



November 3, 2019

Gethsemane

Lutheran Church

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

November, 2019



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

Forgive us our trespasses...

- 1. Address
- 2. 1st Petition
- 3. 2nd Petition
- 4. 3rd Petition
- 5. 4th Petition
- 6. 5th Petition, pt. 1**
- 7. 5th Petition pt. 2
- 8. 6th Petition
- 9. 7th Petition
- 10. Doxology

When we pray the Lord's Prayer we can be confident that God will give to us those things for which we ask. He himself invites us to pray in this way. How could he not also grant our requests that are made according to his will? So, we can be sure that when we pray to our heavenly Father that his name be made holy, that his will be done for us and among us, that he provide us with our every bodily need, he will graciously, lovingly, and willingly grant these petitions.

We can be sure also, then, that when we plead with him to forgive our sins, he will do this also. Yes, it is with confidence that we pray also for the Lord to forgive our trespasses. This confidence comes not from our own certainty that our sins are minuscule and inconsequential; not from our own certainty that we deserve to have these sins removed from our records; not from our own certainty that if these sins are taken away we will surely do better in the future and earn this forgiveness at a later date. No, the certainty comes only because God invites us to pray this petition and because God has told us in his Word that forgiveness does indeed come from him freely.

Without this certainty, we would be embarrassed and ashamed to even consider asking God for such a thing. It is embarrassing and shameful that after God has heard and granted these first four petitions that we should even need his forgiveness. Any possible excuse for sin disappears when our Father in Heaven has graciously given us our daily bread and thus removed any greed or selfishness which we certainly would have if we were left to fend for ourselves. All worries for tomorrow vanish as well because God has already promised to take care of that, too. Any doubt or anger against God for his wrath dissipates when he brings us the Kingdom of his Gospel and assures us of our status of perfection under his mercy and love. Any reason we might have to despair over the past or fear about the future unravels when he gives us the assuredness that his will in bringing us eternal salvation is done through Christ. Not only that, it continues to be done in us as he lavishly pours his grace out upon us through the Word and the sacraments and instills within us his Holy Spirit who leads us ever closer to the riches of eternal paradise.

How, then, could it be possible that we would still have sins that need to be forgiven? Yet, each day we must come before our Heavenly Father and ask him yet again to remove the sins that plague us so severely. So perverse and corrupt in our natures are we that every day—even every hour—we must fall before our Lord

**Voters' Meeting
November 3
9:15 a.m.
Elections and more!
Voters & guests invited.**

and say, "Father, forgive us!" For one minute we delude ourselves into thinking that we are better than those around us and the next we recall our own guilt and the loss of any hope of redemption. One minute we congratulate ourselves over all that we have accomplished and acquired and the next we fear that we will not have enough for tomorrow. One minute we are agreeable and pleasant with those who reciprocate such courtesies and the next we are irritated and annoyed by those who won't just get out of our way. One minute we are polite enough and the next we are ready to lash out at the one who dared to utter the slightest criticism of our work. Yes, our need for forgiveness is great and it is constant.

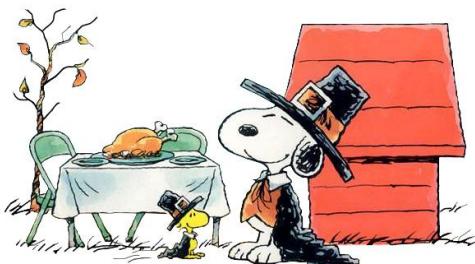
So, with broken heart and contrite sigh, without excuse or claim of mitigating circumstances, we dare to pray, "Father, forgive us!" Every hour of every day we ask our heavenly Father not to bring his justice upon us for what we deserve but instead to bring his grace—to blot out our sins and remember them no more.

