

GETHSEMANE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

November, 2016



GRACE AND PEACE

Galatians 1:3-5

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul has been following the standard letter-writing format in his greeting to the churches in Galatia. He introduced himself then he stated who the recipients of this letter were. He continues now in verses 3-5 with saying, "Hello." He does that with the words "grace" and "peace." Writing to both Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians, this is certainly a fitting "hello." The Greeks would have said "grace" to say hello and the Jews would have said "peace" (Shalom) to say hello. But Paul is doing more here than simply being politically correct and all encompassing. Paul is doing more here than making sure that he includes all and excludes none in his opening greeting.

Grace and peace are the heart of the Gospel. Grace and peace are the very things that were being attacked by Paul's opponents in the province of Galatia.

Grace and peace are the cause and effect relationship that Christians hold so dear. God showed us his grace in Christ. Christ came as a man to give himself (to die) for our sins in order to rescue us from not only this present evil age but also from the eternal death that awaited us because of our sins. Because Jesus did this, the result now for those who have been brought to faith in Christ is that we have peace with God the Father. We have been reconciled to God. No longer do we live in fear of God, the holy Judge. No longer do we resent or hate him. No longer do we oppose him. That sort of relationship has been exchanged for a peaceful one. We know that God won't punish us for our sins - he already punished his Son for our sins. We know that we are no longer slaves to the law - we have been freed from the law. We are now free to use it as a guide to live for and to serve God. We go through the trials of life with our heads up because we know the eternal joy that awaits us in heaven - all because of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Grace and peace . . .

PRAYER: Thank you, Jesus, for coming to my rescue. You saved me from sin and gave me peace with God. In response to his grace and peace, lead me to live for you. Amen.



SCHOOL NEWS



Fall greetings,

The calendar pages seem to be turning as fast as the leaves are falling off the trees. November brings along thoughts of the final color changes, the last of the leaves finally giving into gravity and the wind, and short daylight hours with cold weather. Not too much to brag about for the month of November. But it is part and parcel isn't it? Similarly we all know that later this month we will be observing the Thanksgiving holiday. It is hard to imagine that we are mere weeks away from that special holiday. And finally (and obviously) this November our thoughts are

directed toward the major elections in our country. After what seems like ages, our citizens will finally be able to exercise their right and freedom to choose the person who will assume the role of leading our country in early 2017. What a wild time! What a crazy campaign! The debates! The commercials! The accusations! The controversy! Who even knows what to believe about either of the candidates anymore!

If you are like me, you've probably had more than your fill and are ready for it all just to be over. This election is bringing so much to the table for folks like you and me - and many of those things can bring about concern and consternation. What will the future hold if _____ actually gets elected? Will we be safe? Will we be financially secure? Will we maintain our freedoms and liberties? These are important and tough questions. But Christian, regardless if we have any idea what the future holds, we know who holds the future. And if that future doesn't look so awesome, humanly speaking, then all the more shall we all say and pray, "Come, Lord Jesus. Quickly come!" And come what may, St. Paul reminds us to keep our eyes focused on our heavenly home, "Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." The Almighty God of the universe is still in control of everything working for the benefit of his Church. May our trust in God's providence grow all the more as "we see The Day approaching."

May God bless us. May God bless America.

Mr. Pederson

Soccer and volleyball are in the books as NOV begins. We thank our coaches in both sports for their volunteer time and energy: Mr. and Mrs. Johnson (K-1 soccer), Mr. Chris Clayton (2nd soccer), Mr. Linde and Pastor K (3-4 boys soccer), Mrs. Beck (3-4 girls soccer), Mr. and Mrs. Remm and Mr. Taylor (5-6 soccer), Mr. Pederson and Mr. Kison (7-8 soccer), Mrs. Helwig and Mrs. Remm (5-6, 7th, and 8th volleyball). Basketball is underway in two separate leagues. We look forward to seeing our student-athletes transition to hoops for the winter.

Initial plans for 2017-18 have started. Hard to believe, but next year will be the 70th anniversary of Gethsemane Lutheran providing Christian education through our elementary school!

Families of 8th graders who are considering Nebraska Lutheran for Christian education at the high school level are encouraged to look into NELHS's early registration. Signing up early allows for our high school to get a head start on planning and budgeting AND earns families a discount on next year's tuition. Please contact Pastor H, Mr. Brian B, or Mr. Pederson with any questions about this.



Midweek Advent Worship

*7 p.m. Wednesdays

"The Advent of Our King"

November 30 - The Time...
December 7 - The Purpose...
December 14 - The Place...

*There will be no pre-Advent service dinners.

FOCE

(FRIENDS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION)

Our next FOCE meeting will be Tuesday, November 29th at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Babysitting will be provided, so we hope you all can make it!

