



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LII No. 17

September 4, 2018

The Two Dimensions of Christianity

With 2.3 billion Christians worldwide in about 40,000 different denominations, Christianity can be somewhat hard to explain to someone. "What do Christians believe? What practices are part of the Christian religion?" Ask those questions of a thousand people on the seven continents and you are likely to get 1,001 answers.

Before someone asks me about the Lutheran answer, I might have to ask "Which Lutheran? There are 40 different Lutheran denominations just in North America."

Maybe that's why asking for Jesus' answer is the smartest step.

In Matthew 22:36-40, when Jesus was asked to state the essence of our faith, He answered:

"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Love God. Love people. It's pretty simple.

Christianity has two dimensions. The vertical dimension is our love relationship with God. He loved us and gave Jesus for us. We respond to His love by loving our Triune God. In worship, in His Word, in prayers and in all of life's decisions, we show God our love by placing Him first in all things.

The horizontal dimension is our love shown to other people. Through our listening, serving, showing respect, or living in close relationship with others such as our family members, we take the great love God has showered on us and we share it with one another. This "one another" or horizontal dimension of Christianity really comes through in the New Testament. Almost sixty times the phrase "one another" or "each other" is used. John 13:34 is an example from Jesus' own lips: "Just as I have loved you, you also are to love *one another*," (emphasis mine).

It's sort of like explaining to an extraterrestrial who just walked into a Baskin-Robbins and wants to understand the whole 31 flavors things. "It's all ice cream. You eat it."

Christianity is all about love. You do it by loving God and loving others.

As plans are made for the upcoming year, both activities inside and outside our congregation, may we keep this "love focus" central. Let's love together—God and one another!

With you in Christ,

Pastor Jerry

Love
God.
Love
people.

Sunday Morning Bible Classes (10:30 am)

“The Book of John”

Led by Doug Pennekamp,
meets in the Life Center

“Peter, from Fisherman to Fisher of Men”

Women Only – meets in the Library

“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

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

Autumn Group meetings resume Tuesday, September 11th at 10:00 am. The focus of the meetings is on fellowship and games with a brief devotion preceding a wonderful meal. The menu for September is potluck so bring your favorite dish to share. A freewill offering covers memorial gifts and a few other expenses. If you are fifty years or older, please come! For more information, call the church office (713-688-5227) or Autumn Group coordinator, Pat Herbrich (713-466-5071).



September 16th

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 50:4-10
James 3:1-12
Mark 9:14-29

September 23rd

The Bible readings are:

Jeremiah 11:18-20
James 3:13-4:10
Mark 9:30-37



Well we made it! The first week of school is in the books. We enjoyed getting to know some new friends and reconnecting with some old friends. We had chapel as planned on Tuesday and Wednesday and our kiddos were able to experience our new ancillary classes.

We are blessed to start this school year with about 20 more students than we started with last year and we still have room for a few more. If you know someone who is looking for a pre-school for their child please have them contact me. We only have about 10 spots left in our program.

The new playground surface has been a huge blessing for our Waddler and Toddler classes. They have more ability to run and play and there is no danger of rocks being placed in their mouths!

I pray you are all doing well. I am not sure about you, but I am definitely looking forward to fall!

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

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 resumed 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.

Restaurant featuring home cooking and rolls that are tossed to you.

Theresa is currently arranging a trip to the Painted Churches in November, Hemi Hideout on January 19, and a trip to the Fanthorpe Inn in Anderson with a stagecoach ride through town. More details will be made available once the dates are finalized. Call Theresa to sign up for the trips.

Do you have a picture from a Gethsemane event? Email it to Marissa at mpennkamp@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!



Save the date!!

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2018

TIME: 12:00 TO ???