Such a petition can only be made because our loving Savior Jesus invites us to make it. We only dare to pray this because God's Son has taught us to pray it. How well he understands us! How amazing that in understanding us, he does not shun or cast us aside. What grace could every compare to this? Who would ever say to us, "Ask every hour and I will forgive you, because every hour I know that you need forgiveness for new offenses against me!" How beyond reason his love that invites us to bring this request before him and in so doing assures us of the gracious answer found in the gospel of Jesus, that he has paid the penalty for sin in our place.

So, with every confidence and with the certainty given by him, we pray this perfect prayer and with joy and thanksgiving, we are assured that he answers and forgives because he is our dear father in heaven.

Pastor Koester

School News



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
As our teachers headed out to Denver for conference two weeks ago, two significant items came across our path directly and indirectly. The first item came to us directly. The vast majority of our conference time was dedicated to the new system of teacher assessment and ministry development planning. Long story short, this new plan spends more time on teacher growth and student learning and less time on assessment. Now assessment is important, but the Commission on Lutheran Schools (CLS) has agreed that improving teaching and learning is the higher priority. The assessments will still take place, and these assessments should actually make the teacher assessment more consistent from one end of the synod to the other. Much more is involved in this new process, but there is very little or no downside. May God bless these efforts here and synod-wide!

The second item crossed our paths indirectly. There was nothing we could do about it, though, since it was based off the calendar date of October 15. We crossed paths with this second item just by waking up on that Tuesday. We crossed paths with it while we were driving back to Omaha later that night. This second item is the new and adjusted teacher call window. This year it was determined that teachers could receive field calls (as opposed to assignment calls right out of MLC) as early as October 15. As schools look at their needs for NEXT school year, calls can be issued about 15 days earlier than in previous years. The real impact however is found at the end of the call season. Congregations have to make field calls prior to April 15 now. Under the old plan, field calls could still be issued into early June. The problem was identified properly that calls that late would put a school in a situation where they could no longer find a replacement. Now an April 15 call can be returned or accepted, and a congregation can still get in line for a graduate from Martin Luther College. We are thankful that this new calling window will help preserve relationships between calling congregations and teachers.

May God continue to equip Lutheran schools with the teachers he has planned, and may they all serve the kingdom with willingness and joy!

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Gethsemane sent two teams to the annual Volleyball Tournament at Nebraska Lutheran High School on October 26. It's a fun day (with lots of gym time) for our student-athletes to use their God-given abilities!

NOV is remarkably one of our quieter months. Although we have a mid-quarter date and basketball practices, only two items really stand out. One will be our annual special Veterans' Chapel (November 13 this year). The other is our annual Thanksgiving Break.

We thank God for the freedoms we enjoy, and we recognize that those who serve our country are instruments that help us keep those freedoms. We hope to reach out to many veterans in our community with cards and posters of support and with our chapel service.

We also look forward to the opportunities many will have over Thanksgiving to reflect on God's year-round goodness. Time with family and friends helps to put the proper things in perspective - Christians acknowledge the provisions given by our heavenly Father and find great content in living lives of thankfulness, praise, service, and generosity.

Have a blessed November!

Mr. P.



(Friends of Christian Education)

Our big fall Yankee Candle fundraiser ended at the end of October. Thank you to all the students and parents who participated! Our next big fundraiser is in the spring, where we will be trying out a few new fresh ideas! FOCE will help with funds to the 1st-4th grade field trip, where students and parents will journey to the Rose Theater for *Ella Enchanted* on November 7th. Tournament fees for the annual NEHLS Soccer Tournament in Norfolk were also contributed. While we wait on the fate of the vending machine, FOCE is prepped and ready to provide financial support to get things back and running. One more big item - keep an eye out for an apparel order in the beginning of November. Yet another great Christmas gift idea!

Our next meeting will be this month, please join us even if it is your first time! We love to hear your ideas and suggestions. Date and time to be determined very soon!

~Liz G, Secretary

Easy Ways to Support GLS!

Box Tops

No more clipping. No more sending Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone. Download the ALL-NEW Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then simply scan your store receipts to find participating products. The app will automatically credit your school's Box Tops earnings online.

