

# THE EPISTLE

DECEMBER - 2018

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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## God's Encouraging Word ... *when I wonder if I will go to heaven*

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** - John 3:16

I saw my name on Santa's list! I was so excited. I didn't think it would be there. I got mad and hit my sister on Thanksgiving Day. I admitted my fault. Since then, I was very well behaved. After all, Santa brings good things to good boys, right? I saw MY name! I was getting a puppy for Christmas! I did it! I made up for my sin.

Christmas came and no puppy. I was crushed. I thought I deserved one. I thought Santa loved me. Was the name on Santa's list someone else with the same name as mine? Did Santa think my apology was insincere? Was hitting my sister such a horrible thing that he would totally reject me? No puppy that Christmas. (It would be another 29 years before I got a puppy.)

What if God treated us like that? We would never be sure we are going to heaven. But God does not treat us like that, and we can be sure we are going to heaven. **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..."**

Notice what God did not say. "God so loved the ones that don't hit their sisters..." "God so loved the good ones... the top 50%... those who help themselves." No, God loves sinners, all sinners, you and me. He loves the whole world.

God gave us the greatest gift of all. Jesus, God's Son, came at Christmas to save the world from sin and hell. God gave us a gift only he can give—eternal life. God did that by sending Jesus into this world to live a life without sin. Jesus never hit his sister. He never even thought angry or insulting thoughts about anyone. Jesus was punished for all our sins, in our place. Jesus rose from the dead to guarantee our sins are paid for. He did this for the whole world. That includes you.

Jesus is the greatest gift ever given. Trusting him as your Savior, you can be certain you will go to heaven. Enjoy God's gift of Jesus this Christmas.

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## LADIES AID

The St. Paul's Ladies Aid met on November 8, 2018, for their monthly meeting. There were eleven members present. Jeanne Jensen was a guest. Pastor Reichert's Bible study was on Psalm 90.

The Little Lambs, under the direction of Mrs. Linda Mullen, entertained the ladies with a song.

President Schlieve called the Meeting to Order. Roll Call was read and the Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. There is \$331.94 in the Treasury.

Reports given were:

LWMS – Carol Schlieve – The dues of \$42.50 are due in December.

Kitchen – Carol Wachter – Approximately 165 were served at the Reformation supper.

Flower – Marian Tinius

Although there was quite a bit of soup left from the Reformation supper it was decided to keep the count of roasters of soup the same.

President Schlieve announced that to avoid problems with the electricity going off the electrical outlets are numbered with corresponding breakers, and do not use extension cords with the roasters, coffeepots, etc.

A motion was made and seconded that we give a small flower pot with a flower and Bible verse to each shut in for a Christmas gift. Motion carried. Carol Wachter will get the needed supplies. Corinne Swogger volunteered to make these. Several of the ladies volunteered to help her on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM at her home.

It was suggested that a lady from the Aid be put on each kitchen group and ladies from the congregation be called upon to help when working a funeral. The list of congregational ladies' names need to be updated. President Schlieve asked each lady to sign their name on a sheet of paper if she is willing to be a chairman for a funeral committee.

A motion was made and seconded that we pay the bill for postage to Carol Schlieve for mailing the Christmas cards to the Ministry for prisoners. Motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded that the Christmas gifts to the Pastors be \$20 and \$10 to the teachers, Jim Marshall, and Jeanette. Motion carried.

Motion was made and seconded that we give a donation of \$100 to the Audio Fund in honor of Ruth Uecker for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Motion carried. A birthday card will be sent to her from the Aid.

Jeff Jensen has asked if there would be anyone that could take Dianne Wichman to the Food Bank on Thursdays between 10:00 and 11:00 AM so she could help out. Margie Fuhrmann and Marian Tinius volunteered and JoAnn Grebe will co-ordinate.

St. Paul's has been asked to help bring food items for the NELHS Christmas Concert supper on December 16. The list of food will be posted.

The Council Meeting will be at 9:00 AM on Thursday, November 15.

The next meeting will be the Christmas luncheon at 12:00 on December 6, 2018.

Hostess and Entertainment Committees are Marian Tinius, Kay Bettin, Barb Brandt, and Carol Wachter. Everyone is asked to bring a guest. The school children will entertain. Christmas carols will be sung. A \$5.00 gift to Missions (in place of a gift exchange) is optional.

Roll Call will be answered "By your favorite Christmas Carol".  
Group 4 works next.

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

Neva Winter,  
Ladies Aid Secretary

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## Holiday Worship Schedule



Wednesday, Dec. 5 – 6:30 PM	School Christmas Song Night
Saturday, Dec. 22 – 4:30 & 6:30 PM	School Children Christmas Services
Sunday, Dec. 23 – 9:00 AM	High School / College-Led Christmas Service
Monday, Dec. 24 – 6:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Tuesday, Dec. 25 – 9:00 AM	Christmas Day Song Service
Monday, Dec. 31 – 6:00 PM	New Year's Eve Service

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

- November 4 - In memory of Reuben & Ardith Wacker, given by their family.
- November 11 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- November 18 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- November 22 (Thanksgiving Day) -- St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund
- November 25 - St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund

## MEMORIALS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

### ST. PAUL'S RADIO BROADCAST:

- In memory of Marvin Dreyer (\$850)

### NEBRASKA EV. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL (Waco, NE):

- In memory of Marvin Dreyer (\$20)

### ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL:

- In memory of Marvin Dreyer (\$50)

## OTHER DONATIONS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

- For St. Paul's Radio Broadcast Fund (\$50)(\$200)

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### **Church Attendance:**

Oct. 24 (24), Oct 27 (67), Oct. 28 (152) = 243 (55%)

Reformation = 265

Oct. 31 (11), Nov. 3 (67), Nov. 4 (135) = 213 (48%)

Nov. 7 (24), Nov. 10 (78), Nov. 11 (125) = 227 (51%)

### **Communion Attendance:**

Oct. 31, Nov. 3 & 4 = 133 (35%)

**Weddings:** None

**Baptisms:** None

**Funerals:** None

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