

THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LIII No. 13

November 19, 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

“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” Genesis 3:19

God formed us from the dust of the earth to give us a body. He breathed on us and gave us our soul. The disobedience of Adam and Eve lead to the death of their bodies, but their souls remain. By our disobedience we separate ourselves from God, but His Spirit keeps calling us back. God is eternal and we are eternal. Our future is with Him. Did Adam and Eve understand what God was saying? How terrified must they have been to hear that they would die for their sin? Did they understand what God was going to do?

“I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.” Isaiah 43:11

We have the prophets and the Apostles, who, by the Wisdom of the Spirit, guide us to knowledge. We know God’s plan for us. We know what he has done for us.

“For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!” Romans 5:10

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to do what we could not do- to live the perfect life; to sacrifice himself for us, to give us eternal life.

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” Romans 4:25

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.” Romans 6:5

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the American poet, wrote in his famous work, “A Psalm of Life”,

*“Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.”*

We will die and our bodies will return to dust, but our souls are eternal, and we will spend eternity in the presence of God. Thanks be to God.

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” 1 Corinthians 15:55

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Curtis





Holidays are a busy time of the year. It is no different in preschool world. Last week we celebrated Thanksgiving early with a feast for the children and the parents. We even had a few church members join us! It was such a blessing to see everyone enjoying the delicious food.

We served approximately 105 people and had some food left over for the teachers this week. We are so blessed to be able to have loving families and church members to support our ministry. Thank you to all who attended and to those who support through prayer.



We have adopted three families this year from Kids Meals Houston. Be on the look out for the trees that have gift tags on them. If you take a tag, we ask that you write your name on the corresponding list that will be located near each tree. This is to ensure we have all the gifts necessary by December 10th. We have to deliver the gifts no later than the 13th. If you are not able to meet this deadline, please consider a monetary donation and I will go shopping for the items that have not been purchased.

We will also have a family that has been attending the ESL class that we will be adopting. There will be more information to go on that family and also tags on the tree. We are looking forward to blessing these families for Christmas! Please consider helping with this blessing.

The preschool will be closed the week of Thanksgiving and when we return we will be in full preparation for our Christmas program. We hope you can all join us on December 8, 2019.

I pray you all have a blessed and restful Thanksgiving!
In His Service,
Kim Perry



Sunday Morning Bible Classes

(10:30 am)

“2 Timothy”

Led by Doug Pennekamp, meets in the Life Center

“Living A Chocolate Life”

Women Only – meets in the Library

“Fear Not...”

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, “The Lord’s Prayer”. Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate.



GETHSEMANE’S VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budgeted Expense	\$ 63,360	\$ 633,599
Actual Expense	\$ 65,950	\$ 661,088
Actual Received	\$ 70,963	\$ 631,225

NOTE FROM CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, TEXAS

(Regarding our monthly pledge)

To God’s good people at

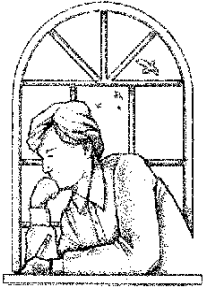
Gethsemane, Concordia University is so very blessed to have you as a partner in ministry. Your recent donation of \$133.33 has helped to make an impact on campus. Thank you!



Happy Thanksgiving



The church office will be closed November 22nd & 23rd for the Thanksgiving holidays.



