



GETHSEMANE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

A FREE JERUSALEM

Galatians 4:24-27

These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written: "Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labor pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband."

Last month in our newsletter devotion, Paul made mention of the two women who bore sons to Abraham - his wife Sarah and his wife's servant Hagar. Those two women and their sons - Isaac and Ishmael, respectively - represented two different covenants. Sarah's was a covenant of freedom. Hagar's was a covenant of slavery. Members of the covenant of freedom are members of the "Jerusalem that is above." This is a reference to the Invisible Church of God. It is a reference to all who, by faith, trust that they are saved by grace alone apart from works. They are free from the requirements of the Mosaic Law. (They are also freed from sin and death. In this freedom they are now free to keep God's Ten Commandments out of love and gratitude.) Members of the covenant of slavery are members of the "present city of Jerusalem" (a reference to the Judaizers who were requiring Old Testament rituals to be done by Gentile Christians) and to Mount Sinai where Moses gave the Israelites the ceremonial law.

There are two camps - freedom and slavery. Having explained his allegory, Paul will now apply his allegory - we save that for June. Understand, though, that in this world there really are only two religions. The one religion is the "Do's." The "Do's" are those who teach and preach that a person must do something to get right with God, be it a little or a lot. That religion can come in many different forms and take on many different names. The only true religion, however, and the only religion that makes us right with God is the "Done's." The "Done's" teach and preach that Jesus has done everything for our salvation; we don't do anything, nor could we. The "Do's" fall into the slavery covenant. The "Done's" fall into the freedom covenant.

PRAYER: *May I always appreciate everything you have done to make my salvation complete, O Lord. Amen.*

Pastor Helwig

Area Ascension Worship will be held at Sumtur Amphitheater
(108th & Hwy. 370 behind Papillion South High School)
on Sunday, May 13 at 9:30 a.m.
No Services will be held at Gethsemane that whole weekend.

SCHOOL NEWS

In the name of our Risen and Ascended Lord -

What is one thing in your life right now that you wish you did differently?

- Exercise more, get more sleep, eat less junk food
- Read more, watch less TV, spend more time either outside or with the kids
- Work smarter - not harder, stop and smell the roses

What if you made your list regarding spiritual matters? Our list could include things like taking advantage of Bible study opportunities, improving our worship regularity, and developing our devotional life.

What about “pray more”? Would that be on that list? I would imagine that we all can say we could, and should, find more time for prayer. Maybe the month of May is a great time to give it a try. A significant prayer list item would be our confirmation class of 2018. This group of students of the Word stands poised to enter the next stage of their spiritual life. Years ago, parents, sponsors, and congregation ALL made promises regarding these particular students at their baptisms to do for them whatever was necessary to keep them connected to the Word that was connected with that water. Have we lost track of those promises? In terms of the congregation, the promises went something like this -



Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us to assist in whatever manner possible so that _____ may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

If indeed we have lost track of our promises, let us all be renewed in a very important role - showing care and concern for the spiritual well-being of our brothers and sisters in Christ. This is especially true of the young ones - the newly baptized, the elementary student learning more and more about God’s Word and their Savior Jesus every day, and the confirmands (not only this year, but every year). It might also be good to remember our high school students in our prayers. That stage of life and that current culture is so challenging when it comes to faith and their walk with Jesus. Now that I think of it, college kids could sure use our prayers. The philosophies and teachings of this world that are not being whispered into their ears, but boldly proclaimed and sometimes in direct opposition to their faith and beliefs - surely, they need prayers for strength and guidance. I would be remiss to leave out all the rest of our brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter what stage of life they are in - each one poses new and difficult challenges that are unique to each individual.

We also pray for those who don’t know, don’t believe, used to believe. We pray for the work of our church, school, high school, district, synod, missionaries, worker-training system. We pray for safety, stability, law enforcement and other public servants, military, peace among nations.

Whew! That’s a lot to pray for. Let’s get after it! Together!

God bless your prayers!
Mr. Pederson

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Please also keep the graduating class of Gethsemane Lutheran School in your prayers. Students will be listed next month along with their high school destination.

