



Ge⁺hsemane

Lutheran Church

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

September, 2019

This is the fourth installment of a ten-part series on the Lord's Prayer.

Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven

1. Address
2. 1st Petition
3. 2nd Petition
4. 3rd Petition
5. 4th Petition
6. 5th Petition, pt. 1
7. 5th Petition pt. 2
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9. 7th Petition
10. Doxology

Once we have God's kingdom secured in our hearts—or, rather, once God himself has secured it in our hearts—we naturally ask that God would not only cause his kingdom to come to us and to others but that everything that would happen would further his rule and reign among us. A logical progression of requests leads us to ask in the third petition that God's will be done.

It is, however, with embarrassment and with shame that we make this request to God. We are embarrassed; because as we ask God for his will to be done, we know without a doubt that more often than not we have wanted our own will to be done first. We are ashamed to present this petition to him because so frequently we have imagined that what we want is best. Otherwise,

we wouldn't want it, would we? God's Word makes it plain and human experience has given evidence to the fact that the will of man is desperately wicked from youth on. In fact, so much of the misery of our lives comes from that desire to get our own way, to have our will be done.

It has been like this from infancy, when we screamed and cried until someone paid attention to us and gave us what we wanted. As time has passed, we have come to realize that this no longer has the desired effect, but our goal to have our selfish desires fulfilled remains the same. So, to accomplish this goal, we employ other means: stubbornness or manipulation; force or threat. We do all we can to cause our will to be done; and when it is not, we do not pray with sincerity that God's will be done instead. No, we grudgingly and reluctantly give in to the needs of others; and we follow that with arguments, anger, bitterness, and a desire to get even.

We ask God's will to be done but not always with eagerness. God's will is that we put others first and make ourselves last as servants to all. Our sinful nature would prefer, however, to make ourselves the subject of everyone else's service. God's will is that we would see our salvation as a gift entirely from him. Our sinful nature would prefer to give ourselves at least some credit, to say that we're not as bad as some and not as bad as we could have been. God's will is that we endure the hardships and troubles of this life with patience and even gladness for these God uses to draw us closer to himself. Our sinful nature would prefer to complain and call God unjust when others prosper at our expense or when they are more successful than we think we deserve to be. We rage against God, because we feel his will is not best and should not be done if it means that we should suffer the unfairness of having so little when evildoers seem to have so much.

So, to ask that God's will be done is a difficult thing for us. Because of the rebellion that persists in our sinful will, it is a petition we do not always want to pray. This is precisely why we need all the more for God to hear this prayer and grant us this request. We need God to cause his will to be done here in our lives on earth as it is done in heaven.

Of course, God's will is always done. Even the power of our sinful natures cannot prevent him from accomplishing among us what he desires. So, we pray that his will would win the happy victory

over our will. We pray that God would enlighten our understanding of what is best by giving us greater knowledge and understanding of what God's will is. We pray that God would overcome our persistent rebellion and not only lead us to eagerly desire his will for us, but also that we would eagerly desire his will to be done through us.

With a greater understanding and increased knowledge of what God's will is, we will consciously strive to bring our will into submitting harmony with his, to serve him in a way that glorifies his name; to serve others in a way that brings him glory and advances his kingdom. So we continually pray this petition so that according to God's will we cease asking what is in it for us and instead ask, "How can my plans and ambitions reflect the all important fact that you are my Father and I am your dearly loved child? How can I do what pleases you?" For when we ask this, God surely will respond according this, his promise that his will be done.

Pastor Koester

10 for 10
Stewardship Emphasis



"10 for 10" Coming to Gethsemane this Fall

"All the church ever talks about is money!"

You've heard statements like that before. You may even have said something like that before. Over the years, you've heard me take statements like that to task. Why? First, because it's simply not true. (It has been a few years since we've done a significant stewardship emphasis that encourages regular, weekly

offerings at Gethsemane.) Second, the statement is misleading: God wants a lot more than our money! He wants us to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. If we could love God in that way, money would be a non-issue at Gethsemane.

Spoiler alert: You will hear biblical preaching on the stewardship of treasures this fall at Gethsemane. Late in September, we will challenge our church family to give a tithe (10%) *OR* to increase the proportion of what they are giving for their weekly offerings for a period of ten weeks. Why? Our giving shows the Lord the honor, love, and gratitude we have for what Christ has done for us. Generous giving is one of the ways that faith-filled hearts respond to the riches of Christ. Giving is *an act of worship*. That's the only reason we pass offering plates during church services.

