

GETHSEMANE

Lutheran Church

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



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BOAST IN THE LORD

Galatians 6:14-18



May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God. Finally, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.

The Jews wanted to boast in their works and in their physical lineage. The Judaizers wanted to boast in Christ and in their circumcision and in their adherence to Old Testament laws. The Gentile, Galatian Christians were confused. Paul, in this letter and in the final verses of this letter, sets the record straight. “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Our boast can and should be, now and always, in the cross of Christ. In the cross of Christ, we see God’s grace. In the cross of Christ, we see complete payment made for our sins. In the cross of Christ, we see God intervening on our behalf to do all that was necessary for salvation. Because of what Christ did on the cross, we now have peace with God. We are free to live, free to serve, and free to love. All this is a result of God’s grace.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

PRAYER: Holy Spirit, I thank you for the Word of God. Specifically, I thank you for Paul’s letter to the Galatians. Help me know, remember, and believe what you have taught me in this letter. Help me, through faith, embrace my Savior and the forgiveness that he alone gives. May I never boast in myself or in my deeds; but may I always and only boast in the cross of Christ. Amen.

Pastor Helwig

School News

Easter greetings, Easter blessings, and Easter joy be yours in Christ!

This month brings the final installment of our look at our school’s top 10 list. Over the past four months now I have written about these characteristics that 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. To catch you up, the first four pairs 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; and #6 - School “family” concept; #7 - Parent Group and Parents’ willingness to help; #8 - School Communication.

#9 - Over 70 years of operation: There is something to longevity, isn't there? A business that has been entrenched in a community for decades will have so much more credibility than a start-up or a drive-by organization. Think about the roofing companies in this town after a storm hits. Who do you trust? Local, known, tested, trusted? Or a group that is just traveling around the country from town to town "chasing" stormy weather and the damage? Now there are schools older than ours, even in our own district. But the point is that this congregation, regardless of its physical location, has made the spiritual, emotional, financial, prayer-filled, action-filled commitment to offer Christian education to anyone who is interested in it for seven full decades (and counting). For most of us, we personally just cover part of that timeframe. But we, like those who were before us, see the need. We see the opportunity. We acknowledge the mission. We undertake the commitment. We pray. We support. We encourage. And the result of it all? A beautiful combination of Christian and secular education and learning where students always hear about their Lord, his Word, and what it means for life - both day-to-day and "big picture." May God grant another 70 years of Christian education through this congregation!

#10 - Strong School Board: As in every school, the School Board provides important oversight and is responsible for the introduction and implementation of policies and handbooks. At GLS, volunteer dads serve up to six years as the administrators of the school's mission and ministry. With mission, vision, and ministry plan in mind, the School Board stands ready to assist teachers and principal in the many different facets of what makes up a school, a school day, and a school year. At GLS, the Board members have direct insight into our school through their own child at the school or the regular reporting that is done. Almost all our current Board members have students in the school - with those students being younger than 6TH grade. The advantage here is that they then have "a horse in the race" for years to come. The Board is always looking for ways to improve their work and the work that the school does. The administer enrollment and tuition; they provide oversight and assistance for Aftercare and Athletics. Faculty members see the Board as a viable option for discussion of ideas and assistance for challenges. A special treat currently for GLS is that our School Board Chairman is a GLS graduate himself! May God bless our School Board so that our mission an ministry may continue to thrive and grow into the future!

And so - one last time - 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

Well, the month of May speaks for itself. A wild school year winds down and wraps up - but with a flurry!

MAY 1 - Final Confirmation practice (w/ pictures)
 MAY 4 - NELHS Track Meet @ Utica
 MAY 5 - Confirmation (and Examination)
 MAY 6 - NO SCHOOL, Confirmation MON
 MAY 12 - Mother's Day
 MAY 15 - Last regular GLS chapel
 MAY 20 - 7-8TH Grade Banquet, 6p
 MAY 20 - 8TH Grade Parent Letters, 6:45p

MAY 22 - GLS Closing Service (w/ K and 8TH Graduation), 7p
 MAY 22 - Teacher Recognition and Thank Yous
 MAY 23 - Last day of school!
 MAY 23 - GLS Awards, 8:30a
 MAY 23 - Hot Lunch Cookout, noon
 MAY 24 - NO SCHOOL, Report Cards
 MAY 27 - NO SCHOOL, Memorial Day
 MAY 28 - Start of Summer Break

- + Our 7-8TH graders enjoyed a successful DC trip. We thank you for prayers and support.
- + We ask God to bless our remaining weeks of school, parts of 4 different weeks in May.

