



GETHSEMANE

Lutheran Church

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

DO NOT BECOME WEARY

Galatians 6:6-9

Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

As Paul continues to give general encouragements for Christian living, he takes time to focus on material blessings. Paul encourages all Christians to use material blessings wisely. Paul states that a man reaps what he sows. If a man uses his material blessings to satisfy his materialistic needs, wants, and cravings, he may reap temporary enjoyment; but he may forfeit his soul. Such sowing leads to a harvest of destruction because it takes our focus off Christ and turns material possessions into idols that we worship in place of Christ.

However, the man who sows to please the Spirit - the man who is a good steward of the "good things" that God has given him and who uses them wisely - will reap eternal life. To be sure (and Paul just wrote an entire letter about the following point), he does not reap eternal life because he doesn't let his possessions own him; he reaps eternal life through faith in Christ but his faith in Christ will reflect itself in his wise stewardship of goods.

Notice also that Paul doesn't shy away from encouraging the Galatians to support those who taught the Word of God among them. While Paul normally refused such monetary support from the congregations he served, Paul did want God's people to experience the joy of supporting not only Gospel ministry but also Public Ministers of the Gospel. What a blessing it was for each of our Called workers to receive so many expressions of love and support and gratitude from all of you this Christmas. Faith in Christ moved you to share those good things with your instructors. On behalf of all of our pastors and teachers, we are grateful for all of your support, encouragement, prayers, cards, and gifts.

PRAYER: *Heavenly Father, I thank you for the blessings of this life which you have showered upon me. Let them serve me; keep me from serving them. Move me to use them wisely. Move me to use them to support the work of your Church. Amen.*

Pastor Helwig

For your calendar: Voters' Meeting is March 10, 2019, at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall.



School News

Warm wishes to you as we battle through the cold,

This month my article will continue our look at the school's top 10 list. Last month we introduced the list and the idea behind it. Things on these lists would be the "calling cards" of what we see and want GLS to be known for. We narrowed our lists down to 10 items that showed up more often than others and best reflected what our teachers see while they go about their day-to-day ministries. In case you missed it or forgot, the first two items on our list were:

#1 Christ-centered in all we do

#2 Our students' Bible knowledge

#3 Daily faculty devotions: It is more than rare that a GLS school day doesn't start with our teachers and staff members gathering together for time in the Word. Granted, upon arrival all our teachers have a few things that they need to do to finish preparations for the day. But those things can wait. Those things do wait for our devotion to happen first. We use all kinds of resources, be it special Advent/Christmas devotions, devotions for teachers, WELS daily devotions, old Meditations devotions or devotions set for specific days. The resource doesn't make the difference. The Source makes the difference - God's Word and its power directed specifically to us as we start our day! This devotion time sets our hearts and minds on the best path for each day. We are thankful that it is more than just a tradition or habit here. It is who we are and what we do.

#4 Weekly chapel services: Somewhat related to #3, each of our near-40 weeks of school finds us gathered all together as a school in church for a special start to our day. Pastors, Mr. P, and Kids' Connection videos (WELS-Connection for kids) all take turns each week in a rotation. Each year we have a special theme - this year is Walk with God; Talk with God - which lays out the path for these chapel services. Many of our chapels have a multi-media element too, so it is a bit different from our regular classroom devotions. In chapel we have our message from God's Word. We pray, sing, and collect offerings for a mission project*. Again, it is extremely rare if a week goes by and chapel isn't there. If any circumstances do arise, we can still meet and do a hymn-sing. Not only does chapel allow us to start our day in God's Word, it reminds us all to keep meeting together in God's house. In addition, our oldest students match up with "chapel buddies" to help them follow along with the service and maintain their focus on the message. And as several parents join us each week, we know that they, too, are starting their day in the right place. What a blessing to have mini-church in the middle of the week!

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.

* Our SEM 2 mission project is the WELS mission project to create a seminary in Vietnam!

In Christ,
Mr. Pederson

Month #2 of our second semester is already making its way here. Christmas break, MLK Day, and two "snow" days cut our January down a little, but February is stacked with just as many items to keep us all very busy.

