

GETHSEMANE

Lutheran Church

News from 4040 N. 108th Street, Omaha, NE 68164
January, 2019

RESTORE HIM GENTLY

Galatians 5:26-6:6

Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load.

These are good words for all Christians to keep in mind. It is easy for our sinful pride to get the best of us. It is easy to compare ourselves to people who are not as mature in living their faith as perhaps we are. It is easy, when - even out of love - we try to lead a fellow brother or sister in faith to repentance, to think we are somehow better than they are, because we didn't get caught up in that particular sin.

(Think about that potential scenario as those weaker Christians in Galatia who had been bowing to the teaching of the Judaizers had to come back and say, "I guess we were wrong. You were right." The temptation for the Christians who had been right all along would have been to say, "See, I told you so.")

A quick look into the mirror of God's holy law shows all of us that we have nothing to brag about. As we test our own actions we quickly see that we can take no pride in our behavior. Our sin condemns us and, for the good that we do accomplish, all credit goes to God. Perhaps it is fitting to simply close by reading these verses one more time.

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PRAYER: Lord, I thank you for my forgiveness in Christ and I pray that you would give me the love and discernment to not be judgmental but to also address my brother or sister when he or she is caught in sin that you may restore him or her gently. May I not become conceited! Remind me always that I am nothing without you. Amen.

Pastor Stephen Helwig

School News



Blessed wishes to you for 2019,

In our Gethsemane faculty meetings, we try to strike a balance between the needed discussions on regular “business” and upcoming items with teacher development/professional growth activities. A while back we had a topic of Pride in Your School. It was a quick-hitting topic, not intended to take long or bog us down. However, it was an interesting topic for us to go over. You see, humility is usually seen as the better side of the coin than pride. Normally we feel it best not to get puffed up

with pride - and for a few good reasons. But a lack of pride can be negative, just as much as having too much pride could be. And so, we pursued the activity, and teachers came with lists of things that they felt GLC/GLS do very well. Things on these lists would be seen as “calling cards” of what we want GLS to be known for. We narrowed longer lists down to 10 items that showed up on lists more often than others and best reflected what our teachers see while they go about their day-to-day ministries.

The school calendar has five pages left, so I’d like to share two with you each month as we head through Semester 2. While the list isn’t necessarily intended to be in order of importance, highest votes, etc., our top two are more than fitting the head our list.

#1 - Christ-centered in all we do: Obviously this one is a proverbial “no brainer.” Gethsemane Lutheran School is set apart from others because Christ can be found in every aspect of the day. For every aspect of the day, it is intended that Christ will be found. Christ permeates the start of our day in both devotions and religion classes. Christ is there when we learn about his entire creation and how it works. Christ is there when we see how the path of all history is guided - and not just the history regarding a census and a trip to Bethlehem. Christ is there when we encourage and develop gifts and abilities to infer, deduce, match, spell, create, rhyme, draw, write, analyze, read, sing, discuss, debate, and play. Christ is there when we pray before lunch and at the end of the day.

#2 - Our student’s Bible knowledge: Our teachers have the wonderful privilege to see God’s Word burning brightly, not only in their hearts, but their minds as well. Starting from whatever age they start as an individual, students that go through Gethsemane’s religion curriculum learn to know their Savior, learn to know God, learn to know their Bible - and learn all these things very well! Bible “stuff” takes up a good chunk of our day. Those minutes and hours are afforded for other things in other places, but we wouldn’t trade them for the world! From the youngest to the oldest, we see students growing in the grace of Jesus, but we also see them growing in the knowledge of Jesus.

Maybe even without seeing our day or walking our halls, you can be proud, too! You can be proud that your congregation operates your school. You can be proud that your teachers, whom you called to serve, are doing just that. You can be proud of the Christian training and Bible education of Gethsemane Lutheran School.

*In Christ,
Mr. Pederson*

Semester 1 has wrapped up with 82 days in the books. We thank our teachers, pastors, secretary, School Board, parents, congregation, and supports for all that was done at GLS in 2018, and especially in our first semester. We look forward to God’s blessings in 2019 - and our second semester!

We thank everyone for Christmas greetings, well-wishes, thoughts, prayers, and gifts during the Christmas season. God’s love for us is shown in the Christ-child. We see your love for God in showing love and generosity to us. We are thankful for the blessings that you all are to us!



