

The Epistle

MARCH - 2023

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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Just Jesus

“When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.”

Matthew 17:8

Peter, James, and John had just seen their humble teacher, Jesus, transfigured into a shining and glorious version of himself. Jesus showed them a glimpse of who he truly was as the Son of God. The three disciples also saw two great prophets from long ago: Moses and Elijah. Seeing Jesus in all his glory and hearing the voice of God the Father speak from the heavens must have made the three disciples feel very small and unworthy. In fact, after they heard the voice from heaven, “they fell facedown to the ground, terrified.”

But Jesus came over to them, touched them, and said, “Get up. Don’t be afraid.” At that point they looked and saw no one except Jesus. Moses and Elijah were gone. The voice from the cloud was gone. Jesus wasn’t shining with the light of the sun anymore. He was normal looking Jesus again. But he was all Peter, James, and John really needed. The bright glory of heaven they glimpsed on the mountain would be theirs again one day. But right now, they needed their Savior and the humiliation of death he was about to undergo for them. They didn’t need all that glory yet. They did need their Savior now. As great as it was seeing all the glory of God there on the mountain, what they really needed to see was...just Jesus.

This is ultimately what we need to see—just Jesus. The glory of God is too bright and overwhelming for us poor sinners. We needed God to come to us when we could never approach him. So, he did. Jesus, God himself, came to earth in our flesh and blood to be one of us so he could die for us in our place. If we want to know God, we look to Jesus. He is the one who allows us to come to the Father. He is the one who makes us worthy of all the glory of God by sharing the glory of his resurrection with us. This is what we need—just Jesus.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for coming as one of us in order to save me. Thank you for being our Way to the Father and glory everlasting. Amen. www.WhatAboutJesus.co

From the Executive Council

Pastors/Elders Report: Presented by Pastor Hirsch

1. Gary Tiedgen is Board of Elders Chairman.
2. BIC- 2 couples. Lindahl's and Prokopec's. Profession of Faith March 5th.
3. Fred Dederman – Profession of Faith March 5th.
4. Serving Groups meal rotation? March 17th for Choir, Sack lunch, and April 2nd? There are 5 groups.
5. New member reception on April 2nd. Go back to Pre-covid? Yes.

Board of Trustees Report: No official report tonight.

1. Brown's list has been handed to Sid Sudbeck.
2. Once weather breaks, Aaron Geary is ready to get on the church roof.

Board of Education Report: Presented by Aaron Markgraf. (See attachment #4)

1. Enrollment is ahead of schedule so far.
2. Working on personnel decisions.
3. Security system gets installed over spring break. Kathy Wiedeman will be working with the video camera placement.
4. Need to review personnel for the upcoming school year.
5. Aaron kept track of hours for Sherry Kraemer and Jamie Prokopec. How should we compensate them? Sherry had 42 hours. Jamy had 17 hours.
6. Communication. Still looking at 55" TVs for scrolling announcements. One at church and two at School,
approximately \$300/each. Approved.

Board of Finance Report: Presented by Jeff Jensen. (See attachment #5)

1. Should we do something with the \$352,000 in the building fund checking account? NO.

2. \$21,000 in debt. \$1,724 in credit card. Rest is internal loan to ourselves. NO BANK DEBT.
3. Giving is down \$31,872.12 for the year to date.
4. Total expenses are \$511,746.29, which is under budget by \$16,965.54.
5. Net income for the year is \$21,433.23. This is \$32,313.31 over budget.
6. Covid grant money. Someone reached out to us. Doesn't cost us anything. 2 to 3 months out could be \$65-70K. Could be used for church roof repair.

Building Committee: Presented by Aaron Markgraf.

1. Met last week, Thursday to continue the process. Waiting on architect and BC Builders with the changes we made.
2. The group is compiling a list of 150 business to contact about funding.
3. Scott Uecker is working on new flyers/brochure made up.
4. Continuing to look for funding. Still exploring the New Market Tax Credit program.
5. Waiting on final budget numbers so then we can begin the grant process.



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

- February 5 - St. Paul's Radio Fund**
- February 12 - St. Paul's Radio Fund**
- February 19 - St. Paul's Radio Fund**
- February 26 - St. Paul's Radio Fund**

Memorial's given towards the St. Paul's Building Fund:

- In Memory of Betty Dietloff: \$3,783.48**
- In Memory of Ruth Uecker: \$1,515.00**
- In Memory of Mary Beth Lindke: \$952.20**
- In Memory of Keith Haase: \$185.00**

In Memory of Roger Bauer: \$26.25
In Memory of Lloyd Spreeman: \$50.00
In Memory of Derek J. Friedrich: \$25.00
In Memory of Diane Wichman: \$50.00

Memorial given towards the St. Paul's Library fund:

In Memory of Roger Bauer \$500.00

Church Attendance:

Feb. 4 (75) Feb. 5 (111) – 186
Feb. 11 (61) Feb. 12 (106) – 167
Feb. 18 (48) Feb. 19 (173) - 221
Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday -137
Feb.25 (62) Feb. 26 (91) -153

Communion Attendance:

Feb. 4th & 5th – 129 (35%)
Feb. 18th & 19th -128 (35%)
Feb. 22nd -67 (18%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms: Grant J. Markgraf Affirmation of Baptism February 19th, 2023

Have a Blessed Lenten Season