



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LI No. 20

October 17, 2017

Tomorrow and Today

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known. Jer 33:3

Parables. Jesus quotes Isaiah the Prophet by saying "I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world" (Matt 13:35). The disciples asked Jesus "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given" (Matt 13:10-11) otherwise "they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them" (Matt 13:15b) because "the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened" (Heb 4:2). So, we can say that parables were given to hide the meaning from those who choose to reject Jesus and the message of God and to clarify or give a fuller meaning and understanding to those who believed on the Lord.

It is the lesson of a parable that is important to us. The story is not important in itself; it may or may not have literally happened, but it is most certainly TRUE. Was there really a "Good Samaritan" who took pity on an injured Jew? It doesn't matter. The story demonstrates the truth about love, mercy, and forgiveness.

I heard a story a long time ago that has stuck with me. Pastor Robert led a small church in a rough part of town. He had grown up there, and he knew firsthand how rough it was. As a teenager, he had been a member of a gang, and had done some very bad things. He later realized that the best thing that ever happened to him was his time in prison. He became a Christian there and started working other inmates to show them the truth. He had a gift and a good heart. After he was released, Robert finished his training and became a pastor.

Robert understood love, mercy, and forgiveness, but he was troubled about his youth. While in the gang, he had done something so terrible, he didn't see how he could ever be forgiven. He prayed, but he simply couldn't forgive himself.

There was an older woman, Helen, a member of the congregation, who didn't get out much. Her friends who knew her well thought she was a little bit eccentric. She loved Pastor Robert's visits and he loved to visit her. They would talk for hours. She was so filled with Christian love and joy, Robert was able for a brief time to forget his troubles. Some people thought that she was a little more than eccentric, but perhaps a bit crazy. She said that Jesus would come to visit her at her home, where they would talk the time away. (As she said, "He would just pop in!). She was so sincere, she was so happy. Everything she said about His visits was so right. Robert was confused, but intrigued. Could this be?

One time when Helen was going on and on about Jesus' visit, Pastor Robert couldn't help himself. He asked a favor of Helen. "Of course, Pastor, anything" she answered. "The next time our Savior stops by, please ask him about the terrible thing I did when I was young." Helen paused, but said she would, and added that Jesus was so happy with his work for the Kingdom. But she promised to ask. A week passed and Robert went to see Helen. As usual, she was joyful and happy. After a while, Robert's curiosity was too much. "Did our Lord come by to see you?" "Why, yes Pastor, he was just here." "Well? Did you ask him? What did he say?" "Pastor, when I asked, Jesus sat back in the chair and looked up at the sky. He thought for a minute, and then he said, 'Helen, I just don't remember'."

Did this story really happen? Probably not, but it is certainly true. That's the God we need. That's the Savior we have. We are forgiven.

I just finished watching the PBS series "The Vietnam War" by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Curtis

Bible Classes
Sunday morning at 10:30 am

“The Book of Matthew”
Led by Doug Pennekamp,
meets in the Life Center

“Prayer, an Adventure with God”
Led by Craig Mellott,
meets in the Life Center

“The God of All Comfort”
Women Only – meets in the Library

Various topics, led by Simon Martin
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.



The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 45:1-7
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 29, 2017

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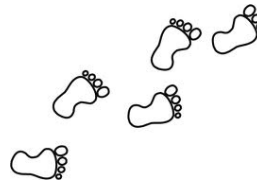
Revelation 14:6-7
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36



Autumn Group

Autumn Group will meet on Tuesday, **November 14**. The November meal is a turkey dinner in celebration of Thanksgiving! There will be turkey, ham, dressing, salads, cranberries, vegetables, bread or rolls, and desserts. We start at 10:00 am so come visit, play games and join everyone for the delicious meal at noon.

Gethsemane Preschool Walk-a-Thon



Little feet are walking to raise funds to benefit the preschool. This fun event will take place on October 24th & 25th, right after chapel.

Come watch the fun!

