

The Epistle

MAY - 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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Jesus Is the Way for You

[Jesus said] "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"

John 14:1,2

How comforting are these words of Jesus promising that our time standing by gravesides and crying at funerals, grieving over the sin in our own hearts, and groaning along with all creation over the universal brokenness caused by sin will one day entirely end. In his Father's house are many rooms, and not one of them will have the scent of death. There will be no reasons for crying in any one of them, and all of them will be eternally far away from the feelings of pain that come from living on an earth that will never be heaven.

As Jesus reminds us of these wonderful truths; he tells us to do something very important. He tells us to trust him when he says that he has prepared it all especially for you. It was such an important truth for Jesus to share that he said it again later that night in a different way.

This is the same evening Jesus instituted Holy Communion; during which he said, "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you." "Take and drink, this is my blood, shed for you."

That night, he was reminding us that we get to come to Jesus just as we are. Not some version of who you want to be. Not some picture of who you think you used to be. Not you on your best day. Just you, exactly as you are today, with all of your sins—past sins, future sins, open sins, secret sins, accidental sins, willful sins, and awful sins; sins you saw coming and sins you didn't realize you committed until you saw the damage they had done—entirely forgiven.

Jesus is our way to peace because his life has always been entirely focused on you.

Prayer:

Gracious Savior, you lived and died that each soul could find the peace of forgiveness. Thank you that this gift it mine to enjoy for eternity. Amen.

Daily Devotions are brought to you by WELS and www.WhatAboutJesus.com.

Linda M. Mellick, age 75

Linda Marie (Vahsholz) Mellick was born May 25, 1947 in Norfolk, Nebraska, to Walter and Leona (Holtman) Vahsholz. She grew up in Stanton, where her father was a line-man for the Chicago/Northwestern Railroad, and was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church of Stanton. She attended Stanton Public Schools, was a serious Herman's Hermits fan, and graduated from Stanton High in 1965.

After graduation, she worked as a babysitter as well as for the Holiday Inn in Norfolk when in 1967 she met her friend's boyfriend, a young farmhand back from serving in the military who soon was more interested in Linda. That was Earl Mellick, and they married at St. John's on June 23, 1968, and settled in Norfolk, where Earl was employed at Land 'O Lakes. They attended St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk for all of their fifty-four years of marriage, and they had two children—daughter Michelle in 1969, and son Mark in 1976.

Linda enjoyed card playing and especially bingo, and enjoyed sharing her color pencil artwork with her family and making casual phone calls to family. She also took pride in charity work for Lou Gehrig's Disease after the death of her dear friend, Judy Suhr. She also enjoyed activities at the Norfolk Senior Center, and later on enjoyed attending the activities of her grandchildren before her health began to fail her. Linda struggled with her health for many years, but it never broke her love for her family or her faith.

Survivors include her husband, Earl Mellick of Norfolk; her daughter, Michelle Moeller and her husband, Gregg of Wisner; her son, Mark Mellick and wife Jana of Omaha; and her grandchildren—Elizabeth Moeller of Norfolk, Paige Moeller of Lincoln, SehNa Mellick of Omaha, and Sebastian Mellick of Omaha. She was preceded in death by her parents and an infant older brother, Keith Vahsholz.

Delayne G. "Dee" Deitloff, age 88

Dee was born August 18, 1934 in Norfolk to Herbert and Rosella (Pitzke) Deitloff. Other than during his military service in the Army and the time needed to attain his mortuary education Dee lived his entire life in Norfolk. He attended St. Paul's Lutheran School, Norfolk Senior High, Norfolk Junior College, where he played football and Cypress College of Mortuary Science in California. He was co-owner of Home for Funerals, Res-seguie Funeral Home in Madison and Steffen Mortuary in Battle Creek. He was a member of the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association, the National Funeral Directors Association and International Order of the Golden Rule. He was a licensed funeral director for over 40 years. He considered it an honor to help families in need and treasured many of the relationships this opportunity offered.

Dee loved his hometown and was impressed by how it has grown. He was President of the Sertoma Club 1971-1972. He served as President of the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce in 1980. He was President of the Norfolk YMCA and served several years on their Board. President of the Northeast Community College Foundation from 1998-2002. He also served as a Trustee and usher at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Dee was proud of his military service and was a member of the American Legion and a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He drove the V.A. van for years taking veterans to their medical appointments at the V.A. Hospital in Omaha.

In his spare time Dee enjoyed duck hunting and fishing, He and his late wife, Betty loved to travel and they rarely missed Nebraska Football games. He enjoyed time in the Canteen at the Vet's Club, where he often had a joke and a stack of pickle cards. He always seemed happiest when he was surrounded by friends and laughter.

Dee was preceded in death by his wife, Betty in 2023. Also preceding him in death was a sister, Della O'Gorman; brothers-in-law, Marvin Konopasek, Jim O'Gorman, LaVern Buckles and Ken Buckles; a nephew, Rick Konopasek; and nieces Sandy Large and Laurie Schultz. He is survived by a son, Jon (Kendell) Deitloff; daughter, Kim Castner; grandsons, Luke (Chelsea) Castner, Alec Deitloff, Ben Deitloff, Nick (Emmy) Castner, and Will (Max) Grove; great granddaughter, Wesley Castner; sisters, Arla Konopasek, Sharon Zohner; brother-in law, Val Zohner; sisters-in-law, Carol Buckles and Kay Buckles; and numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

Memorials in Dee's memory may be directed to St. Paul's Lutheran Church or the Norfolk VFW Post 1644.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Quarterly Voter's Meeting

Sunday, April 30, 2023, 10:15 AM

Congregational Chairman: Gary Bretschneider.

Congregational Recording Secretary: Joel Wiedeman.

Approximately 50 members were present, of which 30 were voting members.

Agenda: (See attachment #1)

Meeting was called to order by Congregational Chairman, Mr. Gary Bretschneider. (10:26AM).

Meeting Minutes: Presented by Joel Wiedeman. (See attachment #2) **Reception**

of new voting members: None today.

Board of Elders/Pastors Report: Presented by Gary Tiedgen. (See attachment #3) (10:27AM)

1. Attendance Program.

Board of Trustees: Presented by Ron Johnson. (No official report) (10:27AM)

1. Working on Brown's house. Carpeting and doors.
2. Grade school has a tree planting this week for Arbor Day.
3. Storage garage at school needs attention. Move or replace? Storage unit \$175/month. The delivery and pick up fees will be waived. Unit is 40ft long.
4. Working on mowing teams.
5. Aaron Geary looking at August for church roof repairs.

Board of Christian Education: Presented by Aaron Markgraf. (See attachment #4) (10:29AM)

1. Read the school mission statement.
2. Reviewed enrollment numbers.
3. Marketing. Zach Kruse is heading this up. Looking at different ways to advertise.
4. New security system is in place. Adding an intercom for the west door.
5. Successful events this year! Basketball season, NELHS
6. Master's Program. Mr. Markgraf's thesis is finally completed. Graduation is in two weeks in New Ulm. Congratulations!

Pastor's Report: Presented by Pastor Paul Hirsch. (See attachment #3) (10:42AM)

1. Lent season went very well. Increased attendance this year.
2. Fountain Point service. 6-8 folks attend.
3. Still in a rotation for O'Neill. Not near as many visits as in the past. Sioux City pastor took a call. Might be in a rotation there as well.
4. Bible Groups. Averaging 10-15 per group.
5. New member welcome. May 21st after the service.
6. New serving system. Post Ladies Aid.
7. Preschool families. Church home? Several families have already joined St. Paul's. Need to make a stronger effort.

Vision/Traction Organizer: Presented by Aaron Markgraf. (See attachment #6) (11:07AM)

1. Reviewed the "Traction" side.

Cemetery Board:

1. Val is lining up a new water shut off.
2. Wess Leuthold, Val Zohner, Burt Austin, and Leonard Janovec.
3. Walt Tinius is stepping aside. Thank you for your dedicated service!

Board of Finance: No report today.

1. Budget is in the process.

NELHS Delegate: Presented by Ron Kraemer and Aaron Markgraf.

1. Two calls are out.
2. Rick Cody returned call as School Administrator. Call window has closed. Now looking for options.

WELS Representative Report: No report today.

Building Committee: Presented by Aaron Markgraf and Scott Uecker. (See attachment #5) (10:52AM)

1. Review to date.
 - a. Floorplan has been approved.
 - i. Eliminated the stage.
 - ii. Kitchen/office space area.
 - iii. Now expanded gym to accommodate two basketball courts.
2. New, updated brochures are ready to go. Updated with the latest and greatest info. These go out to the businesses.
3. A list of 150 area businesses has been made. There are additional folks helping also.

4. New Market Tax Credit is still in play. Looking for a possible \$1 million. Cameron Garner is our contact person. We don't pay them anything until they make a deal for us.
5. WELS Church Extension Fund line of credit. Current rate is 4.32%, which is much lower than any bank.
6. Once finances are all set up, we can sign contract with BC Builders.
7. Anticipating actual structure going up this fall, possibly.
8. Updated price is \$3,586,652. New roof would be \$125,000. These amounts DO NOT include the parking lot and gym remodel. Price is guaranteed for 30 days.
9. Please remember that a portion of the \$400,000 from the start of the process may be tapped into for the Church roof repair project.

Old Business:

New Business:

1. Move July Quarterly Voters Meeting to June.
 - a. A motion was made to: "Move July Quarterly Voters Meeting to Tuesday, June 27th, at 6:00PM."
 - i. Motion was seconded and discussed.
 - ii. Motion was carried with unanimous vote.

Closing:

1. Motion was made to: "Adjourn voters meeting." (11:13AM)
 - a. Motion was seconded with no discussion.
 - b. Motion was carried with unanimous vote.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Length of meeting: Forty-seven minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Wiedeman

St. Paul's Congregational Recording Secretary



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

- April 2 - St. Paul's Radio Fund
- April 9 - St. Paul's Radio Fund
- April 16 - St. Paul's Radio Fund
- April 23 - St. Paul's Radio Fund
- April 30 - St. Paul's Radio Fund

Memorials given towards the St. Paul's Building Fund

In memory of Todd Raasch \$835.00
In memory of Geraldine Rossmeier \$10.00
In memory of Roger Bauer \$40.00
In memory of John Tollefson \$865.00
In memory of Linda Mellick \$45.00
In memory of Dee Deitloff \$75.00

Church Attendance: April 1st/ 2nd-217 (48%) April 6th Maundy Thurs. 127 (28%) April 7th Good Friday 153 (34%) April 9th Easter 311 (68%) April 16th 150 (33%) April 22nd/23rd 164 (36%) April 29th/30th 175 (38%)

Communion Attendance: April 1st/2nd -128 (34%) April 6th Maundy Thurs.100 (27%) April 15th/16th 120 (32%)

Called Home to Heaven: Linda M. Mellick 4/17/23
Dee Deitloff 4/24/23

Blessings on your summer!