

GETHSEMANE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



LIVE BY THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16-18

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the spirit and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

None of us needs to be told that there is a constant battle being waged in our hearts and in our minds. We experience that battle first hand every day. The Old Adam - the sinful flesh - in us says, "Do this." The New Man - the redeemed child of God - in us says, "No, don't do that." The Old Adam and the New Man never agree on anything. Paul said, "For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the spirit and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other."

The answer to this battle is to side with the Spirit - the Holy Spirit. The answer to temptation is to say, "Get behind me, Satan." The answer to the times we have allowed the Old Adam to win a battle is to drown the Old Adam in daily contrition and repentance. The answer to sin is the Gospel. The Gospel assures us of God's forgiveness in Christ. It also empowers and motivates us to live by the Spirit and to be led by the Spirit. As we grow in the grace and knowledge of our Savior, the New Man in us, led by the Holy Spirit, will win more and more of those daily battles.

PRAYER: *Lord, give me strength to battle sin and temptation. Arm me with your Word and guide me by your Spirit. Amen.*

Pastor Helwig

Two Important Dates:

- ✓ October 21, 9:15 a.m. Voters' Meeting in Gethsemane fellowship hall
- ✓ November 4th, 10 a.m. Reformation Service @ Bennington High School

SCHOOL NEWS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What do you have planned for Reformation 501? I haven't received my commemorative 501 poster in the mail yet (possibly sponsored by Levi's jeans?), but it must be on its way. Maybe there is a limited or special edition bobble-head of Luther in the works too. Or maybe do we just sit this one out, since last year was such a big anniversary? Fair to give Halloween a turn this time?

Reformation is kind of a weird "holiday," isn't it? As we try to highlight it, we run into another "holiday" that has twisted a concept that is reasonable and religious - turning it into something dark and scary. In addition, the main character of the Reformation, at times, was very coarse and rough around the edges - a somewhat startling "poster-child" for proper/Christian behavior. Also, the main activity of the Reformation was intended to be a small gathering and discussion, but it turned into a world-wide phenomenon.

Regardless of all that, the Reformation is *special* to us. It's who we are. It's where we come from. The growth of what would be called the Lutheran Church crossed borders and ocean to these shores. The Lutheran Church took roots here in places like Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. The Lutheran Church made its way to Nebraska, in places like Norfolk, Omaha, and Plymouth.

More importantly than seeing the Reformation or the Lutheran Church make its journey across the globe, October 31 is a wonderful time to remember how the TRUTH of the Bible, the TRUTH of Christ, and the message of the Gospel eventually spread to people that we know - people that know us. That truth—that message—has been handed down faithfully across the generations so that we now know it. We now have it. We now share it. And so, Happy Reformation (501)! God be praised for his goodness, mercy, and faithfulness!

We hope to see God's people gather in full throng for our annual Reformation service on Sunday, November 4, at Bennington High School.

Mr. Pederson



+++

October means our annual Teachers' Conference is coming. It is being held at Nebraska Lutheran High School starting Sunday, October 7. We look forward to gathering with our peers for Christian worship, Christian spiritual growth, Christian and secular professional growth, and Christian fellowship. Teachers from Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, and the Dakotas will be participating.

Our annual soccer and volleyball tournaments both are taking place in October. 7-8th graders, along with a few younger siblings, will be up in Norfolk for soccer on Saturday, October 6. Volleyball players in grades 5-8 will head to Nebraska Lutheran on Saturday, October 27, for pool play and a tournament. Go Falcons!

Thank you for your continued support of GLS. God is so good to us, and he uses YOU to bring much of that through our classroom doors. Your prayers, donations, encouragements, and students all make our work possible. Please also consider supporting the work of our FOCE (parent support group). Their work is also very helpful to many aspects of our school. Fundraisers, BoxTops, HyVee receipts, and the like are great ways for you to pitch in! We thank all who supported our Book Fair as well. It directly leads to new books for our classrooms.

God be with you all!



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please turn in your box tops to one of our collection boxes in the fellowship hall or school hallway. The next deadline is Oct 28th. Box Tops really do count up to real cash for our school! To date we have received \$6,471 from the Box Tops program. Thank you for your support!

HY-VEE CASH FOR STUDENTS

Hy-Vee is once again offering area schools 0.5% of receipt totals submitted to them, dated between SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 and DECEMBER 31, 2018. Please leave your receipts from Omaha/ Council Bluffs area Hy-Vee stores in the box either by the vending machines in the school hallway or on the table in the southwest corner of the church fellowship hall. Pharmacy, service desk, postal, grocery, liquor, and gas receipts are all valid towards the program! Thank you in advance for your participation!