Week of October 22nd

*James & Barbara Willis and Meagan
Judy Wolf
Bernice Wolff
Jay Wren
Melvin Wren
David & Shannon Yaeger; Madison, Kyle, and
Morgan
Jeremy & Cristalle Yzaguirre and Sophia*

And the next seven families of our congregation for whom we ask your prayers the following week are:

Week of October 29th

*Georges Zemanek
Jordan & Melissa Aasgaard; Zachary, Hannah &
Ethan
Herta Adams
John & Sandy Adrian
Roy & Sharon Albe
Jackie Ambrose
Sharon Arney*

CHRISTMAS SWEET SHOPPE

A GENTLE REMINDER....

.... to be looking through your recipes for sweets to make for the Sweet Shoppe. Remember, only cookies, brownies, tea cakes, sweet breads (no larger than 2 ½ x 5"), and candy (individually wrapped or bagged) are needed. This year the SWEET SHOPPE will be open on **December 10**.

Billy Hejl

June 27, 1954 - September 25, 2017

Billy Hejl went to be with his Lord on September 25, 2017. He was born on June 27, 1954 in Tokyo, Japan to parents Terko and Robert Hejl. Billy was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Alice Hejl; two children: Craig Allen Hejl, Christopher Allen Hejl; two grandchildren: Lily Hejl, Jasmine Hejl; sister-in-law, Ruth Young and husband Bill; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews; and other family members.

The family received friends for a graveside service on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 1:30 pm at Brookside Memorial Park, 13747 Eastex Freeway, Houston, Texas 77039.

*Thank
You*

Many thanks to you, my church family. You were there for me at all times with your love, prayers, concern, cards, phone calls, visits, food, and anything else I needed. Thanks to the men and women who set-up tables and helped serve food before and after the service.

Harold and I spoke often about how blessed we were that God led us to Gethsemane. Please know that Harold loved you, and I do too.

May God continue to bless you and give you His peace.

Thank you - My love to you -
Johnnie



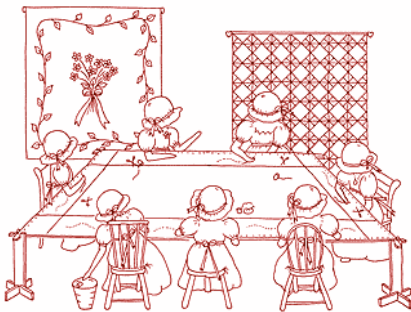
This year is flying by! We are so close to the holidays. The school is doing well, we have enrolled several new students, and we are getting excited about our October events.

October 24th and 25th we will have our annual Walk-a-thon fund raiser. This year the funds raised will go towards a new preschool sign in the parking lot. We are excited to have treats and stick on tattoos on this day as well. Please consider coming to this fun event. It will take place at 9:30 on both days in the gym.

On October 31st we will have a fall festival where the children will have a chance to trick or treat in the gym and receive a few different kinds of goodies. We will also have a pumpkin patch for our children. Parents please remember to bring in your pumpkin so your child can join in the fun on the 31st. All enrolled children are invited to attend. If you do not usually attend on Thursday, please be sure to have your child accompanied by an adult for the event.

I continue to pray that everyone affected by Harvey is beginning to get into a new normal routine. We will continue to pray for you, and please let us know if we can help in anyway.

In His Service
Kim Perry – Director



Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday, November 1
Wednesday, November 15
9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!



Enjoy dinner and fellowship in the Life Center on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm through November 29th (no meal on November 22nd)

Prices

Adults - \$4.00
Children ages 5 to 11 years - \$2.00
Children under 5 years - Free
"To go's" for homebound and caregivers - \$4.00
Other "To-go's" - \$5.00



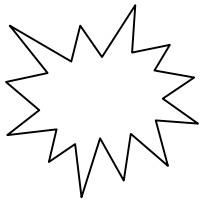
RUTH CIRCLE

The next meeting of the Ruth Circle will be held on Monday, October 30, at 9:30 am, in the church library. The Ruth Circle is a group of ladies who usually meet on the first Monday of the month (this time we are a week early) for a Bible lesson and short business meeting. We also have refreshments and a time to visit and enjoy fellowship with each other.