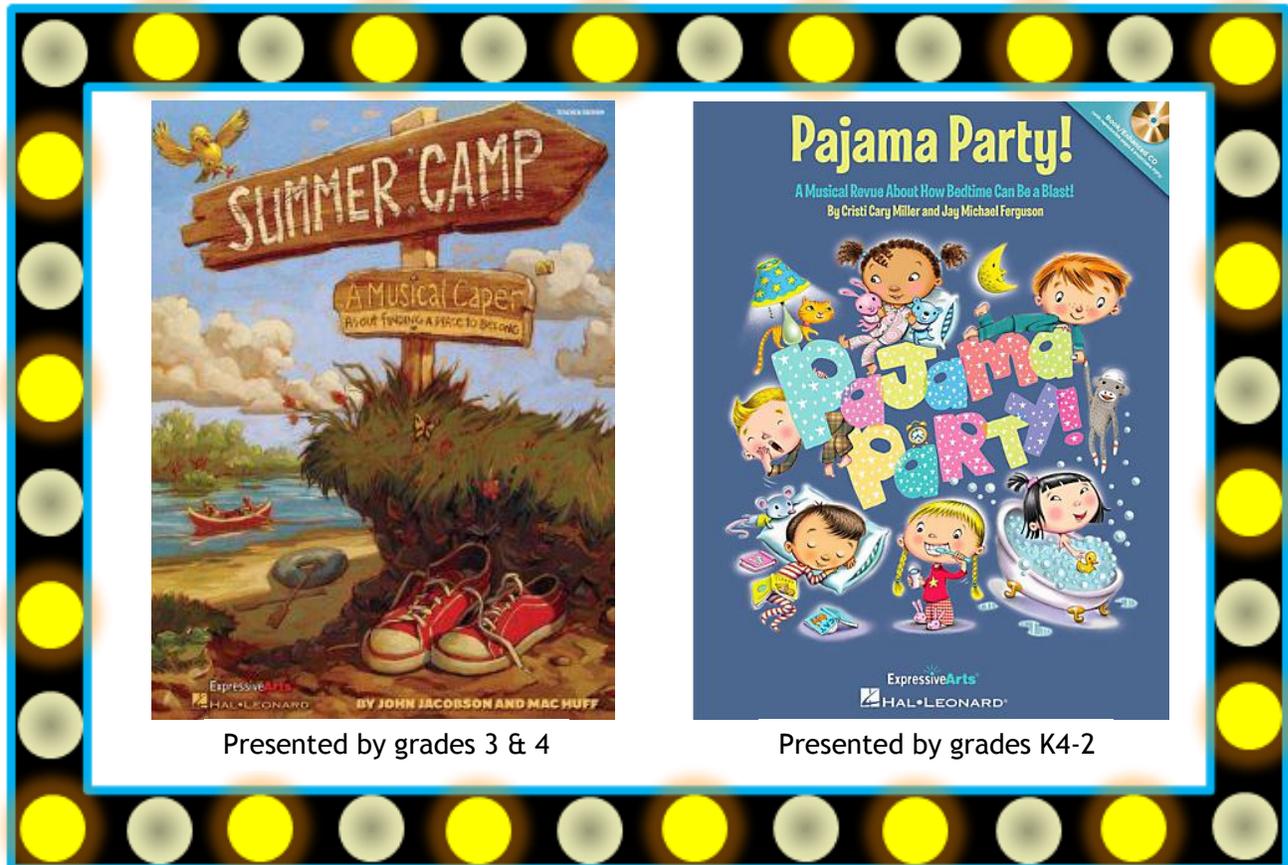
We are winding down with four weeks of school in May. We are taking a new day off this May. We call it “Confirmation Monday.” This day off highlights the importance of confirmation, and it also gives parents a chance to regroup after a busy (and crazy) day, get visiting family members back on the road home, and clean up! We thank the School Board for giving that day this consideration.

Our spring musicals will be held Thursday and Friday, May 17-18, at 6:30 p.m. (both nights). Grades K4-4TH will be participating. Look for more promotion coming up! Fellowship will be enjoyed after the Friday night performance. Join us! A dress rehearsal will be held on Thursday, May 17 (mid-morning). Look for that option if you can’t make one of the evening shows.

No fewer than 56 of our GLS students are participating in track this spring. Our three meets are held over a span of 7 days (Sat/Tue/Sat). We hope for nice sunny days to allow us to get all three meets in. We also are running two squads of volleyball in the YMCA's spring league. Games will be winding down by May 19. We thank all of our track and volleyball coaches, 10 total folks involved this spring!

Our roster is being built up for next year. We are still receiving prospect calls and visits. May God bless us with all the little lambs he plans for us to have for 2018-19. Please contact me with any questions regarding GLS for Christian elementary education.

Lots of other events are planned for the last month, weeks, and days of school. Join us if you can. See bulletin announcements or the school's weekly note for more details.



Presented by grades 3 & 4

Presented by grades K4-2

FOCE

(FRIENDS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION)


**KEEP
 CALM
 SCHOOL
 IS ALMOST
 OVER**

FINALLY!

