



GE + HSEMANE

Lutheran Church

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



LISTEN TO ME Galatians 5:7-12

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

On his rollercoaster of emotion, Paul is once again amazed that the Galatians would even entertain the false teaching and half-truths of the Judaizers. The Galatians had been running a focused and determined race of faith, but these false teachers had cut in on them and were trying to bump them off the track. It doesn't take much to ruin a well-run race. It doesn't take much false teaching to spoil the sweetness of the Gospel. "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

Paul's love and concern for the Galatians leads him to an emotional outburst. "As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!" Paul uses sarcasm to make his point. Circumcision does not matter and those who were trying to bump them off the track will pay a greater penalty than emasculation. They will be judged by the Lord himself on the Last Day.

And yet, through all of this, Paul is confident that they "will take no other view." Paul is confident not in the Galatians and not in his own preaching. Paul is confident in the Holy Spirit and the power of the Gospel. A little yeast of false teaching can work through the whole batch of dough - that's why we avoid even the slightest bit of false teaching - but the Word of God is more powerful than the word of man. As Paul was confident, so we can be confident. Rooted in the Gospel, fed by the Gospel and strengthened by the Gospel, God will protect us from false teaching and keep us firm to the end.

PRAYER : *Lord, give me discernment and a thorough knowledge of your Word so that I may weed out all false teaching and cling to only what is true. 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

2018-19 school year greetings,

I wonder what the prevailing opinion of the month of August would be. Maybe it is a month that is looked forward to due to a birthday or anniversary. Maybe it is viewed positively as the last month without football. But August might get more of a “split decision” when it comes to its distinction as the start-of-school month. Certainly, there are those who say they are “ready for their kids to get back to school,” but others would lean to the “where did summer go?” side of the discussion. Regardless of personal preferences or opinions, August is here and so is the start of another school year!



As Gethsemane Lutheran has committed itself to providing Christian education for the 71st straight year, we in turn will again be gathering around a theme that carries us through the year. Going on five or six years now, all our Nebraska WELS elementary schools and high school (along with Overland Park, KS, and several of our Colorado schools) have joined together under that same theme. For 2018-19 teachers, students, families, schools, and congregations will be directed to “Walk with God; Talk with God.” Based on 1 John 2:6 – “Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.” John wrote his epistles to New Testament believers who were being bombarded by so many challenges, including false teachers and false teachings. John was therefore compelled to warn believers about staying connected to the truth, listening only to the truth, and rejecting anything that goes against the truth. In our selected verse, John draws his readers’ attention to the “follow-through” of being a follower of Jesus – your thoughts, words, and deeds echo, imitate, and parallel those of the Savior. How many times will that teaching be applicable in a Christian school setting during a school year? A million, I hope.

In addition to all that we can glean from a few brief words of a short passage, our theme will also drive home the blessings of a Christian’s prayer life. Prayer is such a tremendous privilege that often is taken for granted. Seen by some as a “barometer” of faith, prayer is not reserved only for time of trouble or trial. Prayer reminds us just how close of a relationship we have with our God. Again, a million opportunities should be available for us to encourage and model prayers.

We are truly excited and blessed as we look toward Week 1 of year 71 at Gethsemane Lutheran School. Join us in any way you can as we all with God and talk with God. We thank you for all your continued support, and prayers so that we can provide this ministry to the families of our congregation and community.

God bless you all,
Mr. Pederson



GLS-71 begins with special worship services on August 11-12 at Gethsemane. We do not enter such a massive undertaking without turning to God to guide and bless all our efforts. Monday, August 13, will be our annual Back(pack) 2 School Night where parents can bring in the tonnage of school supplies and items to help alleviate some of the stresses of the first day of school. Day 1 of 167 will be Thursday, August 16. Our first chapel of the year will be Friday, August 17, at 8:15 a.m. There may be a special fellowship opportunity for parents on Friday morning as well. Our two-day first week allows for introductions and orientation on policies and procedures. Week 2 can then be addressed at full speed!

Many of our GLS students are participating in soccer again this year. Nearly 60 of our students will be active in the fall season with YMCA soccer. We thank all our coaches for volunteering their time and to work with kids from late August through mid-to-late October.

Our GLS email list keeps you up-to-date on all the news, notes, and dates related to our school. Please let me know if you would like to be added to that list. You can also check us out on Facebook - at GLSOMaha.

Mr. Pederson

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)

July found the OWLS on another rather hot afternoon at the Soaring Wings Winery south of Springfield, NE. Eighteen attended including one guest to take in the beautiful landscape overlooking the Platte River valley and some live music. There were plenty of snacks to go around to complement the refreshments from the winery. A great time was had by all.

A number of OWLS completed the orientation at the Open Door Mission. Jean L. is coordinating times for the group to assist with meals. Anyone interested in going through the required orientation and helping with meals, contact Jean.



August will find the OWLS at Mahoney Park for lunch and tour of the SAC Aerospace Museum. Plans are to gather at the lodge for lunch on August 12th at 12:30 p.m. prior the museum tour.

The Senior Convention sponsored by OWLS is just around the corner. The Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors has been hosting annual conventions for many years. These conventions have provided opportunities for spiritual growth and Christian fellowship as well as enrichment activities and service to others. Non OWLS members of WELS and ELS churches have always been welcome. This year a special invitation is extended to join us at the beautiful Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI October 10-12 2018. Visit the OWLS web site at: csm.welsrc.net/download-csm/owls-convention-2018

Come join us. Guests are always welcome!

Dick V, President;
Sandy T, Secretary



WINGS

Women In God's Service

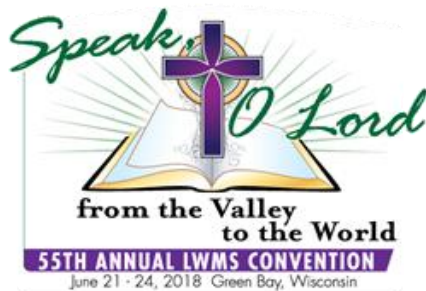
We hope everyone is having a wonderful summer break! We will have our next meeting on September 6th at 7:00 p.m. Snacks will be served at 6:45 p.m. Mark your calendars; we would love to see you there!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the church office.

Ginger B, Vice President

LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)



“Speak, O Lord”....

This was the theme for the 55th Annual LWMS Convention held in Green Bay, WI, June 22nd-25th, 2018. The convention began on Thursday night with the opening service with communion. Friday morning began with the presentation of the Flag of Nations. Each country where the WELS has a church or mission, is represented by that particular country's flag during the presentation. Missionaries from the Apache Mission also spoke to the convention on Friday morning. The speakers for

Saturday were Pastor Phil Hunter and Shannon Bohme. The convention concluded on Sunday with the closing service. The 56th Annual Convention will be held in Des Moines in June 2019. Make your summer plans to attend!

The fall rally will be held at Gethsemane! The tentative date is Saturday, October 6th. Look for more information in the upcoming weeks on how you are able to help with this neat event.

August Prayer Requests:

The newly assigned pastors and teachers, as they begin their service in the ministry.

The missionaries throughout the Apache Mission.

The work being done in Hong Kong.

*-Leslie B
Reporter*



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Welcome from the Welcomed!

Hello, Gethsemane Lutheran! I am Steven Bremer (but just call me Skip). I am honored and privileged to serve as the next NELHS School Administrator. My family has recently

moved in to Waco, and we are so grateful for the overwhelming feeling of “welcome” that we have received. Now the “welcomed” would love to welcome you, too. I welcome any questions, comments, feedback, or suggestions about how we can make our area Lutheran high school the best it can be as we glorify Christ in all we do. Greet me when you are on campus, and I hope to meet you at Gethsemane sometime as well.

New to staff:

We have several teachers new to our staff this year. Besides myself, teaching freshmen religion, we have the following serving new this year: Tutor Megan Schoch teaching math; Tutor Holly Marquardt teaching art and technology; Tutor Martin Santos teaching history and ESL; Athletic Director Tyler Dorn teaching PE; and Kathy Bremer teaching Earth science, health, and career/college counseling.

Campus Pastor:

Pastor Kevin Stellick is a world missionary in China and currently holds the call to serve as campus pastor. Please continue to pray for God to lead the right person to NELHS to serve as campus pastor.

Upcoming dates:

- Aug 6-10: Football Camp week
- Aug 11/12: Registration 3-5 p.m. Sat. / 2:00-3:30 p.m. Sun.
- Aug 12: Opening Service 4 p.m.
- Aug 13: First Day of School
- Sep 21: NELHS Day / Soccer Jam
- Oct 19: Homecoming FB game 7 p.m.

Thank you for your continued support of NELHS. Your prayers are appreciated as we partner together to “Walk with God - Talk with God.”

Skip Bremer, Administrator

FOCE

Friends Of Christian Education

FOCE is looking forward to kicking off the school year with Backpack to School night, August 13th at 7 p.m. Drop off your school supplies, meet with the teachers, and stick around for some

We're Going Back To School



Popsicles and all-ages kickball on the soccer field. That same week, during drop off for the first day of school, stick around and enjoy some coffee and donuts provided by FOCE - a great excuse for being late to work!

Keep an eye out for upcoming information on our first FOCE meeting; it's a great opportunity to learn more about what FOCE provides for Gethsemane in addition to letting your voice be heard on fundraisers, what areas of the school are in need of funds, and other important items that we support. We look forward to another exciting school year. Contact any of the FOCE members with any questions!

Liz G, FOCE Secretary



Deacons

The concrete project has been completed! The driveway is now devoid of cracked concrete and different areas have been spruced up. The sidewalk along Old Maple is now a little bit safer to walk on. Thank you to Paul and his men for the work that was put into this.

The flowers still look so pretty and help to make our property a beautiful place. If you see a weed or two that needs to be pulled, please do so!

We really appreciate the folks who so faithfully keep the mowing done. It's wonderful that you make sure the job gets done in a timely manner. ...and besides that, it looks great!

