



# GETHSEMANE

Lutheran Church

News from 4040 N. 108<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68164  
December, 2016

## Holiday Service Schedule

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
4040 N. 108<sup>th</sup> St., Omaha



Wednesdays,  
November 30, December 7 & 14  
7 p.m.

Advent Midweek Worship



Saturday, December 24  
5:30 or 7 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Worship



Sunday, December 25  
9 a.m.

Christmas Day Worship



Saturday, December 31  
5:30 p.m.  
New Year's Eve Worship



## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE WEEKEND

December 18  
10 a.m.

Worship with the whole  
Gethsemane family  
@ Bennington High School  
16610 Bennington Road  
Bennington, Nebraska

(No other services  
will be held at Gethsemane  
that weekend)

## UTTER AMAZEMENT

Galatians 1:6-10

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel -- which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned! Am I now trying to win the

approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Paul wastes no time getting to the point. Six verses into the letter Paul expresses his amazement - even his frustration and anger - that the believers in Galatia were so willing to give up the Gospel of free forgiveness. Paul had just visited these people. He had just shared the truths of Scripture with them. The Holy Spirit had worked through the Gospel to strengthen their faith. The time had come for Paul to move on to other towns and other congregations. He moved westward thinking that all was well in the province of Galatia. Word soon reached Paul, however, that all was not well. Other teachers - often called Judaizers - began turning the people away from God's Gospel of free grace. They insisted that people not only believe in Jesus but that they also submit to the Old Testament rules and regulations. Paul's point was that such submission was not necessary - in fact, it even stood in the way of the Gospel. Paul doesn't take false teaching - or false teachers - lightly. He said, "Let them be eternally condemned." Paul was a servant of Christ. He would be faithful to both him and his Gospel.

The reminder for us is that we are going to run into all kinds of people who try to add works to grace. These people will say, "Yes, you have to believe but you also have to be a good person." (Or they will say things like that.) These people may be preachers we hear on the radio or see on TV. They may be friends and co-workers. They may be "Christian" books or magazines that we read. They may be our own hearts telling us that nothing in life is free. Whoever tells us that we have to do something to be saved - or that we have to believe and do something to be saved - the message today is obvious: Don't listen to them! We, by God's grace and through faith in Christ, know that forgiveness is God's free gift to those who believe.

*PRAYER: During this Advent season, keep me ever watchful, Lord, and alert. I know that the devil prowls around looking for someone to devour. May he never sink his teeth into the faith that you have given me. Enable me always to rely solely on you for salvation. Amen.*



## SCHOOL NEWS



December greetings to you all!

I can't speak for the organists, but it has been a true joy to have the need to crank up the organ with so many in church. What a blessing to worship with a growing and large number of the people of God! I pray that we continue to see so many gathering around the Word as Advent starts and we approach Christmas.

Our GLS December calendar is full events and activities again! GLS students are joining the GLC students in preparing for our special Christmas service on DEC 18. We are looking forward to trying out an off-site scenario this year that allows everyone to worship together in one service. May God bless these preparations! Please join us as all of Gethsemane comes together for this special service.

GLS students will be travel to two assisted living residences on DEC 7. Our parent group FOCE will be sponsoring busses to help us get back and forth with ease. Students will be distributing Christmas cards to those in attendance.

Our fall basketball season (two teams) will be wrapping up in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, our winter basketball season will just be starting (three teams). We thank our coaches, players, and families for supporting our teams again this year.

GLS will celebrate Christmas with our annual PE field trip to the bowling alley. We have partnered with Maplewood Lanes for many years now, providing a fun activity for kids, teachers, and parents as we end SEM 1 and head into Christmas break.

May God bless you this Advent season as we again prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior King!



# FOCE

(Friends Of Christian Education)

Our next FOCE meeting will be Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will be wrapping up the Yankee Candle fundraiser, discussing the update on our technology, discussing the t-shirt order, figuring out what path to take regarding jerseys, and working on the winter festival preparations. Child care will be provided, so we hope you can come!

*Liz K, Secretary*



December is the last month to keep your HyVee receipts for the Cash for Students program from HyVee. Please turn in your receipts as soon as possible. Receipts will be collected in boxes near the trophy case in the school hallway or on the corner table in the fellowship. Thank you for your support!

# OWLS

(Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors)



The November meeting of the OWLS was YUMMY! 37 of us enjoyed delicious pot luck Thanksgiving Dinner. Then the entertainment began! Pamela Sue from MerryMakers sang wonderful country songs and hymns. She was fantastic and everyone enjoyed the fellowship and music.

