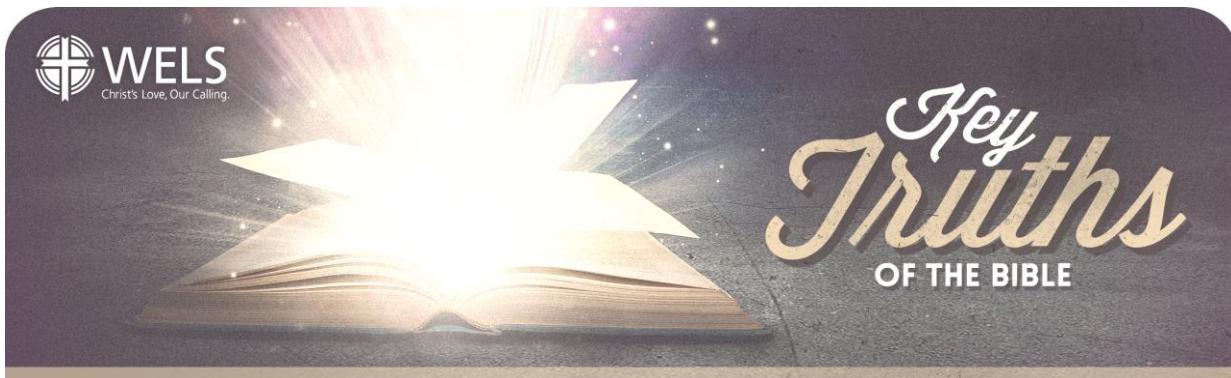


# GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

News from 4040 N. 108<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68164  
June, 2017



## Christian Confidence

**"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him."** - Jeremiah 17:7

I have a vivid memory from the first grade. I was an awkward, chubby kid. Each day, my only hope was to get through class, and get through recess, so that I could get home without anything too embarrassing happening. But unfortunately, time stopped the moment I had to read out loud in front of my classmates. I knew the words on the page, but my mind raced past them, leaving no time for them to come out of my mouth. I must have sounded like an old CD player that just keeps skipping. Finally, my first grade teacher had had enough and she blurted out, "What's wrong with you? Do you have a bone for a brain?"

After that, I would shut down when I was asked to read. That is, until my fourth grade teacher treated me differently. She gave me special reading assignments to do on my own. Then we met together, and she treated me as if I didn't have a reading problem. In fact, she treated me as if I were a good reader who had good insights. And you know what? I actually became one. I got my confidence back because one teacher looked at me differently.

That is essentially what Jesus has done for us. We have stuttered our way through life, giving into our sinful desires. God has every right to call us what we are: spiritual screw-ups who deserve to be separated from him. But like my fourth grade teacher, God looks at us as if we were good people who do the right thing. He sees us this way because we are covered with Jesus' love and forgiveness. As our substitute, Jesus was treated like a sinner on the cross, so now we are treated like a saint. The more we realize that God looks at us as good people through Jesus, the more we will start acting like it.

Relying on the Lord Jesus, we gain the confidence to face the circumstances and challenges of life. God patiently teaches us in his word, "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him." Faithfully supported by God who loves us dearly, we can face the events of life, no matter how demeaning or difficult they may be.

## DEAD TO SIN - ALIVE TO CHRIST

Galatians 2:19-21

For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!

Paul makes an interesting observation - if we could actually obtain righteousness by what we do (whether that means being a kosher Jew in the first century A.D. or simply being a "good person" by today's standards) then why did Christ come into the world in the first place? Why did Christ die on the cross to pay for sins if sinners could get right with God on their own? The answer is all too obvious. We can't get right with God on our own. One function of the law is to point that out to us. The law leads us to see just how far short we fall of what God demands. It leads us to despair of any effort on our part to make up for sin. It leads us to the Gospel of free forgiveness in Christ which declares that Christ was so great a Substitute that we were actually crucified with him. Now the lives that we live we live not out of fear or duty or obligation but out of love and thankfulness and devotion. We are connected to Christ in his death and in his life. His death paid for our sin. His righteousness is ours through faith. The response of faith is to live for God.

PRAYER: *Jesus Christ, live in me that I may live for you. Amen.*

*Pastor Helwig*

# SCHOOL NEWS

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please permit an excerpt from the May 17, 2017, Closing Service for GLS this month -

Philippians 2:9-11 - **THEREFORE GOD EXALTED HIM TO THE HIGHEST PLACE AND GAVE HIM THE NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.**

Here Paul speaks to Christians in Macedonia - in what is sometimes called the Epistle of Joy. The Christians there were very happy and eager to support Paul and his ministry among them - as well as his traveling ministry. Paul was very excited to share Jesus with these people. These verses tell us just who this Jesus is.

