

THE EPISTLE

APRIL - 2019

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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The Rattlesnake

There's an old Native American story about the power of temptations. A young brave once climbed a high mountain to prove his manhood. As he stood at the top, he looked down at his feet and saw a rattlesnake half-frozen by the cold. The rattlesnake said to the brave, "Please, I will die up here in this cold. Please put me under your shirt and carry me down the mountain." The brave protested. "I cannot do that," he said, "because I know what will happen. As soon as you warm up again you will bite me." "No, I will not," said the rattlesnake. "I will not because my relationship with you will be different. I will always remember that you are the man who saved my life." This made sense, and so the young brave agreed. He tucked the half-frozen rattlesnake under his shirt and started back down the mountain.

As soon as the rattlesnake got warm under his shirt, however, he bit the brave, pumping venom into his body. The brave cried out, "How could you do this? I just saved your life. You said our relationship would be different." To that the rattlesnake simply said, "*You knew what I was before you ever picked me up.*"

Some temptations can make perfect sense until it's too late. That is the lethal danger of their logic. What temptations have crawled under your shirt, claiming to be something different than what they are? Is your old-fashioned work ethic actually a disguise for your greed? Is your desire to stop and smell the roses actually a disguise for your laziness? Is your righteous need to stand up for yourself every time you feel slighted actually a disguise for your sinful pride? Is your so-called "refreshing candor" with others really an excuse for you to be verbally abusive? When you talk about others out of "Christian concern"—is it really just a license to gossip? Your claim to be content to have a simple, childlike faith in what you learned about God as a kid—is that just disguising your stubborn refusal to gather with other believers and to grow in his Word?

When we fail to see these temptations for what they are, when we fail to see where these temptations come from, sooner or later the snake is going to bite.

Thank God for Jesus. Thank God for a Savior who withstood every temptation on our behalf. Thank God for a Savior who went to the cross and absorbed the venom for all our failures. When you've been bitten, there is forgiveness and rescue with our Savior, Jesus. And thank God for a Savior whose Spirit now empowers us to see our temptations with clearer eyes—whose Spirit now empowers us to leave the half-frozen rattlesnake on the ground.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, when the temptations come, strengthen me in your forgiveness. Move me to leave the temptation alone. Amen.

Principal's Report

St. Paul's Lutheran School Mission Statement:

St. Paul's Lutheran School exists to assist our congregation & community by partnering with parents for gospel-growth in children - spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally, and physically - all through the life-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ!

1) Information

- a. Sent home Re-enrollment Letter – waiting on 1 family for response
- b. Lutheran Schools Week – Events went well!
- c. After School Program – averaging 20 students per day
- d. Central Lutheran Saints – NELHS tournament rescheduled for March 22-23
- e. PSG – Looking to do a spring event
- f. Science and Arts Fair – looking to find a replacement date for our Norfolk area
- g. Quarter 3 ended on March 8th
- h. St. Paul's SCRIP – Adding more inventory and getting more families on board

2) Enrollment

- a. K-8 Enrollment: 83
- b. Pre-K enrollment – 44
- c. Keystone Academy – met with Board member – St. Paul's info has been sent
- d. Next year Pre-K #'s – Registration is “open”/ 53 kids already
- e. Kindergarten Round-Up at end of March
- f. Currently adding more to our waiting list...discussing options

3) Ministry Action Plan

- a. Gym, EC Center, etc. – Building committee (Cottage meetings)
- b. Accreditation – Visit is April 8-10, submitting self study report this week

4) Other Items

- a. PATCH Grant – Waiting to hear back
- b. Play Night – April 26th
- c. Daddy Daughter Dance – had a great turn out!
- d. Lunch Program – Continuing to make improvements with bookkeeping
- e. 7-8 class trip: April 16-18 in Kansas City
- f. Advertising – Working with a graphic designer for branding ideas
- g. School Apparel – Will have another order before school gets out
- h. Other items?

In Christ,
Mike Paulsen

Ladies Aid

Nine members of the St. Paul's Ladies Aid met Wednesday March 13, 2019 for their monthly meeting. Pat Jamison was a guest.

Plans for serving the Lenten supper on April 3 were discussed. Ham and scalloped potatoes will be served. All ladies of the Aid are asked to bring a salad and dessert to the kitchen before 5:00 p.m. Marian Tinius and Carol Wachter are in charge of the meal. Ladies from the congregation will be called to help serve the meal. The money collected will be used for playground equipment.

A new 100 cup coffee pot was purchased by the WICS for the kitchen.

The Trustees are having all the non-reference books in the library moved to the school library. The ladies of the Aid were asked if they would decorate some of the shelves for the different seasons during the year. After some discussion a motion was made and seconded that we decline. Motion carried.

The president informed the group that there will be an open house for Ella Klug's 90th birthday on March 30.

The meeting was adjourned.

Neva Winter,
Ladies Aid Secretary

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

- March 3 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- March 10 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- March 17 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- March 24 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- March 31 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Delbert Niewohner (\$25)(\$15)(\$70)

ST. PAUL'S RADIO & TV FUND:

- In memory of Leonard Renner (\$20)

OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- For St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund (\$50)(\$50)

Church Attendance:

Feb. 23 (30), Feb. 24 (142) = 172 (38%)

Feb. 27 (9), March 2 (60), March 3 (148) = 217 (48%)

Ash Wed. - March 6 (195), March 9 (45), March 10 (142) = 382 (85%)

Seminary Chorus Choir Concert 134 + 46 choir = 180

Mar. 13 (102), Mar. 16 (86), Mar. 17 (153) = 341 (75%)

Mar. 20 (140), March 23 (66), Mar. 24 (139) = 345 (76%)

Communion Attendance:

Feb. 23 & 24 = 102 (27%)

Feb. 27, March 2 & March 3 = 138 (37%)

Ash. Wed. – March 6 = 107 (28%)

Private Communion:

Mar. 17 – 152 (40%)

Weddings: None

Baptisms:

02/16/19 Benjamin Michael Paulsen (Affirmation: 02/24/19)

Funerals: None

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