- + We are thankful that Mrs. Fincham will be remaining with GLS and that God continues to provide us with the staffing we need.
- + Next month we hope to report some fantastic results from our three track meets (APR 25, APR 28, and MAY 4). Our student-athletes will be using their gifts and abilities a lot over an 8-day span!
- + May God bless the Confirmation class of 2019! May all these students see their confirmation as another step in the process, rather than the end of their time at church and in the Word!
- + More next month again, but we at GLS truly thank you for all the support that we receive (and need) to pull off a school year. God is good to us! God is good to you! You are good to us!

In Christ,
Mr. Pederson

FOCE (Friends Of Christian Education)



FOCE is winding the year down with another successful Butter Braid spring fundraiser. Thank you to everyone that helped support our school raise around \$1,000. Our final school meeting was held April 25th. One item to note is Teacher Appreciation Week, May 13-17. FOCE will be sending information soon on helpful ideas parents and students can use to show their appreciation.

A HUGE thank you to Christine H and Heidi S for their amazing service the past two years as officers of FOCE! This means we are currently looking for two new members (vice-president and treasurer) for our 2019-2021 school years. If you, or someone you know, is interested, please contact the church office at 402-493-2550.

Liz G, Secretary

OWLS (Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



On April 14th our chapter gathered at Living Hope with fifteen members and guests where we shared a devotion entitled, "Perfect Love," taken from the WELS Nursing Home Outreach ministry. A sneak preview of the annual convention was provided with the registration form soon to be mailed to members. Following a brief meeting, our group was entertained by John Johnson representing the Omaha Astronomical Society. His presentation detailed the work of the local club and the initiatives they pursue in observing solar formations and educational events. After the presentation, the group rallied at Zorinsky Lake Park to view through high strength telescopes the moon and stars that were coming into view at dusk.

Upcoming Events

- **May 18** (Saturday) -Brunch at the Garden Café 11:00 a.m. with guest speaker Kelly K., who will tell the story of a true American hero, a military veteran, who actually was not an American. The tale he will tell will wind its way from World War II through the beginning of

this century, covering four continents, and defining life saving actions which affected nearly 3, 000 people over the course of four and a half decades.

- June 9 - Picnic with guest speaker K-9 Unit

Guests are always welcome!

Dick V, President
Sandy T, Secretary



WINGS (Women IN God's Service)

Thank you to everyone who was involved with the Silent Auction this spring to make it successful! We are still making the final tally for donations, but we appreciate everyone who either

donated items or bought items and helped with set-up/clean up. Please remember that if you have an item to pick up, you can give your silent auction bid sheets with payment to Rachel C or Becky G, or place it in the brown locked box on the table.

We met to clean the kitchen on Thursday, April 25th. We appreciated everyone's help to make it organized and fresh for another year!

Our next meeting is May 16th at LaMesa on 111th & Emmet. We will meet at 7 p.m. As a reminder, we will need new officers for next year for our WINGS positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. We hope to elect new officers at our May 2nd meeting, and they can start in their new roles in the fall. The current officers would be glad to answer any questions and help the new officers transition into their new roles. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions! It is a rewarding way to serve the church and connect with other women in the church as well!

We hope to see you soon!

In Christ,
Ginger B, Vice President

LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

“Surely I am with you always.”
-Matthew 28:20

The Spring LWMS Rally was held at Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church in Norfolk on Saturday, April 6th. The speaker was Barb Krohn, who spoke about Thailand. Sharon B and Joanna S were able to attend, so ask them about more of the details about the rally.

