



GETHSEMANE

Lutheran Church

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

March, 2019

March 10, 2019

DO GOOD TO ALL

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

In this chapter of Galatians, Paul has been making the point that using our material possessions (and recall that Paul had said that our material possessions are “good things”) was a fruit of our faith. He made that point when he explained that “we reap what we sow.” Paul also encouraged those who receive instruction in the Word to express their faith and love for God by sharing their “good things” with those who instructed them.

This month, Paul widens the circle. He broadens the scope. “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Any time we have an opportunity to help those who are need, we can view that as an opportunity to express our faith and to show our love for God. While all people in the world can benefit from our generosity and our faithful stewardship, note also that we look out for and help especially those who belong to the family of believers.

God will bless those opportunities. God will bless those whom we help. God will bless us who demonstrate and live our faith. And, we pray, God will also allow us to use those opportunities in which we “do good” to other people to also share the good news of the Gospel with them.

PRAYER: Lord, help me help others who are in need. May I do what I can to take care of their physical needs. May I also confidently share my greatest treasure with them - you, my Savior. Amen.

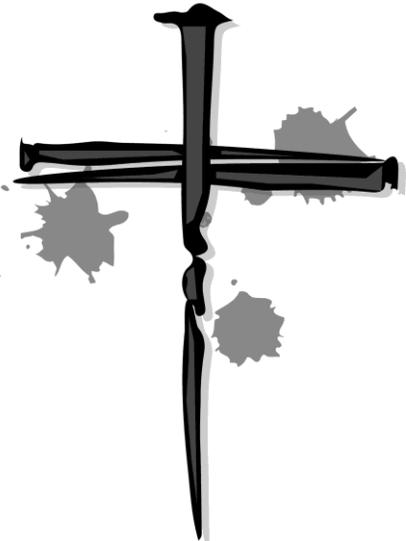
Pastor Helwig

**Voters' Meeting
March 10, 2019
9:15 a.m.**

Gethsemane fellowship hall
All voters and guests are invited to attend!

LENT

Three Words



of
TRUTH

Ash Wednesday/March 6 (Pastor Helwig)
Is It I?

Matthew 26:20-25

March 13 (Pastor Allard)

Love One Another

John 13:31-35

March 20 (Pastor Buchner)

Watch and Pray

Matthew 26:35-41

March 27 (Pastor Schell)

I Am He

John 18:3-9

April 3 (Pastor Jeske)

What Is Truth?

John 18:33-40

April 10 (Pastor Koester)

Take Him Away!

John 19:14-18

School News

January was SO cold - February SO snowy! What a winter!

This is the third installment of our look at our school's top 10 list. Over the past two months we have introduced the list - items that would be "calling cards" of what we see and want GLS to be known for. These items 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 pair of items on our list were - #1 - Christ-centered in all we do; #2 - Our students' Bible knowledge; #3 - Daily faculty devotions; and #4 - Weekly chapel services.

#5 - Strong faculty and staff with strong working relationships: Although our teaching staff is only six people, and our staff only adds three more, Gethsemane has been blessed with a diligent group of individuals who understand how to get a lot of ministry done within a small group of people. The crossover work between church/office/school is truly a blessing. Each "part" of the building knows what is going on in the other sections. Plans and schedules can easily be coordinated because everyone wants

success and joy for the other pieces of the Gethsemane ministry puzzle. Inside the faculty, “switcheroos” for covering classes, last minute changes, and rolling with the punches help things moving forward in a profession that can at times be very unpredictable. We also have folks with broad shoulders and strong backs that take on much more work than one day can usually crank out. We have a tremendous amount of experience, we have a wide variety of skill sets, and we can always sit down together and hash out a plan to attack the day, the week, or the issue in front of us. Our faculty and staff help Gethsemane operate a small program that gets our kids ready for much bigger things as they move on from us. Far from perfect, but God continues to work through the GLS faculty and GLC staff for the benefit of his kingdom. To Him alone be praise and thanks!