FOCE is winding down another school year and wanting to thank EVERYONE for their continued support! We wrapped up our butterbraids spring fundraiser and are happy to report the kids did amazing!! Thank you to all who sold these and helped us reach our goal!

- \$50.00 was raised at our latest Pizza West fundraiser week...this is in addition to the \$100.00 raised last fall.
- \$213.18 was raised by collecting HyVee receipts!
- \$154.90 was raised through collecting box tops!

Some quick math tells us we were able to raised around \$500 with little to no effort - cutting box tops, saving receipts and having a night off of cooking....this helps SO MUCH! This is equivalent to a new piano for a classroom, or 3 mats for our kindergarten classroom, or 7 mats for under our swing set! THANK YOU!!

We will be finishing out the year with our Teacher Appreciation Week and, lastly, field day. Please look for emails to find out how you can help to say thank you to our teachers for all they do as well as how you can help make field day a success!

Our new officers will take over at the end of the year....welcome Becky G in as your new president and Liz G as your secretary! Saying goodbye are Wendee M and Liz K....thanks ladies!

Wendee M, President

OWLS

ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS)



Rick MaGill, founder of Comfort Keepers presented “Recognizing Symptoms of Dementia and Alzheimer’s.”

In 2018, Alzheimer’s and other dementias will cost the nation \$277 billion and by 2050, these costs could rise by \$1.1 trillion. 5.7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s today and by 2050 this number is projected to rise to nearly 14 million. Every 65 seconds someone in the United States develops the disease.

Alzheimer’s is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S. Mr. Magill had several handouts with facts, causes and types of dementia. OWLS also filmed the presentation. It can be found online at <https://youtu.be/Xn79CtdCl4>. He discussed symptoms and identified specific behavior patterns, as well as techniques to use with your loved

ones. He shared six steps for a healthy brain and a stress free life. Comfort Keepers provides in-home care and is an excellent resource for individuals to remain in the comfort of their own homes.

CROSS GENERATIONS LITTER PICK-UP

On Friday, May 11th, the OWLS will be working with the 7th and 8th graders from Good Shepherd and Gethsemane schools doing litter pickup at Roanoke and Sunny Slope parks (north off 108th Street, east and west on Fowler). We will meet at Gethsemane on or about 11:30 a.m. for lunch and then go to the parks for the pickups. There may be as many as 45 seventh and eighth graders who will be involved with this project. It’s part of the Keep Omaha Beautiful program.

Future meetings:

- **May 12** - 12:30 p.m. - Mother’s Day Brunch at The Garden Café with a presentation on the holy land by Pastor Koester and Joel Koch, which they have both visited.
- **June 10** - Visit Lauritzen Gardens after a group lunch.

*Dick V, President
Sandy T, Secretary*



WINGS

(WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE)

Thank you so much for all who helped with cleaning the church kitchen in April! It was greatly appreciated!

Thanks to those who support the bake sale held on the weekend of April 7th/8th. We were pleased that we raised around \$400 that we can use to put towards new altar cloths.

We will have our final WINGS meeting before the summer on Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00 p.m. at LaMesa (11002 Emmet Street). We hope you can join us!

If you have any other questions, please contact the officers or the church office. It has been another great year serving our church through our WINGS group!

~Ginger B



LWMS

(LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY)

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”
~Matthew 4:19

The Spring LWMS Rally was held this past Saturday at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hadar. Look for more information on details from the spring LWMS rally in the June newsletter.

Pastor and Mrs. Heitch served in Cheyenne, Wyoming, for many years, before accepting a Call to serve as missionaries in Cameroon, Africa, late last summer. Now there is political unrest throughout the country, and they must temporarily return to the United States for their safety. Please keep them in your prayers, as they go through many transitions in the weeks ahead.

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. It’s not too late to register! Consider Green Bay as your travel destination this summer!

May Prayer Requests

-Our Befriend a Missionaries.

-The missionaries and work being done in Cameroon.

-The graduates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and Martin Luther College as they receive their Calls into the ministry.

~Leslie B



NELHS

(NEBRASKA EV. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL)

Some great news at Nebraska Lutheran is that NELHS alum Steven (Skip) Bremer has accepted the call as the administrator to lead NELHS into the next 40 years! Mr. Bremer was in the first freshman class at NELHS back in 1979. Currently, he is finishing up as Director of Guidance and Counseling at Wisconsin Lutheran High School in Milwaukee, WI. Mr. Bremer earned a Masters of

Education, Educational Administration and Supervision. He is excited to get back to Nebraska Lutheran!

The students at Nebraska Lutheran are winding down the school year! Graduation is only a few weeks away and they will once again head home for the summer. Until that time, the students are keeping busy.

