



GET + HSEMANE

Lutheran Church

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

July, 2016

“Let Us Join in Praise”

Have you ever wondered where our English word “worship” comes from? It has its origins in an old Anglo-Saxon word, *weorthscipe* and it literally means to “ascribe worth.” When you worship someone, you are assigning worth or value. That is exactly what we do when we worship Jesus Christ. When we praise him, we show how great God is to us. When we confess our faith in him, we are saying, “This is what God is worth to me.” Worship is our way to say what God means to us. Through worship, we are saying, “This is Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God who in his mercy went to the cross to take away my sins. He suffered God’s wrath for me when he died and then he rose from the dead to give me eternal life in heaven. This is my Lord who gives me new life and saves me from eternal death. He means everything to me.”

When we gather for worship services, this is what we are saying. When we pray and express trust in God or when we sing hymns and psalms, this is what we are saying. When we serve the church with our time, talents, and treasures, this is how we “ascribe worth” to God. Sometimes it is helpful for us to understand this basic premise of worship in order understand better why there is so much participation in worship, so much joining together not only to hear hymns or listen to God’s Word but also to *sing* hymns and *proclaim* God’s Word with fellow believers. How wonderful is the worship service that provides *all* of God’s people with the chance to ascribe worth to our Lord!

So if worship is our way to show what God is worth to us, what is the opposite of worship? We read in Matthew 28:16-17: “Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.” In this case, those who didn’t worship doubted.

Out of town for the weekend?

This summer, Living Hope is providing worship on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. This is Word & Sacrament using the scriptures from the previous weekend.

You are invited to join our fellow Christians of Living Hope Lutheran Church at 168th & Q for these services.

This is the tenth devotion in a series of articles written by Pastor Koester entitled “Back to the Basics.”



“God’s Great Exchange” - September

“By Faith Alone” - October

“Hope for Eternal Life” - November

“Christ the Savior Is Born!” - December

“Renewed in Grace” - January

“Jesus Gave Up Everything” - February

“The Good of Good Friday” - March

“The Blessings of Our Crosses” - April

“You’re Not Done Growing in Faith” - May

“Worship (pt. 1) Let the Gospel Shine” - June

“Worship (pt. 2) Let Us Join in Praise” - July

“Worship (pt. 3) Let Us Enjoy Our Heritage” - August

Often this is what we are doing when we fail to worship Jesus. We doubt. When we fail to worship him, we are saying, “I doubt Christ is worth very much.” When we sin against him, we are doubting that obeying God really is the best thing. When we question God’s will, we are doubting that he can and will care for us in every way. When we withhold our time, talents, and treasures, we are doubting that using them for God’s glory truly is the best use of them. Doubt cannot be worship.

Thankfully, there is no reason to doubt Jesus. He is the Son of God; he has died for our sins and he has risen from the dead, all proven to us through the Scriptures, proven to his disciples when they went to meet him and saw their one and only risen savior. Through faith in him then, they could not doubt; they could only worship him. They publicly worshiped Jesus as their savior and declared that he was worthy of their praise and adoration. Through

faith, we do the same. Praise be to God that his gift of faith causes our sins—even our sins of doubt—to be wiped away and makes our worship pleasing in his sight! Praise be to God that we see Jesus as our risen savior and worship in him in joy, together with each other, recognizing the worth he has in all of our lives because he has redeemed us and made us worthy of heaven.

SCHOOL NEWS



Usually a teacher can look to summer as a chance to regroup and recharge. I suppose the standard categories for this would include spiritually, mentally, professionally, and physically. For the last few weeks I've been trying to make sure I don't forget about that fourth category. I figure now is as good a time as any to get after it since technically I am way under-height for my weight and have a family history of heart situations. One thing I noticed even on my first day of running is that when I'm really tired on the uphill sections, I immediately turn my entire focus down right in front of my feet. I just bear down to get myself from one step to the next. On the downhill sections or level parts, it's easy for me to look up and see down the hill or down the block to what is ahead.