#6 School “family” concept: This philosophy would seem to work easiest with a group as small as possible, but I think even at our highest enrollment (128), we still were able to maintain a strong showing. “Family” is at its best when everyone is pulling in the same direction. “Family” is strongest when the chips are down, and the times are tough. We’ve seen GLS/GLC wrap its arms around those who need help, those who are hurting, and those who suffer loss. Sometimes it’s “Get well soon” cards. Other times it’s help with affording private, Christian education. Sometimes it’s food (OK, a LOT of times it’s food). It’s pitching in. It’s ride-sharing. It’s volunteering. It’s parents talking to the new families that come into our school annually. It’s building relationships at functions, on field trips, and working with students to assist classroom teachers or staff members. This #6 item is one that takes considerable effort to pull off. When we all box ourselves in and just worry about ‘good old #1,’ not much of #6 is accomplished. Funny thing though, this #6 is wildly contagious! When just a few people start to show care/concern/love/interest in others and their needs, the light bulb turns on in many others. God works in mysterious ways. Even in times where we might be slow-starters on reaching out to others, oftentimes an avalanche of outpouring will follow. God’s love for us shows itself in the love we show to others (both inside and outside of our normal circles) - what a great thing to witness happening at GLS/GLC!

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

The mid-way month of SEM 2 is here already. March is plenty busy along with its threat of turning the page to April already!

MAR 1 - Date Night / Babysitting Fund-raiser
MAR 8 - End Q3 (currently 40 days at this writing)
MAR 8 - GLS Academic Fair (Declamations)
MAR 10 - Possible Pancake Breakfast for Tuition Assistance
MAR 16 - NE Schools Science/Arts Fair @ NELHS
MAR 17 - 7-8TH Bake Sale

MAR 20-22 - NO SCHOOL, Spring Break
MAR 22-23 - Rescheduled LES Basketball @ Waco
MAR 25 - NO SCHOOL, In-service
MAR 28 - Matinee Musicals (12:30p)
MAR 28 - 5-8TH presentation of Annie, 7p
MAR 29 - K-8 Musicals (3), 6:30p
MAR 30 - 7-8TH depart for Washington, D.C.

- +Our annual basketball tournament originally scheduled for FEB 22-23 has been postponed due to weather and will be played March 22-23.
- + Please consider helping out with our Declamations Fair on March 8. Contact from GLS will be coming out.
- + All are welcomed to attend any of our three musical showings on MAR 28-29.
- + We ask God to guard and bless our 7-8TH graders’ trip to DC (end MAR/early APR).

You're Invited to our School Musicals!

Performances of all three musicals at
Thursday, March 28, 12:30 p.m.
Friday, March 29 at 6:30 p.m.

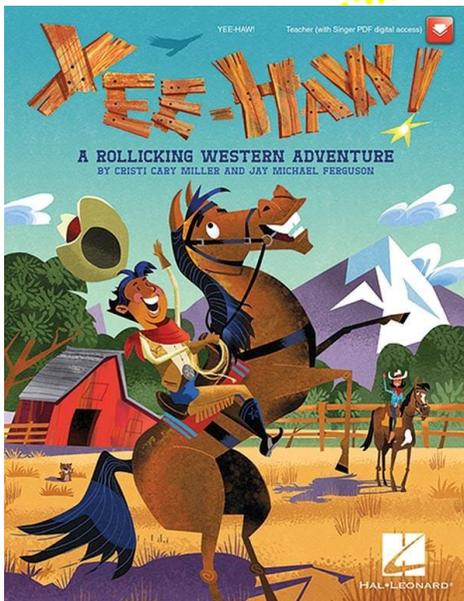


Performed by Grades 5-8
Special encore performance of Annie, Jr., only
Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m.

Performed by
Grades K-2



Performed by
Grades 3-4



Directed by
Ms. Hunt

FOCE

(Friends Of Christian Education)

Congrats again to Ms. Hunt's classroom for winning the pizza party for having the largest percentage of parents in attendance at January's meeting. Thanks again to Mr. Schmidt for his presentation at the meeting!

We rounded up February with a successful Spirit Week filled with muffins, donuts and goodies in the morning for families. Winter Festival was a great fellowship event with a nacho bar, games and prizes. FOCE is very thankful for all the support and efforts behind making these events a reality!

A new Nesco roaster oven was purchased for Tuesday hot lunches. Our next fundraiser will be coming up, from March 11th - March 25th, where we will again be using Butter Braid with a delivery on April 9. Be sure to share the form at work, with grandparents, with neighbors - anyone who would love a delicious treat that helps support our school.

