



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LII No. 16

August 21, 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

At my last job, Donna was my manager and my friend. One afternoon, I hurried into her office to ask a question. Normally, I would have peeked in and then knocked; but this time, I was distracted and just barged in. Donna was reading something and had a tear in her eye. As she put the card down, I asked her if anything was wrong. She said it's all OK, and asked me to close the door and sit down for a while. She explained that the card was from an old friend, Mrs. Williams, a former teacher, who had kept up with her through the years. Mrs. Williams often sent Donna cards of encouragement.

Donna had a very difficult childhood. She grew up on a farm outside of a small town in Iowa. Early on, she didn't do well in school, even though Mrs. Williams spent extra time with her. Donna didn't read well, and she didn't follow directions. It seemed that she just couldn't pay attention to the instructions. During a meeting with Donna's parents, who were very concerned about their daughter's progress in school, Mrs. Williams reluctantly suggested that Donna should, perhaps, be in special education. But, before they agreed to that, Donna's parents took her to a specialist to see if they could identify what was wrong.

Well, it didn't take long to spot the problem. Donna wasn't slow, she wasn't stupid. In fact, the doctors said she was exceptionally bright. It's that she was almost totally deaf. That was an easy fix. After Donna was fitted with the correct hearing aids, she blossomed - valedictorian of her high school class, top of her class at the university. Mrs. Williams always kept in touch with Donna. She felt somewhat guilty that she didn't recognize her disability sooner. Yet she was so proud of her student's progress. She was always there giving support and encouragement, even as Donna grew into a successful adult.

What if we had someone who is always there, when we need support and encouragement?
We have someone.

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thess 5:11

What if we had someone who is always there, when we need assurance- when we are confused and feeling helpless?
We have someone.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26

What if we had someone who is always there, who knows what we need, even when we don't know what to ask for?
Someone who knows our faults, our weaknesses and our shortcomings?
We have someone.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Rom 8:26

What if we had someone who knows us better than we know ourselves?
We have someone.

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Rom 8:27

Why do we worry? I just don't know. God gives us everything we need, every day. Jesus has saved us. That's done. That's over. That's complete. Now the Spirit whispers encouragement in our ears. We just need to hear Him, to listen to Him, to follow Him.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Curtis

Sunday Bible Classes

Sunday morning at 10:30 am

“The Book of John”

Led by Doug Pennekamp,
meets in the Life Center

“The Life of Joseph”

Few people in the Bible (or in history) had as many set-backs and struggles as Joseph in the Old Testament. You are invited to study Joseph with us and see that God still works in and blesses through all of our lives. Get a Hope booster with us each week!

Led by Pastor Jerry
meets in the Sanctuary

“Peter, from Fisherman to Fisher of Men”

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 studying Luther’s Small Catechism. Pastor Hilsabeck is the leader of this class. Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate in this class; everyone is welcome.

Autumn Group Resumes in September

Autumn Group meetings resume Tuesday, September 11th at 10:00 am in the Life Center. 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. If you are fifty years or older and interested in attending, please come!



September 2nd

The Bible readings are:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Ephesians 6:10-20

Mark 7:14-23

September 9th

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 35:4-7a

James 2:1-10, 14-18

Mark 7:24-37

Gethsemane Adult Choirs Are Resuming Rehearsals Soon!

Anyone high school age or older is invited to participate in the Gethsemane Adult Choir or the Gethsemane Adult Handbell Choir.

The Gethsemane Adult Choirs resume practicing on **Thursday, August 30, 2018.**

Adult Choir begins rehearsing at 7:30 p.m.

Adult Handbell Choir begins rehearsing at 8:45 p.m.

For more information, please contact Doug Pennekamp at 832-654-5308.



September Prayer Vigil
Wednesday, September 5th
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

The Prayer Vigil is held in the sanctuary and begins at 6:00 pm. The congregation has submitted prayer requests that Esther has compiled and included with the prayer guidelines. Consider stopping by and spending some time in prayer with your Gethsemane family.