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 are a group of ladies that are attending from our church.

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. The information has been collaborated, and will be assembled by the WINGS group and the students soon.

May Prayer Requests:

The mission work being done in California.

The mission work being done in Mexico.

Living Savior in Blair

~Leslie B
Reporter



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School Mission Statement:

NELHS exists to assist parents and congregations by providing Christian training in the skills and values necessary for loyal service to Jesus Christ for time and eternity.

Peace be With You!

Luke 24: 36, 44-48

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”...

⁴⁴He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

Jesus tells you also, “Peace be with you.” Our sins are forgiven and paid for...your sins are paid for - heaven is yours. What a great message we get to share with our students at NELHS every day. God forgive us when we fall short of our goals of sharing Christ-crucified with our students in the way God has laid out for us! But every day is a new chance to do so. What blessings we do see in our students as they continue to grow in God’s Word every day.

Members of Gethsemane, I want to thank you for your continued prayers and support of our confessional Lutheran high school. Partnering together makes a huge difference when working with our young men and women at NELHS. The message of forgiveness and Christ-crucified is for the whole world; continue to talk to your children about how they will serve God today and tomorrow. One of the goals I have for our students at NELHS is to be Christian leaders today and tomorrow. Many of our students will become lay leaders in their churches and communities. We have enormous needs for future called workers. Talk to your children about considering the full time work of the church as pastors, teachers, and staff ministers.

I hope every day can be like Easter Sunday for you in that you have the perfect peace only found through the gospel message of Christ. He is risen...He is risen indeed!

★ ★ ★ ★

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: We will be going to the assignment committee to help fill our teaching vacancies at NELHS (May 18th). Please pray that God send the workers needed into His ministry field.

Upcoming dates:

- May 4: LES Track Meet
- May 10: Last day of School; 5 p.m. Booster Feed, 6 p.m. Awards, 7:30 p.m. Concert
- May 11: Graduation 10 a.m. (no noon luncheon)
- June 9-11: LES Sports and Fine Arts Camp; sign up information being sent to your school
- July 20: 12th Annual Golf Classic at Crooked Creek Golf Course in Lincoln; sign up information coming soon!

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



Help Light Up the Gyms!

We have 40 of 50 lights pledged so far! Can you help!

We have a plan in place for getting better (and more efficient lighting) in both gyms!

We have a generous donor with "matching funds" making this project possible. (These needed LED lights cost \$170 each...and they will save us \$ in the long run!)

Many people say they could really "light it up" in the gym back in the day. Will you now help us "light it up" for real? Will you be one of our 50 shining lights?

If you would like to donate a light, please contact Skip at sbremer@nelhs.org. Thanks for your consideration!



Deacons

We were overwhelmed by the wonderful support we received on the March 30th spring cleaning day. Twenty-eight adults and twelve kids showed up to help. Each person played a part in helping us get the place looking and smelling fresh and clean! THANK YOU!

Did you also notice a little brighter lights shining on the altar area? New LED lights were installed, and they look great!

The deacons are working to keep up the building and the property. The gutters have been repaired and the downspouts put back together. We are researching gutter heat tape options and are discussing the fate of the trees on the property.

The mowing schedule has been prepared for the season. If you didn't get on the rotation and want to be, please contact the church office. Thanks to our great volunteers, most teams only mow twice this summer!



Have you noticed that there aren't a million dandelions on the property yet this year? We hope this lasts throughout the season. Dandelions are so hard to control. The spray we put on last year seems to have helped.

We are working to maintain the grounds, but we need your help! If you ever see something that needs to be attended to, please contact the church office at 402-493-2550.

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.

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.

May Lessons for Preschool-6th grade

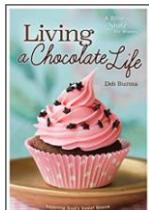
- 6 - Confirmation Sunday-No Class
- 12 - "The Bronze Snake"
- 19 - "Crossing the Jordan" End of School Year
- 27 - Memorial Day weekend- No Class

May brings us to the final two Sunday school classes of this school year. Look for Summer Sunday school in June!