What's in a name? Well here at Gethsemane, we find that some have difficulty in SPELLING our name. Just as many have some uncertainty about how to SAY our name. But here at Gethsemane we know there are those who know about the garden and the wine press that are at the heart of our name. We know it's a unique name, but we don't mind. I don't think our ministry has been hampered in any way due to our name. What really matters is happening, and continues to happen here at Gethsemane. Jesus Christ, crucified and raised to life, is preached and taught to as many students as we are blessed to have. At Gethsemane, Jesus is preached and taught, seen and heard, as the Answer. And so for over 1,000 hours a year, for almost 70 years now - the little children have come to Gethsemane - parents from our church and community have sent their children to Gethsemane - to hear about the Answer, Jesus Christ. They have come to hear how Jesus is the answer to all of their problems - especially their problems of sin, death, and the devil. From

the earliest of ages, they learned how Jesus is their perfect Savior, how he conquered death when he rose on Easter, and how he rendered the devil powerless through the actions and events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It's this name of Jesus, this fact that Jesus truly is the Answer that makes me think of Gethsemane along the same lines as Paul felt about the Philippians. With joy and great commitment, the ministry of the Word of God is supported. I pray that there was eagerness and excitement each and every time God's Word was opened. What's in a name? Well, if that name is Jesus - everything is in one particular name. To Him be the glory, for he IS the answer.

Jesus IS the answer,  
Mr. Pederson

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The end of the 2016-17 school year means that we have graduated our class of 2017. Gethsemane is very proud of our graduating class. May God continue to bless them as they go on from this place:

*Rylan D (NELHS), Jayden G (NELHS), Nathan H (NELHS), Izzy J (NELHS), Savannah K (Northwest HS), Kelsey P (NELHS), Henry R (Concordia HS), Aubrey S (Luther Prep School), Bode T (NELHS)*

The end of the 2016-17 school year means the close of Mr. Zimmermann's ministry at Gethsemane. Last winter Mr. Zimmermann accepted a call to Freemont, WI, to serve as upper grades teacher and principal. We thank him for his service to us as our 4-5<sup>TH</sup>, then 5-6<sup>TH</sup>, and finally 6<sup>TH</sup> grade teacher. He also served as our Athletic Director in the capacity of Assistant Principal. We wish him, along with Sarah, Seth, Zach, and Parker, all of God's richest blessings as they go on from this place.

Please look to help out with VBS 2017. It's coming up June 26-29. Students, donations, and helpers are all desired! Contact the office with any questions. Pastor K, Mrs. Roberts, and Mr. P are your contacts as well.

## **OWLS (ORGANIZATION OF WELS LUTHERAN SENIORS)**

### **COME JOIN US FOR THE MAY MEETING!**

On Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup>, the OWLS will join in the celebration and giving honor to our Veterans and those that protect our nation! We are planning to participate in the gathering at Omaha Memorial Park from 11 to 12:00. Then we are having lunch at Beacon Hills in the Aksarben Village, so please join us!! Meet at Dick Varner's house, 536 South 55<sup>th</sup> Street by 10:30 a.m. and bring a lawn chair! We will be consolidating rides because parking is limited at Memorial Park. If you need a ride to Dick's house please call Dick or Sandy.

If you cannot make the May Meeting, we have some future meetings you might be interested in:

JUNE 11- Meeting at Gethsemane for games and fellowship!

JULY 9- Picnic at Souring Wings Vineyard!

*Sandy T, Secretary*

# LWMS

## (LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY)

"Forth in the name of Christ we Go"

Happy summer!

The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual LWMS Convention is coming up this month! It will be held in Orlando, Florida, June 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Joy R will be attending from our church, and will hopefully give us a recap of the events when she returns. ☺

Start saving your pill bottles! CAMM would like to start collecting them again in the fall. Look for more information on when we will be collecting them this fall.

The Fall Rally will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. The guest speaker will be John Sebald, who will speak on "Truth in Love Ministry" (Outreach to Mormons).

The new Befriend a Missionaries information has arrived! We will be putting together gifts for them in September. The missionaries are:

- Home Missions-The work being done with the Hmong Mission, based out of Manitowoc, WI; Titus Lee.
- World Missions-One Latin America, Guanajuato, Mexico; Pastor Joel Sutton.

### June Prayer Requests

- Our new Befriend a Missionaries
- The attendees traveling to the LWMS Convention.
- The work being done in New York City.