Toward the end of that first day of running, I thought of that near and far focus and remembered Pastor Helwig's message at district convention - Stand firm, but move forward. Related to running, I have to stand firm in my conviction that I'm going to run the uphill sections, that I'm going to keep going all the way to the curb, and that I'm not going to quit before I make it there. That's pretty tough most of the time, but I really focus in on it. But I'm also always moving forward. At times maybe it's not very far as my steps shorten (or very fast as I slow down), but I keep moving forward.

The application for me goes outside of something as simple as exercise. I started thinking about the school year. Late in the year I always answered any questions about counting down days, etc., with a statement similar to "no time for that - too much work left to do." I found it better to keep looking at the day-to-day items right ahead of me rather than turn my focus to the first day after school. I was trying to stand firm in reaching my goals for the curriculum, but at the same time I knew each day was going to move us forward toward the end of the year. During certain parts of the year, I would imagine it was the same - smooth sailing allows you to look forward and see the big picture easier. When things get bumpy, it's more sensible to put your head down and plow through.

It also made me think about school in general - be it enrollment numbers, expansion plans, or mission/vision. I think we do the same thing. When numbers are down, we bear down and try to make it through. When numbers are down, expansion becomes more of a dream (compared to need when everything is surging). Big picture and big dreams come and make more sense when we don't have those challenges in front of us. But regardless, we keep moving forward. We keep moving forward with our ministry - day to day, reaching children and families from our church and community with the saving and powerful Word of God.

Stand firm - move forward, the two go hand in hand. One is not right or wrong; one is not better than the other. I plan to do my best to stand firm and move forward with my exercise plan. I plan to continue to stand firm and move forward with my focus on ministry and mission. God, help me to do both over these summer months and next school year!



Items for 2015-16 are wrapping up. Almost everything will transition to 2016-17 starting July 1. School families should already be receiving items for both the wrap up of last year and the start of next year. Please contact me with any questions. Mr. Chris Clayton (christopherclayton@hotmail.com) can be contacted with any tuition / TADS questions.

Please look to sign your PreK-5th graders up for VBS for July 18-22. It's a farm themed program, so I'm really excited for the activities. Please also look for way YOU can help. Pastor K should be the main communicator of this, but donations, handing out flyers, etc., are easy ways that we all can work together and support this big summertime evangelism effort.

Serving Him with you,
Mr. Pederson

OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



The River City OWLS had a meeting on June 12th at Gethsemane Church. We had 15 members and 4 guests and Pastor Koester from Gethsemane. We began the meeting with a presentation from Jay Wineinger, a Deputy Sherriff with Douglas County who is K-9 Officer. He talked about how they use K-9 to sniff out drugs, to apprehend criminals, and to help with evidence retrieval.

The discussion was so interesting that we want to invite them back for a demonstration in the future. Pastor Koester provided the meditation. Refreshments and fellowship was had by all!

The July 9th meeting will be a tour of Loess Hills, and you don't even have to drive! Just be at Gethsemane by 11:00 a.m., and you can ride with one of the members! You could also call, and we will pick you up!

Below is the itinerary:

- 11:00 a.m. meet at Gethsemane
- 11:45 a.m. meeting at Pizza Ranch in Missouri Valley

After devotion, meeting and lunch, tour will begin. We will tour:

- ✓ historical village and Iowa Welcome Center
- ✓ Loess Hills Lavender Farm
- ✓ Smalls fruit farm

The tour will end around 3:00, and we will be back to Gethsemane at around 4:00. Come, join us if you can!!

We are so excited about hosting the OWLS Convention October 10-13 in Omaha. We are busy trying to plan for fun time for all attending. We could use your help! Please think about joining OWLS if you are 55 or older.

