

- ✓ January - Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at Gethsemane (hosted by Leslie Brauer) as Elfi Lee joins us to discuss her book **Watching Over Me: A World War II Story of Survival and a Quest for Peace**. This will be a great opportunity to hear directly from the author!!!
- ✓ February - Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> - Liz hosting
- ✓ March - Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> - Dawn hosting
- ✓ April - Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> - Jean hosting

During our December evening we'll be making decisions regarding which books we'll be reading and discussing at each of those future dates. So again, join us and help us decide what to read next. Book club evenings are a great time to relax and enjoy the company of some great people (while enjoying a snack or two, of course). Hope to see you on the 5<sup>th</sup>!

*Becky G*

## Good Shepherd Call News

Pastor Jeremy Husby from Hartford, Wisconsin, declined the call to serve as the pastor at Good Shepherd. The next call meeting is Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Please keep our brothers and sisters at Good Shepherd in your prayers. Pastor Helwig continues to serve the vacancy there.

## Thrivent Action Teams

Attention Thrivent members:

Did you know that most Thrivent members over the age of 18 with policies are eligible for two \$250 Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year to be used for the event of their choice?

It's nearing the end of 2017 and Thrivent members are nearing the "use it or lose it" deadline for their 2017 Action Teams. These Action Teams benefited Gethsemane last year in many ways. They are a great way to do special things anywhere in the community and could be a real boost to our ministry! The cool thing is that it costs the Thrivent member nothing! If the Thrivent Action Team is not used for the year, it is gone and the funds are sent to a designation you have absolutely no say in! All 2017 Thrivent Action Teams need to be submitted by the end January 2018 in order to not be "lost" for the year.

If you are a Thrivent member and are interested in applying for an Action Team, please contact the church office for assistance.



## 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).

