



THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LIII No. 9

July 16, 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

"Houston. Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed." Neil Armstrong

Fifty years ago, July 20, 1969, two men from the crew of Apollo 11 landed on the moon. Some hours later, those two men walked on its surface. What a magnificent event! But, before those first steps on the moon, something else truly magnificent took place. The Lunar Module pilot, Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion, on the moon.

In an interview published in **Guideposts** Magazine, he said: "So, during those first few hours on the moon, before the planned eating and rest periods I reached into my personal preference kit and pulled out the communion elements along with a 3x5 card on which I had written the words of Jesus: *"I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me."* (John 15:5). I poured a thimbleful of wine from a sealed plastic container, and waited for it to settle down as it swirled in the one-sixth Earth gravity of the moon. My comments to the world were inclusive: 'I would like to request a few moments of silence . . . and to invite each person listening in, wherever and whomever they may be, to pause for a moment and give thanks in his or her own way.' I silently read the Bible passage as I partook of the wafer and the wine, and offered a private prayer for the task at hand and the opportunity I had been given."

This is my body. This is my blood. Matthew 26:26 -28; Mark 14:22 - 24; Luke 22:19 -20; 1 Corinthians 11:24 - 26

Later, Aldrin also wrote: "I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility. It was interesting for me to think: the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements."

³*"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;*

⁴*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visiteth him?"* Psalm 8

"Magnificent desolation" were the words Aldrin used to describe what he saw as he surveyed the lunar landscape. He knew then, as we know now, that wherever we are, no matter how magnificent or how desolate is the place, God is with us. Whether we are before the altar at Gethsemane, or on the moon, God is with us, just as He was with Jesus and the twelve in the upper room on that Passover night in Jerusalem.

³⁸*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 8

There is no place beyond the reach of God's hand.

There is no place beyond the reach of God's love.

There is no place beyond the reach of God's grace. Amen.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Curtis



Our summer program has been so much fun. We learned all the ways and times that God is Good. We have a week left in our summer camp and we are excited to close out our fabulous summer time.

We are so excited about the renovations that will be taking place while we are closed. Our last day of camp is July 25th and we will begin the floor renovation that next week. I cannot wait to show off the great new look the preschool will have this fall. The project should be complete the week of August 12th and I will be moving the furniture back into classrooms. Parent night will be August 20th and school will begin on August. 26th.

I pray you are all having a wonderful summer and staying cool in this crazy summer heat.

In His Service,
Kim Perry



**COMMUNITY
VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

is just around the corner! We'll be having it the week of August 12 -16 from 9 am to noon each day.

This year the event will be for elementary school children, separate from the Preschool VBS. The curriculum for the program is the same one used by the Preschool, and it is all prepackaged, easy to implement and ready to go.

Now we just need volunteers to help teach. Please call Lisa at 713-410-5427 if you can help. We will also need snacks, home baked or store-bought, as well as fruit juices. And of course, we hope many of you can bring your kids, grandkids or great-grandkids!

Thank you for prayerfully considering getting involved with this important outreach to the children of our community.



Sunday Morning Bible Classes
(10:30 am)

“2nd Corinthians”

Led by Doug Pennekamp, meets in the Life Center

“Living A Chocolate Life”

Women Only – meets in the Library

“Our Identity in Christ”

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. Pastor Jerry is teaching the class. The topic is titled, “How to Pray with Scripture”. Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate. Every one is welcome.

**COOKIES FOR SUNDAY
MORNING**

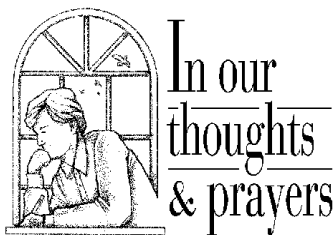
Every Sunday cookies and coffee are enjoyed by our members and visitors in the gathering area prior to Sunday School. Help provide these cookies!



The sign up sheet is on the table in the gathering area. Approximately six dozen cookies are needed each week.

Our thanks and appreciation to everyone who provides the cookies enjoyed each Sunday morning in the gathering area. Also please take a moment to thank Junelle for faithfully preparing the coffee each week and keeping the coffee bar stocked with supplies.





The following people are experiencing problems with their health – Tanoa Parker, Lucille Stolp, JoAnn Milton, Francisco Briones, MaryAnne Lee, Doris & Fritz Warncke, Ella Vernon, Bill Reed, Barbara Marburger, Stacy Mooney, Carmen Bartarse, Evelyn Gersch, Mark Byerley, Caleb Zirpel, Brenda Criss, AnnaBella Heckmann, Jason Johnson, Wyatt Riner, and Donna Romeo.