FOCE

(Friends Of Christian Education)

FOCE kicks off the new year with a few important dates to

note:

- January 18th - Winter Festival starts at 6:30, with food and beverages provided by FOCE. Please join us for this fun night of fellowship and games!
- January 24th - FOCE Meeting. We will keep this short and brief at 30 minutes, but plenty of important items will be discussed. Please plan to join us. The class with the largest number of parent/guardian attendees will receive a class pizza party!

We look forward to a great 2019!

Hy-Vee Cash for Students

Please bring in your HyVee receipts dated between September 1 and December 31 and place them in the collection boxes located on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall and in the school hallway.

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



Blanket drop off at the Buffet Center



All aboard



Third load of presents to ENOA

The OWLS closed out the year with a dinner and meeting at LaCasa Pizza and light tour on *Ollie the Trolley* with 25 in attendance. While our chapter enjoyed the fellowship, gatherings and field trips this past year, the holiday spirit was evident with scarves and hats for the homeless, gifts for 21 adopted clients without families through the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging (ENOA), and the handmade fleece blanket project. Over 70 blankets were made and distributed to our congregation shut-ins, Cancer Center patients, and the homeless shelter. Thank you to all that contributed to this effort.

Our next gathering will be at Good Shepherd on Sunday, January 13th, at 2 p.m.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

*Dick V, President
Sandy T, Secretary*

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!

WINGS

(Women IN God's Service)

Our annual fellowship night of Bunco and our white elephant gift exchange is on the docket for January. Details are being finalized at this printing and will be forthcoming. Please stay tuned to bulletins, emails or other church announcements regarding this fun night. Hope you can join us.

~Rachel C



LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is upon you.”

-Isaiah 60:1

Happy New Year! What a blessing it is to bring in each new year with the Lord! What a comfort it is to know that God is watching over us each and every year.

The 56th Annual Convention will be held in Des Moines this June 27-30, 2019. The theme is, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus in the Heartland." It is only a 2 hour drive to Des Moines, and it is such a close rally to attend. If you have never been to a rally, NOW is your opportunity! The missionaries and speakers are truly inspirational, and ones that leave a lasting impression.

Since the rally is so close to Omaha, they are asking for help from the surrounding congregations—including ours! Our congregation has been asked to make a missionary tri-fold display board. Look for more information about ways that we, as a congregation, will be helping over the next few months.

Make attending the LWMS part of your summer plans! Registration information will be available soon!

January Prayer Requests

The mission work being done throughout the city of Omaha.

The mission work being done in Asia.

The professors at Martin Luther College.

~Leslie B



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Happy Epiphany! January 6th marks the day we remember the star guiding the wise men to our Savior, Jesus. Epiphany is a reminder that the Christ Child came not only to the Jews, but also to the Gentiles. The wise men followed the star and travelled a great distance to offer gifts of gold (representing his royal standing), frankincense (his divine birth), and myrrh (his mortality).

The Epiphany season runs through the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday. What a privilege we have at NELHS to help our students be guided by the star of Jesus. As the beginning of Isaiah 60 tells us, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm." May Jesus guide you through 2019.

Registration for next year is open. To fill out the application, go to www.nelhs.org and click on the top tab "Admissions." On the left, "New Student Registration," 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. If you have questions about NELHS, I'm happy to come to Gethsemane and visit - Mr. Pederson can set up a time.

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.

Upcoming dates:

- ✓ Feb 1: BB & Cheerleading Parents' Night
- ✓ Feb 1: Grandparents Day
- ✓ Feb 9: Cheer Camp
- ✓ Feb 22-23: LES Basketball Tourney at NELHS
- ✓ Feb 24-Mar 3: Spring Break

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



Deacons

We had a little mishap that required some fixing on our aging building. The gutter on the west side of the roof crashed to the ground due to the heavy ice and leaves that filled it (as well as a ball—hmmm). The maple tree on the west side of the building refuses to drop its leaves in a timely fashion, and the early snow caught us off guard. Thanks to Paul H and his contacts, we got this fixed quickly. In the spring we will need to give some more attention to our downspouts so this issue doesn't come up again.