FOCE will be looking for new vice president and treasurer officers for the 2019-2021 school years! If interested, please contact any one of us! The next FOCE meeting is planned for April, date and time coming soon!

Liz G, Secretary

Washington DC Trip Fundraisers:



D.C. TRIP FUNDRAISER

DATE NIGHT

Parents of young children can support the 7th and 8th grade D.C. trip with a night out! Registration includes dinner, activities, and entertainment. All proceeds will benefit the Washington, D.C. trip for Gethsemane 7th and 8th graders. Enjoy your night out!

FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST FROM 6-10PM AT GETHSEMANE
\$10 PER CHILD

Pre-Registration is requested at
<https://tinyurl.com/DCbabysit>



Thank you for your support!

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



Our chapter enjoyed an early season double header with a tour of the Douglas County Sherriff's Department and the 9-1-1 Call Center followed by a presentation at Gethsemane by Verdant, a local tax consulting firm, providing some very important information regarding changes to the tax laws. Twenty-three members including two guests saw the behind-the-scenes operations of our law enforcement and the technology to direct responses to the local fire and rescue and law enforcement units. Both segments of the day hit it out of the park.



Next month the OWLS chapter is hosting a presentation on March 10th at 2:00 p.m. by retired Air Force Lt Col. Dr. Dwight Johnson. (Open to congregations)

Upcoming Events:

- April 14 Speaker John Johnson from Omaha Astronomical Society. Place and time to be determined.
- May 18 Brunch and guest speaker Kelly K

Guests are always welcome.

*Dick V, President
Sandy T, Secretary*



WINGS

(Women IN God's Service)

Upcoming Events:

- March 30th/31st - April 6th/7th: Our Annual Silent Auction is having its first spring edition! As usual we look forward to seeing the items that you bring to be actioned off! Gift baskets are always a great idea. If you have items and need a basket to put them in, feel free to contact the church office; we have a few extra lying around. We have quite a few items on our list to raise money for:
 - Cabinetry to replace the large table in the fellowship hall. This will still be used as a “sign-up” location but will also serve as the church library.
 - New paraments for the altar and banners for the front of church are a few others that are on our list.
- Sunday, March 31st: WINGS will be hosting a brunch after church to provide Gethsemane women with information about the upcoming LWMS Convention in Des Moines, IA. Since the convention is so close to home, it would be awesome to have a group of ladies go to it. We will also be putting together a tri-fold display about one of the WELS world missions that will be used at this event.
- April 25th: Kitchen Cleaning! This is the one you’ve all been waiting for...time to go through the kitchen and clean it out! As the date approaches, a list of jobs will be available if you are unable to come that evening but would still like to help out.

~Rachel C



LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” -Colossians 3:2

The Spring LWMS Rally will be held at Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church in Norfolk on Saturday, April 6th. The speaker will be Barb Krohn, who will be speaking about Thailand. Look for more information as it becomes available.

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 convention to attend. If you have never been to a convention, NOW is your opportunity! The missionaries and speakers are truly inspirational, and ones that leave a lasting impression.

The registration is OPEN online, as are the blocks of rooms. Everything can be viewed online at: www.lwms.org. There is a group of ladies that are interested in attending from our church. If YOU are interested in going, please contact me for more information.

Since the convention 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. We will be having a March Madness brunch on Sunday, March 31st after the 2nd service. It will be a working brunch, as we will also be working on the display boards for the convention.

Make attending the LWMS part of your summer plans!

March Prayer Requests

- The work being done throughout our grade schools.
- The mission work being done in Bulgaria.
- The work being done by our teachers.

~Leslie B

NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Hymn 367

1 Christ be my leader by night as by day,
Safe through the darkness, for he is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future his care;
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.

2 Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for he is the truth.
Grant me to trust him, though shifting as sand.
Doubt cannot daunt me -- in Jesus I stand!

3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for he is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation -- with Jesus I reign!



As a teacher, I love that I get to share these eternal truths with our students at NELHS. What a blessing Gethsemane has through its Lutheran Elementary School and Sunday School. Troubles and problems will come no matter where we live. What a blessing to share God's love with our students and help them to realize God is guiding them, and will continue to guide them, throughout their entire lives.