Leslie B  
~Reporter



- **School Update:**

- We welcomed 15 graduates to the ranks of the NELHS alumni on Saturday, May 13. Their class verse was I Timothy 4:12 "*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.*" The valedictorian for the class was Samantha Edens of Omaha. The salutatorian was Audrey Rundgren of Overland Park, KS.
- Junior Nhi Nguyen from Vietnam and Junior Marcho Machado from Brazil were baptized in private ceremonies during the last week of school. We welcome these two to family of Christ!
- The boys' track team finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place and the girls' team finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Crossroads Conference track meet. The boys' track team won the first ever track district championship for NELHS on Wednesday, May 10. Ten athletes in eleven events qualified for the state track meet.
- We thank the Lord for the success of our students in our first year in the Crossroads Conference. NELHS finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 14 schools in the conference in the sweepstakes competition which is a combination of all extra-curricular events offered

by the conference (volleyball, one-act, boys basketball, girls basketball, speech, quiz bowl, band, choir, girls track, and boys track).

- **Association News:**

- Call News
  - NELHS was assigned two new tutors from Martin Luther College to replace our departing tutors. Ben Olsen will be working in the boys dorm and teaching Spanish. Sarah Schulte will be working in the girls dorm and teaching also.
  - Pastor Haakenson received a call to develop a Hispanic ministry in Waukegan, Illinois. We pray for him and Monica and the girls as he deliberates where to serve.
- As of the end of April, NELHS needs **\$108,000** in donations from our congregations and individuals to meet budgeted amounts by the end of June. Please consider making a one-time or monthly donation to help us meet these goals.
- **"This is Our School" Campaign**  
As of May 22, we have **34 donors** supporting our school monthly with **\$2,360** for a total of **\$28,320** a year. Please pray about this and consider making Nebraska Lutheran your school by supporting it with a monthly donation. Our goal is to get over 100 donors giving \$100,000 annually to the high school. Please consider supporting this campaign. You can start your monthly donation at [www.nelhs.org](http://www.nelhs.org).

- **Upcoming events:**

- June 11-14: All Sport Camp for elementary students in grades 5-9. Contact Benjy Wells at [bwells@nelhs.org](mailto:bwells@nelhs.org) if you would like registration information.
- July 15: Work Day at NELHS
- July 29: Tuition Assistance Golf Outing at Eldorado Hills Golf Course in Norfolk. Contact Benjy Wells at [bwells@nelhs.org](mailto:bwells@nelhs.org) for more information
- **Recruitment:** Our goal is 40 new students for next year. So far, **28** have applied (20 freshmen, 4 sophomores, 2 juniors, and 2 seniors). If you know of a family whom we can contact to tell about our ministry, please let Administrator Mark Otte know at [motive@nelhs.org](mailto:motte@nelhs.org) or call 402-728-5236. Keep praying!

*Mark Otte, Administrator*

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual NELHS Golf Classic

**"Tee it up for Tuition Assistance"**



Please join us for our tenth annual NELHS Golf Classic to be held at  
Eldorado Hills Golf Course in Norfolk on Saturday, July 29th.

The money raised for this tournament will go towards our Tuition Assistance Program. The cost per golfer includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, dinner and more! The deadline to submit your team is Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are unable to get a team together we will do our best to put you on a team. Any questions can be addressed to Benjy Wells via email at [bwells@nelhs.org](mailto:bwells@nelhs.org) or by phone at (402) 806-7564.



Date:	Saturday, July 29th
Registration:	12:00 pm
Time:	1:00 – 6:00 pm (meal and program to follow at 6:30)
Location:	Eldorado Hills Golf Course (Norfolk)
Golfers:	Four per team (best ball scramble format)
Cost: (team)	\$360.00
Cost: (individual)	\$90.00 (\$20.00 for meal only)
Prizes:	Yes! (flag prizes and door prizes)

*Mail your entry form with payment, payable to NE Lutheran High School, to:  
Nebraska Lutheran High School  
c/o Benjy Wells, Tournament Director  
203 Kendall Street  
Waco, NE 68460*

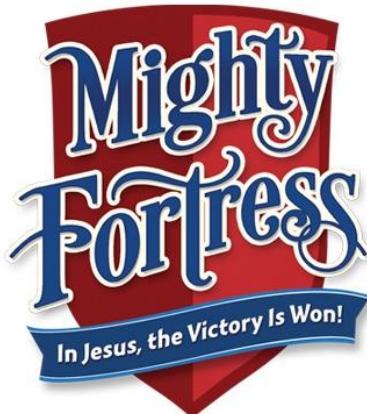
# DEACONS

Summer mowing and property maintenance is underway! New flowers have been planted in the pots and new baskets have been hung in the front of church. Thanks to our volunteer who takes care of this. It adds such a lovely welcome to our church!