FEB 1 - Middle of Q3
 FEB 2-3 - End of league basketball for Gr. 5-6
 FEB 4 - MAP Testing, session 2, for Gr. 3-8
 FEB 17 - Christian Education Sunday
 FEB 18 - Lutheran Schools Week/Spirit Week

FEB 19 - End of league basketball for Gr. 7-8
 FEB 21 - Pep Rally and WinterFest
 FEB 22-23 - NELHS Basketball Tournament
 FEB 25 - Teacher In-service
 (FEB 22 and 25 will be NO SCHOOL days)

Preparations are ongoing for our spring musicals in late March. Plans for the 7-8TH graders' field trip to Washington, DC, are also ongoing.

We hope our basketball teams have fantastic ends to the seasons, especially with the NELHS Tournament at the end. I can report more on that next month.

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



The OWLS kicked off the New Year with a laid back gathering at Good Shepherd that included good fellowship, great refreshments, and a few games on the side. Our meeting was called to order with 17 members and 2 guests present. Pastor Buchner provided an opening devotion from Luke Chapter 3 with the baptism of Jesus and how this was



God's plan to publicly call Him to his ministry.

Before moving forward, comments were shared regarding the appreciation received for the fleece tie blankets delivered to our congregation shut-ins, Buffet Cancer Center, and to our community's Open Door Mission and Night Watch. A big thank you was extended to our contributors.

A team has been selected to revise the OWLS New Member Packet folder. Dawn Varner will be assisting the National OWLS staff in editing the New Horizons newsletter while President Norman Schell continues to search for a Spiritual Growth Leader for the National organization.

On the home front, we continue to monitor Marlene N and Reid H and their recovery from surgery and hospitalization.

Down the road, the OWLS' upcoming schedule is as follows:

- February 8 (Friday) "Double Header" Douglas County 911 Call Center tour (Sheriff's office 156th and Maple) and guest speaker on Tax Laws. Specific time TBA.
- March 10 (Sunday): "An Evening with Martin Luther" by Dr. Dwight Johnson, 2:00 p.m. at Gethsemane, open to all congregation members.
- April 14 Speaker John Johnson, Omaha Astronomical Society- Location TBA

*Dick V, President
 Sandy T, Secretary*



WINGS

(Women In God's Service)

WINGS will be having a Bunco night at Shonni J's on Thursday, January 31st, at 7:00 p.m. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend! We hope you can make it! If you have any questions, please contact Shonni, Rachel C, or the church office.

Our church, along with the other area churches, will be putting together and serving the meal for Cheer Camp at NELHS on February 9th. The meal preparations are underway. However, if you are able to help serve or assist with the meal, please contact any of us officers or Carrie H. Thanks!

Our annual Silent Auction will be held in the spring this year over two weekends. We will have it in March. We are again looking for any basket donations or other items you would like to sell! We will also need help with setting up, cleaning up, and figuring out the "winners"! Look for more information about this in the coming weeks!



Please plan to attend our next WINGS meeting on Thursday February 7th at 7:00 p.m. to discuss our current activities and upcoming events. Thank you for all of your help and service!

In Christ,
Ginger B



LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

“So, is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

-Isaiah 55:11

The 56th Annual LWMS 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.

Good news! The registration is OPEN, and the blocks of rooms are available online! I have not received any information in the mail yet, but everything can be viewed online at: www.lwms.org. Check it out!

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 on the missions in Bolivia and Albania. Look for more information about assembling the display boards in the upcoming months.

Make attending the LWMS Convention part of your summer plans!

Did you know . . . that the LWMS website got a MAJOR renovation?!?! It is fantastic! It is even easier to navigate and is very user friendly. Check it out!

February Prayer Requests

The mission work being done throughout our synodical high schools.
The mission work being done in Albania.
The work being done by our pastors.

~Leslie B



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

This Bible passage is often used to talk about the importance of God in a marriage. I think it can also be applied to the bond of love that God has with NELHS. The high school years can be so challenging and difficult for all children. What a great blessing as parents we have in that Jesus is not only present in the daily lives of our children, but that He is leading them through each Christian teacher and staff person on the NELHS campus. It was a comfort to my parents years ago that the cord of three strands of home, school, and God were intertwined; that same cord of three also comforts me as a parent. I love that my children can be taught in the light of God's Word both at home, in the church at worship, and also during the entire school day at NELHS. As we go through the month of February, let us never take for granted the love God has for each of us.

