

THE EPISTLE

AUGUST - 2010

We, as members of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church have come to faith by God's grace and have seen that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins. We are compelled to grow spiritually and to share this good news with each other, through the Word and Sacraments. We, as our loving response, will present Christ crucified to the world. We apply these truths in our daily lives all to the glory of God!

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School (WELS) -- Norfolk, Nebraska

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How can I be happy without doing anything dirty?

“Blessed are the pure in heart.”

Matthew 5:8

Wash your hands. Wash your hands! So often we are reminded of the need to wash our hands. After using the restroom, before eating, after eating, before cooking, after cooking. It's so hard to keep them clean.

And that's just our hands! Try keeping our hearts clean, and we have an impossible task! How hard it is to have perfectly pure

motives! When I cut that little section of grass between my neighbors' house and mine, the good deed is spoiled with the self-serving intent that maybe he'll let me borrow his edger. I give some money for a worthy charitable cause, but only because I don't want to disappoint the sincere person asking.

We may be able to hide our impure motives from others, but not from God. The Bible says, *“The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart”* (1 Samuel 16:7). We can't fool God. There is no covering false notions or hidden deception. God looks right through the outward act and inspects the inner motivation. He is looking for the pure in heart.

What is the measure for that kind of inner purity? God holds us up to his perfect will and measures us against it. The conclusion is that all of us have sinned and fall short of the sinless standard that God has set for us. Under God's inspection, our hearts are not pure.

What's the solution? Our hearts need to be washed. But how? We can't wash them on our own, so Jesus did it for us. The Bible says, *“The blood of Jesus, [God's] Son, purifies us from all sin”* (1 John 1:7). By his death for us, Jesus washed our hearts clean; he has cleansed us of sin's stain. Through him all our sins are forgiven and our hearts are now pure in God's sight.

The forgiveness of sins and purity of heart that we have received freely from Jesus powerfully motivates us to stay away from anything dirty. We'll not want to dirty our hearts again with sinful things. Rather, we'll be happy to strive to live according to the pure way that God teaches and thereby indicate our great appreciation for the sacrifice that Jesus made to wash our hearts clean.

LADIES AID

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on Thursday, July 1, 2010, at 9:00 AM. There were twelve members present.

Pastor Bader led the discussion on the 6th article of a six part series on "Christ's Love" by John M. Brenner.

President Carol Wachter called the meeting to order. Roll Call was taken and the Secretary read the Minutes of the last meeting. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,191.20.

Committee reports were given:

Kitchen -- Betty Pufahl

Entertainment -- Karen Pufahl

Flower -- Gladys Dusseau

Correspondence was read.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that we give \$100 to the Lutheran Home Association.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that we pay the bill of \$54.70 for the new elevator signs and were put up by Lefty Tinius.

A sign-up sheet for those that want to work at the Rummage Sale was passed around. The sale will be Friday, July 30, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and July 31, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Items for sale can be brought to the auditorium starting July 26. There will also be a Bake Sale.

The next meeting will be on August 5 at 9:00 AM. Hostess is Marianne Bloomquist. Group 3 will serve next. Contact Committee for this month is Carol Wachter and Neva Winter.

The meeting adjourned with the singing of "Abide, O Dearest Jesus".

The ladies played a "Patriotic word scramble".

Neva Winter,
Ladies Aid Secretary

OBITUARIES

ELSIE EWALD

The life of Elsie Ewald was a daily record of the grace of our merciful and loving LORD.

Elsie Bertha Ewald was the gift of God, born July 21st, 1923, here in Norfolk, Nebraska, to John and Hattie (Bernstrauch) Stange. God the Holy Spirit brought Elsie into His family of believers through the washing of rebirth in Holy Baptism on September 16th, 1923, at Christ Lutheran Church of Norfolk. Elsie attended school at District 16 in Warnerville Township and graduated from Norfolk Senior High School in 1941. She worked at Hesteds, *Norfolk Daily News*, and Servall.

Our LORD united Elsie in marriage to LeRoy “Bud” Ewald on April 16th, 1944, here at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norfolk. After instruction in God’s Word, Elsie confessed her faith in our LORD Jesus publicly at her confirmation on March 21st, 1945, also here at St. Paul’s. This Christian couple made their home on a farm southwest of Norfolk for ten years before starting their careers at the Norfolk Regional Center. Elsie retired in 1984 after 24 years of service there. She was a life member of the VFW Auxiliary Past 1644.

God the Holy Spirit nurtured Elsie’s faith in Jesus our Savior with His Word and Sacrament as a long-time member (sixty-five years!) here at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norfolk. By the grace of our LORD, Elsie had the peace and joy of knowing Jesus as her our Savior, and His forgiving love. Over the years, our all-knowing God allowed substantial challenges to enter into her life, but she continued to hold to the LORD’s promises that all things work together for the good of God’s believers. Elsie was eager to hear the Word and promises of our LORD in worship, and to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion for the strengthening of her faith. She lived her faith in our Savior in the everyday things of life. Even in the times of increasing challenges health-wise, our gracious Savior upheld her with His promises and His presence. The Holy Spirit blessed Elsie with the confidence of the blessedness of heaven for all who trust in Jesus.

