

GE + HSEMANE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

News from 4040 N. 108th Street, Omaha, NE 68164
February, 2020

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

But deliver us from evil.

1. Address
2. 1st Petition
3. 2nd Petition
4. 3rd Petition
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- 9. 7th Petition**
10. Doxology

If truth be told, every request, every petition we dare to bring before our Father in Heaven, we do only because our Lord Jesus bids it. It does not take us long to recognize that we have no right to ask God for anything unless God grants that right. We are not worthy to ask God to cause his name to be made holy through our words and actions or to ask God to bring his kingdom into our hearts; we are not worthy to ask God for our daily bread, let alone the bounteous blessings he promises; we are not worthy to ask for his gracious forgiveness or to keep temptation far from us. No, we are not worthy. What grace that God invites us to ask for these very privileges and hears us in spite of our unworthiness!

Of all the petitions taught to us in God's perfect prayer, however, perhaps the one we have no business bringing before God is that he would deliver us from evil. After all, we have asked that his name be made holy in our hearts and lives and then we have disgraced it by cherishing our own opinions and desires that argue with his Word. We have asked in one moment that his kingdom come; and then in the next moment, we have resisted his rule. We have prayed that his will be done while almost simultaneously we have dismissed it in favor of our own. We have asked him to lead us away from temptation, but we have not followed where he has led.

No, we are not worthy to ask our loving Father for anything. We are completely at his mercy in every aspect of our lives. For we have not just sinned; rather we are sinners and therefore all we know by nature is how to sin. It is for this, above all else, that we need his mercy.

So, how is it possible that we could even imagine presenting this request to our Father in heaven: deliver us from evil? We have brought evil upon ourselves each day, each hour, each minute as we strive for the opposite of all for which we are invited to ask in this perfect prayer. We are sinners whose very actions have led to evil consequences; and it is those consequences—not God's love or forgiveness—that we truly deserve.

Yet, it is because of this very sin, because of our evil thoughts, words, and actions, by which we push ourselves away from God that we have nothing left to do but present that bold petition. In desperation and despair over the sins that have so thoroughly permeated our lives, we have nowhere else to go and no other option before us than to ask that God would spare us from the evil consequences of our actions and the pain and suffering we have earned because of them.

So, with boldness, with confidence because the Lord himself calls us to pray this prayer, we ask for deliverance. We ask him to rescue us from our sins, to save us from our guilt. We ask him to rip us from the jaws of hell. In earnestness we cry out to our dear Father in heaven to spare us from the flames that would engulf us at the hour of our deaths, at the moment of judgment. We plead with him to deliver us from the shame that would be ours if everyone knew what we have done to deserve this punishment;

we plead that he would deliver us from the terrors of our minds and the afflictions of our bodies that we would have to suffer even here and now for each of our offenses.

Yes, we pray and plead because God, in his love, has granted us the privilege to do so. We pray and plead because God, in his grace, has promised to hear and grant this request. We pray and plead, because we trust in Christ who has achieved all perfection on our behalf. We pray and plead, because Jesus had made our sin his own. We pray and plead, because we have the full assurance from God's Word that the work Jesus performed in his life and on the cross has delivered us from the worst evil we could imagine and has given us peace before God.

Yes, we pray and plead that God would deliver us from evil. There are times, of course, when we experience the evil of this world, the difficult consequences for our own rebellion, the results of our missteps. We know, of course, that these difficulties are not the condemnation we truly deserve but even serve to turn our hearts to repentance and to trust in our Savior for forgiveness. So we do not ask the Lord to spare us from every pain. This he has not promised. Instead, in confidence, in boldness and, perhaps most important, in thanksgiving, we present this request, and rejoice in the wonderful message of grace. God's love has delivered us from evil and brings us to eternal bliss.

Pastor John Koester

SCHOOL NEWS

Winter greetings,



January is already winding down - a speedy start to 2020. As we start our second semester, winter seems to take on a different reputation. Prior to 12/31, the snow that winter brings is fairly welcomed. For many people, a little snow around Thanksgiving and Christmas (especially) feels more needed for the sake of nostalgia or appropriate scenery. Now that the new year is well on its way, the snow and cold take on more of a reputation of being annoying and unwelcomed. If (or when) the snow does not "suit our fancy," we quickly turn on it with a nasty attitude.