Sandy T, Secretary



NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

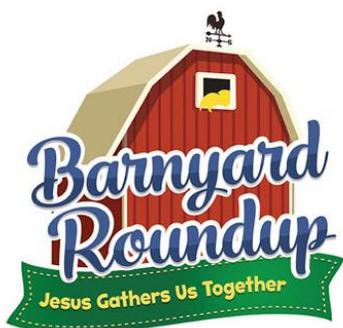
- 175 delegates from across the Nebraska District of the WELS spent time on our campus June 6-8 as NELHS hosted the Nebraska District Convention for the WELS. It was a privilege to participate in our Synod's work together to spread the gospel.
- We welcomed 75 elementary students to our campus for the All- Sports Camp June 12-15. New Christian friendships were formed and new sports skills were also taught. We pray that all of these elementary students will someday be NELHS students.
- Financial update:
 - As of the end of May, Nebraska Lutheran needs **\$53,393** in donations from congregations and individuals by June 30 to meet the budgeted amounts. We pray that we will be able to meet and exceed this amount!

- The board of control is continuing to meet to develop a strategy to pay for the newly approved position of Mission Advancement Director.
- Upcoming events:
 - We are planning for a **summer work day on Saturday, July 16**. We will begin working around 9 a.m. and hope to finish by the early afternoon. A noon lunch will be provided. Painting, cleaning, trimming, and weeding will all take place as we use this day to get ready for the arrival of our students in a few weeks.
 - The **NELHS summer golf outing** will be **Saturday, July 30**, at Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln. Please contact Activities' Director Benjy Wells (bwells@nelhs.org) if you are interested in participating or perhaps sponsoring a hole at the golf outing.
 - Football players report: August 7
 - Registration: August 13- 3:30-5:00 or August 14- 2-3:30
 - Opening Service: August 14- 4:00
 - First Day of School: August 15
- Recruitment update:
 - Our goal is 40 new students for next year. So far, **25** have applied (23 freshmen and 2 sophomores). Please contact Administrator Mark Otte at motte@nelhs.org or 402-728-5236 if you have a recruiting lead. Please pray for this goal!

DISCIPLESHIP

Summer Sunday School

Date	Lesson	Teacher	Craft	Recess	Coordinator
July 3	Holiday weekend - No Sunday School				
July 10	A Fiery Furnace	Hannah H	Susan S	Ben H	Chris R
July 17	A Dangerous Den	Jeremy K	Lauren B	Ben H	Pastor K
July 24	A Big Belly	Chris R	Wendee M	Amy V	Chris R
July 31	A Meek Manger	Wendy R	Shonni J	Dan S	Chris R



Vacation Bible School

Register your children and their friends for Gethsemane's Vacation Bible School, which will be held Monday through Friday, July 18 through 22nd from 9 a.m. to noon.

VBS is open to all Pre-K Children who are potty-trained through 4th Grade. Register on our website, www.gethsemanelutheran.com.

We hope to "Round Up" all of Jesus' lambs at VBS!

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday morning women's Bible study will take a short break the month of July and will not meet. We will begin a new study on Tuesday, August 2nd. Anyone is welcome to join us at 6 a.m. at McDonald's on that day. The title of the new study will be decided upon really soon. Stay tuned to bulletin announcements for that information.

Book Club

Just a quick update for any and all who are interested in joining us in August (we're currently on summer hiatus!!!) - we are planning to restart our get-togethers on either Tuesday, August 23rd or Tuesday, August 30th. Location yet to be determined (interested in hosting????? Just let me know!)

The two books on our summer reading list are **Me Before You** by Jojo Moyes and **Redeeming Love** by Francine Rivers. We will plan to discuss one of these two books that evening. Also - I sent out a list of potential reads a few weeks ago to those who are currently on the "book club email list," because we'll be looking for books to discuss after these two. If you aren't on the email list and would like to be, just let me know and I'll be glad to send you this potential list. Or if you've recently read something that you think we'd enjoy - just let me know!!!

Hope you are all enjoying your summer!!!