Hy-Vee Receipts

Save your Hy-Vee receipts dated September 1 through December 31 and place them in the boxes on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall or on the table in the school hallway. Hy-Vee will donate \$1 for every \$200 spent between these dates to Gethsemane School. We appreciate your support!

Together A Greater Good - TAGG



Those who have been saving Hy-Vee receipts for GLS can “double down” by using TAGG as well!

Hy-Vee is now on TAGG! More specifically, all 17 stores in Omaha, Council Bluffs, Fremont and Plattsmouth will happily donate 1% of your purchases to the local school, nonprofit or organization of your choice when you scan a picture of your whole receipt on the free Together A Greater Good mobile app.

Exclusions include gift cards, postage, pharmacy, money orders, prepaid debit cards, lottery and money transfers.

It is very important to take a photo of the entire receipt to include all items purchased as well as the information found at the bottom, as shown circled in red in the image below. Partial receipts submitted will be denied and must be resubmitted. Thank you for your cooperation!



(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)

Our Mission | To help older Nebraskans live independently, live with dignity, and remain for as long as possible in their own homes.

Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging

4780 South 131st Street • Omaha, Nebraska 68137 • 402-444-6536 • enoa.org

Douglas, Sarpy, Dodge, Cass and Washington Counties with a continuum of services to meet the varied needs of a diverse group of older individuals. The needs of older residents and their families are assessed by ENOA staff. Through nutrition programs, care management services, volunteer opportunities and community services the lives of older Nebraskans are improved.

Eleven chapter members attended the convention in Galena, IL October 6-9th with the theme “Mining for Jesus.” Norman Schell was re-elected as the OWLS National President.

Progress continues with chapter plans to support ENOA with “Be a Santa for a Senior.” Our hopes are that we can get our congregations to support this effort.

The chapter is also working to get congregations to assist in collecting coats and other winter garments for the Omaha Open Door Mission Lydia House.

On October 13th, 24 chapter members and visitors met at Gethsemane and listened to a presentation from Mary Ann Eusebio with the Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging. ENOA, as it is referred to, is one of 622 Area Agencies on Aging created by Congress under the Older Americans Act. ENOA serves



Next month OWLS will host a holiday dinner on November 10th at 4:00 p.m. with pastors and their families included.

Dick V, President
Sandy T, Secretary



WINGS

(Women IN God's Service)

The WINGS Silent Auction will be held from November 16th through the 24th. Bring any donations you may have to church to be set up on the morning of the 16th. The auction closes at noon on the 24th.

Care packages for college age and dormitory kids will be collected through the weekend of November 3rd. Please place your donations into the container marked for them on the table in the southwest corner of the fellowship hall.

The next meeting of WINGS will be on Thursday, November 7th. Snacks at 6:45; meeting at 7.

WINGS Gals



LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

"Jerusalem the Golden"

The Fall LWMS Rally was held on Saturday, October 5th, at Living Hope Lutheran Church in Omaha. Pastor Howie Mohlke was the guest speaker, and spoke all about ACTS-Apache Christian Training School. He spoke all about the events that are taking place on the Apache reservation. They need our continued prayers, as they continue to carry out the work of spreading the Word!

The business meeting was held, and Pastor Buchner concluded the rally with a closing devotion. The ladies of Living Hope served a delicious pulled pork sandwich lunch.

The spring rally will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Stanton. The rally will likely be held in April, with a date yet to be determined.

Information regarding the Befriend a Missionaries was (finally!) available at the fall rally! Look for more information in the upcoming weeks regarding how you can support the Home Missions.

The 2020 LWMS Prayer Calendars are now available. They are \$10.00 per calendar, with a \$5.00 shipping cost. If you are interested in ordering a calendar (or two!), please let me know, and I will coordinate it for you!

Looking ahead...The 2020 LWMS Convention will be held in Athens (Atlanta), Georgia on June 25-28, 2020. Georgia peaches, here we come! See you in Georgia!

