



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LIV No. 3

March 2020

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*

Sunday Jesus knew that He was the King, not just of Israel, but the King of Creation . . .

¹³ *They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,*

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!" John 12

Jesus knew, and His disciples did not understand . . .

³ *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."* Isaiah 53

²⁷ *Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?'*

No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" John 12

Thursday Jesus washed the disciples' feet, and they did not understand . . .

¹⁵ *I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.* John 13

Jesus led them to Eternal Life, but did they understand?

²² *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.* Mark 14

Jesus led them to the Garden of Gethsemane, and they did not understand . . .

³² *They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ³⁴ "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Mark 14*

Jesus was betrayed and arrested, and they fled . . .

⁴⁴ *Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Mark 14*

⁵⁰ *Then everyone deserted him and fled.* Mark 14

Jesus knew, but Peter didn't understand . . .

⁷² *Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice, you will disown me three times. "And he broke down and wept. Mark 14*

He was crucified, died and buried.

⁴⁶ *Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23*

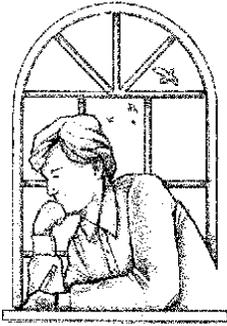
Easter He is Risen!

¹⁰ *Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." Matthew 28*

Today Each day, we are blessed by that first Easter. The Gift of eternal life has been won for us and we seek to understand that Gift. We listen to the Spirit, who guides us. We now see the full picture. Thanks be to God!

In His Service, Curtis Sitz





In our thoughts & prayers



The following people are experiencing problems with their health – Herta Adams, Francisco Briones, Mark Byerly, Brenda Criss, Lois Dobson, Evelyn Gersch, AnnaBella Heckmann, Jason Johnson, Barbara Marburger, Stacy Mooney, Bill Reed, Wyatt Riner, Donna Romeo, Mike & Marion Theodore, Doris & Fritz Warncke.

Please pray for the following seven families of our congregation:

Week of April 5th

Nelda Lawrence; Christopher and Kristen T.K. & Clarice Lee; Theodore MaryAnn Lee
Sheila Lee
Christina Lee
Andy & Lora Lewis; Kaitlyn and Emme
Jerald & Ivy Linsley

Week of April 12th

Diana Look
Don & Pat Look
Gavin Look
Gregory Look
Jerry & Barbara Marburger
Quentin & Abigail Marien
Bryan & Rachel Markworth; Nathan and Jackson

Week of April 19th

Simon & Megan Martin; Meredith
Mary Masters; Jolyn, Dannan, and Erin
Frank & Deb Mata
George & Julie Mata; Abby and Andie Marie
Dean & Lillian McCrory ; Dani
Curtis & Alexandra McDonald; William
Greg & Amanda McKay; Maria and Vera

Week of April 26th

Earl McLaughlin
Greg & Tracey McLaughlin; McKenzie
John & Saysha Mei; Dezirae & Jake
John Meisetschlaeger
Brandon & Paige Mellor; Addison, Mac, and Boone
Andrew Mellott
Ben & Brandy Mellott; Faylee

April 5th Palm Sunday

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:1-27:66

April 12th Easter Sunday

The Bible readings are:

Acts 10:34-43
Colossians 3:1-4
Matthew 28:1-10

April 19th

The Bible readings are:

Acts 5:29-42
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 26th

The Bible readings are:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 1:17-25
Luke 24:13-35



God Bless & Keep Our Members & Friends in the Military

Hannah Aasgaard (Thelma Smith's great-granddaughter), Taylor Lowe (Alan Lowe's son & Jim & Jan Taylor's nephew), Freddy Mendoza (Bill & Marcia Reed's grandson), Joshua Goldsmith (Melissa Aasgaard's brother), Caleb Becker & Adam & Ethan Heckmann, (Joyce Heckmann's nephews), Valarie Sparks (Don Look's niece), Christopher Kieschnik, 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 & Mike Handy, and Tyler Copeland (Megan & Simon Martin's cousin & friend).





Autumn Group Trips

The next Autumn Group trip is scheduled on Saturday, April 4th to **BeeWeaver Honey Farm** is **cancelled** until further notice.

Since Harris County has cancelled all trips and activities through March 31, and it does not appear that things will get better soon, Theresia talked to them and it was decided to cancel the upcoming trip on April 4. Everyone please stay safe and use precaution in your daily activities.

Please be on the lookout for the next Autumn Group trip.

COOKIES FOR SUNDAY MORNING



Every Sunday cookies and coffee are enjoyed by our members and visitors in the gathering area prior to Sunday School. Help provide these cookies!

The sign up sheet is on

the table in the gathering area. Approximately 6 dozen cookies are needed each week.

Our thanks and appreciation to everyone who provides the cookies enjoyed each Sunday morning in the gathering area.

Lay Reader Ministry



The mission of the lay reader is to proclaim the Word from the lectern by reading the first lesson and the epistle lesson during Sunday morning worship.

If you want to be a part of this ministry, sign-up on the form in the narthex. The readings may be picked up in the church office Thursday mornings, or call the office to ask for an email copy.

AUTUMN GROUP

The Autumn Group will meet for games and a meal on **Tuesday, April 14th**. Potluck is the menu with meat, salads, vegetables, bread or rolls and desserts.



We start at 10:00 am so come early to visit, play games and then join everyone for the meal at noon. See you then!