-Skip Bremer

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

- ★ Call Update: On February 10th the Board of Directors issued two calls for next school year: Ethan Hutchinson to consider serving as our science teacher. Ethan had served at St. Croix Lutheran High School in MN and East Fork Lutheran High School in AZ in the past. He currently services as principal and teacher at Our Saviors in Wausau, WI.
- ★ Craig Sonntag to consider serving in our math department and as our AD. Craig has been teaching for many years at St. Matthew in Janesville, WI and has high math and coaching abilities. Please keep both of these men in your prayers as they consider where they can best serve Jesus and his lambs.

Upcoming dates:

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

Mar 23: Financial Planning / Gifting Seminar at NELHS for all association congregations hosted jointly by our local WELS Gift Giving Counsel Scott Wagner, WELS Foundation Executive Director James Holm, and NELHS.

Apr 11: NELHS Play for grade schools

Apr 12 & 14: NELHS Play

Thank you for your continued support of NELHS. Your prayers are appreciated as we partner together to "Walk with God - Talk with God."

Deacons

It's been quite the winter, with all of the snow and ice! We have had to have snow plowed many times already and have dealt with the ice afterwards. The roof snow melting has created some pretty impressive icicles. Thank you to the volunteer who raked our roof. The next day, we could really tell a difference. The narthex has sprung a leak. Remedies to that are being investigated.

We have restocked the ice melt in the containers next to each entrance. Please feel free to use some on the property, if you see that it would be helpful.

We had to call a plumber to unclog a couple of drains that were backing up in two classrooms. While the plumber was here, we had him clean out the kitchen sink drain as well.

A member is looking into fixing one of the lights in the narthex ceiling. Hopefully he will be successful so we don't have to hire someone.

Many of the kitchen cabinets have been repaired by having hinges replaced, latches being tightened up or doors/fronts being reattached.



The deacons will be meeting on Tuesday, March 5th at 6 p.m. to do a walk-thru and put a game plan together for cleaning day! We will be doing our spring cleaning on Saturday, March 30th, beginning at 8 a.m. We could use lots of hands to help deep scrub the building. A checklist of tasks to be completed will be posted in the fellowship hall. Please come and help! Bring your favorite rags, buckets, and scrubbers. We'll have some snacks for break time and some lunch for those who are still around at noon.

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

Sunday School News



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.

March Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade

- 3 - "The Plagues"
- 10 - "The Passover"
- 17 - "Crossing the Red Sea"
- 24 - Family Bible Games/Israel Presentation
- 31 - "Quail and Manna"

See you Sunday!

Nickie L, Sunday School Coordinator



The Vine

A place where children grow in faith.

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

The Vine has been busy with all things red, hearts and Valentine's Day during the month of February. The theme, Music and Instruments, will finish out the month.

The Vine children (and their parents) will be serving treats before Bible Class on Sunday, March 31st.

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. Robert's classroom.

Your generous donations of the wish list items every month is so greatly appreciated. It is truly incredible!

Look for the March wish list on the table in the fellowship hall.

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



Mark your calendars and watch for opportunities to sign up your kids and possibly help out!



Saturday, April 13
9-11:30 a.m.
3 years through grade 5

Evangelism

The Evangelism Board has a 2019 Ministry Plan Target to produce a series of Bible Studies to train, equip and encourage members to share their faith with friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. We would like to hold this Bible Study during the Sunday morning Bible Class time over a two week period. The first week would focus on what God's word gives us as direction on this topic. During the second week, we would like to get some hands-on training and practice together to prepare for potential situations we might encounter in our daily lives. If you have experiences you would be willing to share regarding past opportunities to share your faith, please contact Pastor Helwig or Tregan Beck ahead of time via e-mail. We won't share who provided the situation unless you choose to do so during the Bible Study time. The goal will be to use God's word as guidance and put it into practice in these provided situations. We look forward to seeing how God blesses this study and uses each of us to spread his word.

Stewardship



The annual Gethsemane 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will be held on Sunday, March 24th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Camelot Community Center. The entry fee is \$3.00 per player to help defray the cost of the gym rental. Team entries can be made on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. The entry deadline is March 24th. Open gym will be held as time and courts allow. There is no fee for the open gym.

