



GE⁺HSEMANE

Lutheran Church

Daylight Savings time ends
November 3, 2018

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

BAD FRUIT - GOOD FRUIT

Galatians 5:19-24

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

We know and believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for all our sins. The sins which Paul includes in this list (sins of which he says, "Those who live like this shall not inherit the kingdom of God") are not unforgivable sins in and of themselves. When we commit some or all the sins listed here, we can confess those sins to God and he will certainly forgive us in Christ. Penitent sinners will inherit the kingdom of God - because of Christ. Impenitent sinners - whose lives are characterized by these and other sins - however, will not inherit the kingdom of God.

We who know Jesus and his free forgiveness strive in our lives of faith to avoid the acts of the sinful nature. Out of love and thankfulness for the forgiveness we have in Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will drown the Old Adam in daily contrition and repentance. This repentance can't help but produce the fruits of the Spirit. The fruits of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control - are to now characterize our lives. We who belong to Christ are free to live for him; we are empowered to live for him; we also have his promise and his assurance that he will absolutely, most assuredly, forgive us when we fail to live for him.

PRAYER: Lord, forgive my many sins for the sake of my Savior who was crucified, who died, and who was buried. His death paid for my sins. His resurrection assures me that I will, one day, for his sake, inherit the kingdom of God. Thank you. Amen.

Pastor Helwig



Area Reformation
Worship
November 4, 2018
10 a.m.
Bennington High School
16610 Bennington Road

Thanksgiving Eve
Service

Wednesday, November 21, 2018, 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars! Special worship times coming up!

- + Sunday, December 23 Christmas Service @ Bennington High School Auditorium
10 a.m. NO SATURDAY SERVICE on December 22
- + Monday, December 24 Christmas Eve
5:30 or 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service
- + Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day
9 a.m. Service
- + Monday, December 31 New Year's Eve
6 p.m. Service with Lord's Supper



Midweek Advent services begin
Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 7 p.m.

School News

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this month of thankfulness and Thanksgiving, it is always good to look back, count blessings, and look ahead - all with the proper perspective.

Over the past 11 weeks, we have had 47 days of school. That's roughly 37 morning devotions, 10 chapel services, 47 opportunities to settle in to study God's Word or Lutheran hymns, easily over 150 opportunities to pray, two opportunities to sing in church, and countless opportunities to live our faith and/or apply the

lessons learned from God's Word. All these things are afforded to us through a Lutheran Elementary School. Our Lutheran Elementary School is afforded to us through a generous and dedicated Lutheran congregation. Thank you, Gethsemane! (Let's not forget we also have had many opportunities to study math, reading, social studies, science, spelling, grammar, music, art, PE - giving our students a well-rounded Christian education.)

With 28 weeks left, we know (and expect) that God's blessings will continue - in whatever ways he deems necessary. The final 28 weeks of school have so much in store for us, even if you just look at the planned curriculum, projects, events, and extra-curriculars. However, we know that school is so much more than just that. More importantly, we know that God has much, much more than that in store for us - and for that, we are truly thankful!

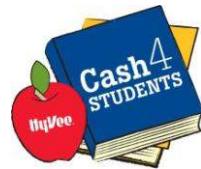
God bless you,
Mr. Pederson

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- Q1 ended on OCT 18. We were able to get reports out to parents this past week. Conferences with parents were held at the mid-quarter.
- At your reading, beyond what I mentioned above, we have also completed our annual Teachers' Conference, our first round of MAP testing, and our soccer and volleyball seasons. We are currently gearing up for our annual co-op with Good Shepherd for our basketball season.
- We look forward to our area Reformation service with all the special plans!
- 7-8th grade students from GLS will be running a few fundraisers for a field trip to Washington, D.C., later this school year. Please consider helping out with a very special opportunity for our kids!
- By next month's newsletter, we will be well into our preparations for the Christmas service. Looking forward to what this year's service will bring.

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 October meeting was held at Good Shepherd with 16 members and three guests present. Pastor Buchner opened with a devotion followed by a meeting and review of the 2018 OWLS Annual meeting and Convention at the Osthoff Lodge in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin. Eleven chapter members

were in attendance at the convention with the theme "Finish the Race."

Many great speakers were heard regarding mission work and personal experiences, in particular Blackhawk pilot Steve Schroeder, and wife Sarah shared life before and after his crash that has left him with paralyzed legs. Rebecca Wendland talked about family experiences living in Africa with family on a fourteen year mission trip.

A total of \$2,500 dollars were generated from the silent auction for donation to the European Civilian Chaplaincy. Attendees discussed other convention



experiences with many laughs.

The November meeting included ongoing discussions about coordinating and getting donation funds for the tie blanket project and later getting scarf and hat donations. Plans are again in progress to get contributors for the ENOA Holiday gift giving. A signup sheet was distributed.