But do we find ourselves with a similar kind of attitude in places more perilous than an opinion about snow? Do we appreciate Christian concern from our family and friends sometimes, but then turn sharply when their concerns address our shortcomings? Do we have "warm and fuzzy" feelings about God's Word - until we are staring at our sins in the mirror of God's Law? At those times do we turn on God's Word as old-fashioned, out-of-date, and inapplicable to our situation? These kinds of fickle back-and-forth attitudes are very dangerous to us regarding spiritual matters. It is important to note that our opinion of what God's Word says really holds no bearing. God is not going to change his Word because we want it changed or if we do not like it. God's opinion is the only one that matters. His Word is true. His Word is final. His Word is eternal. And his Word is for us - to help us!

May we ever believe that is true! May we draw closer and closer to God through his saving Word. May we share that Word with those around us - regardless of what their attitude toward the message of the Word is! May God forgive our sins of "bad attitudes" regarding his Word! May he strengthen us to live according to that Word - no matter what the season!

Mr. Pederson

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SEM 2 is rolling - even with a few unscheduled OFF days invading our first month. We added a new student for SEM 2 as a family moved here from TX, and our enrollment is now at 75 students! FEB reaches us with maximum effort - all 29 days this time around! Some things that we are looking at/forward to in FEB would include - more days of sharing God's Word in class with our students, more installments of our "Students of the Week" program, hitting our mid-quarter for Q3, enjoying the winter weather (and keeping our minds away from the winter blahs), wrapping up our Omaha basketball league

season, kicking off our Lutheran Schools Week (along with the accompanying Spirit Week), and our annual Nebraska WELS Basketball Tournament. It will be another busy month that will fly right by! May God bless this month of ministry at GLC and GLS!

FOCE

(Friends of Christian Education)



We are looking forward to our first meeting of 2020, with a date to be determined, which will discuss the annual Winter Festival. Help is always welcome and needed for this event - donations of treats and prizes, help with setup and take down, and games. All the extra efforts are so appreciated, as the Winter Festival is one of our favorite events. We will also be going over our Spring fundraiser, Eileen's cookies, or any other fundraiser ideas are welcomed!

Lastly, thanks to everyone who made apparel orders this winter. We will have one more Spring order. Let us know if there any items you would like to see added!

FOCE Ladies

Hy-Vee Receipt Update

Thank you to everyone who submitted Hy-Vee receipts between September 1 and December 31, 2019. The receipts added up to a little over \$42, 650.47 and resulted in \$213.79. The really good news is that due to an error last year, Hy-Vee added \$10,000.00 to our total which gave us an extra \$50! Total anticipated from Hy-Vee is \$263.79.

Thank you so much for your support!

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)

Our chapter met at Gethsemane with a total of 16 members and three guests. Our gathering started with a devotion provided by Pastor Koester focusing on 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 where Paul described his affliction as a thorn in his flesh that caused him to rely on Christ's divine power. We, likewise, when weakened with hardships and difficulties, are made strong through our trust in Christ who we can always rely upon.

The presenter of the day was Gethsemane's Tregan Beck. Having a farm background, Tregan had a desire to pursue a career in agriculture. After graduating from Wayne State with a chemistry degree, Tregan began work in the agricultural field at Cargill. For the past 18 years he has been employed as a Quality Assurance Supervisor at Evonik at their Blair facility.

Evonik is a worldwide company specializing in the biotechnology production of lysine amino acid including bacterial fermentation and omega-3 fatty acids via algae fermentation. The lysine product is used as feed additives in animal and aquaculture diets. Evonik utilizes corn processed by Cargill,



collocated at the Blair site, as the feedstock for their fermentation. His detailed explanation of his work and the production technology was enjoyed by all, including his mother, Loneal, who came all the way from Stang, Nebraska to partake. We enjoyed her presence as well.

Meeting highlights:

- Discussion of upcoming activities being pursued by the entertainment committee.
- Members encouraged to invite friends to our events for fellowship and expand chapter.
- Volunteers were identified to assist in sponsoring new chapters in Lincoln and Sioux City where some interest has been expressed.
- Congregation shut-in lists are being updated and emphasis given for making visits.
- Conformance of chapter bylaws to National bylaws approved 2019 will be reviewed.

February meeting will be Friday, February 14 at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at the east parking lot of Good Shepherd and car pool to Channel 6 WOWTV where we will tour their facility followed by a lunch at LaCasa.

Guests are welcome!

*Dick V, President
Sandy T, Secretary*

WINGS

(Women IN God'S Service)

Keep an eye out for an announcement regarding a February Escape Room outing for WINGS - date is TBD, so be on the lookout for emails regarding this fun event!

