



March 11, 2018

GETTISEMANE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

News from 4040 N. 108th Street, Omaha, NE 68164
March, 2018

ZEALOUS!

Galatians 4:17-20

Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may be zealous for them. It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always and not just when I am with you. My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

Paul was in agony over the situation in Galatia. He compared it to the pains of childbirth. He was in agony for several reasons. First of all, he wished that he could be there with them, speaking face to face with them about their situation. While this letter was beneficial - both for them and for Paul - it is not as direct or as personal as eye to eye contact. Paul can't read their body language or their facial expressions. They can't hear the tone in his voice.

A second reason for Paul's agony was the zealousness of the Judaizers. They were merciless in their pursuit of winning these Christians over to their side. Their zealousness had been produced by selfish motives, however. They wanted to hold these Galatians up as a trophy. They wanted to be able to say, "Look who we won from Paul. Certainly, our teaching must be superior to his." Perhaps others would jump on their bandwagon. They also wanted to be able to show the orthodox Jews (who didn't see Christ as the Messiah) that they could still get Christians to submit to Old Testament regulations. They were trying to ride both sides of the fence - please the Christians on the one side and make the only way to God through Judaism on the other side.

A third reason for Paul's agony was the apparent willingness of the Galatians to switch sides so quickly and to abandon the Gospel of free grace.

Can we learn anything positive from the Judaizers? Yes, we can. They were zealous in their pursuit. While their motive wasn't pure and while their zealousness was in error, God can use the zeal of Christians in the work of his Church. We really have something to be zealous about. We have good news to share. We have a life changing - a life-saving - message to share. Paul said, "It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good." The purpose of winning souls for Christ is always a good purpose. Let's do that with all the zeal that we, as God's children, can possibly muster.

PRAYER: Lord, forgive me for complacency. Forgive me for sitting on the good news of Jesus. Rekindle in me the fire of your love that I may be more active in sharing that love with others. Amen.

Pastor Helwig

Voters' Meeting is March 4, 2018, at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Please review the minutes from the last meeting and the Five Year Ministry Plan that were sent out to you via email. A few hard copies are on the table in the fellowship hall. All voters and guests are invited to attend!

LENT

February 28th - 7 p.m.

Hebrews 4:14-16 Jesus Is Our Compassionate High Priest

March 7th - 7 p.m.

Hebrews 10:5-12 Jesus Is Our Self-Sacrificing High Priest

March 14th - 7 p.m.

Hebrews 13:10-16 Jesus Our Great High Priest Serves at a Great Altar

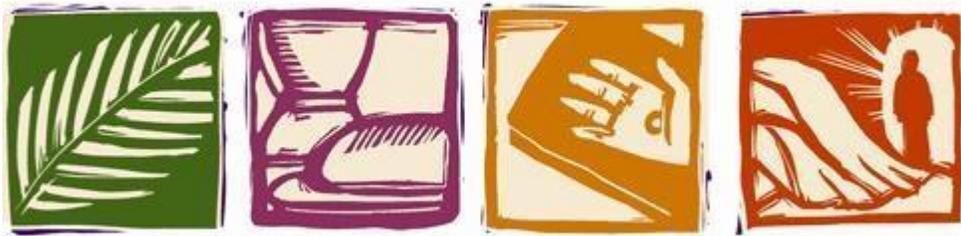
March 21st - 7 p.m.

Hebrews 10:19-25 Jesus Our Great High Priest Makes Us Priests



JESUS CHRIST
IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

March 25

8 & 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

March 29

3:30 & 8 p.m.

Good Friday

March 30

Noon & 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday

April 1

Sunrise service @ 7 a.m.

Breakfast @ 8 a.m.

Festival service @ 9 & 10:30 a.m.

SCHOOL NEWS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March is quite the month at Gethsemane Lutheran School. We come back from our break and dive right into our Science Fair. Projects are due the first week of March, and we will be holding a display fair on Friday, March 9, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and see all of the projects.



Our third quarter ends with the end of the day on March 15. It seems hard to believe that we will be entering the last grading period so quickly again this year. The annual Nebraska Schools Science and Arts Fair will be held March 17 out at Nebraska Lutheran High School.

Lent is on-going in March, and GLS students will sing at the March 7 and March 14 midweek services, as well as the GLC/GLS group for Palm Sunday.

Maybe that's why the year goes by so quickly.

