

THE EPISTLE

JULY - 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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Jesus Gives More Than Enough

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. -- John 6:12,13

Perhaps you have seen the picture that is a classic found on many dining room walls: a grandfatherly-type figure wearing a green flannel shirt. His hands are folded. His eyes are closed. And in front of him sits on fine china—a 16 oz. ribeye, baked potato, grilled asparagus, and an elegant tiramisu for dessert.

Ok, maybe that is not the classic picture. But the classic picture does have a grandfatherly-type figure wearing a green flannel shirt. And in front of him sits a bowl of soup and a baguette. That's it. Yet his hands are still folded, and his eyes are still closed.

It would be nice to be so content! We live in a society that is constantly looking for more. And we get caught up in it. We need the newest phone, the trendiest clothes, the best latte. It's easy to not be satisfied. But when we snap out of our materialistic mindset and stop comparing ourselves to others and start counting our blessings, we soon realize that the Lord has provided, and he's provided us with plenty.

That lesson was not lost on the disciples at the feeding of the 5,000. After Jesus fed the crowd to the point that they had "as much as they wanted" (John 6:11), he turned the disciples into busboys to clear the grassy table. "They filled twelve baskets" (John 6:13) of leftovers. The people had more than enough, but so did the disciples. But it's not bread in our bellies that leads to contentment. The secret to contentment is not a what, but a who—that who is Jesus. Go back to the classic picture described above. I neglected to share one more item sitting in front of the grateful grandfather—besides the bowl and baguette was also the Bible. That's what led him to fold his hands. That's what led him to close his eyes in prayer. He had all this and Jesus, too.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, open my eyes to see all the blessings in my life and give me a heart of contentment. Amen.

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

OBITUARY

IONA CARSTENS

Iona Frances Mayer, sixth child of Reinhold and Hattie (Stahlecker) Mayer, was born March 19, 1930, at Naper, Nebraska. She was baptized on May 25, 1930, and confirmed April 8, 1945, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Naper. Iona received her education for first through eighth grade at District 70 and graduated from Naper High School in 1947, as class valedictorian.

On June 13, 1948, Iona was married to her high school sweetheart, Alfred "Butch" Boucher. To this union two children, Vicki Jo in 1950 and Gayle Rodney in 1952, were born. Alfred passed away in 1953 of leukemia at the age of 24.

In 1954, Iona graduated from Norfolk Beauty College and returned to Naper to open the first beauty shop in town, which she operated for 12 years.

On September 17, 1958, Iona married Marlin Carstens of Meadow Grove, Nebraska. Two sons, Mark Jeffrey in 1959 and Thomas Marlin in 1960, were born. In 1966, Iona and Marlin bought a farm near Meadow Grove. Iona worked at a beauty shop in Tilden for around 15 years, before she and Marlin bought a ranch near Valentine, Nebraska. She worked as a receptionist and maid at the Raine Motel in Valentine.

Following a divorce in 1989, Iona returned to Norfolk where she was employed in sales at Bomgaars for eleven years. She retired in 2000 at the age of 70. Iona had been a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Norfolk since 1989. She always enjoyed singing in the church choirs, starting while in high school, both at Naper and Valentine. Iona sang at many weddings and funerals through the years. In her later years, she entertained with the Golden Combo at nursing homes, senior centers, and veteran's homes.

While growing up, Iona especially enjoyed riding her horse "Roxy" both for enjoyment and doing farm chores. Her hobbies included baking, crafts, crocheting, knitting, traveling, doing crosswords, playing cards, reading, and dancing, especially jitter-bugging. Iona was an avid sports fan of her family's activities, watching them participate in baseball, football, and basketball. She enjoyed watching Nebraska football, Kansas City Royals baseball, and Minnesota Vikings football.

Iona appreciated all the years God blessed her with good health after her retirement, all the dear friends she had along the way, and the folks she met at Boulevard Village since 1992.

Survivors include her children, Vicki Wittgow of Norfolk, Gayle (Jody) Carstens of Omaha, and Thomas (Jo) Carstens of Norfolk; daughter-in-law, Vicki Carstens of Oakdale; grandchildren, Chad (Kelly) Sparr, of Lincoln, Jason (Kris) Sparr of Lincoln, Craig (Jill) Carstens of Sibley, Iowa, Todd (Kelly) Carstens of Norfolk, Austin Carstens of Ottumwa, Iowa, Alyson (Tom) Manning of Omaha, and Jordyn Pufahl of Neligh; and great-grandchildren, Chloe, Mia, and Cooper Sparr, Thomas and Noelle Carstens, Blakeley, Sawyer, and Isabella Carstens, Cade and Killian Manning, Tenly and Lane Pufahl.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Alfred Boucher; son, Mark Carstens; son-in-law, Robert Wittgow; and five siblings.

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LADIES AID

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on June 2, 2022, 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 3 guests present.

The May minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer Carole Kopietz reported a balance of \$746.49.

Reports given:

Flower-Marian Tinius

A motion was made and seconded that the Ladies Aid will no longer serve for funerals. Motion carried.

The Birthday song was sung for Jennie Nichols and her daughter Katy who was a guest.

Entertainment was playing several fun games.

The next meeting will be on July 7 at 1:30 PM. Karen Pufahl will be hostess.

Roll call will be answered with "Fourth of July memory".

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

Carol Wachter
Ladies Aid Secretary

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

June 5 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

June 12 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

June 19 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

June 26 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Iona Carstens (\$25)

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL BUILDING FUND:

- In memory of Deldina Holmgren (\$25)(\$25)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

- In memory of Iona Carstens (\$500)

Church Attendance:

May 28 (50), May 29 (83) = 133 (29%)

June 4 (52), June 5 (104) = 156 (34%)

June 11 (81), June 12 (92) = 173 (37%)

June 18 (80), June 19 (104) = 184 (40%)

Communion Attendance:

June 4 & 5 = 111 (29%)

June 18 & 19 = 116 (30%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms:

6/11/22 Ridge Alan Anderson* – *son of Aaron & Angie Anderson*

6/18/22 Kaden Asher Korte – *son of Drew & Ashlee (Radenz) Korte*

*non-member

Funerals:

06/02/2022 Iona Carstens

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