New purchases made by WINGS: a new changing table for the cry room, 6 new folding tables for the fellowship hall, and some new items for the church/chancel!

Liz K, Secretary

LWMS

(Lutheran Women'S Missionary Society)

"Jesus Loves Me this I Know"



It's a song that we all know, but maybe one that we don't sing too often. However, how simple and true is it? It always seems to provide great calm and reassurance in every situation.

The Befriend a Missionary month is indeed coming! There was a slight delay in receiving the information and materials regarding our Befriend a Mission. God willing, February will be the month when we can learn more about the mission and missionary that we support. You will be able to find out more information regarding our missionary, and ways that we, as a congregation, are able to help them. This is such a fantastic way to support our Home Missions!

The CAMM (Central African Medical Mission) is also a great way to spread the Gospel-just in a different form! Through the work of the nurses and medical team, they are able to provide not only help with their physical needs, but also their spiritual needs. Look for a brochure update on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Looking ahead...The 2020 LWMS Convention will be held in Athens (Atlanta), Georgia on June 25-28, 2020. Several ladies from Good Shepherd are interested in attending and would like to travel there via a chartered bus. If this is something that interests you, please contact me and I will connect you with the Good Shepherd ladies!

February Prayer Requests

- The called workers who are deliberating calls throughout the synod.
- The safety of the missionaries in Africa.
- The work being done in South Carolina.

~Leslie B



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Matthew 22:37

- *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*

Because of Valentine's Day, February is considered the month of love by many. Many in the world consider true love a feeling. Matthew 22:37 reminds us what true love really is - actions and doing. Using our whole heart, soul, and mind we serve God in all we think, say, and do. We teach the love of Christ to our children through Christian education. Parents are their children's first teachers. Some congregations provide the option of continuing Christian education through full time Christian schools. Christian schools help build Christian leaders and evangelists. Through classes, chapel, and interactions between teachers and students, children are guided in ways to show their love for God. Thank you for helping to make this opportunity available to our students.

Call updates: Mr. David Ring and Mr. Benjy Wells were both led to accept calls away from NELHS. This summer Mr. Ring will be transitioning to Wisconsin Lutheran School in Racine, Wisconsin; and Mr. Wells will be transitioning to Arizona Lutheran Academy in Phoenix, Arizona. We thank them for their faithful service and pray for God's blessings as they continue to serve Jesus in their new ministries. At the time of this writing, NELHS has extended a math call to Mr. Jonathan Ross who currently serves at Divine Savior in Doral, Florida. An English call will be extended on January 26th. Please pray for these people and for God to send needed workers into His kingdom.

Upcoming Dates:

- Feb 7, 2020: Grandparents' Day
- Spring Break - Housing Needed (break begins after Sat tourney-Feb 28; dorms open Mar 8th)
- Mar 8: NELHS Association Meeting, 4 p.m.
- Mar 22: Easter Concert 4 p.m.; Winter Activities Banquet 6 p.m.
- Mar 28: Knight Out in Beatrice, 5 p.m.
- April 8 after classes, Easter Break Begins - Dorms open Monday 13th at 4 p.m.: HOUSING NEEDED
- June 7-12: Activities Camp

Skip Bremer, Administrator

DEACONS

A meeting of the Deacons Board took place on Tuesday, January 14th. At this meeting, Jeff Sloan was elected as the board chair.

Several projects were completed: Light bulbs in the sanctuary, balcony, altar area and narthex were replaced; a valve was replaced on one of the toilets in the girls' restroom, and two disabled parking signs were installed to replace the ones that disappeared from the island in the parking lot.

Thanks to the WINGS group, a new baby changing station has been purchased and installed in the cry room.

Discussions ensued regarding the flooring in the school classrooms, the aging HVAC system in the school, the classroom door knobs that have worn out and the larger projects that are facing us, including painting the church exterior, repairing the wood on the east side of the building, and painting the parsonage.

The snow and ice and subzero temps aren't making for a friendly parking lot. Snow was removed after the last storm, but the freezing rain afterwards made it pretty much an ice rink. Ice melt was applied, but with the temps so cold, only some of the ice disappeared. Please exercise caution whenever you're in the lot.

If you see anything that needs to be attended to, please contact the church office (402) 493-2550.

DISCIPLESHIP

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Great
Overflowing
Definite
Strong

Lasting
Overwhelming
Valid
Empowering

Sunday School starts each week at 9:15 a.m. 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 their classroom with Mr. K for their lesson. 10th-12th will meet in their classroom with Mr. S.

