



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LII No. 2

January 16, 2018

Today and Tomorrow

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

It has been said that if you hear hoof beats, it might not be horses. It just might be zebras. Probably not, but maybe. That which we expect, is not always true.

A Fringe Science is an idea that is very different from, or opposed to, concepts that for many years had been accepted by the mainstream scientific community as true and correct. My childhood pastor, Pastor Mueller, told me about “continental drift.” For centuries, it had been believed that the earth was a solid, unchanging rock; but, in the 1950’s, someone suggested that the continents were floating on a deep, hot ocean of liquid rock and iron found at the center of the earth. Crazy, right? But now, it is accepted as fact.

Galileo Galilei, in the late 1500’s, built one of the first telescopes. He was the first man to see the four large moons of the planet Jupiter. After a few days of observation, it was obvious to him that those moons were orbiting Jupiter, and not the earth. At that time, this was in direct opposition to the Church’s teachings - that the earth was the center of creation. Galileo faced excommunication, and even death, unless he recanted. Crazy, right? But, his findings are a fact. These are two examples of Fringe Science. Ideas that are so different and crazy from what had been accepted, they can’t possibly be true. But they are.

Since ancient times, worshiping a god (or gods), usually meant trying to please an angry, all-powerful being. Doing something wrong and angering a god, often meant facing his wrath and accepting his punishment. Even today, in some modern religions, heaven is not a guarantee. With some, there is always the uncertainty, the balance of good deeds and bad deeds, hanging over one’s head. The Jews of the Bible had a myriad of laws to obey. Breaking one meant displeasing God and undergoing a ritual of cleansing and purification. And, who could remember all the laws? That’s the way it is with a deity demanding obedience and sacrifice. It’s not quite knowing where you stand. Not knowing if you’ve done enough to please him.

But then something wonderful happened. The true God revealed Himself to us. God revealed himself to his people as someone totally different than expected. Not an angry god, but a God who loves His Creation, who loves His people. Not a warrior king, sent to overthrow governments and establish an earthly empire, but a servant, who suffered to make us whole. Not a god who demands sacrifices from us and delights in our misery, but the true God who has offered the greatest sacrifice for us. Not a god who weighs what good we have done against what evil we have done, but the God who judges us on faith.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Ps 51:17

He sent His Son to live among us as a baby, a little boy, and a young man. The God who sent his Son to do for us what we cannot do- to live the perfect life, to please the Father.

Two thousand years ago, there were many who heard the hoof beats but refused to see the truth. What they saw was something they did not expect and could not understand. But there were a few who heard the zebras. They saw the truth. They saw God, the son of God. They spread the truth. A God who loves us? A God who sent his Son to die for us? That’s crazy. That’s on the fringe.

Yes, thank God, that’s crazy, and it’s true.

Next time I’ll write a few of my thoughts about the tragedy we had a few weeks ago in the church parking lot.

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 class is beginning a new study to be led by Pastor Hilsabeck. The topic is the Pastoral Epistles: 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate in this class; everyone is welcome.



Autumn Group

The Autumn Group will welcome the New Year with games and a meal on **Tuesday, February 13th**. The menu includes soup or stew, sandwiches, salads, cornbread, crackers and desserts. We start at 10:00 am so come early to visit, play games and then join everyone for the meal at noon. If you need to know what you signed up to bring, call Pat Herbrich at 713-466-5071.



January 28, 2018

The Bible readings are:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthian 8:1-13
Mark 1: 21-28

February 4, 2018

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Mark 1:29-39

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers beautify the sanctuary of our church, and are a gift to God and to those who attend our worship services. Placing flowers in church is a meaningful way to honor or remember a loved one. The new flower chart is posted in the narthex. There are many openings in February, March and April. The cost of one arrangement is \$25.00.



Dear friends at Gethsemane,

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls while I was in therapy. Also, a special 'thank you' to Pastor McNamara for his visits and prayers.

In Christ,
Bernice Wolff



I cannot believe we are half way through January 2018. We have so many things to be thankful for this year. As I planned for the administrator meeting held at Gethsemane on January 11, I reflected on Joshua 1:1-9, "Do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go," After the events from last year we all need to be reminded that He is always there for us.

