

Lutheran Church

News from 4040 N. 108th Street, Omaha, NE 68164
August, 2016

“Let Us Enjoy Our Heritage”

If you are a Christian and someone asks you what you believe, how would you respond? You will probably begin with the words “I believe...” and then state what the Bible says, right? But rather than reading Genesis 1:1 and continuing through the entire Bible, ending with that last verse of Revelation, you might be more inclined to say “I believe that Jesus is God’s only Son who gave his life on the cross to take away our sins so that we will have eternal life,” or something like that. That’s pretty basic but it’s a great place to start.

That is a confession of faith. That, believe it or not, is a creed. When we consider the prominent role that creeds have in our lives of faith and in our worship services, it is perhaps a good idea to go back to the basics of his fundamental element of Christianity. The creeds of the church, as basic as they are, serve as helpful tools for all Christians. They are part of our Christian heritage.

The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which simply means “I believe.” A creed is a statement of belief that is drawn from the exact teachings of the Bible. It can be given in one’s own words or in the words someone else has written. It does not change any teaching of the Bible but is simply a way to express some or all of them clearly and concisely. The early Christian church began using creeds as a tool, not to replace Scripture, but to explain what Scripture teaches.

For example, in the 4th century A.D., false teachers were claiming that Jesus was not the Son of God. This was very confusing to many believers who were unable to study Scripture because Bibles were unavailable or because they were unable to read. So, the church leaders of that time met at a city called Nicea to put to rest this false teaching. In doing this, they wrote a brief summary of what the Bible teaches about the Trinity. This document was called the Nicene Creed and has been used by the Christian church as a confession of faith, unchanged for nearly 1700 years. The Apostles’ Creed and the Athanasian Creed have been around nearly as long and serve the same purpose of clearly stating what the Christian Church believes.

During the time of the Lutheran Reformation, around 1500 A.D., the leaders of the reformation like Martin Luther were accused of espousing false doctrine. Because their teachings were misunderstood, the reformers decided to write down what they believed and presented these documents as confessions of faith, showing that nothing they believed contradicted the teachings of Scripture but were in fact in complete agreement with them. These writings, The Augsburg Confession, The Formula of Concord, The Smalcald Articles, and The Apology (Defense) to the Augsburg Confession, have been used in the Lutheran Church for nearly 500 years, unchanged, serving the purpose of explaining what the Bible teaches so that no one becomes confused or strays from the truth.

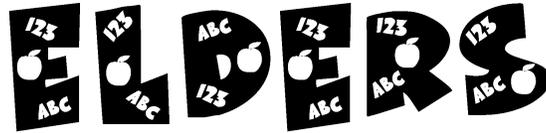
Would one of these statements of faith ever replace the Bible? Absolutely not. The Holy Scriptures are the foundation of everything that we believe and the sole authority for life and doctrine. There is no substitute for them. That doesn’t mean, however, that we can’t use a confession of faith as a clear summary of what the Bible teaches. In fact, just about every Christian

This is the final 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**

has a creed in one form or another. To say, "I believe what the Bible teaches" is a creed, it is a statement of faith. I am thankful that in our church we have creeds that remain faithful to scripture, written by wise and learned theologians that help keep us rooted in the Bible and to faithfully proclaim what we believe just as they have done throughout our heritage.



Worship Committee

The Worship Committee meets quarterly. Its members consist of the pastors, the head elder, musicians (organists, adult and children's choir directors, tone chimes director), the altar care coordinator, and usher coordinator. Its purpose is to help to enrich our worship services at Gethsemane.

At the May 12th meeting, some of the items discussed included the mid-week services (Lent and Advent). We discussed the pulpit exchange and the length and time of the services. If you have an opinion on mid-week services, please let the church office know!

We discussed Easter, Confirmation and the area Ascension service. Committee members felt that Easter times are working well. One parent expressed her pleasure with the Confirmation Sunday events and times. We may consider hosting our own Ascension worship rather than having a joint effort in the city of Omaha.

The Worship Planner for the first half of Pentecost was distributed. Organists were encouraged to recruit people to sing either the Psalm or the Verse of the Day or to participate in the service in other ways.

The Pig Roast outdoor service will be held the second Sunday of September—September 11th.