The Ruth Circle is a part of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) which is a nationwide group of ladies, made up of State organizations, made up by zone groups. We support the Texas District's LWML budget for mission projects. At Christmas we help the flower chairman with the church decorations and also trim the tree, which will happen on Monday, November 27. Also in November, we help prepare and provide the Thanksgiving baskets.

Our annual projects include collecting school supplies and, in the spring, filling kits for Lutheran World Relief. Some of us are involved in making tie quilts, also for Lutheran World Relief. We will be planning a spring lunch with a guest speaker. The lunch proceeds will benefit the LWML mission projects.

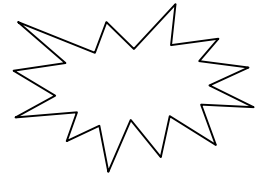
Please come and visit – we would love to have you.



GETHSEMANE'S ANNUAL BARBEQUE & PICNIC

OCTOBER 22, 2017

12 NOON TO ????



COME ONE, COME ALL AND ENJOY THE DAY WITH US!!!!

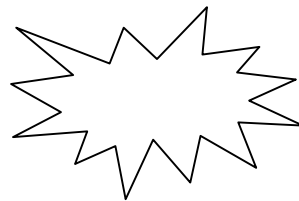
WORSHIP WITH US AT 9:00 then JOIN A BIBLE CLASS AT 10:30
AND STAY FOR THE DAY

THE DAY INCLUDES:

A DELICIOUS BARBEQUE MEAL WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS
(FREEWILL DONATION)

BENEFITS TEXAS DISTRICT DISASTER RELIEF FUND

SILENT AUCTION



BINGO & TABLE GAMES FOR THE ADULTS

TOUR A FIRE TRUCK – 12:30 PM

500th Reformation Anniversary Celebration – Special Events

**Thursday, October 26, 6:30 pm at the
Studio Movie Grill in City Centre**

A showing of *Martin Luther: The Idea That Change the World* (limited seating, advance ticket purchase is required. See website – www.500forward.org - for more information)

**Saturday, October 28, 10 am – 3:00 pm at
St. Mark Lutheran Church**

500Forward Festival includes fun for all ages. Featuring the Lutheran area Mass Choir, band and handbell performances, and the Houston Lutheran Choral; and children's activities, art exhibits, worship services, music, booths, charities, local food vendors, and more!

**Sunday, October 29, 2:30 pm at
Trinity Lutheran Downtown**

Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Houston will host a concert to highlight the musical heritage of the Lutheran church over the centuries and close out the **500Forward** celebration

For more information, visit www.500forward.org or contact Simon Martin



Lutheran High North Presents “Cheaper by the Dozen”

Fall Comedy - **Saturday, October 21**, at 7:00 pm,
and **Sunday, October 22**, at 3:00 pm

Come see this hilarious comedy! Enjoy delicious desserts from the 4th Annual Dessert Bake Off. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per adult. All students and children attend FREE. Call 713-880-3131 for more information.

Find out what happens when the three oldest girls in the family discover boys at school while dealing with a father who is a determined efficiency expert in a family with twelve children. Kids of all ages (from 3 to 100) will enjoy the humor and important message in this show: “Right now is the happiest time in the world, when the whole family is together.”

Grand Celebration at Our Savior marking 500 Years of Reformation

Date: Sunday, October 29

Time: 4:00 PM

Where: Our Savior Lutheran Church
5000 W. Tidwell Rd, Houston

Celebrate this important milestone in the life of His church by giving thanks to God at a special WORSHIP service featuring a mass choir, orchestra, and bells followed by a LUTHERFEST of the highest order, with delicious food (brisket, sausage, potatoes au gratin, mac & cheese, vegetable medley, and desserts), live musical entertainment by Das Ist Lustig, and a presentation of DAS LUTHER SPIEL (The Luther Play).

The Worship Service begins at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary, followed by the food and festivities in the gym area. Admission is FREE, but please RSVP for everyone who will attend so Our Savior can plan accordingly: www.OSL.cc or call 713.290.9087



Prayer Service

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Celebrating 75 Years of Commending Christ From One Generation to Another

One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts (*Psalms 145*)

November 5th at 2:00 pm
Concordia Lutheran Church
4115 Blalock Road
Houston, 77080