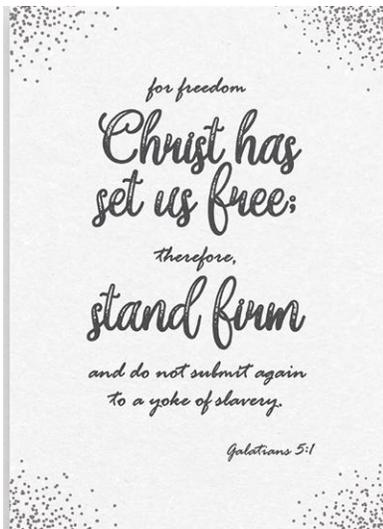


Ge+Hsemane

Lutheran Church

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



STAND FIRM

Galatians 5:1-6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again, I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Paul said, “You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.” This is a serious claim on Paul’s part but there was too much at stake to soft step the issue. Paul couldn’t afford to sugarcoat his message. He couldn’t worry about offending anyone or hurting anyone’s feelings. He couldn’t stand idly by and watch people throw away God’s free salvation. His point is simple: “Give in on one small point, make one concession, and not only do the Judaizers win but Satan wins as well. Obligate yourself to one ritual or one good deed or one special law and be prepared to keep every single one of God’s laws for salvation.” Such a choice becomes ridiculous when Paul points out that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value before Jesus anyway. Jesus never said, “Whoever believes and is circumcised will be saved.”

The only thing that matters is faith - faith in Christ that receives God’s free forgiveness. Note also what Paul said about this “receiving-faith.” It will show itself in action. Saving faith in Christ expresses itself - to God and to others - through love. It was James who said, “Faith without works is dead.” Paul here is saying that works follow faith. The Judaizers would say that works lead to faith. May we stand firm in the Gospel of free forgiveness and in the freedom that we have. May we use that freedom to express our faith in loving words and actions.

PRAYER: *Lord, forgive me for the times I have not only failed to love but also for the times I actually chose to hate. Amen.*

Pastor Helwig

Out of town on the weekend?

Living Hope Lutheran Church at 168th & Q offers an informal midweek service to which you are invited on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.



School News

Summer greetings!

Well, the summer is upon us. The initial part of summer is dedicated to trying to wrap up the school year that just concluded. Then, possibly the Nebraska District Convention, the floors getting done (THANK YOU to those who helped move the furniture), VBS after that, and all the sudden - it's July!

July is our transition month. New email lists will be generated. Graduate and transfer students get their records transferred to their new schools. Curriculum will be ordered. Supply lists will be developed and distributed. Home visits will be on the horizon. Our annual summer in-service with the

other Nebraska WELS schools will occur out at Nebraska Lutheran. Final registration items will also be coming together - whew! Looking forward to it!

We thank everyone who pitched in for our annual VBS effort this year. We pray we reach a good number of families that can learn just as much as their kids do at our event.

All K-8 students of Gethsemane church are invited to participate in teams for the fall YMCA soccer season. Please look for information very soon about how to sign up players and/or volunteer to help. Practices are held at GLS after school. Please contact Mr. Pederson with any questions.

Next month, we'll introduce our 2018-19 school year theme. The WELS schools in Nebraska, KC, and Colorado will again all join under the same theme together in the unity of our ministries.

Enjoy a safe and fun Independence Day holiday and the rest of July as well!

Mr. Pederson

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



June found the OWLS, sixteen members strong, gathered at Lauritzen Gardens in south Omaha. Our day started with a lunch at the Lauritzen café with fellowship and a brief meeting. Next stop was a tram ride around the beautiful gardens that overlook the Missouri River valley, the area that Lewis and Clark once explored.

A number of OWLS completed the orientation at the Open Door Mission and will soon be assisting with serving meals.

Next stop for the OWLS will be an afternoon picnic at the Soaring Wings winery near Springfield. We plan to gather at 2:00 pm on July 8th for music and refreshments.

Come join us, guests are welcome!

*Dick V, President;
Sandy T, Secretary*



LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

The 55th Annual LWMS Rally was in Green Bay, WI, on June 21-24, 2018! Stay tuned to next month's newsletter for a convention recap.

nelhs

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Nebraska Lutheran is looking forward to the arrival and help from the new administrator, Mr. Skip Bremer.

Pastor Tim Bode declined the call to be the campus pastor. Another call will be sent soon.