OWLS

(ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS)

The OWLS September meeting was held at Gethsemane. Pastor Koester opened with a devotion followed by Jason Schmidt giving a presentation on protecting our resources and information on-line from computer scams, theft, and fraud. A total of 28 attended including two visitors. Jason shared his expertise and took numerous questions and personal experiences from the audience for nearly two hours. Jason had a lot of great information.



At the meeting discussion included ongoing organizing for local donations to Open Door Mission, Buffet Cancer Center, ENOA, scarves for the needy, and Christmas cards for Military service members. A \$250 donation was approved for the European Civilian Chaplaincy that will be given at the upcoming convention. Discussion was also provided on Crossing Generations ideas. Volunteers were taken to commence program planning for the upcoming year. One program suggested was a combined congregation event with a presentation on “An Evening with Martin Luther” provided by Dr. Dwight Johnson with the Lutheran Military Support Group.

Nearly one-third of the Chapter members are attending the Senior Convention at Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin from October 10-12, 2018. Congregations will be asked for donations for the convention silent auction. Anyone still interested in attending should visit the OWLS web site at csm.welsrc.net/download-csm/owlc-convention-2018.



Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

- Sept 30th 2:00 p.m. Presentation by Elfie Lee on book “Watching Over Me” at Gethsemane. **Not a meeting**
- October 21 2:00 p.m. Convention highlights at Good Shepherd
- November 11 Veteran presentation by Tom Kroon and holiday dinner at Gethsemane
- December 9 Election meeting and Christmas Light Tour

Come join us. Guests are always welcome!

*Dick V, President;
Sandy T, Secretary*



WINGS

WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE

We had our first meeting in early September and got our year off to a great start! Thank you to those who were able to attend! Even if you were unable, please take a look at our sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall for service opportunities - specifically for help when we host the LWMS Rally at Gethsemane on October 6th. We will have a special October meeting on Friday, October 5th, after school (3:30-ish) to finalize details and set up for the rally. If you can't come until later, please contact Rachel at 402-218-5219 to check on the progress of the set-up. Later this month, we will be sending care packages out to our NELHS students.

Keep an eye out for a possible fellowship event in October, and mark your calendars for our next formal meeting on November 1st. Treats will be served at 6:45 p.m., and the meeting will start at 7:00. Please contact any officers with questions or concerns! We look forward to serving with you this year!

Ginger B, Vice President



LWMS

(LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY)

“Let us Ever Walk With Jesus”

The fall rally will be held this Saturday, October 6th, at Gethsemane! Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the rally begins at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served about 12:30 p.m. The speaker will be Pastor Kent Reeder from Illumine Lutheran Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. I have heard him speak at a previous LWMS Convention, and he is fantastic!

There are several opportunities to help out with the rally. Check out the sign-up sheets on the table in the fellowship hall for ways that you can help. See you on Saturday!

The 2019 prayer calendars are available for purchase! This year the calendar theme involves the missionary wives, and their perspective of living in a mission setting. The calendars are \$10.00 and can be ordered through the LWMS website at: www.lwms.org.

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 to attend next summer!

October Prayer Requests

The missionary wives throughout the world.

The work being done in New York City.

The mission work being done on the Apache Reservation.

-Leslie B, Reporter



NElhs

(NEBRASKA EV. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL)

Autumnal greetings from your area Lutheran high school in Waco. It's Reformation month. Reformation is a great time to be reminded of why we all exist: 1 Peter 2:5

“you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Building spiritual houses with our living stones - isn't that what we do together, both Gethsemane Lutheran and Nebraska Lutheran? We have the awesome and humbling opportunity to share the message of Christ crucified with our members in church, in Bible classes, in our schools, with our families, and in our communities. How can we not be excited to live for Christ and share the love of Jesus' forgiving work of salvation with everyone who will listen. It's great partnering with you, Gethsemane!

Along with Reformation Day, October this year also brings our NELHS Homecoming. You are all invited to join us for our homecoming events. Homecoming football game is Friday, October 19 when the Knights will take on Osceola High Plains. This is also parents' night for our football players and cheerleaders. There are some special events being planned for the 40th anniversary homecoming, including the return of several past Kings and Queens at the game. A Saturday social is being planned for alumni as well. Alumni can contact sbremmer@nelhs.org for more info on the Saturday event.

As our 40th anniversary celebration continues, we hope you will follow along with a few of our “40” themed activities. We are wrapping up the *40 Days of Beginnings* sharing yearbook pictures; and will soon begin a *40 Days of Thanksgiving* journey. If you would like to share some of your “Thankful for...” ideas for this, please send them to sbremmer@nelhs.org. You can follow along at www.facebook.com/NELHS/, or Twitter @NELHS_Admin

Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks are a ways away, but we need to start looking for some host families for some of our international students over break. Let us know if you can help with this or any other volunteer opportunities.