The practice of *tithing* (giving 10%) is at least as old as Abraham (Genesis 14:20). In Old Testament Israel, tithing was commanded by law. In the New Testament Church, tithing—along with all other methods of giving—is inspired by the gospel of Christ. Many Christians, free from compulsion, tithe as an exercise of their faith. Does God really have the ability to keep us safe, warm and well-fed without 10% of our income? To share an even greater proportion of our income? Faith relishes the challenge. The Spirit is up to the task!

How is it possible to give something like the tithe—and do so freely and joyfully? Christ's love empowers his people to give generously. It flows freely from Christ "*who loved us and gave himself up for us*" (Ephesians 5:2). Our generous giving to God is a response to Christ's willing sacrifice for us.

Finally, tithing serves New Testament Christians as a benchmark for *proportionate giving*. The Apostle Paul said, "*...each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income*" (1 Corinthians 16:2). As New Testament Christians, tithing is a practice to be engaged in freely rather than a requirement to be met legally. Some of us are already in the spiritual habit of tithing. Inspired by God's grace, we may seek to give more, more often, more creatively. For others, tithing will be a big step forward as well as a significant test of faith. For still others, because of life-issues known to God, the tithe might currently be unreachable. Then what about an extra percent, or two, or three? No matter where we find ourselves on the "giving spectrum," this is true: Our trust in God's goodness is well-placed! "*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us to Him be glory in all the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen*" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

You will be receiving several mailings, devotional pieces, and a commitment packet over the next four months as part of our **10 for 10 Stewardship Emphasis**. Receive them in the spirit they are

offered: As an opportunity to grow in faith and in the grace of giving. Study them. Think about them. Pray through them. They will help keep our stewardship emphasis centered in Christ and the cross as we seek to avoid financial quick-fixes and gimmicks!

May the Lord of the Church richly bless our congregation and our ministry as we seek to excel in the grace of giving!

*In Christ,
Pastor Helwig*



School News

Friends in Christ,

Just the other day we opened the doors of Gethsemane Lutheran School; and by God's grace, in walked 70 students and their families. It's a wonder, anymore, that people would go out of their way and make the sacrifices they do so that schools like ours have enough clientele to stay open (and we have seen far too many in our region not have enough and have to close their doors). And to think that Gethsemane Church

has been doing this for 72 years now! But let's go back to the thought of why? Why do parents drive in from Bennington or over from Southwest Omaha just to get to our little school? Why do they drive past neighborhood schools that their kids could easily walk to or just have to take a short bus ride provided for them? Why do they make Gethsemane Lutheran School their choice of schools? Well, in Christian freedom they can choose to do so. And it's just as well for families who, in that same Christian freedom, choose not to use our school.

But again - why do they come? I like to think of the answer from the perspective of our school year theme - Set Your Minds on Things Above. Granted, this theme is just for this year and probably hasn't necessarily been used in the 72 year history of the school - but don't you think that throughout all those 72 years, families from Gethsemane and throughout Omaha have set their minds on things above as they sent their children to be Gethsemane Lutheran students? That they wished to have God's Word be the backbone of their child's elementary education? I'm positive this is why family after family, and even second generation GLS students, have come through our doors for all these years. Back when GLS was at 42ND and Fontanelle, or when GLS was a two-room school off a fellowship hall, or when GLS was a four room school with four grades in one classroom, or when GLS spilled back into the fellowship hall, or as GLS currently sits with six classrooms - students have come to be surrounded by God's Word throughout their school days. That their minds might be directed to things above!

And on our part, GLS has the tremendous opportunity to serve each and every one of them with God's Word each and every weekday. We have the opportunity to direct students through the Scriptures to indeed set their minds on things above. We work to have them keep this life (a time of grace to be brought to faith and to share that faith with others) and keep this world (transitory and not our destination) in the proper Christian perspective. We teach them that they are IN the world but not OF the world.

It has been a successful start to the school year - now three days in! We thank you for the wonderful support that has been poured into GLS to serve 47 families this year. God bless you all as we make GLS a blessing to others!

Mr. Pederson

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There is much going on at GLS in these first few days and weeks - too many to list here. If you'd like to receive our weekly announcement page, please contact me at cpederson@gethlc.org. I will add you just for the Weekly Note - the best place to see what is going on and coming up at our school.

GLS welcomed 10 new students to our student body for the year. School opened with Chapel (had to be moved to the fellowship hall) on Wednesday, August 21. 70 of our 74 kids made it in to see balloons, signs, and door decorations welcoming them in for Day 1. We look forward to seeing our four K4 students coming this week Tuesday.

We thank those who attended the Tree Chopping / School Cleaning Day a few weeks ago. Much good work was done. Keep an ear open for future events. We have a sizable building and property to keep up!