God bless you all,
Mr. Pederson

We thank everyone who supported our last school functions - our tuition assistance breakfast, and our moms/dads/grandparents mornings for Lutheran Schools Week.

What a blessing to celebrate Christian education and our Lutheran School system with our sister schools across Nebraska! May God continue to bless all efforts of Christian education at this place and many others! Take some time and identify all the different ways, times, people, and places that Christian education happens through Gethsemane Lutheran Church and School. It is an amazing blessing to see such activity in this place!

FOCE

(FRIENDS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION)

FOCE has officially hit ALL of their goals set forth and voted on at the first meeting of the year! Pretty exciting! The swing mats are here and will be installed when nicer weather arrives.



Two pianos will be delivered next week and will be installed in the two classrooms which are not equipped with them - this means each classroom will now be equipped with their own piano and less shuffling and moving of classes and kids will have to happen! We greatly appreciate everyone who has helped raise funds and bring forth the ideas and needed items to the table....none of this could have been done without the support of our GLS families!

Many thanks out to the moms, dads and grandparents who joined us for our Spirit Week festivities. Thanks to everyone who helped make muffins, serve, clean up and all the other behind the scenes chores that must be done to ensure these events are a success....your help is greatly appreciated!

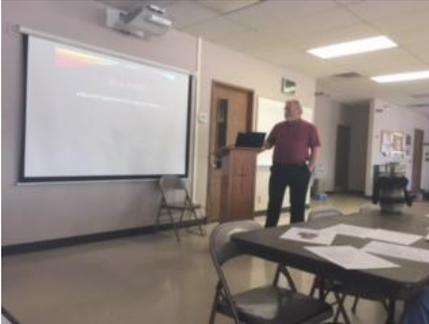
We have our spring fundraiser coming up following spring break. Look for emails and flyers to be headed your way. We are again selling butter braids. FOCE will be serving butter braids between services on Palm Sunday for everyone to sample and will have kiddos on stand-by to help you place an order!

If you have any questions, please talk to any of the FOCE gals!

Wendee M, President

OWLS

(ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS)



TERRY B PRESENTED INFORMATION ON CANCER RESEARCH

Terry B is a member of Gethsemane and a Clinical Research Nurse Coordinator with UNMC. Cancer is so prevalent that 455 people in every 100,000 will be diagnosed with cancer. In 2020, they predict that over 158 billion dollars will be spent on cancer or \$10,000 a year per individual. Terry is in charge of the clinical trials and outcomes. There are many new drugs that they are trying in light of new developments in how cancer was treated as to how it now is. Cancer used to be treated the same regardless of the type. Now they are treated according to the cancer as well as the genetics of the individuals. Immunotherapy is the most recent breakthrough. These drugs stimulate your immune system to fight off the cancer. We all enjoyed the information Terry presented; even though a little scary, we know it is all in GOD's hands.

Future meetings: **March 11**, Presentation on Puerto Rico and a Soup Feed at Good Shepherd meeting at 2:00 and speaker at 3:00 followed by a Soup dinner.

See you there!



Things are exciting at OWLS lately!

We have been doing birthday parties for previous OWLS members who are now shut-ins. Thelma H was our first at the end of January. Barb S's party was in February and more will come!

We are scheduled to tour the Buffet Cancer Center and attend orientation to serve at the Open Door Mission once a month. There is also a Keep Omaha Beautiful project planned. Now would be a GREAT time to join OWLS!

Dick V, President

Sandy T, Secretary

WINGS

(WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE)

Overall, we had a very successful Silent Auction last fall. Thank you! We will be using the funds raised to purchase blinds for the fellowship hall. We are in the process of researching these, but will be able to purchase them soon. Any leftover funds will be put towards security upgrades for the church, school, and parking lot.



For our March fellowship activity, we will be going to see the movie, "I Can Only Imagine" at Majestic Theaters (144th and Maple) on March 20th. "This movie is the inspiring and unknown true story behind MercyMe's beloved, chart topping song that brings ultimate hope to so many is a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness." Tickets are \$5 and will be purchased ahead of time so the seats are together. Please contact the church office if interested!

Mark your calendars for another March event, our Spring Bake Sale on March 24th/25th! We will be accepting any donations for this—homemade or store bought! You can bring bread, rolls, cookies, bars, or any of your other favorite snacks or treats. Please bring your items prepackaged and labeled or priced. Otherwise, we will be able to price them too. We welcome the support of this for those that just wish to purchase items off the bake sale too! Thanks!