Reformation is hosted by Living Hope this year. We were hoping for an area service at an off-site location that is larger, but Living Hope said they will host in their church on Sunday, October 30th. Pastor Phil Zarling will be the guest speaker.

The Children's Christmas service time and day is not set in stone as of this meeting. This year, there are four Sundays of Advent. We discussed different options considered for this event:

- 1: Service on Sunday, December 18th or Wednesday, December 21st
- 2: One service offsite on Wednesday with all choirs—adult, tones, and children
- 3: Two services Sunday onsite in the morning at 9 & 10:30

This discussion was tabled. If you have an opinion on this, please let the church office know!

Ushers - Kudos were given to the Elders for involving young men in ushering duties.

Altar Care - The coordinator reminded communion clean-up people of their duties in order to aid with proper clean-up of the altar cloths and communion napkins.

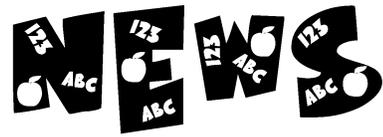
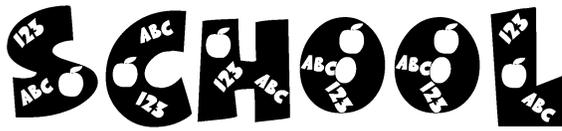
Tone Chimes Director is willing to continue in this capacity.

Adult Choir Director will direct the adult choir next year. We may consider a different night for choir rehearsal since attendance falls off so badly during Lent and Advent. The Master Singing Schedule for 2016-17 is nearly complete.

The sound system now includes organ music piped into the narthex, thanks to Tim Z.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 4th at 6 p.m.

*Karen S
Worship Committee Secretary*



August greetings,

The final calendar change of summer has arrived. Home visits are underway, the email machine has been cranked back up, and school supplies are disappearing from the shelves at an amazing rate. Just a few short weeks separate summer from school.



The transition to the new school year officially began back in July, but it seems quite a bit more real now with August's arrival. At the start of each school year, we introduce the theme that our school will be using. This year, our circuit of schools will be joining together again under one theme. The scripture passage is Jeremiah 33:3, and the theme is "Jesus Is the Answer." This is a great theme for us to use

for the next 11 months.

Think of all the questions a student can answer during a school year. We ask our students questions regarding parts of speech, scientific facts and theories, historical figures and events, mathematical processes, definitions and spellings of words, recall and comprehension, and the like. But more importantly, time is dedicated specifically each day to ask questions about God's Word. In addition, there are plenty of times daily where God's Word is integrated into the other subjects as well. No matter what or when we study God's Word, Jesus is the answer. And I'm not just talking about a scenario where a student has lost focus and just guesses "Jesus" or "God" because they figure they have a good chance of still being right. No, Jesus really is the answer. Pick your focus - the Old Testament, the Gospels or the early Christian church - the answer, the focus is Jesus! The main objective of our Lutheran school is to make sure that our students know that Jesus is the answer. He is the answer to what the Bible is all about. He is the answer to the way to heaven. He is the answer to what our life is all about.

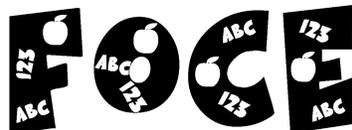
We are looking forward to the privilege and opportunity to speak to all of our students and show them again and again that Jesus truly is the answer! We ask for your continued prayers and support to be able to do so.

Mr. P

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August kicks off with a busy schedule. Our teachers will be heading out to Waco for a Nebraska District in-service. Our summer principals' conference will also be taking place. Teachers will also be taking CPR training and other health related training early in the month. We will have our registration and school cleaning on August 6. Our FOCE is sponsoring a back-to-school Color Run on August 12 with food and fellowship. Church services on August 14 will lead us into our first week of school. School begins on August 18 with a special chapel service at 8:15a. Even our soccer program will be up and running as school gets underway.

May God bless all of these efforts as we make our final preparations for the 2016-17 school year. Never forget what all of God's Word tells us - Jesus is the answer!



(Friends of Christian Education)

FOCE is eagerly anticipating the start to the 2016-2017 school year! School Registration is on Saturday, August 6 from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and we would love to see you stop by the FOCE table and learn about all the exciting stuff we have planned for the school year, and how you can help! This would also be an excellent time to sign up for our first FUNdraiser for the year!