November Prayer Requests

- The work being done in Fayetteville, North Carolina.
- The military service men and women, as they continue to serve our country.
- Our Nebraska District President, Pastor Hirsch.

~Leslie B
Reporter



(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

Psalm 121:1, 2

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
 where does my help come from?
 ² My help comes from the LORD,
 the Maker of heaven and earth.

Ever have one of those days (or weeks, or months, or years) when it seems that if something could go wrong, it did go wrong?! Isn't it great how God uses even these "less than desirable" times of our lives to remind us He's in charge and His love will never be removed from us? Every single day, let's remind each other to keep our eyes focused on Jesus. Our help truly comes from the Lord! What a blessing to be able to share this truth with our students at NELHS...what a blessing as a parent to know each of my son's teachers are sharing the truths of God's Word in every class and activity.

Here are a few of the items that were shared at our Oct 6th Association Delegates meeting:

- Niche.com named Nebraska Lutheran #1 Best Christian High School in Nebraska for 2020. We give God all the honor and praise for this. Their rankings are determined through a combination of diversity, ACT scores, teachers, student-teacher ratio, post-secondary education,
 - International Student Hosting Needed During Breaks: we have a huge need for student host families during our breaks! Please contact Campus Pastor Kevin Stellick (kstellick@nelhs.org) or one of our tutors - boys, Chris Beagle / Bryan Walkley (cbeagle@nelhs.org bwalkley@nelhs.org) - girls, Holly Marquardt / Rylee Weisensel (hmarquardt@nelhs.org rweisensel@nelhs.org) if you can help!
 - Thanksgiving Break - Nov 26 (after school) through Sunday Dec 1 (4 p.m.)
 - Christmas Break - Dec 19 (after classes) - Jan 5 (4 p.m.)
 - Spring Break - Feb 29 (Sat after tournament) - Mar 8 (4 p.m.)
 - Easter Break - April 8 (after class) - Apr 13 (4 p.m.)
 - Third Source Income: reminders of some very important needed (and appreciated) revenue streams.
 - *This is Our School* - reoccurring gifting
 - *Fill the Bins* - crop donations
 - *Meal Program* - needs gifts of beef, pork, poultry, vegetables, fruit, or other pantry items.
 - *Amazon Smile* (just choose Nebraska Lutheran as your charity)
 - *Scrip* - gift cards. Go to www.shopwithscrip.com and use the enrollment code 416153A257993 to set up your account.
 - Facilities Update:
 - Gym floor: As of October 21, 2019 - we have our north gym back!
 - Concrete: work around the outside of the building was scheduled to begin by October 28.
 - Boys' Dorm: A lot of work was completed in the boys' dorm over the summer including repairing walls, doors, and redoing the bathroom/laundry area.

Enrollment for next year: we are scheduling visits to our Lutheran elementary schools and congregations. Please talk to those you know about the value of a high school Christian education. Let families know we are happy to come visit with them to talk about NELHS as a possibility for their students.

Upcoming Dates:

- Nov 7-10: Choral Festival at Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Fond du Lac, WI
- Nov 26-Dec 1: Thanksgiving Break (student host families needed)
- Dec 8: Christmas Concert / One Act 4 p.m.
- Dec 12-14: MLC Basketball Tourney in New Ulm, MN (No School Dec 13)
- Dec 19: 1st Semester ends
- Dec 19-Jan 5, 2020: Christmas Break (student host families needed)
- Jan 18, 2020: LES Cheer Camp
- Feb 7, 2020: Grandparents' Day

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



Dear NELHS family and friends,

Thank you for your incredible support with our Fall Silent Auction and Concert! It was a very full day filled with many blessings of servant hearts, shopping, eating, and enjoying the musical talents of our NELHS students. We were so encouraged by all the donations, help with logistics, advice, service of the cookies and the meal, plus the spirit of cheerful service with so many volunteers. It was truly a team effort by many staff, parents, friends of NELHS, and students. Thank you for your help! We were also very blessed with the beautiful concert by the NELHS concert choir, band, and Knights of the Round Table (KRT). We look forward to their next concert on December 8th at NELHS.