The Stewardship Board invites everyone to a new member potluck lunch on April 7th, following the 10:30 am service. Please join us for food, fellowship and welcoming of all the new members to our congregation! A sign-up sheet for potluck items is located in the fellowship hall.



Call News

Dear Members of Gethsemane,

After prayerful consideration, I have decided to return the call to Peace Lutheran in Sun Prairie, WI and continue my ministry here in Omaha.

It has been and continues to be such a blessing to serve here with and among all of you. I truly have appreciated your thoughts, kind words, and prayers once again during this process.

May God continue to bless the work we are doing together as we share His saving Word in our school, church, and community.

Ms. Jennifer Hunt



LMSG



From Dwight Johnson, Ph.D, Lt. Col. (retired) USAF
LMSG National Liaison Coordinator
Salem Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado
blaze222@msn.com

Great day to all,

I wanted to share with all of you what is being done with the donations that come into LMSG to support our Military.

Here is Pastor Ziemer's email that he sent out to us last week:

You who serve your Lord by serving those who serve our country,

Izak (Ike) Jirik is a student in the PTSD course I am teaching. He is also a chaplain's assistant (they have a new title now, but I don't recall it off-hand). He is in the Minnesota National Guard, which will deploy in October '19.

He reports that his superior officers are very impressed with our Spiritual Deployment Kit (SDK) and the God Our Refuge devotional book.

As a result they want us to send them 150 SDKs and 300 of the new military devotional handbooks as soon as they are available.

It is good to know that the quality of our publications is recognized by others. It surely should encourage us to pursue this project to its completion.

It surely should encourage us to thank our Lord for the opportunity to bring his Word of peace to those who prepare for war.

Paul



Rev. Paul C. Ziemer
National Civilian Chaplain to the Military
WELS Liaison to U.S. Armed Forces

WELS Chaplain Certification Program
Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN



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.



Seminary Chorus Concert

The Seminary Chorus from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is going to present a concert at Living Hope Lutheran Church at 4823 S. 168th Street (168th Street north of Q) on Sunday, March 10th at 7 p.m.

The Seminary Chorus has been making music since 1931 and has presented concerts in

almost every state of the Union. Its objective has always been to proclaim God's good news in music, and it does this in a variety of musical styles, old and new. We'll hear voices and instruments—everything from organ and trumpets to piano and guitars. We'll have a chance to stand and sing along on several numbers. The choir's reputation is that its concerts are never dull!

The concert will last about an hour and fifteen minutes, and we'll have a chance to visit with the young men afterwards. There's no admission cost, although the choir will be thankful for a generous offering to offset expenses. Be sure to bring your whole family; children love to see the choir as well as hear it, so sit close to the front. Invite your friends and neighbors, too. We're sure they will enjoy the experience.

The choir members are coming to Omaha not only to sing for us, but also to tell us about the school they attend, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The seminary was founded just before the Battle of Gettysburg, way back in 1863, and ever since has been training men to be pastors in WELS congregations. The seminary is located in Mequon, a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but its graduates are serving congregations and missions all around the country and all over the world.

As we would expect, the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary takes its work of training pastors seriously. Every year it strives to train men to be:

- † **Confessional** - who learn to put integrity above popularity and preach and teach "what is in accord with sound doctrine."
- † **Evangelical** - who have a gospel-centered approach to ministry and a love for souls entrusted to their care.
- † **Mission-minded** - who have a Christ-like heart for those who are still lost.
- † **Culturally sensitive** - who do not put barriers between themselves and the cultures they are called to serve.
- † **Appropriately flexible** - who remain committed to the Scriptures but understand that where God has not commanded or forbidden, some things may or must change for the sake of the gospel.
- † **Zealous to nurture and equip the saints** - who are eager to serve alongside brothers and sisters in Christ who and strive to be partners in the gospel.

Seminary Chorus
Sunday, March 10
7 p.m.
Living Hope Lutheran Church
168th north of Q

You're invited to

An Evening With Martin Luther

(A One Man Play)



**Written, Directed, Performed and Produced
By Dr. Dwight Johnson**

**Sunday, March 10
2 p.m.**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
4040 N. 108th Street
Omaha, Nebraska