Becky G

Touring Opportunity

Germany, Prague in the Czech Republic, and Salzburg and Vienna in Austria

Pastor James Humann, retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him on a tour celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The tour is for twelve days and leaves June 19, 2017.

On June 19, 2017 retired WELS pastor James Humann will be hosting a twelve day tour to Germany in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. Highlights include the famous Luther sites such as Wittenberg, Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach and the Wartburg Castle. What makes this tour so popular is that the tour also includes Prague in the Czech Republic, Vienna and Salzburg in Austria and other exciting German cities such as Berlin and Munich. Space is limited. One bus is already full and another about half full.

To join in this celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, e-mail Pastor Humann at JHumann383@aol.com. He will send you a brochure with the daily itinerary, price and General Conditions. If you'd like a hard copy, please include your name and mailing address.

Check out the information on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.



(Lutheran Military Support Group)

Dear Members of Gethsemane:

First of all I would like to thank all the members who donated to our fund raiser which was held over the Memorial Day Weekend....We received over \$900.00 ... Our next fund raiser will be in November Veterans Day Weekend...

The month of July in our two Synods is NATIONAL VETERAN SUPPORT MONTH. Can you name or recognize all our veterans in our congregation? We know of at least 35 at this time. We need to be in touch with all veterans. If we do not have your name on the roster, please let our church secretary, Karen Sloan, know--especially our active duty veterans.

Again, thank you for your support, and thank you, all veterans, for your duty.

Tom K
LMSG Liaison Officer



ACTIVE DUTY SUPPORT



VETERAN SUPPORT



**MILITARY FAMILY
SUPPORT**

The Lutheran Military Support Group is made up of Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Synod members who are rallying around WELS and ELS members who are Active Duty, and who are Veterans, including their Military Families, by expressing our thanks through the development and funding of support programs that meet the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those who are and have served in the military on our behalf. Service-connected members and church members who are Patriots, are the groundswell of this spiritual ministry.



**LUTHERAN MILITARY
SUPPORT GROUP**
Shoulder to Shoulder in Service

**CAN YOU NAME THEM:
THE VETS IN YOUR CHURCH?**

This is a question that only a few of our Wisconsin Synod or Evangelical Lutheran Synod Churches are able to answer.

But since the month of July in our two Synods is **NATIONAL VETERAN SUPPORT MONTH**, this would be a good time to begin a dialogue in each of our congregations about the importance of the question: Can you name all the Veterans in your congregation? This becomes an important question for a number of reasons:

1. At this time it is not possible to accurately estimate how many Veterans there are in our congregations, but it could be close to accurate to say there is a range of 1 - 15 in most of our congregations.

2. Veterans have been militarily trained and disciplined in the use of their talents and gifts from God. Do we know them by name, enough to involve them in the enlarging of God's Kingdom?

3. Veterans have led a unique life as a result of having served in the military. Their military history, their achievement, travels, their stories, their heartaches...all become the makeup of a person who could benefit from and be benefited by fellowship with Christians who have also served in the military, if he/she only knew who all of them were in one's congregation.

4. Depending on the particular recent skirmish, out of all the Veterans in our nation as a whole, it is estimated that from 11-31% suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of service and combat duty. It is known that many of that estimated number suffer in silence—they don't reveal their struggles and therefore receive little or no help and assistance. **All the more reason to ask: Who are they?**

If your congregation already knows, and is already reaching out to, supporting, and involving your church's Veterans, then continue what you are doing.

If not, you are encouraged to begin the process and begin to witness the spiritual benefits that will come to your congregation's ministry.

If you would like to begin the journey of learning how to reach out to the Veterans and other Service-connected members in your congregation, go to and browse the national website of

lutheranmilitary.org

Once on the site, feel free to check out the following: "**Liaison Information**"- how having a LMSG Liaison can help you discover the Veterans and other Service-connected members in your congregation.

Join our international ministry as an Individual Patron or a supporting Congregation by becoming a member and by making a freewill donation. Click on **Join Our Cause**.

