



# THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LII No. 8

April 17, 2018

## 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*

Our daughter, Miriam, was married in February. She and her new husband, James, both lived in New York City, but they had the wedding in San Antonio, which was a very good idea, considering the recent cold and stormy weather in the northeast. Lisa and I were delighted that they chose San Antonio, since that is also where we were married. Plus, they held the ceremony in the same church as us! It's a beautiful church in a beautiful city. We are so happy for them.

Since we were going to spend most of the week in San Antonio, we decided to take our older dog, Westley, with us, just to keep an eye on him. Our younger dog, Neko, is a tough street mutt that we adopted from a rescue group. Our teenage neighbor, Carla, was to come by our house twice a day to feed him and make sure everything was OK. We also have security cameras in the kitchen and in the back yard that let me check on him. I had no problem letting Neko stay by himself for a few days.

But, Neko had a different opinion. Very late that first night, I used my computer to access our cameras. Neko was standing by the door, terrified, barking every few seconds. *Where are they?? No one has been here for hours! Where is Westley?? My little buddy is always here!* As you might imagine, I was very disturbed. I tried to sleep, but every few hours, I woke up and checked the camera. There he was. Still frantically barking, looking at the kitchen door, at the back door, and into the living room. But no one was there. I quickly realized that Neko had never been alone and didn't know what was going on. First thing in the morning, we called Carla and asked her to spend more time with Neko— not just to give him food and water, but to give him the companionship he so desperately needed.

That helped a little, and got him (and me) through the week. But when we got home, Neko joyfully leapt into Lisa's arms. Everything was forgiven. Everything was OK. Everything was back to normal. It's like nothing ever happened.

J.R.R. Tolkien, the great British writer, said something that goes like this: *the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ assures that, one day, everything sad will come untrue.* C.S. Lewis, in his book, *The Great Divorce*, wrote:

*"... Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory." Jesus said to his disciples (and to us) "So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy." John 16:22*

Can you imagine? All our sadness, all our heartache, all our loneliness—gone? Jesus has undone everything the liar has done to trip us up. All the lies, all the confusion, all the pain. Gone. Forever. Gone.

Don't just imagine. Believe!

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." *Rev 21:4*

Neko didn't know if we were ever coming back home, but we knew and we did. Neko is OK now.

We all know that Jesus is coming back. He said he would. We are OK now, but we are going to be perfect, soon.

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" *Rev 22:20*

Yours in Christ Jesus, Curtis



### **Bible Classes**

Sunday morning at 10:30 am

#### ***“The Book of Mark”***

Led by Doug Pennekamp,  
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**

Autumn Group will meet **Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** for the final get together before the summer break. We will be having barbecue brisket, BBQ beans, potato salad, coleslaw, bread, pickles, onions, jalapenos, desserts and ice cream. Fun begins at 10:00 am, so come early to visit and play games with your friends and join everyone for the meal at noon.

## **Daylily Show & Plant Sale**

**Date: May 12, 2018**

***“Celebrate Daylilies – Texas Style”***

***Presented by***

The Houston Hemerocallis Society

and

The Houston Area Daylily Society



1:00 to 3:00 PM



**Free Admission**

**Potted daylilies for sale from**

**10 am – 3 pm**

**in the playground area**

**Location:**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
4040 Watonga, Houston, TX 77092

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Joe & Patsy Green were received into membership at Gethsemane on Sunday, April 15, 2018. Patsy is a charter member of Gethsemane. She and Joe have recently moved back to Houston from Livingston, Texas.



#### **April 29<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 8:26-40  
1 John 4:1-21  
John 15:1-10

#### **May 6<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 10:34-48  
1 John 5:1-8  
John 15:9-17



Our summer enrollment is filling up! We only have a few spaces left in the infant class, and we are excited about all of our summer activities.

This year our theme for summer camp will be the 'Fruits of the Spirit!' We will enjoy learning about the way God wants us to live and what characteristics we should try to show others.