We will have a Holiday Light Tour on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm with a meeting starting at 4:30 p.m. with treats. The cost is \$15.00 and we have 10 spaces left so if interested please call Dick Varner or Sandy Taylor.

*Sandy T, Secretary*

# WINGS

## (Women IN God's Service)

Thank you to everyone who donated and bid on items for our silent auction! There are still a few items that need to be picked up. If you have not paid yet you may place your money in the lock box on the table in the fellowship hall with the winning bid sheet from your item or give it directly to Becky Golden. Thank you also to those who brought items for our bake sale! I hope many of you went home with yummy treats!

Please join us **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** for Advent by Candlelight. This service for women, *Take Me to the Manger*, begins at 6 p.m.

Looking ahead—we will have our annual Bunco/ugly sweater/white elephant party after the first of the year. Stay tuned to bulletins and emails for details!

Rachel C  
Secretary



### **“Take Me to the Manger” Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m.**

Ladies of Gethsemane:

It's only a short time until Advent by Candlelight! It's been 6 years since we've last had an Advent by Candlelight service at Gethsemane, so some of you may not know a whole lot about it. This is a special service done by women for women. It's an evening away from home. It's a night to enjoy the beautiful atmosphere, delicious desserts, and a message that keeps our focus on Christ. All women of the congregation are invited, as well as teens (8<sup>th</sup> grade and up). If you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or even someone from church or school who might not otherwise come, please invite them! To get an approximate head count, we do ask that you RSVP. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship hall or you may contact the church office.

Two other sign-up sheets are also on the table. We are still in need of at least 6 hostesses for tables. This is primarily decorating a table as you would for a formal dinner. If you have any questions you may ask the church office.

The other sign-up sheet is for those delicious desserts mentioned earlier. If you can make something or buy something to share, please sign up at the table.

Finally, we are in need of a manger for the service as a prop. If you have one that would we could borrow, please contact the church office.

We sincerely hope many of you are able to attend this wonderful evening!



(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)



**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

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. Grab one as a gift for Christmas!

Reading Blogs from various people online seem to be an ongoing trend lately. Have you ever checked out the blogs from the various missionaries throughout the WELS? Just go to: [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) and go to Missionary Blogs. You are then able to choose from any blog from any mission field to read. Wow! It is certainly humbling to read the various accounts from missionaries throughout the world. May God continue to keep them safe in this ever changing world.

Want to take a trip to Florida? Well, next summer is your chance! The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual LWMS Convention will be held in Orlando, Florida, June 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 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

### December Prayer Requests

-The work being done by the missionaries throughout the world.

-The mid-year graduates at Martin Luther College.

-Pastor Johnston and the members of Living Savior as they celebrate the birth of Jesus.

*Leslie B*

*~Reporter*



# NELHS

(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

- The NELHS One-Act Play competed very well at the Crossroads Conference competition and brought home the third place plaque for their efforts. Up next for the group is district competition and a chance to make state at Tri-County High School on Monday, November 28 at 2:45 pm.
- The NELHS Unified Bowling team bowled great at a quadrangular in Lincoln on Thursday, November 3. District competition for the bowlers will take place at Parkway Lanes in Lincoln on Tuesday, November 29 for their chance to make state.
- The NELHS math team competed at the UNL Math Day on Thursday, November 17 and took home the runner-up plaque for their division.
- The boys and girls basketball teams have begun practice and are looking forward to their first games in December. Both teams return several key players and are looking forward to competition in the Crossroads Conference.
- The basketball cheerleading squad is now set after a week of tryouts.
- The Choral Fest Concerts the weekend of November 11-13 were enjoyed by well over 750 people. Many thanks go out to the hundreds of volunteers and host families who made this weekend so special.

- We hope to see many join us at the NELHS Christmas concert on Sunday, December 18 at 4 p.m. as we celebrate Jesus coming to earth as our substitute.
- 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](mailto:revrock1@yahoo.com)) or Administrator Mark Otte ([motte@nelhs.org](mailto:motte@nelhs.org)).
- We have one freshmen student 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](mailto: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 six freshmen students enrolled for next year. Many parents are considering enrolling at this time. Please pray for this goal.

*Mark Otte, Administrator*



## DEACONS



We are thankful for our Deacons, who work behind the scenes to help keep the property up!

The monumental task of cleaning the basement has been completed. It looks great! We ask that if anyone is considering putting stuff in the basement, that they check with the church office first.

We have a good handle on the rodent problem we’ve experienced. Bait boxes have been placed outside the perimeter of the building and poison packs have been placed where mice were present. They must be doing the trick. We haven’t seen a mouse in a couple of weeks!