Color Run

Our kickoff fundraising event for the year is our Back-To-School Night and COLOR RUN!! - Friday, August 12 from 6-8 p.m. Students can bring their school supplies, meet their teachers, see their classrooms, and then students and families can join us for our COLOR RUN, followed by pizza, watermelon, and the infamous giant Slip-and-Slid e!! The cost for the run and food is \$5 per person, or \$20 per family, payable at Registration (Aug. 6) or the night of the run. **If you plan on participating in the Color Run, please be sure to wear a white shirt, and plan accordingly as the color powder may stain other clothing! All

funds raised during the Color Run will be used by FOCE to support a number of events for our school families. Hope to see everyone there!

Friday, August 19th, FOCE will also provide coffee and donuts for parents after drop-off in the morning. Come join us for fellowship and a morning pick-me-up!

More information will follow next month regarding our fall fundraiser through Yankee Candle. This is a wonderful way to kill two birds with one stone - Christmas gifts and supporting your school!

Have a joyous last few weeks of summer!

Liz K, Secretary



(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



WE ARE HAVING FUN!! WANT TO JOIN US?

In July, 24 people started at the Pizza Ranch in Missouri Valley. Next came the Historical Village and Iowa Welcome Center, then the Sawmill Hollow Family Farm and Loess Hills Lavender Farm. Last, but not least, the Small's Fruit Farm for Pie and Ice Cream.

Everyone had a great time and found out things about Loess Hills that many of us did not know, and most of us have lived here a long time!

On August 14th starting at 2:00 p.m., we are planning a picnic at SOARING WINGS WINERY IN SPRINGFIELD. Bring a chair and something to share and listen to music from 2-5 AND, maybe drink a

little wine! Sound good? We have a contingency plan in case of weather.

OWLS CONVENTION COMING TO OMAHA IN OCTOBER!!

And we are getting prepared! We have projects and schedules for everyone! Get involved! It should be fun and educational! See the forms on the bulletin board in fellowship hall. We will need as much help as we can get! Our local pastors will be participating. Come and see!

Sandy T, Secretary

WINGS

(Women IN God's Service)

Hi ladies,

September 8 will be our kick off meeting of the year. We will enjoy snacks and fellowship at 6:45 and start the meeting at 7 p.m. Please come prepared to discuss major initiatives for the year. See you soon!

Christine H

LWMS

(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

"Have no Fear, Little Flock"

Thank you! Thank you for all of your support that you gave for the Thai Village store that was held in the narthex. It was a great success, and the response was overwhelming! A total of \$828.00 was made from the sale, and that money will go to the Thai Village, Inc. Awesome! Thank you again for your support!



The LWMS Convention was held in Chicago, June 23rd-26th. The theme was, "Christ Alone, our Cornerstone." Here are just a few quick facts about the convention:

- `Registered attendees—1,054
- `Circuits represented—56 out of 60
- `Current Members—840 congregations (11 individual members)
- `2016-2017 kids c.a.r.e. project—Family Ministry for Outreach
- `Ballot Projects—Summer Student Assistants-\$41,529.28 and Television Broadcast for Muslim and Theological Seminars-\$41,529.29

Offering Totals—Mission Project Offerings--\$143, 874.74 and Worship Service Offering--51,610.29

Want to take a trip to Florida? Well, next summer is your chance! The 54th Annual LWMS Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, June 22nd-25th, 2017! Start making your plans now!

The Fall LWMS Rally will be held Saturday, October 1st, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoskins, NE. The guest speaker will be the Board for Home Missions Chairman, Pastor Keith Free. It will be a fantastic rally! Look for more details as they become available.

2015-2016 Befriend a Missionaries:

- World Missionary—Mr. Pasch
Chiang Rai, Thailand
- Home Missionary—Pastor Kent Reeder
Illumine Lutheran Church Rock Hill, SC

August Prayer Requests

- The professors, tutors, pastors and teachers as they prepare to begin another school year.
- The work being done by the Home and World Mission board.
- The newly elected LWMS Board, as they begin to work together.