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS

The remaining sessions are scheduled for:

Saturday, August 25,
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, August 26,
10:30 am – 4:00 pm

If you have not had your picture made for the directory, try to get it done this weekend.

Schedule your appointment by calling Donna at 832-443-1191.



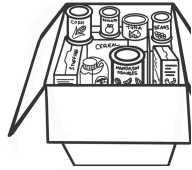
Save the date!!

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2018
TIME: 12:00 TO ???
COST: FREEWILL DONATION



Autumn Group Trip

The next trip is on Saturday, August 25 to the Danish Heritage Museum in Danevang, Texas. The museum depicts life from the 1890s to World War I. It is an “on the farm” museum and includes the local Danish history, a history of the Viking era, and an extensive collection of barbed wire. The Lutheran Church will be open for self-guided tours. Lunch will be at Hotel Blessing prior to the museum visit. The meal is served family style, right off the stove. Total cost for both visits will be \$16.00. Sign-up right away so Theresia can get a head count.



Volunteers Needed for

ESL (English as a Second Language) Classes!

NO teaching experience required—English only speakers, OK! Houston is now the most diverse city in the United States. It is vital to know how to speak English. Learning English as an adult is necessary, but difficult. Gethsemane is looking for English-speaking volunteers with a heart for helping other.

Volunteer training workshops and the ESL classes will be held at Gethsemane. The teacher training workshops will be led by a certified ESL teacher and will begin in August. Once you are trained, you can volunteer for as much or as little time as you want.

The free classes for new language learners will begin in September. The classes will be held in the daytime, during school hours. Each session of classes will meet three days per week for three weeks.

For more information or to help out, text or call Lisa Sitz at 713-410-5427 or email Lisa at:

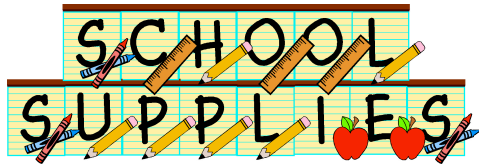
lisa.sitz@gmail.com

The first session of ESL classes will meet from 10 am to noon, 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) beginning September 11. The last class in this session meets September 27th. The classes are free.

TRAVEL

Do you have a picture from a Gethsemane event? Email it to Marissa at mpennekamp@earthlink.net with a caption to be featured on the Gethsemane social media pages. This is a great way to show our community the events happening at Gethsemane!

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.



GENTLE REMINDER. . . .

Most stores still have school supplies on sale, so you still have time to buy supplies for our Lutheran World Relief School Kits. And remember if you really don't want to shop, you may give money or a check to Susan Wasson and we will shop for you.

We need the following items:

- ❖ 70-sheet spiral notebooks with wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8"x10".
NO loose-leaf paper.
- ❖ 12-in ruler, or a ruler with 30-centimeters on one side and 12-inches on the other.
- ❖ Pencil sharpeners (small, hand-held)
- ❖ Ballpoint pens - black or blue ink, only.
NO gel pens.
- ❖ Erasers (2 1/2")
- ❖ **Unsharpened #2** pencils with erasers
- ❖ Box of **24 crayons**
- ❖ **Blunt** scissors (school scissors)

Leave the supplies in the container at the Coffee Bar. Thanks for your generous support.

The Burrows are going on a big adventure! They have given up their Houston apartment, gone paperless, and are "hitting the road". While they are away, they will not have a physical mailbox so contact them through email or phone. To see where they've been, check out their blog at: <https://quixoticjourneys.blogspot.com/>

Cheryl: 713-202-0675; cherylburrow@gmail.com
Leonard: 713-204-4509; leonardburrow@yahoo.com

May The Road Rise Up To Meet You

(An ancient Celtic blessing)

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Run & Walk for Life

Date: Saturday, September 15
Time: 8:00 am – 11 am
Place: Begins at All Saints Catholic Church
215 E 10th St, Houston, 77008
Distance: Two options – 2 mile walk or 5K run
Benefits: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Center, a program of the Houston Coalition for Life

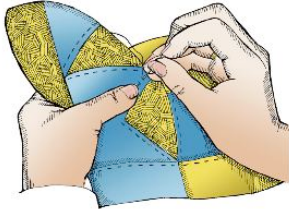
Sponsor forms are available in the church office.