The drywall that was damaged from a previous roof leak in the narthex is in the process of being fixed. The door handle on one of the sanctuary doors that detached has been repaired.

We are looking for someone who could install a small (heavy) metal box onto the bricks outside the school entrance. If you possess this skill, and have the tools to do so, we would appreciate very much your time and effort. Please see Karen in the church office for details.

Efforts have been ongoing to keep the parking lot and the gutters free from leaves and general “fall” debris. Thanks to those who have been taking care of that.

With winter upon us, we will be experiencing snow and slick conditions. We will do our best to keep the property as safe as possible, but we ask that you take extra care when these conditions exist so that you aren’t injured.

If you see something that needs to be repaired, please let the church office know. Thank you for helping us to keep the property in ship shape!

# DISCIPLESHIP

It's that wonderful time of year when we celebrate our Savior's Birth! Our children at Gethsemane will be sharing the message of Jesus in the Children's Christmas Service December 18<sup>th</sup>. Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be practicing for the Children's Christmas Service. It is important for all children in preschool-8<sup>th</sup> grade to be there to learn all those songs together! We will start at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.



We practiced with Miss Hunt two Sundays in November. Programs were passed out. Preschool students received their part. Public school families or preschool students, if you are still in need of a program or your part, let the church office know. We should be receiving links to the songs so you can practice at home with your children.

We will also have a practice Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Bennington High School's Auditorium, 16610 Bennington Rd. This is very important as children will learn where their place is and where we practice everything all together.

The Children's Christmas Service is Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at Bennington's High School's Auditorium. Students should be there at least 20 minutes before 10 a.m.

May your Christmas Season be filled with JOY!

*Nickie L  
Sunday School Coordinator*

# STEWARDSHIP



## Time & Talent Sheet Update

We have been working to update the Time & Talent sheets. With the help of Avery Q, this will be done online this year. We will roll this out to the congregation on December 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a brief presentation at the end of each service that weekend highlighting the changes and online process. A link will be sent to everyone's e-mail at home and we will have Google Chromebooks set up in the narthex after services to use as well. Please take the time to fill these out and prayerfully consider how God has called you to use your time and talent to serve our congregation. A big thanks to Tim Schoell for all the time he has put into the forms and to Avery

for providing his IT skills!

## Open Gym

Mark your calendars! We will be hosting an open gym at Saddlebrook Community Center on January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m.

## Winter Dance

Mark your calendars! On February 17<sup>th</sup>, Gethsemane will host a winter dance DJ'd by Scotty B in the fellowship hall. More details to come.

# THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Gethsemane Families -

It's nearing the end of 2016 and Thrivent members are nearing the "use it or lose it" deadline for their 2016 Action Teams. For anyone who is not aware, most Thrivent members over the age of 18 with policies, are eligible for two \$250 Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year to be used for the event of their choice. These Action Teams have already benefited Gethsemane in SO MANY ways - picnic tables by the school entrance, books for the teachers libraries, Christmas for Kids, Easter for Kids, VBS, FOCE Color Run, the cost of busing for the annual GLS Christmas Caroling.....and the list goes on and on!!



These Action Teams are fairly painless to apply for, activate, use and follow up on.....and cost the Thrivent member absolutely nothing! In fact, if the Thrivent Action Team is not used for the year it is gone and the funds are sent to a designation you have absolutely no say in! With this being said, we need to really rally together and see what AMAZING things we can accomplish for GLS/GLC before the end of the year!

A small list of needs (there are many more too numerous to mention) include: Sanctuary updates, jerseys for our many GLC teams, new books for teachers libraries, a new door for the basement, new tire shreds for the playground, .....the list goes on!!! Get creative and make things happen!

Wendee M has step by step instructions that she can send to anyone who is interested in applying for an Action Team AND she is willing to do the write-up for the project. All you have to do is know your Thrivent login and hit copy and.

All 2016 Thrivent Actions plans need to be submitted by the end January 2017 in order to not be "lost" for the year. If you have ANY questions, concerns, need ideas, or would like to help - PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE contact the church office to make it happen! Free money for little work is something we don't want to see wasted!

Thanks again for all of the help and support!



You are invited to join our Christmas Choir! Even if you haven't been in choir before, we would love to have you join us! See the schedule below for rehearsals and singing services. Come! Sing with us! Share your voice in praise and worship of our newborn King!