New on Staff - Campus Pastor Kevin Stellick and Mrs. Hannah (Helwig) Johnston have joined NELHS after the Christmas break. Pastor Stellick has moved from China to serve at NELHS. We are so happy to have Pastor Stellick, his wife Sarah, and their son, Isaac, join us. We are also blessed to have Hannah Johnston filling in for Mrs. Dorn's maternity leave this quarter. Mrs. Johnston is doing a great job...we will hate to see her go.

Registration for next year continues. 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. If you have questions about NELHS, I'm happy to come to Gethsemane and visit - Mr. Pederson can set up a time.

Upcoming dates:

Feb 22-23: LES Basketball Tourney at NELHS

Feb 24-Mar 3: Spring Break

Mar 8: 3rd Quarter ends

Mar 9: **Knight Out** - German/American Club in Omaha - (tfickel@nelhs.org for more info)

Mar 16: LES Science/Arts Fair at NELHS

Mar 17: Easter Concert and winter activities banquet

Apr 11: NELHS Play for grade schools

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)

Our winter festival has been moved to Thursday, February 21st, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Food, games, prizes and fun are always had!

FOCE received \$229 from Hy-Vee receipts - thank you to everyone who contributed.

We also moved our meeting time in January to 6 p.m., prior to the school board meeting. This time change will be implemented in our March meeting as well.

Liz G, Secretary

Box Tops for Education

Please turn in your box tops for the spring submission by February 24th. Every box top counts! We received a check for over \$200 last fall. Thanks for supporting our school!

Dawn Beck



Deacons

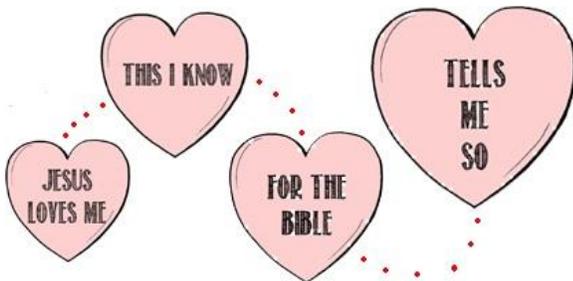
The biggest issue we are dealing with just seems to be snow and icy winter hazards. We are trying our best to keep the parking lot and sidewalks as safe as possible. Please use caution when walking in the parking lot and on the sidewalks.

If you see anything that needs to be repaired or attended to, please let the church office know so the issues can be addressed.

Thank you for helping to keep our property in great shape!

Discipleship

Jesus Loves Me



Sunday School News

We LOVE our Sunday School students! We LOVE to teach our students about Jesus' LOVE for us all! We'd LOVE to see you Sunday!

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.

We LOVE to sing! We will be learning a new song or two during the opening this month. We will also be bringing a few songs back along with singing the ones we LOVE! We'll keep singing "Must Be Done in LOVE"!

February Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade

- 3 - "Adam and Eve"
- 10 - "Fall and the Promise"
- 17 - "Moses' Birth"
- 24 - "God Calls Moses"

See you Sunday! We'd LOVE to see you at Sunday School!

Nickie L, Sunday School Coordinator

Every Man a Warrior Bible Study

Join us for a bimonthly, home-based Sunday evening Bible study designed just for men to help us grow into the God-pleasing men of faith our families, congregation, and communities need. The **Every Man a Warrior** Bible study is geared towards guiding men to grow in their faith through Scripture readings, lessons, mutual encouragement, and prayer. Married or single, young or "experienced," all interested men are invited to attend. Meetings will be held in a different man's home every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. beginning on February 10th with **Book 1 - Walking with God**.



THE VINE

A place where children grow in faith.