On Sunday, June 20th, 2010, Elsie heard Jesus’ voice calling her soul out of this world, to the eternal joys of her home in heaven. Her soul departed this life to be with our LORD Jesus from the St. Joseph’s Rehabilitation and Care Center here in Norfolk, after experiencing more than eighty-six years of God’s grace and blessing here in this world.

Elsie leaves to hope in the certainty of the resurrection to the eternal life of heaven and a blessed reunion there: her two sons, Kenneth Ewald of Columbus, and Dallas and his wife, Janet, of Morrill, Nebraska; seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren; two sister, Lorena Kouba, of Norfolk, and Elma McLain, of Elgin.

Elsie was preceded in death by her parents; her husband LeRoy (“Bud”) in 1979; one son, Gary, and his wife Roxanne; three sisters, and one brother.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor.” - Revelation 14:13

GRACE SOMMERFELD

The life of Grace Sommerfeld was a daily record of the grace of our merciful and loving LORD.

Grace Iva Sommerfeld was the gift of God, born September 1st, 1920, at Niobrara, Nebraska, to Clarence and Cecella (Acklie) Brokaw. In her youth Grace moved with her family to California, where she graduated from Pomona High School in Pomona, California.

Grace returned to Nebraska, where our LORD united her in marriage to Alfred Sommerfeld on October 12th, 1941, at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norfolk. After instruction in God’s Word, Grace confessed her faith in our LORD Jesus publicly at her baptism and confirmation on May 24th, 1942, also at St. Paul’s. She was employed at Servall Towel and Linen Supply for twenty-five years, and then she worked at the Lutheran Community hospital for twelve years.

God the Holy Spirit nurtured Grace’s faith in Jesus our Savior with His Word and Sacrament as a long-time member of St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church of Norfolk (for most of seven decades!). Purely by the loving kindness of our LORD, Grace heard the message of Jesus, our Savior, and His forgiving love. Even in the times of difficulty and challenge, Jesus upheld her with His promises and His presence.

On Thursday, July 1st, 2010, Grace heard Jesus’ voice calling her soul out of this world, to the eternal joys of her home in heaven. Her soul departed this life to be with our LORD Jesus from the Edgewood Vista here in Norfolk, after experiencing more than eighty-nine years of God’s grace and blessing here in this world.

Grace leaves to hope in the certainty of the resurrection to the eternal life of heaven and a blessed reunion there: one daughter, Jan and her husband Joseph Griel, one grandson Jason Griel, one granddaughter Lisa and her husband Bryan Sterns, and one great-granddaughter Ashley Sterns, all of Norfolk.

Grace was preceded in death by her husband Alfred in January of 2009; three brothers, and two sisters.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor.” - Revelation 14:13

As of July 6, 2010

General Fund Offerings & Miscellaneous

PROJECTED budget for 2010 \$410,775.00
Offerings received as of this date \$197,798.03

Synod/Missions Offerings

Total pledged to Missions for 2010 \$ 28,000.00
Total offerings received as of this date \$ 13,651.44

NELHS Budgetary Offerings

Total pledged to NELHS for 2010 \$ 15,000.00
Total offerings received as of this date \$ 10,283.43

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

Property Improvement Offerings

Total offerings received this year \$ 1,355.00



July RADIO BROADCASTS (94.7 FM -- Sunday at 8:30 AM)

July 4 (Independence Day) - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund.

July 11 - In memory of Clifford Krueger, given by his daughter and family, Terri & Damon Weinrich, Tyler & Austin.

July 18 - In memory of Mardelle Gnirk, given by her family and friends.

July 25 - In memory of Phyllis Marotz, given by Lon Marotz and family.

Church Attendance: June 19 & 20 - 205 (33%); June 26 & 27 - 175 (28%); July 3 & 4 - 174 (28%);

Communion Attendance: June 19 & 20 - 132 (26%); July 3 & 4 - 111 (22%);

Private Communion:

Visits:

The following were visited in June by Ladies Aid: Nadine Miller, Ardith Wacker, Clara Truax, Arnold Bretschneider, Johnny Rosacker, Elsie Ewald, Dorothy Hille, Lisetta Gutzmann, Jeannine Amundson, Lois Retzlaff, Jo Kennedy, Clara Raasch, Verna Jamison.

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Funerals:

(06/23/10) Elsie Ewald

(07/06/10) Grace Sommerfeld

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST FUND:

- In memory of Gertrude Fuhrmann Dreesen (\$25)

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH LIBRARY FUND:

- In memory of Elsie Ewald (\$10)

Monthly Calendars may be picked up in your mailslots at church.