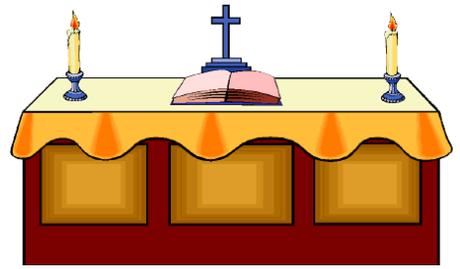
DAY	DATE	TIME	PURPOSE
Wednesday	11/30	8 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday	12/7	8 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	12/11	10 a.m.	Rehearsal with Children
Wednesday	12/14	7 p.m.	Sing for Advent Worship
Wednesday	12/14	8 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	12/17	4 p.m.	Rehearsal at Bennington High School
Sunday	12/18	10 a.m.	Sing for Special Worship
Saturday	12/24	5:30/7 p.m.	Sing for Christmas Eve Services
Sunday	12/25	9 a.m.	Since for Christmas Day Service

## Altar Care

We are asking volunteers to help prepare our altar for services next year. Duties include getting the hymn numbers changed, changing the altar paraments when necessary, and, for the first and third Sundays, preparing for communion. You can even pick out and hang seasonal banners! This job normally takes 1 to ½ hours per week max.

Our altar care chairperson is Jean R. She will show you what to do and will help you change the paraments (because she's really good at getting them straight)! Men can do this job just as well as women, and we welcome any who are willing to try!

Please see the sheet on the corner table of the fellowship hall to sign up.



## ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flower Calendar for 2017 will look a little different than it has in years past! Thrivent has discontinued the practice of providing these calendars for churches.

A new sheet will be posted in the coming week so you can sign up to provide altar flowers for the Sunday of your choice. Family Fare on 108<sup>th</sup> and Maple will continue to provide us with beautiful arrangements. The cost is still \$30. Feel free to take your flowers home after the second service on the Sunday you provide flowers.

WINGS will bill you for the flowers and payment can be placed in the locked box on the fellowship hall table. Thank you for adding the beauty of flowers to our worship services!



## POINSETTIAS

Please consider purchasing a poinsettia to help decorate for Christmas services. After the last Christmas service, you may take your poinsettias home to enjoy. The cost is \$7 each. Look for the sign-up sheet. All orders need to be in by Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. WINGS will bill you.



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Please come to Gethsemane on Tuesday, November 29, to help us decorate the church for Christmas! We will begin at 6 p.m. Hope you can come to help!

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Come caroling with us! On Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, a group of us are going out to sing some Christmas carols to our shut-ins. The plan is to meet at church at 5:30 p.m. and drive to our first stop. If you can't make it to church by 5:30 p.m., please catch up with us on our route by texting Karen S to see where you can meet us.



## BOOK CLUB



I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday! Book club did not actually meet in November due to the holiday. We moved our get-together to Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> and will be meeting at Mandie L's home at 7 p.m. to discuss **The Echo Maker** by Richard Powers. If someone is in need of a copy of the book I have one available for you - just let me know.

And, with the Christmas holiday season here - we will not meet again until January 24<sup>th</sup> (host will be Jean R). That evening we'll discuss **The Boys in the Boat** by Daniel James Brown. This is the second book we're obtaining through the Omaha Public Library's Book Bag program. I will not have that book available on the 6<sup>th</sup>, but as soon as I have it in hand (will be closer to Christmas), I'll be reaching out to see who needs a copy.

Heads up on the rest of our book club year.....February's selection is **The Longest Ride** by Nicholas Sparks (host is Liz K); March's selection is **Comfort & Joy** by Kristin Hannah (need a host); and April's selection is **One by One** by Jojo Moyes (need a host).

My wish to you all is to have a very blessed and merry Christmas and a Happy New Years!!!

*Becky G*

## CARD/MEDITATION RECYCLING

The OWLS would like your old Christmas cards and Meditations booklets! They use them to make book marks and provide devotionals for Prison Ministries. There is a box on the table in the fellowship hall in which you can put your items. Thank you for your help!



## STEPS OF MARTIN LUTHER TOUR

Pastor James Humann, retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him September 18, 2017 for a twelve day, "Steps of Martin Luther" tour to Germany to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The itinerary includes not only the major sites connected with Luther and the Reformation, but also Prague in the Czech Republic, and Salzburg and Vienna in Austria. Space is limited. Two buses have already been filled for a June departure.

For information about this September tour, including the price and complete itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at [JHumann383@aol.com](mailto:JHumann383@aol.com). If you would also like a hard copy of the brochure, please include your name and mailing address.

# “GOD’S GREATEST GIFT”



Saturday, December 10  
9-noon

For kids aged 4 through grade 4, this is a day to have fun and celebrate God’s greatest gift—JESUS—through crafts, games, and songs.

Register your children and their friends on the paper copies which located are on the table in the fellowship hall, online at [GethsemaneLutheran.com](http://GethsemaneLutheran.com), or by calling the church office!