Please pray for the following seven families of our congregation:

Week of August 4th

*Craig & Kim Hendrix
Kevin & Lynne Hengst; Joshua, Jacob, & Jordyn
Max Hengst
Teresa Hengst
Kenneth & Pat Herbrich
David & Amanda Hill
Rev. Howard Hilsabeck*

Week of August 11th

*Joshua Hines
Karen Hirsch
Ed Holcomb
Anne Hukill; Jack
Hutchins, Cody & Jennifer
Ideus, Jeff
Jackman, Rhonda; Brooke London*

Week of August 18th

*Joe & Janet Janes
Michael Janes
Danny Jatzlau
Andrew Jennett
Gilbert & Laura Jennett
Karen Jennett
Jacob & Chelsia Jensen; Justin James*

Week of August 25th

*Charles Johnson
Ed Johnson
Johnathan & Katy Jones; Haylie, Reagan, & Michael
Wayne & Freda Jones
Gay Juengerman
Mary Kean; Travis and Trevor
Jim & Maria Keeling*

August 4th

The Bible readings are:
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 11th

The Bible readings are:
Genesis 15:1-6
Hebrews 11:1-16
Luke 12:22-40

August 18th

The Bible readings are:
Jeremiah 23:16-29
Hebrews 11:17-40; 12:1-3
Luke 12:49-56

August 25th

The Bible readings are:
Isaiah 66:18-23
Hebrews 12:4-29
Luke 13:22-30

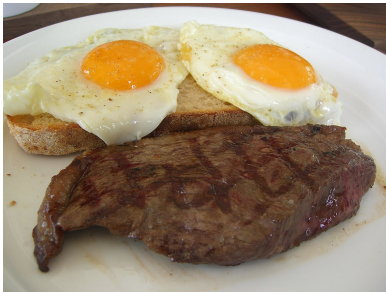


God Bless & Keep Our Members & Friends in the Military



Taylor Lowe (Jim & Jan Taylor's nephew), 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).





STEAK AND EGGS BREAKFAST!

On Sunday, July 21st, between 7:30 and 8:30 AM, we are having a breakfast to commemorate the 50th anniversary of

the first Holy Communion on the moon. Steak and eggs have been the traditional pre-launch meal served to our astronauts since the days of the Mercury program. In addition to steak and eggs, we will have hash browns, toast, milk, coffee, orange juice, and, of course, Tang.

To help us know how much to prepare, if you haven't done so, please contact Curtis, at 281-786-5850, and let him know if you plan on attending. There are also opportunities for volunteers to help with the morning's tasks.



Family Night!

Enjoy dinner and fellowship in the Life Center on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm through July 31st

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



SAVE THE DATE!!

DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2019

TIME: 12:00 TO ???

COST: FREEWILL DONATION

Gladys D.

Ward

November 9, 1930 –
June 29, 2019



Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. Let us remember with thanksgiving what God has done through His beloved child Gladys.

Gladys D. Meyer Ward, age 88, went to be with her Heavenly Savior on June 29th, 2019. She grew up on a farm, working the cotton fields by the age of 8, her early education in a one-room schoolhouse. Her family moved to Houston when she was 12 and she went to school in the Houston Independent School District, attending Reagan High School, where she met the love of her life, Kenneth Ward. They married in 1949 and were married for 70 years.

Gladys worked outside the home, finally retiring after working 20 years as a Dental Assistant. A fun-loving woman with a quick smile, hearty laugh, and clever wit, she loved her family above all else. She also loved her Astros, rarely missing a televised game. She could recite every player's name, position and stats.

Gladys is survived by her loving husband, Kenneth B. Ward; daughter Kendra Williams and son-in-law Scott Williams; son Craig Ward and daughter-in-law Debby Ward; and brother Dennis Meyer and sister-in-law Pat Meyer.

Visitation will be on Tuesday, July 2, 2019 from 5 to 8 pm at Pat H. Foley Funeral Home, 1200 W 34th St. Houston, TX 77018. Funeral service will be on Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 10 am at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga Blvd. Houston, TX 77092. Her burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery, 1101 Antoine Dr., Houston, TX 77055.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 4040 Watonga, Houston, TX 77092, where Gladys and Ken were active members for many years.

The Lord gifted her to us for a time. Even as seek God's comfort for all who grieve, we give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord, for our sister Gladys Ward.



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. Please join us.



