

THE EPISTLE

FEBRUARY - 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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Timing

When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. -- Galatians 4:4

Barton Mitchell served as a private during the American Civil War. He fought for the North. Things were not going well for the Northern army. In fact, things were going so poorly that Great Britain was on the verge of recognizing Southern independence. If the South could gain just one more victory, Great Britain might intervene on behalf of the South. In other words, if the North lost one more battle, it might lose the war.

This brings us back to Barton Mitchell. One day, Barton and his comrades were on a hillside, taking a break from their march. The place where they were resting was a former campsite for the Southern army. As they sat, Barton looked down and spotted some cigars wrapped in a piece of paper. Interested in the cigars, Barton picked them up. And that's when he discovered that the paper around the cigars contained the marching plans for the Southern army. Quickly, Barton passed the paper up the chain of command. The information he found that day was enough to give the North a much-needed victory.

In so doing, Barton Mitchell may well have saved his country. It was one of the most dramatic episodes of good timing that history has seen.

The Bible tells us about an even better episode of good timing: one that took place in the town of Bethlehem. The apostle Paul wrote, "When the time had fully come, God sent his Son." At a time when the Roman Empire ruled the known world, immorality and religious confusion seemed rampant, and many of God's people felt isolated and forgotten—it was in that moment when all things were ready. It was in that moment when God demonstrated that he was in control and sent his Son.

As you stare at that new calendar on the wall, keep in mind that God's sense of good timing has not changed. The One who sent his Son at just the right time to cleanse you from all sin is the same One who holds and blesses every moment of your life.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you are the One who sent my Savior into this world at just the right time. Move me to trust your timing in every aspect of my life. Amen.

This devotion brought to you by WELS and www.WhatAboutJesus.com

OBITUARY

EUGENE CARSTENS

NORFOLK — Memorial services for Eugene A. Carstens, 81, of Norfolk will be held at a later date.

Eugene Carstens died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, at the Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk due to recent health issues. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

1940-2021

Eugene Albert was born Sept. 10, 1940, in Norfolk to Albert and Lydia (Schwindt) Carstens Sr. He attended school at Jefferson and Christ Lutheran Junior High School. Eugene was confirmed at Christ Lutheran Church. He later received his GED.

He worked at Tyco Industries for 25 years. He also worked at Henningsen Foods in Norfolk, Norfolk Hatchery and assisted his parents at Carstens Cleaning Service.

On May 2, 1965, he married Judith Sievers, and to this union they were blessed with six children. They later divorced. Gene enjoyed nature and the outdoors, taking the family on many camping and fishing trips. He also enjoyed his time spent at the Royal Zoo in Royal.

Eugene is survived by his children, daughter Charlotte (Mark) Reagan of Pierce, son Robert Carstens of Columbus, son Jerry (Jennifer) Carstens of Lake View, Iowa, daughter Fayette Klug of Norfolk, David (April) Carstens of Whiting, Iowa, Annette Carstens of Norfolk; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and sister Vera Miller of Norfolk.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert Sr. and Lydia; sisters Donna Appel and Shirley Pospisil; brothers George Carstens and Junior Carstens; and grandson Matthew Eugene Carstens.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

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

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

January 2 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

January 9 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

January 16 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

January 23 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

January 30 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Marlin Winter (\$20)(\$25)(\$25)(\$10)

ST. PAUL'S MUSIC FUND:

- In memory of Marlin Winter (\$50)

ST. PAUL'S CEMETERY FUND:

- In memory of Marlin Winter (\$25)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

- In memory of Marlin Winter (\$25)(\$20)(\$25)(\$25)(\$30)(\$20)(\$250)

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL BUILDING FUND:

- In memory of Marlin Winter (\$20)(\$50)(\$25)

NEBRASKA EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL:

- In memory of Marlin Winter (\$10)

OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- For St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund (\$300)(\$50)(\$20)
 - For St. Paul's Music Fund (\$50)
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Church Attendance:

Christmas Eve 4:30 – 375; 6:30 – 208

Christmas Day – 103

Dec. 26 – 109

New Year's Eve – 49

Jan. 2 – 81

Jan. 8 (58), Jan. 9 (110) = 168 (37%)

Jan. 15 (51), Jan. 16 (87) = 138 (31%)

Communion Attendance:

Dec. 31 – 38 (10%)

Jan. 2 – 58 (15%)

Jan. 15 & 16 = 103 (27%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms: None

Funerals:

tbd -- Eugene Carstens

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