



gethsemane

lutheran church

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

CHILDREN OF PROMISE

Galatians 4:21-23

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise.

Paul is going to use the remainder of chapter 4 to use an actual historical event from the Old Testament to illustrate his point that grace is far superior to works. Such an illustration is called an allegory. Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit the Apostle Paul can allegorize parts of Scripture to illustrate a different point other than the one originally made by that part of Scripture. Those who allegorize Scripture today, however, force parts of Scripture to say something that they were not originally meant to say.

Today we meet the principle characters in this historical account. (Perhaps later this evening you would have time to read the account for yourself in Genesis 16). We all know Abraham. God made a special covenant with him. His descendants would inherit the Land of Canaan. His name would be great. His descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky. All nations on earth would be blessed through him (the Savior of the world would come from his family).

Three of those four promises that God had made to Abraham required that he have at least one child. At the age of 85 (his wife, Sarah, was 75) Abraham still had no children. Rather than putting his trust in the Lord to keep his promises, Abraham took matters into his own hands. He and his wife came up with a plan. They decided that Abraham should sleep with Sarah's maidservant, Hagar. Hagar could give Abraham his long-expected son. Hagar did have a son. His name was Ishmael. God told Abraham, however, that Ishmael was not the son of promise. He would have a son by his own wife. 15 years later Abraham and Sarah had that son. His name was Isaac. Those two sons - Ishmael and Isaac - are going to illustrate Paul's point in the remainder of this chapter.

A simple reminder to take home today is that it is always better to place our trust in God than to take matters into our own hands. If God has promised something, then he will do it; and he will do it in his own time. Consider the promise God made to Eve in the Garden that her Seed would crush Satan's head. It would be 4,000 years before that Seed, Jesus, would be born. We will hear Paul say later in this chapter, "When the time had fully come . . ." When it comes to our salvation, we don't take matters into our own hands. Our salvation is the result of Christ's outstretched hands on the cross. We trust in God for salvation. May we also trust in him for everything else.

PRAYER: *I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, trusting only thee - trusting thee for full salvation, great and free. Amen.*

Pastor Helwig

SCHOOL NEWS



Dear Redeemed/Restored/Forgiven children of God,

The days between Palm Sunday and Easter surely go by quickly. The self-study Bible has a great resource for all the events between the two, but all of that information can easily get lost in items like a shortened school week, plans for Easter, company in town/traveling out of town, etc.

Fortunately, most of what Easter is about is not lost on the Christian community: Special services, trumpets, choirs, changes in paraments, and the contrast in music (from Friday to Sunday). Even the worship attendance is impacted in a positive way. Don't we see some folks on Easter Sunday that we don't see regularly? The joy of Easter, the importance of the season, seems strong enough to break through hearts, apathy, and indifference. It makes Easter Sunday feel like the way it's "supposed to be" in our minds. Full house - singing volume - joy - fellowship—all are on display in full glory. We got a glimpse of that for Palm Sunday at 8 a.m. church.

Unfortunately, most of what Easter is about ends up getting lost on some in the Christian community as the weeks go on. But maybe we should put up more of a fight. Maybe we can do our little part to encourage families, individuals, friends, family members, or neighbors to come back - to keep coming back. As more and more of the Christian community are in and around the Word, the stronger and stronger the Christian community will be. As the Christian community builds in numbers and strength, so will the ministries around these Christians. That in turn can lead to even stronger and larger Christian communities.

The end result will be that Christians, as well as Christian churches, will be fulfilling their God-given missions in life. What a privilege to participate in this work! How exciting to see a full church, more than just at festival times of the church year! How edifying for our faith to hear the Word and let it motivate and direct our lives! What a blessing to see that happen to many, many others around us!

May this year's Easter joy fill all of our hearts with actions of love for God and neighbor!

In Him,
Mr. Pederson

He is risen!



The blur of the school year continues! We are on to our penultimate page of our 2017-18 calendars. Q4 is underway, the kids can start wearing shorts again (hopefully it warms up to make it worth it), musical preparations for the K-4TH graders are underway, track and volleyball are up and running, and only two report cards remain. Crazy to think the school year #70 is almost over!