GLS's upper graders will be heading to Nebraska Lutheran next month for the annual NELHS Day. Parent of GLC are encouraged to speak with Pastor or Mr. P with any questions regarding our high school.

GLS students, along with GLC students and other friends, are participating in the metro-YMCA soccer season. Parents and teachers are serving as our team coaches. Games started this weekend! A schedule is posted on the school bulletin board.

Mr. P.



FOCE

(Friends of Christian Education)

FOCE's Back to School Night on August 19th was a great event, with treats and outdoor fun available for family and friends as we welcomed everyone back. We officially kicked off the new school year with fellowship and donuts for the first day of school. A huge thank you for everyone that attended and helped for both events!

Over the summer, FOCE helped contribute to new handbells for music and a magazine subscription for Miss Veith's classroom.

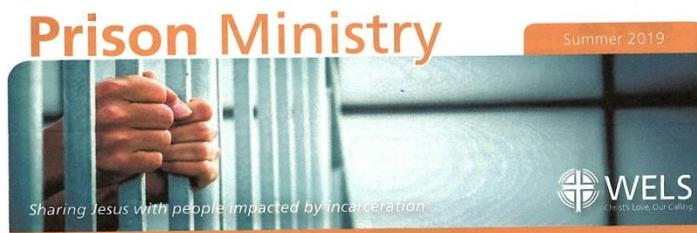
Our first meeting of the 2019-2020 school year will be held Thursday, September 26th, at 6:30 p.m. This brief meeting will address upcoming fundraisers and activities, along with a brief summary of budget items. We love meeting new faces and hearing about new ideas or suggestions that will help make the school year a success.

Liz G, Secretary

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)

On August 11th 19 chapter members met at Gethsemane with a meeting focus on WELS Prison Ministry. A video presentation was specially prepared for our chapter by Dave Hockmuth, Prison Ministry Administrator. This is the 25th anniversary of this ministry which was initiated by WELS seniors in the 1990's. Since that time, over one million bibles, bible booklets, and other reading



materials have been sent to correctional centers across the country, serving 3000 facilities with 1700 volunteers. Volunteers can serve by mail providing publications, as pen pals, with cards, bookmarks and other encouragements. Training is also provided to those that want to make face-to-face meetings and be a study leader.

Prison Ministry is 90% funded by individual donations. Any financial support is much appreciated.

Sandy provided a devotion that focused on the freedom that our Savior provides to us and the free will to share the gifts that he has provided us. Some of these gifts include the support of special ministries such as prison outreach.

Chapter business: Eight chapter members assisted in the Salvation Army sponsored "Stuff the Bus" on August 3rd at the Wal-Mart on 168th and Maple.



New member flyers have been distributed at all our churches. Collection bins have been placed for the donation of toiletries for future distribution to the homeless and Lydia House. Plans continue for ENOLA adoption of recipients for holiday gifts and winter ware collection for the needy.

Moving forward:

- **September 13th (Friday 11:00 a.m.)** - Tour of the Omaha Humane Society facility with more details to follow

Guests are always welcome!

*Dick V, President
Sandy T, Secretary*



WINGS

(Women IN God's Service)

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting which is September 5th at 7 p.m. with coffee/snacks starting at 6:45 p.m. Our new team of officers: Wendee M, president; Mandie L, vice president, Jana L, treasurer; Liz K, secretary.

We will have new items to discuss, so we will have updated information for WINGS after the meeting.

We hope you can make it!

*In Christ,
Ginger B*

LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)



"Speak, O Lord"

It's back to school time! God's blessings to all the students and teachers beginning another school year!

The Fall LWMS Rally will be held on Saturday, October 5th, at Living Hope Lutheran Church in Omaha. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the rally beginning at 9:00am. The rally will conclude at 12:30 p.m. with lunch. The rally is all about ACTS! What does ACTS stand for, you ask? ACTS stands for: Apache Christian Training School. The guest speaker is, Pastor Howard Mohlke, who is currently the leader of this program. He is also the former pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk. It



will be a wonderful morning of learning about the work being done on the Apache Reservation. Sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall if you are interested in attending. Childcare is also available.

Did you know... that our very own, Jean Redford, served as a nurse with CAMM-the Central African Medical Mission? She served from 2004 to 2006. When she left there in 2006, there were no new nurses that were sent there. Instead, it became an administrative position. The August 2019 newsletter for CAMM is posted on the bulletin board on the east wall of the fellowship hall. Check it out!

Looking ahead...The 2020 LWMS Convention will be held in Athens (Atlanta), Georgia. Georgia peaches, here we come! See you in Georgia!

September Prayer Requests

The pastors, teachers, and students that are beginning another school year.

