



GE+HSEMANE

Lutheran Church

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



WALK IN STEP

Galatians 5:25

Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Paul sums up the point he has been making in chapter 5 concerning our Christian living. We are redeemed children of God who have been set free from the burdens of the law and who have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to now freely keep the law out of love for Christ. The Holy Spirit has created the New Man in each one of us. He did that when he brought us to faith in Jesus.

Daily we battle against the Old Adam in us. Daily we drown the Old Adam in contrition and repentance so that each day a new man may arise and gladly serve our gracious God. The summary statement is quite simple - since we live by the spirit we can now keep in step with the Holy Spirit.

New Year's resolution or not, resolved in Christ we can do this. May God bless your Christian living as you walk in step with the Spirit!

PRAYER: *Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee. Amen.*

Pastor Helwig

Special holiday worship times:

- † 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,

An adaptation of CW #71

The old church year now has passed away;
We thank you, O our God today
That you have kept us in your Word
And with it - all your promises have assured.

We pray you, O eternal Son,
Who with the Father reigns as one,
Please bless this Advent season time
Focus our hearts; let Christmas shine!

Take not your saving Word away,
Which lights and cheers our souls each day.
Help us to keep our Christmas cheer
When we see stress and deadlines near.

May we at Christmas then adore
And praise you, Christ-child, evermore;
Oh, bless us as December comes
And make our Advent hearts your home.



Please be sure to look for announcements regarding the Children's Christmas Service on December 23. We look forward to again being able to praise the new-born king with a service led by the children of our church and school. Please contact our Pastors, Mrs. Landis, Miss Hunt, or me with any questions.

May God bless your Advent preparations and your Christmas celebrations!

Mr. P

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 November OWLS gathering was at Gethsemane on November 11th with a Veterans Day dinner. 50 attended including military veterans and families from all three metro churches as well as ministers and families from Gethsemane and Good Shepherd. All stood and paid tribute with the “Pledge of Allegiance” to the flag and sang together “God Bless America.” Veteran attendees shared their military history followed by guest speaker, Tom Kroon, Area Liaison for the Lutheran Military Support group. Tom highlighted the programs that are partially funded by the “ammo can” collection that takes place at our churches on Memorial and Veterans Day. Donations go to support numerous ministries programs and services for veterans and active service members. Tom’s presentation was concluded with the Lord’s Prayer.



An update was provided on the OWLS blanket project and assignments distributed to contributors of the ENOA Holiday gift giving project. A signup sheet was distributed.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

- December 9th Christmas Light Tour proceeded by a dinner and election meeting at La Casa Pizza.

Come join us, guests are always welcome!
Happy Thanksgiving!

*Dick V, President;
Sandy T, Secretary*

WINGS

(Women In God’s Service)

Advent By Candlelight

Ladies of our congregation are invited to attend this year’s Advent by Candlelight: *Anticipating His Presence*. If you have not attended in the past, Advent by Candlelight is an evening away from the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations to allow you to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. This is an excellent opportunity to invite friends and family for a ladies night with the focus on God’s gift to us. The program will start at 6:30 and desserts/fellowship will follow. Please RSVP to the church office at office@gethsemanelutheran.com. Or you may sign up at the table in the fellowship hall. If you plan on attending Advent by Candlelight and would like to bring a dessert along, please sign up at the table as well.



We are in need of ladies to host a table for this event. What this entails is decorating one of tables in the fellowship hall as you would a formal dinner. Inspiration pictures may be found online. The hostess sign-up sheet is on the table in the fellowship hall. There is also hostess information sheets on the table; please take one if you sign up to host a table. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Rachel Clayton.

Upcoming with WINGS

- ✓ **Bunco night**- Location and date is “to be determined.” Please keep an eye out for bulletin and email announcements about our annual Bunco night.
- ✓ **February 1st** - The Omaha area churches are in charge of the booster meal during the NELHS basketball games/grade school cheer camp on Saturday, February 1st. The meal portion that our congregation is contributing is already taken care of. We are in need of volunteers to help serve the meal during the basketball games.
- ✓ **February 7th** - Our next meeting
- ✓ **Silent Auction** - This year we will be having our silent auction in March. The specific dates will be set at our February 7th meeting.

This year is an important year for WINGS. In May all four officers will be ending their terms. What this means is we are in need of ladies to volunteer for these positions. None of them are difficult or very time consuming. All of them are very rewarding. WINGS is here to support our congregation in various ways: care meals, cheer cards, care packages, altar flowers, assisting with funerals, providing funds for needed items at church, etc. All of these things are done by the caring women of our congregation but will have difficulty continuing if there is no one to facilitate them. Please consider this opportunity. If you have any questions about what serving on the WINGS board entails, don't hesitate to contact the church office.

