



ge + hsemane

lutheran church

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

GET RID OF HER

Galatians 4:28-31

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

Paul now applies the point of his allegory. In the Old Testament account of Hagar and Sarah & Ishmael and Isaac, relations had become so strained (Ishmael picked on Isaac and Hagar gloated over Sarah) that finally Sarah told her husband Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son." And he did - with God's own blessing.

The slave woman and her son represent the Judaizers in Galatia who were trying to enslave the free Christians with a system of law-works. The point of the allegory? Get rid of the Judaizers!

The lesson for us? We are children of Abraham. We are children of the free woman. Salvation is ours free of charge through faith in Christ. There is nothing we need to do to be saved; Jesus has saved us! Love him. Cherish him. Worship him. Serve him in love and thanksgiving.

PRAYER: Lord, help me see the line between witnessing to & defending the truth of your Word with those who need to hear and getting myself into a position where Satan can tempt me to sin and cause me to doubt your love for me. Amen.

Pastor Helwig

Voters' Meeting
June 10, 2018, 9:15 a.m.
Gethsemane Fellowship Hall
All voters and guests are invited to attend.



SCHOOL NEWS



Brothers and Sisters in Christ -

I hold you responsible! But it's for a good thing! You are responsible for allowing us to graduate the class of 2018, the class of Gethsemane's 70TH year. We thank you for the opportunity to raise these kids in God's Word at this school for anywhere from five to 10 years, depending on the student. It is a wonderful class that we thank God for (students are listed with high school):

Huda A (Concordia), Katelyn F (Elkhorn), Isabella F (Blair), Sophia H (NELHS), Aaron K (NELHS), Sydney L (NELHS), Bobby L (Concordia), Isabelle M (Blair), Evan P (Concordia), Natalia R (Quest Forward Academy), and Kylee T (Bennington).

We ask God to go with these students and ever keep them in his care.

Mr. P

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Please look for information regarding VBS, 2018-19 school year, home visits, and 2018 fall sports from the principal's office this summer.

Thank you, Gethsemane, for all of your support, prayers, and dedication to our Lutheran Elementary School. We surely could not have done one year, much less 70, without your support.

God bless you all. May God bless us over the summer months.



fOCE

(friends of christian education)

Thank you to everyone who helped with field day. The kids had a great time!

Thanks, too, to everyone who helped out and supported teacher appreciation week.

New officers take over June 1. Becky G is your new president and Liz G is your new secretary! They join Christine H, vice president, and Heidi S, treasurer.

We've had a really successful year, and we look forward to next year. Stay tuned to email about our backpack to school night in August.

Happy summer!

Wendee M, Past President



OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)

May was a busy month for our chapter with two events. The first of which was a “Litter Clean Up” on May 11th. The OWLS sponsored this event that included 42 7th and 8th graders from Gethsemane and Good Shepherd, and 12 OWLS members. After an 11:30 lunch, the students from Gethsemane shared their expertise on environmental stewardship and from there the entire group took to the park.



A significant amount of litter was collected at Standing Bear Lake before returning back to Gethsemane. Collection materials were provided by Keep Omaha Beautiful. T-shirts and a portion of the lunch were provided by Thrivent Project money and Hy-Vee donations. OWLS members contributed dessert treats.



A May luncheon meeting was held at the Garden Café where 20 individuals attended (2 guest speakers, 3 visitors and 15 members). Pastor Koester and Joel Kock provided a presentation, on highlights from their trips to the Holy Land, including some meticulous wood carvings. Photographs were shown on the ancient stone mangers, tombs, as well as the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, including pictures of oil presses used to process olives. Olive oil was a key source of subsistence in that region. The Hebrew term for Gethsemane is “oil press.”



UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 10 Visit Lauritzen Gardens. More info to follow.
- July 8 Outdoor picnic at Soaring Wings Winery.

Come join us. Guests are welcome!

*Dick V
Sandy T*

Walking Libraries

Born and raised in northeast Omaha, **Jean R** looks back at growing up and the fond memories of her childhood and family traditions. Starting out at 58th and Potter, Jean’s family moved to 25th and Evans in 1958 where Jean’s father, a career employee of Northern Natural Gas, purchased two acres, and developed a half acre of garden and an acre of fruit trees, vineyard and bee hives. For a number of years her Dad’s family, including four sisters, one brother and other relatives from around Hooper, Nebraska would have a family harvest get-together. The end result was abundant quantities of preserved fruits, vegetables, and, oh yes, fresh honey for all.

On a daily basis Jean’s family would have evening dinner with everyone seated around the table. It was also customary that on Friday everyone did yard work, got cleaned up, and then headed out to go eat. One favorite stop was Rose’s Lodge on Dodge Street west of 72nd Street. Anything

west of 72nd Street was a dirt road back then. A special hangout for teen agers was Todd's Diner, also on west Dodge.

For many years Jean did odd jobs and then at age 29 attended UNMC to complete her degree and begin her 30 year career as a registered nurse with a specialty in Geriatrics and Oncology. Most of her time was spent at Immanuel Hospital in Omaha, with a one year stint in California where she was a Director of Nursing at a nursing home.