The "Tee it Up for Tuition" golf outing will be July 28th in Norfolk. Please contact Benjy Wells for more information at bwells@nelhs.org

Deacons



THANK YOU to those who helped move the stuff out of the classrooms, then back into the classrooms, then out of the hallways, fellowship hall, and kitchen, and then back into the hallways, fellowship hall, and kitchen. The floor stripping and waxing is completed for another year. Whew! It's a huge job!

The flowers really look pretty on the west side of the building. Thanks to our landscape baron who tends to these. If you see a weed or two that needs to be pulled, please do so!

The property mowers are doing a great job! The dandelions were sprayed back in May, and they seem to have stayed away. A nicely manicured property says a lot to our neighbors. Thank you to those who have been helping with this!

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!

Stewardship

The annual Gethsemane camping trip is this month, July 27th-29th at the Fremont State Recreation Area, Fremont Nebraska. There are no more reservations in our usual area, but there are approximately 6 tent sites left in a nearby loop.

Even if you don't camp, come out and enjoy the day and stay for a campsite devotion early Saturday evening!

We are now offering another way for you to give your weekly offerings. We are using the GIVE+ app from VANCO. All you need to do is download the app, search for Gethsemane, and choose



how you want to make your offering. You can make a one-time offering if you want, or you can create an account, and set it up to give on a regular basis. You can use your checking account, savings account, debit card, or credit card to make your offering. All major credit cards are accepted, including American Express. Also if you receive a gift card with a VISA or MasterCard logo on it, that should work as well.

Right now we have it set up for just giving to the general fund; but in the near future, you will also be able to give to the building fund or any other fund if you want to give for a specific purpose. Also in the near future, you will also be able to give your offering on the church's web site.



Please stay tuned for more exciting information on these new ways to give your weekly offerings. If you have any questions, or need help with the app, please see Tim Schoell.

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 is open. **Registration closes July 7th!** For more information, please go to <https://welscampjefferson-welsne.org>.

evangelism



The Board of Evangelism would like to thank those members who have volunteered to make follow-up visits with the homes to which we send monthly new mover postcards. We've had about two dozen volunteers so far, allowing us to make in-person contacts with 50-60 of the 100 addresses we mail ever month. Please keep this effort in your prayers as we try to make inroads with Gethsemane Church and School to the Omaha community.

If you haven't volunteered already but would like to, please contact Andrew Haag or Pastor Koester.



District Mission Board

District Mission Board will be having a meeting on Tuesday, July 10th at 7 p.m. at Living H & Q) in Omaha.

Anyone interested in a new WELS mission start in Sarpy County is invited and encouraged to attend. They will work through last year's proposal and discuss the feedback received from the Board for Home Missions. Our District Mission Board looks forward to continuing to work with us to see this important mission plan move forward!

Good Shepherd Call News

Rev. Kurt Schaser of Newburg, Wisconsin, has been called to serve at Good Shepherd. Before serving at St. John's in Newburg, Pastor Schaser served at Kearney, Nebraska. Please pray that God would lead Pastor Schaser back to the "Good Life" of Nebraska, and as always, please keep Good Shepherd in your prayers.

Travel Opportunities

Italy



Pastor James Humann, retired WELS pastor and experienced tour host, invites you to join him on an eleven day "Highlights of Italy" tour. The tour dates are **March 11-21, 2019**. The trip begins in Venice, the city of canals, gondoliers and Venetian glass, then on to Florence, home of Michelangelo's famous statue of David. It continues on to Pisa with its famous Leaning Tower, and then the beautiful Amalfi coastline. The next stop is Pompeii and Mt. Vesuvius.

Finally we reach the Eternal City of Rome, home of the Coliseum, the Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain and much more. The Apostle Paul was imprisoned in Rome and Martin Luther was amazed at the luxury, sin and corruption he found here.

For a colorful brochure with the daily itinerary, price and General Conditions, e-mail Pastor Humann at Jhumann383@aol.com or call 1-253-839-9055 (Pacific time).

Greece

You are invited to join retired WELS pastor Eugene Kock on a 10-day tour to Greece "Footsteps of the Apostle Paul." The tour is scheduled for **May 27-June 5, 2019** and includes a 3-day Mediterranean Cruise with visits to special places like Phillippi, Corinth, Ephesus, Athens, Meteora, and Santorini. An optional 3-day extension to Rome is also available. This is a great opportunity to learn more about these cities in the Bible.



For more details, please contact Joel Kock at joelkock@yahoo.com.