This month we look forward to celebrating Dad's. Yes, I know Father's day is in June; however we like to shake things up a bit. We will have 'Doughnuts with Dad' on the 18th of this month and welcome many wonderful daddies to join us on this day.

The teachers will be attending a conference at the end of the month. The school will be closed on Jan. 25th and 26th to allow the teachers to travel to Marble Falls for this amazing conference. It gives the staff a great time to reconnect and to learn so much.

In His Service
Kim Perry - Director
Gethsemane Lutheran Preschool
713-688-8346
kim.a.perry@sbcglobal.net

Fun & Fellowship Trip

The next trip is to Branson, Missouri. The date is April 9-14, 2018. The cost is \$569 per person (double occupancy). This trip includes seven fabulous Branson shows, "Sampson" at the Sight and Sound Theatre, and the Branson Belle Showboat. For more information, call Susan.

Autumn Group Trip

The next trip is "in town" to Smiles, Inc. on Wednesday, April 11th. Further details will be forthcoming. Theresia welcomes your suggestions for lunch or another stop in town.



My thanks to everyone who helped to make the sanctuary so beautiful this Christmas. Special thanks goes to the members of Ruth Circle, Ken & Pat Herbrich, George & Clarice Aschenbeck and all those that helped with the decorations and poinsettias making our church a beautiful sight again this year.

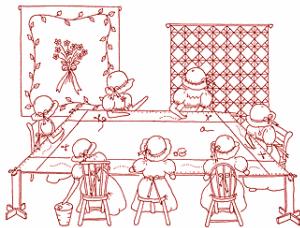
Susan Wasson
Flower Chairman

Volunteers Needed to help with worship at Brookhollow Heights

If you have some free time on Thursday afternoons, please consider volunteering with Sharon Albe at Brookhollow Heights Transitional Care Center. Volunteers invite the residents to the worship service, distribute the music books, and help the residents find the right page, and so forth. If you are interested, please contact Sharon.

Tie Quilters accepting donation of sheets

The quilting group is in need of more sheets. If you have **clean, gently used sheets with no stains or holes** that you no longer need, please donate them to the quilters. They will turn them into quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you have questions, contact Loretta Schlobohm.



Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday, February 7

Wednesday, February 14

9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!

FAMILY NIGHT

Enjoy dinner and fellowship in the Life Center on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm from
February 7th through March 21st
(No family night March 28th)

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

47th Annual Good Samaritan Benefit Dinner and Country Store

Date: January 28, 2018

Place: St. Andrew Lutheran Church
1353 Witte Road, Houston, Texas 77043

Time: Serving begins at 10:45 am; ends at 1:30 pm

Prices: Adults - \$10.00; Children 5-11 years - \$5.00
Free for children under 5 years old
Dessert is included!

**Proceeds from the sales will benefit the
"Good Samaritan Homes-Cypress"**

For tickets contact:

Church office @ 713-468-9565

The Country Store is brought to you by the Good Samaritan Auxiliary.

The Houston Lutheran Chorale, under the direction of Kerry Talley, is seeking singers to celebrate the birth of our nation on the 4th of July. **No auditions are required!!!** You only need to love the Lord and love to sing. Chorale rehearsals begin for the spring season on Sunday afternoon, January 28, 2018 at 2:00 P.M. Rehearsals are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 800 Houston Avenue. For more information call 832-489-6773 or visit the Chorale's website at <http://www.hlc-tx.org>.

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Used and unusual stamps are collected by Lutheran World Relief and the proceeds are used to mail quilts, school kit bags, and other disaster relief materials. If you have used and unusual stamps, you may bring them to the church narthex and place the stamps in the designated box. Loretta Schlobohm will send them to the correct person. When cutting the stamps from the envelopes, please leave at least a 1/4 inch edge around the stamp.

"What Do I Have?"

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant?

Eyes, he said,
to see the beauty in all that I've made —
and my children as they travel life's highway.

Hands, he said,
to reach out and touch hurting souls,
to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

Feet, he said,
to lead my children through this world of strife
and to help them run from sin and follow me.

Mouth, he said,
to lift up your voice and sing praises to me
so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, he said,
to listen to my still, small voice of love
and to hear my children when they cry for help.

Heart, he said,
so you may know the full love of my Spirit
and love my children as I have loved you.

—Thomas Butler