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 for 2020 is posted in the narthex. The cost of one arrangement is \$25.00.

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!

MANNA FOOD PANTRY

is gladly accepting food items and appreciates all donations of non-perishable items, as long as they are not out of date. Items greatly appreciated are flour, sugar, shortening, oil & oatmeal.



The Manna Resale Shop is also open! We are accepting donations now, so feel free to bring your donations.

Address: 6760 Antoine Drive, Houston, TX 77091



Don't forget to save pull-tabs, and bring them to church on Sunday.

The pull-tabs benefit our local Ronald McDonald House.

Thank you!



Dear Friends,

I'm inviting you to join me on the trip of a lifetime, a ten-day tour of the Holy Land. Every Christian I know who has gone on a Holy Land trip says "seeing the places of the Bible changed my life! You have got to go!" After my trip there in 2011, I came to think of seeing the land of Jesus as a "fifth Gospel." Susan Wasson and I are setting up a trip November 10-19, 2020.

I'm excited and ready and I hope you are, too! This is a spiritual pilgrimage--a journey into the story and the very places of the Bible. Your faith will experience a new richness as we walk where Jesus walked in Jerusalem and visit such awe-inspiring points of spiritual interest as the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, Mt. Zion, and the Upper Room.

We'll also visit the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Shepherd's Field, and Nazareth. Add to that the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mt. of Beatitudes, the site of the Sermon on the Mount, Tabgha, the site of the Miracle of Loaves and Fishes and much more! Can you imagine communing together on the Mount Of Olives or singing of God's love as we stand among the same olive trees where Jesus prayed? Sharing these and other spiritual experiences with Christian friends makes the trip even more wonderful, and that is why I am inviting you to join us in a journey that will be treasured forever.

Thousands of tourists are flock to the Holy Land each year, now it's your turn! The weather in Israel in November is wonderful and we won't have the summer crowds or heat to overcome. Now is the time to make this dream, this "trip of a lifetime" a reality! Of the many places you may visit, only one gives such an emotional and spiritual impact....the **Holy Land!!**

It's been said that seeing the Holy Land is the fifth gospel. We invite you to join our group on this inspiring journey!

Registration forms are now available in the church office or visit our website tripswithsoul.com/Israel2020. Look over the brochure, and feel free to reach out with any questions. But don't miss this chance!

Sincerely,
Pastor Jerry McNamara



Tuesday Morning Bible Class

Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am by calling into our Conference call line:

701-801-9855

to study God's Word with Pastor Jerry.

The topic is "The Gospel of John".

Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays at

4:30 pm & 6:30 pm

February 26 – April 1

We invite you to participate in this season's Lenten services by calling into our Conference call line, **701-801-9855**.

If it is busy when you call, please keep trying.

We need feedback if the conference call vendor is serving well or needs replacing.

Also, look to our website www.GethsemaneLutheran.org or Gethsemane's Facebook page to learn if a video streaming option is also available.

SPRING LUNCHEON

THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SPRING LUNCHEON IS BEING POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

Be sure to be on the lookout for more updates!



PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is being revitalized at Gethsemane!

If you have a prayer request, or would like to be a part of the prayer chain, call:

Barbara Stuart Chase at 281-861-8619.

Prayer chain volunteers are able to use: phone, text, or email to communicate.

Dear Gethsemane Family,
As you know the Covid-19 virus is greatly impacting our everyday lives.

Here is how Gethsemane is responding:

We will no longer hold services or any gathering or events until further notice.

That means this Wednesday's family night dinner is cancelled.

We are creating online access to our services and Bible studies and will share more about those via email and a future Andrew message.

Please be in prayer for Gethsemane members and all people at this challenging time. We encourage you to call your elder or Pastor for more information.

Look to our website and Facebook page for additional updates.

Thank you!



THE STORY

Read the story. experience the Bible

GET READY TO DIVE DEEPER INTO GOD'S STORY

Pastor McNamara announces 31-week overview of entire Bible to follow Easter

Following Easter, Gethsemane will begin a 31-week adventure to better learn the story of the Bible and everyone is welcome to attend!

Pastor Jerry McNamara is inviting all members or families to purchase a \$5 The Story Bible. Sermons, small groups, and Sunday classes will all be available to help us all go through the Bible in 31 weeks. Rather than read every single verse and chapter, The Story helps us understand the higher, overarching story of God's work in the world by seeing the stories of key individuals throughout the Old and New Testament. "We will read a least a portion of every book of the Bible," Pastor Jerry McNamara explained, "but what's most exciting is that we will get clearer about the 'big picture' of God's loving plan in our lives."

Watch for more details to follow.

Note: The Story Bibles in NIV will be available for members who cannot afford one. Large print copies and even different translations are available for additional costs.



I hope and pray you are all doing well. I know during times of stress it can be hard to lean on God but I also know we have a God that is never changing. The pre-school is closed at least through March 29th. We will be evaluating the future, at a board meeting that is scheduled for March 25th. We know families rely on the care we provide. We also need to keep our staff and families safe through this. Please continue to pray for our school, church and its leaders as we continue to make some very difficult decisions.

On a happier note we did open enrollment in February and we have many of our classes filled or close to filled already. I pray you are all doing well and are prepared to rest and relax as we push through this pandemic and come out stronger. I will keep all of you in my prayers.

In His Service

Kim Perry - Director

