



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LII No. 12

June 19, 2018

The President's Corner

"It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood."

What memories does this phrase summon? Set it to music, and you have the theme song for a TV program that ran for 31 seasons, beginning in 1968. If you have not heard of **Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood**, ask your kids - or your grandkids. Or maybe your parents. Fred Rogers was a Presbyterian minister called by God to reach the children of the world through television. The first episode of his show was broadcast on the PBS network from the studios of WQED Pittsburgh, on Feb. 19, 1968.

Fred Rogers wrote the music, did the voices of the puppets, wrote the scripts, and talked face-to-face to millions of viewers. He talked simply to the children, in language and images they could easily understand, and faithfully delivered his message: "I like you just as you are." (This was a song he sang on that first show.) This was Fred Rogers' message to everyone; generations of children, his family, his co-workers, Congressional committees, even Johnny Carson.

In the wake of so many shootings and other atrocities, people in the media are currently discussing Fred Rogers' Neighborhood -- trying to find a way to re-create the "magic" he conveyed to his listeners. I heard one say that he equipped children to endure "the trauma of being a person in our culture." As Christians, we know that this message relayed by Mr. Rogers appears over and over in the Bible. Among other places, it is in Leviticus 19:17b **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**.

This ministry of Fred Rogers was God-ordained--God's creation. The development of this show required years of hard work, much prayer, and many miracles. Here is one particular miracle that brought God's message of love, through Mr. Rogers, to a dying, lost world.

The first season of the show was broadcast locally in Pittsburgh about a year earlier than the 2/19/68 broadcast. Funding was an ever-present problem. In the second year, the Eastern Educational Network offered the Neighborhood a chance to broadcast in Boston, Washington D.C., Chicago, New York, Miami, and San Francisco. Funding was still a problem, and there were very real fears that the show would be cancelled. As part of its publicity efforts to boost the program, WGBH in Boston decided to hold an open house and prepared for some 500 guests. On the appointed day, they were overwhelmed with more than **10,000 people** -- more than attended the Red Sox game on the same day. Shortly after that reception, the **Sears-Roebuck Foundation** agreed to underwrite the Neighborhood.

This is the same Sears-Roebuck store that has been in the news this year for closing many of their stores. They have been in financial decline, unable to compete with online retailers. This is the same Sears-Roebuck who published a catalog. As a kid, I did a lot of shopping (imaginary and real) in that catalog. Many Boomers and their parents shopped there, too. From now on, I will remember Sears as more than just another retailer. I hope their example shines forever:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** *Matthew 6:19-21* May the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Craig Mellott

P.S. if you want to do some research, go to www.neighborhoodarchive.com. Mr. Rogers was the real deal. Check it out.

Bible Classes

Sunday morning at 10:30 am

“The Book of Luke”

Led by Doug Pennekamp,
meets in the Life Center

“A Study of Abraham: Created to be God’s Friend”

Led by Pastor Jerry
meets in the Sanctuary

“The God of All Comfort”

Women Only – meets in the Library

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 is on break for the summer. The next meeting will be September 11th. The fun begins at 10:00 am, so plan to come early to visit and play games with your friends and then join everyone for the meal at noon.



July 1, 2018

The Bible readings are:

Lamentations 3:22-33
2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43

July 8, 2018

The Bible readings are:

Ezekiel 2:1-5
2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Mark 6:1-13



The Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Junelle Nittsche has introduced us to the group, through her niece who is married to the founder, Rev. Ray Wilke.

Orphan Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. Since 1992, Orphan Grain Train's 26 regional locations have delivered more than 18 million meals and 2,858 shipments of humanitarian aid to needy people in various states and 66 countries on 5 continents. They also have an Adopt an Orphanage program that assists orphan around the world.

The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ’s example as a servant and His love for us.

For more information about this worthy group, or to find out how to make a donation or help with their mission, check out their website at www.ogt.org

PULL-TAB PROGRAM

Save your pull-tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House here in Houston. Pull-tabs are being collected in a jug located in the gathering area. The tabs will be given to the Ronald McDonald House to recycle for money to help pay the expenses of the program. If you have questions, contact Sharon Albe of Ruth Circle.



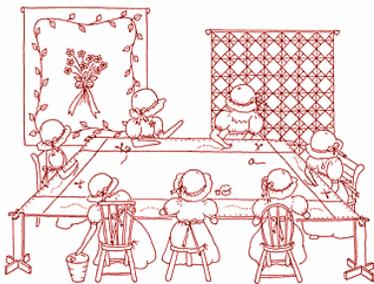
Our summer session is in full swing. We are enjoying splash day twice a week and all the other fun activities that go along with summer. I am looking forward to the rest of summer camp.

We are already looking ahead to the fall semester. We still have space in our toddler class and pre-k class. If you know someone who is interested please send them our way.

I pray you are all doing well and enjoying some summer time fun!

In His Service,

Kim Perry - Director



Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday, July 18

9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!

Collection for Manna's Food Bank

Support the MANNA food bank! Bring donations of non-perishable food to church and leave them in the container located in the Narthex. In addition to canned food, MANNA accepts bags of flour, sugar, cornmeal, and etc. Junelle Nittsche delivers the donations to MANNA on a regular basis. Please take advantage of this opportunity to share God's blessings with our community.