Rachel C, President



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

News from NELHS

The 40th Anniversary celebrations continue at our area Lutheran high school, NELHS. As we near the end of our 40 Days of Thanksgiving, I have to pause to say “Thank you” to Gethsemane Lutheran Church and School. Thank you for your many years on continued support and prayers. I recently stopped by to say hello to your students, and I was so impressed with them. Many of them greeted me with a smile and a hello upon my arrival as they were heading out to recess. Each classroom was friendly and asked some great questions about NELHS. As I told the upper grade students, if any parents have questions about NELHS, I am happy to come out to Gethsemane and meet with a group of parents; or if you'd like to meet individually, I'm more than happy to meet with you at church or your home.

It's registration time for next year! To fill out the application, go to www.nelhs.org and click on the top tab “Admissions.” On the left, “New Student Registration,” then and then click on the TADS link and you'll be taken to the correct location to get the application started. There are discounts for applying early! Mr. Pederson has several informational sheets about NELHS.

Are you receiving emails that have [Constant Contact](#) on the bottom? If not, please let me know so I can add you. I can also send you the link to sign yourself up.

Recent awards: Our One Act Play students have started off with a strong year again. At the first competition Chloe H and Garrett B both won individual acting awards. The UNL Math Meet was held in mid-November. Our students won 1st place for the Probe Test and finished 2nd in the Team Competition.

Christmas break is coming and we may be in need 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.

Upcoming dates:

- ✓ 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

Hard to believe the holiday season is already here! We wrapped up November with the end of our apparel order, which earned around \$85, along with band fee payments. We also had a very successful meeting on the 8th with great turnout and participation. FOCE is very thankful to the parents and families that took the time out of their busy schedules to join us. In the upcoming months, FOCE will be contributing funds towards buses for Christmas caroling, along with the annual GLS bowling day.

A few items to mark in your calendars: the Winter Festival on January 18th, and our next meeting on January 24th. If you are available before the Winter Festival to set up, or clean up afterwards, help is greatly appreciated. Please plan on attending both events!

If you ever have questions, please contact the church office. Have a wonderful Christmas!

Liz G, FOCE Secretary

Deacons

Happily, we can report no other issues occurred this month. We have a light on the south side of the new addition that blinked for a while but has now stopped. If someone took time to fix that, thank you!

Thank you to our landscaping warrior who is keeping up with the leaves and the gutters. The maple tree right outside the school entrance is stingy when it comes to dropping leaves. It's an ongoing job!

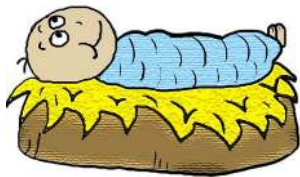
Our snow removal contract is in the works, and the ice melt is available for use. If you use the last of the ice melt or see it getting low, please contact the church office so more can be brought up from the basement.

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



Sunday School

It's that wonderful time of year when we celebrate our Savior's Birth! Our children at Gethsemane will be sharing the message of Jesus in the Children's Christmas Service December 23rd.



On Sundays December 2nd, 9th, & 16th, we will be practicing for the Children's Christmas Service. It is important for all children in preschool-8th grade to be there to learn all those songs together! We will start at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Programs have been passed out. Preschool students received their part. Public school families or preschool students, if you are still in need of a program or your part, let the church office know.

We will also have a practice Saturday, December 22nd at 10 a.m. at Bennington High School's Auditorium, 16610 Bennington Road. This is very important as children will learn where their place is and where we practice everything all together.

The Children's Christmas Service is Sunday, December 23rd at 10 a.m. at Bennington's High School's Auditorium. Students should be there at least 20 minutes before 10 a.m.

Sunday school in December:

- 2 - Children's Christmas service rehearsal
- 9 - Children's Christmas service rehearsal
- 16 - Children's Christmas service rehearsal
- 23 - Children's Christmas Service
- 30 - No class - Christmas break

May your Christmas Season be filled with JOY!

Nickie L, Sunday School Coordinator



Christmas For Kids

A colorful illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, baby Jesus lies in a wooden manger, wrapped in a blue blanket. Mary is seated to the left, and Joseph stands behind the manger. Three wise men in ornate robes and crowns stand to the right. To the left, a shepherd in a green robe holds a staff, with a white sheep in the foreground. Behind the figures are a grey donkey, a brown camel, and a brown ox. An angel with large blue wings and a golden halo stands on the roof of the stable. A bright yellow star with a blue glow is in the dark blue night sky. The background is a dark blue sky with white stars.

You're invited:
**Happy Birthday
Jesus Party!**
Saturday, December 15th
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
4040 N. 108th St.
Omaha, NE
Lunch Served!
Ages: Prek-5th grade
register: gethsemanelutheran.com
call: 402-493-2550

Stewardship

The Stewardship Board hosted a new member welcome dinner and chili cook-off on Sunday, November 11. New and “old” members enjoyed trying 13 different kinds of chili before going into the sanctuary for Gethsemane’s version of “Minute to Win-It.”

Congratulations to Shonni J on her three-peat victory in our cook-off!

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.