The spring musical, Madagascar, was performed to full houses on April 13 and 15. The show was very entertaining, and it even impressed some folks from the York News Times.

The varsity Quiz Bowl team finished first in the district competition and then competed at the State Quiz Bowl competition, finishing in the top 10. The junior varsity team finished as runner up at districts. Way to go!

The Speechies have been busy as well. Three students competed in the State speech meet at UNK on March 24th, with one student placing 6th in poetry.

The soccer and track teams are doing well! Soccer is currently 5-2; the track team has placed in the top three in their meets.

Upcoming events at NELHS include:

- ✓ May 4 - prom in York
- ✓ May 5 - LES track meet in Utica
- ✓ May 11 - Last day of school
 - 6 p.m. Awards Banquet
 - 7:30 p.m. Commencement Concert
 - 9:15 p.m. Pre-Grad Party
- ✓ May 12 - Graduation at 10 a.m.
- ✓ June 10-13 Multi-sports camp for grades 5 through 9

Pastor Dan Naumann from Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, has been called to be our next campus pastor. Please keep him in your prayers. Nebraska Lutheran still needs to fill the math and activities director positions. We will most likely be going to the assignment committee for help in filling these positions as well as the tutor positions.

So far, we have 19 new applicants for the 2018-19 school year—17 freshmen and 2 sophomores. If you know of anyone who may be interested in a quality Christian education, please contact Mr. David Ring, Interim Administrator at dring@nelhs.org.



DEACONS

The Deacons have been working hard to get the parsonage fixed up so it can be rented out. This has included painting and some repairs to the kitchen. We would like to rent this to a member, so if this is something that might interest you, please contact the church office.

The mowing schedule will be coming out soon! We have a few guys who have volunteered to get us started. We will use the folks who indicated an interest on the Time and Talents Sheets. If you didn't mow last year but would like to give it a try this year, 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.

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 contact the church office so the issues can be addressed.

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

DISCIPLESHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



We are winding down for the Sunday School Year! We will have one Sunday School Class in May. Look for Summer Opportunities soon!

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

May Sunday School Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade

6 - No Class, Confirmation Sunday

13 - No Class, Ascension Service

20 - Jesus Is Tempted

27 - No Class, Memorial Day Weekend, end of School year

See you Sunday!

Nickie L, Sunday School Coordinator

TEEN GROUP GET-TOGETHER

All Gethsemane 9th-12th graders are invited to a get-together on Saturday, May 12. It will be held here at Gethsemane, and we'll plan to start things off at 6:30. The evening will include: pizza and other snacks; devotion (bring your Book of Concord); "Minute to win it" games. The goal of this get-together is to have fun with fellow Christian teens, grow in our knowledge of God's Word and, if we can, come up with some ideas of future events for our Teen Group. There is no cost or any need to bring anything. Just show up (with a friend?) and have some fun!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible study continues to meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m. at the HyVee cafe on 108th and Fort Street. We are currently studying the book of Revelation. At the time of this publication, we had just finished chapter 11 and are moving on to chapter 12. Men, check it out if you can. We're always happy to have more join us for fellowship and study!

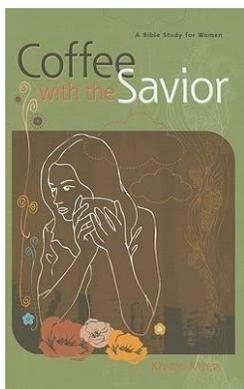
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Now is the perfect time for anyone to join us for Bible study on Tuesday mornings at 6 a.m. at McDonald's at 108th and Emmet!

Have you ever thought about what you want in a friend? The innate yearning for relationship is not an accident. God designed us for relationship—with Him and with those He places in our lives.

We are beginning a new study called "Coffee with the Savior." In this study, we hope to discover the many ways He shares our burdens (Matthew 11:28-30), forgives our wrongdoing, and redeems us forever (Psalm 103:3-4). We will also learn more about one of God's chosen people—Moses. Studying what Scripture tells us about his life and his relationship to God will teach us even more about responding to the gifts of God.

Come and join us! We'll grab a cup of coffee and have Coffee with the Savior.



EVANGELISM

NEW MOVER FOLLOW-UP

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. **An orientation session will be held on Monday, April 30th at Gethsemane.**

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 Pastor Koester.

STEWARDSHIP



- A new method of on-line giving is coming soon to the Gethsemane Church website. Once it is up and running, members will be able to set safe and secure one time or automatic recurring offerings right from their computers or smart phones. Look for more information to be shared this month.
- Reminder to reserve your campsite soon for the Annual Gethsemane Camping Trip. At last check there are 3 pad sites and 3 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



philipmartin.info

- You will then need to either sign in or create an account to proceed with checkout.
- Please contact the Stewardship Board of any questions.