All glory to God, the Fall Silent Auction raised \$7,977.43. Proceeds will go toward the renovation of the bathrooms, which were built in 1964, in the old section of the school. Thank you again for your support and prayers for NELHS!

In His Service,
Sarah Stellick & Carla Prellwitz

SCRIP



Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be upon us. Get a step ahead in your planning by placing your order for NELHS SCRIP gift cards as soon as possible. NELHS SCRIP gift cards are available from the majority of large stores in the area including restaurants, gas stations, and grocery stores. You pay face value, and you get face value, but the high school receives a percentage of the purchase price from the store or company. What a great way to support OUR high school!

Contact the church office to place your order. He is available on Sundays in the fellowship hall. Extra order forms are in the cardboard box on top of the church boxes. You may also place an order online.

Deacons

The gutters on the northwest side of the building have been replaced and repaired...for the most part. One corner piece will finish off the job, and that'll be done soon!

Thank you to the folks who took advantage of an emptier dumpster due to school break and trimmed up the maple tree on the west side of the building near the school entrance. We were able to get all of the trimmings disposed of without an extra pickup from the garbage company!

Sand has been placed on the east side of the building to help the rainwater run away from the building. Hopefully this will keep Pastor Helwig's office dry.

The sanctuary furnaces went on the fritz again. The folks at Wichita Heating came out and fixed them under warranty, so we are warm again.

We are preparing for winter. The rodent bait boxes are on the agenda for tending and reloading with bait. Last year by this time we had a snow storm. The ice melt totes are ready to go. Please use the ice melt as it is needed. Let the office know if you used the last part of it so more can be ordered.



On Saturday, November 2nd, we are having a property cleaning day! We will begin at 8 a.m., so people can get here early and get things tackled before Husker fans need to see the 11 a.m. Huskers v. Purdue game. (Iowa has a bye week, so Iowa fans won't need to hurry home!) ☺

We need some help repairing the back pew in the sanctuary. If you possess the skills necessary to do so, please contact the church office.

It takes everyone to help keep us the property. We are grateful to anyone who goes the extra mile and 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



Thanks for
Helping hands in our classes
And
Nifty crafts for our lessons
Kindness and patience
Friends in our classes
Understanding and
Love for God's Word.

We are thankful for all our students and teachers in Sunday School!

November Lessons for Preschool-6th grade

- 3 - "The Faith of the Captain"
- 10 - "Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand"
- 17 - "Jesus Appears in Glory"
- 24 - "The Good Samaritan"

We hope to see you at Sunday School! Preschool through 6th grade students meet in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. for opening songs and then proceed to their classrooms. 7th-9th grades meet with Mr. Korell in Mrs. Roberts's room. 10th-12th grades meet with Mr. Schwede in Ms. Veith's room.

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)

October was filled with all things that involve digging, dirt, dinosaurs, elephants, experiments, fall, flashlights, firefighter visit, pumpkins, candy corn, and leaves. As you can see, each session of The Vine is busy, as we learn a new letter each week. Each morning consists of fine and gross motor skill activities, along with a craft, snack, and story time. We even eat a snack that begins with the letter that we are learning. We will be learning all about the Letters G, H, and our Harvest Festival.

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 through age 4 and their parents, grandparents, guardians, etc!

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

Leslie B, Coordinator



Saturday, December 7
9-noon
More information to come!



Stewardship

The Stewardship Board will be hosting a new member welcome dinner on November 24, 2019, following second service. All new and "old" members alike are invited and welcome to attend. We will once again be holding a chili cook-off. Everyone is encouraged to bring a "pot" of their prize winning chili to see how it stacks up against the competition. Sign-up sheets for bringing chili or toppings will be located in the fellowship hall. We hope you will join us in welcoming our new members!