Leslie B
~Reporter



(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

- Our theme for the 2016-2017 school year is “Jesus is the Answer” and is based on Jeremiah 33:3 *Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.* Our chapel services will focus on this theme for the entire year.
- Opening service for the 2016-2017 school year (our 38th year) will be on Sunday, August 14 at 4 p.m. There will be a meal following the service as well as a meeting of our support organization called *NELHS Friends and Family*. We hope to see you as we kick off another school year.
- Several of our students joined with the WELS Kingdom Workers and participated in summer mission trips. Our students traveled to Connecticut and California to help congregations with their outreach activities.
- Thanks to the many volunteers who came for our work day on July 16 and others who have helped throughout the summer. The campus is coming together nicely and should be ready for our students’ arrival in a couple of weeks.
- Financial update:
 - Our fiscal year ended on June 30. Our budgeted amount for donations from congregations and individuals by June 30 was \$516,000. We received \$514,111, which was a shortfall of just under \$2,000. We thank God for all of the gifts we received from our congregations and supporters!
 - The Board of Directors is making plans to increase support for NELHS. Look for more information regarding this program in the fall.
- Upcoming events:
 - 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, **28** have applied (23 freshmen, 2 sophomores, and 3 juniors). Many parents and students are still considering enrollment. Contact Administrator Mark Otte at motte@nelhs.org or 402-728-5236 if you have a recruiting lead. Please pray for this goal!



Summer Sunday School

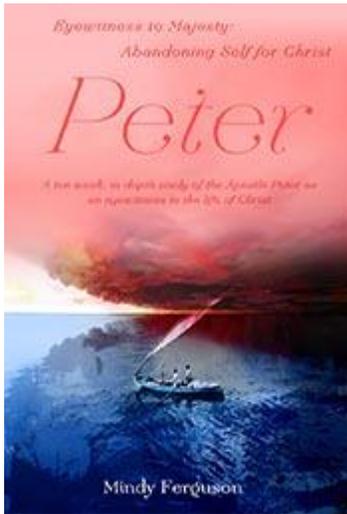
Date	Lesson
August 7	A Devilish Desert
August 14	A Glorious Golgotha
August 21	A Resurrection Road
August 28	A Heavenly Home

Vacation Bible School Recap

We had a great week down at the farm, with our Barnyard Roundup VBS which took place from July 18 to July 22. Around 75 children rotated around the church, starting and ending in our barnyard sanctuary with an opening and closing devotion and fun Bible School songs! During the day our VBS kids learned the truths of the Bible, created some awesome crafts, played games outside, sang and memorized parts of the 23rd Psalm and chowed down on some delicious snacks and drinks! Many of our VBS kids came back on Sunday to sing "I am Jesus' Little Lamb" for worship service.

A big thank you goes out to all of the staff and volunteers who made this week a wonderful, Jesus-filled week! We also thank the congregation for the donations of snacks and supplies! It was a great week and a team effort!

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study



The apostle Peter is mentioned more times in the four gospels than anyone other than Jesus Christ Himself. Peter was praised more than any other disciple. He was also rebuked more than any other disciple. On August 16, we will begin a study on Peter. You will see him fail, and you will see him succeed. You will get a laugh or two at his expense, and you just may shed a tear or two with him as well. His imperfections make him lovable, and his victories give us hope.

Peter had a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. That relationship brought Peter to the point of abandoning not only his nets for Christ, but all of his ambitions and selfish desires as well. The same relationship that Peter had with Jesus is available to every believer who seeks to know Him as Savior and makes Him Lord of her life as Peter did.

Through our study, you will walk along with Peter as an eyewitness to the life of Christ. You will watch Peter transform from Simon the ordinary fisherman to Peter, fisher of men. Peter will encourage you and inspire you. But most of all, he will challenge you to develop a deep and personal relationship with your Savior. He will motivate you to abandon self for Christ.

Join us at McDonald's at 108th and Emmet for our study. We meet at 6 a.m.



MARK THE DATE!!

"God Bless the USA"

2016 Gethsemane Pig Roast

Sept 11th

Look for a lot more info to come! This is one of the best Church events of the year!! This will be a patriotic theme and celebration this year!

2016 FALL SOFTBALL REGISTRATION IN ONGOING!



We are getting a Men's softball team together again. We have not had a strong interest for a COED team in a while! PLEASE contact the church office if you have interest in joining the Fall fun BY AUG 5! The cost is on the each individual player and determined by the number of participants! Men's team is for sure. The COED team is TBD by number of interested people!