The upper grade musicals are on Thursday and Friday, November 3 & 4. We are looking for parent volunteers from grades K-5 to help serve frozen treats and clean up after the performance on Friday evening! Please contact either Wendee M or Liz K if you're willing and available!

Our fall Yankee Candle fundraiser was a blazing success! We raised over \$1500! Thank you to all!!! With these and other funds we were able to purchase iPads for the K-2nd grade classrooms as well as learning accessories to go with them!

Liz K, Secretary



OWLS

(ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS)

We have talked about nothing else but the WELS National Convention in Omaha, October 10-13!

The convention was a BLAST!! The Omaha OWLS group is the best group of people you ever want to meet! We made up these fantastic welcome bags, designed terrific shirts for everyone, helped with the silent auction that made more money and had more things to auction than EVER, assisted with the services to include music and ushers, provided electronic support for every meeting and general session, and had the best table decorations. We had fantastic vintage cars for everyone to look at, and we provided hospitality to over 166 visitors.

The workshops were INCREDIBLE and everyone appreciated the vendors and presentations.

Dick Varner was elected to the National Board as a Director!

Civilian Chaplaincy made over \$53,000 and we added to that with \$500 from the sale of our shirts. The silent auction brought in over \$2900. Good fellowship and new relationships were experienced!

Now we move on:

- ✓ November 13 - Thanksgiving dinner and entertainment, 4 p.m.
- ✓ December 11- Christmas light tour and elections.

Please feel free to come to any of our meetings or activities! Just contact Dick Varner or Sandy Taylor.

Sandy T, Secretary





WINGS
Silent Auction
 Nov 5-6th through Nov 12-13th

BAKE SALE Nov 12-13th!

It's that time a year again!
WINGS is hosting a Silent Auction and Bake Sale to raise funds for Sanctuary Technology.

Want to join in the fun?
 Get crafty? Bake something tasty?
 Please do! WINGS needs your items!

Any questions, contact Christine Hinnerichs.

WINGS

(WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE)

Our annual Silent Auction is taking place the weekends of November 5th and 12th. We will also be having our bake sale the weekend of the 12th. Items for the silent auction should be brought to church prior to or the morning of November 5th. Items for the bake sale, keep in mind they don't necessarily have to be "baked" goods, should be brought to church prior to the 5:30 service on Saturday, November 12th. Proceeds will be going towards upgrading/adding to sanctuary technology.

Thank you to those who donated money, gift cards, food, time and service over the last month. October was busy for us! We had a number of needs for donations to support our high school kids at NELHS, college kids, as well as the added NELHS meal that the Omaha churches were involved with. We couldn't have done it without you!

Looking Ahead...

- On Monday November 7th we will have a fellowship evening at Brix (Village Point) at 7 p.m.
- A possible Christmas party is in the works for December, so stay tuned for any updates on that.

Advent By Candlelight
 Take Me to the Manger
 Sunday, December 4th
 6 p.m.

Rachel C



LWMS

(LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY)

"Now Thank We All Our God"

The Fall LWMS Rally was held on Saturday, October 1st, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoskins, NE. The guest speaker was the Board for Home Missions Chairman, Pastor Keith Free. He spoke about all of

the cross-cultural missions that the WELS is involved in. He focused primarily on the work being done in Thailand and the Hmong ministry. It is the prayer that through the WELS World and Home Missions, the Word can be spread for all to hear. There were 58 people that attended the rally, with a total of \$655 in offerings. The Spring Rally will be held at Good Shepherd in Omaha. Look for more information in the upcoming months as it becomes available.



The 2016 Prayer Calendars are again available, and are just \$10.00. They make such neat gifts or even one for your personal use. Each month highlights a different mission and missionary from our mission field. What a wonderful daily reminder of the work that is being done throughout the world! A brochure with more details about the calendar is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

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! And.... guess what?!?! Our NE-IA Circuit has a Send One Sister program, and will give money towards one lady in our circuit who would like to attend her first convention! So...if you are thinking about attending your first convention, let me know! I would love to connect you to the Send One Sister program! Start making your plans now!

2015-2016 Befriend a Missionaries:

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

November Prayer Requests

- The abundance of blessings that we have in America.
- The work being done in Europe.
- The cleanup work being done on the east coast.

*Leslie B
~Reporter*



NELHS

(NEBRASKA EV. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL)

- The NELHS football team qualified for playoffs for the third time in school history by defeating High Plains 52-32. They will be playing Heartland Public School in Henderson on Thursday, October 27 at 7 pm. This is particularly encouraging for the future as the team has no seniors.
- The NELHS volleyball team will begin subdistrict play at Cross County high school on Monday, October 31.
- Recruitment visits to our Lutheran elementary schools are taking place this month and significant discount is given to students who enroll by November 30.
- The delegates at the biannual association meeting voted to raise tuition 1.60% for 2017-2018. We are so thankful that we have been able to maintain extremely small increases in tuition over the last several years. Additionally the delegates heard about a new program of support for the high school called “This is our School.” Look for more information about this program as we move through the fall.
- Our annual fall “Silent Auction” was held on Sunday, October 23. Hundreds of people attended this event. The totals are still being worked on, but it appears that well over \$10,000 will be raised to purchase new dorm furniture for our students.
- Preparations are underway for hosting WELS Choral Fest this year. This event only happens in Nebraska once about every dozen years. The Pops concert will be Friday, November 11 at 7 pm. The Sacred concert will be Sunday, November 13 at 2:30. We hope to see many of you at NELHS for this event.