Also shared from the President's Annual Report was the message that the overall membership in OWLS is declining. This decline is parallel to, and proportionally consistent with the decline in membership in the Wisconsin Synod as a whole. Much thought has been given to involving more senior members of our congregations in OWLS ministries and projects, and enlarging the OWLS footprint in our church body.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

- November 11 at 4:00 p.m. Veteran presentation by Tom Kroon and holiday dinner at Gethsemane (If schedule conflicts are evident the date will be adjusted to November 18th.)
- 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)

Thank you very much to all of those who donated food and time to help us host the LWMS Rally! We really appreciate everyone's help, and it was a great success!

Next up is our fall bake sale November 10th and 11th! Whether you're a baker, or a maker, or a taster, we'd appreciate your contribution! Look for more info and flyers coming up closer to the 10th!

We are collecting items for care packages for high school students away from home. If you would like to provide any items, please place them in the box on/near the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall by noon on Sunday, November 11th.

Please plan to join us on Thursday, November 1st, at 6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall for our November meeting. Even if you've never attended a meeting or maybe it's been awhile, come see what we are planning this year!

Looking forward, mark your calendars for December 2nd to attend Advent By Candlelight. Look for information coming soon about our spring silent auction!

Shonni J, secretary

LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

"Now Thank We All our God"

The fall rally was held on Saturday, October 6th, at Gethsemane! Registration began at 8:30 a.m., and the rally began at 9 a.m. Pastor Koester did the opening devotion. The speaker was Pastor Kent Reeder from Illumine Lutheran Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He spoke about the outreach work that is being done in his own congregation. After a short break, the rally continued with the business meeting. The rally concluded at 12:30 p.m., and a soup and salad lunch was served.



There were 42 ladies at the rally from the surrounding congregations in the NE-IA Circuit. Although it was a smaller group, it was a wonderful morning learning about the mission work being done throughout the world.

The Spring LWMS Rally will be held at Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church in Norfolk in early April. Look for more information in the upcoming months, and make plans to attend!

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." There was a lady from one of the congregations in Des Moines who came to our fall rally to promote the upcoming convention. Due to how large of a project the convention is, they are requesting help from our circuit. More information will be presented on this at the upcoming WINGS meeting in November. Make your plans next summer to attend!

November Prayer Requests:

The Apache Mission, as they celebrate 125 years of spreading the gospel!

The work being done at Living Savior in Blair.

Focusing on all of the blessings that we all have been given.

-Leslie B, Reporter



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

The 40th Anniversary celebrations continue at our area Lutheran high school, NELHS. We recently had numerous alumni and friends come to Homecoming 2018...including several Omaha people I hadn't seen since I previously left Nebraska! We have had a total of 770 graduates since that

first graduating class of 1982 - and we were thrilled to play host to two from that class at homecoming. If you read the CONTACT you can get the whole story, but I wanted to share this excerpt from an early graduate from NELHS:

I'm so thankful for my years at NELHS! I learned so much more about Christ and our salvation, and I made friends that I still have today. The academic rigor, the religious education, being with other kids who believed the same things I did, all of it was so wonderful and impactful in my life! Those memories are priceless to me. I wouldn't trade my time at Waco for anything!

We are nearing the halfway point of our 40 Days of Thanksgiving. If you would like to share some of your "Thankful for..." ideas for this, please send them to sbremer@nelhs.org. You can follow along at www.facebook.com/NELHS/, or Twitter @NELHS_Admin. If you are not receiving emails through our Constant Contact email lists, let me know so I can add you.

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:

- ✓ Nov 9-11: West Regional Choral Festival @ MVL - New Ulm, Minnesota
- ✓ Nov 18: Fall Activities Banquet (6 p.m.)
- ✓ Nov 21-25: Thanksgiving Break - No School
- ✓ Dec 16: Christmas Concert, One Act Play, 4 p.m.
- ✓ Dec 19-Jan 2: Christmas Break (school resumes Jan 3)

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

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Yankee Candle Fundraiser. Gethsemane will receive \$1300 in school funds! **THANK YOU!** The fundraiser contribution will help pay for items such as our October Norfolk soccer tournament, NEHLS volleyball, and upcoming musical fees. Our second fundraiser will be in the spring.

Our first apparel order for the school is currently running now through November 2nd. There are some fun new items for winter, all at great prices. Contact the church office if you need a form or have any questions.

Please join us for our next meeting, Thursday, November 8th, at 7 p.m. **Free childcare** will be provided, along with a special presentation on Parenting and Technology by Mr. Schmidt. We are looking forward to seeing new faces! Don't forget - **free childcare!**

Liz G, FOCE Secretary



Deacons

The snow in the middle of October was quite the boost to get us thinking about the upcoming winter! Ice melt is ready to go and we're working on securing our snow removal services.