If anyone has questions about NELHS or wants to discuss the possibility of their son or daughter attending, please do not hesitate to contact me. I'd love to come to Omaha and visit with you.

Upcoming dates:

- 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
- Dec 16: Christmas Concert, 4 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

SCRIP

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

Kelly and Tammy K have begun 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

Thank you to the parents and staff that joined us for September's meeting. A few highlighted items included FOCE purchasing pencil sharpeners for various classrooms, and will also be contributing to the upcoming musical. Our upcoming Fall Fundraiser with Yankee Candle runs September 24 - October 12, and GLS apparel orders for fall begin October 15 and end November 1.

Our next meeting will be November 8th at 7 p.m., which will include a presentation on Parenting and Technology by Mr. Schmidt. We encourage ALL parents and guardians of GLS students to attend - we love hearing new ideas as you help contribute to our school!

Liz G, FOCE Secretary

DEACONS



Mowing season is winding down. If you missed a chance to mow this year, please contact the church office. There are no mowers scheduled for October, so we can use your help!

Things are getting a little brighter here! Thanks to the helper who changed out a LOT of light bulbs in the fellowship hall and school and to the “elves” who painted some of the narthex. The closers on the chapel doors need to be changed out so that further drywall damage isn’t made to the walls when they are opened all of the way. Then hopefully that project can be finished.

As always, 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

Sunday School is off to a great start!

Our first week 3rd & 4th grade had the biggest class with 13 students. Our 2nd week the Teen Group had 16 students.

We invite students in Preschool through 8th grade to join us for songs, stories, games, crafts and discussions that teach us God’s Word! Guests are always welcome too.

Sunday School starts each week at 9:15 a.m. Every student is important to our Sunday School classes. Every student brings their own questions and understanding of the Bible lessons and brings each of us new things to think about. 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.

October Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade:

- 7 - “The Parable of the Four Soils”
- 14 - “Jesus Calms the Storm”
- 21 - “The Daughter of Jairus”
- 28 - “The Canaanite Woman’s Faith”

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.

See you Sunday!

NEW BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS

Please join us Wednesday, October 3rd at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall



STEWARDSHIP

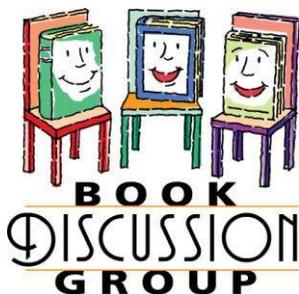
The 2018 Gethsemane Annual Pig Roast was a great success. We estimated that over 300 people attended the outdoor service and lunch. Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped with setting up, helping with lunch, providing desserts, and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks to Dawn B and Wendy M for procuring Thrivent Cards, Scott F for audio, the Stewardship Board for all the planning and everyone that donated baskets for the auction. The auction raised over \$350 dollars for the new church sign fund. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves!

Be on the lookout for an announcement coming soon for a late fall/early winter fellowship event.

Nick R

BOOK CLUB

Sounds like it was a great evening at Sharon's for the September get-together to discuss **The Stars are Fire**, by Anita Shreve! Thanks, Sharon, for hosting as well as leading the discussion since I wasn't able to make it!!!



Next up is **Same Kind of Different as Me** by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. We'll be meeting on Tuesday, October 23rd at Mandie's. Also a heads up—we don't meet in November due to the holiday but will be meeting on Tuesday, December 4th, location to be determined yet. The book is **The Woman in the Window** by A. J. Finn. It has been secured for us through the library's book club kit offerings thanks to Sally B, but we won't be able to hand out the copies of it until early November when the kit is picked up. Please let me know if you'd like a copy of one of the kit books and we'll get it to you!

Thanks, as always, to everyone for your participation in our book club! Fellowship with you all is OUTSTANDING! And if you're reading this and never joined us before, consider it! We're kinda fun!!!!!!

Becky G

EVANGELISM



The Evangelism Board would like to encourage all members to have a conversation with co-workers, neighbors and friends about your story and what Christ has done for you and for them. There is an upcoming Bible Study starting later this fall with Outreach Insights from the Apostle Paul. In addition to these important face to face interactions, please follow Gethsemane on Facebook and Twitter. Like & Share Facebook posts



and “re-tweet” on Twitter to let others know about things going on here at church such as the upcoming Family Sermon Series, The Vine toddler program or the next BIC opportunity.



THE VINE

A place where children grow in faith.

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

The Vine launched on September 12th with 14 children and 10 adults! We had a great morning learning and playing with the theme, “All About Me.” The month of September wrapped up with, “At the Farm.”

If you are interested in checking out what The Vine is all about, stop by any Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.! 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.

The Vine is held in a classroom in the school.