- NELHS is seeking a layman to serve on our board of control. This is an “at-large” position which means that the man can come from any of our association churches. We are looking for someone with a strong passion for our ministry. Please send any interested names to board chairman Pastor Jon Rockhoff (revrock1@yahoo.com) or Administrator Mark Otte (motte@nelhs.org).
- We have two freshman students who are enrolling in January. If you have a son or daughter who is interested in transferring to Nebraska Lutheran in January, please let Administrator Mark Otte know at motte@nelhs.org or 402-728-5236.
- Our recruitment goal for next year is 40 new students by the start of school in August of 2017. If you know of a family whom we can contact to tell about our ministry, please let us know. So far we have one freshman student enrolled for next year. Please pray for this goal.

Mark Otte, Administrator

DEACONS

We are thankful for our Deacons, who jump in when asked, to fix a problem here or there. Thanks to the person who tries to keep the leaves under control by cleaning up the parking lot and the area around it.

We are also thankful for one of our deacons who has been diligent in helping with pest control. Unfortunately, some mice have found their way into the building (ew); many of these have met their demise (yay!).

We send out a HUGE thank you to the five women who worked hard in the basement cleaning up the trash and sorting items that have accumulated down there. A lot of work has been done, and more work remains. Some items have been separated and will be donated or sold. Look for more information on this soon.

Moving forward please do not allow children in the basement unattended. The basement is a storage area - not a playground. Much of the dishevelment and destruction of items is due to unsupervised (and unauthorized) activities down there. As a storm shelter, we cannot lock access to the basement. One of the best ways we can thank these ladies for their work and help (and respect property down there) is by only being down there with permission (or with adult supervision).

A few items on rest of the Deacons’ list will be completed hopefully before the snow flies. If you see anything that could use a fix-up, please contact the church office.

Thank you for helping us to keep the property in ship shape!

DISCIPLESHIP



Sunday School starts each week at 9:15 a.m. Please help your child to be on time and attend as often as possible. We carefully prepare lessons each week and look forward to sharing God’s word with as many students as possible.

We can sing more songs if we start on time. We like action songs so we can move around before going to our classrooms.

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. The 7th and 8th grade class starts right away; they meet in Mr. Z’s room. High school students meet in the church basement with Mr. S.

November lessons for Preschool-6th grade:

6 - God Gives the Ten Commandments

13 - The Golden Calf

20 - The Twelve Spies

27 - No Class, Thanksgiving break

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.

Thanks to Shonni Johnson and Ben Helwig for subbing this past month.

Nickie L
Sunday School Coordinator

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEENS!

LET'S GO ON A HAYRIDE



Our annual hayrack ride and bonfire is scheduled for Saturday, November 5.

The evening officially starts at 7:00, but we can all meet at church at 6:30 and drive out together. (Teens could certainly all attend worship together at 5:30.)

In addition to the hayrack ride and bonfire, we will also roast hot dogs on the fire, make s'mores, and enjoy hot apple cider. We will gather together for a practical, timely, teen-focused Bible study.

All high school aged teens are encouraged to come. Invite a friend or two.

We will plan to get back to church by 10:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Chris R.

EVANGELISM



One of the joys of worshipping here at Gethsemane is the bond of fellowship and friendship that we share with one another. It is only natural that we would want everyone who worships with us to experience the same thing, especially those who might be joining us for the first time. There can be no argument that welcoming and greeting visitors is something we do well

here but, as with anything, there is always a way to do this better. For this reason, a Greeter Program is being developed here at Gethsemane. The goal behind this program is to do everything we can to make sure that every member and visitor feels welcomed when they join us for worship. Certainly this is something every member would want to do, but this is something that can be more effectively achieved if dedicated volunteers make this their personal task at each worship service. Every member of the congregation is invited to serve on this committee and help us accomplish this goal. There will be more details to come, such as a "job description" and scheduling of volunteers, etc., but for now, please consider giving your time to this important part of our ministry. If this is something that interests you or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Koester or a member of the Greeter Program Task Force (Tom K, Dick V, Jeff S).