In our thoughts & prayers

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

Please pray for the following seven families of our congregation:

Week of December 1st

Adrian Smith & Cathy Schreiber
Shanon Schreiber
Matthew & Courtney Sharp; Carter
Curtis & Lisa Sitz
Richard & Joyce Skweres
Thelma Smith
Florence Smoot

Week of December 8th

Frank & Lauren Sosa; Olivia, Frankie and Blayde
Kris Stockberger; Terry and Nicole
Lucille Stolp; Robert
Jana Stroud
Charlie Tackett
Louis Tamburello
Renate Tannenberger

Week of December 15th

Mike & Lisa Tauser; Kendall and Mallory
Jim & Jan Taylor
Mark Thacker
Hershal Theilen
Kevin & Robin Thompson; Emily
Phillip Thompson
Dennis Van Loan

Week of December 22nd

Ella Vernon
Jon Vicento
Lorine Wade
Ken Ward
Fritz & Doris Warncke
Susan Wasson
Christopher & Liz Williams

Week of December 29th

Jonathan Williams
Kendra Williams
Michele Williams; Ben
Pat & Jody Williams; Sidni and Ella
Barbara & James Willis; Meagan
Bernice Wolff
Samantha Wren



December 1st

The Bible readings are:

Is. 2:1–5
Rom. 13:8–14
Matt. 21:1–11

December 8th

The Bible readings are:

Is. 11:1–10
Rom. 15:4–13
Matt. 3:1–12

December 15th

The Bible readings are:

Is. 35:1–10
James 5:7–11
Matt. 11:2–15

December 22nd

The Bible readings are:

Is. 7:10–17
Rom. 1:1–7
Matt. 1:18–25

December 29th

The Bible readings are:

Is. 63:7–14
Gal. 4:4–7
Matt. 2:13–23



God Bless & Keep Our Members & Friends in the Military

Taylor Lowe (Alan Lowe's son and 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).



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

MANNA THANKSGIVING DAY FOOD DONATIONS:

This year our church has been asked to collect Stove Top boxes of dressing and cans of chicken broth for the Manna Thanksgiving Day food drive. Manna will then be distributing boxes of food to those families in need for their meal. We will be collecting donations through Sunday, November 24th.



LWR MISSION QUILTS & KITS

TIE-QUILTS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Wednesday, December 4^h

Wednesday, December 18th

9:30 am in the GLC

Everyone is welcome!



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 9-18, 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!!**

We invite you to join our group on this inspiring adventure. We will offer an info meeting Sunday, December 15, after the Bible class hour, in the Sanctuary. There we will have photos, a brochure, and will answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Pastor Jerry McNamara





Cody Kyle Kettler

November 15, 1994 – October 20, 2019

Cody Kyle Kettler passed away October 20, 2019 in a motorcycle crash. He was returning home from Galveston.

Cody was born on November 15, 1994 in Houston, Texas to Steve and Jay Jay Kettler. Cody was raised in Cypress and was proud to be an Original Cypress Boy (OCB). He graduated from Cy Woods High School. After high school, he attended and graduated Fortis Technical College and obtained an HVAC Degree.

Cody is survived by his parents Steve and Jay Jay Kettler, his brother Clint Kettler and his wife Megan, nephews, Bryce and Liam Kettler, his longtime girlfriend Kylee Hill and her son Brantley. His Aunt and Uncle, Jonnie and Pete Sheehan. Cody is now in Heaven with his Memaw that just passed away August 23 this year. Cody and Memaw had a very special bond.

Clint and Cody were the best of brothers and always had each other's back no matter what the situation. They had a great childhood with many friends and lots of area to ride 4-wheelers and dirt bikes. Cody loved the intensity, adrenaline of ATV's and was super coordinated, and talented with them leading him to get his motorcycle which he took more pride in more than anything. Cody had a love for life and lived every moment to the fullest. He loved to talk and sometimes people's ears would get tired! His Grandfather would say, "That boy can put a visit on you!"

Cody was a true Gear Head, just like his dad. Cody was always making things, when he was young, he would watch you tube and make all sorts of strange things. Even recently, he made an air purifier – and it worked supremely!

Cody was a hard worker even as a young kid. One year when he was about 12, he was hired by a farmer to pull weeds. He also had a cast on his ankle – but still everyday he would get up – go pull weeds and sweat all with a cast!

Cody loved Kylee and her son Brantley and felt very much like a dad to him. Cody and Kylee have been together for about 6 years and were inseparable. Kylee stuck by his side no matter what. Brantley loved and adored Cody and wanted to be with him 24/7. Cody and Kylee enjoyed riding bikes, and any other outdoor activity.

