



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LIII No. 2

January 15, 2019

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

¹¹ *There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open handed toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.*" Deuteronomy 15:11

Houston's homeless population is very visible. On many street corners, men and women are asking for handouts. Their hand-written signs are sometimes heart wrenching, sometimes humorous, but always asking for something – work, money or food. There have been times when desperate or distressed persons have come to the church asking for help. We at Gethsemane are a very blessed congregation. We have been given so much, and it is our nature to give so much back. We give in obedience and in joyful response to what God has first given us.

There are a number of community initiatives to address homelessness and provide the proper response to those asking for a hand-out. If a person tries to manage their homelessness by panhandling, that is one more day that they will be homeless, rather than getting permanent help. Just a few days ago, I was approached by a woman asking if I had any spare change. I decided it was time to learn more and to make a plan.

Over the next few Sundays, we have information in the Narthex with suggestions on how to address this. Maybe we put together bags of non-perishable food that can be carried in our cars. The bags will have information on the support networks available to the homeless. Most importantly, we will include the message that God loves them, that Jesus died for them, that there is hope.

³⁴ *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.* ³⁵ *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,* ³⁶ *I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'* ³⁷ *Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?* ³⁸ *And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?* ³⁹ *And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'* ⁴⁰ *And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'* Matt 25:34-40

"You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." John 12:8

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Curtis



Sunday Morning Bible Classes (10:30 am)

"The Book of Acts"

Led by Doug Pennekamp, meets in the Life Center

"Peter, from Fisherman to Fisher of Men"

Women Only – meets in the Library

"The Book of Romans"

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 title of the class is "Six Lenten Sermons". Pastor Hilsabeck is leading this class. Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate. Everyone is welcome.



God Bless & Keep Our Members & Friends in the Military

Freddy Mendoza (Bill & Marcia Reed's grandson), Joshua Goldsmith (Melissa Aasgaard's brother), Caleb Becker and Adam and Ethan Heckmann, (Joyce Heckmann's nephews), Valarie Sparks (Don Look's niece), Christopher Kieschnik, Courtney Sharp, Doug Yates (Cheryl Yates' nephew), Andrew Fair (Dolores Karkoska's nephew), Kiera Vernon, Adam Fingleman, Crystal Briones, Curtis McDonald, Erica Lewandowski (granddaughter of Ken & Pat Herbrich), Christopher Ambrose, Tala Raus (granddaughter of Charlene Raus), and Chris and Mike Handy, and Tyler Copeland (Megan & Simon Martin's cousins and family friend).



Autumn Group

The Autumn Group will welcome the New Year with games and a meal on **Tuesday, February 12th**. 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 27th

The Bible readings are:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:16-30

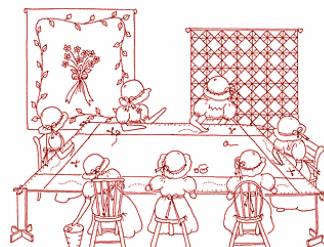
February 3

The Bible readings are:

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 17-19
1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13
Luke 4:31-44

*Congratulations to
Ashley Metzler
and
James Chittwood
who were married on
December 16, 2018
in College Station, Texas*

We wish them God's richest blessings!



TIE QUILTING

Help tie quilts for
Lutheran World Relief!
Wednesday, February 6
Wednesday, February 20
9:30 am in the Life Center
Everyone is welcome!



In our thoughts & prayers

The following people are experiencing problems with their health – Lois Dobson, Tim Barnett, Fred Gallard, Jerry Vicento, Francisco Briones, MaryAnne Lee, Doris & Fritz Warncke, Sue Binford, Ella Vernon, Joe Green, Barbara Marburger, Stacy Mooney, Carmen Bartarse, Evelyn Gersch, Mark Chase, Mark Byerley, Harold Gascamp, and Caleb Zirpel.

Please pray for the following seven families of our congregation:

Week of January 27th

Brandon & Paige Mellott; Addison, Mac, and Boone

Andrew Mellott

Ben & Brandy Mellott and Faylee

Craig & Gwen Mellott

Daniel Mellott

Sam Mellott

George Menghi

And the next seven families of our congregation for whom we ask your prayers the following week are:

Week of February 3rd

Mary Merritt

James & Ashley (Metzler) Chittwood

Brittany Metzler

Pam Metzler

Ricky Metzler

Travis & Lisa Metzler

David & JoAnn Milton

Happy New Year! I had such a wonderful Christmas break. We were able to stay in town and enjoy some much needed family time.

The teachers and staff are right back in the groove now. We are looking forward to the Early Childhood Conference in Dallas at the end of the month. Thirteen staff members will attend the conference, where we will receive the majority of our training hours for the year. This year the conference is from January 24th to the 26th.

We are also planning to celebrate dads this month. On January 18th we will hold our annual "Doughnuts with Dad" breakfast. We are looking forward to a fun time having breakfast with the dads.

February will be a busy month with re-enrollment, family night, an art show and silent auction. Re-enrollment begins on February 11th at 9 am. We will open enrollment to current families that day for the summer session and the 2019-2020 school year. We are looking forward to having full classes for both sessions.

On February 13th the school board, along with some of the teachers, will cook the family night meal. Stay tuned for the menu. We will showcase some of the students' artwork as well as have an auction to go with family night. The classes are working on putting together some fantastic baskets. We are looking forward to a fun filled night.

I pray you are all doing well and enjoying the cooler yet not cold weather!

In His Service

Kim Perry – Director



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!

Autumn Group Trip

The trip to Huntsville was cancelled. The dates for future trips are February 9th and March 9th. The February 9th trip is to see the painted churches beginning with St. Paul in Giddings. Lunch will be at Sirilo's in Schulenburg. Plan to be back in Houston around 5:15 pm. This bus will have a lift for those who cannot manipulate the steps. Call Theresia and let her know you plan to attend.

Fun & Fellowship Trip – Spring 2019

This trip is to Orlando and Cocoa Beach, Florida. Departure is Sunday, March 31 and your will return on Saturday, April 6. The cost is \$669.00 (double occupancy) and includes six nights lodging, ten meals, admission to the Holy Land Experience, Exploration Tower, Gatorland, and Bok Tower Gardens. Other highlights include the historic Cocoa Beach Pier, Florida's Natural Grove House, and the Davidson of Dundee Citrus Candy Factory. The final payment is due by January 23, 2019. For more information, call Susan or visit:

www.GroupTrips.com/SusansGroup



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!



MANNA Food Pantry Reopens

The MANNA food pantry has a new home and opened for business on January 7th. The new location is at Antoine and West Little York and is 1,850 square feet. It is already stocked with 10,000 pounds food. The hours are Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday from 9 am to 12 noon.

The thrift store operated by MANNA should open in its new location, 3425 Couch St., once renovations are complete, in late January or February. MANNA is seeking donations to cover the estimated renovation costs of \$83,000. It has raised \$15,000 to date.

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 several openings in February, March and April. The cost of one arrangement is \$25.00

FAMILY NIGHT BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

Enjoy dinner and fellowship in the Life Center on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm from **February 6th through March 27th**

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



STAMPS FOR MISSIONS

Used and unusual stamps are collected by Lutheran World Relief and the proceeds from the sale of the stamps to collectors are used to cover the cost of shipping the quilts and school kits and other disaster relief materials. If you have used and unusual stamps, please bring the stamps to the church narthex and place them in the designated box. Loretta Schlobohm will send them to the correct person. When cutting the stamp off of the envelopes, please be sure to leave at least a ¼ inch edge all the way around the stamp.

Women of the Church



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.

Who: All Lutherans who love to sing – no auditions are required.
When: Rehearsals begin Sunday, January 27. 2 PM to 5 PM two Sunday afternoons each month.
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, 800 Houston Avenue, Houston 77007

The Concert is scheduled for July 4, 2019. Other special performances may be added.

For more Information call 832-489-6773 (please leave your name and number) or visit the web site at www.hlc-tx.org



PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

FAMILY NIGHT DINNER FEBRUARY 13 at 5:30 pm

Free will offering
(suggested minimum: \$4.00 per person)

Dinner

Prepared by the ECH Board members and teachers.

The menu will be announced at a future date.

Silent Auction

Several wonderful baskets to bid on

Art Show

Featuring the students' artwork

Funds will be used to paint the preschool classrooms and re-tile the floors in the preschool building.

Don't miss this fun event!

CAMP LONE STAR

LUTHERAN OUTDOORS MINISTRY OF TEXAS

Summer Camp Registration is open!