Who: All who love to sing – no auditions required.
When: Rehearsals begin August 18
2 PM to 5 PM, two Sunday afternoons each month.
Where: Trinity Lutheran Church,
800 Houston Avenue, Houston 77007

Concerts

December 6 at Memorial - Katy
December 7 at Lord of Life – The Woodlands
December 8 at Trinity- Downtown.

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

CAMP LONE STAR

LUTHERAN OUTDOORS MINISTRY OF TEXAS

“**BOLD**” is the theme for the LOMT programs this year, emphasizing to boldly follow Christ and to shine his light to all. **Camp Lone Star** will celebrate the gifts of our Lord to outdoors ministry on:
Sunday, July 28th

@ the Annual Camp Lone Star Barbecue.

Rev. Ted Doering, past summer staff member, will give the message at the outdoor worship **@ 11 am.**

Special pre-service music by the Summer Counselors will begin at 10:30 a.m.

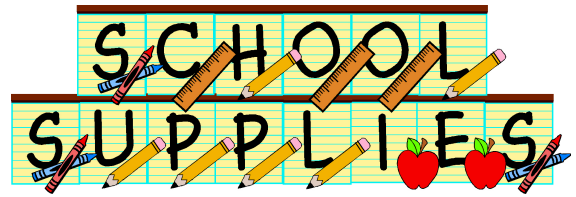
The famous barbecue meal will follow the worship. You'll want to make it a day for the whole family and check out the **Benefit Live Auction in the Koop Center from 1-3 pm** and the **Silent Auction tables** which feature items from tickets to sporting events to one-of-a-kind treasures.

Show your support for this vital ministry and join in on “family” reunion and open house!

(For more information, a map to camp, or to donate an item to the auction, call 979-968-1657.)

CELEBRATE IMMANUEL'S 100 YEARS ON 8/4:

Immanuel Lutheran is celebrating 100 years of sharing Jesus in the Heights and invites all to a Celebration service and reception on Sunday, August 4 at 3pm. Texas District President Mike Newman will present the homily. More details are available by calling 713-864-2651.



THE TIME IS GETTING CLOSE!!!!

Very soon you will be seeing school supplies on sale in all the stores. This will be the time for you to buy school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits. As in the past, Ruth Circle will assemble these kits. You may put the supplies you buy in the plastic container at the coffee bar. If you prefer we do the shopping, you may give cash or check to Susan Wasson. (Make checks payable to Susan Wasson.)

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, about 1"x1/2" hand-held)
- ❖ Ballpoint pens - black or blue ink, only. **NO** gel pens.
- ❖ Erasers (2 1/2")
- ❖ **Blunt** scissors (school scissors)
- ❖ PLEASE **NO** PENCILS (this year)

Thank you for your generous support of this LWR project.

Please Join Us!

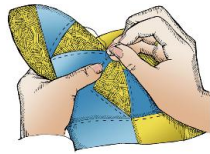
Centennial Celebration Service
August 4, 2019 – 3:00 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
306 E. 15th St.
Houston, TX 77008



Guest Homilist: Rev. Michael Newman
Texas District President - LCMS

Everyone Welcome!
Reception - Open House Follows
Information 713-864-2651
Immanuel.100.Houston@gmail.com



LWR MISSION
QUILTS & KITS

TIE-QUILTS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Wednesday, July 3rd
Wednesday, July 17th
9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!

Sheets are always needed to make the backs of the quilts. If you have gently used sheets that are free of stains and rips, please donate them to the quilters. Thank you!

Fun & Fellowship Trip

The next planned trip is to Mount Rushmore & the Black Hills of South Dakota.

When: September 7 - 15, 2019.

Cost: \$849 per person (double occupancy)

Includes: Transportation, lodging and 14 meals
Mount Rushmore, Deadwood, Crazy Horse
Memorial, Custer State Park and much more!

Please contact: Susan Wasson - 713-248-9661 or
wassons@sbcglobal.net



Autumn Group Trips

Please reserve your seat for the next two
Autumn Group trips.

Dates are:

August 3rd, 2019 and October 2nd, 2019

August 3rd - National Museum of Funeral
History in Houston

This museum, owned by a funeral company,
houses the largest collection of funeral artifacts
in the U.S., traces the history of funeral
services, displays historic hearses and provides
memorabilia from funerals of the famous, such
as Dwight Eisenhower, Martin Luther King Jr.,
John F. Kennedy and Elvis Presley.

October 2nd - Richmond, Tx
Enchanted Gardens
Ft. Bend Museum and cottage



Autumn Group

The Autumn Group is on break for the summer.
The next meeting will be September 10th. 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.



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.

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 29, 2019.**

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.