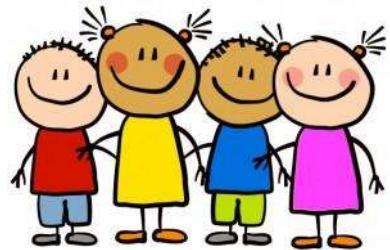
The fall flowers provided by our landscaping angel are beautiful! It is a huge blessing to have pretty flowers to greet us when we come for worship. We also thank him for continually cleaning off the parking lot so the leaves don't build up so much.

Filters have been changed for the quarter and the lighting has been refreshed. Some repairs were made to the appliances in the teacherage. No other major issues occurred this month.

If you see anything that needs attention, please contact the church office.

Discipleship

Sunday School



We are thankful for all our Sunday School 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.

November Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade

- 4 - No Class-Reformation
- 11 - "The Parable of the Lost Son"
- 18 - "The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard"
- 25 - No Class-Thanksgiving Break

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!

Nickie L, Sunday School Coordinator

Christmas For Kids



CHILI COOK-OFF



Stewardship

The Stewardship Board will be hosting a new member welcome dinner on November 11, 2018 following second service. All new and "old" members alike are invited and welcome to attend. We will once again be holding a chili cook-off. Everyone is encouraged to bring a "pot" of their prize winning chili to see how it stacks up against the competition. Sign-up sheets for bringing chili or toppings will be located in the fellowship hall. We hope you will join us in welcoming our new members!

Nick R

ALTAR CARE

If you're looking for a way to participate in our worship services, please consider signing up for altar care.

It's "behind the scenes" but a very important part in helping our Pastors share God's Word with us. Altar care workers post hymn numbers on the boards, make sure the candles have oil and set up communion twice a month. It takes anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes a week. Individual orientation is readily available.

Think about signing up with a friend and share the month's duties. If you're interested, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall.

Book Club



Many thanks to all who were able to attend our October evening of "discussion" hosted by Shonni. We discussed **Same Kind of Different as Me** by Ron Hall and Denver Moore. It was a super evening of conversation and fellowship!!!

There will be no formal book club meeting in November but rather we will meet again on Tuesday, December 4th at Mandie's to discuss the book **The Woman in the Window** by A.J. Finn. We are actually procuring several copies of this book through the Omaha Public Library's book club program. Books will be available after November 2nd. If you haven't let me know if you want a copy, please let me know at your earliest convenience. We should have at least 10 copies available to share.

At that meeting we'll also be discussing the next books up for discussion. Thank you, Dawn, for volunteering to host our January get-together (the 22nd).

Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday and keep reading!!

Becky G

Handel's Messiah



Everyone is invited to attend a free concert featuring the Voices of Omaha singing Handel's Messiah. It will be held on Sunday, November 18 at 3 p.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center in downtown Omaha. This is the 50th performance of the Messiah by this Kathy K and Karl & Lauren W are singing in this choir.

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 month of October was a fun one at The Vine! We had a great month learning all about Fall Fun: with Pumpkins and Leaves! Here is a look at what has been happening at The Vine:

- * There are approximately 12-15 kids that attend each week.
- * All of the kids that attend are members of our church, or have connections with the school.
- * Pastor Helwig, Pastor Koester, and Mr. Pederson rotate doing the opening devotion with the group. The kids love having them each come in!
- * There is a bulletin board to the right of the Kindergarten lockers/cubbies. Feel free to check out their marble-painted pumpkins!
- * The Upcoming November themes: Harvest Time: Apples and Corn
- * Cathi Schuett graciously designed ALL of the theme images for the entire year! A very special thank you to her for her amazing creativity!
- * Mr. Pederson adds the weekly themes and pictures to the Gethsemane Lutheran School Facebook page. Feel free to “like” it and share it with your friends!
- * The best way to advertise is from YOU! Word of mouth is the best form of advertisement!

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 held in Mrs. Roberts' classroom in the school.

Your continuous donations of the items are so greatly appreciated! Thank you! Look for the December Wish List on the table in the fellowship, beginning in November.

Feel free to contact the office or either of the pastors with any questions.



LMSG



AMMO Can

As Veterans Day approaches, our congregation's Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is asking for donations to support our military men, women and their families. LMSG, a partnership of ELS and WELS veterans, is working to grow awareness of and bring Christian support to military members and their families in our congregations and beyond. By placing your gift in the AMMO can located in the narthex on Sunday, November 11th, you are supporting the work of local congregations that are ministering to nearby military families, the WELS European chaplain program and global broadcasts of Time of Grace to our military.

If you have questions, please contact LMSG Congregational Liaison, Tom K, or visit www.lutheranmilitary.org.

THANK YOU for standing shoulder to shoulder with those serving our nation!!



This Veterans Day, we recognize our members
who have served in the armed forces:



Thank you for your service!