Cody worked as a Technician mainly working on Air Conditioning units. He truly took pride in his work and enjoyed the satisfaction of repairing units and helping people. He loved being a technician. He was always trying to talk his friends into entering the same field. Cody would always give 110% wherever he worked. He might be late to work but he would stay late and make sure the job was done.

Reading the Facebook post this week has brought us all great fun memories and showed us all what all what his family and many friends knew. If you met Cody you'd like him- Great believer, Great Manners, Great Respect!

We miss you Cody and Love you !!

Your Family



RUTH CIRCLE NEWS

Ruth Circle meets in the church library on the first Monday of the month and we had our last meeting on Monday, November 4th. We invite and welcome any ladies who are available at that time to come visit. We usually have refreshments, some business, and a Bible lesson with a discussion.



This month's lesson was about God's plan for saving Moses who then saved the Israelites from the Egyptians as described in Exodus. Several ladies had doctor appointments, company or were ill but there were still seven in attendance. Clarice Schneider brought delicious refreshments and we discussed the lesson in the Fall quarterly from page 19. The lesson was about how God orchestrated a plan to save Moses from infant death and used him to save the Israelites when he was 80 years old. God can use all of us, no matter our age.

Tanoa and Esther attended the zone prayer service at Concordia. The theme was "God Cares for You", and was based on Psalm 94: 17-19. Tanoa said you can google "LWML Prayer Service 2019" and get the entire service.

Our projects involve collecting school supplies for the school kits which will be taken to the Lutheran World Relief truck in our area in April and then distributed all over the world as needed. We support the Lutheran Women's Missionary League with our offerings and events in the White Oak Zone and in the Texas District. Orphan Grain Train has very different requirements for the school kits than the requirements of Lutheran World Relief. Since we have many supplies and back packs on hand, we will continue to prepare the school kits for Lutheran World Relief as in the past.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, December 2**, which will be different from the normal routine. We will have refreshments and decorate the tree and church for Christmas. Susan will be preparing the poinsettias for Christmas Eve on Saturday, December 21st.



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.



UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

December 4th, 11th & 18th

Advent Worship

Wednesdays

11:00 am

Light lunch to follow

7:00 pm

December 8th

Preschool Christmas Program

Presented during the 9 am worship service

Reception to follow

(No communion)

December 24th

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with communion

Tuesday at 7:00 pm

December 25th

Christmas Day Worship

Wednesday at 10:00 am

December 31st

New Year's Eve Worship

Tuesday at 7:00 pm



Autumn Group

The Autumn Group will meet for games and a meal on **Tuesday, December 10th**. Soup, sandwiches, salads, chips, relish trays, homemade Christmas candy, desserts and wassail will be waiting for you at our holiday lunch. We start at 10:00 am so come early to visit, play games and join everyone for the meal at noon.



Fun & Fellowship Spring Trip

The next planned trip is to Washington D.C. – Our Nation's Capital.

When: March 25th - April 2nd, 2020

Cost: \$899 per person (double occupancy)

Includes: Transportation, lodging and 14 meals
Museum of the Bible, Capital Building, World War II Memorial, Washington Monument, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington Cemetery, Mount Vernon and much more!

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



POINSETTIAS

Please consider purchasing a poinsettia that will grace the chancel in a poinsettia Christmas tree behind the altar. Approximately 65 plants are needed to complete the tree. Order forms will be placed in the bulletins beginning December 1st.

You may designate your gift in remembrance of or in honor of a special person(s). The cost is \$9.00 per plant with only red poinsettias available. Payment needs to be turned in with the order form by December 14th. Your poinsettia may be picked up after the service on Wednesday, December 25th.



Autumn Group Trips

Please "save the date" for the next few Autumn Group trips.

January 11th, 2020

February 8th, 2020

April 4th, 2020



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!