Thank you to Dick V, who fixed the pews in the back of the church. He fashioned his repairs after ones that were done earlier by Bruce D. We are thankful for have these men use their talents to keep our building up.

Thank you to our landscaping angel who provided the beautiful Christmas arrangements for the pots outside the church doors. They are so pretty!

As the snow falls and the ice forms, please be careful in the parking lot. Since we only have a hired person to plow the lot and scoop the walks after snowfalls, we appreciate anyone's help in making the lot and sidewalks safer to walk on. Please use the ice melt located near the building entrances whenever it's needed and let the church office know when it is getting low so more can be ordered.

If you see anything that needs to be attended to, please contact the church.

Discipleship

Sunday School News



Happy New Year! We're excited to get back to Sunday School!

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.

January Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade

- 6 - "Jesus and His Disciples in the Upper Room"
- 13 - "Jesus' Crucifixion"
- 20 - "Jesus' Burial and Resurrection"
- 27 - "Jesus' Ascension"

See you Sunday!

Nickie L, Sunday School Coordinator



Christmas For Kids

Gethsemane held its annual Christmas 4 Kids on December 15 with a “Happy Birthday, Jesus,” party! Thanks to the efforts of some great planners and volunteers, a great morning was had by all! 68 children were in attendance (from 3 years of age to children in 5th grade) and were able to learn again the story of Christmas from God’s Word. Decorating (and eating) Christmas cookies, enjoying craft time, singing songs and playing games rounded out the activities. These stations, of course, were manned by more than 23 volunteers (teens and adults).

Special thanks goes out to all who helped run the activities, lead children from one activity to another, prepare lunch, and donate all the necessary food for the day. God certainly has blessed us with a wonderful children’s ministry and with another successful Christmas 4 Kids!

THE VINE

A place where children grow in faith.

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

Happy New Year!

The Vine had a busy December! The month-long theme was, “Happy Birthday Jesus!” From making ornaments, to playing with the nativity scene, to making individual gingerbread houses, there were many activities that took place each week! It was truly awesome to incorporate the celebration of Jesus’ birth throughout all of the activities.

We will kick off two new themes during the month of January. 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.! It is held in Mrs. Robert’s classroom.

Thank you so very much for your generous donations of the items every month. It is truly incredible!

Look for the January and February wish lists on the table in the fellowship hall, beginning in January.

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



Stewardship

Offering envelopes for 2019 have been distributed. If you didn’t receive envelopes and would like one, please contact the church office. If you got them and won’t use them, please return them to box #21 (Sloan) or to the church office so they can be used for someone else. Please discard any from last year as your number has changed.

Please look for your offering statements by the end of January.

Altar care and kitchen towel duty schedules have been finalized for 2019 and have been distributed. Ushers should look in their member mailboxes for the first two months of the usher schedule. The counting schedule will be forthcoming. Thank you, everyone, who has served here at Gethsemane. It takes all of us to keep our ministry going!

Hockey Fellowship Night



Let's have some fun together! The Stewardship Board is hosting a Hockey Fellowship Night. Join us on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 7:05 p.m. at the Ralston Arena. It will be a fun and exciting evening as the Omaha Lancers take on the Youngstown Phantoms. Tickets are \$10 a person. We will put in a order for group seating, so the deadline for reserving tickets is January 13th. Please sign up in the fellowship hall, or contact the church office.

Book Club



January sees us picking back up with Book Club evenings on the 4th Tuesday of the month. I hope you all had a blessed Christmas and New Year's holiday (and maybe a few days extra off to enjoy family and fun)!

We will be meeting on Tuesday, January 22nd at the home of Dawn B to discuss **The Lilac Girls** by Martha Hall Kelly. Please plan to join us at 7 p.m. that evening for some great fellowship and discussion as well as a snack or two!

And a heads up for future dates for Book Club in the first half of 2019 (so you can get your calendars marked now to ensure you're able to join in the fun): February 26th, March 26th and April 23rd. So far we have no volunteers for any of those dates for hosting - so if you're interested just let me know! Additionally - we only have one book left from our "summer of 2018 reading list" -- **The Lakehouse** by Kate Morton, so we'll be needing additional ideas to fill out the months.

I look forward to seeing you all in January at Dawn's!

Becky Golden

Cathi Schuett