The **LCMS Young Professionals group** held a Summer BBQ Bash at Memorial Lutheran Church on June 16th. Members from the Gethsemane Young Professionals enjoyed delicious BBQ, playing lawn games, and getting to know fellow Lutherans from nearby congregations! This is a new Houston-wide LCMS Young Professionals group and all Young Professionals are encouraged to stay tuned for future events!

Fun & Fellowship Trip

The next trip is to the Colorado Springs area. The following attractions will be visited: Garden of the Gods, the U. S. Air Force Academy, the Royal Gorge (includes bridge & aerial tram), historic Manitou Springs at the foot of Pike's Peak, guided tour of Colorado Springs, and the U.S. Olympic Training Center.

Date: September 8-16, 2018

Cost: \$809 per person (based on double occupancy)

The price includes motor coach transportation, eight nights lodging (four consecutive nights in Colorado), and fourteen meals (eight breakfasts and six dinners). Call Susan for more information.

Family Night

Enjoy dinner and fellowship in the Life Center on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm from June 6 through July 25th (No Family Night on July 4th)

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



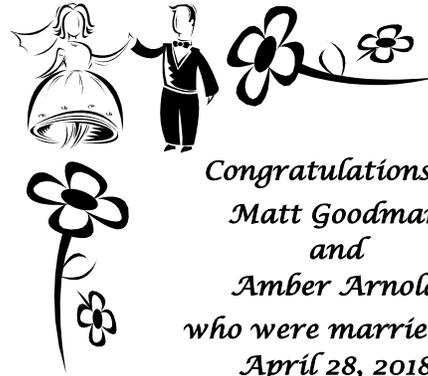
I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the members of Gethsemane who gave money to the church in memory of my husband, Daniel Vernon. It was a great comfort to our family and me to know that your thoughts and prayers were with us during this difficult time.

Your sister in Christ,

Ella



We rejoice with Clint and Megan Kettler at God's gift to them of a healthy son, Liam James Kettler, born on May 18, 2018. Liam weighed 9 lbs. and was 20 inches long. He joins his big brother, Bryce. The proud grandparents are Steve & Jay Jay Kettler. May God bless and keep this family in His loving care.



Congratulations to Matt Goodman and Amber Arnold who were married on April 28, 2018 in Ft. Worth, Texas

We wish them God's richest blessings!

Matt Goodman & Amber Arnold
4414 Cedar Springs Rd #303
Dallas, TX 75219-2030

INSTALLATION OF THE REV. KEITH ASCHENBECK

You are invited to Grace Lutheran Church for the installation celebration of **Rev. Keith Aschenbeck** on Sunday, June 24th at 3:30 pm Reception and dinner to follow

Grace Lutheran Church
9806 NE Zac Lentz Parkway
Victoria, Texas 77904

Please RSVP to 361-573-2232



Houston Lutheran Chorale Independence Day Concert

“Revive Us Again”
Wednesday, July 4, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
800 Houston Ave
Houston, TX 77007
713-229-2932

NO TICKETS REQUIRED

*After the concert enjoy hot dogs, Frito pie, ice cream
and cookies (free will offering)*

*Then stay for the City of Houston fireworks
Bring your own lawn chair to sit outside in the
parking lot for a great view*

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### **Immanuel's SUMMER Hamburger Fry**

at the main Immanuel Campus:

306 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street

**June 21<sup>st</sup> AND July 19<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

\$3.50 for hamburger & fixings

\$.50 each for drink, chips

\$.75 each for potato salad, pie

*Benefits Friends of Down Syndrome*

## **Rev. Michael Newman, elected President of the Texas District**

On Thursday, June 14, 2018, Rev. Michael Newman was elected at the 61<sup>st</sup> Texas District Convention as the next president of the Texas District effective September 1, 2018.

Rev. Newman is currently serving as Texas District Mission & Ministry Facilitator, Area C. He has been in this role since 2008. Prior to working for the district he was at Concordia San Antonio as associate pastor for four years. Rev. Newman has been a member of the synod for 31 years and was ordained in 1987.

Rev. Newman made the following statements about his goals if elected president:

“By God’s grace and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, to STRENGTHEN congregations, schools, church workers, church members and agencies in their Gospel mission and service; to SERVE the members of the district by representing them faithfully on a Synodical level; to STEWARD district resources well as we partner in ministry and in the development of new mission efforts; and to SHARE the love and Good News of Jesus through faithful communication and Christ-centered conduct in the fulfillment of the duties of district president,”

Over the next few months, President Ken Hennings will be working closely with Rev. Newman to ensure a smooth transition.

## **CAMP LONE STAR ANNUAL BBQ, AUCTION & WORSHIP SERVICE**

**July 29, 2018 (the last Sunday in July)**

**10:30 am** – Special music by the summer counselors

**11:00 am** – outdoor worship service led by President Ken Hennings

**12:00 pm** – Barbecue Meal (freewill offering)

**1:00 – 3:00 pm** – **Live Auction** in Koop Center  
**Silent Auction** – tables throughout Koop Center

**Swimming** – bring your suit & a towel!

For more information, a map to camp, or to donate an item to the auction, call 800-362-2078.