Gamble's Cleaning will be stripping and waxing our floors the last week in July. Please heed requests for help in moving furniture and items from school rooms and the fellowship hall. Emails and bulletin announcements will be sent out when it comes closer to that time.

As always, 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



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

- Dates: June 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> (Monday – Thursday)
- Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Ages: Pre-K (Potty Trained) through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (Entering)
- Register online at GethsemaneLutheran.com or via the paper registrations located in member mailboxes or on the table in the fellowship hall.

# STEWARDSHIP

- Lutheran Night at the Storm Chasers
- June 5<sup>th</sup> is the annual Lutheran Night at the Storm Chasers. The game starts at 7:05, but join us beforehand for fellowship and tailgating. Hamburgers, brats and hot dogs will be provided, but each family attending the tailgate is asked to bring a side dish to share. Tickets are \$9, and there is a signup sheet in the fellowship hall. **Final day to sign up is May 28<sup>th</sup>.**
- Annual Gethsemane Camping Trip
  - The annual Gethsemane Camping Trip will be held August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at Fremont State Lake's Recreation Area. Join us for fun, relaxation and a camp-side devotion. There are 3 camper spots and 2 tent spots still available. Cost for the weekend is \$47.74. Please contact the church office if interested.

## **GOOD SHEPHERD CALL NEWS**

Good Shepherd extended a one year Call to Liz Koester to serve as their morning Kindergarten Teacher and as an Upper Grade Departmentalized Teacher in the afternoon. Please keep her in your prayers as she considers serving the Lord and his Church and our friends across town in this way.

Good Shepherd also Called their current 5-6 grade teacher (Mr. Joel Lauber) to be their new Principal (a permanent Call) as well as Upper Grade Departmentalized Teacher (primarily grades 7-8).

They also extended a permanent Call to Mr. Jeffery Schultz currently teaching in Minocqua, WI to be an Upper Grade Departmentalized Teacher (primarily grades 5-6).

Finally, they Called Pastor Dave Naumann, currently serving in Saginaw, MI, to be their next pastor. Pastor Naumann and his wife Rebecca (Horton) have three children ages 5 and under.

Please keep all of these Gospel Servants in your prayers as well as Good Shepherd and her ministry. Pastor Helwig continues to serve as the vacancy pastor.

## **SARPY COUNTY MISSION MEETING**

The WELS Nebraska District Mission Board invites all of you to a meeting on Wednesday, May 31, at 7 p.m. at Gethsemane Lutheran about the potential plant of a mission church in Sarpy County. This meeting is a follow-up to the meeting held in mid March, where substantial support for a Sarpy County mission church was expressed. WELS Mission Counselor Mark Birkholz will be joining us to talk about the ways WELS Omaha members can contribute to this gospel work.

## **IT'S CAMP TIME!**

### **Rocky Mountain Christian Camp**

Registration for Rocky Mountain Christian Camp is open. This year camp is running from July 15 to 22. All registrations will take place online this year. There are no forms to download. Please go to our website where they will find a link to our registration page. If we hit the max number of campers and junior counselors, applicants will be put on a waiting list, so please apply as soon as possible.

Rocky Mountain Christian Camp (RMCC), located in Leadville, Colorado gives our young people an opportunity for Christian fellowship with others of their same faith. RMCC aims to assist youth in their spiritual growth while offering them a unique camping experience in the Rocky Mountains. The camp is attended by youth from all over, including New Mexico, Utah, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

Youth entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade thru 9<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to attend as campers. Older teens who have just completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade may serve as Junior Counselors, provided they have attended RMCC in the past. The cost is \$130 per person (includes all food & tents).

For more information and to register ONLINE see: <http://www.rmcc-wels.com>.

## **WELS Teen Camp Jefferson**

Online registration is open for this camp which will take place Sunday, July 30 through Wednesday, August 2 in Fairbury, Nebraska. Teen Camp Jefferson is for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade through age 19. The cost is \$65.

Encourage your teens to join us for Bible study, games, movies, sports, crafts, swimming, and more! If you have questions, please call/text 402-310-8538 or email [welsteencamp@yahoo.com](mailto:welsteencamp@yahoo.com).

See the flyer on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall!

To all our dads:

