

THE EPISTLE

AUGUST - 2022

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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Why God Gives Gifts

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. -- 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

You may have some amazing personal gifts. You may be able to speak more than one language fluently. You may be able to understand things that mystify other people. You may have confidence where others cower in fear. You may be willing and able to endure hardships that cause other people to wither. Even if it's none of those things, you know what your special gifts are.

Have you ever wondered why God has given you those gifts? It might surprise you that the reason is not so that you can feel better about yourself. In fact, pride in and boasting about your gifts goes against God's purposes. **Your gifts aren't about you. They are about those around you. God wants you to use your gifts to help the people around you.**

That's precisely what Jesus did. Jesus had more spiritual gifts than anyone, ever. But he didn't boast about it. Instead, he used those gifts to serve us. He used those gifts to save us. That's love.

And that is precisely how God wants you to use the gifts he has given you—to serve the people he has brought into your life. Then, like Jesus, your gifts will give glory to God and be a blessing to others.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you for loving and forgiving me. Lead me to use all my gifts in loving service to others. Amen.

"The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." - Job 1:21

LADIES AID

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on July 7 at 1:30 PM.

Pastor Schlieve led the devotion.

President Carol Schlieve called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken.

There were 8 members and 1 guest present.

The June minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer Carole Kopietz reported a balance of \$830.49.

Reports given:

LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society) – Karen Pufahl

Flower – Carol Schlieve

A motion was made and seconded to pay for having the Altar cloth and two paramonts cleaned. Motion carried.

A cash donation for NELHS (Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School) will be collected.

Entertainment was singing Patriotic Hymns.

The next meeting will be on August 4 at 1:30 PM.

Roll call will be "Your Favorite Teacher".

Hostess will be Dawn Miller.

The meeting adjourned by singing "Abide O Dearest Jesus".

Carol Wachter,
Ladies Aid Secretary

July RADIO BROADCASTS (94.7 FM -- Sunday at 9:00 AM)

July 3 - In memory of Roxanne Johnson, given by her family.

July 10 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

July 17 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

July 24 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

July 31 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

Church Attendance:

June 25 (46), June 26 (75) = 121 (26%)

July 2 (67), July 3 (74) = 141 (30%)

July 9 (86), July 10 Madison Co. Fair Service (72) = 158 (34%)

July 16 (70), July 17 (112) = 182 (39%)

Communion Attendance:

July 16 & 17 = 109 (28%)

Weddings:

07/22/22 Jessica Goeden & Shane Flanagan

Baptisms: None

Funerals: None

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