Spring is around the corner (we hope!). With that, comes spring cleaning! We will be cleaning the church kitchen on April 5th at 6:30 p.m. We will have a checklist of cleaning that needs to be done. That way if you would like to help, but that time doesn't work for you, you can still help out. Many hands make light work and the kitchen always looks nice every year after this! Thanks!

Please contact the church office with any questions or comments!

~Ginger B

LWMS

(LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY)

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” -Colossians 3:2



The 2018 Prayer calendars can still be purchased for \$10.00 through the LWMS website-www.lwms.org. This year's calendar theme is kids c.a.r.e., and is also the 2nd semester mission project for Gethsemane Lutheran School. Such a neat calendar and mission project!

Look for more information on the spring LWMS rally as it come available.

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.” The convention packet is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Consider Green Bay as your travel destination this summer!

March Prayer Requests

- Our Befriend a Missionaries.
- The work being done in Hong Kong.
- The work being done in the elementary schools.

~Leslie B





NELHS

(NEBRASKA EV. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL)

Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School

Mission Statement

NELHS exists to assist parents and congregations by providing Christian training in the skills and values necessary for loyal service to Jesus Christ for time and eternity.

- **Winter activities update**
 - The girls' basketball team finished the season with a loss to a very tough Heartland team in subdistrict play. The girls' final record was 14-8.
 - The boys' basketball team just wrapped up their regular season with a big win against Walthill. Their record currently stands at 17-5 as they enter subdistrict play.
 - The Speech team continues to compete with many fine performances. The Conference competition will occur on Wednesday, February 21, at Meridian.
 - The NELHS Quiz Bowl team is the 2018 Crossroads Conference Champion! This is the second straight year the NELHS Quiz Bowl team has won conference.
- **Call News**
 - Pastor Kyle Burmeister of Summerville, South Carolina, has been called to be our next campus pastor.
 - Ms. Jennifer Birr of Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, has been called to teach math and coach.
- **Support**
 - The "This is Our School" campaign continues to grow. As of this writing, we have **45 donors** making gifts totaling **\$3,085 monthly** which adds up to **\$37,020**. Please consider heading to our website at www.nelhs.org and joining this campaign.
 - If you have **Thrivent** products, **right now** is a perfect time to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Nebraska Lutheran. Thrivent won't remind you, you have to go to your Thrivent account online and designate these dollars. All Choice Dollars from 2017 can be designated until March 31, and then they are gone.
 - Consider joining our **Coin Up** campaign which allows you to round up your everyday credit/debit card transactions and donates the "spare change" to NELHS. Go to www.coinupapp.com to sign up. Currently we have **3 donors** sending their spare change to NELHS.
- **Recruitment**
 - Recruitment efforts continue. So far, **17** new students have enrolled (15 freshmen and 2 sophomores). 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**
 - February 23-24: LES Basketball Tournament at NELHS
 - February 25-March 4: Spring Break
 - March 10: "Knight Out" at the German-American Society in West-Omaha. We look forward to seeing many of you attend this night of fellowship and fundraising at the German American Society in Omaha. We will be enjoying the music of Koine. Contact Twila Fickel (tfickel@nelhs.org) for more information about attending this event. We will also be seeking businesses and individuals to sponsor this night.
 - March 11: NELHS Association Meeting at 4 p.m.
 - March 17: Lutheran Elementary Schools Science and Fine Arts Fair
 - March 25: Easter Concert at NELHS at 4 pm

Mark Otte, Administrator



NELHS Prospective Omaha Parents Information Night

Many questions come up as you consider sending your son or daughter to NELHS. We are inviting you to come to an event where you will have a chance to ask questions of the NELHS faculty, current parents, alumni, and alumni parents.

Who's invited: Parents of students in grades 1-8
Date: Sunday, March 18
Time: 12:00 noon (pizza will be provided by NELHS)
Location: Gethsemane Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
4040 N 108th St, Omaha, NE 68164



Format: NELHS faculty will be there for you to ask questions about life at NELHS. Also, there will be parents who currently have students at NELHS and parents who formerly have had students at NELHS to offer their perspectives on how the decision has affected their families and, of course, their children. This will be a completely open forum.

Every question is an important one!