Nick R

ALTAR CARE

If you're looking for a fun way to serve at Gethsemane, please consider signing up for altar care. It's "behind the scenes" but a very important part in helping our pastors share God's Word with us. Altar care workers post hymn numbers on the boards, make sure the candles have oil and set up communion twice a month. It takes anywhere from 30 to 60 minutes a week. Individual orientation is readily available.

Think about signing up with a friend and share the month's duties. If you're interested, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall.

Book Club



Thanks to all who met at Sharon's for discussion of **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens. We had a great time and a really good discussion!

With the Thanksgiving holiday we will move our November date into December and will be meeting on December 3rd at Becky's to discuss **Educated** by Tara Westover. Plan to join us at 7 p.m. that evening.

Remember - reading the book is actually NOT required! Come enjoy a wonderful evening of fellowship with us!

Becky G



LUTHERAN MILITARY SUPPORT GROUP
Shoulder to Shoulder in Service

from history books.

But the number 11 does catch our attention. We quickly think of the day we call 9-11—and then we remember. We remember that America is no stranger to danger from those who would bring death and chaos to everyday people. We remember that fellow Americans have always stepped forward to risk their lives so that the lives of others might be protected.

Veterans Day reminds us of a debt we need to pay them. America has usually been reluctant to go to war. President Wilson campaigned by assuring that young Americans would not bleed onto foreign soil. A generation later, President Roosevelt did the same.

Neither succeeded in this. Both came to realize that there was no choice. Instead, young men put on uniforms and marched into harm's way. America learned that war would never be far off. The storm clouds of armed conflict were always on the horizon. Sometimes, they obscured the sun. Sometimes, the storms broke over our heads. Every time, there were fellow Americans who were willing to leave behind family and friends to stand up for freedom.

Some of them have now moved on to another phase of their lives. Some have grown old. Some have died. We now call them "Veterans."

It is easy to forget them. Once out of uniform, they look just like the rest of us. We see them now as school teachers, construction workers, and moms. We forget that they were gifts of God, called upon to serve us. We say they were in service to our country. But in reality, they were serving us. They were also serving children who had not yet been born.

America today is built upon America past. We can only speculate what life in America would be if her shores had not been protected and her freedoms not preserved. We are glad that we can only guess at such dreadful consequences.

Christian Americans realize that the blessings we enjoy are undeserved and never free. We understand that if America is not under God, it is without his blessing.

On Veterans Day, we give honor to those the Lord has given to defend us. By honoring them, we honor him.



The Lutheran Military Support Group will sponsor the Ammo Can Veterans Day Freewill Offering on the 10th of November. These donations are used to help our Military Members and Veterans with Bibles, Devotions, tuition help for those Veterans in the Seminary, and, when needed, emergency funding for those Veterans, Active Duty, Guardsmen, and Reservist that are in need.



It has come to our attention that some of the Veterans' clothing from the Eastern Nebraska Veteran's Home in Bellevue are in bad shape-patched or very worn. Patti Howe, the Volunteers Services Coordinator there, has shared that some just don't have funds to buy clothing. They could always use donations. They ideally would like new clothing but will also take gently used items. There are additional things they could use as well. If you are interested in seeing their wish list, please contact Ginny Thamm from Good Shepherd at 402-676-4487 (text or call) or via email at vivit5@hotmail.com.



This Veterans Day, we recognize our members who have or are serving in the armed forces. Thank you for your service!



Everyone is invited to attend a free concert featuring the Voices of Omaha singing Handel's Messiah. It will be held on Sunday, November 17 at 3 p.m. at the Holland Performing Arts Center in downtown Omaha.



Travel Opportunity

James Humann, retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him June 12 - 22, 2020 as he hosts a BEST OF EUROPE tour, including the Passion Play of Oberammergau, Germany, also visiting the Rhine Valley, Heidelberg, Rothenburg and Munich in Germany, Lucerne in Switzerland and Paris in France. This tour was sold out, but just recently four to five more places have become available. For a brochure with pricing and the complete itinerary e-mail Pastor Humann at jhumann383@aol.com.