To register call the Houston Coalition for Life office at 713-395-1330.

The Blue Blossom Pregnancy Center has served over 13,600 women since 2011. Its mission is to end abortion in Houston, peacefully and prayerfully. The Big Blue Bus, launched in 2011 to serve as a mobile pregnancy center, is in need of refurbishing. The Run & Walk for Life will help raise the necessary funds to update the bus.

First Sunday breakfast resumes in Sept.

Come early on Sunday, September 2nd and enjoy a delicious hot breakfast in the life center with your Gethsemane friends. Breakfast is served from 7:30 am to about 8:30 am.



LWR MISSION QUILTS & KITS

Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday, September 5 and
Wednesday, September 19

9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!



The next Elders' meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday** – **September 4th** due to the Labor Day holiday on the first Monday of September.

The Gethsemane Church Office and Preschool will be closed Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Thank you to the Thrivent members who directed their choice dollars to Gethsemane. During the month of **August**, **\$235.00** was deposited in our bank account through the Thrivent Choice program. To learn more about enrolling in this program, visit the Thrivent web site at:

<http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice>



Please sign-up in the gathering area to bring three dozen cookies for everyone to enjoy with their coffee & juice between the worship service and Sunday school. Your help with this project will be greatly appreciated!

Houston Lutheran Chorale

The Houston Lutheran Chorale is seeking new and returning singers to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in music and song. This year we will sing selections from **Handel's *Messiah*** as well as many joyous hymns and contemporary Christmas songs. Please join us.

Who: All who love to sing – no auditions are required.

When: Rehearsals begin August 12
2 PM to 5 PM, two Sunday afternoons each month

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, 800 Houston Avenue, Houston 77007

Concerts

November 30 at St. Timothy - Houston,

December 1 at Memorial - Katy

December 2 –Trinity- Downtown

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



Immanuel Hamburger Fry

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church
306 East 15th Street

Date:
Thursday, September 20th

Time:
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Cost:
\$3.50 for hamburger & fixings
\$.50 each for drink and chips,
\$.75 each for potato salad and pie

What's up?

Ever wonder what God is doing in your life, or what — if anything — he's accomplishing through you? You aren't alone! Many people in the Bible surely felt the same way, from Joseph as a prisoner in Egypt to Mary as a young, unwed expectant mother.

Answers may come in time ... or may need to wait until we get to heaven. Meanwhile, like missionary Elisabeth Elliot, we can take comfort in this truth: "God is God. Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience." Elliot proclaimed, "I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."

Booker T Washington High School celebrates the school's quasquicentennial

Booker T. Washington High School (Houston, Texas) will celebrate 125 years of academic and athletic excellence with a Grand Gala during Homecoming weekend. The event will take place Saturday, October 20, 2018, 6:00 PM, at the Hilton Americas - Downtown Houston. 1600 Lamar, Houston, Texas, 77010. Reservations for the Grand Gala are \$75.00 and are currently available on BTW125.TICKETLEAP.COM or in the school's main office beginning September 4th.

Deadline for the submission of ads for the souvenir book is September 17, 2018. For more information contact V. Payne @ Vpayne@houstonisd.org.

A limited number of vendor booths are still available for this event. Please contact 832 880 -1777 or BTW125@yahoo.com for more information.

Proceeds from the Gala will be used to purchase a replica of the 1922 "Lifting the Veil of Ignorance" monument honoring the famed educator, Booker T. Washington. The sculpture will be placed in front of the new Booker T. Washington High School.



100.7 FM The Word - KKHT
every Sunday evening

The Lutheran Hour
6:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Engaging Truth 1&2
7-7:30 pm and 7:30-8pm

Programs can be heard on 100.7 FM or at www.kkht.com