This month we will celebrate Earth Day, and I am in the process of ordering our yearly caterpillars that we will watch grow into butterflies. Be on the lookout for them in the classrooms.

Our teachers are excited about these last six weeks of class, and we are looking forward to a fun filled day at graduation. This year we will have eight graduates! We would love to have you join us on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm for the ceremony in the sanctuary and also for the reception (in the GLC) that immediately follows the ceremony.

We still have some spaces available for the fall, so if you or someone you know are looking for a Christ centered play based school, I would love to show them around.

In His Service  
Kim Perry - Director

## **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PROJECTS AT GETHSEMANE**

On April 2, Gethsemane's Quilters sent 33 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. **The most ever.** With just a few more quilters they can beat that number next year. The quilters meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month in the Life Center. All you need to know about tie quilting will be taught and is easily learned. Please come and join the fun and laughter and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. Try it, you'll like it!!

Also on April 2, Ruth Circle, with the help of many, many others, sent 80 school kits to Lutheran World Relief. You are welcomed to join Ruth Circle on the 1st Monday of each month at 9:30 a.m. in the Library for Bible study, refreshments, and fellowship. In the spring the circle will be working on school kits. Try it, you'll like it, too!!!!

## **Call Committee**

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

You may have heard by now that Pastor Eden has returned our Call. This does not mean that he has rejected our congregation! It means that he prayerfully struggled with the decision to serve the Lord in Sulphur Springs or in Houston. He was led by the Holy Spirit to continue his ministry in Sulphur Springs.

This does not mean that we have failed – as a committee or as a congregation. This is part of the Divine Call process. The emphasis is entirely on the Spirit – not on us.

The next step in the call process is to submit new nominations for a pastoral candidate to the Texas District. The district president's office will determine if the nominee can receive a call at the present time. The names of suitable candidates will be combined with other candidates from the entire LCMS, and the list will be returned to our committee. We will prayerfully review all information available for the candidates, conduct interviews, and with your help, select one to Call. I will keep you informed every step of the way.

Beginning on Sunday April 15 through Sunday April 29, nomination forms will be available in the narthex and in the church office. If you don't see them, ask an elder or usher for one.

On the back of the nomination forms is a list of the requirements our congregation has for a pastor. Please review these requirements and prayerfully consider them when nominating a candidate. **Please return completed forms by Monday, April 30.**

Keep praying for our congregation, our committee, and our pastor-to-be. In due season, God will reveal.

In His Service,  
Craig Mellott

## **Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief**

Wednesday, May 2  
Wednesday, May 16  
9:30 am in the GLC

***Everyone is welcome!***

**The first Houston-wide LCMS Young Professionals** event was a great success! About 40 Young Professionals from different congregations met at 8th Wonder Brewery for fun and fellowship on April 7th. The Gethsemane Young Professionals enjoyed making new friends and are looking forward to future events!



First meeting of the LCMS Houston Young Professionals

## Fun & Fellowship Trip

The next planned trip is to the Garden of the Gods, Royal Gorge & Colorado Springs. The date is September 8-16, 2018. Details are coming soon!

## Autumn Group Trip

The next trip Theresia is planning will be to Lake Jackson to view daylilies in the gardens of two members of the daylily club. The date is May 22 and the departure time is 8:20 am.

Future trips in the works: June 9 – Seaport Museum & harbor tour in Galveston; October 6 – Round Top.



# Women of the Church Spring Luncheon

## Saturday, April 21, 2018



**Start Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Presentation:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Lunch:** Following Presentation  
**Guest Speaker:** Donna Pyle, Author, Speaker

### **Forgiveness: Received From God, Extended to Others**

*“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.” Colossians 3:13-14*

### **Donna Pyle**

Donna Pyle has a passion for studying and teaching God’s Word. Since launching Artesian Ministries ten years ago, she has traveled throughout the U.S. and internationally to speak and teach where the Lord opens doors.