We look forward to the final eight weeks of school, but some eyes are on 2018-19 already. Early registration is up and running for GLS (version 18-19). We already have four applications in for brand new students for next year, and our Kindergarten class for next year is currently at double-digits! We'd like to have the entire faculty return for another year - so we are hoping for good news on the call side of things.

GLC and GLS families should have received information regarding signing up for next year. But please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Clayton, Mr. Hinnerichs, or me with any questions.

Our school Weekly Notes and monthly calendars have the vast array of items to keep up on regarding GLS. Please contact me if you'd like to see any of what's going on here - at YOUR elementary school!

foce

(friends of christian education)



FOCE is in the midst of our spring fundraiser. If you'd like to order some butter braids (that you got to sample between services on Palm Sunday), please contact one of the students at school or the church office

The mats for under the playground have arrived and are awaiting agreeable weather so we can install them under the swings.

Sand has been purchased to refill the long jump pit and also for leveling the ground prior to the installation of the swing mats.

We appreciate everyone's help in getting this moved and everything installed!

Spring musicals, teacher appreciation week and the always popular field day are the last items on the list for our year. Watch for emails on how you can help with these and enjoy all the fun!

Thank you for clipping Box Tops for Education again this school year! Together we clipped 4,958 box tops and earned our school \$495.80!! Please keep clipping and turn them in anytime to one of the boxes in the fellowship hall or school. We will have our next submission in late October. Many thanks, from the students, for your continued support of our school.

Our next meeting is on April 10th at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there!

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

Wendee M, President

OWLS

(organization of wels lutheran seniors)



Paul Kimble, nephew of Glenn and Lois Kimble presented a view of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Marie and the recovery initiatives in 2017, at Good Shepherd. Paul went over to Puerto Rico as a recovery initiative by Veterans Administration Organization and was assigned anything from transporting water from the warehouses to setting up outside clinics after the clinics were destroyed.

He had pictures of some of the devastation. 50,000 utility poles were pulled from the ground. 95% of all of Puerto Rico lost power and some still are without power after almost a year. There is a discrepancy in numbers as to how many citizens were deceased. The government said only 6, while the local authorities indicate that 1000 or more are lost due to the fact they are missing.

Puerto Rico relies on \$1.5 billion in tourism; and because of devastation of their infrastructure, they will not see that this year.

Following the presentation, we had a soup dinner; and fellowship was enjoyed by all. 30 people were in attendance

Future meetings:

April 8, Presentation on dementia at Gethsemane at 2:00 p.m.

May 12, Mothers' day Brunch at The Garden Café with a presentation

Dick V, President
Sandy T, Secretary



HAVE YOU BEEN WONDERING how to recognize **dementia**?

Were you aware that you do not need to be advanced in years to have symptoms of **dementia**? Age is not necessarily the only contributing factor as one can be a teenager, 20, 30 or any age for that matter! **Dementia** can be induced by drugs, different life situations, etc.

How do you handle a conversation with someone who has the onset of **dementia**? Am I in the beginning stages? Not necessarily, but find out what is going on.

Come, listen to our speaker, Rick Magill, founder of Comfort Keepers on April 8, 2018 at 2 p.m. to have your questions answered.

Keep in mind—you do not have to be considered “old” to have **dementia** symptoms.....they can happen to you at any age!

Come to Gethsemane at 2 p.m. on April 8th.
Stay for coffee and good fellowship.

Wings

(women in god's service)

We had a great turnout for our March fellowship activity, going to see the movie "I Can Only Imagine." We hope everyone had a great time!

We still plan to clean the church kitchen on **April 5th at 6:30 pm.** We will have a checklist of cleaning that needs to be done, posted on the door to the kitchen. 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 so nice every year after this! Thanks!