FOSTER CREEK GRANT

The application deadline to apply for the Foster Creek grant to attend Nebraska Lutheran High School (NELHS) for the 2018-19 school year is Tuesday, May 1, 2018.

Through the generosity provided by the Foster Creek Foundation, funds are available (\$4,250 per student) for two students to attend Nebraska Lutheran High School for the 2018/2019 school year. Any interested Gethsemane member family is eligible to apply.

The following criteria will be used for selection:

1. Financial Need (based on application through TADS) The code needed to apply on TADS is [4224107](https://secure.tads.com/Accounts/Login.aspx?fa=1&lang=en). <https://secure.tads.com/Accounts/Login.aspx?fa=1&lang=en>. If you have applied for financial assistance through TADS for NELHS, there is no need to apply through TADS again.
2. 250 word essay by the student as to why Christian education is important to the student
3. Minimum GPA of 3.0

Application deadline is **May 1, 2018**. Contact the church office if you have any questions about the grant or need assistance with the application process.

Disclaimer: Gethsemane is acting as the administrator for this grant. Fund quantities and availability are dependent upon the Foundation and will be administered based on that availability.

DEACONS

MUD completed its inspection of the newly installed furnaces and we are good to go!

The word as of late has been ICE. Between the snow and the thunder hail, the parking lot has been really slippery. The roof snow that melts has caused a lot of slick spots near the school entrance. The gutters and downspouts seem unable to contain the dripping water, and it spills over the gutters. We may need to do some investigating in the spring into why the runoff doesn't go through the underground downspouts. We continue to throw ice-melt on the sidewalk to de-ice; however, we ask that you still be really cautious.



The floors in the fellowship hall and hallways were buffed on the 16th of February. We hope to have this done a couple of times per year.

The biggest news is that we are scheduling a CLEANING PARTY!! We could use lots of hands to help us deep scrub the building before Easter. A checklist of tasks to be completed will be posted in the fellowship hall. We are getting together on **Saturday, March 17th** to see if we can't check off some of the items. Please come and help! Bring your favorite rags, buckets, and scrubbers.

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

Sunday School starts each week at 9:15 a.m. Preschool through 6th grade meets in the sanctuary from 9:15-9:30 for the opening, offering, and songs and then proceeds with their teacher to their classrooms for their lessons. 7th and 8th grade students report to their classroom for their lesson. Guests are always welcome!

Every student is important to our Sunday School classes. Please help your child to be on time and attend as often as possible. Join us for songs, stories, games, crafts and discussions that teach us God's Word. We carefully prepare lessons each week and look forward to sharing God's word with as many students as possible.

We will be working with Miss Hunt during opening to learn the Palm Sunday Processional Song. All children, preschool-8th grade, of Gethsemane Church and School are welcome to participate. Palm Sunday is March 25th. Please have your students to church by 7:45 a.m. so we can make sure they all have palms and are in the correct order.

March Sunday School Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade

- 4 - Joseph Forgives His Brothers
- 11 - Gabriel Visits Zechariah and Mary
- 18 - John Is Born
- 25 - Jesus Is Born

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



He Lives! We Live!

Easter 4 Kids

When: Saturday, March 24, 2018
9:00am - 11:30am

Where: Gethsemane Lutheran Church & School
4040 N 108th St, Omaha, NE 68164

For: Age 3 - 5th grade

Register online at www.gethsemanelutheran.com
Have questions? Call 402-493-2550

STEWARDSHIP

Mark your calendars for some fun activities coming up!



We will have an Open Gym/3 on 3 Tourney on Sunday, March 18th from 3 to 5 p.m. at Genesis Health Club (1212 North 102nd Street). Enter through the main Genesis entrance on the southeast side and let them know you're there for the Gethsemane Open Gym. A sign-up sheet for the 3 on 3 tourney will be on the table in the fellowship hall with additional details

Our Annual Gethsemane camping trip will be July 27-29, 2018, at the Fremont State Recreation Area, Fremont, Nebraska. This year we will be utilizing the website Reserveamerica.com for reservations. Gethsemane members are responsible for their own reservations and are encouraged to reserve a spot as soon as possible, as availability decreases going into spring and summer. Campsites are \$20 a night.