-The work being done on the Apache Reservation.

-The work being done with CAMM-Central African Medical Mission.

-Leslie B
Reporter



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Deuteronomy 6: 6-10

- *⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

The 41st year of NELHS officially began with the opening service on August 11th. We share the theme with our LES schools of “Set Your Minds on Things Above” - Colossians 3:2. Installed on August 11 were Nathan Guhl - Science Teacher; Rylee Weisensel - girls’ tutor and AD (one-year call, renewable); Chris Beagle and Bryan Walkley - boys’ tutors (one-year call, renewable). We welcome Mrs. Sarah Stellick who is helping out part-time with medical needs and with our *Friends and Family* as our “administrative assistant.”

Summer construction update: much work was accomplished on repairs to the boys’ dorm - thank you to all who helped with the re-drywalling, patching, painting, door replacements, and porcelain installations! Added together, we had about 75 people in our three official work days - some at all three, and some in between...thank you, it couldn’t have been done without you!

Gym woes...our large gym floor replacement is still on hold. We have to mitigate our water seepage that appears to be coming up in a few areas. Pray for this to be remedied...volleyball is patiently waiting for a floor.

Support: Prayers, prayers, prayers - these are the three most important asks I have for each of you. Please continue to pray for our former students who have moved on to serve Jesus in their next phase of life; continue to pray for our current students who are being guided by the gospel but are bombarded every day with the world’s philosophies; continue to pray for our future students - we need an association army of recruiters for NELHS; continue to pray for our parents and families who make sacrifices for their children to be immersed in God’s Word in their academic studies with many living away from home; continue to pray for our faculty and staff who also sacrifice much to give not only a top-notch education to our students, but who also guide, direct, and help build Christian leaders through our school.

Matching funds are still available for a couple more weeks! We were given a \$20,000 matching funds challenge gift - we’ve met about \$7500 of this... It would be great to match the full amount. Any gifts can be sent to NELHS or you can use our online giving portal on our website. Don’t forget we also have our *Fill the Bins* donation program where donations of grain (or livestock), and

our *This is Our School* - automatic monthly giving program. These third source funding programs are appreciated and vital to our financial needs.

Our new website is up and running...new look, same address: www.nelhs.org. Please check it out and give any feedback you may have to admin@nelhs.org

Upcoming Dates:

- Sep 22-25: WELSSA accreditation: This five year cycle helps us focus on how to be the best stewards of our area Lutheran high school.
- Sep 20: NELHS Day - "Camps" (no soccer jam, sorry!)
- Sep 27: Homecoming, football at 7 p.m. (football/cheer parents night too)
- Oct 6: Fall Silent Auction (1-4 p.m.), Concert at 4 p.m., Meal follows (about 5 p.m.)
- Oct 6: Association Meeting 5 p.m. at NELHS (working lunch after the concert)

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.

Yours in Christ,
-Skip Bremer, School Administrator



Deacons

You've probably noticed a difference when you come into the parking lot if you weren't one of the folks who came on August 10th, to help take down the dead trees on the property. With one reciprocating saw, two chain saws, a couple of leaf blowers, and rakes and brooms, many hands had the job done in a little over two hours. THANK YOU to those who came to assist! Other projects were also done around the building: soffits were power washed and the rogue trees were removed from the flower bed under the maple tree. The interior of the building

was also spruced up: drinking fountains were scrubbed, windows were washed, and surface areas were disinfected. Many other areas were cleaned up, too. THANK YOU to those who helped!

Thank you to our faithful property mowers for keeping the grass mowed. It's looked amazing this year!

Our landscape volunteer continues to water the flowers daily, making them look beautiful—thank you! If you need some weed pulling therapy, we would be grateful if you would help to keep the weeds down in the center islands of the parking lot.

We still need to install heat tape in the gutters before winter, so we don't have the gutter problem with ice damming again this winter.

This property is too big for just one person to keep it up. It takes everyone! We are grateful to anyone who picks up garbage or pulls a weed to help make it look better.

If you see something that needs to be repaired or attended to, please contact the church office at 402-493-2550 or Bruce DeJong at 402-996-0915.

Discipleship Sunday School

Sunday School Starts Sunday, September 15th!

Dear Parents & Students,

Welcome back to another great year of Sunday School. We hope you all had great summers! We are ready to get back to class and share God's word with your children. We invite students in Preschool through 8th grade to join us for songs, stories, games, crafts and discussions that teach us God's Word!

Sunday School starts each week at 9:15 a.m. 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-9th grade students will report to Mrs. Roberts's classroom for their lesson. Grades 10-12 will meet in the basement.