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

The Vine kicked off the new year with two weeks full of trains, planes and automobiles...with the theme, "Things that Go!" Between the dirt playdough, wheels, boats, and airplanes, and a variety of tracks, there was truly something for everyone! The theme, "Winter Days; Snowflakes, Hats, and Mittens" will finish up the remaining two weeks of January. Hot chocolate station, playing in the snow (inside of the school!), build a snowman (also inside of the school!), and a snowman snack, are just a few of the things that will be happening at The Vine for the remainder of the month.

The Vine is for any child from birth to age 4. It doesn't matter if you can only come once or every week! You are welcome anytime! Bring a friend, and come check out what The Vine is all about any Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.! It is held in Mrs. Roberts' classroom.

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

Look for the February Wish List on the table in the fellowship hall, beginning in February. Feel free to contact the office or ask either of the pastors if you have any questions.

Evangelism

o 2019 Ministry Plan Targets

[April] Produce a series of Bible studies to train, equip, and encourage members to share their faith with friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers.

[June] Actively promote our Vacation Bible School in various neighborhoods near church and school.

[Summer] Produce quarterly promotional videos for our school and post them on Facebook, YouTube, and our Website. Encourage members to share these posts with their family and friends.

[Fall] Develop an ongoing and sustained promotional campaign to get the word out on our Pre-School slated to open in the fall of 2020.

The Evangelism Board wanted to share our 2019 Ministry Plan Targets and dates to let you know some of what we are working on as a Board.

[April] The goal of this first target is to make everyone more comfortable and better equipped through God's word to be that light in the world through our words in addition to our actions. All of us have opportunities in our daily lives to share what is most important and lead everyone to the truth that is found in God's word and promises. We hope that these studies will not only equip but also inspire us all.

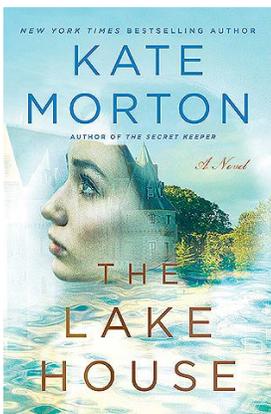
[June] Next, we want to reach out to our local neighborhoods and let them know about our VBS program. Our hope is that children or families that attend will hear God's word and turn their lives over to him.

[Summer] The quarterly promotional video is intended to share the wonderful things that are happening at our school. These videos would provide someone who is considering Gethsemane the opportunity to get a glimpse of the learning culture and love that is poured out on our students each day.

[Fall] Increase awareness and build momentum for a Pre-School startup in fall 2020.

Tregan B

Book Club



Thanks to Dawn B for hosting our January discussion of *The Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly. Despite the cold outside, we had a nice conversation about the book as well as other tidbits of information and some great snacks! If you were unable to join us, we understand; but you were missed!

February finds our last book from our 2018 summer reading list as the topic for discussion on February 26th. *The Lake House* by Kate Morton is the book but...we have yet to determine a location. So, if you're interested in hosting that evening just let me know. We'll need to find a couple of additional books for our list as we currently have nothing slated for discussion for March or April. We also need hosts for those dates - March 26th and April 23rd.

Reminder: any and all who are interested in joining us on these evenings is absolutely welcome to join us. Typically it's a great evening of some wonderful fellowship along with a snack or two!

Becky G

Travel Opportunity



Retired WELS pastor, James Humann, invites you to join him in 2020 as he hosts his sixth tour to the world-famous Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. The Oberammergau Passion Play depicts the life of Christ from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. This afternoon and evening long performance is presented only once every ten years, in keeping with a promise the people of Oberammergau made in 1634 AD during the Black Plague.

Two different opportunities to see the Oberammergau Passion Play will be offered. The first tour is an eleven day tour, June 12-22, 2020. It includes the Rhine Valley, Heidelberg, Rothenburg, Oberammergau and Munich in Germany, plus Lucerne in Switzerland and Paris in France.

The second tour is an eleven day tour, September 23-October 3, 2020. It includes Athens and Corinth in Greece, a three day Greek Isles cruise visiting Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete and Sontorini, plus Oberammergau and Munich in Germany and Salzburg in Austria.

The Passion Play in Oberammergau is very popular and sells out quickly. For the price and daily itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at Jhumann383@aol.com. If you would prefer a hard copy, be sure to include your name and mailing address.