Thanks to all our teachers, helpers, and subs that made this a great Sunday school year! All of you are greatly appreciated! Thanks for using your God-given teaching talents to our Sunday school students!

Nickie Landis, Sunday School Coordinator

New Women's Bible Study



The Tuesday women's Bible study group has finished up our Spiritual Makeover study and will be starting a new study entitled, "Living A Chocolate Life," by Deb Burma.

We meet at 6 a.m. at the McDonald's on 108th & Emmet every week. Our group is up to five faithful ladies. We would love to add more!

Please join us for an early, but great, start to your Tuesdays!



The Vine

A place where children grow in faith.

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

April showers bring...we started off the month of April with a bit of a flu epidemic, that seemed to "hit" only on Wednesdays! So...the first two Wednesdays at The Vine were a bit sparse and cancelled. The month ended with the theme focusing on Easter, and the resurrection of Jesus!

May is our last “official” month of The Vine for the school year. The last day of The Vine will be Wednesday, May 15th. However, The Vine will meet once a month during the summer months, with older siblings also welcome!

The Vine is for any child from newborn 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.

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

Look for the May Wish List on the table in the fellowship hall, beginning next week.

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

Evangelism

Share Your Faith!

The Evangelism Board would like to thank Pastor Helwig for the Bible Studies he led in March/April during Bible Class to train, equip and encourage members to share their faith with friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. He provided insight on what God’s word gives us as direction on this topic, and then everyone was able to discuss some scenarios and potential situations we might encounter in our daily lives. Below is a process we worked through to look at the heart of the earthly problems, point ourselves to our need for Jesus and then to the solution to our earthly issue, or someone else’s:

p - Earthly problem we or someone else is facing

P - Problem from birth, we are sinful and in need of a Savior

S -The Solution to our big P problem is Jesus and what God did for all us through him

s - The solution to the earthly problem

As we bask in the glow of the Easter season, we pray that we would all take the momentum from the studies last month and the knowledge of what Christ has done for us to share our story of faith and knowledge of God with others. It is the one thing that is always needed in this world and in everyone we meet. God bless you and give you courage to be bold for him and his word!

Stewardship

Thank you to those who helped to set up, serve and clean up the Easter breakfast! It was enjoyed by all, and we appreciate your work!

The annual Lutheran Night at Werner Park is coming up on Tuesday, June 4th at 7:05 p.m. Everyone is invited to a fun night at the ballpark. Tickets are \$10 per person. We will once again tailgate prior to the game, with the Stewardship Board grilling burgers and dogs with all the fixings. Tailgaters are asked to bring their own beverage and a side or dessert to share. Reservations are required for group seating. Please either sign-up on the sheet in the fellowship hall or contact the church office by Sunday May 26th.



Book Club

We wrapped up our Book Club year this week with a discussion of Big Little Lies by Lianne Moriarty at Sue's house! I hear it was a great evening (I personally got there late!) out on her deck for snacks, discussion and, of course, fellowship!!! Thanks, Sue!

We are now off for the summer months of May, June and July. Here's a list of a couple of books for summer reading:

- The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows
- The Girls of Atomic City, by Denise Kieran
- Born a Crime, by Trevor Noah

I'll be adding in a couple more next month so stay tuned! We'll next meet in August!

Everyone have a great summer and enjoy the warmer (and hopefully) not too wet weather to come!!!!

Becky G

LMSG



Honor

Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor (Romans 13:7).

He didn't want to go to war.

But on his 18th birthday he registered with the county draft board. They assigned him a number. When that number came up, he left behind the places and people he loved. He learned how to march in formation; how to obey orders; how to fire his weapon—how to kill.

He didn't want to go to war. But he was honor-bound.

He had been raised that way. He had been taught to honor his father and mother, and all others in authority. He knew to honor the Lord his God above all.

He didn't want to go to war. But he was honor-bound.