COST: FREEWILL DONATION

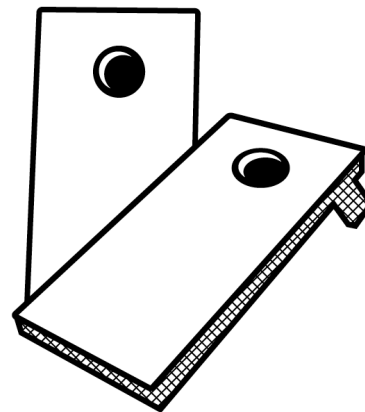


Autumn Group Trip

The next trip is on Wednesday, September 26th to the Lanier Library & Chapel. The Lanier Theological Library is a 17,000 sq. ft research library located in Northwest Houston. The LTL has a capacity of over 100,000 volumes and specializes in Archaeology, Biblical Studies, Church History, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Egyptology, Linguistics, and Theology. The library is impressive, but the chapel is amazing. The Stone Chapel is a replica of a 500 A.D. Byzantine chapel. The chapel's ceilings feature scenes from the Bible painted by Texas artist Richard McCluskey. There will be a guided tour that begins at 10 am. Lunch follows the tour at the Potatoe Patch

HOUSTON LCMS YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT AND FALL GATHERING



**Saturday, October 20th
5 – 8 PM**

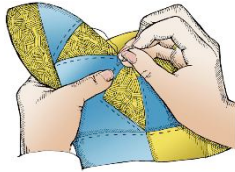
at

**Fishers of Men
2011 Austin Parkway
Sugar Land, TX 77479**

BYOB & Snacks to share

**Sign up early to reserve a spot by email to:
YPHOUSTONLCMS@GMAIL.COM**

or same day sign up is also an option



LWR MISSION QUILTS & KITS

Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday, September 19 and
Wednesday, October 3

9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!

New Members

On Sunday, August 12th we welcomed Richard and Joyce Skweres to the Gethsemane congregation. Their contact information is as follows:

Richard & Joyce Skweres
5218 Milwee #32
Houston, TX 77092-6647
832-588-36925 - Richard
Joyce-922@hotmail.com

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



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!

Bethesda/Good Samaritan Auxiliary
Annual Meeting
Sunday, September 16, 2018

50th Anniversary

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Where: Gethsemane Lutheran Church
4040 Watonga Blvd Houston, TX 77092

**Brandon Jackson, Area Director, and Tamico Melvin, Regional Director
From Bethesda Texas will be our special guests.**

Bethesda/Texas (formerly Good Samaritan Home)
Bethesda Lutheran Communities provides people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with home, career, education and faith resources to live full and empowered lives.

Good Samaritan Auxiliary

The purpose of the auxiliary is to provide spiritual and material aid to the clients of Bethesda Texas/ Good Samaritan and to create enthusiasm and interest for the services offered there.

LUNCH KIT PROJECT

Our purpose for this project will be providing each client with a new lunch kit. Most of the clients bring their lunches in grocery sacks or broken lunch kits that are



hard for them to open. And, there is no place to carry their water bottle.

Lunch Kits cost \$15 each plus shipping.

Our goal is \$1800. Come and hear how close we are to reaching

our goal.

Members, bring a friend. All are welcome to join.

Membership dues are still \$5.00 per year
or \$100 for Lifetime membership.

PLEASE COME JOIN US!

**LHN DRAMA PRESENTS:
"ARSENIC and OLD LACE"**



ARSENIC
and
Old Lace
by Joseph Kesselring

**"Arsenic and Old Lace"
Fall Comedy October 20 and 21**

We have a great cast working hard daily to make you laugh on October 20 and 21 when Lutheran High North presents "Arsenic and Old Lace" as our annual Fall Comedy. See cast member names and other show info at:

<http://www.lutheranhighnorth.net/arsenic>

Props NEEDED for this show: large brass bugle, old toy soldiers, old toy boat, covered soup pail, two safari hats, pocket whisky flask, nasty looking instruments of torture, old unwanted cigars, empty whisky bottles, two fountain pens, lots of old canteens, 1 large canoe paddle, and 2 pairs of handcuffs. Contact paul.stuenkel@lhnliions.org if you can loan us any of these items for the show. Thanks!

Immanuel Hamburger Fry

Immanuel Lutheran Church
306 East 15th Street

Thursday, September 20th

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

\$3.50 for hamburger & fixings
\$ 0.50 each for drink and chips,
\$ 0.75 each for potato salad and pie

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.

**Lutheran High North
Rock n' Bowl**

Support LHN Athletics and
have some fun!

DATE AND TIME

Sat, September 15, 2018
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM CDT

LOCATION

Del Mar Lanes
3020 Mangum Road
Houston, TX

COST

\$30.00 per person*
**adults only, please*

Includes bowling, shoe rental,
food, and sodas

RSVP at

<https://lhnrocknbowl.eventbrite.com>