We had scheduled our Bake Sale for last month, but decided to postpone it until **Saturday, April 7th and Sunday, April 8th.** Hopefully this allowed you a little more time to prepare if you wish to participate. The bake sale funds will go towards a new altar cloth. Most of us don't see it up close, but after many years of use, the altar cloth is starting to get worn. We would love any baked goods donations for the bake sale. But you may think outside the box as well: store bought goods individually packaged or treats from your favorite bakery, homemade spices, sauces and canned goods, sweet or savory. Donated items can be dropped off in the kitchen Friday or

before the church services Saturday and Sunday. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Please contact Rachel, Shonni, Becky, or myself with any questions or comments!

~Ginger B



LWMS (Lutheran women's missionary society)

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Thank you! A special thank you for supporting our home Befriend a Mission, Illumine Lutheran Church in Rock Hill, SC, with your offerings. With the offerings collected, gift cards will be sent to the church to buy Sunday School and art supplies, and also a restaurant gift card for Pastor and Mrs. Reeder. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! Please continue to keep their new mission in your prayers.

The Spring LWMS Rally will be held on Saturday April 18th, at Living Hope in Omaha. The rally begins at 9:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Pastor Joel Heckendorf, and he will speak on Outreach to Muslims. Make plans to attend!

The 52nd Annual LWMS Convention will be held on June 25-28, 2015 in Rapid City, SD! The theme is, “Lift High the Cross in the Hills.” The convention newsletter is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. There are several people planning to attend from Gethsemane, so please let me know if you are interested in attending. The convention is such an uplifting experience!

2015-2016 Befriend a Missionaries:

-- World Missionary—Mr. Pasch
Chiang Rai, Thailand

--Home Missionary—Pastor Kent Reeder
Illumine Lutheran Church Rock Hill, SC

April Prayer Requests

- The work being done in South Carolina.
- The work being done in Thailand.
- The work being done by our Befriend a Missionaries.

~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 lost their first round Sub District game.
- The boys' basketball team lost in the Sub District final.
- The Speech team had three performers who competed at state.
- The NELHS Quiz Bowl team will compete in the District competition on March 28.

Spring Activities

- Track and JV soccer are both off to a great start! JV soccer is 3-0 and the boys' track team won a meet and took second place in another.

Call News

- Nate Nolte of Fox Valley Lutheran High School returned his call for the math position. We will call again soon.
- Pastor Brohn and Mr. Bremer are still deliberating their calls to be campus pastor and principal respectively.

Support

- This year marked our most successful “Knight Out” ever. 115 tickets were sold--ten more than the previous high last year. Koine performed for the evening’s entertainment. Net proceeds from the event were \$17,000.00—an all-time high. Suggestions are being taken for next year’s entertainment. Please email Twila at tfickel@nelhs.org with any ideas.

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 contact Interim Administrator David Ring at dring@nelhs.org or 402-534-0065 or 402-902-9432.

Upcoming Events

- March 29th - April 2nd Easter Break
- This year’s musical, Madagascar, will be performed for elementary students on Thursday April 12th with an evening performance on Friday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. A matinee performance is scheduled for Sunday, April 15th at 3:00 p.m.
- May 4th Prom
- May 12th Graduation



deacons

Volunteers showed up on Saturday, March 17th, to help with the spring cleaning at Gethsemane. While we didn’t quite get finished, we put a big dent into the work list. Light fixtures in the building were cleaned and light bulbs changed, vents throughout

the building were vacuumed out, and several chairs in the fellowship hall were cleaned. Thank you to those who came to help that day and other days! If you have some time, the rest of the chairs could use a scrubbing. Inquire at the church office.

We hope that winter is behind us as well as the snow and ice. The mowing list will be generated soon! If you’d like to help out with mowing and you didn’t include this on your time and talents sheet, please let the church office know!

The floor stripping and waxing has been scheduled for June 12th for the classrooms and June 19th for the fellowship hall and hallways. As usual, we’ll need some muscles to help us move things out of the classrooms. Please stay tuned to emails and bulletin announcements.

Thank you to Paul H and his guys for fixing some drywall spots. They even got the crack above Pastor Helwig’s office door fixed. It looks great!