The summer 2019 theme is "**BOLD**". Campers will get to experience what it means to boldly follow Christ and shine His light to all. The summer camp programs are exciting weeks where campers have fun, make memories, develop friendships, and grow in faith. Visit www.lomt.com for information and session descriptions. The camp sessions fill up quickly, so don't delay. Also, discounts are offered to campers who register early. If you have difficulty while registering, call the Camp Lone Star office at 979-968-1657 for assistance.

48th Annual Good Samaritan Benefit Dinner and Country Store

Date: Sunday, January 27, 2019

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

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

Menu: BBQ & all the fixins

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 at 713-468-9565
Terri Hansen at 281-798-0534

THE COUNTRY STORE

All proceeds benefit Bethesda/Good Samaritan residents.

The store is sponsored by the Women's Good Samaritan Auxiliary

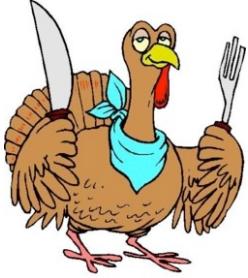
Lutheran High North Musical: The Wizard of Oz

Invitation to Grade 3-8 Munchkins

CALLING ALL MUNCHKINS!!! We are looking for a group of 3rd-8th graders to participate in this year's musical as munchkins!

For more information on audition dates, character lists and descriptions, rehearsal dates and times, and show dates and times, visit

<http://www.lutheranhightnorth.net/>



TURKEY DINNER

Concordia Lutheran Church Women's Club cordially invites members of neighboring congregations to their annual turkey dinner!

Date: Sunday, February 10, 2019

Place: Concordia Lutheran Church
The Fellowship Hall
4115 Blalock Rd, Houston

Time: Begins at 12 noon

Menu: Baked turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, dessert, and iced tea

Cost: Free-will offering

Benefits: LWML MITES and projects

A silent auction of baked goods, handmade items, and more will also benefit MITES

RSVP: **By February 3**

Call the church office at 713-462-4040
or by email to: church@clc-h.org

Reading resolutions

Every January, many Christians resolve to read the entire Bible in one year. That's a worthy goal, but God doesn't require us to read a certain number of verses or chapters per day. Instead, he tells us to simply be in his Word — and thus be with him — so he can grow our faith, light our path and assure us of his love and forgiveness. God's Word is a precious gift, but we need to "unwrap" it!

F.B. Meyer offers this helpful advice for a new year of discovering (and rediscovering!) Scripture: "Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed ... entreat that its brilliance may ever irradiate ... your life."

Kingfisher faith

In a video on his publisher's website, Eugene Peterson tells of watching a kingfisher repeatedly dive for fish in a lake. Peterson counted 37 dives before the kingfisher caught its supper! "And he's the king fisher!" Peterson chuckles. From that bird-watching episode, he gleaned a ministry lesson: It may take a long time and many attempts — maybe dozens! — before something works out.

God calls us to live out his love faithfully, even when we don't seem to be accomplishing anything. Maybe we extend 36 invitations to worship, work 36 monthly shifts at a food bank or utter 36 prayers without seeing results. "What's the point?" we wonder. But the kingfisher urges us on: "Maybe number 37 is the charm!"

In the words of St. Paul (and mixing fishing and farming metaphors): "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9, NIV).

The NewsletterNewsletter. January 2019

Where's your Ebenezer?

The words of the well-known hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" were written in 1757 by pastor and hymnist Robert Robinson. While most of the lines resonate with singers and listeners, the reference to "Ebenezer" may prove confusing:

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Here by thy great help I've come.

In 1 Samuel 7:12, Ebenezer, Hebrew for "stone of help," is what Samuel names a stone memorial he erects to God after Israel wins a battle against the Philistines. (Similarly, the name Eliezer appears several times in scripture, meaning "My God, [my] help.")

If you were to "raise [your] Ebenezer" in memory of a place where God helped you, where might it stand? Maybe it's at the scene of a car accident you survived, or on a college campus where your faith was challenged or molded. Maybe it's a peaceful spot in nature where you sensed the Spirit's presence. Or maybe it's simply in your heart, where a figurative Ebenezer monument can remind you of the Lord's constant care and love.

The NewsletterNewsletter. January 2014

