



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LI No. 16

August 15, 2017

The President's Corner

My dad would not believe many of the things that are happening in our world today. North Korea threatening the United States with nuclear weapons?! It sounds laughable on the surface, but tyranny in any form is frightening. Especially in full color HD all day every day.

I am comforted in *knowing* Who is really in charge.

Dad fought in the Korean Conflict. He came home in 1953 after spending more than a year there. He told me that his unit was the first to be deployed with newly issued "insulated boots". He described soldiers heading home with obvious frost-bite injuries. The new insulated boots were heavy and awkward, as he described them. He and his buddies were very grateful to have this extra protection against Korea's biting cold. Uncle Sam's army was doing its best to take care of our soldiers.

Dad passed away in August of 2009, several weeks after his 80th birthday. In today's world, there are still many things that my dad would recognize, and embrace. The sparkle and giggles of his great-grandchildren; some that he met while he was here on earth, others who will have to wait for an introduction and reunion in Heaven. Dad would be amazed by the efficiency and scale of today's modern farmer. He may have scratched his head at the hi-tech, air-conditioned, computerized cockpit of today's tractors and self-propelled implements, but a little training, and he would have jumped right in.

So far, as I have been talking about "my dad", you immediately know that I am talking about my earthly, flesh-and-blood father, the one who lived with my mother for 56 years, and was there every day of my childhood. In today's world of blended families and non-traditional domestic situations, "Dad" may not be biological, but a true "Dad" is the one who is there for the children. He ties shoes, wipes away tears and cleans up skinned knees. He reads stories and plays games or watches football with the kids. He makes room in his heart when the kids come running to him, frightened by a thunderstorm "or things that go bump in the night".

As Christians, we are blessed to have a Father in Heaven, one who Jesus called "Abba". In Mark 14:36, Jesus is praying in the garden of Gethsemane. In this darkest hour, Jesus cried out. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

"Abba" is an Aramaic word that most closely translates as "Daddy". Jesus and Paul encourage us to call Him "Daddy", too. In Romans 8:15, it says "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, (and daughters), by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Abba! Daddy! We need your help! Gethsemane Lutheran Church needs you. Please be with us and keep us safe from all spiritual harm as we stretch and grow, finding the path you have for us, that will guide us to the perfect pastor that you have already selected for us. Amen.



Sunday, Aug. 20 & 27 at 9:15
Beginning Sunday Sept. 3 at 10:30

“The Apocrypha”

Led by Doug Pennekamp,
meets in the Life Center

“The God of All Comfort”

Women Only – meets in the Library

“Faces of the Reformation”

For Young Adults – meets in Room 201 (upstairs)

Tuesday Morning Bible Class

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in the library to study God’s Word. The current study is from the book of John and led by Pastor Hilsabeck. Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate in this class; everyone is welcome.

AUTUMN GROUP TO RESUME

Autumn Group meetings resume Tuesday, September 12th at 10:00 am. The focus of the meetings is on fellowship and games. A brief devotion precedes a wonderful meal. The menu for September is potluck so bring your favorite dish to share. A freewill offering covers memorial gifts and a few other expenses. If you are fifty years or older and interested in attending, please come! For more information, please contact the church office (713-688-5227) or Autumn Group coordinator, Pat Herbrich (713-466-5071).



August 27, 2017

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 51:1-6
Romans 11:33-12:8
Matthew 16:13-20

September 3, 2017

The Bible readings are:

Jeremiah 15:15-21
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28



Save the date!!

DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2017

TIME: 12:00 TO ???

COST: FREEWILL DONATION



Gethsemane members who want to support the MANNA food bank may bring donations of non-perishable food and personal care items to church and leave them in the container located in the

Narthex. The collecting box is on the shelving to the left of the flower chart. Junelle Nittsche will take your donations to MANNA on a regular basis. Please take advantage of this opportunity to share God's blessings with our community.

Autumn Group Travelers



A trip is scheduled for Saturday, September 9 with an 8:15 am departure from Gethsemane. The first stop, before the day gets too hot, is the Sam Houston

Museum & grounds. Then lunch at McKenzies, followed by a visit to the Texas Prison Museum. Return to Gethsemane will be approximately 4 pm. Cost of the trip is \$8.00, not including your lunch. Please let Theresia know if you wish to sign up. She has reserved a 26 passenger bus.

FUN AND FELLOWSHIP TRIP

The Ark Encounter

Date: September 16 - 24, 2017
9 days - 8 nights

Cost: \$799 per person double occupancy

Itinerary

- **Ark Encounter** - Full size Noah's Ark built according to dimensions given in the Bible
- **Creation Museum** - Venture through biblical history
- **Newport Aquarium**
- **Cincinnati Botanical Gardens** at their famous Zoo
- Plus other great stops both coming & going

Visit with old friends and plan to make some new ones. Watch videos of our previous trips, play bingo and when time allows, play cards and/or dominos. Please join us for some Christian fun and fellowship! Please call Susan at 713-248-9661 for more information.

GETHSEMANE BEGINS ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Starting September 3, 2017

The elders, with the approval of the Church Council, have elected to combine the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services into one service at **9:00 AM**. Holy Communion will be offered every Sunday. Sunday School will follow at 10:30 AM. We believe that in this time of transition, one worship service will create a richer time of fellowship, allowing our members to better know one another. We will be able to share our joy, our fears, our happiness and our concerns with old and new friends in Christ.

This move to one service is not intended to be permanent. After our new pastor accepts our call, we will reevaluate our decision with the pastor and plan a new direction for Gethsemane.

In order to promote Church fellowship, breakfast will be provided at 7:30 AM on the 3rd, in the Life Center. If the congregation is enthusiastic about the breakfast, we are considering making this a weekly event. Please plan to join us for good food and even better company!



The Houston Lutheran Chorale is seeking new singers to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in music and song.

Who: All who love to sing – no required auditions

When: Rehearsals begin August 20 from 2 pm to 5 pm two Sunday afternoons each month.

Concerts are scheduled for:

December 1 at Memorial – Katy

December 2 at St Timothy – Houston

December 3 at Trinity – Downtown

A very special Reformation performance will be part of a Reformation celebration on October 22 at St. Mark Lutheran, Houston.

For More Information: call 832-489-6773 or for a proposed rehearsal schedule visit our web site at www.hlc-tx.org.

WE KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE. . . .

. . . .the school year just ended, but for the next couple of weeks stores will have their school supplies on sale. That will be the time to buy supplies for our Lutheran World Relief school backpacks. These are the backpacks that Ruth Circle assembles every spring.

This is what we need:

- ❖ 70-sheet spiral notebooks with wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8"x10 1/2"; **no** loose-leaf paper. **WE NEED 320 OF THESE NOTEBOOKS!!!!** Please keep that in mind when you shop and buy as many as the store allows. Thanks.
- ❖ 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with inches on one side and centimeters on the other
- ❖ Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ❖ Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- ❖ Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- ❖ Box of 24 crayons
- ❖ Money (if you don't want to shop) Give cash or a check (check made out to Sue Binford) to Sue Binford.

You may leave your school supplies in the container at the Coffee Bar. Thanks for your generous support of this Lutheran World Relief project.

Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday, September 6 and

Wednesday, September 20

9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!