The parsonage project is completed as far as the interior goes. Plans to spruce up the exterior are still on the docket. Painting the church is also on the docket. Stay tuned for requests for help, etc.

The sanctuary air conditioner needed a little encouragement a little while ago as the Saturday night worshipers could attest (apparently, it was pretty toasty!). Thanks to Brian B who took time to meet the repair guy on a Saturday night so the Sunday crowd wouldn't sweat.

We appreciate everyone's willingness to jump in and help to keep up the property.

If you see anything that needs to be repaired or attended to, please contact the church office so the issues can be addressed.

Stewardship



The Annual Pig Roast is coming up quickly and will be held on Sunday, September 9th. The theme for this year is **Fun in the Sun!** It will be a great day with fun and activities for everyone.

The Stewardship Board has a couple of requests to help us pull off this great event.

- 1) We need desserts! Please consider baking or buying a dessert to share.
- 2) If any Gethsemane Thrivent members would like to donate one of their available Thrivent Action Cards it would be greatly appreciated to help fund the meal

and activities. Please see a member of the Stewardship Board to donate or answer questions.

- 3) The Stewardship Board is going to hold a live basket auction to help raise funds for the new church sign. The baskets can be homemade, purchased or even business sponsored. We will need as many folks as possible to put together a basket for the auction. Potential ideas would be a baked goods basket with cookies and brownies, a golfer's basket with tee's, balls and a hat or even spa basket with soaps, bubbles and candles. Get creative and think outside the box and help us raise funds for the new sign.



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 contact the church office.



Men of Gethsemane - Summer is quickly winding down, so that means it's time to get ready for fall softball. We play in one of the Omaha rec leagues on Friday evenings, starting the Friday after Labor Day and going until the end of October. The league is recreational, so all experience and skill levels are welcome. Cost is about \$25-\$30 for registration, umpire fees, and game balls; the exact amount will depend on how many sign up. If you are interested in playing or have any questions, please contact the church office.

Evangelism



The Vine is a program for parents and their children, ages birth-preschool.

Each session offers age-appropriate activities for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The activities are focused around a theme and Bible story, designed to help children grow in God's Word. The activities include Bible story, crafts, sensory table, and music.

Beginning September 5th, The Vine will meet every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. It will be held in a classroom in the school.

Want to donate items to the program? Look for a basket with the September wish list in the fellowship hall, beginning in August. Feel free to contact the office or ask either of the pastors with any questions. Everyone

is welcome to attend, so please share this information with any non-members who might be interested and encourage them to attend.



Thanks again to all of you who have been making follow-up visits to our new mover lists. We will be having a meeting on Wednesday, August 1, at 7 pm with the purpose of offering feedback on what we've done so far and to encourage each other as we continue with this effort.

If you have any questions, or if you are a new volunteer who would like to help make these contacts, please contact the church office.

Good Shepherd Call News

Rev. Nathaniel Buchner (serving a dual parish now at Zion, Bonesteel, SD and St. Paul in Naper, Nebraska) has been called to serve at Good Shepherd. We pray that we will hear very soon if God will lead Pastor Buchner to Omaha. Please keep Good Shepherd in your prayers.

Book Club

My, oh my - where has the summer gone? Here we are in August, and it's time to gear up for Book Club once more! Let's mark our calendars for Tuesday, August 28th, 7 p.m. at my (Becky's) house! We will decide over the next couple of weeks which book from our summer reading list will be discussed that evening so stay tuned to the church bulletin for a final decision. Our summer list included...



- **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 Lakehouse** by Kate Morton

A reminder to one and all - you are ALWAYS invited to join us whether you've read the book or not. It's not just about the book. It's also about some amazing snacks and, most importantly, it's about the fellowship we enjoy! It's a great evening!

Hope to see you all on the 28th.

Becky G



"CHIP IT IN" GOLF OUTING CELEBRATING OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Tee it up and help us give our sign a makeover. A new sign is a great way to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

The golf outing will be held at Tregaron on Saturday, August 25th at 1:30 p.m. It will be a 4 person scramble and no experience is required. Join us for an afternoon of fun with a raffle, pin prizes and other contests followed with a meal. The deadline for registration is August 12th.

We are accepting donations for the raffle and pin prizes. If you or your company have anything they could donate it would be greatly appreciated.

Hole sponsors are \$150.00 per hole. Personal or business sponsors are both accepted. Receipts are available for anyone that makes a donation.

Forms to register your team are on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall. Cost is \$90 per golfer.

The new sign is approximately \$8,000-\$10,000. This is a great opportunity to help raise the money and have some fun!
If you have any questions or suggestions please contact the church office.
Hope to see you there!!!!



thank
you!

After many years of service as Gethsemane's financial secretaries, Wes and Pat have passed the gavel to Tim. Wes and Pat will be moving to their cozy new home in the frozen tundra of Wisconsin in the future.

We are very grateful to Wes and Pat for their dedication to this position. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their move.

If you have any questions about your giving information, please contact the church office.