Guests are always welcome, too. Join us for songs, stories, games, crafts and discussions that teach us God's Word.

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.

February Sunday School Lessons for Preschool-6th Grade

- 2 - "The Parable of the Rich Man and Poor Lazarus"
- 9 - "Zacchaeus"
- 16 - "Mary Shows Her Love for Jesus"
- 23 - "Jesus Rides into Jerusalem"

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.

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)

We kicked off January by learning about the Letters K, L, M and N. With a snow day mixed into our weekly routine, we ended the month by doubling up on letters. Each week is filled with ways that the kids can commit to memory the letter that we are learning. From playing with kinetic sand and kitchen utensils in the sensory bin, to lacing cards and using marbles to paint...it all contributes to a morning filled with fun and learning. It is truly a blessing to be able to spend each Wednesday morning together!

Want to jump into The Vine, but not quite sure what it is all about? Perfect! Each morning consists of fine and gross motor skill activities, along with a craft, snack, a devotion, and story time. We even eat a snack that begins with the letter that we are learning. We will learn about the letters O, P, and Q, with a Valentine's Day Party added into our mix too during the month of February.

Each session is held every Wednesday from 9:00am-10:30am in Mrs. Roberts's classroom. The Vine is open to children ages birth-age 4 and their parents, grandparents, guardians, etc.!



EVANGELISM



An upcoming Kindergarten Roundup and Open House for our school is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12 @ 6:30 p.m. The Evangelism and School Board would like the help of the congregation to spread the word regarding this event. Please let us know if you work at or use a pre-school or daycare, or know of someone who does, and if you would be willing to pass along information regarding this event to prospective families that may be interested. The Evangelism Board will coordinate the communication, so please reach out to any of the Evangelism Board members with that information; and we will get in contact with you. Thank for your support in sharing the news about this opportunity with our community around us!

Stewardship

Hockey Fellowship Night



Just a reminder to those who signed up for the 2nd Annual Gethsemane Hockey Night on February 8th, 2020, as the Omaha Lancers take on the Lincoln Stars at 7:05 p.m. at the Ralston Arena. If Nick R doesn't see you before February 8th to give you your tickets, he will see you at the game and give them to you then.



Come to Choir!!

Adult choir rehearsals for the Lent/Easter season will commence on Wednesday, February 5th. We'll start at 6:30 p.m. up in the balcony. Every voice is welcome!

BOOK CLUB

As of this newsletter we haven't had our January get together yet - Tuesday, the 28th at Sue Hodges' home - to discuss **Dad is Fat** by Jim Gaffigan. Regardless of whether you've gotten the book read, join us if you're reading this newsletter in time!!!

We meet in February on the 25th and right now don't have a specific book in mind or a host location, so if you've read a good one lately let us know!!! Plus if you're interested in hosting, let us know that as well!

Hope to see you soon at an upcoming evening of some great fellowship!!!!



Becky G

CALL NEWS

Mr. Pederson has received a call to teach 7th-8th grades and serve as school principal at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Belle Plaine, Minnesota. He asks for and greatly appreciates your prayers during this time of deliberation. He also welcomes any thoughts you may have or conversations regarding the two calls he holds (Gethsemane and Trinity) as he prayerfully considers where he can best serve the Lord.

Pastor Koester has received a call to serve as associate pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church and School in Aurora, IL. The congregation and school are a little more than half the size of Gethsemane. The primary duties of this call are outreach and youth education (working closely with the school). Pastor welcomes your prayers as he deliberates. If you would like to speak with him about this call or about his ministry here at Gethsemane, he would welcome that also.

Free Concert



Need a fun night out? This Valentine's Day, February 14th, Candace Sutter, Christian Artist, and her band, will present a free concert at Faith Lutheran Church, 2100 S. 11th Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa. This concert features songs written by Ms. Sutter with the theme, "Sharing the Love of Jesus." See the poster on the fellowship hall bulletin board.

An optional preconcert dinner of lemon pepper chicken, seasoned company potatoes, green beans, dinner roll and dessert is \$16 per meal. A children's meal for ages 10 and under of chicken nuggets, mac 'n cheese, green beans, dinner roll and dessert is also offered for \$8. Place your meal reservation with the church office by calling 712-323-6445. Seating is limited. All reservations and payments must be made by February 9th to secure your spot.

The meal begins at 6:00 p.m. You will be accompanied by soft dinner music while you dine. Your dinner will be served by several Iowa Western's Culinary Arts students and their instructor.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Can't make it to dinner? Come to the concert! Invite your friends. Hope to see you there!