Working with Pastor Zabell from Gethsemane, Jean pursued her life-long dream of doing mission work and using her nursing skills as a part of The Kingdom Workers, in conjunction with the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM). Jean spent 2½ years in Lusaka, Zambia, teaching families home health care and working in medical clinics. During this time she identified her unequalled closeness to God while working in the most humbling of environments. She noted that it was shocking to see how the native population lives; the local police armed with AK47's, homes with barbed wire security barriers, and most of all, the extremely primitive medical procedures and equipment.



Returning home, Jean continued her nursing career in hospice care until retiring in 2014. Jean now supports our congregation with assistance to WINGS, serves on the Worship Committee coordinating altar care, and routinely provides volunteer teacher assistance at Gethsemane's elementary school.

Looking back, Jean recognizes her biggest challenge and possibly her greatest accomplishment in life was working and raising her two children, Michael and Beverly, by herself, as well as sending Beverly to NELHS. Beverly was one of the first from Gethsemane to attend Nebraska Lutheran. Jean attributes her success to having grown up in a Christ-centered family starting with her grandfather, who was a minister and continuing with her parents and their ongoing affiliation to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Jean is a long time member of Gethsemane and, not surprising, has a multitude of connections in Omaha.

Jean would like to be remembered as one that displayed God's love with her work and as a Christian could handle any issue with Christ as her source of strength.



wings

(women in god's service)

We had a nice evening at Le Mesa in May for our last fellowship night planned for this "year." Thank you to all who were able to make it! We briefly discussed that if everything goes well, we will be purchasing blinds for the fellowship hall and a new altar cloth over the summer.

We also have vice president and secretary positions open for next year! If you are interested or know someone that is, please let us know! We will be discussing this at our next meeting, September 6th.

We thank all of you for your support and involvement in WINGS over the past year! Have a wonderful summer! We will send out notices if we have anything new over the summer, or have anything else planned!

Please let us know if you have any questions or ideas. You can contact the church office.

~Ginger B, Vice President



LWMS

(Lutheran women's missionary society)

“Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.”
~Psalm 62:1

The Spring LWMS Rally was held Saturday, April, 28th at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hadar. The guest speaker was, Mr. Adam Harvey, Dean of Students at Garden Homes Lutheran School in Milwaukee. The school has 244 students, with 15% of the students being WELS. The Choice Program was founded by the city of Milwaukee in 1990. The Choice Program is a city-funded program that allows any child to attend any school in the city. The city gives the tuition money (\$7,100 per student) for the student to the child’s school of choice. Overall, it is a good program, which allows underprivileged children to attend better schools. The 13 WELS grade schools in Milwaukee need our prayers. There are some wonderful things happening there. The Word of God is reaching hundreds of children every day! God be praised!

The ballot for the annual board elections held at the LWMS Convention in June, was mailed to our congregation this spring. Since Gethsemane is members of LWMS, we are able to vote for the candidates each year. The ballot was submitted, and I will share the overall results after the convention in the June newsletter.

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!

June Prayer Requests

- Our Befriend a Missionaries.
- The new graduates as they prepare to move to their new assignments.
- The work being down with the PSI team at the Seminary.

-Leslie B



nelhs

(nebraska ev. lutheran high school)

On May 12th, twenty-six seniors graduated from Nebraska Lutheran High School, excited for the next chapter of their lives. We wish them God’s blessings!

Three new tutors from Martin Luther College have been assigned to Nebraska Lutheran. Information about them will be coming soon.

Pastor Timothy Bode from Elk River, Minnesota, has been called to be the new campus pastor. Please keep Pastor Bode and NELHS in your prayers.

Congrats to our students, Zach R and Amy R, who placed 6th place in the high jump and 300 hurdles, respectively, at the Nebraska State Track Meet in May.

The all-sports camp will be held at NELHS June 10-13.

The “Tee it Up for Tuition” golf outing will be July 28th in Norfolk. Please mark your calendars. We appreciate your support.

Twenty new students have enrolled for the 2018-19 school year. We look forward to seeing them on campus. 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 mowing schedule has been created and is out. If you didn't receive a schedule in your member mailbox, you probably aren't on it. If you'd like to mow, please let the church office know. We can work you into the schedule!

The floor stripping and waxing has been scheduled for June 12th for the classrooms and June 19th for the fellowship hall and hallways. The teachers will probably have most of their things out of the classrooms, but we could use some help with the bigger stuff. Please plan on helping on June 10th after the

voters' meeting. Many hands make light work!

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!

Stewardship

Just a reminder to reserve your campsite soon for the annual Gethsemane camping trip. At last check there are 2 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
 - You will then need to either sign in or create an account to proceed with checkout.
 - Please contact the Stewardship Board of any questions.

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>.

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>.

good shepherd call news

Rev. Dan Lindner returned the call to serve at Good Shepherd. The District President was unable to get a pastoral candidate to fill this vacancy. Please keep Good Shepherd in your prayers.