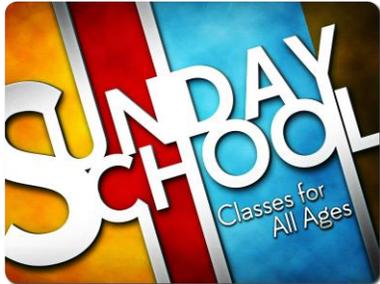
Several outdoor projects are on the docket for this spring/summer. When the weather cooperates, the sidewalk by the trees along Old Maple will be fixed to make it even, avoiding a tripping hazard. The concrete in the driveway of the church parking lot also needs to be replaced as it is chipping out. Long term goals include painting the church exterior.

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 will meet in the sanctuary from 9:15-9:30 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. 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.

April Sunday School Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade

- 1 - No Class- Easter Sunday
- 8 - Wise Men Worship Jesus
- 15 - Herod's Wicked Plan
- 22 - The Boy Jesus in the Temple
- 29 - The Baptism of Jesus

The month of April has a day and a week for volunteer appreciation. I wanted to let all our Sunday School teachers, who volunteer their time, talents, and resources to all of our children here at Gethsemane on Sundays, know how appreciated they are! Thanks so much for all your service. I appreciate your commitment this school year!

Thank you! See you Sunday!

Nickie Landis, Sunday School Coordinator

evangelism

The Board of Evangelism is planning a new outreach initiative that will get underway after Easter. Currently we have been sending 100 flyers every month with information about Gethsemane Church and School to new movers in northwest Omaha. The Board of Evangelism would like to organize a team of members to begin making these visits in April. Making 100 door-to-door visits every month may seem intimidating at first, but we would only expect you to visit a few homes each month, and if we get 20-25 (or even more!) volunteers, we would be able to visit most (if not all) of these homes every month. These visits wouldn't involve much more than introducing yourselves as being from Gethsemane and asking if they have any questions about the church or school. More information will be provided at an orientation session at a later date and time.

Please give prayerful consideration to volunteering for this, as it may not only serve to grow Gethsemane Church and School but may also be an edifying experience for your faith as well. For more information, please contact either Andrew H or Pastor Koester.

Stewardship

How can we be good Stewards?

We learn in the book of Genesis that God created everything and entrusted Adam to work in the Garden of Eden and care for God's creation.

It is also stated in Psalm 24:1 "the earth is the Lord's and everything in it." From this we can see that we are only temporary possessors of what is God's. Stewardship is the commitment of oneself and possessions to God's service. One way that we can practice good Stewardship is by being faithful with the gifts and blessings God has given to us. Paul writes to the Philippian Church who faithfully supported his mission in Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." We know that if we are faithful with God's gifts and give faithfully back to God, he will supply all our needs.

My God supplies
ALL MY NEEDS ACCORDING
TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY
by Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:19

- We had a great turnout for the Open Gym / 3 on 3 Tourney held on March 18th. Congratulations to the team of Todd L, Doug V and Noah B (with a substitution from Justin B) for taking first place. The team of Andrew H, Tregan B and Rob L were the runners up.
- Reminder to reserve your campsite soon for the Annual Gethsemane Camping Trip. At last check there are 5 pad sites and 4 tent sites still available in the immediate campground loop.
 - July 27th - 29th, 2018
 - Fremont State Recreation Area, Fremont NE
 - 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

April sees us reaching the end of our book club "year." We will be meeting on Tuesday, April 24th with Jean R being our host. We will meet at 7 p.m. to discuss **The Midnight Watch** by David Dyer. A reminder to all - you are always welcome to join us whether you've had the opportunity to read our current selection or now. It's a wonderful evening of some great fellowship and worth a couple of hours of your time.

We will be off during the months of May, June and July and then will resume at the end of August for a new book club year of good discussion and fellowship. Don't forget that we're looking for ideas of books for our summer reading list so if you've recently read a book you think we would all enjoy, please be sure to share with us. We'll publish our list as soon as we have it finalized.

Becky G

good shepherd call news

Pastor Justin Dauks returned the Divine Call to serve at Good Shepherd. Pastor Helwig continues to serve as the vacancy pastor there. Please keep him and Good Shepherd in your prayers. The next call date is Thursday, April 5th.