STEWARDSHIP

On Sunday, October 23, Gethsemane held its annual chili cook-off. Seven participants made chili so the rest of us could feast! Some of the chili recipes were tomato based and some were white chicken based. We had cinnamon rolls, buns, and chili fixin's (cheese, Fritos, crackers, etc.) to top off the meal. Yum! The winner of the 2016 Gethsemane Chili Cook-off is Shonni J! Congrats, Shonni, and THANKS for sharing your mad chili making skills with us!

At the chili cook-off, the newest members to Gethsemane were introduced. We hope everyone gets a chance to personally welcome them!

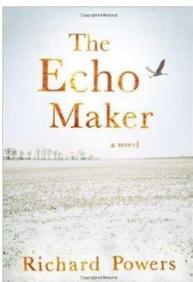


The Stewardship board has two exciting events to announce in hopes that you'll save these dates and participate:

- ✓ Open Gym! January 22nd, 2-4 p.m., Saddlebrook Community Center, 150th and Fort! Come out from the cold! Play basketball, kick ball or what else you would like! Everyone is welcome!
- ✓ School/Church dance February 17th! Details to come! Save the date!!

BOOK CLUB

Thanks go to Karen S for hosting our October evening discussion of **The Aviator's Wife** by Melanie Benjamin. We had a great time snacking (yummy goodies!!) and chatting not only about the book (which is a fictional historical account of Lindberg) but a variety of other things in general!!!! A good time was had by all in attendance!



November will see our next book discussion not actually take place in November. We have moved our evening to Tuesday, December 6th and will be held at Mandie Linde's home. That evening we will discuss **The Echo Maker** by Richard Powers. This book is part of the "Reserve a Book Bag" book club offerings from the Omaha Public Library. Currently all 10 copies of the book that we receive through this program are loaned out to participants in our book club. However with the longer period of time between now and December 6th we would be glad to redistribute the copies that when someone finishes the book. If you would like to be on the "wait list" for one of the copies just let me know!

A reminder of what is to come -- January's discussion of **The Boys in the Boat** by Daniel James Brown will be January 24th and hosted by Jean R. This is also another book available through the OPL and I should have those books in hand around December 16th. **The Longest Ride** by Nicholas Sparks is up for discussion on February 28th and is tentatively slated to be hosted by Liz K. March will see us reading **Comfort & Joy** by Kristan Hannah and April will be **One by One** by Jojo Moyes. We will be in need of host locations for both March and April.

Reminder - Book Club is for one and all. You needn't have read the book to enjoy the evening with us!!! Mark your calendars now and join us on December 6th!

Becky G



LMSG



Fall 2016

October 4, 2016

Greetings from your Lutheran Military Support Group, "LMSG" and WELS National Chaplain, Paul Ziemer: The LMSG Board meets every third Saturday morning via conference call—that was until Tuesday, August 23rd when we held our first live face to face meeting at WELS Synod Headquarters in Waukesha, WI. All twenty board members were present. Our Synod leadership and staff could not have been more gracious hosts. A special thank you to President Schroeder for welcoming and addressing our group after our opening devotions.

At this meeting, important business was accomplished and many pressing issues were discussed. Pastor James Behringer, Director of Special Ministries, arranged for various Synod Ministry Leaders to address our board as to how we might work together with our Ministry to the Military. LMSG has approved grants to Time of Grace to purchase broadcast time on the American Forces Network for the month of November. Time of Grace was selected to provide Military Minutes between programming. We also have recently provided a grant to Blue Star Mothers for postage expense as they prepare to mail care packages to deployed troops worldwide. Our National Chaplains office provides a list of WELS and ELS Service members to them. I encourage you to go to the following WELS Military Services form: <https://form.jotform.com/61036130392950> to post your family's Active duty service members most current military address. We ask that each congregation post the above link to your church website also.

LMSG is also working closely with the WELS Military Services Committee to help with support to post Pastor Donald Stuppy, the new European Chaplain from Newport News, VA to Munich, Germany. We pray that our Gracious Lord would bless Pastor Stuppy's ministry to our troops in Europe.

This year's membership goal of 200 congregations has been far surpassed and membership as of today stands at 259 - thank you for your overwhelming support and your continued prayers and gifts for our Ministry to the Military.

As our Nation readies to celebrate Veterans Day, we respectfully ask that you display your LMSG Ammo can for our Veterans Day free will offering. If you would like to receive a free Ammo Can sent to your congregation, please email me at president@lutheranmilitary.org.



It is truly amazing how our Good and Gracious God has blessed our humble efforts to provide spiritual help and guidance to our military church members, past and present through our Lutheran Military Support Group. To Him be the Glory!

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



This Veterans Day, we recognize our members who have served in the armed forces. We are proud of you and thank you for your service!



SPREAD THE WORD!

Special Christmas Service

Sunday, December 18th

10:00 a.m.

at

Bennington High School Auditorium

No other services will be
held that weekend at
Gethsemane!!