Thank you so very much for your generous donations of the items for the September AND October Wish Lists! It is so greatly appreciated!

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



The information below is from Grace L, a Junior at Creighton University, who is spending the Fall Semester in the Dominican Republic taking classes and doing service work.

I got to the Dominican Republic on August 18th, and I will be back in Omaha December 15th. The name of our program is Encuentro Dominicano, and we are Comunidad 26.

Creighton University has been sending students here for 13 years. We stay at Misión ILAC, which is a non-profit center which focuses on the education, health and spiritual welfare of the community and people who live in rural areas of the Dominican Republic as well as people from Haiti. There are 10 other students from Creighton with me as well as 1 student from Marquette.

While we are here we are going to class, learning about the people and their culture, and improving our Spanish. A big focus of our group is doing service work every week. The service site I chose is called Angeles de Conani, which is an orphanage/care facility for children and adults with physical and mental disabilities. We go to our service sites about twice a week. At my site I play with the kids, take them to nearby parks, and do stretches and exercises with them to improve their conditions. I'm also working with some of the non-verbal kids on sign language. This site is underfunded, so the kids don't have many toys or even proper equipment to help them with their disabilities.

Another thing our comunidad is doing is going to live with host families in the campo (rural community). We are going to Paso Bajito, Jarabacoa, which is about an hour away from our center in Santiago. While we are there, we will be working with the people there to build an aqueduct system so they can have constant access to water. We will be there for 10 days. We will go back and visit them again in November.

Grace L

LMSG (LUTHERAN MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP)

THE CALL TO DUTY



*“So nigh is grandeur to our dust,
So near is God to man,
When Duty whispers low, ‘Thou must,’
The youth whispers, ‘I can.’”*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

To generalize the reasons why people have stepped forward to serve their country is as mistaken as it is to ignore those reasons.

Because one was drafted does not mean that one was forced. Because one

volunteered does not mean that one felt called. But if we are to attempt to serve both those who wear the uniform today, and those who have packed it away, it is important to recognize that all of them have responded to the call to duty. Few who were always-a-civilian understand the experience.

In the day of an all-volunteer military, in the days following 9/11 and frequent deployments to distant and dangerous places, few Americans enlist mainly to get a paycheck and VA benefits. There is something else that draws these young people to become warriors.

As with many who take on the uniform of law enforcement or firefighting, many who don the military uniform as a protector-of-society feel they are answering a calling. Some feel it is a call from God.

The phrase, *Pro Deo et Patria* (For God and Country) is a familiar one. It may strike us as reflecting a confusion of the roles of Church and State. For many, it may be just that. But not for all.

There are some faithful Christians who are in service to both God and Country. They believe they can serve their Savior by serving their nation.

They are not wrong.

Before we jump to the conclusion that then everyone who answers the call of patriotism must be a servant of God, we need to recall the factor of civic righteousness. The natural knowledge of God, including the conscience, can result in sacrificial actions for the good of society. By such actions, humankind has been blessed again and again. Non-Christians have lost their lives to protect others. Even self-professed God-haters have come up with discoveries and inventions and practices that we must thank God for.

But zeal and skill and success are not the qualifying marks of citizenship in the Kingdom of God. Neither is personal sacrifice.

Only one Sacrifice makes a difference. Acceptance of what happened on the center cross of Golgotha is key. The one who says, “The Son of God died for sinners; He died for me” is in service to the King.

That one serves by carrying out the will of his Savior God. Faithfully serving to protect one’s nation is one such example.

We might be surprised at the number of young people who rushed to enlist in the Wars we label I and II. In spite of the parades of anti-military protestors in the ‘60s, we must note that more than a few Christians voluntarily stepped forward for duty in Vietnam. More than a few who were drafted, nodded their heads in agreement and headed off to war feeling that this is what God expected of them.

Ralph Waldo Emerson is not a man we want to learn theology from. But his words capture the thoughts of many a Christian who has gone to war.

We dare not glamorize war. The military uniform is not the robe of righteousness. But we should not be surprised, and we surely should not be unappreciative of the fact, that many of those we want to serve in the name of Jesus believe they have served him in a special way by serving their country.

They heard the whisper of the call to duty—and they answered.

Now all has been heard here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind (Ecclesiastes 12:13).



Written by Pastor Paul Ziemer, WELS National Civilian Chaplain
and Liaison to the Military, Cape Coral, Florida
Provided by WELS Ministry to the Military
military@wels.net
August 25, 2018

CALL NEWS

God has led Pastor Helwig to decline the Call to serve as the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kiel, Wisconsin, and will remain here at Gethsemane. Pastor and his family thank you all for sharing your thoughts and prayers.

Now that Good Shepherd's vacancy has been filled, we hope and pray that we can give this section of the newsletter a much needed rest!