Now he is home again. You can find him washing dishes at a local restaurant. He came back with a limp and a cane. He left his bright future behind with the Viet Cong. It's the tormenting memories that followed him home. Firefights invade his mind most every night. Brothers-in-arms die before his eyes again and again. In Vietnam he lost the control of his mind.

But he kept his honor.

He did what was asked of him. He did his duty. Today, many regard the concepts of duty and honor as outdated and naïve. He does not. His parents did not. His God never will.

Honor has two sides. It is gained and it is given. The person doing the right thing, no matter the cost, gains honor. Those who see that happen, give honor to such a one.

On Memorial Day we give honor to those who deserve it.

On the opening day of deer season you can find him sitting next to his favorite runway. In 50 years he has never fired a shot. He is not there to kill. He is there for the sights, the sounds, the smells—and the memories. Among those pine trees, his mind goes back to better times. For a little while, he forgets war.

On Memorial Day he will watch the parade from his safe spot already picked out at the cemetery. He will look at the markers where loved ones and friends are already buried. Where a small flag flutters, he will read again the notation of battalion or squadron or airwing. He will listen to the words spoken and the three-volley salute.

He has come to honor the memory of those who are to be honored.

There are those who question the phrase, For God and Country. But for the one in service to the Lord, serving one's country is a way to serve one's God.

We know wars all too well. We know their cause. We know they will keep occurring until Jesus stops all clocks and calendars.

But we also know that the powers that be are established by God. He sets up these authorities for the benefit of his people. He uses them to deliver us from evil.

People who step forward to answer the call to defend our nation deserve the honor we give them. We owe it.

We do not whitewash the picture of their lives. They, too, have sinned. We do say, "These people did their duty. That was honorable."

When we honor the fallen on Memorial Day, we also honor those who served with them, who paid a price, but lived.

He didn't want to go to war. But he did. He was honor-bound.

We pray: *Lord of the nations, we watch the waving flags and we listen to Taps. But we cannot see the pain that you see in the hearts of those who mourn. We deplore war. But we thank you for those who have gone to war so that we might live in peace. By honoring them, we wish to honor you. Amen.*

Written by Pastor Paul Ziemer, WELS National Civilian Chaplain

and Liaison to the Military, Cape Coral, Florida

Provided by WELS Ministry to the Military

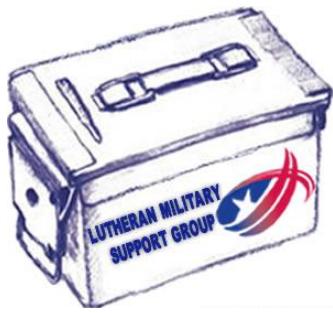
For an audio file of this, and other devotions, log on at <http://wels.net/military>.

Encourage others to register with us at <http://wels.net/refer>.

Watch Time of Grace on American Forces Network / Spectrum.



**With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember**



As Memorial Day approaches, our congregation's Lutheran Military Support Group (LMSG) is asking for donations in support of 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 which will be located in the narthex on Memorial Weekend, 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 let me know. You may also visit www.lutheranmilitary.org.

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

In Christ,
Tom Kroon, LMSG Vice President, Director of Family Affairs

To all our moms:



Call News

Dear Members of Gethsemane,

After prayerful deliberation, I have returned the call to Immanuel in Salem, Oregon. (My family and) I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving here at Gethsemane. Thank you for all your thoughts, encouraging words, and prayers during this time.

May God continue to bless our work and efforts here in Omaha.

*Mrs. Rebekah Fincham
Kindergarten Teacher*



Pastor Helwig received a Divine Call from Immanuel Lutheran Church and School (Greenville, WI) to serve as their Coordinating Pastor (ministry planning, worship planning, administration, preaching, and teaching).

Immanuel is a congregation of nearly 2,500 souls with a school of roughly 250 students. They currently have 3 pastors and 13 teachers.

Please keep Pastor and Carrie and their family in your prayers.



Miss Rachel Veith received a divine call to teach Grades 3-4 at Immanuel Lutheran in Medford, Wisconsin. Please keep her in your prayers as she deliberates her calls to Immanuel and Gethsemane.