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Calendar for 2019 will be posted in the coming week so you can sign up to provide altar flowers for the Sunday of your choice. Family Fare on 108th and Maple will continue to provide us with beautiful arrangements. The cost is still \$30. Feel free to take your flowers home after the second service on the Sunday you provide flowers.

WINGS will bill you for the flowers and payment can be placed in the locked box on the fellowship hall table. Thank you for adding the beauty of flowers to our worship services!

Card/Meditation Recycling

The OWLS would like your old Christmas cards and Meditations booklets! They use them to make book marks and provide devotionals for Prison Ministries. There is a box on the table in the fellowship hall in which you can put your items. Thank you for your help!



Christmas Decorating

Please come to Gethsemane on Tuesday, November 27th, to help us decorate the church for Christmas! We will begin at 6 p.m. Many hands make light work. Hope to see you!



Christmas Caroling

Come caroling with us! On Friday, December 21st, a group of us are going out to sing some Christmas carols to our shut-ins. The plan is to meet at church at 5:30 p.m. and drive to our first stop. If you can't make it to church by 5:30 p.m., please catch up with us on our route by texting Karen S to see where you can meet us.

Church Cleaning

Every week one family, couple, or group cleans the church. This includes vacuuming, cleaning windows, and dusting. The average volunteer cleaner will have to clean 2-3 times during the YEAR! Mr. Pederson and the upper grades clean once a month during the school year. FOCE will clean for you if you give their group a small donation. Cleaning supplies are on hand or you can bring your own. No one will come behind your work with the "white glove test." A family of 6 can usually clean the church in about an hour, that's two parents working the entire time and four kids dusting then hiding out in the cry room. Consider volunteering for the much needed position of church cleaner. As for the adventure, one never knows what interesting things one can find in those last pews while cleaning.

Please check out the sheet on the corner table of the fellowship hall. We would like to add some additional names to the list!



Poinsettias



A sign-up sheet is on the table in the fellowship hall to provide a poinsettia for the Christmas services here at Gethsemane. After the last Christmas service, you may take your poinsettia home to enjoy. The cost is \$7 each. All orders need to be in by Sunday, December 16th. WINGS will bill you.



Special Choir Opportunity

Our adult choir is hard at work rehearsing songs for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. They practice on Wednesday evenings at 6:30. You are more than welcome to join them!

Understanding that the directors and accompanists and musicians and singers of our adult choir already have plenty on their plates but still wanting a number of adults to join in a special song with our children during the Children's Christmas Service on Sunday, December 23rd at 10 a.m., we are inviting you to be a part of a special choir for that day. One song. One service.

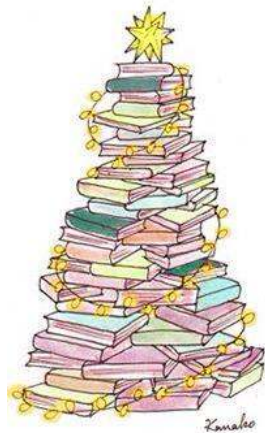
We will practice on the following three days:

- Sunday, December 2 at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Since, we hope, many of the adults who will be singing this song will be parents of our school and Sunday school children; we will also practice with the children on Saturday, December 22 at Bennington High School. (We'll let you know the exact time as that gets closer.)

This special choir is open to all of the teens and adults of our congregation. We hope you can join us. If you have any questions, please ask.

Book Club



As we wrap up the 2018 calendar year, we thank everyone for their participation in Book Club to this date. We find ourselves finishing with meeting at Mandie's on Tuesday, December 4th to discuss **The Woman in the Window** by A.J. Finn. Also that evening we'll talk about which books are next on our list.

January sees us meeting on the 22nd and will be hosted by Dawn B. As soon as we know what we'll be reading, we'll post it in an upcoming bulletin as well as the January newsletter.

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday and wish you a very blessed Christmas season.

Becky G

Thrivent Action Teams

Attention Thrivent members:

Most Thrivent members over the age of 18 with policies are eligible for two \$250 Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year to be used for the event of their choice.

It's nearing the end of 2018 and Thrivent members are nearing the "use it or lose it" deadline for their 2018 Action Teams. These Action Teams benefited Gethsemane last year in many ways. They are a great way to do special things anywhere in the community and could be a real boost to our ministry! The cool thing is that it costs the Thrivent member nothing! If the Thrivent Action Team is not used for the year, it is gone and the funds are sent to a designation you have absolutely no say in! All 2018 Thrivent Action Teams need to be submitted by the end December 2018 in order to not be "lost" for the year. In 2019 the funds reset and can be used again.

If you are a Thrivent member and are interested in applying for an Action Team, please contact the church office for assistance.

Military News

Boxes are on the table in the fellowship hall in which you can place any treats you would like to send to our member, Matthew E, who has deployed to Qatar. A list of ideas for items for the box is taped to one of the boxes. Please place any items you wish to share into the boxes before December 10th. The boxes will be taken to Offutt Air Force Base and flown overseas.