This year our curriculum will be the Christ-Light for Sunday Schools Year 2. September Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade:

- 15 - "The Fall of Jericho"
- 24 - "God Give Gideon Victory"
- 29 - "Samson"

A big thank you to all our teachers, helpers and substitutes who put in time, talents, and resources to have lessons and activities planned for their classes.

We are looking forward to seeing all preschool-8th grade students on Sunday, September 15th, at 9:15 a.m.

The Vine

A place where children grow in faith.

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

September brings back to school time for students, teachers, and for the 2nd year of The Vine! I couldn't be more excited to begin another year of having the privilege to coordinate this wonderful program!

The Vine will kick off its second year on Wednesday, September 11th. Each session is held every Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Mrs. Roberts's classroom. The Vine is open to children ages birth-age 4 and their parents, grandparents, guardians, etc!

This year we will be learning about, "The ABC's of The Vine," and will be learning all about a new letter each week. Each morning will consist of fine and gross motor skill activities, along with a craft, snack, and story time.

If you have never been to The Vine, NOW is your opportunity to jump in and to see what it is all about!

See you on September 11th!

Leslie B, Coordinator



Evangelism



There is an upcoming Bible Information Class (BIC) starting September 18. The Evangelism Board would like to encourage all our members to reach out and share this opportunity to hear the truth that is found in God's word with your friends, neighbors, co-workers and community. One idea that we are working on is a flyer that you could grab and hand out to someone who might be searching in that area. The flyer could provide a possible ice-breaker for all of us as a congregation to approach this subject and have something tangible they could hang onto that includes the date and an overview of the intention of the class. Watch for that in the coming weeks.

Stewardship



The Pig Roast is coming up on Sunday, September 8th. Worship will be held outdoors at 10:30 a.m., with the meal starting immediately after the service.

We have a fun afternoon planned for all! A live auction will be held with all funds raised going to the new church sign fund. Pony rides, carnival games, a dunk tank and a cake walk will be just some of the fun and entertainment going on. If you don't get enough to eat from the pig roast, there will also be a cotton candy and funnel cake stand with an ice cream social to round out the sweet treats!

The Stewardship Board does need your help to pull all of this off without a hitch. We are in need of volunteers and donations. We need donations for the live auction and the cake walk. Live auction donations could be anything: gift cards for a date night, a basket for the coffee lover, or even homemade arts and crafts. Donation items for the cake walk doesn't necessarily need to be a cake, it could be a plate of cookies, a pan of brownies, or even pie, whatever you would like to bake!

Our last request is for volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall and also available via the Google docs link that was sent out by email. We need help with set up, serving the meal, running the carnival games and also clean up after. The Stewardship Board cannot put on this event without your help, so please consider signing up!

Let's praise the Lord through music!!!



The adult choir will begin practices on Wednesday, September 18th, in the balcony of church under the direction of Amy A. All voices are welcomed to join us! We will start at 6:30 p.m. See you there!

Junior Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 11th, at 5:00 p.m. Junior Choir is for kids from 5th grade

through high school.

Junior Tone Chimes will start at 5:30 p.m. Junior Tone Chimes is for 3rd-8th graders.

Please contact Leslie Brauer if your child is interested in participating in either of these groups.



Book Club

Book Club resumes on August 27th at 7 p.m. hosted by Jean R. Since our fearless leader is laid up, we took a straw poll and chose **Born a Crime** by Trevor Noah as our book up for discussion. Everyone is invited to join us! If you need directions to Jean's place, please contact her or the church office.

We're looking for more books to read for the rest of the year, so send us your suggestions! Hosts will be needed for the upcoming months as well.

In September, we will meet on Tuesday, September 24th.



Let's Go for a RIDE!!

Join us Saturday, September 14th. We'll meet at church at 9 a.m. Final destination? Bob's Bar & Grill in Martinsburg, NE! A review states, "This place is the best little dive you will ever visit! There are no matching tables or chairs in the place. Some might call it a bit grungy but you will honestly love it. The burgers are huge and the servings are beyond HUGE! ...This place is unique and worth the drive!!" Sounds great!

We'll take the scenic route (and, we promise, will stay off of gravel roads) and get there in time to eat, relax, then ride back in time to see the Huskers v. Northern Illinois football game at 7 p.m.

Let's pray for great weather for a fun ride!!
Hope you can join us!

New Appointment

Jeremy K has recently (during the Synod Convention) been elected to the Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) Board of Directors. The position is a three or four year term as "Lay Member." He will attend all board meetings (quarterly), and maybe even present at District Conventions. We congratulate Jeremy and pray that his service is faithful and fruitful in this new endeavor.