

GETHSEMANE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

LOVE AND SERVE

Galatians 5:13-15

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Paul has been stressing rather vehemently that we are free from the law. Christ freed us from the law. Christ fulfilled the law in our place and redeemed us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. The temptation that Satan and that our sinful nature now place before us, however, is to take advantage of that freedom.

The sinful nature says, "Since you are free from the requirements and obligations of the law, then you are free to live as you please - so live as you please. Love yourself. Take advantage of your neighbor. Satisfy all your cravings and desires."

Paul - and the new man in us, the redeemed child of God in us - steps in to say, "Wait a minute. An abuse of freedom is not the response God anticipates from his children."

Knowing that we are forgiven and knowing that our salvation does not depend on our keeping of the law move us now to keep the law out of thanks for all that God has done for us. Such a response of gratitude is summed up in one word: love. Here Paul focuses on the second table of the law: Love your neighbor. The first table of the law is assumed: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, use your Gospel of free forgiveness to motivate and empower me to keep your commands and to love and serve my neighbor. Amen.*

Pastor Helwig



Join Us for the
28th Annual Gethsemane Lutheran Pic-nic
on Sunday, September 9th, 2018, @ noon

- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Food
- ✓ Fun!

SCHOOL NEWS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Thursday, August 16, Gethsemane Lutheran School opened its doors for the 71st year. God provided 83 students in grades K-8 for our six teachers and two pastors to partner in ministry amongst 54 families from Gethsemane and the greater Omaha community.

Maybe read those first two sentences again. It is no small thing! It is something that I hope we all can cherish, support, and thank God for daily.

The school year is off and running now. We thank YOU, the members of Gethsemane, for allowing us to proceed with this branch of GLC's ministry. We feel that GLS offers a solid education in both Christian training and growth as well as the foundational and elementary knowledge our students will need to succeed at the next level of their education.

We look forward to the September-May portion of the year as we tear off the August page. Please consider making GLS a part of your daily and regular prayer list.

+ + +

As the academic programs are off to a great start, the many other facets of GLS are also picking up steam - band program, lunch program, soccer practices and games. September brings our mid-quarter and reports, School Book Fair, and Parent-Teacher Conferences. Our 5-8th graders will be attending Nebraska Lutheran's recruitment day, NELHS Day, on FRI, SEPT 28. Any/all students from Gethsemane Lutheran Church are welcomed to join us for the day. Please contact Mr. Pederson for more information.

Thank you and God bless,
Mr. Pederson

OWLS

~ORGANIZATION OF WELLS LUTHERAN SENIORS~



July found the OWLS on another excursion, this time to the Strategic Air Command Museum. A total of fifteen attended and were introduced to one of the most historic American military aircraft collections in the United States.

The day commenced with lunch from the museum café, meeting and dining in the atmosphere amongst three war birds including the F-111, RF-4 and HU-16. Our opening devotion from Exodus 16 reminded us of our selfish sinful nature and that in spite of all the advances

and improvements that we enjoy, we are not satisfied and perceived optimism for the future is questionable. Like the Israelites of old we fail to recognize God's grace and how he continues to provide for us ongoing.

On the business side, plans were discussed to again organize local donations to Open Door Mission, Buffett Cancer Center, ENOA, scarves for the needy, and Christmas cards for military service members. A \$200 donation was approved for the NELHS Scholarship fund. A donation is scheduled for the European Civilian Chaplaincy later in the year.



The day concluded with a two-hour private tour consisting of detailed information on over 20 spy, reconnaissance, bomber, and fighter aircraft. It was extremely enjoyable and informative.

NOTE: Plans have changed for the September 9th meeting. Our meeting will be at Gethsemane at 2:00 p.m. with a presentation on computer security.

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, Christian fellowship as well as enrichment activities and service to others. Non OWLS members of WELS and ELC 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*



WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE

Our next WINGS meeting is coming up soon, September 6th at 7:00 p.m.! Snacks will be served at 6:45 p.m. We have quite a few items to discuss, so please mark your calendars! We would love to see you there!

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

Ginger B, Vice President



(~ LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY ~)

"In Thee is Gladness"

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

The 56th Annual Convention will be held in Des Moines on June 27-30, 2019. The theme is, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus in the Heartland." Make your plans next summer to attend!

September Prayer Requests:

The blessings of the new church in Las Vegas.

The mission work being done by our military chaplains on the military bases.

The work being done by the LWMS Board.