Donna has written over 30 Bible studies, including four books, three DVD-Bible study series, and many devotions. She writes regularly on her blog and seeks to find God’s beauty in the quiet and His sacred in the chaos.

Donna serves as a Houston volunteer team leader for Love 146, which seeks to abolish child trafficking and exploitation. She also serves on the Board of Directors at Camp Lone Star, a Lutheran camp dedicated to teaching God’s Word to children and adults amidst the beautiful Texas Hill country.

Donna loves social media and engaging there with the next generation. She attends Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, Texas, where serves on the worship team and with the Lutheran Women in Mission.

Donna is a life-long Texan and enjoys studying Scripture, writing, and traveling. She’s a marginal housekeeper, dabbling gardener, and closet chef, but home is always her favorite place to be.

**Tickets: \$10.00\* - purchase from circle members**

\*supporting LWML Mission Projects

**Make reservations by E-mail - [glchouston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glchouston@sbcglobal.net),  
[hirschkf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hirschkf@sbcglobal.net)**

**By phone—713-688-5227 [church]  
Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
4040 Watonga Blvd., Houston, TX 77092**



## LUTHERAN HIGH NORTH'S 36TH ANNUAL SPRING MUSICAL

Friday and Saturday, April 27 & 28, at 7:00 pm

You may reserve seats online at [www.lutheranhighnorth.org](http://www.lutheranhighnorth.org) by clicking on the RED "HONK! Tickets" button, OR, just come to the show. There are plenty of good seats with unobstructed sight lines and a state of the art wireless microphone system. For questions or more information call 713-880-3131.

HONK! is the traditional story of the Ugly Duckling, with wonderful music, and a message important for this time in history, suitable for children and adults of all ages.

### Camp Lone Star First Annual Work Weekend

Serving the Lord at Camp

May 25-27 will be Camp Lone Star's first annual work weekend. Participants will come together that weekend in Christian fellowship while preparing Camp Lone Star for the arrival of over 2,000 children and adults for the summer programming.

Entire families are welcome to participate. Camp Lone Star staff will lead the youth and children in age-appropriate service projects and recreational activities.

This weekend kicks off Friday evening and lasts through worship on Sunday; however, come for any part of the weekend as your time allows.

The event is free, but lodging space is limited and will be awarded in order of registrations received.

Contact LOMT at 979-968-1657 or by email at [lomt@lomt.com](mailto:lomt@lomt.com) about this event.

## Evangelical Life Ministries – April programming

ELM exists to proclaim Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for us to a sin-laden world. Their "divine calling" is to use technology to disseminate the Gospel to the nation and the world. Programs for April are listed below. If you miss a broadcast, you can listen to it through the ELM website. Go to [www.elmhouston.org/](http://www.elmhouston.org/) and click on the Engaging Truth button.

### Broadcast on 100.7 KKHT "The Word"

#### April 1

7 pm Pastor Al Doering, Christ the King, Kingwood, "Easter Message"

7:30 pm Pastor John Cain, Redeemer, Nacogdoches, "Easter Message"

#### April 8

7 pm Authors Brian and Leah Foutz, "Walking Through Grief"

7:30 pm Junior Class of 2018 - Darrington Penitentiary Seminary

#### April 15

7 pm Grove Norwood, Heart of Texas Foundation, "Building Seminaries"

7:30 pm Pastor David Schultz, "Resurrection Evidence"

#### April 22

7 pm Pastor Chris Singer, Trinity, Spring, "Good Friday and Easter Joy"

7:30 pm Dr. Jerry Kieschnick, "The Church of 2050"

#### April 29

7 pm Pastor Tim Carter, Salem Lutheran, Tomball, "Ministry of Prayer"

7:30 pm Author Donna Pyle, "Forgiveness"

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD LAYS DOWN HIS

LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.

JOHN 10:11