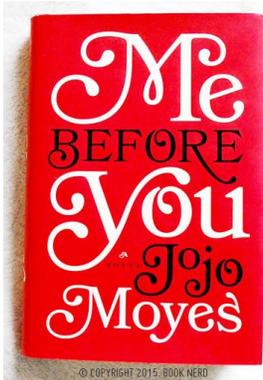
MOTORCYCLISTS--MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Plan to join us for a beautiful ride through the Loess Hills on Saturday, September 17th.

Complete details will be forthcoming.



Book Club



Summer is coming to a close, and it's time for us to kick start Book Club once again!!! We'll meet this month on Tuesday, August 30th at 7 p.m. to discuss **Me Before You** by Jojo Moyes. Come one. Come all! Reminder - you don't have to have read the book to enjoy an evening of fun fellowship as well as a few snacks!! We will be in need of a host for our September get-together, so if you're interested just let me know. Next on our list of books to discuss will be **Redeeming Love** by Francine Rivers.

Did you do some additional reading this summer? Do you have some books to recommend? Please bring them along on the 30th; or if you're unable to join us in August, send your recommendations to me prior to the 30th so we can decide on our next reads.

Future dates for book club tentatively are as follows - September 27th, October 25th, November 29th, January 31st (or the 24th??), February 28th, March 28th, April 25th. We'll confirm these dates when we meet this month.

I look forward to seeing many of you at my house on the 30th.

Becky G

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!!

Gethsemane will be hosting our 5th annual blood drive on Sunday September 25th.

Stay tuned for additional details.



Thanks to the folks who have been mowing the property and helping to keep it looking good. Thanks to the waterer of the flowers for keeping them alive throughout the hot weather.

As many of you are aware, on May 11, the church sustained hail damage. We are working through the insurance claim to get this damage repaired.

On August 4th, several pallets of shingles will be delivered for the start of the reshingling of the church/school roof. This job is slated to take 7 days, weather permitting. On the weekend of August 6/7, you will see some of these possibly taking up a parking space or two. When the section over the school is being done, you will need to enter the building through the sanctuary. Barriers will be set up to prohibit entry through the school doors. If all goes as planned, the job should be wrapped up before the FOCE Color Run. Please be mindful of the hazards this type of construction includes, and work with the contractor to ensure your safety.

The parsonage and the shed also sustained damage. Plans to fix those parts of the property have not yet been finalized. We will keep you apprised of all developments.



(Lutheran Military Support Group)

Warm Greetings from your Lutheran Military Support Group, "LMSG" and the WELS National Chaplain, Paul Ziemer

As I reported in the April/Spring letter, LMSG had reached 139 congregational members. As I pen this letter we now stand at 242! Our Lord's blessings have indeed been with us all.



I have had several inquiries as to the progress of our recent Memorial Day "Ammo Can" offering. With 138 churches reporting, the offering has surpassed \$40,000.00. God's people are very generous to our brothers and sisters who wear the uniform of our great nation. This offering will allow LMSG to provide solid and consistent support to our core services, PTSD counseling, Chaplain travel to hold services overseas near areas of conflict, etc. LMSG can also be counted on to be the auxiliary to WELS Military Services Committee and ELS Board of Christian Service as anticipated at the LMSG inception.

August 22-23 will be the first time that many of the National Board members will meet each other as we will hold a LMSG working conference at Synod Headquarters in Waukesha, WI. As a Para synodical organization of WELS, this meeting will help acquaint LMSG with WELS and ELS Synod leadership so that we may work in concert as we press forward with our Ministry to the Military.

- LMSG's Veteran Support group has funded a Spiritual retreat this fall for a group of WELS/ELS combat veterans. More information will be available on our website shortly.
- LMSG has also approved funding for additional worship services in either Guam or Okinawa in the fall.

Please take a few moments to look at our website, www.lutheranmilitary.org. You will see fresh content regarding our young people who wear the uniform, pastors who have served, PTSD resources, etc. Also posted is a year-to-date list of grants that have been awarded from LMSG (Special Projects & Grants Tab).

It is a special privilege to be able to serve in LMSG. My heartfelt thank you for your continued support and prayers which are propelling us forward.

In His Service,
John Stedman, President LMSG
president@lutheranmilitary.org
(703)909-4792 (cell)

**Tom K is Gethsemane's LMSG Liaison Officer*