*-Leslie B
Reporter*



(~ **NEBRASKA EV. LUTHERAN**
HIGH SCHOOL ~)

Greetings from your area Lutheran high school in Waco. Did you know that September has a national “Good Neighbor Day?” What a joy to see this in our students on campus every day, not just on one day. Many times over we see students living the words of Mark 12:30-32—“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

40 Days of Beginnings:

As our 40th anniversary is underway, we hope you will following along with a few of our “40” themed activities. In September we will have 40 Days of Beginnings where we will be sharing information about the beginnings of NELHS. You can follow along at www.facebook.com/NELHS/ (@NELHS), or Twitter @NELHS_Admin, or on our webpage www.nelhs.org. In mid-October we will begin a *40 Days of Thanksgiving* journey. If you have stories about the early days of NELHS yet for September (including any pictures), or if you would like to share some of your “Thankful for...” ideas for October, please send them to sbremer@nelhs.org.

Volunteering:

If you’d like to help out volunteering with a myriad of tasks, please contact Twila at tfickel@nelhs.org. We even need assistance with some of our students over holiday breaks. Let us know if you can help in any way.

Online classes:

Did you know we offer a large number of online classes and dual credit courses? They’re catching on. We have 16 students participating in the area Lutheran high school online program and one student taking a dual credit course through Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. If you have questions about any of our curriculum choices, please ask!

Upcoming dates:

- Sep 28: NELHS Day / Soccer Jam (Day change!) Parents and teachers who come will have an opportunity to visit with the school administrator.
- Oct 14: Silent Auction, Fall Festival, and Fall Concert - international student food starting at 12:30 p.m.
- Oct 19: Homecoming FB game 7 p.m. (tailgate before)
- Oct 27: LES Volleyball Tourney at NELHS

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



SCRIP is a program wherein a portion of any gift cards you purchase is returned to Nebraska Lutheran High School.

Kelly and Tammy K will begin selling SCRIP each Sunday here at Gethsemane. Find them in the fellowship hall between services! Order sheets will be available for ordering whatever the customer wants. They also will have info on getting an account set up on line to order that way.

Please contact the church office if you have questions.



FOCE

FRIENDS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Join us for our first FOCE meeting Thursday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. If you've never been to a meeting, now is a great time to start - we love seeing new faces!

Thank you to all the families that joined us for the Backpack 2 School kick off, we're looking forward to other fun events throughout the year!

Liz G, FOCE Secretary

DEACONS



When you get a second, stop into the bathrooms in the school hallway and check out the new epoxy on the sink counters. It looks pretty fantastic!

Thank you to the anonymous donor who helped to get the parking lot restriped. Fresh paint makes it look so much "happier!" ☺

Did you notice that the garbage dumpster enclosure has been restrained? Thanks to Paul and his guys for taking care of this job.

The parsonage will be occupied after Labor Day by a renter. We are thankful that the property won't have to be empty for much longer.

The mowing volunteers are serving us well and keeping the property looking great; the sanctuary volunteers are doing a great job, too. It says a lot to visitors when we take pride and ownership in our church. If you'd like to be added to the cleaning or mowing lists in the future, please contact the church office. The more helpers we have, the less work each person has to do!

Fall is upon us and that means it's "spider season." Feel free to knock down a web if you see one, and squish a spider (none of them are pets here).

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.

DISCIPLESHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Starts Sunday, September 16th!



Dear Parents & Students:

Welcome back to another great year of Sunday School. We hope you all had a great summer!

We are ready to get back to class and share God's word with your children. We invite students in Preschool through 8th grade to join us for songs, stories, games, crafts and discussions that teach us God's Word!

Sunday school starts each week at 9:15 a.m. Please help your child to be on time and attend as often as possible. We carefully prepare lessons each week and look forward to sharing God's word with as many students as possible.

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.

This year our curriculum will be the Christ-Light for Sunday Schools Year 1 and then starting the Christ-Light for Sunday Schools Year 2.

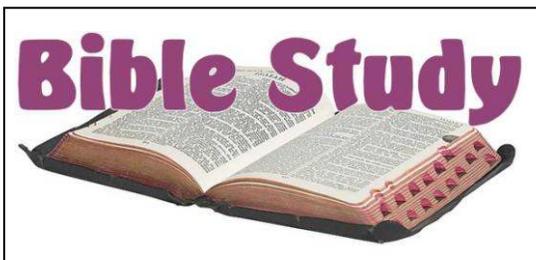
A big thank you to all our teachers, helpers and substitutes who put in time, talents, and resources to have lessons and activities planned for their classes.

We are looking forward to seeing all preschool-8th grade students on Sunday, September 16th, at 9:15 a.m.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Everyone is invited to join in with the Tuesday morning Bible study at McDonald's at 108th & Emmet. We meet at 6 a.m., which might seem super early. We feel it's really an awesome way to kick start our day!

A new study will begin in September as we are finishing up our "Coffee with the Savior" study. Join us! If you have questions, please contact the church office.



WEDNESDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Attention guys! Come to Bible study on Wednesday mornings at 6 a.m. at the HyVee at 108th and Fort! We are starting a new study on Wednesday, August 29th, on the book of Psalms.

Join us for some great food for the soul!

THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday morning women's Bible study will begin on September 6th in the fellowship hall here at church. We will meet at 9:45 a.m. for treats followed by our study from 10 to 11.

We will study 1 John and will be using The People's Bible James, Peter, John, and Jude. If you need materials, please contact Pastor Koester or the church office.

Please join us!

STEWARDSHIP

The Annual Pig Roast is almost here! The date is set for Sunday, September 9th. This year's theme is "Fun in the Son." We will have a great day of worship, food and fun. Members are asked to bring a dessert to share for lunch.

Shortly after lunch starts we will hold the basket auction.

Members are encouraged to put together a basket to be auctioned off with proceeds raised going to a new church sign. Potential ideas would be a baked goods basket with cookies and brownies, a golfer's basket with tees, 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. Please contact the church office if you are planning on donating a basket so we can have an idea on numbers going into the auction. After lunch a kickball tournament will highlight the

afternoon activities. Kickball teams will be formed by random draw guaranteeing fun for all! A bounce house and other games and activities will round out the day's entertainment. We hope to see you there!

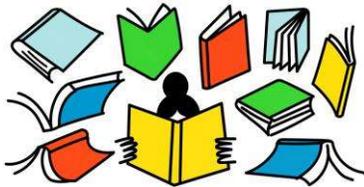


Men of Gethsemane - Summer is quickly winding down, so that means it's time to get ready for fall softball. We play in one of the Omaha rec leagues on Friday evenings, starting the Friday after Labor Day and going until the end of October. The league is recreational, so all experience and skill levels 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.



Everyone is invited to sing in the adult choir! We welcome all voices from freshmen in high school and up!
 Our first service to sing will be September 30th. Can't make it this fall but would like to sing for our Thanksgiving or Christmas services? Please come when you can! We'd love to have you join us any time.
 Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the balcony of church.
 Join us in "making a joyful noise to the Lord!"

BOOK CLUB

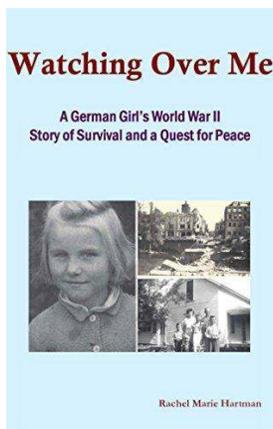


Well, we are rolling into the second month of Book Club. As of this writing we have not yet met for the August kick off evening, so if you're reading this prior to August 28th, please feel free to join us at my house to discuss **On Fire** by John O'Leary.

September sees us meeting on the 25th at Sharon Baumann's home - 7 p.m. We will be discussing one of the following - **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 or **The Lakehouse** by Kate Morton.

See you in September!

Becky G



Good news! Elfi Lee is feeling much better, and is ready to present her book!

Elfi will be presenting her book, "Watching Over Me: A German Girl's World War II Story of Survival and a Quest for Peace," on Sunday, September 30th, at 2:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. She will be speaking about her book and will take questions following her presentation. For those of you who do not own this book, Elfi will also be bringing several copies of her book to sell. She will even autograph your book!

Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall following the book presentation.

Make plans to hear Elfi share with us her incredible story!

EVANGELISM

THE VINE

A place where children grow in faith.

"I am the Vine; you are the branches."-JESUS
(John 15)

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 12th, 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.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the September Wish List! It is so greatly appreciated!

Look for the October Wish List on the table in the fellowship, beginning in September. Feel free to contact the office or ask either of the pastors with any questions.

CALL NEWS

Rev. Nathaniel Buchner has accepted the Call to serve at Good Shepherd! He will be installed at a service at 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 16th. We rejoice with Good Shepherd at this news!

In other Call news, since late July, Pastor Helwig has held the Divine Call to serve as the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kiel, Wisconsin. Trinity is a congregation with nearly 700 members. It has a school and preschool enrollment of almost 100. Please feel free to share your thoughts with Pastor Helwig about this Call and his Call here at Gethsemane. Most of all, please keep him in your prayers.

WELS CAMPUS MINISTRY

Attention college students! Heading to college can be exciting, stressful, and everything in between. WELS Campus Ministry can help!

Let us help you stay connected to God's Word. To begin, go to wels.net/campus-ministry and click the button "College students register here." You can register for free subscriptions to *Forward in Christ* magazine and *Meditations* devotional booklets and will be connected to the campus pastor for your school. Students who have previously registered for WELS Campus Ministry are encouraged to check your profile and preferences and make any necessary updates.

For questions please contact Ginny Mundstock at the WELS Campus Ministry office, ginny.mundstock@wels.net or 414-256-3279.

WLCFS

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN FAMILY SOLUTIONS

One of the goals at Christian Family Solutions is providing resources to help individuals and families live healthier, more peaceful lives. It is their prayer that the blogs strengthen your relationships in your home, workplace, church, and community. For more information, go to <https://christianfamilysolutions.org/>