To Reserve a site:

- ✓ Type www.reserveamerica.com into your web browser.
- ✓ Type Fremont, SRA into the "Where do you want to explore" search bar and then select Fremont SRA from the drop down.
- ✓ Click the blue "Check Availability" button on the next screen under Fremont SRA.
- ✓ On the next screen, Enter July 27, 2018 into the date field, and enter in the number of nights that you wish to stay in the "Length of Stay" field. Then click "Search Available"

We will use the campsite area as in the past, which is the "Pathfinder Campground Loop" between Lake 10 and Lake 16. Camper sites in this area are 1-10, 76-79 and tent sites 200-203. Available sites will appear as blue icons. Click on the available site you want. Confirm your selection on the next screen. You will then need to either sign in or create an account to proceed with checkout.

Please contact the Stewardship Board of any questions.



BOOK CLUB

If you're reading this before February 27th, we haven't yet had our February get-together at Liz's to discuss **What Alice Forgot** by Liane Moriarty. Please join us if you'd like! Actually reading the book—not required. We have a great time with fellowship!

March sees us meeting at Dawn's to discuss **Jesus Cow** by Michael Perry. That will be Tuesday, March 27th at 7 p.m.

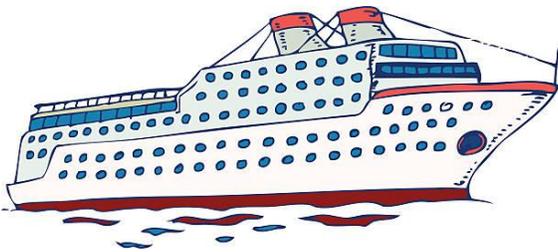
We will wrap up our book club "year" by meeting in April on the 24th to discuss **The Midnight Watch** by David Dyer. Jean will be our host. As of this writing I have not had an update on the status of Elfi Lee joining us to discuss her book, **Watching Over Me**. Please stay tuned to this newsletter or perhaps the church bulletin if she becomes available at a later date for that event.

Reminder - we would love any and all suggestions for future books to read and discuss.

Becky G

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

Pastor James Humann, retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him and some other WELS members on a new travel adventure. Instead of the usual land/bus tours he has hosted in the past, he is offering a thirteen day Scandinavia & St. Petersburg, Russia cruise tour. The tour dates are September 12-24, 2018. The ship is the luxurious Norwegian Breakaway, a five star Grand Class superliner of the Norwegian Cruise Line. The ports of call include St. Petersburg, Russia, home of the world famous Hermitage Museum; Warnemunde, Germany, the gateway to the historic capital city of Berlin; Tallinn, Estonia, medieval city with its cobblestone streets and watchtowers; Helsinki, Finland with its ultra-modern architecture; Stockholm, Sweden with its intricate waterways; Copenhagen, Denmark, home of Hans Christian Anderson. For a brochure describing the daily



itinerary, General Conditions and costs, e-mail Pastor Humann at JHumann383@aol.com.

Only a few spots remain for this travel opportunity!

LMSG



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many thanks to those of you who continue to assist the Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) with your time, talent and treasure.

LMSG is pleased to report that in 2017, the third year of our existence, WELS and ELS members contributed \$36,300 during our November Veterans Day “Ammo Can” campaign as compared to \$22,000 in 2016. THANK YOU to those who were willing and able to help.

Total donations in 2017 were more than \$60,000 and they were distributed to numerous causes (Grants Awarded). Our website, Facebook and administrative costs were covered by the remaining contributions. Board members are not paid.

During 2018 LMSG is emphasizing and focusing attention on the needs of WELS/ELS veterans and their loved ones. For example, one program is providing eight stipends to Armed Forces members who are students at our WELS/ELS pastoral seminaries in Mequon and Mankato. We expect to expand stipends to other colleges, too.

LMSG is evaluating “pilot” programs in Wisconsin and Colorado this year for veterans dealing with Post Traumatic Stress. If successful, they will be expanded.

Grants to ensure the continuation of Armed Forces Network weekly broadcasts of Lutheran programs are planned.

The LMSG website will be maintained and enlarged. Facebook and Linked-In features will be continued.

We know that our WELS and ELS programs have unanticipated needs when it comes to serving our military members and their families. LMSG evaluates and assists in meeting those needs as resources allow.

Please share your congregation’s successes with us, so we can pass them on to others. We continue to stand, shoulder to shoulder, donning the full armor of God and defending the faith.

Yours in Christ,
Erhard Opsahl
President, Lutheran Military Support Group