CHOIR!

A joint rehearsal will take place at Living Hope (168th north of Q Street) on May 9th at 7 p.m. for those participating in the Ascension worship choir. Join us!

IT'S CAMP TIME!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CAMP

Registration for Rocky Mountain Christian Camp is open. This year camp is running July 14-21. All registrations will take place online this year. There are no forms to download. Please go to the website where you will find a link to the registration page. There is a maximum amount of camper and Junior Counselors that we can accept (60 boy campers, 60 girl campers, 24 girl JCs, 24 boy JCs). If we hit the max number of campers and junior counselors, applicants will be put on a waiting list, so please apply as soon as possible.

Rocky Mountain Christian Camp (RMCC), located in Leadville, Colorado, gives our young people an opportunity for Christian fellowship with others of their same faith. RMCC aims to assist youth in their spiritual growth while offering them a unique camping experience in the Rocky Mountains. The camp is attended by youth from all over, including New Mexico, Utah, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

Youth entering 6th grade thru 9th grade are eligible to attend as campers. Older teens entering 10th grade thru 12th grade may serve as Junior Counselors, provided they have attended RMCC in the past. The cost is \$150 per person (includes all food & tents).

For more information and to register ONLINE see: <http://www.rmcc-wels.com>.

NEBRASKA LUTHERAN MULTI-SPORTS CAMP

Registration is open for this camp at Waco, Nebraska, which will be held June 10th through June 13th. This camp is for boys and girls entering grades 5th through 9th. It's a great opportunity to be introduced to the sports offered at Nebraska Lutheran and to make great friends who will someday be your teammates in a caring Christian environment. Rates: \$75 On-Campus Rate (includes 8 meals, lodging, awards, and t-shirt); or \$60 Commuter Rate (includes 8 meals, awards, and t-shirt). Please send in your registration no later than Friday, May 25th.

For more information, brochures are available on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall.

WELS CAMP JEFFERSON

WELS Camp Jefferson is a Christian summer camp located just outside of Fairbury, Nebraska, that is associated with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We offer two separate camps: a youth camp, for children entering third through eighth grades, and a teen camp, for young adults entering high school through age 19. Both camps provide fun and fellowship in a safe, Christ-centered environment. The camp is staffed by dedicated volunteers, who direct the camp activities under the leadership of the Camp Director. WELS Camp Jefferson is located at the Camp Jefferson campground south of Fairbury, Nebraska.

This year's youth camp will be July 27th through July 29th. The teen camp will be July 29th through August 1st.

Registration for Camp Jefferson opens on May 7, 2018. For more information, please go to <https://welscampjefferson-welsne.org>.



BOOK CLUB

I was unable to join book club for our April get-together. Dawn Beck supplied the following for this article.....

We had a great time discussing **The Midnight Watch** by David Dyer! Thanks, Jean R., for hosting!! We had an amazing spread of food and wine. Here are some books that we discussed for summer. Our first meeting back for the upcoming 2018-19 Book Club year will be August 28th.

Several books were suggested for summer reading....

On Fire by John O'Leary
The Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly
The Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall and Denver Moore
The Stars are Fire by Anita Shrede
The Lake House by Kate Morton

We will decide later this summer which book will be discussed in August. Also - if anyone has additional suggestions for Book Club reading, please let us know.

My thanks to all who were able to participate in Book Club this past year. We had some great reads, some good reads and some not so good reads but every evening of discussion was ALWAYS a marvelous evening of fellowship!

So enjoy your summer and keep reading! We'll see you in August.

Becky G

GOOD SHEPHERD CALL NEWS

Rev. Dan Lindner currently holds the Divine Call to serve as pastor at Good Shepherd. Pastor Helwig continues to serve as the vacancy pastor there. Please keep him and Good Shepherd in your prayers.

LMSG



As Memorial Day approaches, our congregation's Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is asking for donations in support of our military men, women, and their families. LMSG, a partnership of ELS and WELS veterans, is working to grow awareness of and bring Christian support to military members and their families in our congregations and beyond.

This Memorial Weekend, we will be participating in the AMMO Can drive. By placing your gift in the AMMO can which will be located in the narthex, you are supporting the work of local congregations that are ministering to nearby military families, the WELS European chaplain program and global broadcasts of Time of Grace to our military.

If you have any questions about the LMSG, please speak with Tom Kroon, our congregational liaison or visit www.lutheranmilitary.org.

Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with those serving our nation!!

To all our moms:

