



# THE GETHSEMANE GRAPEVINE

Volume LIII No. 5

March 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

*For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. (from The Athanasian Creed)  
The spirit of envy can destroy; it can never build. Margaret Thatcher*

John Lennon and Paul McCartney, two of the musical geniuses behind what might be the greatest band of all time, The Beatles, were friends growing up in Liverpool, England. In the early days, they worked well together, writing many beautiful songs. However, as their fame and fortunes grew, so grew the divide between them. Both men were incredibly talented, but jealously eventually contributed to the break-up of the group. After the break-up, each man had a successful solo career, but how much more could have been done had they continued to work together?

*A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. Proverbs 14:30*

Michael DeBakey and Denton Cooley were perhaps the most brilliant and successful heart surgeons the world has ever known. Early in their careers at the Baylor College of Medicine, they were friends and colleagues, but as time passed, they became rivals, each seeking the spotlight. Once during court proceedings, Cooley boldly proclaimed that he was the best heart surgeon in the world. The opposing counsel asked, "Don't you think that is being rather immodest?" Cooley responded, "Perhaps, but remember, I am under oath." Two giant egos, two immensely talented men working toward the same goal, but separately. What could they have done had they continued as collaborators? How many more lives could have been saved?

*For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. James 3:16*

His brothers hated him. Of all the sons, Joseph was loved by his father the most. Joseph's coat of many colors, a gift from his father, was a constant reminder to the brothers of their lesser status. Finally, after Joseph's dreams (Gen 37), the brothers plotted to kill him. We know the rest of the story. The brothers' jealousy moved them to sell Joseph into slavery, but because of God's plan, Joseph rose to greatness in Egypt and saved the lives of his father and the men who had treated him so harshly.

*You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? 1 Cor 3:3*

Mere humans. Who is God that He cares for us, mere humans? God is Love. Perfect, eternal Love.

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 1 Cor 13:4*

What has God done? It is complete, He has done everything for us. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us, to give us perfect, eternal life. He sent His Spirit to encourage us, to guide us. No envy, no jealousy, just perfect Love.

*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.*

Isaiah 42: 1 – 4

Yours in Christ Jesus, Curtis



**Sunday Morning Bible Classes (10:30 am)**

**“The Book of Romans”**

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. Pastor Hilsabeck’s series has concluded; Pastor Jerry has begun teaching the class. The new topic is titled, “How to Pray with Scripture” Prayerfully consider making the choice to participate. Everyone is welcome.



**Autumn Group**

The Autumn Group will meet for games and a meal on **Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**. The potluck menu will include 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. If you have any questions, please call Pat Herbrich at 713-466-5071.



**March 24<sup>th</sup>**

The Bible readings are:

Ezekiel 33:7-20  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
Luke 13:1-9

**March 31<sup>st</sup>**

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 12:1-6  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 43:16-21  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Luke 20:9-20

**April 14<sup>th</sup>**

The Bible readings are:

Deuteronomy 32:36-39  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:1-23:56

**April 21<sup>st</sup>**

The Bible readings are:

Isaiah 65:17-25  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26  
Luke 24:1-12

**April 28<sup>th</sup>**

The Bible readings are:

Acts 5:12-32  
Revelation 1:4-18  
John 20:19-31

# Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for celebrating my 25th anniversary as Director of Music at Gethsemane. This was a very special day for me. To God be the glory for all the wonderful people and the many blessings at Gethsemane.

*Doug Pennekamp*

## **Seder Service Offered Maundy Thursday in the Life Center**

A Seder meal is what Jewish people eat on Passover night. The many symbols of this meal reminded Jews of their rescue from slavery in Egypt. This was Jesus' "last supper" with his Disciples. Just as Jesus made some of these symbols of His New Covenant, our Seder meal will show connections between the symbols and the rescue Jesus did for us when He died on the cross.

We hope you will join us Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 7pm in the Life Center for our Seder Service.



In March we begin to see signs of spring. I am reminded of how awesome our God is. Just look around us; each year we see the trees, flowers, grass and other plants rejuvenated in the spring. God does that for each of us each day! We all make mistakes, but in God's eyes we are all perfect. I feel so blessed to have such an amazing God!

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our preschool at family night. The money that was raised will go towards much needed updates in the preschool building.

We opened enrollment last month for our current families and were blessed to either almost or completely fill three of our five classes with just current students. I am so excited to see what new students we will be able to serve next school year.

March is one of our calmer months this year. We had Dr. Seuss's birthday last week and also a visit from Mad Science. One of our teachers dressed as Cat and the Hat for Dr Seuss day! Mad science was funded from the walk-a-thon that we had in the fall. It was a great show and the children really enjoyed learning new things about science.

We are looking forward to a wonderful month of fresh flowers and new beginnings.

In His Service  
Kim Perry – Director



## **Autumn Group Trip**

Theresa is working on arranging trips for May through September.



**The Women of the Church  
Spring Luncheon  
Saturday, April 27  
at 10:00 am**

**Start Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Presentation:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Lunch:** Following Presentation  
**Guest Speaker:** Christina Hergenrader  
**Tickets:** \$10.00 each

Purchase tickets from circle members

Make reservations by E-mail -  
[glchouston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:glchouston@sbcglobal.net),  
[hirschkf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hirschkf@sbcglobal.net)

By phone—713-688-5227 [church]  
713-896-7976 [Karen]

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
4040 Watonga Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77092



**White Chrysanthemums for Easter**

Order forms for white chrysanthemums will be placed in the Sunday bulletins beginning March 31<sup>st</sup>. The mums will grace the chancel Easter morning. The cost for each mum is \$9.00. You may designate your mum in remembrance of or in honor of a special person(s). The dedications will appear

on a special insert in the Easter bulletin. Please turn the payment in with the order form on or before Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Mums may be picked up after the 10:30 am Easter Sunday worship service.



**UPCOMING**

**Maundy Thursday Seder Service  
in the Life Center**

7:00 pm - Thursday - April 18th  
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**Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

7:00 pm - Friday - April 19<sup>th</sup>  
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**Easter Services**

Sunday - April 21<sup>st</sup>

7:00 am - Sunrise Worship Service

8:00 am - Easter Breakfast

9:15 am - Children's Celebration

10:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 am - Worship Service  
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**EASTER BREAKFAST**

**Date:** Easter Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 8:00 am, following the sunrise service

**Place:** The life center

**Cost:** Freewill offering

**Menu**

Breakfast tacos, fruit and pastries

Coffee and juice  
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### Candy needed for Easter Egg Hunt!

Please purchase bagged candy, with each piece individually wrapped. A collection box is in the narthex. Thank you!



### Lutheran High North's 37th Annual Spring Musical

Friday and Saturday, April 26 & 27, at 7:00 pm

#### Grade School & Senior Citizen Matinees

Thursday, April 25, at 9:00 am & 12:30 pm

Purchase tickets for the April 26 or 27 performances through [www.lutheranhighnorth.net](http://www.lutheranhighnorth.net).

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### Spirit Day Fundraiser for the Preschool

On April 11<sup>th</sup> the cow mascot from your favorite "Eat Mor Chiken" restaurant will be on campus from 2 pm to 3pm. In addition, if you order food from the restaurant located at 925 N. Loop West, 77008 between the hours of 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm on April 11<sup>th</sup> and mention "Gethsemane", a donation will be made by the restaurant to the preschool. These funds will be used to paint the classrooms and replace the flooring in the preschool building.

### The Grapevine Deadline

Gethsemane's newsletter, *The Grapevine*, is being published once a month, beginning with this March issue. The next issue will be mailed on April 16<sup>th</sup>. For the month of May, please submit your stories on or before Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Lutheran High North First Annual "Opening Night Gala" Benefitting the LHN "Back a Lion" Fund

**Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
at Lutheran High North  
1130 West 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
Houston 77018

Cocktails at 5:30 pm  
Dinner at 7:00 pm  
Presentation at 7:45 pm

Cocktail attire

\$100 per individual ticket  
\$650 for a table of 8

Help support LHN by purchasing a ticket to attend, donating an auction item, or making a cash donation!

### The Orphan Grain Train

Orphan Grain Train is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

98.3% of all donations made to the Orphan Grain Train go toward mission projects. Only 1.7% of donations go toward administrative and fundraising expenses.

Since 1992 more than 3,202 semi-trailer truckloads of food, clothing, medical supplies, and religious materials have been sent to 68 countries and several disaster areas in the U.S. All of this is done by volunteers and individual contributors – people who are thankful for their blessings and want to provide a blessing to others they may never meet.

Eleven dollars sponsors the shipment of one box of aid. For more information about The Orphan Grain

Train or to contribute to their mission, go to their website, [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org) or call at 1-877-371-7393.

Orphan Grain Train is a recognized service organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). Many shipments have been in cooperation with Lutheran Hour Ministries, LCMS World Mission, LCMS World Relief, and other Christian ministries.

*We received the following note from Mel Fritsche, the son of the late Gertrude Fritsche:*

Dear Gethsemane volunteers,

I want to express my family's heartfelt gratitude for the tremendous helping hand before and after Mom's funeral service.

What a peace of mind knowing that all details of providing food and refreshments to family and friends were being handled by such a kind, organized, and loving group of Christian ladies and gentlemen!

Your fine assistance during this difficult time allowed our family to spend more time celebrating Mom's life in thoughtful reflection.

With love and gratitude,

Mel Fritsche



*We received the following note from LINC:*

January 9, 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 on January 9, 2019 to LINC Ministries Int'l. We truly appreciate your partnership with our organization to bring the love of God to those who need it throughout our nation. Thank you for choosing to bless others with what you've been given.

John 1:16 – From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.

Sincerely,

Rev. Vince Parks  
Executive Director and CEO

Matthew Schultz  
COO and CFO



### **Admissions Concordia Seminary**

If you have ever considered becoming a pastor or deaconess, Rev. Scott Holder from Concordia

Seminary, St. Louis would like to meet with you at Gloria Dei Lutheran on March 25 from 3 to 7:00 pm. He is interested in meeting with prospective students of all ages—elementary school age through adults. Appointments are individual, informal, and family & friends are welcome to come with you. To schedule a specific time contact Rev. Holder at 314.505.7225 or [holders@csl.edu](mailto:holders@csl.edu). (Other dates to meet are available in the Houston area by appointment.)

### **“A CHANGE OF VENUE AND PACE”**

Evangelical Life Ministries has been on the air via KKHT 100.7FM ([kkht.com](http://kkht.com)) since 2007. At ELM, our goal has been to get the best possible guests on air to discuss the power of the Word of God even in the decaying culture in which we live. The guests have been outstanding and have not shied away from confronting the very issues we face in our country and world today. And by the way, you can access the podcasts of those programs by going to [elmhouston.org](http://elmhouston.org) and combing through the hundreds of Christ-centered interviews done by Pastors John Cain and Dave Schultz. Surprising to us is that many of our on-air productions are finding their way to places in the world where the Gospel is forbidden to be preached.

But changes are in the offing. We have used some of the emerging technologies to carry brief parts of many programs to the country via Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter. We have been amazed how such technologies can bring reality to those who might never listen to a podcast. How a simple two-minute message of the Risen Christ can bring such hope where there is such darkness and despair. So that becomes one area that we will expand exponentially in the rest of 2019 and beyond. Another change we are making is in the hosting of our programs. Pastors Cain and Schultz will continue to be used sparingly, (Cain because of his location and Schultz because of “hastening age”) and ELM will begin to use the gifts of younger hosts such as Pastor Matt Popovits and others to bring the power of the message of God's Word to this ambivalent culture.

The ELM board has established a “Step-Up” team to begin to plan and implement new programming aimed at a younger audience. There are issues today that only the Word of God can address. And we will do that. But as we move forward, we ask for your PRAYERS and FINANCIAL SUPPORT. This cannot be done without being under-girded with prayer. If prayer is employed for ELM from you, the resources will follow as well. We offer below our

programming for the month of March. Please join us in praying for spiritual “planting” of the messages we offer. Pastor Matt Popovits will host the 7 pm programming on March 17, 24, and 31.

**March 3, 2019**

- 7 pm** Pastor Ken Hennings, “Well Done, My Good and Faithful Servant”
- 7:30 pm** Pastor Jeffrey Willey, “Thriving in the Wake of the Washing of The Holy Spirit”

**March 10, 2019**

- 7 pm** Kristin Martinez, “Practical Advice & Biblical Truth for Claiming Your Inherent Value”
- 7:30 pm** Judy Noyola, “Traversing the Hills and Valleys of Hurt”

**March 17, 2019**

- 7 pm** Pastor Jon Conner, “Sexual Identity”
- 7:30 pm** Pastor Mike Zeigler, “The New Voice of The Lutheran Hour”

**March 24, 2019**

- 7 pm** June Hunt, Hope for the Heart Ministries, “Envy and Jealousy-Taming the Terrible Twins”
- 7:30 pm** Julie Aftab, POBLO Ministries, “With Love from Pakistan”

**March 31, 2019**

- 7 pm** Pastor Larry White “Abortion - Denial of the Gospel? How So?”- Part A
- 7:30 pm** Darrington Penitentiary Seminary Freshmen, Timothy, Greg and Ryan

Peace in Jesus,

The ELM Team

school. Your help with this project will be greatly appreciated!



**LWR MISSION  
QUILTS & KITS**

**Tie-quilts for Lutheran World Relief**

Wednesday, April 3

Wednesday, April 17

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!



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